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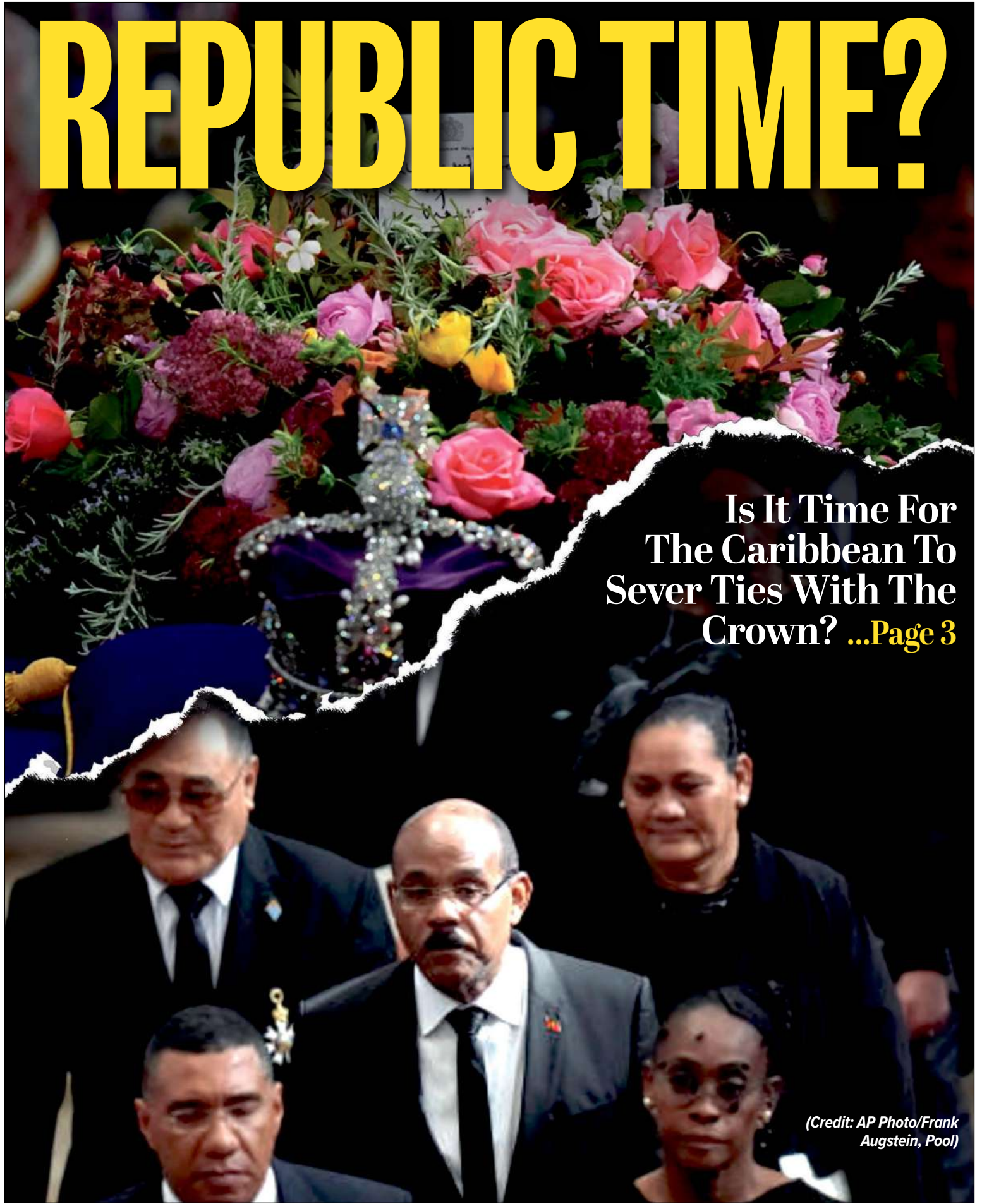
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REPUBLIC TIME?

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(Credit: AP Photo/Frank Augstein, Pool)

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Here Are The Top Regional Headlines Making News This Week

REGIONAL

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres met with Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders who are attending the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

The UN said that Guterres met with Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda and Belize Prime Minister John Briceno as well as Jamaica's Foreign Affairs Minister Kamina Johnson-Smith over the last weekend.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Browne, the UN said the two officials "exchanged views on climate action, the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index and deficiencies in the international financial system.

"They discussed the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which Antigua and Barbuda will host in 2024, and efforts towards advancing the loss and damage agenda at COP27 (a major UN Climate Change Conference)," the UN said, adding they also shared views on the need for Security Council reform".

Guterres and Prime Minister Briceno discussed "challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as climate change, access to concessional finance and the impacts of the war in Ukraine on food and fuel prices."

JAMAICA

The Airports Authority of Jamaica, (AAJ) says it will be undertaking a security review following the recent multi-million cocaine bust at the Ian Fleming International Airport in the eastern parish of St. Mary.

In an interview with the Jamaica Gleaner, AAJ President and Chief Executive Officer Audley Diedrick said the drug bust has prompted the agency to take a closer look at security at the airport.

According to Deidrick, the airport operations at international security standards and based on this, the facility is required by regulation to abide by established security measures and protocols.

On Friday, September 22nd, personnel from the Narcotics Division and Counter Terrorism and Organized Crime Division, along with their counterparts from the United States and Canada, carried out targeted operations at the airport and seized 10 bags containing just over 1,100 pounds of cocaine, valued at US\$25 million.

The Ian Fleming International Airport was upgraded from the Boscobel Aerodrome in January 2011, and earlier this year, the airport welcomed its first scheduled international flight with the arrival of a 30-seater InterCaribbean Airways airplane from Providenciales, Turks and Caicos.

GRENADA

The leader of the Grenada People's Revolutionary Army Forces from 1979-1983, Hudson Austin, died on Saturday, September 23rd, following a long illness.

Austin, who was 84, was tried and convicted for causing the death of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, some members of his cabinet, and civilians. Affectionately called as "HA," Austin died at his home.

In 2008, after serving more



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who addressed the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, met with CARICOM leaders and exchanged views on climate action. (PHOTO: Eduardo Munoz/Reuters)

than 30 years in prison, he was released after the UK based Privy Council ordered his resentencing and that of 16 others who were convicted for the deaths. The group became known as the Grenada Seventeen.

Following his release from Richmond Hill Prison, Austin lived a quiet and private life. He is the third person of the Grenada 17 who has died. The first was Kamau McBarnette who died in January 2020 and the second was Phyllis Coard who died in September 2020.

In Grenada's history books, Austin is known as one of the earliest members of the New Jewel Movement and played a critical role in the March 13, 1979, Revolution. The revolution collapsed in October 1983 due to internal factions among the members.

GUYANA

The International Monetary

Fund, (IMF), says overall economic growth is projected to be 57.8 per cent this year for Guyana as the country continues to recover from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic-induced recession in 2020, and protracted political transition, non-oil economic growth.

The IMF executive board, which has concluded its annual bilateral discussions with Guyana, said the country started the recovery process in 2021, despite being negatively impacted by floods.

"Inflation increased markedly since 2021 owing to the floods and supply-side disruptions, as well as continually rising fuel and food prices. Oil production has increased significantly. Oil GDP (gross domestic product) is expected to grow over 100 per cent in 2022, and by about 30 per cent on average per year during 2023-26."

The Washington-based financial institution said oil production has the potential to transform profoundly Guyana's economy with "overall real GDP growth rate is projected to be 57.8 per cent in 2022.

BAHAMAS

Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Philip Davis says that of all the risks his country faces, none requires more urgent action than the climate crisis.

In his address to the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Debate on September 23rd, Davis said that, in 2019, Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 storm that nearly destroyed two of the Bahamas' main islands, wiped out 30 percent of the Bahamas national economic activity.

"The impact on our economy, on our infrastructure, and on our people is still very much present," he said. "The scientific consensus is, that as ocean temperatures rise, we can expect hurricanes of greater intensity to arrive with increased frequency. The Bahamian leader lamented that "little to nothing has changed" since he brought to the attention of the General Assembly last year the threat to the financial services

industry in the Bahamas and in the region.

ST. LUCIA

St. Lucia has called on manufacturers, exporters and importers of conventional weapons to live up to their commitments as it urged the international community to assist the Caribbean in fighting a surge in criminal activity and gun violence.

In his maiden address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Prime Minister Phillip J Pierre told the international forum that while St. Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean are not manufacturers of conventional weapons, "our countries have been plagued by a proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons, resulting in a surge in criminal activity and gun violence."

He said St. Lucia has always been a strong advocate of the international frameworks, such as the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (UN-POA) and the Arms Trade Treaty; which are two examples of multilateral instruments aimed at mobilizing international cooperation to curb the illicit trade in conventional arms and ammunition.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Stating that, over the decades, Trinidad and Tobago has anchored its multilateral engagement on the founding purposes and principles of the United Nations, Foreign Affairs Minister Amery Browne has called on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its invasion of Ukraine.

"We have nurtured these principles by maintaining a strong tradition of democratic governance, which respects constitutionally enshrined fundamental human rights and freedoms, and promotes strict adherence to the rule of law," Browne told the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Debate. "Trinidad and Tobago accordingly is bound by duty to uphold these principles unconditionally and to defend them, whenever there is evidence of breach.

"This is why Trinidad and Tobago cannot accept or ignore any unilateral attempt to violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any state," he added. "The violation of Ukraine's internationally agreed borders constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and of international law. It is a clear threat to international peace and security, and the only credible solution is to end this aggression immediately.

"Therefore, we call on the Russian Federation to immediately abandon its action and to resume negotiations with the Ukrainians (CONTINUED ON PAGE 17A)

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REPUBLIC TIME? Is It Time For The Caribbean To Sever Ties With The Crown?

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

The British monarchy has come to the end of an era with the death of Queen Elizabeth II. But with King Charles, III, now serving as monarch, the royal family is still very much the reality.

So, what does this change mean for the Commonwealth, particularly Caribbean Commonwealth citizens? What does it mean for those who boarded the Empire Windrush in 1948 in answer to the Crown's plea for help to rebuild a nation ravaged by war?

With the Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle's public revelations of racism from the royal family there is now a sharp focus on the entity and its historical offences in the region. The question many are asking is, is it time for many Caribbean nations to move on from what some deem to be the vestiges of colonial slavery and become a Republic?

The 21st century has seen a change in attitudes towards the royal head of state, with some demanding we sever the tether to colonial influence. In fact, following the lead of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Dominica in the 1970s, Barbados has done just that by removing the Queen as its figurehead in 2021, becoming a republic free of any royal ties. But countries such as Jamaica, Antigua & Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Belize, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and The Bahamas, are still part of the Commonwealth realms.

Defined as a voluntary association of 54 independent countries, many of which were under colonial rule at one time or another, the Commonwealth is said to foster international cooperation and trade links. Many of these countries were seized through conquest or colonial swapping. But, even after years of independence, the majority of these territories are still under the influence of the last colonial masters – Britain.

GROWING LOUDER

With the Crown or its representative (Governor General) having some constitutional power to approve new governments, or even validate legislation, voices are now growing louder and louder for total independence, especially in the Caribbean Diaspora in Britain.

"The monarchy is a symbol of colonialism and empire," said British-Grenadian Professor, Dr. Claudia Bernard, professor of Social Work and Co-Head of Department of Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Dr. Bernard is advocating

that Caribbean countries should sever ties with the British monarchy as it has not served the region well.

"I don't believe that the commonwealth has been positive for the English-speaking Caribbean. It is difficult to see what the benefits are. I believe that it limits the development of the Caribbean countries," the professor said,

emphasizing that countries under British influence "should follow in the footsteps of Barbados."

Retired Public Sector Manager, British-Jamaican Patricia Phipps, agrees. "Caribbean countries should consider severing their ties to the Crown. It is well regarded that the Queen's role as Head of the Commonwealth was

principally to keep Britain's global image alive to embody the past glory days of empire," said Phipps. "I do not see where the Crown takes responsibility for any developments that impacts the wellbeing of the people of those countries."

NAVEL STRING

Both Antigua & Barbuda and Jamaica are two Caribbean

countries that have declared its intention to cut the 'navel string' to the Crown. Yet in the same breath, the Antigua & Barbuda prime minister, Gaston Browne, flew to London for the Queen's funeral and declared a national holiday to mourn the Queen on September 19th. Jamaica for its part declared 12 days of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6A)

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NEWS



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Jamaican Floridian Set To Make History

A Jamaica-born, United States immigrant could become the first person from the Caribbean island to win a seat in the U.S. Congress.

Rev. Dr. Karen Green, 56, is the democratic nominee for a Florida US House seat in District 7 in November. She moved

to the United States in 1990 after attending the St Hugh's High School and University of Technology.

Green was the owner and president of Bluefield Consultants LLC, a political consulting firm, until she dissolved the company to avoid any conflicts of interest as a candidate. She is also a vice chair of the Florida Democratic Party and was Caribbean coalition director for the presidential campaigns of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

Green has weighed in on the actions of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who flew 50 Venezuelan migrants to Martha's Vineyard from Texas. She called the action abhorrent, shameful and degrading to the migrants who are being treated as "human cargo" in a game of politics.

"Firstly, the migrants were not in Florida but instead were in Texas so for the governor [DeSantis] to fly them from that state to Martha's Vineyard is callous and inhumane," said Green. "It has also come out that several of the migrants who were removed from Texas by Governor DeSantis have immigration court dates later this month regarding their application for asylum. To interfere in this orderly process as Governor DeSantis has done [goes against] his assertion about stemming



Rev. Dr. Karen Green, 56, is the Democratic nominee for the Florida US House seat in District 7 in the November 8th elections and could make history as the first Jamaican born congressman. (Contributed Image)

opponent in the November 8th elections. Green will face the Republican nominee, as well as a write-in candidate, Cardon Pompey, in the November election, which is open to all voters.

Green, Hilsia Fernandez, Al Krulick and Allek Pastrana were all trying to win the Democratic nomination for the seat to replace U.S. Rep. Stephanie Murphy, who is retiring at the end of the year from U.S. House District 7.

The district used to cover Seminole County and part of Orange County, but the Florida Legislature voted to redraw the district. It now includes Seminole County and part of Volusia County, which gives it more Republican voters.

The United States, Green said, is the country it is today because of the skills and talents brought to its shores by immigrants over the years.

"It is agreed that the country's immigration system is broken and needs fixing but the actions by these Republican governors are not solutions but a worsening of the situation. They need to stop playing politics with the lives of unfortunate people and show compassion, treating all people with dignity and in a Christian and charitable manner," she said.



illegal immigration." "Those migrants were slated to go through a legal process to determine whether they would be granted asylum. Instead, by his action, they are likely to miss their court dates and will be condemned to illegal status," Green added.

She also called it "callous and unchristian."

The Jamaican said it is for these and other reasons why she is seeking to become a congressional representative, "so I can go to Washington to fix a broken immigration system and bring order to a process that has been a foundation pillar of the American society."

Green faces a republican

Much On CARICOM Leaders Minds During UN Debate

BY NELSON A. KING

Much has been, and remains, on the minds of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders, as they wrapped up their contributions to the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, (UNGA).

The regional leaders spoke on a number of issues, including development finance, multilateralism, climate change, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and in some, if not all instances, repeating themselves on these themes.

JAMAICA

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness said there was need for a "comprehensive and targeted approach" to accessing development finance for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and some middle-income countries.

"Without the

acknowledgment of vulnerability as a basis for access to finance, SIDS will continue to struggle and will be unable to achieve the SDGs, (UN's Sustainable Development Goals)," Holness said, noting that Jamaica, is always mindful that, despite best efforts to improve fiscal management and debt sustainability, "a single climate generated event could wipe out 100 percent of our economy in a few hours."

SURINAME

CARICOM chairman

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17A)

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U.S. Pushing For Legislation To Sanction Haiti's Gang Leaders

The Biden administration is reportedly pushing for legislation that will lead to sanctions on gang leaders in Haiti in the wake of an escalation of violence in the French speaking Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), member state.

According to a report published by the Miami Herald, while the 77th United Nations General Assembly is underway in New York, the United States is preparing to circulate a resolution at the United Nations Security Council that would establish a new framework for sanctioning Haiti's gang leaders.

The article also states that the Biden administration and is not ruling out international intervention. Speaking during a recent interview, assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian A. Nichols said that gang leaders fueling Haiti's worst security crisis in decades - and those who finance and support them, including supplying firearms - "are in the crosshairs, and their



People walk around burning tires set up by protesters during a protest to demand that Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry step down and a call for a better quality of life, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

actions to destabilize Haiti will be met with international travel and financial sanctions."

The Biden administration is hoping for swift passage of the resolution "in the coming days," Nichols told the Herald. He said the resolution will create a United Nations framework

to place sanctions on gang leaders, and those who support and facilitate and fund their activities."

"Those sanctions would target their financial resources and ability to travel," he was quoted as saying. The Haitian government has all but lost

control over security in the Caribbean nation, and U.S. officials say the country reached a crisis not seen since the early 1990s.

According to the Miami Herald, Haiti's neighbors have called for robust action from the United States and other

permanent members of the Security Council.

So far, the neighboring Dominican Republic, has publicly requested a return of a multinational peacekeeping force, arguing that Haiti's instability and rampant gang violence are increasingly becoming a threat to the region.

This would require Haiti to once more go under what is known as Chapter 7, which is an article of the U.N. charter that enables the Security Council to deploy international forces in a peacekeeping mission.

After 13 years, it was ended in Haiti in 2017 when the U.N. Security Council, pushed by the United States and others, finally withdrew its military and peacekeeping operations in Haiti.

According to Nichols, if Haiti's government asks for that assistance - "the international community would certainly consider such a request."

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Jamaica Aims To Become Major Medical Cannabis Hub

Jamaica's Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Dr. Norman Dunn, says with medical cannabis gaining significant international traction, Jamaica is on the cusp of being a major legal transshipment hub.

Dr. Dunn said there is every reason to believe that Jamaica will become a huge part of this "lucrative" market, adding that "the best is yet to come."

"One significant industry development this year was that, in February, we facilitated... the first legal transshipment of cannabis through Jamaica," said the minister. "What this has done is to set the stage for Jamaica to become the hub of legal transshipment of cannabis for medical purposes. The quality of Jamaica's indigenous strains, coupled with considerable

local knowledge and Jamaica's climatic conditions, makes this all a winning combination."

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce added that it was not by coincidence that the island is known for "a lot of firsts" as it relates to agricultural products, citing, as examples, coffee, cocoa, and ginger being "number one in the world."

"Obviously, there's something about Jamaica that's creating all these number ones. These are premium products across the world, not in the Caribbean or in North America... but in the world," he argued.

Dr. Dunn said the island, with its soil type and climatic conditions, has found a "sweet spot" which, if nurtured and handled properly, is bound to attract investors and new



Horticulturalist and researcher Dr Machel Emanuel examines marijuana plants in the greenhouse at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus. (Jamaica Gleaner image)

stakeholders – both local and foreign.

"The high demand is fueled by an increase in the number of countries which have legalized or decriminalized cannabis,

and its increasing acceptance for medical purposes," he said, noting that the government is aware of this economic reality and the potential of cannabis and will be approaching the

establishment of a viable industry with intelligence, creativity, and responsiveness to the market.

Acknowledging that some people have been wondering why the government is not moving faster to capitalize on the opportunities which the cannabis sector represents, he cautioned against undue haste.

"We are part of several treaties and obligations that we must follow because Jamaica must be known as a rule-based country. We're a country that believes in the establishment of rules, and by participating in that, you can succeed. So, we don't need to move outside of that in any haste, because we must develop an industry that is viable, sustainable, and for the long term," Minister Dunn emphasized.



REPUBLIC TIME? Is It Time For The Caribbean To Sever Ties With The Crown?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3A)

mourning on the island after the Queen's death on September 8th; even as Britain only declared 10.

This even as a survey conducted by Jamaica's RJRGleaner/Don Anderson in

July this year revealed that 56 percent of Jamaicans want to remove the royal head of state. So, does this period of mourning seem contradictory?

"As a people we seem to be easily distracted. We are taken in by the propaganda and their ability to sell themselves. All we

have to do is lift the veil slightly to uncover the rottenness/wickedness done in the name of the crown," emphasized Jamaican-born Rique-Kofi Ennis.

A Pan-Africanist, Ennis lived in Britain for more than 40 years and has



Prime Minister Andrew Holness of Jamaica, on arrival at Westminster Abby with his wife for the Queen's funeral on Sept. 19, 2022. Behind PM Holness is Dr. Denzil Douglas of St. Kitts & Nevis. (Royal Family Channel screengrab)

relocated to Ghana. He warns commonwealth countries to wake up.

"We've made big mistakes and we've been too trusting. The reality is that we're in a vice-like bind called capitalism which is controlled by mainly white men running corporations. They control the governments. Power rests with those people and they're not inclined to give it up," said Ennis, demanding a change must come. "Poor little

melanin dominant run countries attempting to fight/find their way out of the morass is on a hiding to nothing. We're at the bottom gasping for air while others have the power to turn the oxygen on and off at will."

Post-graduate researcher in anthropology, Rachel Gefferie, voiced similar sentiments. Gefferie was born in Suriname, which is a former

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14A)

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DeSantis' Gadsden County Appointee Resigns Over Klan Outfit As Governor Faces Up Hill Battle Ahead of November

BY JODI YONDER

Jeffrey Moore, a recent appointee to the Gadsden County Commission by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, has abruptly resigned from the post after pictures surfaced of him wearing Klu Klux Klan garb.

Moore resigned on September 23rd, after being appointed on July 29th, and asked to be removed from the November ballot. In letters to DeSantis and Gadsden County Elections Supervisor, Shirley Knight, Jones said: "For personal reasons, I am no longer able to continue (the campaign)."

Gadsden County is Florida's only Black majority county. Moore, of Havana, is a former tax law specialist for the Florida Department of Revenue. He is the past Chairman of the Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District, a member of the National Association of Conservation District's Board of Directors and is the immediate past President of the Association of Florida Conservation Districts.

Moore's sudden resignation is only the latest in a slew of problems piling up as DeSantis faces Charlie Crist in the November general elections.

The political invincibility of DeSantis is seemingly melting away according to a recent poll showing a dramatic shift in support to Democratic opponent Crist.

Caribbean National Charged With Travelling For Sex With Minor



Jamaican Taje Ghavri Samuels, 31, was arrested by Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents and is being held on no bond pending a first court appearance. (Escambia County Jail image)

A Caribbean national is currently in the Escambia County Jail in Pensacola, Florida, charged with one count of travelling to meet a minor to engage in sexual conduct after online solicitation.

Jamaican Taje Ghavri Samuels, 31, was arrested by Florida Department of Law



Jeffrey Moore as seen in the KKK outfit. (Twitter image)

The survey was taken after DeSantis shipped asylum seeking immigrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The poll featured in Newsweek and Nate Silver's 538, shows Crist leading DeSantis by 6 points, which is beyond the margin of error and a 12-point swing in Crist's favor.

"When you are this inhumane in how you treat human beings, you are not qualified to be governor of anything," Crist said. "It's amazing to me what he is willing to do for sheer political gain, to use people in this horrific way."

Pressured to justify what was called a "stunt," costing taxpayers \$615,000.00, DeSantis said he did it "to protect Florida," from "illegal aliens." But the Venezuelan migrants were in Texas after applying for asylum.

Enforcement agents and is being held on no bond pending a first court appearance.

Samuels also faces seven counts of transmission of harmful material to minors and one count of use of a two-way communications device to facilitate a felony. Pensacola Police Department and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security assisted in the investigation.

The FDLE says it began its investigation in August when Samuels initiated online contact with undercover agents posing as a 14-year-old female. Using a common messenger application, he sent lewd photos of himself and arranged to travel to meet the agent.

The case will be prosecuted by the State Attorney's Office, First Judicial Circuit.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Florida. Finks, who completed a recent poll, said DeSantis's decline in support began when he started targeting school boards that disobeyed his school mask bans. Fink said DeSantis was leading by 9 points in three polls, but by June he was tied with Crist.

"All of a sudden he just got behind and hasn't come back from it," Fink said. The Listener Group's accuracy backs up its numbers. It predicted Trump's 2016 victory and Crist's shellacking of Nikki Fried in

August.

DeSantis's political woes has also further up ticked with even his mentor Donald Trump now openly attacking him.

In news headlines Trump said: "I Made Him," and called him "ungrateful." Trump has also called donors and asked them to stop contributing to DeSantis and there's serious doubt that the former president will endorse his apprentice in his bid for re-election.



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ELECTION WRAP UP



Caribbean today will be spotlighting local and state-wide elections in an early printing of our November issue. (Print date is October 27) Come with Caribbean Today as we enter the last lap of this most intriguing election season. Candidates, you need to earn the people's vote. This has been a presidency like no other.

The voting public must be ready to pick the best candidates.

Don't be left behind.

Candidates, this is the time and Caribbean Today is the vehicle you need to make your final pitch to the public. Your information will be presented in print and at www.caribbeantoday.com

It's time for that final push. One last time to take your message to the people and Caribbean Today is the place.

Caribbean Today

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 8, 2022

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21, 2022.

Here's How You Can Help Floridians Impacted By Ian

The death toll from Hurricane Ian's assault of Southwestern Florida continues to rise as the effort now turns to helping the thousands of survivors who have lost everything. South Floridians are coming together to help their neighbor in this time of tragedy.

Gov. Ron DeSantis discussed the response to the destruction. "This is going to be a 24-7 operation," DeSantis said.

"We don't necessarily need people to send us stuff," DeSantis said. "What we need is to be able to help those relief organizations help those folks."

He encouraged the public to make monetary donations to enable organizations to distribute supplies they already have. "Your financial contribution can make a world of difference," he said. Within the last 24 hours, people have donated more than \$2 million to Florida hurricane relief efforts, DeSantis said.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP

The Florida Disaster Fund website

Anyone who wants to pitch

in financially can visit The Florida Disaster Fund website or text DISASTER to 20222. This official private state fund was established to provide financial assistance to communities dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

The Red Cross

The Red Cross is also accepting donations on its website. Red Cross representatives said they will provide food, supplies and shelter to those displaced by the storm. Other volunteer opportunities for people who want to help include the Red Cross Disaster Action Team and the Red Cross Disaster Mental Health team.

Ninety percent of the organization's workforce is made up of volunteers, according to the Red Cross website. To find Red Cross volunteer opportunities by ZIP code, click volunteerconnection.redcross.org/?nd=rco_opportunity_browse_list

The Red Cross is also experiencing a blood shortage that has worsened following



Damaged homes and debris are shown in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in Fort Myers, Fla. on Sept. 29. (Photo: AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

the hurricane. To donate blood, call 1-800-733-2767 or search for blood drives by ZIP code at the same link, https://volunteerconnection.redcross.org/?nd=rco_opportunity_browse_list.

Feeding Florida

Feeding Florida is a partner state association of Feeding America, the nation's leading hunger-relief organization. The organization is collaborating with its statewide network of

food banks to provide food to hurricane victims. People can donate at a local food bank or make a monetary donation at feedingflorida.org/taking-action/donate.

Convoy of Hope

This non-profit provides relief to communities that have been affected by natural disasters. They are planning to set up points of distribution and will begin assisting survivors. They're bringing supplies like

pre-bagged groceries. You can donate online at <https://convoyofhope.org/>

Collier Comes Together

This Naples-based community foundation has reactivated a hurricane fund "to benefit Southwest Florida nonprofit relief efforts and programs." This foundation is local to the coastal damage, so it's a great choice if you feel more comfortable giving to smaller organizations. You can donate online at https://cfcollier.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=4366

Volunteer Florida

If you're a Floridian who wants to help, consider donating your time. There are volunteer positions available for hurricane relief. You can help clean up debris, distribute food, or assist with mental health services at <https://volunteer.volunteerflorida.org/>



A Trinidadian Soprano Is Coming To South Florida

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Recognised as a star on the rise, Trinidadian soprano Jeanine De Bique is leaving her indelibly creative mark on the world of Opera.

She has won accolades for her performances in famous operas across Europe and the United States. This month, she is bringing her talent to South Florida as she prepares to perform at Miami's New World Symphony to mark their 35th anniversary.

On October 15th and 16th, the lyric soprano will wow audiences with selections from Carl Maria von Weber's opera 'Der Freischütz,' joined by conductor Christoph Koncz and Fellows of New World Symphony.

The season will continue across Europe and the US, highlighting her debut solo CD, 'Mirrors', on Berlin Classics, accompanied by the renowned baroque orchestra Concerto Köln.

ENCHANTRESS

Among the soprano's noted performances was her lead role as 'Alcina,' the enchantress in Handel's opera named after the protagonist. A Robert Carsen production at the Opera National de Paris last year, De Bique noted in an earlier interview that she tapped into her own life stories to play the role and express the character's emotions.

Another major accomplishment for De Bique was her title role as Annio in Peter Sellars' production of

Mozart's 'La Clemenza di Tito,' at the Salzburg Summer Festival several years ago.

Indeed, De Bique's stunning vocal range and love of Baroque music has taken her on a career trajectory many strive to attain. She has cultivated an intensely passionate relationship with classical music that blossomed in her childhood years back home in Trinidad.

Growing up in a Caribbean country steeped in steel pan, calypso, and soca music and the ever-present tradition of storytelling through oral history, certainly helped create her musical journey. But it was also the influence of classical music in the household that piqued her passion for the genre.

With a family steeped in the classics and playing instruments, De Bique learned to play the piano as a child. She sang calypso and other music genres in competitions, some of which she won. But her love for the classics shone through her involvement in school choirs and eventually semi-professional singing groups. Her natural talent would eventually lead her to the Manhattan School of Music in New York city where she earned a Master's degree.

HONORS

It is no surprise that the soprano has been recognised with awards and scholarships. She was awarded first prize at the Young



Trinidadian soprano Jeanine De Bique is leaving her indelibly creative mark on the world of Opera and graces South Florida with her talent from Oct. 15-16th. (Photo by Marco Borggreve)

Concert Artists, Inc Music Competition, the Arleen Auger Prize at the Hertogenbosch International Vocal Competition, third Prize in the Viotti International Music Competition and a prize winner at the Gerda Lissner Vocal Competition (New York). She was a finalist and a study grant award recipient of the 2011 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and received a study grant from the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation during her studies.

GIVE BACK

De Bique is grateful for the path that was laid for her, and because of that she strives to give back to the community. What's important, she stresses, is sharing her knowledge and gifts with children, helping to transform their lives through the awareness of classical music.

A recipient of the Youth Ambassador for Peace awarded by the National Commission

of UNESCO Trinidad and Tobago, the young soprano raised awareness of the need for youth safety and wellbeing through her performances. As she toured other islands, Barbados for example, De Bique helped raise funds for children with disabilities and for the children's ward at the main hospital on the island. In the United States she has worked with several schools introducing the classics and Caribbean culture to youngsters, hoping to inspire their creativity.

Indeed, De Bique will continue to move audiences with her incredible voice, performing the operas and symphonic concerts of the music maestros she loves, infusing her beloved Caribbean cadence.

From Mahler to Mozart, Handel, to Caribbean folksongs and beyond, look for De Bique as she tours your city. Next stop - New World Symphony in Miami Beach October 15-16th.

Enjoy 25% off tickets for "35th Anniversary Season Opener" performances on Saturday, October 15 at 7:30pm and Sunday, October 16 at 2 pm when you buy online at <https://www.miamiandbeaches.com/thing-to-do/arts-culture/new-world-symphony/2925> and enter promotion code GMCVB25 before selecting seats.



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The Anti-Immigrant Vitriol Keeps Rising; Will Latinos Who Support The GOP Wake Up?

On Wednesday September 14th, the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month, when it was reported that Florida's governor, aka Ron 'Trump Wannabe Death' Santis, spent \$615,000 taxpayers' money to charter private planes to fly 50 mostly Venezuelan asylum seekers from Texas to Martha's Vineyard to score points with the MAGAites, CBS Miami ran a story of Venezuelan advocates shocking reaction to the stunt.

In it, the reporter covering a state where one in five Floridian is

an immigrant, thoughtlessly referred to the migrants as "illegal immigrants," despite the fact that they are asylum seekers. Minutes after the story ran, we at News Americas, tweeted CBS Miami advising them to educate their reporter that the term was



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

"undocumented immigrants" not "illegal immigrants."

Well, that informed critique unleashed the MAGAites on us. They descended like poisonous snakes, unleashing their xenophobic venom. "Illegal aliens" is what they should have said, most responded, while one woman, @lili_pl, brazenly asked if we even knew English, and if we were "even legal."

The responses sum up the rising tide of hate and xenophobia that has spiraled upwards since

Donald Trump began his campaign for office. It is only getting worse and those emboldened by El Trumpeto, like Death Santis and Texas' Greg A-Butt, are now out in full force, fanning the flames of hate shamelessly.

To them, all immigrants of color are a threat to their majority White control in the United States. That's the Big Fear. Worse, they assume ignorantly that all immigrants who enter from the Southern Border are non-English speakers and predominantly Latinos.

While its heart breaking to see immigrants again being used like pawns in the political games between Republicans and Democrats in these United States, the current actions of Death Santis, A-Butt and others in the Trump Republican Party, will hopefully be a wakeup call to Latino voters across the country and in Florida, who tend to swing to the GOP's side.

In the swing state of Florida in 2018, Republicans picked up a larger share of Hispanic voters than Trump did in 2016. Death Santis in fact won 44 percent of Florida's Hispanic votes in 2018, according to exit polling reported by the Hill. In 2020, Trump picked up Florida's 29 electoral votes, winning about 47% of the Hispanic vote in Florida and increasing his vote share over 2016 by about 12

percentage points.

The question now is after the Death Santis Martha's Vineyard stunt and the dropping off of mostly Central American and South American migrants in front of the residence of the US Vice President by A-Butt, at the start of Hispanic Heritage Month of all days, is whether Republicans can continue to hold pace or make gains with the Hispanic voting bloc going forward.

Adelys Ferro, who heads the non-profit Venezuelan American Caucus, rightly told WLRN in Doral, FL, that it's 'hypocritical' of GOP politicians to curry votes in the Venezuelan exile community by condemning the socialist dictatorship in Venezuela that so many thousands of Venezuelan refugees are fleeing, "only to turn around and then show, like this, that they really don't want Venezuelans here."

She is right. But will that sentiment be enough to rid the state of Florida from Death Santis and the state of Texas from A-Butt come November? The power is in the hand of immigrant voters, especially Latinos. Will they be woke enough to now "deport" the MAGA butt-holes?

The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com – The Black Immigrant Daily News.

Internet Interaction



Despite the hue and cry for gender equality, with women calling for parity with their male counterparts, there are still some things that men should do, and in contrast, some things that women are better suited for.



TONY ROBINSON

Men and women both need each other to survive and procreate. Well, at least that used to be the order of nature, but with all these different gender permutations nowadays, it's difficult to discern who is who or what is what.

Now you have males turning into females, and vice versa, plus the nonbinary that have no gender, and who knows what else will emerge from the cocoon of gender ambiguity as time goes on. What is true though is that among the genuine males and females that still exist, there are roles that are specific to each gender.

Even in the field of sports, many years ago, women were not allowed to participate in certain activities as they were not deemed to be ladylike. Women could not play cricket, football, box, wrestle, be jockeys, join certain organizations, take part in active military duty and other areas that society reserved for men. Women had their designated roles, and the term: 'That's woman's work,' was banded about.

So much has changed, but there are still people around who think that the genders should have their specific roles and ne'er the twain should meet.

Just recently I saw a sign at a restaurant that stated, 'Servers needed, females only.' It struck me, for if it was the other way around, it would have elicited

remonstration about gender equality.

Airline stewardesses were predominantly female. Is that gender bias, or defined roles? Of course, over the years, men have infiltrated the ranks of stewardesses and now fly the friendly skies on aircraft that are operated by female pilots. I savor the irony. The same applies to nurses, who are predominantly female, even though men have also penetrated those ranks.

Maybe that's why some people believe that certain gender roles should be defined, and as many folks say: "Man is man and woman is woman and each do them thing." Other noted persons also have their views. "People share a common nature, but are trained in gender roles," says Lillie Devereux Blake while Pete Hegseth added: "Whether we like it or not, gender differences matter in a combat situation."

Now please don't get me wrong, I'm not talking about gender equality, but more about the different roles that men and women should perform. Even in the home, the roles should be specific. I'm sure that most men would prefer to change a flat tire on the car rather than ask his woman to do it. "Honey, can you change the tire on the SUV while I do the dishes?"

Plus, even though it's more physically taxing than washing the dishes or dusting the furniture, most men feel more comfortable wielding that lug tool, hoisting that vehicle on the jack, and changing that wheel.

Men also state: "If we're at home and an intruder breaks in, I don't expect my woman to confront him, that's my role." When it comes to romance, what role should the woman take, and what role should the man? Many old-school women insist that the man should assume the role of initiator all the time.

Many men think differently. "Why should I be the one who seems to court her all the time, can't she woo me to, buy me dinner, take me dancing?" While some women bemoan: "I could never approach him romantically, that wasn't the way I was brought up."

Switch the roles and it upsets the natural order of the universe. Like it or not, gender roles should be defined. But I have to run, for I have to go and dust the furniture while my wife is outside changing the oil on my SUV and rotating the tires.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tony Robinson can be reached at seido1yard@gmail.com.



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- Nancy breast cancer survivor

Boosting Africa-Caribbean Trade And Investments

BY ELIZABETH MORGAN

The inaugural Afri-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF2022) was held in Barbados from September 1-3, with the aim of promoting trade and investment between the CARICOM countries and countries of Africa.

This Forum was organized by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), Invest Barbados, the Africa Business Council, the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export), and the CARICOM Secretariat.

The aim was to promote and expand the now meagre level of trade and investment between the Caribbean and Africa and to contribute to strengthening relations between the continent and the region.

The Forum brought together 1,200 delegates from Africa and the Caribbean. Panels covered a wide range of issues, such as special economic zones, industrialization and manufacturing, agricultural production, food security, improving infrastructure, logistics for finance and trade, regional integration, and promoting trade and tourism.

The Forum provided an opportunity for business networking and saw the signing

of several partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). Afreximbank and 7 CARICOM countries - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname - signed an MOU to promote trade and investments. Afreximbank also signed an MOU with the Caribbean Association of Banks. It seems that the Afreximbank will be able to operate in the CARICOM region and an African-Caribbean Business Council is also to be established.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION

The CARICOM Private Sector Organization, (The CPSO), also participated in the Forum. I did not see the Network of Caribbean Chambers of Commerce (CARICHAM) involved. My impression is that the private sector organizations of the individual CARICOM Member States were not well represented at this Forum. Those who are members may be leaving it to the CPSO to do the foundation work.

It is recognized that, while Africa presents a great potential as a market of 1.3 billion people in 54 countries, there are several challenges to be addressed in order



Panelists at the recently concluded Afri-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum in Barbados. (BIS image)

to move trade in goods beyond 1% of total trade, and to develop trade in services. These include transportation - having direct air and sea links), reducing tariffs and regulatory barriers to trade, mutual recognition of standards and certification, and reducing costs of trading goods and services.

In terms of trade agreements, both CARICOM with CSME and Africa with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) have much work to do in implementing these agreements.

Many of us in the Caribbean have African ancestry, but it is evident that our knowledge of the continent is limited. The flow of information from Africa in terms of news, and especially business news, is limited. A cable TV Channel, which is called 'Africa,' may not be providing much useful

information from the continent.

I note that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation out of Barbados is to start packaging some programming that, I assume, will highlight Africa. In the same way, the countries that we would want to target in Africa, would need to have more information about the CARICOM countries.

This is where cultural exchanges would be useful if resources are available. We also need to make better use of our connections through the Commonwealth and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). CARICOM still has very limited diplomatic representational coverage in Africa.

As we look at improving communications with Africa, we also should be reminded that intra-CARICOM communications need to be improved and that intra-regional transportation is a major problem which has to be addressed. The demise of LIAT, (the Eastern Caribbean airline), has made traversing the region far more challenging and thus made intra- and extra-regional trade more costly.

As I said in my article of April 20, deepening Caribbean/Africa trade relations will not be an overnight thing and it will need the interest and involvement

of the regional private sector, including small and micro- firms. The chief executive officers and stakeholders will have to see the tangible benefits to be gained from trading and investing in African countries.

The International Trade Centre

The International Trade Centre (ITC), in its report "Expanding African-Caribbean Trade," produced for the Barbados Afri-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum, sees potential to boost African and Caribbean trade, but it also sees the work that has to be done to reap the benefits.

So, the journey has begun in improving Caribbean/African Relations. The first Caribbean/African Summit was held on September 7, 2021; the first Afri-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum was held, and September 7th is now declared Africa/Caribbean Day.

I would think that real progress will depend on CARICOM actually advancing in fully implementing the CSME - setting the foundation, and on the engagement of the regional private sector.

Strengthening Africa/Caribbean relations must transcend emotional idealism. A recurring question for me and which others have posed is; if CARICOM countries are having difficulties trading among themselves, in the wider Caribbean, and generally within this hemisphere, how do they effectively expand trade into Africa? Let's think on this.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Elizabeth Morgan, who writes for CMC, is a specialist in international trade policy and international politics.

- CMC



Hurricane Ian Leaves Two Dead In Cuba

As Florida battles its own recovery effort in the light of the passage of Hurricane Ian's category 4 onslaught on Wednesday, September 28th, Cuba, which suffered the storm's wrath first, says the fatalities after the passage of hurricane Ian has risen to three.

The official media Cubadebate reported the third fatality, which adds to the two deaths already reported the day before, after Ian slammed the island as a Category three hurricane, leaving the country in the dark and causing notable destruction and intense rains and winds.

The National Electric System, (SEN), which collapsed and left the island in the dark says it is now returning electricity to small "microsystems" with the aim of connecting the regions little by little.

The United Nations said that it offered emergency aid to Cuba after the passage of Hurricane Ian and that it is in contact with the country's authorities to try to respond to the needs that are

identified.

According to the organization, "although resources are scarce," Cuba was already offered the supply of food and other products that were prepared in advance as the first phase of the response. In addition, the United Nations is "ready to support additional needs that are identified," spokesman Stéphane Dujarric explained during his daily press conference according to EFE.

Dujarric said that the UN team in Cuba is working with the country's authorities to analyze the impact of the hurricane and activate the appropriate response mechanisms.

Courtenay Rattray, the chief of staff of the secretary general, António Guterres, also spoke with the Cuban delegation to the United Nations to convey her concern about the situation on the island, the spokesman said.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Help Us to Help Them

Help Caribbean Today to educate our children, and thereby providing a leg up for all.

Caribbean Today has established "The Caribbean Today Foundation for Journalistic and Healthcare Excellence" which will provide scholarships to students attending Miami Dade College. Donations can be made in the following way:

- **VIA CHECK:** Make checks payable to "The Miami Foundation" and include the Fund name "The Caribbean Today Foundation for Journalistic and Healthcare Excellence" in the memo line of the check. Mail checks to, The Miami Foundation, 40 Northwest 3rd Street, Suite 305, Miami, FL 33128.
- **VIA CREDIT CARD:** miamifoundation.org/givenow. Choose the Fund from the dropdown menu and submit payment. Please look for the Fund name Caribbean Today Foundation.
- Please contact the Miami Foundation directly for cash wiring or stock transfer instructions if needed.

Remember no monies come to Caribbean Today, it all goes to your children's future education.

The Miami Foundation allows Caribbean Today to achieve its philanthropic mission and provides strict oversight and accountability of the Fund by the Board of Trustees of the Miami Foundation. For more information on The Miami Foundation, please visit miamifoundation.org.

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Fall Health News & Tips



Caribbean  Day

Fall Health

Miami Dade College Taking Steps to Address Nursing Shortage

BY ALLISON HORTON
Miami Dade College

As the nation continues struggling with a severe nursing shortage, Miami Dade College (MDC) has pledged to grow its nursing program by 40 percent over the next three years, with generous support from the state, organizations and key partners.

To fulfill the increasing demand for nurses, MDC's School of Nursing is collaborating with Leon Medical Center, Miami Jewish Health Center and Vitas to meet their shortage of licensed practical and vocational nurses. The school is also working with magnet hospitals to provide flexible bachelor's degree in nursing courses, so that nurses with an associate degree can return to the classroom, as it prepares new nurses to join the workforce.

"We are strongly committed to addressing the local and national nursing shortage and meeting the needs of the healthcare community," said MDC President Madeline Pumariega. "That begins at home, in our own backyard, by offering top-quality education and establishing partnerships with area hospitals and medical providers to ensure students are exceptionally trained in all areas of patient care."

Starting this semester, the



Ribbon cutting of the Nursing Simulation Center at MDC. (Contributed image)

MDC is once again offering the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program, which provides a seamless path for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) graduates to advance and also creates a pipeline toward the Registered Nurse (RN) and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs. The LPN program will admit students twice yearly to increase the number of students participating in the program. Meanwhile, MDC's RN-to-BSN program has been ranked among the nation's Top 10 most affordable.

MDC is also growing part-time nursing programs to meet the needs of students balancing school with work and

life responsibilities. In addition, it has been investing in new training facilities, such as the new state-of-the-art nursing skills center at the Homestead Campus, a 4,850 square-foot facility featuring two simulation labs, a control room, two debriefing rooms, skills wings, and a health assessment wing. All that wouldn't be possible without essential support from the state and partners that assist students with tuition, books, uniforms, certifications, and

more. Through a partnership with the Lennar Foundation, CNA students receive free tuition, books/supplies, uniform, CPR certification, state testing fee, student stipends, and more. If a student has a CNA credential and wishes to continue their schooling, Jackson Memorial Hospital has pledged to cover the cost of the education, qualifying the student for tuition reimbursement.

In addition, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has allocated \$2.3 million in the state budget to accelerate and grow MDC's nursing programs, and the Health Foundation of South Florida recently awarded the College \$500,000.

MDC created its nursing program over 50 years ago to meet the rapidly growing demand for registered nurses in Miami-Dade County. To this day, it has graduated about 20,000 nurses with alumni working in every hospital and most outpatient facilities in the region, and a large percentage of Hispanic nurses nationally. Many of those alumni have gone on to pursue advanced graduate and doctoral degrees. Some have even returned to teach at MDC. To learn more about MDC's nursing programs, visit www.mdc.edu/nursing. Register for classes at www.mdc.edu/enroll.

How To Protect Yourself And Your Family From Preventable Diseases

Both in the United States and globally, childhood and adult vaccination rates have seen what community health experts are calling a "concerning decline" since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is the time to ensure that you and your children are up to date on all recommended vaccines to best protect you and your family from preventable diseases.

"Vaccines are among the greatest medical breakthroughs in the history of medicine. Millions of lives have been saved and severe outcomes



from various diseases have been prevented because of vaccines. At this moment, in part because of people missing routine

immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic and in part because of misinformation around vaccines, our vaccination numbers have declined, which has impacted certain populations who are more susceptible to preventable diseases. I urge you

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3B)



A timely mammogram could save your life.

I am Tamara Béliard Rodriguez and this is my story.

"I'm using my voice for the Haitian community. I think it can save someone's life. Getting a mammogram saved mine."

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Fall Health

7 Tips For Finding A Medicare Plan That Works For You



Feeling overwhelmed by your Medicare options? There's a good reason for that. With more than 3,000 Medicare Advantage plans, over 700 Part D Prescription Plans available and an array of carriers offering Medicare Supplement plans, there's a lot to consider.

"Whether this is your first time enrolling in Medicare or you've been through the process

before, it's easy to get confused by the big picture, not to mention all the details," says Ryan Kocher, Medicare growth officer at Cigna.

This Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP), Kocher is demystifying the enrollment process by sharing the same tips he offers to his own friends and family members:

1. Don't wait. Understanding Medicare can protect your health and finances in the years to come. If you are transitioning from a commercial plan, work with an expert with your company's insurance plan to avoid gaps in coverage as well as late penalties.

2. Nail down the basics. There

are many different plan types. Here's a breakdown:

- Original Medicare, offered through the U.S. government, includes all providers who agree to participate in the program.
- Medicare Supplement plans are plans offered by many private insurers that complement Original Medicare. For an additional premium, these plans cover costs such as copays and coinsurance not covered by Original Medicare. There are a number of standardized options available.
- Standalone Prescription Drug Plans, offered by private insurers for a monthly premium, provide drug coverage not covered by Original Medicare or Medicare Supplement.
- Medicare Advantage (MA) plans cover everything covered by Original Medicare, and most also include dental, vision and hearing benefits. They

often include prescription drug coverage, and other extras like over-the-counter drugs, transportation to doctor's visits and pharmacies, and fitness plans. MA plans are often available at no extra cost.

3. Review your plan annually. During the AEP (October 15-December 7), it's important to review your current Medicare plan, even if you like it. This is because plan details are subject to change every year. Review the Annual Notice of Changes, which is mailed to you by your insurer each September. This document spells out plan changes for the upcoming year.

4. Compare all the costs. Be sure to factor in all the associated costs of a given plan, not just the monthly premium. Out-of-pocket costs, such as co-pays and deductibles, should also be considered. Additionally, note the prices and rules around the prescription drugs you take.

5. Check network requirements. Before signing up for a particular plan, check to make sure that your favorite health care providers are in its network.

While you may be able to go out of network for care, be prepared to pay more if you do.

6. Ask questions. Don't settle on a plan until you understand it. If you have questions, reach out to your broker, insurer, physician and even those friends and family members who have Medicare for help.

7. Use your plan. Now that you have a plan, make the most of its benefits. Schedule all the screenings, vaccines and other preventive health measures recommended by your doctor. Early intervention can help detect conditions early when they can be more effectively treated.

For more information about Medicare, visit Medicare.gov, Cigna's website at www.cignamedicare.com or the state health insurance assistance program in your area.

"Don't be daunted by the Medicare enrollment process. Being a careful shopper can ensure you find a plan that accommodates your wallet and your well-being," says Kocher.

- StatePoint

Florida Health System To Launch RPM Platform For Heart Failure

Baptist Health South Florida is partnering with Raziel Health to implement its Remote Patient Monitoring, (RPM), services and continuous care platform for cardiac care.

The 12-hospital system includes 4,000 physicians and over 100 outpatient centers, urgent care facilities, and physician practices across South Florida. Per the new partnership, the health system will deploy the platform to enable clinicians to remotely care for chronically ill patients in their homes, inpatients with

complex conditions, and patients transitioning from the hospital to their homes.

The platform will initially be used to treat patients with heart failure and complex hypertension. Raziel Health offers home monitoring devices that enable care teams to track vitals and activity data. The platform integrates with several EHRs, including Epic and Cerner.

Patients can connect with their care teams using Raziel's smartphone app, which enables virtual visits and calls, and

allows patients to take contextual surveys and engage in lifestyle and behavioral coaching. The platform uses machine learning to analyze the data gathered, including survey results, to inform treatment plans and care interventions.

The health system plans to expand the RPM platform and services to additional types of cardiac care.

- MHealthintelligence.com



How To Protect Yourself And Your Family From Preventable Diseases

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2B)

to check with your physician, schedule that preventive screening, and make sure you and your children are up to date on your vaccines," says Jack Resneck Jr., M.D., president of the American Medical Association.

According to Dr. Resneck, here are three steps to take to get back on track:

1. Schedule routine visits with your and your child's physicians for important preventive care, including recommended health screenings and vaccines based on age and health status. Babies and young children are especially susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases, and right now, tens of thousands of children in the U.S. are not up to date on their vaccination against extremely contagious diseases, such as measles and whooping cough.

2. You should also make sure that you and your children are up to date on COVID-19 vaccines. Experts have cautioned about a possible surge this fall and winter.

With new Omicron-specific bivalent boosters available for people 12 and older, the time for additional protection from severe outcomes from COVID-19 is now. Additionally, all children aged 6 months and up are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, and physicians highly recommend getting vaccinated as early as possible. You can get a COVID-19 vaccine and a flu vaccine at the same time if you are eligible, and the timing coincides. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit: getvaccineanswers.org.

3. Understand that even countries once declared polio-free or measles-free are not risk-free, particularly for the unvaccinated. An adult in New York was recently partially paralyzed by polio, and the virus has been found in area wastewater samples, leading to the declaration of a disaster in the state to help support localities in responding to the outbreak. Because some areas and populations are under-vaccinated, the risk of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases is increased. "Unfortunately, if we don't

get our vaccine coverage rates back to where they were before the pandemic began, we run the risk of seeing outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases that we thought we'd long ago overcome," says Dr. Resneck. "To protect yourself and your family from current and future outbreaks, get up to date on vaccinations now."

- StatePoint



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Love Overdue? - Time For Bob Marley To Be Named A Jamaica National Hero Poll Finds

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Robert Nesta ‘Bob’ Marley has earned esteemed honors since his death in 1981 at age 36. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grammys and even got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Many of his countrymen believe it is time he be awarded Jamaica’s highest honor of national hero. Marley, whose message-strong songs made him a superstar during the 1970s, is as revered as Elvis Presley, John Lennon and Michael Jackson, other music icons who died in their prime. He was awarded the Order of Merit, Jamaica’s fourth-highest honor in 1981, but a recent national poll showed many support the reggae king being named the country’s eighth National Hero.

Conducted in July by Don Anderson, Jamaica’s leading pollster, it showed that almost one-third of Jamaicans are in favor of Marley or folklorist Louise “Miss Lou” Bennett-Coverley, being named national heroes.

That call was made in April by parliamentarian Lisa Hanna, a member of the opposition People’s National Party, (PNP). In August, as Jamaica celebrated its 60th anniversary



Isn't it time Bob Marley is named a Jamaica National Hero? (Corbis Image)

of independence from Great Britain, PNP leader Mark Golding, made a similar appeal in the House of Representatives.

“Over 40 years since he departed this life, Bob Marley’s music, image and message of positive livity for all mankind continue to grow across the world, and in my opinion, it is high time that we recognize this by affording him the status of a national hero,” said Golding.

Marley was a devout Rastafarian who shunned ‘Babylon’ symbols, such as government awards. Although some people aligned him with socialist PNP prime minister Michael Manley during the turbulent 1970s, he insisted he

bore no political allegiance.

In recent years, his wife Rita has been recipient of several awards in Jamaica. In 2019, she received the Order of Jamaica, the country’s fifth-highest honor.

Alan Cole, Marley’s close friend and former manager, believes national hero would be appropriate for the man he calls “one of the great poets of our time.”

According to Cole, 72, “He deserves it. The impact he created with his lyrics made him a superstar for oppressed people, especially from the Third World.”

Cole, arguably Jamaica’s greatest soccer player, met Marley in the Kingston ghetto of Trench Town during the late 1960s. They shared a passion for the game and Rastafari, which at the time had growing appeal among inner-city and middle-class youth.

In the early 1970s, Cole helped Marley’s record company. He was his manager in 1980 when Marley embarked on his most ambitious tour which he

hoped would break him in the United States.

Cole was with Marley for his final show in Pittsburgh in September that year. Within days, they flew to Germany where the singer/songwriter sought treatment for terminal cancer.

After eight months of medical attention in Germany, Marley headed to Miami, planning to return to Jamaica but he died in Miami on May 11,

1981.

Should he be given Jamaica National Honor status, Marley would join Pan African Marcus Garvey, Jamaica’s first prime minister Sir Alexander Bustamante, former premier Norman Manley, and anti-colonialists Paul Bogle, George William Gordon, Sam Sharpe and Nanny as national heroes.



Protoje Drops New Album



The LP, released in partnership with Protoje’s label In.Digg. Nation Collective and RCA Records follows his ‘In Search Of Lost Time,’ (2020), which planted a new flag for Protoje and his network of homegrown Jamaican talent he’s helped develop over the past two years. At long last, ‘Third Time’s The Charm’ is a bookend to an era that began with the 2020 pandemic.

Reggae star Protoje has released his third album, titled ironically, ‘Third Time’s The Charm.’ This latest chapter adds to the trilogy of albums he’s dropped since his GRAMMY nomination for ‘A Matter Of Time,’ in 2018.

Protoje’s journey as a man, a father, and as an entrepreneur in the music industry is crystalized on the artist’s new 10-track opus.



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Bounty Killer Claims Late Dancehall Artist Merciless Died Of A Drug Overdose



Bounty Killer, l. and the late Merciless, r., (Urban Islandz image)

The Warlord, Bounty Killer, is responding to critics from some quarters of the dancehall fraternity who are bashing him for not attending the funeral of Merciless, the legendary clash artist.

Merciless, whose real name is Leonard Bartley, was laid to rest on September 18th. He died on July 1st at a motel on Beechwood Avenue in St Andrew, Kingston, Jamaica. The 51-year-old artist's death shocked dancehall fans, particularly as he was not only young but was reportedly not ailing up to the time of his death.

Merciless funeral was attended by Spragga Benz, Don Mafia, Little Hero, Alize, Silver Cat, and Ghost, who

were spotted inside the St Gabriel's Anglican Church in May Pen, Clarendon. However, others who were reportedly close and highly respected by the late singer were curiously absent from his funeral. Both Bounty Killer and Beenie Man, who have a long history with Merciless, were also absent from the farewell leading to fans of the late artist, including Tony Matterhorn calling them out, for not showing unity.

On Instagram, fans of Bounty Killer also called him out for not attending the event prompting an acidic response from the artist and Merciless manager Harvel 'Gadafi' Hart also called out Bounty Killer and Beenie Man for not showing up at the funeral. Hart

lamented that Merciless' family included Bounty and Beenie on his funeral program and shared that the late deejay spoke highly of them.

Hart also lashed out at Capleton and Sizzla for not showing up at any of the events or nine-night for the artist.

It comes as an audio clip of Bounty Killer's interview on 104.1 FM radio station in Cayman started making the rounds where the artist said Merciless died of a drug overdose and lashed out at critics who accused him of not showing up to the funeral.

"A over deh the man go lose it enuh dog," the deejay said. "A drugs kill Merciless enuh. Is drugs kill Merciless. They just shy to say it. No heart attack or nutten bredren a overdose kill the Don. And we don't even want elaborate pon the dead man or nutten, but them fi gweh, me nah go a no funeral me a badman. No bwoy cyan ramp wid me inno."

Bounty Killer added that Merciless wasn't his friend but rather a co-worker; hence he doesn't owe his family anything but condolences. "Merciless wasn't me friend, he wasn't me colleague, he was just a co-worker," he said.

Bounty has been criticized for the statement as the audio clip makes the round on social media.

- *Rewritten from Urban Islandz*



Caribbean Immigrant Designer Uses Fashion To Spotlight On Income Inequality



Caribbean born designer Fe Noel debuted "the Dre\$\$" as the closing piece of her spring 2023 runway show. (Photo courtesy FE NOEL)

A Caribbean immigrant fashion designer used her Spring 2023 Fashion Week collection to send a serious message on income inequality.

Brooklyn-based, Grenada-born designer Fe Noel teamed up with retirement agency services provider TIAA, and its initiative #RetireInequality, to highlight the glaring wage gaps between men and women with the debut of Noel's "Dre\$\$" at her Spring 2023 show.

On average, women earn 83 cents on the dollar to every man. This number, compounded, means that by the end of her career, a full-time, working woman will have lost an average of \$417,400 of income. To determine the symbolic number of 1.6 million to make the dress, Noel referenced The Center for American Progress's calculations according to PAPER.

The group found that with median return rates and investing 20% of earnings, the total money invested would accumulate to an additional \$1.6 million in retirement funds.

"As a woman in the fashion industry, this initiative felt especially important to me," Noel was quoted as saying. "More than 85% of majors from top fashion schools are female, but only around 14% of the top 50 major fashion brands are run by women."

"The Dre\$\$ is a structured gown with a solid foundation; the direction of the dollar bills is purposeful; the finishings and corset are all designed to convey strength and structure – something women exhibit," she added according to PAPER.

This Dre\$\$, however, is only the beginning of the brand's fight to #RetireInequality. Noel is excited to continue using the runway as her platform. "Women's clothing will always be our foundation – we are continuing to build on that business with our classic silhouettes while introducing new creations," PAPER quoted her as saying.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



Christopher Martin Boasts Love and National Pride

Reggae and Dancehall star Christopher Martin is boasting of love and national pride in his new single "Guaranteed." Taking his girl to main attractions and landmarks across Jamaica, the artist confidently proclaims that her 'good time is guaranteed.'

The feel good easy-vibe song, produced by Robert Livingston is the follow-up single to "You'll Never Find." Martin maintains his smooth modern vocals with a touch of soul. His vocal styling and lyrics make him the ultimate lovers tour guide, hitting the right spots.

On the song, Martin says: "Sometimes we need to pause the party vibes and spend some time getting to know a special



Singer Christopher Martin has released a new single. (Photo by BigYard)

person. What better way to get to know them than to go to special places and hotspots?" It is available on all digital platforms.



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Caribbean Immigrant Chef Included In New York Times First In-Person Cooking Series

A Caribbean immigrant chef was among those included in the first ever New York Times in-person cooking event series this fall. St. Lucian-born chef, Nina Compton, is part of the New York Times Cooking tour across the United States. On October 1st, New York Times Cooking writer Yewande Komolafe hosted a class with the James Beard Award-winning chef of Compère Lapin in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Chef Nina led guests through a cooking class centred around Caribbean Creole cuisine. The two-session, interactive course will take place at her restaurant, Bywater American Bistro in the Bywater district of the city.

The Times tour will conclude at The New York Times Food Festival on October 8th in New York City. Those who can't attend this fall's in-person



St. Lucian-born chef, Nina Compton, is part of the New York Times Cooking tour across the United States.

events can still take part at home with New York Times Cooking's brand new Cooking Kits including a Caribbean Creole Cuisine Kit, curated with Nina Compton. Each kit will feature exclusive recipes with access to video tutorials, and direct links

to New York Times Cooking recipes which integrate the selection of specialty ingredients included.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Caribbean Chef Featured In Nissan Commercial



Chef Digby Stridiron from St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, joined Los Angeles-based Mercedes Rojas from Venezuela, and Jonathan Pérez, who holds Guatemalan-Mexican roots, joined Chef Digby for the culinary celebration in "The Nissan Flavor Garage."

An award-winning Caribbean chef was recently selected to participate in a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month by automobile manufacturer Nissan.

Chef Digby Stridiron from St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, joined Los Angeles-based Mercedes Rojas from Venezuela, and Jonathan Pérez, who holds Guatemalan-Mexican roots, joined Chef Digby for the culinary celebration in "The Nissan Flavor Garage," which recognized the history, culture and influence of Hispanic

Americans.

"That's why we decided to bring together three talented chefs from the Latino community to our Nissan Flavor Garage, so they can show us that with creativity, collaboration, community and passion, you can create new flavors and open new culinary paths," read a statement on Nissan USA's website.

Chef Digby, who prepared roasted red snapper with tostones, was billed in the promotion as an "Afro-Caribbean chef, with Puerto

Rican roots", who specializes in what many call today 'slow food', which consists of fresh, locally harvested, ingredients and proteins gathered from the sea.

A significant segment of St. Croix's population has strong ties to Puerto Rico and many residents speak both English and Spanish.

Chef Digby is an award-winning Caribbean chef and community leader who has worked closely with World Central Kitchen and other aid organizations. On social media, he commented: "As a Virgin Islander and Puerto Rican it was an honor to be selected to represent my region of the world! A lot of ppl might not know it but our Hispanic heritage in stx [St. Croix] is a part of our DNA!"

In the feature, Rojas, who has a restaurant in a local farmers market, prepared arepas, while Pérez, who collaborates with his community through food programs for lower income families in downtown Los Angeles, served up oxtail and tasty tacos.



EU Allocates Funds To Caribbean Countries Hit By Food Crisis

The European Union Commission has allocated Euro 600 million (One Euro=US\$1.29 cents) to finance immediate humanitarian food aid, food production and resilience of food systems in the most vulnerable countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific, (ACP).

More precisely, the Commission said the funding will be allocate Euro 27 million for food production and resilience in the Caribbean.

For emergency food assistance, the EU said Euro6.5 million will go to Haiti, and three million Euro million for

Caribbean countries, such as the Dominican Republic.

The world is facing a global food crisis, aggravated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The recently published mid-year update of the Global Report on Food Crises estimates that up to 205.1 million people currently face high levels of acute food insecurity in 45 countries covered by the Global Report on Food Crises 2022.

- Edited from CMC



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This month, in honour of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which we present one of its famous dishes that you can try at home.

Fish blaff or seafood blaff is to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines what court bouillon is to metropolitan France. However, it is spicier and more flavoured. Here's how to make it.



Fish Blaff from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lb cod steaks (snapper or other firm flesh white fish)
- 4 limes
- 3 chives
- 2 onions
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 2 whole allspice berries (or 1 teaspoon of ground allspice)
- 1 clove
- 5 oz. white wine
- ½ cup water
- 3 tablespoons sunflower oil
- 3 green hot peppers
- A few sprigs parsley
- Salt

METHOD

- Mince the onions and spring onions with the stems. Squeeze the limes. Cut the hot peppers into thin slices. Chop half the parsley.
- In a bowl, place all ingredients and mix. Add the cod and drench in the mixture.

- Cover with plastic wrap and marinate in the refrigerator for two hours (or more if possible).
- Pour the marinade into a large pot. Pour the white wine, water, oil, thyme, salt, allspice and cloves. Dip the fish in the sauce.
- Boil this mixture over high heat for 3 minutes, then reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining parsley.
- Simmer uncovered for 10 minutes over low heat.
- 2 possible options: Serve the fish in the broth - serve the fish separately from the broth and wet fish with broth or serve with rice pilaf and/or vegetables.

- 196flavors.com



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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

REPUBLIC TIME? Is It Time For The Caribbean To Sever Ties With The Crown?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6A)

Dutch colony that was first colonized by the British. She acknowledged that although the country is considered South American, it feels more Caribbean and suffers some of the same political and economic issues that many British Commonwealth countries face.

“After almost 47 years of independence, Suriname still suffers proper development opportunities, political stability, and sufficient social-economic support towards marginalized and vulnerable groups in the society,” said Gefferie. “Bureaucracy, political entanglement and corruption continue to have supreme reign in the country.”

The common denominator among these islands is colonial power that reaped massive benefits, leaving social and economic mayhem behind. Jamaica, for example, became Britain’s wealthiest colony, producing sugar on plantations cultivated by enslaved Africans.

The historical atrocities, although acknowledged were never apologized for. In fact, during Prince William’s visit to the island in March this year he commented that “slavery was abhorrent, and it never should have happened.”

But it never came close to,

or ‘buck-up inna’ any apology. It is for these reasons that countries like Jamaica have demanded reparations from Britain.

However, not all Caribbean citizens are on the same page. The late Queen was well loved and respected by many in the islands, especially the older generation, with some saying the country would be better off under the monarchy. Others see these attitudes as mental slavery.

AMBIVALENT

Mrs. Inez Barnett migrated to England from Jamaica in 1961. Although she did not arrive on the Empire Windrush, Barnett is indeed part of the Windrush generation, defined as those who arrived from the Caribbean from 1948 to 1971. She worked as a bus conductor until retirement. In fact, the transportation industry was one of the areas in desperate need of staff after the war. Asked if she thinks Jamaica was better off under British rule, Barnett was ambivalent.

“I was only 19 when I left Jamaica and it was a different country then from what it is today,” explained Barnett.

She continued: “I know a couple who went back to Jamaica after many years in England, but they had to come back because it was tough out



Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua & Barbuda arrives at Westminster Abbey with his wife for the Queen’s funeral on Sept. 19, 2022, after claiming the week prior he would move towards removing the crown as head of state. (Royal Family Channel screengrab)

there, and the violence was just too much. And these are the things that worry me. So, we may have been better off the way it was. But I couldn’t say for sure.”

Surinamese citizens have had similar concerns.

“The people of Suriname have longed for a change, yet it remains wishful thinking, and people start to cry out for the former colonizer, Netherland, to come and ‘save’ the country,” Gefferie remarked.

Although Phipps believes regional counties under British influence should seek total independence from the Crown,

she empathizes with those who want to remain.

“I would not say those who want to remain are mentally enslaved. They still feel that Britain would come to their aid if the worse should happen, and there is some comfort in that,” said Phipps. “We must not forget that most of the founding fathers of the Commonwealth were the same age as Queen Elizabeth II, so there was great respect and love for her being the Head of a country they looked up to as their ‘mother’ country. Some would say she embodied reconciliation between the nations of the

Commonwealth.”

Ennis stands firm in the other direction.

“The concept/idea that life was better under the white man (British) rule is a myth,” said an adamant Ennis. “When they turned over to rule they made sure the structure they built and put in place remained. Most of these ‘independent’ countries are still attempting to master a system alien to their needs but which serves the colonizers who invented it. The system is exploitative and lacks a soul.”

He added: “What’s happening to all of these Caribbean, African, melanin dominant countries was planned; designed by those who feel it’s their destiny to rule planet Earth.”

So, what next for the Caribbean commonwealth?

Phipps cautioned

Commonwealth nations to be vigilant and keep an eye on what could be new conquerors.

“Britain is no longer a significant player like they used to be, and we see China investing across commonwealth member states. This is a new beast that reaps rewards, but at what price?” Phipps questioned.



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Caribbean Immigrant Completes Quest Of Visiting All Countries In The World



The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority celebrated with thirty-seven-year-old, world traveler Romaine Welds, who on his September 18th arrival into Antigua and Barbuda at the V.C. Bird International Airport, completed his quest to visit all 195 countries in the world. (Contributed image)

A Caribbean immigrant is celebrating after reaching his goal of visiting all of the 195 countries in the world.

Jamaican-born world traveler Romaine Welds completed his goal in Antigua and Barbuda on September 18th and was celebrated by at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Welds migrated to the United States of America in 2007 and is the first Jamaican, and possibly the first person in the Caribbean to achieve this goal.

Welds said his travel adventures begun when he decided to visit bucket-list places he would

see on National Geographic. From there he moved on to the '7 Wonders of the World,' then the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries and the list kept growing.

In 2016 when he reached his then goal of visiting 100 countries by the age of 30, he decided to take on the world.

"As a student in Jamaica, I used to love geography. It was my favorite subject, but never in a million years did I imagine that I would end up visiting every country in the world," Welds commented. "It has been a life changing experience. I've learned so much while travelling

and meeting other inspiring globetrotters around the world and now finally, I have made it to the finish line, visiting 195 countries while working full time!"

On his reason for choosing Antigua and Barbuda as his final destination, Welds said, "I thought it would be great to complete this journey close to home where it all started. I settled mostly on Antigua because it seems like a

mini hub in the Caribbean with lots of flight connections. As I wanted my friends and family to get flights easily to join me on this final journey, and also for the beautiful beaches – the choice fell on Antigua & Barbuda."

Welds currently lives in San Francisco, California where he works for a major American airline company as a ground agent which assists him in his travel

pursuits. His next goal is to visit festivals and tribes around the world.

He is spending a week in Antigua, exploring the destination with friends. You can follow Romaine Welds Travel Adventures on Instagram @Travelingtheworldwithromaine.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



CHTA President Calls For "Dynamic Tax" To Address High Cost Of Air Travel

The President of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, (CHTA), is recommending a tiered "dynamic taxation system" as a novel and potential solution to address ongoing concerns about the high cost of air travel within and to and from the region.

Calling for a flexible approach to levying airline taxes, CHTA's President Nicola Madden-Greig said one of the major constraints facing Caribbean travel is the heavy burden of taxation, and governments could well consider successful revenue management tactics employed within the tourism and aviation sector.

According to Madden Greig- while understanding that the full removal of taxes may be challenging, she suggested a tax policy that is responsive to international travel demand seasonality.

"For example, governments can affix a higher airline ticket tax in the peak winter season and lower taxes in the summer when demand is weak," she said, adding that giving consumers better prices to drive visitation during the slow season could boost tourism, commerce and intra-regional VFR (Visiting Friends and Relatives) travel.

Speaking recently at IATA Caribbean Aviation Day in Grand Cayman, the successful Jamaican hotelier said the economics of such a variable policy may in fact result in a net gain in tax revenue to Caribbean governments.

"As travel becomes more affordable and we stimulate more travel, this will result in more local spending, and consequently an increase in local tax collections,"

she said, underscoring there will be an overall net benefit to the consumer thanks to lower ticket prices.

"I think it's a concept that should be explored," said Madden-Greig, who argued that a well-developed strategy could address diverse perspectives on taxation.

"There's a way to do it that allows for flexibility so you still have taxation on the front end, but when you need to drive demand, you can reduce those taxes and make up the difference on the tail end," she said. The taxation details however must be transparent, she warned.

Madden-Greig, the Jamaica-based Group Director of Marketing & Sales at The Courtleigh Hospitality Group, said she hopes to explore the "dynamic taxation strategy" at the upcoming Caribbean Travel Forum, taking place at CHTA's Caribbean Travel Marketplace in San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 3 to 5.

"This could definitely answer the call for reduction in taxes, but not a reduction necessarily all year-round," the CHTA president explained, suggesting that policy makers could consider alternate tax regimes for regional and international flights in order to drive multi-destination and intra-regional travel.

She admitted that research is required on the technological options to implement the system: "It may not be an immediate solution, but it's a solution we can work towards."

- CMC



LEARN ABOUT CANNABIS IN THE WORKPLACE

Medical cannabis may be legal in Florida, but it does not mean you are protected from drug-free work policies. If you test positive for any form of marijuana you may face consequences from your employer.

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FAMU FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY MEDICAL MARIJUANA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Caribbean Airlines Cargo Offers Instant eBookings With WebCargo

Caribbean Airlines Cargo is the latest of over thirty airlines to now offer real-time air cargo pricing and booking on global freight booking platform WebCargo. This rollout will enable instant e-bookings across Caribbean and North American destinations for over 10,000 freight forwarders using WebCargo's platform.

To date, Caribbean Airlines Cargo rates have been available via WebCargo and 7LFreight's airfreight rate management and quoting tools. With this shift, forwarders can access and book spot rates in seconds, ensuring accurate pricing and booking based on the airline's actual capacity, said Freightos.

"Caribbean Airlines is always looking for innovative ways to improve the customer experience and the way we do business," said Marklan Moseley, Caribbean Airlines' general manager, cargo and new business. "This latest offering through WebCargo's digital platform, is a step in fulfilling these objectives, applying the dynamic use of technology,"

He added: "I'm optimistic



From L-R: Marklan Moseley, Caribbean Airlines' General Manager- Cargo and New Business, Giselle Laronde-West Caribbean Airlines' Executive Manager-Customer Experience, Honorable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry, and Garvin Medera Caribbean Airlines' CEO, share a moment together during the official launch of the airline's re-defined JETPAK Courier Service at the Trinidad Hilton on September 9th. (Contributed Image)

that the digitisation process and the use of this platform will result in greater efficiency for all stakeholders."

The addition of Caribbean Airlines Cargo builds upon WebCargo's steady digitisation of a global air cargo capacity, which now exceeds 36%.

"Over the last three years,

Digital Air Cargo adoption has taken off faster than we could imagine in response to pressures on the air cargo industry," said Camilo Garcia, global vice president business development at WebCargo. "We're excited to welcome Caribbean Airlines Cargo to our list of innovative partners available on WebCargo

and 7LFreight."

Caribbean Airlines Cargo is headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago with hubs in Miami, New York, Kingston, Guyana and Barbados. WebCargo joined the Freightos Group in 2016. Founded by serial entrepreneur Zvi Schreiber, Freightos has raised over \$120 million from

leading venture funds including GE Ventures, Aleph and the Singapore Exchange. In June 2022, Freightos announced that it would merge with GESHER I with the intent of going public on the Nasdaq.

E-DEFINED JETPAK DOOR-TO-DOOR SKYBOX SERVICE LAUNCHED

CAL has also launched its RE-defined JETPAK courier service offering customers a new skybox experience with remarkable benefits.

The upgraded JETPAK service is now door to door. As such, customers can shop online and have their packages of fifty pounds or less delivered directly to their homes or businesses. For now, the product is being offered in Trinidad and Tobago, with two convenient locations at Caribbean Airlines' Cargo Office in Piarco and at the Parkade Building in Port of Spain. Currently, Tobago has a delivery only option. Eventually, JETPAK will expand to other countries in the Caribbean Airlines network.



CARICOM Launches New Initiative To Facilitate Intra-Regional Trade

The Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), has launched a new regional platform to facilitate intra-regional trade in goods and agricultural products. This came as Suriname President and current CARICOM chairman, Chandrikapersad Santokhi, said that one of the key principles of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) "was and still is, to achieve regional integration, and economic growth, within our community."

The initiative, dubbed "CIMSUPRO" – CARICOM Market Place and Suspension Procedure- will register suppliers and buyers of CARICOM originating goods.

Santokhi, who is also the CARICOM chairman, said that CIMSUPRO provides a platform, where entrepreneurs, from CARICOM, can offer their products, from raw materials, to finished products.

He said the region, faces many challenges, resulting from global developments, including the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and in order to recover from that, the region needs to be better equipped and "must first work on strengthening our communities' capacities and supporting each other.

"After all, the initial intention of the grouping of countries, now known as CARICOM, was to promote economic integration and cooperation, among its members.

As the oldest surviving integration movement, in the developing world, CARICOM has the duty, to set forth, its goals, and be a model for regional integration," Santokhi said.

Santokhi said that the CIMSUPRO, provides a strategic aim, towards improving the efficiency "of our regional suspension mechanism, which is directly aimed, towards encouraging production, more so, it seeks, to develop our industrial policy."

CARICOM Secretary General, Dr. Carla Barnett, speaking at the launch, said the initiative marks an important milestone in the evolution of the way trade and business can and will be conducted within the 15-member grouping.

"It creates a digital 'Marketplace' where regional buyers and sellers of regionally produced goods can contact and 'contract' each other directly," she said. "It also introduces the potential for improving the efficiency in processing applications for a suspension of the Common External Tariff (CET)."

Stakeholders, especially suppliers of regionally produced goods can access the portal and register via the following link <https://www.cimsupro.com/user/register>

- CMC



Grenada Government Makes Duties Adjustment

As part of the Grenada government's efforts to alleviate the impact of external shocks on the Grenadian population, Cabinet has approved the adjustment of freight in the calculation of duties and taxes on imported goods to reflect 2019 freight costs.

The freight cap will be applied to the importation of all goods landed in Grenada during the period October 1st, 2022, to March 31st 2023.

The implementation of the cap will see only minor changes in the current processes of

Customs Brokers and Importers, who will follow existing processes in preparing the customs declaration.

Commercial Imports

For commercial imports, there will be a requirement to identify freight actually paid on the Valuation Note of the Customs Declaration.

Non-Commercial Imports

In the case of non-commercial imports, agents will input actual freight paid in the preparation of the Simplified

Administrative Document (SAD).

The Customs Computerized System, ASYCUDA World, will make the necessary adjustments and apply the reduced freight for the calculation of duties and taxes.

All other clearance processes remain the same. The Customs and Excise Division anticipates a seamless introduction of the freight cap.

- *Rewritten from Grenada Today*



MIA Sets Mid-Year Records For Passenger And Cargo Growth

Two years after the pandemic shrank global air travel to historic lows, Miami International Airport (MIA) officials say the airport is experiencing its busiest year ever and is on pace to surpass 50 million annual passengers for the first time in its history.

This as after two consecutive years of record-breaking growth, cargo shipments at MIA continued to soar as well with more than 1.3 million tons through June, for an increase of 3.2% over last year.

International freight was up 2.7%, while domestic tonnage grew 5.8% year-over-year.

MIA's rebound since the pandemic is the strongest among all large U.S. hubs, according to Airports Council International-North America. A recent report by the industry

organization ranked MIA as the fastest-growing large U.S. airport in airline seat capacity (page 22) in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2019, and one of only six U.S. airports with positive growth during that period. In 2021, MIA also became the busiest U.S. airport for international passengers, remained the busiest U.S. airport for international freight, and moved up among the world's airports to 12th place for total passengers and 9th place for aircraft movements.

"We are thrilled to see MIA reach new heights in 2022 and to be on track for our best traffic year ever. Thanks to our airlines and federal partners, we are proudly welcoming more visitors and cargo to Miami-Dade County than ever before, and we look forward to having an even

more successful second half of the year," said Ralph Cutié, MIA Director and CEO.

MIA's previous annual record is 45.9 million passengers, set in 2019. According to statistics released this week, MIA served 25.5 million passengers through the first six months of 2022, an 8.5% increase over the midpoint of the airport's record year in 2019.

Domestic passengers led the way with an increase of 26% compared to 2019 for 15.3 million travelers year-to-date, while the international passenger count of 10.2 million was 10.5% below its 2019 level but 102% above last year's midpoint number, as global travel continues to rebound steadily.



Much On CARICOM Leaders' Minds During UN Debate

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4A)

and Suriname President, Chandrikapersad Santokhi, addressing the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), said: "We eagerly anticipate an era of truly equitable access to concessional financing and other funding support, which will enable us to invest in the resilient infrastructure and create fiscal buffers so that we can withstand and recover quickly from the next economic, health or climate shock with little borrowing."

BARBADOS

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley warned that a Security Council that retains the power of veto in the hands of a few "will still lead us to war" and that the reform of the Council "must not simply be in its composition but also be in the removal of that veto." "Moreover, the recognition of the Group of Seven (G7) and Group of 20 (G20) countries as the informal subcommittee of governance in the world, if it is to be fair, must include the people of Africa and African descent," Prime Minister Mottley said. "How can a world have at its core a subcommittee that excludes more than 1.4-1.5 billion people of the world and expect it to reflect fairness and transparency in its decision-making?"

Voicing concern for the people of Haiti and the situation in the French-speaking Caribbean country, Mottley stressed that any attempt to increase fuel prices in any part of the world by 150 per cent would have been met with great consternation by populations with fixed income.

HAITI

Here are the top regional headlines making news this week:

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2A)

in good faith to find a peaceful and durable resolution," Browne continued.

As the war in Ukraine rages, the Foreign Affairs Minister said fuels, such as coal, are having "quite a resurgence," stating that the commitments made at a recent, major United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Glasgow, Scotland are "at risk of being severely derailed."

He said Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders have not just been calling for action but have been acting in "solidarity and with decisiveness."

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

A High Court judge has sentenced a 26-year-old man to more than 17 years in jail after he was found guilty of murdering a woman he wrongly thought had infected him with the HIV/AIDS virus.

Justice Brian Cottle sentenced Desron Roberts, who had been on remand for nearly four years awaiting trial, to a further 17



CARICOM chairman and Suriname President, Chandrikapersad Santokhi, addressing the United Nations General Assembly. (UNGA image)

Haiti's Foreign Affairs Minister Jean Victor Geneus said that restoring public order and security are among the Haitian government's top priorities.

Geneus said finding broad consensus for peaceful governance, holding democratic elections and socioeconomic development to improve people's lives are also among the government's priorities.

"Haiti is at a crossroads," he said, adding that the people of the French-speaking Caribbean country are experiencing "a multidimensional crisis compounded by insecurity that endangers democracy and the rule of law."

The Foreign Affairs Minister called upon more governments to contribute to the basket fund used to financially aid the Haitian police, emphasizing that continued solidarity is needed.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Amid what he described as an "increasingly sense of despair" globally, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, said it is time to "embrace fresh hope."

years, five months and 11 days in prison. On June 27 this year, Robert pleaded not guilty to the charge that between October 24 and 27, 2018 he murdered Rhodesia Rochelle Bailey.

The court heard that Roberts, who was then 22, had a sexual relationship with Bailey, 30, whose house he frequented. On July 16, 2018, Bailey told Roberts that she was HIV positive and two days later, he went to see a doctor, who advised him to take a post-exposure treatment for HIV and to get tested.

Roberts began the course of medication but did not adhere to the prescription fully as he felt that some of the side effects of the medication were too harsh. He had bouts of depression and contemplated suicide but was afraid to speak to anyone about his problem for fear of the reaction that he would face.

Nonetheless, he continued the sexual relationship with Bailey and in October 2018, decided that he would kill her, wrongly thinking that she had infected him with HIV. On October 25,

"This existential longing that touches the human spirit and soul, goes beyond a mere amelioration of our current travails. It demands correctives or reformations of a structural or fundamental kind, and fresh thinking. Without fresh hope, a desecration of our future awaits us," he added.

THE BAHAMAS

Bahamas Prime Minister, Philip Davis, said that of all the risks his country faces, none requires more urgent action than the climate crisis. He told the UNGA that in 2019, Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 storm, wiped out 30 per cent of the Bahamas national economic activity.

"The impact on our economy, on our infrastructure, and on our people is still very much present. The scientific consensus is, that as ocean temperatures rise, we can expect hurricanes of greater intensity to arrive with increased frequency," he said. "Small island nations like mine did not create the emissions that are warming the earth, but, nonetheless, we are on the frontline of climate catastrophe. But no one country – large or small – acting alone, can stop climate change."

GRENADA

In his maiden address to the global community, Grenada's Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell urged the international community to escalate climate change to the same level of

urgency as the coronavirus, (COVID-19), pandemic.

He said the pandemic has taught the international community the value of cooperation, timely exchange of information and sharing of resources.

"Therefore, it is imperative that the matter of climate change be escalated to the same level of urgency. The world must now accept that the solutions to these problems cannot be found in this grand Hall but rather in young people, who stand to lose the most from the inaction of the world's current leaders," said Mitchell, who came to office in June this year. "We watch and wait, with bated breath and a silent prayer, in the hope that this year it will not be 'our turn'."

ST. KITTS & NEVIS

Another newly elected Caribbean leader, Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew of St. Kitts-Nevis said the United Nations finds itself at a crossroads in reckoning with history's judgment.

"For Small Island Developing States, and, indeed, vulnerable peoples everywhere, there can be no international security without climate security. This requires collective fidelity to multilateral action for our very survival," he said.

BELIZE

Belize Prime Minister John A. Briceño said that global economic realities exacerbate "an already acute social situation" in his country.

"The post pandemic recovery we anticipated is delayed. And the chorus of promises and commitments to pivot toward building back better, to getting the recovery right have yielded little. Instead, global action and inaction have only resulted in deepening the many crises that we are facing," he added.

ST LUCIA

St. Lucia's Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre, in his first address to the UNGA as well, said that "despite our small size, despite our deliberate desire to be a source of peace and friendship to all, despite our democratic traditions, and despite our earnest efforts to make the development of our people our primary objective, we find ourselves in a world stacked against us and frustrating our development at every turn."

"Our diversification into financial services is also threatened by an uneven regime of negative regulations. And, overarching all of this, are the continued challenges of climate change with its fierce occurrences of floods, droughts and hurricanes, adding yet more uncertainty to our economic projections and aspirations," said Pierre.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
His Antigua and Barbuda

counterpart, Gaston Browne, said the world is "now gripped in a fearful atmosphere of economic and financial instability, and the worry of expanded warfare."

"Every nation, without exception, is confronting escalating inflation, food shortages, high prices, and increasing debt. But the worst effects are being suffered by the poor and powerless, the small and exposed," said Browne.

GUYANA

Guyana's President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, noted that the international community is facing a series of interlocking challenges – a global pandemic, climate challenges, energy and food crises, and inter-State conflicts.

"The global food security problem has disproportionately affected us," he said. "Further, since the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war, global food prices increased sharply reaching an all-time high in February 2022. We must work collectively to prevent situations that can widen inequality and create social and economic havoc."

DOMINICA

Dominica condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine "without reservation," saying that the invasion of one country by another must always be condemned.

"The developments since 2014, which have led to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2021, are well known. Nevertheless, we in Dominica are of the view that this invasion and the ensuing war could have been avoided," said President Charles Savarin, the island's ceremonial head of state.

He said Dominica holds firmly to the principle that international disputes should preferably be settled through negotiation and arbitration and not through war.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago anchored its multilateral engagement on the founding purposes and principles of the United Nations, with Foreign Affairs Minister Amery Browne calling on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its invasion of Ukraine.

"We have nurtured these principles by maintaining a strong tradition of democratic governance, which respects constitutionally enshrined fundamental human rights and freedoms, and promotes strict adherence to the rule of law," said Browne. "Trinidad and Tobago accordingly is bound by duty to uphold these principles unconditionally and to defend them, whenever there is evidence of breach."

- Edited from CMC.



SPORTS



Jamaican Reggae Boyz Allegedly Called The 'N' Word In MLS Match

Major League Soccer, (MLS), is investigating an incident in which a racist slur was allegedly used against Jamaican Damion Lowe during his Inter Miami's game against DC United on Sunday night, September 25, 2022.



Reggae Boyz Damon Lowe who also plays for Inter Miami was allegedly called the "N" word by a D.C. United player. (CMC image)

It is alleged that DC United's Greek forward Taxi Fountas used the N-word towards the Reggae Boyz player an hour into the MLS match, when the two had an altercation. Both were given yellow cards when the situation escalated.

According to reports, Inter Miami players threatened to walk off the field and subsequently spoke with manager Phil Neville who then had a conversation with DC United's manager Wayne Rooney who substituted

Fountas. "MLS has zero tolerance for abusive and offensive language, and we take these allegations

very seriously," an MLS spokesperson said in a statement. "An investigation into this matter will begin promptly.

Further information will be provided upon completion of that investigation."

Neville, meantime, said the racist comment was "unacceptable."

"A word was used that I think is unacceptable in society. I think it's the worst word in the world. I called the players over. I asked them if they were okay. I told them that we were going to stick together, deal with this, that it was unacceptable. There is . . . no place for racism in society, never mind on a football field," the Inter Miami manager said.

The Jamaica Football Federation, (JFF), says it will give Lowe any needed support.

"The JFF strongly condemns and abhors racism in any form, whether on or off the field and

we stand ready to give whatever support is necessary to Damion," the JFF said in a statement.

However, in a statement posted to his Instagram account, Fountas said he did not use the word he was accused of using.

"That despicable racial slur is one I denounce and did not use. We had a hot discussion on the field, but I have not racially abused anyone. I firmly reject racism in any form, it is despicable. I have many friends from many cultures. I always respect the culture, religion and skin color of each person, I am therefore very upset by this accusation and saddened to be falsely accused," he stated.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Sir Andy Worried About New Inclusions In Windies Squad So Close To World Cup

Fast bowling legend Sir Andy Roberts has bemoaned the lack of a "settled unit" in the West Indies team ahead of next month's 2022 Twenty20 Cricket World Cup in Australia.

Sir Andy believes the West Indies will not find it "easy" to qualify for the main draw of the tournament. The 71-year-old, also a former selector, said the

15-man squad announced for the October 16th to November 13th World Cup, reflected too much chopping and changing at this advanced stage of preparations.

As evidence, he pointed to the inclusion of uncapped all-rounders Yannic Cariah and Raymon Reifer, batsman Johnson Charles, who has not featured for West Indies in six

years; and fast bowler Sheldon Cottrell, who has not played a T20 International in seven months.

"When you're preparing, you're preparing months ahead and you try to settle on a team that goes out on the field from the first game," Sir Andy told Starcom Radio's Mason and Guest cricket programme. "For that final XI, you don't keep trying this and trying that until the end - you try in the earlier parts. I think by now with all those T20s that we played in the last year, we should have a settled team going into the World Cup, instead of bringing new players in - some who haven't played T20s for nearly ten years."

Sir Andy added: "All of a sudden we're resurrecting people trying to build a team, when we should have the team already.



Opening batter Evin Lewis has been recalled for the first time since the 2021 Twenty20 World Cup and two uncapped players have been selected in the West Indies squad for this year's edition in Australia from October 16th to November 13th.

And all you do [at this stage] is for different games, you just bring in one [player] so that you have a settled unit. I don't know if anyone can say our T20 team

is settled."

West Indies will have to navigate a tricky eight-team pre-tournament qualifying series in order to make it into the main draw. Installed in Group B, they will take on Scotland, Ireland and Zimbabwe, with the top two teams in each group advancing.

Two-time World champions, the Caribbean side are heavily favored to easily make it through, but Sir Andy said qualification could prove a more difficult task than expected.

"I don't think it is going to be easy to qualify. I don't think so," Sir Andy warned. "We don't have a settled team. We fiddled around with the team and that is our biggest problem. If you don't know what your teammates are capable of doing because he just comes into the team, [that is a problem]. When West Indies was at its best, we had a settled team for five, ten years and if you check on Australia, Australia has a settled team, Pakistan has a settled team. India is fiddling around with their team and look at the problems they're having now. You need settled teams."

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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HIT & RUN FATALITY

VICTIM/PEDESTRIAN
Rupert Webley
B/M, 68 years old

On Sunday, May 2, 2021, at approximately 9:25 p.m., the above-pictured victim/pedestrian began crossing at SW 184 Street and SW 112 Avenue, Miami, Florida, when the subject vehicle, a Hyundai silver in color, struck and killed him. The driver of the subject vehicle fled the scene without rendering aid and/or reporting the crash.

SUBJECT VEHICLE DESCRIPTION: HYUNDAI SILVER IN COLOR. NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

Anyone with information on the above HIT & RUN FATALITY, the whereabouts of the subject vehicle and/or its driver is requested to contact Miami-Dade Police Department Traffic Homicide Detective J. Childers at (305) 471-2425. If you wish to remain anonymous, then contact Miami-Dade County Crime Stoppers at the following:

- (305) 471-TIPS (8477) or 1 (866) 471-8477
- Visit www.CrimeStoppers305.com and select "Submit a Tip"
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- Visit the App Store - Get P3 and sign into Miami for Tips

If the tip leads to the arrest of the subject(s), the tipster may be eligible for a reward UP TO THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00. All calls are kept strictly anonymous.

ISSUE DATE: 5/11/2021 RN SUPERVISOR: Sgt. Francisco Armendariz MDPD C/N PD210502138114

If this flyer aids in your investigation in any way, please advise Deborah Simons, I.A., of the South Florida Homicide Clearinghouse at 305-471-2400.

Jamaica Tallawahs Win Third CPL Title

Jamaica Tallawahs lifted their third Caribbean Premier League title on September 30th in Guyana as they stunned favorites Barbados Royals by eight wickets to claim the win.

Tasked with chasing down 162 at the Guyana National Stadium, the Tallawahs made light work of the target, getting over the line with 23 balls to spare.

Player-of-the-Series Brandon King stroked a classy unbeaten 83 from 50 balls with 13 fours and two sixes while Shamarh Brooks hit 47 from 33 deliveries, Tallawahs recovering from the loss of Kennar Lewis to the fourth ball of the innings to dominate in the end.

Azam Khan had earlier top-scored with 51 from 40 balls while Rahkeem Cornwall slammed 36 from 21 deliveries but Royals slumped from a promising 117 for two in the 15th over to a disappointing 161 for seven off their 20 overs.

The architects of their



The Jamaica Tallawahs celebrate winning the final of the Caribbean Premier League tournament for a third time. (Photo courtesy Getty/CPL)

downfall were left-arm spinner Fabian Allen (3-24) and fast bowler Nicholson Gordon (3-33), the pair grabbing three wickets apiece to haul Tallawahs back into the contest.

For Tallawahs, the title triumph added to those of 2013 and 2016, and came on the back

of an up-and-down group stage campaign which saw them finish fourth.

“I think adjectives are inadequate in describing how I feel now. The type of disrespect we endured during the competition, all of it is now bottled up so the emotions are

kind of hard to come out now,” said captain Rovman Powell.

“We used the disrespect we endured as motivation. I think we were hungry. The guys were very hungry and everything just ended right.”

Royals entered the final having lost just two games in the group stage which they topped comfortably, but produced a lackluster effort when they could least afford to.

“It’s a tough pill to swallow. Obviously we’ve done well throughout the season only losing three games,” said Royals captain Kyle Mayers who made 29 from 19 deliveries. “I just thought we were like 20 runs short. With the start that me and [Cornwall got] I thought we could have gotten 180 but 160 in a final, I thought it was a decent total still.”

Opting to bat, Royals roared from the blocks, Cornwall clobbering two fours and four sixes and the left-handed Mayers, half-dozen fours, in a

63-run opening stand.

When Allen removed both to leave the innings on 69 for two in the eighth over, Azam came to the rescue, putting on 48 for the third wicket with Jason Holder (17) and 23 for the fourth with Najibullah Zadran (6) before the rot set in.

Azam belted four fours and three sixes but missed a charge at Allen and was stumped in the penultimate over.

Royals then put their noses in front when Mayers yorked Lewis for a first ball ‘duck’ with one run on the board but King anchored two successive half-century run stands to erase any doubt about the result.

First, the right-hander put on 86 for the first wicket with Brooks who followed up his sparkling hundred on Wednesday with another integral knock, containing half-dozen fours and two sixes.

When Brooks holed out to deep backward square in the 11th over, King dominated a 75-run, unbroken third wicket partnership with Powell (14 not out) to keep the chase on course.

- Edited from CMC



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A Win For This Caribbean Jockey



Jamaican-born jockey Leroy Nelson. (Walther Bernal/CBC image)

Jamaican-born jockey Leroy Nelson won the feature CAN\$40 750 Buffalo Stakes with 4-1 choice Prairie Drifter at the recent eight-race card at Assiniboia Downs in Canada. The 41-year-old Nelson paired with the bay gelding to make every inch of the running and crush the two-year-olds by 7-3/4 lengths, going a mile in race four.

Prairie Drifter raced clear

from the break, producing splits of 23.20 seconds for the quarter and 48.80 for the half, before drawing off in the stretch. Five-to-one bet Mechanic Suzie, with Barbadian Renaldo Cumberbatch aboard, finished second while veteran Jamaican Dwight Lewis guided 3-1 choice Russian Pearl to third.

There was disappointment for Jamaican Chavion Chow who

finished fourth aboard favorite I Love My Life. But the 35-year-old managed to make up for this with his success elsewhere on the card.

He opened his account in race one over 7-1/2 furlongs when he made all the running with favorite Dixie Mo to get the better of the three-year-old and upward fillies and mares by 2-1/4 lengths.

Chow then produced a carbon copy ride in race two over a mile, this time carrying 2-1 bet House Limit to an emphatic 8-1/2 length victory over the three-year-olds and upward.

His third win came in race six over seven furlongs with another favorite Dazzling Gold, stalking with the five-year-old mare before taking the lead on the back stretch and pulling away to trounce the three-year-old and upward fillies and mares by five lengths.

Not to be left out, Cumberbatch logged a double to also grab some attention. First, he combined with favorite He’s the Chairman to beat the three-

year-old and upward maidens by a neck in a 5-1/2 furlong sprint in race three.

Cumberbatch then returned in race seven with favorite Maybe Sometime to edge the three-year-olds by a neck over a mile.

- Rewritten from CMC



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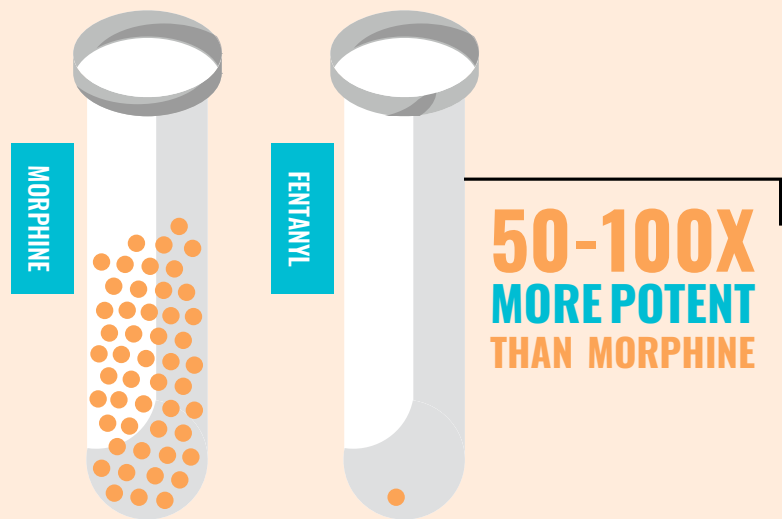
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FENTANYL

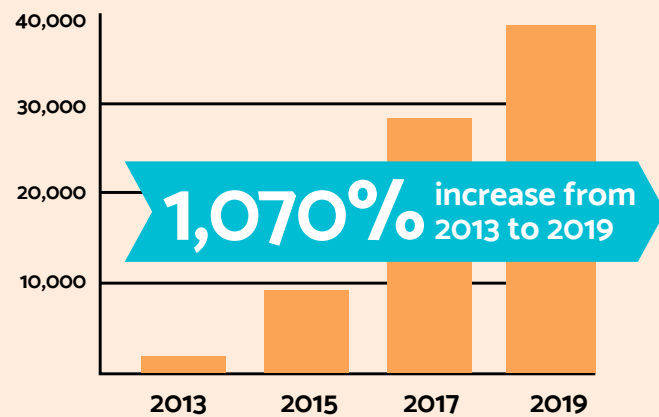
OVERDOSES ON THE RISE

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain.

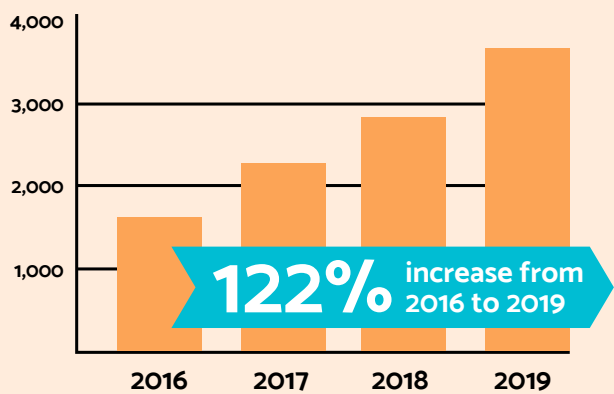
Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is the main driver of recent increases in synthetic opioid deaths.



SYNTHETIC OPIOID DEATHS ACROSS THE U.S.



FLORIDA DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH FENTANYL

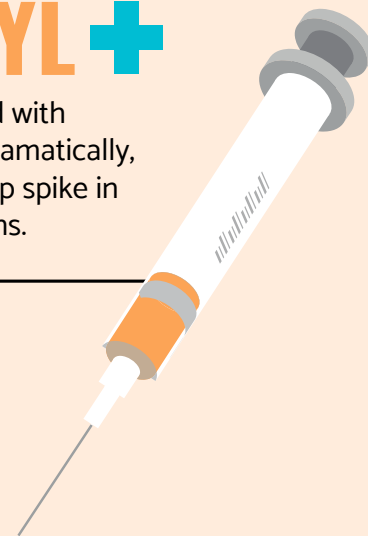


SOURCE: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners

ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL +

Overdoses associated with fentanyl have risen dramatically, contributing to a sharp spike in synthetic opioid deaths.

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