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Page 8
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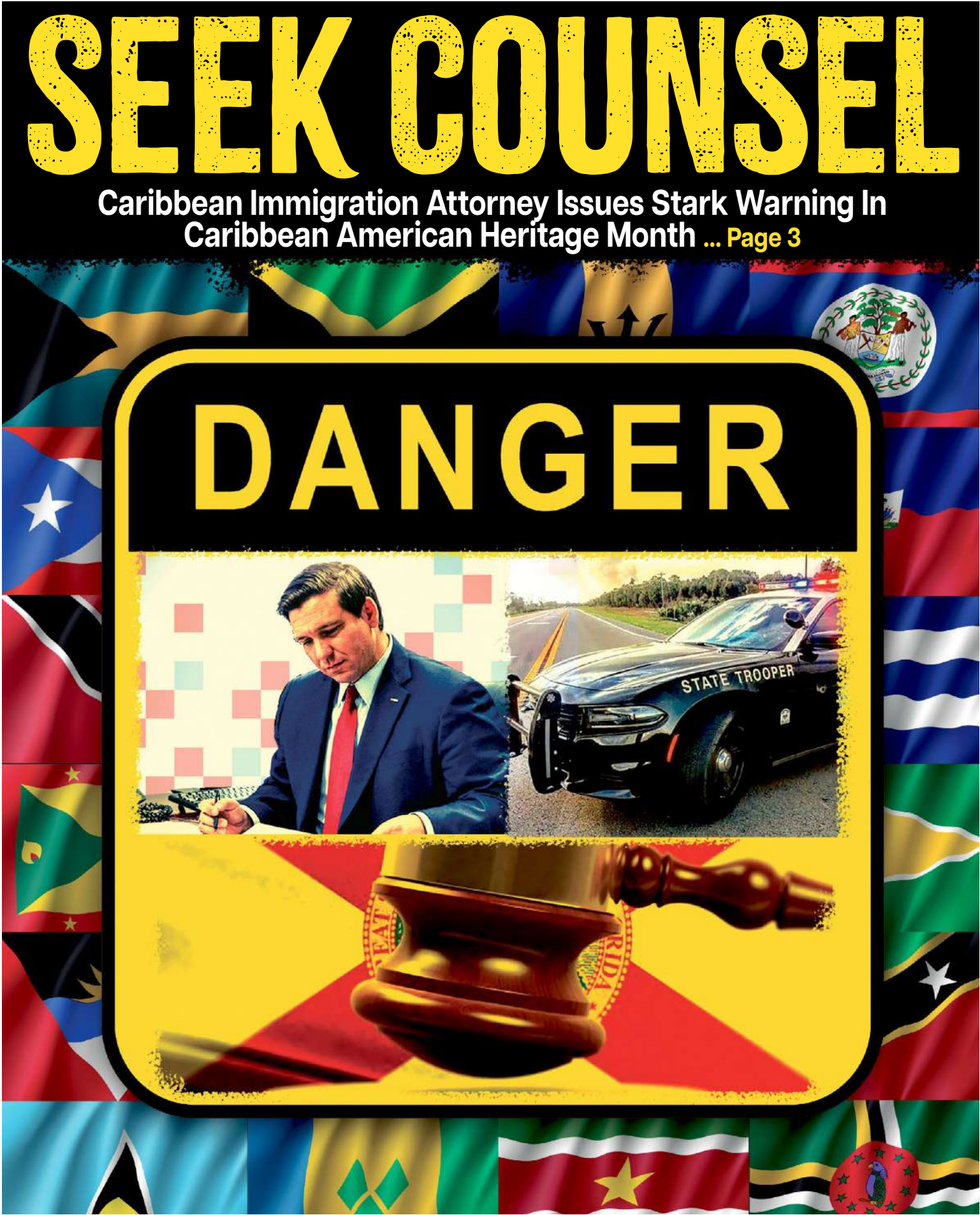



No Stopping This Caribbean Man ...
Page 12
(Credit: Photo by Jason Audain)

SEEK COUNSEL



Caribbean Immigration Attorney Issues Stark Warning In Caribbean American Heritage Month ... Page 3



DANGER

INSIDE

Regional News Page 2	Travel News Page 15	Salute To Caribbean American
Local News Page 7	Hurricane Preparedness Tips Page 16	Heritage Month Page 18
Viewpoint Page 9	Salute To Nurses Page 17	Sports News Page 19



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Here Are Some Of The Top Headlines Making Caribbean News This Week:

REGIONAL

The Association of Caribbean Social Work Educators, (ACSWE), has described as “unimaginable” the fire that engulfed the dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School in Guyana on Monday, May 22nd, killing 20 students and injuring several others.

“There are no words to explain this disaster or offer consolation or redress. We can only hope that when the answers to the questions about this tragedy come, however uncomfortable, the lessons learned and actions taken will redound to the long-term benefit of the communities impacted and all Guyana,” ACSWE said in a statement.

ACSWE interim president, Dr. Karene Nathaniel- DeCaires, said as a Caribbean Social Work educator, she has “had priceless opportunities to engage with social workers and students from Guyana.

“I am always inspired and humbled by their willingness to learn and the depth of personal

investment in their work and study. I recalled their passion and felt the pain that is bound to be gripping the profession still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic,” she said. “There is no blueprint for practice in this kind of crisis. As educators we can feel impotent and redundant when we consider the onslaught of human and social catastrophe that seems to be characteristic of this time in history, and the world that we are tasked with preparing Gen Z social work practitioners to ‘live’ in.”

Nathaniel- DeCaires said, however, “I fervently believe that professional Social Workers in Guyana and across the region have the knowledge, skills, temperament, and heart to chart the course for recovery for the families and communities in crisis using meaningful interventions, and they are fit for purpose.”

She said that there is “no better time for Caribbean Social Work to stake its claim on social assistance, action, reform and justice for vulnerable and mar-



Investigators and government employees inspect what's left of the school dormitory where a fire killed 20 students in Mahdia, Guyana on May 22, 2023. (Photo Credit: AFP/Getty)

ginalized populations.

JAMAICA

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has announced the much-anticipated reshuffling of his cabinet. Speaking during a press conference Holness said that Senator Dr. Dana Morris Dixon has been appointed as a Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister to oversee skills and digital transformation.

Other changes include the appointment of Floyd Green as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining. He will get support from Minister of State Franklyn Witter. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security will now be led by Parnell Charles Jr. He takes over from Karl Samuda whose resignation took effect today.

The Prime Minister also announced the creation of the new ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport to be headed by Daryl Vaz, with JC Hutchinson as State Minister.

Juliet Cuthbert Flynn has been appointed State Minister in the Ministry of National Security. She will serve alongside Dr. Horace Chang who retains his position as minister.

For the Education Ministry, Education minister Fayval Williams, will be joined by State Minister Marsha Smith. Zavia Mayne is the new Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, joining Dr. Nigel Clarke. Alando Terrelonge has been appointed State Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister, in the aftermath of protests following the recent announcement of a salary increase for all legislators, told reporters that he has given up his massive salary increase that would have seen his pay balloon to \$28.6 million (One Jamaica dollar=US\$0.008 cents) in April 2024. Instead, he will remain at his current salary of roughly \$9 million and will not receive retroactive payments

DOMINICA

The Caribbean media fraternity is in mourning as former BBC

broadcaster Ken Richards, died in his homeland of Dominica on Sunday, May 21st.

Richards, who had been ailing for some time, died at the Dominica China Friendship hospital after spending more than three weeks in the intensive care unit. Throughout his career, he worked at the Government Information Service in Dominica, at the Dominica Broadcasting Station, Radio Antilles, Voice of the Island Radio, Observer in Antigua, WINN FM Radio St. Kitts, Dominica News Online, and the BBC Caribbean Service in London.

GRENADA

The ruling National Democratic Congress, (NDC), government increased its majority in the 15 member Parliament on Tuesday after opposition legislator, Delma Thomas crossed the floor to join the government that came into office in June last year.

Thomas, who had been a minister in the last New National Party, (NNP), administration, told the Speaker, Leo Cato, that she had decided to join the government because she no longer felt welcome on the opposition benches. NNP leader and former prime minister Dr. Keith Mitchell made no public statement on the issue.

“Mr. Speaker this morning, I make the decision to leave the side where I am no longer welcome at the table,” she said, adding that her relationship with some in the minority was no longer working out.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

The Speaker of the House of Representatives in Antigua & Barbuda, Sir Gerald Watt, has suspended the Parliamentary Representative for the constituency of St Peter, Asot Michael for the next three sittings.

According to Sir Gerald, the legislator was displaying “hooliganism” behavior. The chain of events started when Michael took issue with a comment made by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, while Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin was making a presentation on a Bill.

Michael repeatedly argued

loudly with the Speaker, who had warned him several times that he would not tolerate his actions much longer.

“Move the member for St Peter out now,” the Speaker said to the Sergeant at Arms saying: “If you need extra help, get it and get him out of here.”

Michael then yelled across the floor that the Speaker should retire because he is biased. Members of Parliament on the government’s side of the aisle, then voted immediately to suspend him from three consecutive sittings of the Parliament for abuse of the Chair.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The Chinese contractor, China Jiangsu International Corporation, says it intends to appeal a Trinidad and Tobago High Court ruling ordering it to pay TT\$30.1 million (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) to the state-owned Housing Development Corporation (HDC) for wasted expenditure on two blocks at the controversial Las Alturas Housing project in Morvant on the outskirts of the capital.

While the High Court has denied the HDC claim of negligence, Justice David Harris had in his April 19 ruling upheld the arguments on breach of contract, ordering the Chinese company to repay the state-owned company the specific sums related to the two apartment blocks which suffered structural damage and had to be demolished.

In a statement, the Chinese company, which said it has been “actively involved in a number of large projects in Jamaica, Barbados, St Kitts and Grenada as well as Trinidad and Tobago,” said it was “deeply appreciative of the goodwill that has been extended to it over the past 25 years while operating in the region.

SURINAME

Police say two foreign nationals, including a 37-year-old Cuban woman, are assisting their investigations into suspected human trafficking in the Dutch-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

The police said that the woman and a 40-year-old Dutch national had been detained on suspicion of luring foreign nationals into prostitution. The authorities said that they launched the investigation after three foreign women filed a report that they were brought to Suriname under false pretenses to perform as dancers at various nightclubs.

However, they claimed they were forced into prostitution and also forced to hand over the money received from customers to the two suspects.

- Compiled from CMC



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SEEK COUNSEL - Caribbean Immigration Attorney Issues Stark Warning In Caribbean American Heritage Month

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL & FELICIA J. PERSAUD

A leading immigration attorney has a stern warning to undocumented persons from the Caribbean this National Caribbean American Heritage Month.

With Florida's SB 1718 immigration law set to go into



Caribbean attorney Wayne Golding is urging undocumented Caribbean and other migrants to seek legal counsel as Florida's draconian immigration law is set to kick in on July 1st.

effect on July 1, after being signed into law on May 9th by Governor Ron DeSantis, Attorney Wayne Golding says Caribbean immigrants need to urgently seek legal advice from a competent attorney.

The immigration measure, dubbed the new 'Show Your Papers' law by activists, will:

- 1: Creates a third-degree felony for any undocumented immigrant who knowingly use a false ID document to gain employment can face a \$5,000 fine plus up to five years in prison

- 2: Requires employers with 25 or more employees to use the E-Verify system for new employees, beginning on July 1, 2023. This bill also expands penalties for employers who fail to comply with E-Verify requirements, including the possible suspension and revocation of employer licenses.

State law enforcement agencies are authorized to perform random audits of businesses and, if it is determined an employer is not complying with employment verification obligations, provide the employer with 30 days to cure noncompliance.

- 3: Imposes enforceable penalties for those employing undocumented immigrants and \$1,000 per day fine on employers found to have failed to use E-Verify three times in a 24-month period, until the employer provides proof that the non-compliance is cured.

- 4: Enhances and expands penalties for human smuggling. The law will allow authorities to charge someone with human trafficking if they knowingly transport an undocumented

migrant, including a child, across state lines. This includes if you know, or reasonably should know, that the person has entered the United States in violation of law and has not been inspected by federal immigration authorities since entry. Pursuant to this provision, a lawful permanent resident parent who transports into Florida her child who has not been inspected

would be chargeable with a second-degree felony - up to 15 years in prison.

The legislation does NOT criminalize: living with, sheltering, or renting space to family, friends, or other individuals who are undocumented; concealing, harboring, or shielding from detection undocumented individuals; or transporting

undocumented individuals within the state.

- 5: Prohibits local governments or municipalities from issuing Identification Cards (ID) to undocumented migrants, including state bar licenses.

- 6: Invalidates ID cards, including driver's licenses, issued to undocumented migrants in other states. Undocumented migrants

will no longer be able to rely on out-of-state driver licenses. If another state issued a license to an undocumented migrant who was unable to prove lawful presence in the U.S. when his or her license was issued, that person is prohibited from operating a motor vehicle in Florida.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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NEWS



Guyana Announces Commission of Inquiry Into Mahdia Dormitory Fire Tragedy

Guyana President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, has announced the government's intention to establish a Commission of Inquiry, (COI) to investigate the tragic May 22nd fire that occurred at the Mahdia dormitory, in Region Eight, resulting in the loss of 20 young students lives.

The announcement was made by President Ali during an evening of prayer and reflection at the Tabatinga Sports Ground in Lethem, Region Nine, on the eve of Guyana's 57th Independence observance on May 25th.

Expressing deep sorrow over the devastating incident, President Ali emphasized the need for a thorough investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the fire. He stated, "We are committed to establishing

a commission of inquiry to investigate the causes and circumstances of the fire, which destroyed the dormitory and inquire into related issues. This will be done soonest."

At the time of the fire, which was allegedly lit by a disgruntled student at the facility, the Mahdia Secondary school dormitory housed a total of 57 female students. According to available information to date, the tragic incident claimed the lives of 19 female students aged between 12 and 17, as well as a 5-year-old boy. Among the victims were several children from indigenous communities.

The female deceased were identified as Tracil Thomas, Lisa Roberts, Delecia Edwards, Lorita Williams, Natalie Bellarmine,



Some of the young victims of the Guyana Madhia fire of May 22, 2023. (iNews Guyana image)

Arriana Edwards, Cleoma Simon, Subrina John, Martha Dandrade, Loreen Evans, Belnisa Evans, Mary Dandrade, Omerfia Edwin, Nickleen Robin-son, Sherena Daniels, Eulander Carter, Andrea Roberts, Rita Jeffrey and 13-year-old Sherana Daniels. Daniels was the last teen to die, passing away days after the fire, on May 30th in intensive care at a local hospital in Guyana.

Thirteen of the victims

were so badly burned that their remains have been sent to a New York hospital for DNA testing to identify them.

Presently, one girl remains in critical condition and are receiving medical treatment at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, (GPHC). Twenty children have been discharged from the hospital and reunited with their parents.

The 15-year-old student

accused of starting the fire has been charged with 19 counts of murder as an adult. President Ali assured that the government has taken immediate relief measures to assist the affected families and support the communities during this difficult time. Counselling services and necessary resources will be provided to the survivors, teachers, families, and community members. The government is committed to offering ongoing support to those affected.

The nation and its Diaspora have been deeply saddened by the loss of lives, injuries, and the trauma experienced by the survivors. President Ali stressed the importance of collective support and solidarity as the country navigates through this challenging period.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) said it commends the commitment of the State to provide comprehensive support to the survivors and the families of the victims.



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Hundreds Bid Adieu To Jamaican Immigrant And WWII RAF Hero

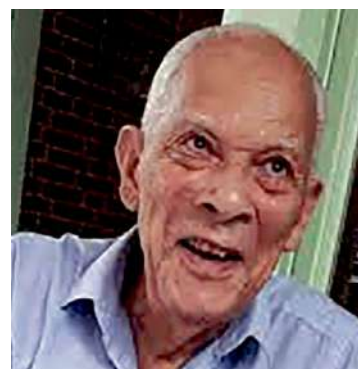
In a heartwarming tribute, an immense crowd gathered at the Royal Air Force's historic St Clement Danes Church on May 25th, to bid farewell to Caribbean immigrant Flt Sgt, Peter Brown, a World War Two RAF airman.

This extraordinary turnout was a result of a campaign dedicated to giving him a truly "fitting send-off." Flt Sgt Brown, a Jamaican-born hero, was among the last group of Afro-Caribbean volunteers known as the "pilots of the Caribbean." At the age of 96, he peacefully passed away in his Maida Vale home in north London in December.

St Clement Danes Church, the esteemed Central RAF Church, became the poignant setting for Flt Sgt Brown's final farewell. Adorned with an RAF hat, a spray of flowers, and his cherished war medals, his coffin was respectfully draped with the Union Flag.

The service saw an impressive turnout, with Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, alongside hundreds of members of the public, armed forces personnel, representatives from the Caribbean Diaspora UK community, and friends and neighbors in attendance. Notably, several celebrities, including actors Colin McFarlane, Michael Ward, and Trevor Michael Georges, also paid their respects.

The funeral had initially been planned at Mortlake Crematorium in southwest



Flt Sgt, Peter Brown at 93

London for March. However, overwhelmed by the overwhelming number of requests from the public to attend and the campaign by neighbors for a grand send-off, organizers decided to move the service to St Clement Danes Church.

Flt Sgt Brown's service to the country, described as committing "a huge amount of his life to serving this country," was rightfully celebrated at the spiritual home of the Royal Air Force. Reverend (Group Captain) Ruth Hake, who conducted the funeral, emphasized the significance of this choice.

With no known relatives, Westminster City Council, Flt Sgt Brown's local authority, took on the responsibility of organizing his funeral. After a call for anyone related to the airman to come forward, the response was overwhelming. A team of genealogists from Anglia Research passionately delved into his past, uncovering a heartwarming story and connecting with half a dozen

living family members who attended the service.

Flt Sgt Peter Brown's remarkable story began in Jamaica on August 22, 1926. He was among the 450 young black volunteers who courageously joined the RAF during World War Two, piloting iconic aircraft like the Lancaster and Spitfire. Enlisting in the RAF Volunteer Reserve in September 1943, Flt Sgt Brown trained as a wireless operator and air gunner at RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire. His bravery shone through as he flew five missions in Lancaster bombers before the age of 20.

While Flt Sgt Brown's military service remained relatively unknown until his passing, he was deeply cherished by those who knew him. Fondly remembered by friends, neighbors, local shop owners, and most importantly, his family, he left a lasting impression. Beyond his military achievements, he held a passion for cricket and was an esteemed member of the Marylebone Cricket Club for three decades.

Though Flt Sgt Brown lived alone, his community embraced him with warmth and support, ensuring he never felt lonely. His legacy as an extraordinary individual and an exemplar of the selfless contribution of Commonwealth personnel will be remembered for generations to come.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



US' Caribbean American Veep For First Caribbean Trip

The US' first Black Caribbean American Vice President, Kamala Harris, is set to embark on her first official trip to the Caribbean since taking office in Caribbean American Heritage Month, the Miami Herald reported first.

She is set to focus on crucial issues such as climate change, energy, food security, and economic prosperity in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic during a visit to The Bahamas, scheduled for June 8th. There the daughter of a Jamaican immigrant father will co-host a gathering of leaders from the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean Community, aka CARICOM, alongside Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Davis, the current chairman of the bloc.

CARICOM Chairman Davis has been actively engaged in strengthening foreign relations between the Caribbean and the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The upcoming meeting in The Bahamas will build upon Harris's previous

interactions with Caribbean leaders, including discussions at last year's Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles. President Joe Biden's promise to "intensify" relations between the United States and the Caribbean during the summit delighted the presidents and prime ministers who had expressed concerns about strained relations in recent years.

During the summit, Harris took the lead in introducing the "Caribbean Climate Partnership," an initiative aimed at addressing climate change and the region's energy crisis. The partnership aims to assist Caribbean governments in obtaining financing for climate and clean-energy projects while acknowledging the region's oil and natural gas reserves, particularly in Trinidad, Suriname, and Guyana, which currently contribute to their energy sources.

Following the in-person gathering at the Summit of the Americas, high-level teams from the United States and the

Caribbean have been diligently working on strategies to tackle energy and food security crises in the region. Harris convened a meeting at Blair House in Washington, D.C., where Caribbean leaders reviewed progress and determined the next steps. These discussions will be continued and expanded upon during the upcoming meeting in The Bahamas.

Harris's trip follows in the footsteps of President Biden, who, as vice president under Barack Obama, visited Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic. The issues of energy security and crime, which were part of Biden's agenda during his visits, will also be addressed



The U.S.' first Black Caribbean American Vice President, Kamala Harris. (Photographer: Ken Cedeno/UPI/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

by Harris. Brian A. Nichols, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs, praised Harris's personal leadership and commitment to the Caribbean regional bloc, expressing optimism about positive announcements during her visit.

While the discussions on

climate change and energy will be prominent, other pressing concerns will be on the table for Caribbean leaders. These include the region's economic recovery from the pandemic, which has caused slowed growth and increased debt, the crisis in Haiti, as well as the escalating issue of illegal arms trafficking. The Caribbean region has seen a rise in gun-related homicides, and several countries, including The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, have supported Mexico's lawsuit against gun manufacturers in the United States. U.S. lawmakers have also requested an investigation into the consequences of firearms trafficked from the U.S. to the Caribbean.

Additionally, the US remains concerned over China's growing expansion in the region.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



SEEK COUNSEL - Caribbean Immigration Attorney Issues Stark Warning...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

7: Requires hospitals to collect and submit data on the costs of providing health care to undocumented migrants. The law will require each hospital that accepts Medicaid to include a question on admission or registration forms that asks whether the patient is a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the U.S. or is not lawfully present in the U.S. Hospitals will be required to provide a quarterly report to the Agency for Health Care Administration detailing the number of patients that visited the emergency department or were admitted to the hospital in each category of the citizen status question on the admission or registration forms.

Requires a caveat on forms stating that the response will not affect patient care or result in a report of the patient's immigration status to immigration authorities. Patients may decline to answer and forms must include an option that states "decline to answer."

8: Expands scope of Florida's RICO statute to include "human smuggling" as "a racketeering activity" which could make it the basis for a racketeering charge - which is a first-degree felony punishable by up to 30 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

9: Grants Florida's Chief of Domestic Security - a role created to oversee anti-terrorism efforts post 9/11 - authority to coordinate "immigration enforcement actions" in assisting the federal government, effectively including

immigration enforcement activities under its statutory counter-terrorism mandate. Also, FL 1718 requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to coordinate and direct the law enforcement, initial emergency, and other initial responses in connection with federal immigration law enforcement and related immigration enforcement activities in or affecting Florida.

10: Requires state law enforcement agencies who have "custody of a person because of the "issuance of an immigration detainer by a federal immigration agency" to take DNA samples from the person.

11: Requires cooperation and assistance with enforcement of federal immigration laws within or affecting Florida. Prohibits a state entity, local governmental entity, or law enforcement agency from restricting a law enforcement agency from sending employment eligibility information to a federal immigration agency.

WARNING

"I would encourage those folks who are in a situation where they are not documented (to live in the US), to seek proper legal advice, not to go around the corner, not to have people say they can sidestep things by filling out this document, that document," Golding told Caribbean Today. "You need to consult with an immigration attorney, somebody who is versed in the field. A lot of people take chances, but

sometimes they take chances and can't reverse the consequences, and the situation is getting harsher in the state of Florida."

He added that since SB 1718 was passed unanimously (83-36) in the Republican-dominated House and was signed into law by the governor, he and some of his colleagues have been approached "every single day."

Golding, who heads the Golding Law Group, said it "creates a new threshold of hardship for an entire class of people who are deemed illegal immigrants."

The American Immigration Lawyers Association says: "FL 1718 is a comprehensive effort to restrict the ability of undocumented individuals to live and work in Florida by ... dramatically enhancing the ability of state law enforcement to enforce immigration laws, requiring hospitals to maintain data on patients' immigration status, mandating the use of E-Verify by Florida employers with over 25 employees, restricting access to Florida drivers licenses (as well as State Bar licenses), and adding state civil and criminal penalties for violations of its provisions."

Attorney Milton Marquez, presenting advice recently at a community meeting at Saint Leo University in Tampa, urged undocumented migrants to carry copies of any documents that certify their immigration status, such as asylum requests, court dates or work permits. He also explained that with the new law, the situation will become increasingly difficult for many.

"I have a lot of clients who are asking me: 'Should I move out of Florida?' I tell them that each case is different, but it is not a bad idea, either. That's my opinion," said Marquez.

POLITICS

SB 1718 is considered a big win for DeSantis, who is expected to run for US president in 2024. With the issue of illegal immigration expected to be a major issue for the 2024 election, Golding sees the passage of SB 1718 as nothing more than, "throwing red meat to the base." DeSantis and fellow Republican governor, Greg Abbott of Texas, have pushed a hard line against the undocumented which have made them even more popular among their hardline supporters. Last September, DeSantis' boldest move against the undocumented came when he deported 50 Venezuelan and Colombian migrants to upscale Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts without alerting authorities there. Abbott has used a similar tactic, sending undocumented migrants all across the country, including to New York City and Washington, DC, to the home of Vice President Kamala Harris.

FLORIDA'S UNDOCUMENTED POPULATION

More than 2.7 million Floridians - approximately 16.7 percent of the total population - are foreign born. That percentage is far higher in some parts of the state, such as Miami-Dade, where the population is 51 percent foreign

born.

A 2019 report by the Migration Policy Institute, (MPI), estimates that there are over 700,000 undocumented individuals in the Florida workforce and that almost one in four workers in the construction industry are undocumented. Similarly, a 2021 report the New American Economy Research Fund indicated that approximately 42% of Florida's farm workers are undocumented. Statistics from the Washington, DC-based MPI, show that Mexico (148,000), Venezuela (102,000), Guatemala (74,000), Honduras (73,000) and Colombia (55,000) account for most of the undocumented population in Florida.

But Attorney Golding says the Caribbean is also strongly represented. There are thousands of undocumented migrants from Cuba, Haiti and English-speaking countries including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana in the Sunshine State, he said.

While their numbers are not as high as those fleeing Latin America, Golding is urging them to be on their guard.

"What goes for one, goes for all. As they say in Jamaica, 'the same knife that stick the sheep, stick the goat.' There is really no difference if you fit into that category that they call, an 'illegal immigrant,'" the attorney noted. "A lot of people including lawyers, and relatives and friends, are worried about the connotations that come with this bill."



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NAACP Says Florida Travel Warning Is Just The Start Of Organizing Effort

Leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, (NAACP), are launching a campaign to engage voters in Florida and nationwide following the issuance of a travel advisory highlighting the state's perceived "active hostility" towards minorities. The advisory coincides with the upcoming presidential run of Florida's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis.

However, the NAACP has clarified that they do not advocate for an economic boycott like the one that led South Carolina to remove the Confederate flag in 2015.

Leon Russell, the chair of the NAACP, stated that they question the effectiveness of a boycott and instead encourage people to organize and participate in elections to address the consequences of the legislative actions concerning various groups in Florida. The NAACP aims to raise awareness among the general public nationwide regarding the issues they believe are negatively impacting Florida, such as attacks on different groups, Black history, public education, and voting rights.

While DeSantis's presidential run coincides with the travel advisory, the NAACP emphasizes that their advisory is not directly related to it. They believe it is essential for people to discuss DeSantis's record and compare all candidates running

for office, including local elections, not just the upcoming presidential election in 2024.

Conservatives have swiftly responded to the NAACP's advisory, with DeSantis's spokesperson dismissing it as a stunt. The chair of the Florida Republican party even offered to help pay for Leon Russell to move out of the state, a proposal that was rejected by the NAACP. Russell sees the advisory as a means to foster civic engagement, collaborate with other groups, and address issues such as redistricting and women's reproductive rights.

The NAACP's travel advisory aligns with a previous statement from Equality Florida, an advocacy group that warned about the risks to the health, safety, and freedom of those considering travel or relocation to Florida due to various anti-LGBTQ+ legislation signed by DeSantis.

Despite the challenges, Russell remains optimistic that the developments in Florida will mobilize voters across the country, encouraging active participation in the political process and a clear understanding of their role in shaping it. The NAACP aims to state their positions on key issues rather than campaign against specific individuals like DeSantis or former President Donald Trump.

- *Rewritten from the Guardian*

Exxon Mobil And Partners Report \$5.8 Billion Earnings From Guyana Oil In First Public Disclosure

As Guyana marked its 57th anniversary of independence from Britain on May 26th, reports indicate that Exxon Mobil Corp and its partners reported a substantial earnings figure of US \$5.8 billion in 2022 from offshore oil production in the South American, CARICOM nation.

The audited results were disclosed as part of an appeal against a court ruling that found the group in breach of insurance obligations related to oil-spill coverage. This marks the first public disclosure of the profits earned by Exxon, Hess Corp, and CNOOC Ltd from their offshore operations in Guyana, where they account for the entire oil output of the country. Production in Guyana began in 2019, and the consortium has steadily increased its production capacity.

In the appeal, Exxon emphasized its technical and financial capabilities to effectively respond to any adverse events, assuring the authorities of its spill-mitigation technology and its ability to cap major oil spills promptly. The group holds \$600 million in liability insurance for the Liza One offshore platform.

According to the financial statements, Exxon earned \$2.74 billion, Hess earned \$1.53 billion, and CNOOC pocketed \$1.55 billion from offshore oil production in 2022. By the end of the year, the consortium was producing around 375,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) from two offshore vessels and has plans to ramp up production to 1.2 million bpd by 2027.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*

Capital Coalition Says More Corporations Should Step Up Against DeSantis

BY SHEILA JAMES

While chastising Governor Ron DeSantis' blatant neglect of the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame, a group of Capital city leaders in Tallahassee challenged other corporations to join Disney in the fight against the punitive politics of the Florida governor.

The region's leading pastors, elected officials and civil rights leaders revealed the most recent affront to communities of color regarding the governor's failure to appoint up to nine Floridians to the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame. They said DeSantis has chosen to ignore the state law and instead continues his divisive culture war.

The attack on education, diversity, immigrants, and a truth telling of Black history are among the many outrages of the White nationalist agenda according to the Reverend Dr. RB Holmes.

"This is an insult to all Floridians," Holmes said. "We're asking businesses and corporations to speak up. Is Disney the only one?"

Tallahassee NAACP President attorney Mutaqee



Capital City coalition leaders stand a few feet from the Governor's Office at the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame wall chastising DeSantis for neglecting the awards program. (Contributed image)

Akbar added: "He is excluding an entire generation," referring to the civil rights movement of just 70 years ago.

One of the state's largest employers, Disney is pushing back in a very public war. The entertainment giant plans to abandon a \$1 billion dollar Nona campus project that would have created thousands of six figure jobs.

The punitive politics of Governor DeSantis could further impact Florida now that the NAACP has issued a formal

travel advisory discouraging Blacks from visiting the Sunshine State due to Gov. DeSantis' "aggressive attempts to erase Black history and to restrict diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in Florida schools."

The NAACP joins the League of United Latin American Citizens and LGBTQ advocacy group Equality Florida that have also issued travel advisories cautioning against traveling to Florida.



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FEATURE



British Guyanese Actress Plays Queen Charlotte

The actress playing the older Queen Charlotte in ‘Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story,’ was born in Guyana. Golda Rosheuvel was born to a Guyanese father and an English mother. She moved to England when she was five.

Rosheuvel, 53, is known for her theatre work and a number of on-screen roles including Porgy and Bess, Macbeth, The Winter’s Tale, Romeo and Juliet, Angels in America, Bad Girls: The Musical, and Jesus Christ Superstar. In 2018, Rosheuvel played a lesbian version of Othello in Othello.

In 2019, Rosheuvel was cast as Queen Charlotte in the Netflix period drama Bridgerton produced by Shonda Rhimes. The series premiered on December 25, 2020, with positive reviews from critics.

She now plays the older Queen Charlotte in “Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story” in the new Netflix series spin-off.

“Charlotte is thrown into this world that doesn’t accept her at first, and she has to power through and work it out...Even as she’s being vulnerable, she knows who she is. This is a strong Black woman,” says Rosheuvel of the role.

Netflix’s Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story takes fans of the Julia Quinn novels-turned-series back



Guyana-born Golda Rosheuvel as Queen Charlotte in episode 206 of Bridgerton. (Cr. Liam Daniel/Netflix © 2022)

in time. Pivoting away from the romantic shenanigans of the Bridgerton family before the next installment of the Regency-era drama, the six-episode series depicts the earliest days of Queen Charlotte’s - the younger queen played by India Amarteifio and the older by Rosheuvel - reign. In the Bridgerton prequel, the producers peel back the layers of the royal’s icy demeanor and learn the heartbreaking context behind her stern approach to the crown. Queen Charlotte is a love story, but it’s also a narrative of Black girl magic — and the sometimes-unbearable weight that comes with it.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Sonshine Communications Turns 30



Bernadette Morris, c., and the Sonshine Communications team are marking their 30th anniversary in the business. (Contributed image)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

When Bernadette Morris started Sonshine Communications, there were not many black-owned public relations firms in South Florida. Undaunted, she soldiered on and this year her company celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Located in Golden Glades, Miami, Sonshine Communications is among the region’s leading firms. Its clientele includes major corporations such as Anheuser-Busch, Florida Power & Light Company and Darden Restaurants.

Morris told Caribbean Today that although the journey has been satisfying, staying vibrant in a competitive market

is quite a slog.

“These 30 years have gone by so very quickly. It has been such a blessing to represent so many clients and have such wonderful team members, many of whom have been with me for over 20 years,” she said. “PR services were scarce in the Black communities. There were only a very few agencies and there was a big gap in providing services for our audiences.”

Sonshine Communications has a 12-member staff with expertise in advertising, design, digital media, marketing and public and media relations. Morris credits the team’s versatility for being able to service a diverse base.

The Internet has also made things easier for emerging PR

agencies to lure prospective clients, whether it be a Mom and Pop store with a tight budget, or big corporations jostling for market share.

Morris believes meticulous commitment to their clients has been Sonshine Communications’ greatest accomplishment.

“We manage our accounts with precision and great detail. We set out our client goals and needs and work to make it happen for them --- all while staying on budget. We have been fortunate to have received numerous national, state and local contracts and awards from our clients, peers and national businesses and organizations,” she said. “A key factor is working with the mindset of our clients and always keeping

their needs at the forefront of what we are doing with quality, substance, creativity and style.”

Bernadette Morris was born in Miami, the youngest of six children to parents from Georgia. After graduating from Hialeah-Miami Lakes High School, she attended Stetson University in DeLand, Florida and hoped to attend that college’s law school.

But while there, the communications bug bit her and she eventually transferred to the University of North Florida where her major changed to English/Communications. There, she earned a bachelor’s degree in communication.

Morris later received a master’s degree in public administration from Florida International University. Prior to Sonshine Communications, she worked as a TV/radio producer, network editor, writer for a production company, and publicist for an NPR/PBS affiliate station.

In addition to Sonshine Communications, Morris owns Black PR Wire, a digital news distribution company that focuses on black media in the US and Caribbean.

Morris has been married for 30 years and is the mother of two adult children. Despite some challenges, a career in communications has been fulfilling.

“I’m sure like every company, we are faced with bumps and challenges. We may win a contract and funding for it ends earlier than expected, or we may not get awarded a contract that we had hopes of securing, but we manage and work around any potential shift in our services and we’re able to stay afloat and survive,” she explained. “We have been very fortunate to work within our means and we

have demonstrated our resilience as a company. Celebrating our 30th year milestone and having remained profitable all 30 years is a testament in and of itself.”



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Florida's Copycat Arizona Immigration Law May Send It Broke

With the stroke of his pen, Florida's power drunk governor, Twitter Disaster and Presidential wannabe, Ron DeSantis, signed into law on May 10th, a measure that is comparable to Arizona's SB 1070 of 2010.

For those who need a little reminder, Arizona's SB 1070 or the 'Show Me Your Papers' law, signed into law in April 2010, was the broadest and strictest anti-illegal immigration law in the United States when passed. The law required that state law enforcement officers attempt to determine an individual's immigration status during a "lawful stop, detention or arrest" when there is reasonable suspicion that the individual is an "illegal immigrant." It also imposed penalties on those sheltering, hiring and transporting unregistered migrants.

That law, according to The Center for American Progress, cost Arizona's tourism and convention industry, at least \$45 million in just the first several months after enactment from cancelled hotel and

lodging revenue to the state. The accompanying loss in direct spending by convention visitors who no longer came to the state brought the loss up to \$141 million. The ripple effect included 2,761 lost jobs, \$86.5 million in lost earnings, \$253 million in lost economic output, and \$9.4 million in lost tax revenues to the state.

Florida's copycat version, SB 1718 will become law this July 1st. It will make any Floridian "who knowingly and willfully transports an undocumented individual into the state," a human smuggler. That comes with serious criminal penalties, including allowing for prosecution under the Florida Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization, (RICO), Act.

Additionally, the law now prohibits local governments in the state from issuing Identification Cards (ID) to undocumented immigrants and invalidates driver's licenses issued to those without legal status who have moved to Florida from other states. DeSantis and crew also will require hospitals to collect and submit a patient's immigration data and require private employers with 25 or more employees to use the E-Verify system to verify a new employee's employment

eligibility to work legally.

The economic toll of this law is likely to be felt as early as this summer, while the state's suddenly "anti-woke" power drunk governor flies around the US jockeying to be noticed, and Floridians statewide bear the brunt of this transgression.

Already, dozens of clips of empty fields, abandoned

construction sites, and scores of truck drivers calling for boycotts of the state have racked up hundreds of thousands of views on TikTok and Twitter over the last month.

Both the League of United Latin American Citizens, (LULAC), and the NAACP Board of Directors have issued formal travel advisories for the

state of Florida.

"Florida is openly hostile toward African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals. Before traveling to Florida, please understand that the state of Florida devalues and marginalizes the contributions of, and the challenges faced by

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Old School Wives



After marriage, a wife hands over her life to her husband, to be at his beck and call, to please his every whim, to satisfy his every desire, and to make sure that he feels good about himself.

Well, at least that's how it used to be back in the day. Not so much nowadays, as many modern-day wives rebuke that sort of behavior. But there still are a few such wives in existence, women who cater to their husbands and see to it that all areas of his life are satisfied.

Maybe they're from the old school and maintain the characteristics handed down from their mothers, or probably they simply believe that a woman's duty is to please her man, no matter the toll it takes on her, physically, emotionally, or mentally. You'd think that in this day and age of women's



TONY ROBINSON

liberation and equality and independence that those days were long gone. But far from it.

This was revealed to me recently when a youngish wife indicated to me that she had to attend a function that her husband was going to. "How do you mean 'had to attend?'" I asked her.

She replied that she didn't really want to go because it was one of those boring stuffy 'man functions' that she hated, but being an old school wife, she accompanied him, just to please

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



VETERANS AND CANNABIS

The Challenges Facing Our Heroes

With more veterans using cannabis to relieve symptoms associated with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other medical conditions, lawmakers in Congress and veterans groups continue to push for more legal access.

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Remembering My Friend Harry Belafonte

BY DR. MONTY ALEXANDER

On April 25, 2023, the world bid farewell to Harry Belafonte, a true icon of music, cinema, and activism. I not only mourn the loss of an extraordinary individual, but also a dear friend. Growing up in Jamaica, my home, Harry played a significant role in my life. In 1956, his album "Jump Up Calypso" emerged, validating the heritage music of Jamaica. The delightful songs sung by Harry, such as "Banana Boat" and "Island in the Sun," brought smiles to everyone's faces.

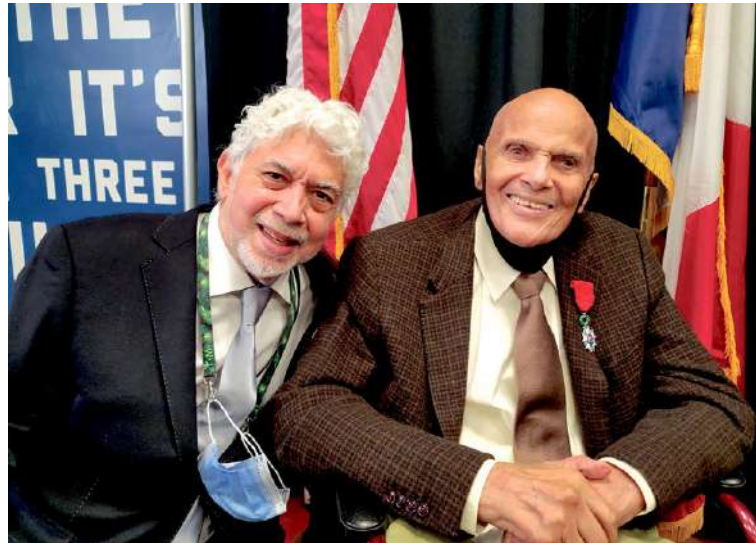
Long before the rise of Bob Marley and the popularization of reggae, Harry was already putting Jamaica on the map with Calypso, or as we called it then, mento. He brought Caribbean rhythms and influences to the forefront of popular music, paving the way for generations of artists who followed in his footsteps.

Harry possessed both striking looks and a compelling voice. When he appeared in movies, his talent as an actor shone brilliantly. I recall watching him in the 1959 film "The World, The Flesh and The Devil," and I distinctly remember my mother having a crush on him. In fact, Harry Belafonte was adored by many ladies of that era. As I began my own journey in

music, Harry became one of my influential figures. His attitude, grace, integrity, and warmth left a lasting impact on me. Our friendship flourished when I moved to the United States, as we shared a common Jamaican heritage. Despite being an American born in Harlem, his parents hailed from Jamaica, and he even attended high school there for a few years.

Harry always treated me with great kindness. Whenever he saw me, he would joyfully exclaim, "cousin!" Our bond grew stronger over time. I also cherish the memory of Harry's contributions to the civil rights movement in America. He leveraged his celebrity status and rallied his Hollywood friends, including Paul Newman, Tony Bennett, and his dear companion from The Bahamas, Sidney Poitier, to join Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in raising awareness for the cause before marching in Selma.

Harry's activism extended beyond the borders of the United States. He utilized his fame and influence to shed light on human rights abuses in South Africa and other parts of the world. He embraced his platform as a performer to champion the issues closest to his heart, inspiring countless others to do the same. Harry Belafonte was not only an extraordinary entertainer but also an unwavering advocate for



Dr. Monty Alexander, C.D., (l), with Harry Belafonte at his home in Manhattan, NY, in 2021. (Pamela Frank image)

social justice and civil rights. In recent years, I had the privilege of spending time with him on several occasions. Our last meeting occurred on December 16th, 2021, when Harry received the distinguished title of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor from the President of the Republic of France. I was honored to be among the select few non-family members present at the private ceremony held in his New York City home. Though time had passed, and Harry seemed quieter than usual, we shared a wonderful moment, exchanging smiles and embraces. During that special event, Mrs. Belafonte, Pamela Frank, took

this lovely picture that I share with great honor and pride. Losing him fills me with deep sadness. Harry, I will miss you and the tremendous difference you made as an activist for people of color and the less fortunate.

Harry's legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative power of music. His music brought joy and inspiration to millions around

the world, while his activism fostered real and lasting change. As we remember Harry, let us draw inspiration from his example and continue to utilize music and art as vehicles for promoting social justice and equality for all.

In closing, I would like to share a quote from Harry Belafonte that has always resonated with me: "The artist is the radical voice of society." Let us all strive to be that radical voice, and to use our talents and platforms to make the world a better place.

Au Revoir Harry. God Bless, and Happy Journey Home.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Monty Alexander, C.D., is a Grammy-nominated, award-winning Jamaican-born, world renown musician who was recently awarded the Order of Jamaica (OJ) for sterling contribution to the promotion of Jamaican music and the Jazz genre interpretations globally. Hear his version of Harry Belafonte's 'Island In The Sun' at [youtube.com/watch?v=XSf96gDBMco](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSf96gDBMco)



Old School Wives

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

him.

Old school wife ... hmmm! That certainly piqued my interest, so I had to find out exactly who an old school wife is? Well, first of all, that first example of attending functions that she had absolutely no interest in was self-explanatory.

"I go with him so that he can show me off to his friends and be arm candy for the evening." Women will suffer for hours through a boring function, just to please their husbands. So, what's in it for the wife, and if the tables were turned, would men suffer through a female function for their wives?

When last have you attended a bridal shower? The look on a husband's face as he accompanies his wife while shopping says it all. Well, apparently the rewards are great, and women know how to play the game when it comes to manipulating men.

An old school wife will also accommodate relatives who are less than accommodating to her. Not all relatives love or even care for the partner that the man has chosen. Some will show this dislike with overt or covert animosity, but the old school wife will grin and bear it, smile and make small talk, knowing fully well that the man's mother can't stand a bone in her body, for she's not good enough for her son.

Some wives deal with this by maintaining a distance from those unaccommodating

relatives, by not attending family functions. "I just drop off the kids there and go and hang out with my girlfriends."

Others would attend the family gathering and act as if nothing is amiss, as she smiles graciously and chit chats with them, even embracing those relatives who can't stand her.

The old school wife will give advice to her husband but take no credit for it. Meanwhile the man struts around and brags what a genius he is. It's only after the marriage hits the rocks and mashup that the true picture is revealed. The wife will continue on her successful path, while the husband falls flat on his face. Then you realize that she was the one doing all of the work.

She will attend to all of the needs of the children, see to their schooling, homework, extra-curricular activities, attend school concerts, sports day, prize giving, parent teacher's meetings, while the man takes all the credit for how well the children are doing.

As he struts and boasts about the achievements of his children, she quietly slips into the background, allowing him to take all the credit.

Some wives are old school because they truly believe in pleasing their men, while others are so because the material rewards are great.

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



Florida's Copycat Arizona Immigration Law May Send It Broke

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

African Americans and other communities of color," the NAACP states.

Domingo Garcia, president of the Latino advocacy group League of United Latin

American Citizens (LULAC), called the new immigration law "hostile and dangerous."

"As a result of this, for only the second time in LULAC history, we're issuing a travel advisory for anybody traveling to Florida," Garcia said.

Latin American truck drivers are threatening to stop delivering to and in Florida, and business owners, especially in the construction and agriculture sector, say both sectors will be hurt as many immigrant workers are already leaving or declining to show up to work.

Add to that, a movement for an immigrant labor strike is gaining traction for immigrants to shut down on June 1st.

That will definitely shatter Death Santis' April boast of a 2.6 percent unemployment rate; 200,000 new business formations; 336,200 private sector jobs added and 37.9 million total tourists for the first quarter of 2023.

Like many companies and tour operators did during the Arizona madness, Florida must be boycotted as a place to hold events, travel or do business in order to save all Floridians from the Shakespearean fool with dark dreams of becoming "King." His so called "anti-woke" battle is certain to make Florida broke.

The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com – The Black Immigrant Daily News. She can be reached at felicia@caribpr.com



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From 'Dragon Dance' To 'In The Mood' - Shaggy's Soca Journey

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Growing up in a tenement in central Kingston, Jamaica, Orville Richard Burrell, who the world today knows as Shaggy, recalls being amused by his grandmother's love for 'Dragon Dance,' a 1975 calypso hit single by Byron Lee and The Dragonaires and The Mighty Sparrow.

"Dat was her favorite song. Anytime shi hear it, shi start dance," the singer recently reminisced.

'Dragon Dance,' was the two-time Grammy winner's introduction to calypso. Later, he found a similar affinity for soca, its up-tempo offshoot that emerged during the early 1980s and sparked a new wave of artists from Trinidad and Tobago and the Eastern Caribbean.

On May 12th, 'In The Mood,' Shaggy's soca-inspired EP, was released by VP Records. It contains seven songs including collaborations with some of the genre's hottest names - Kes, Patrice Roberts and Bunji Garlin from Trinidad and Tobago, and Skinny Fabulous out of St. Vincent and The Grenadines.

Shaggy, who became famous globally for pop/dancehall anthems such as 'It Wasn't Me,' and 'Boombastic', has dabbled in soca since the late 1990s when he scored big with 'Toro Toro,' a song he recorded alongside Trinidadian star Machel Montano.



Shaggy is now leaning into soca. (Photo Credit: William Richards Photography)

It's been some time since he worked with artists from the Eastern Caribbean, but during 'In The Mood's' launch at

Circle House in north Miami, he expressed excitement about music from that region.

"Soca is great music an' yuh have some great artists in the Caribbean," he said. "So, why not work with dem? I've done

a lot of soca (in recent years) with Machel including 'Whining Season' and 'Remedy Refix' which have done well."

'In The Mood' is the follow-up to 'Com Fly Wid Mi,' a 2022 album of Sinatra covers Shaggy recorded with Sting as producer. It was nominated for Best Reggae Album at the 2023 Grammy Awards. Their 44/876, a 2018 collaborative album, won that category in 2019.

Although 'In The Mood' has songs with fellow Jamaican stars Konshens and Future Fambo, Shaggy admits sharing the mic with acts from different genres over the years has not endeared him to hardcore dancehall fans. Initially, he says that reaction bothered him but not anymore.

"If I've been here (the United States) almost 30 years and I've put up the numbers and I've had so many number ones and you're not a fan, then you'll never be a fan," he concluded.



Wyclef Jean Receives Keys To Miami-Dade County, The City Of Miami And Little Haiti

Three-time Grammy Award winning Haitian born artist, Wyclef Jean, recently honoured at the Chefs of the Caribbean Celebrity Brunch Haitian Heritage Month edition on May 20th and was there after presented with three keys in Little Haiti.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Keon Hardemon along with Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Commissioner Marleine Bastien presented Wyclef with the key to Miami-Dade County, City of Miami Chairwoman Christine King and the City of Miami Little Haiti Revitalization Trust presented Wyclef with the key to the City of Miami, and the Little Haiti Optimist Club presented Jean with a key to Little Haiti, officially welcoming the singer for outstanding achievements.

Chefs of the Caribbean Celebrity also honoured Wyclef Jean for his philanthropic, business and entertainment achievements as the community signed a thank you card.

"Support the dreams of the youth and whatever we leave will inspire the next generation," said Jean, as he surprised guests with an impromptu concert performing some of his greatest hits.

The brunch culminated with attendees enjoying Art Beat Miami Haitian Heritage Month art exhibit and receiving



Three-time Grammy Award winning Haitian born artist, Wyclef Jean, recently honoured at the Chefs of the Caribbean Celebrity Brunch Haitian Heritage Month edition on May 20th and was there after presented with three keys in Little Haiti. (Contributed images)

a Haitian Heritage Month commemorative poster entitled: Together for a Better Little Haiti.

Haitian Heritage Month recognizes the rich history and culture of Haitians by showcasing its art, food, music and more. The month-long celebration pays tribute to the Haitian community for their valuable contributions to South Florida.

During the event, Sheila Be sang the Haitian National Anthem and Ambience Creole Jazz Band performed. Attendees at the Chefs of the Caribbean Celebrity Brunch enjoyed delicious dishes prepared by: Chef Creole (Haiti/Bahamas), Chef the Rose (Haiti), Top Chef

Ron Duprat (Haiti), Chef Irie (Jamaica), Chef Cat (Trinidad/Jamaica), Chef Danny Penalo (Dominican Republic), Chef Rob (Haiti), Chef Michel France (Haiti), Chef Keith Reed (Bahamas) and Chef Garfield (Jamaica) as well as signature island beverages and spirits from: Valmas Cremas, Korbel Champagne Mimosas, Kola Choucounne and Savens Alkaline Water.

The brunch culminated with attendees enjoying Art Beat Miami Haitian Heritage Month art exhibit and receiving a Haitian Heritage Month commemorative poster entitled: "Together for a Better Little Haiti."



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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'Caribbean Man' David Rudder Won't Be Stopped By Parkinson's

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

The term, 'Caribbean Man' is rarely used these days. Maybe because there are not many persons around who deserve that lofty title. But by his songs and beliefs, David Rudder is very much 'The Caribbean Man.'

The legendary Trinidadian calypsonian has endeared himself to West Indians with anthems such as 'The Hammer,' 'Trini 2 De Bone,' 'Bahia Girl,' 'High Mas,' and 'Rally Round The West Indies.'

Three years into a battle with Parkinson's disease, a brain disorder that causes unintended or uncontrollable movements, such as shaking, stiffness, and difficulty with balance and coordination, Rudder is showing no signs of it.

On May 6th, a full house turned out at Sound Forge in Mucurapo, west Trinidad, for 'Rudder 7.0,' a concert marking the prolific singer/songwriter's 70th birthday.

It took place just days after Rudder announced publicly that he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease three years ago. Some of the biggest names in calypso and soca were at the event, including Carl Jacobs,

Machel Montano, Kes and Destra Garcia.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were prime minister Keith Rowley's wife, Sharon Rowley, Trinidad and Tobago's Attorney General Reginald Amour and poet Eintou Springer, and fashion designer Meiling.

Rudder performed his classic songs including 'Rally Round The West Indies;' 'De Long Time Band;' 'Frontline;' 'Engine Room;' 'Belmont;' 'Nuff Respect;' 'The Ganges Meets The Nile;' 'Adrenaline City;' 'Jump Up;' 'Club Hysteria;' 'Dus' In Dey Face;' 'Guilty;' 'A Madman's Rant;' and 'Madness.'

Ricardo Anthony of Antigua knows what is like to be in the presence of a great artist. He played drums for many years with Arrow, commercially the most successful soca artist, thanks to hits like 'Hot, Hot, Hot' and 'Long Time.'

In an interview with *Caribbean Today*, Anthony



David Rudder performing at 'Rudder 7.0.' (Photo by C. ZAndrea De Silva/Facebook)

said Rudder is, "an incredibly formidable artist because he transcends just being a singer/performer."

"His transmissions musically are always from a place of great integrity. Lyrically, spiritually, and culturally he is the total package," he added. "His work is a constant reminder that our music, heritage and culture should never be placed second to

anything in this existence. Just listen carefully to the colours of his lyrical inventiveness."

While Anthony discovered Rudder's music as a youth in Antigua, it was not until he

was a member of Arrow's band that he saw his genius close-up. This took place during the early 1990s at Madison Square Garden at the West Indian Mother's Day show.

"This predominantly Caribbean audience rallied around David Rudder and the music he performed," reminisced Anthony. "I remembered distinctly being stunned by his delivery and even more so by the crowd's reaction to him. They knew all the words to his songs and sang along with him as if they were the featured artist. No one was seated during his performance and every song sounded like an anthem."

At 'Rudder 7.0,' David Rudder showed no noticeable signs of Parkinson's. And while he has said '7.0' would be his last major gig, the long-time resident of Toronto, Canada, he said he plans to continue writing and recording as long as he can.



Here's Comes 'Destiny'

Reggae recording artist Alborosie has launched his highly anticipated album 'Destiny,' with a memorable performance at Amoeba, the world's largest independent record store.

The album, released through Greensleeves Records, VP Records, and Shengen Entertainment, stays true to Alborosie's signature sound, blending authentic Roots Rock Reggae and Dub with exceptional song writing and lyrical prowess.

The lead single from the album, titled "Viral," presents a contemporary Rub-a-Dub sound with a conscious exploration of social media's role in modern society.

Alborosie, however, resists the allure of virality, choosing substance over gimmicks. The track showcases Alborosie's classic vintage style, featuring deep bass, crisp drums, and echoing sirens and effects.

'Destiny' boasts an impressive line-up of collaborators, including Kabaka Pyramid, Buju Banton, Jaz Elise, and Burro Banton, among others. The album delves into themes of faith, life,



Reggae recording artist Alborosie has launched his new album 'Destiny.'

love, and the transformative power of music. Alborosie humbly states, "I cannot make music that reflects the non-relevant. My Reggae should relate to the present..."

In 2023, Alborosie will embark on one of his most extensive tours to date, commencing on the West Coast of America in May and continuing throughout Europe in June, July, and August, just in time for the festival season. Fans eagerly anticipate hearing new tracks from the album during his performances, along with timeless tunes from his extensive music catalogue.



On August 6, 2023, the island of Jamaica marks the 61st Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

OUR INDEPENDENCE SUPPLEMENT! *Jamaica at 61* to be published in July 2023, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people. Promote your products and services in this 28-page keepsake edition, to be distributed widely throughout Florida, New York, Atlanta, and the Caribbean.

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Turn Up The Flavour This Summer With Bold, Bright Meals



Fresh Peach Pie

From the hearty and warm flavours of winter to the bold, rich and bright flavours of summer, herbs and spices are not only a delicious and better-for-you addition to any dish. They can transform it into unforgettable memories.

June 10 is National Herbs and Spices Day and the perfect time to celebrate food, flavour and time with family or friends. As you prepare for the occasion, and all your summer gatherings, remember to shop carefully, as freshness is essential when it comes to herbs and spices.

“Fresh flavours and aromas are strong triggers that ensure that experiences today are remembered tomorrow,” says Giovanna DiLegge, vice president marketing, North America Consumer at McCormick, a global leader in flavour.

That’s why for the first time in nearly 40 years, McCormick is debuting a brand-new design for its red cap branded products that audibly seals in aromas and flavours, for long-lasting freshness of herbs and spices. And to help you make the most of summer, McCormick is sharing this recipe for Fresh Peach Pie, which incorporates rich and bright summer fruits, and a sweet note of cinnamon spice:

PEACH PIE

Ingredients:

- 3 pounds fresh peaches, peeled, pitted and sliced (about 7 cups)
- 1/2 cup plus 3 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon plus 1/8 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1 1/2 teaspoons McCormick Ground Cinnamon, divided
- 1 package (14.1 ounces) refrigerated pie crusts, (2 crusts)
- 3 tablespoons corn starch
- 1 tablespoon McCormick All Natural Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1 tablespoon water

Instructions:

1. Mix peaches, 1/2 cup of

sugar, lemon zest and juice, and 1/4 teaspoon of salt in large heat-safe bowl until well blended. Let stand 30 minutes. Drain peaches, reserving 8 tablespoons of juice. Return peaches to bowl; sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon. Set aside.

2. Meanwhile, prepare pie crust as directed on package. Roll each crust into 12-inch circles on lightly floured surface. Press 1 crust into bottom of 9-inch pie plate. Cut remaining crust into 10 strips, about 1-inch wide. Refrigerate pie plate with bottom crust and prepared strips until ready to assemble pie.

3. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Mix 2 tablespoons of remaining sugar, remaining 1/8 teaspoon salt, remaining 1 teaspoon cinnamon and corn starch in small bowl. Add 2 tablespoons of reserved peach juice to corn-starch mixture, whisking to mix well; set aside.

4. Place remaining 6 tablespoons peach juice in small saucepan. Bring to simmer on medium-low heat. Stir in vanilla. Whisk corn-starch slurry into saucepan. Cook and stir just until thickened and smooth, about 30 seconds. Remove from heat. Pour syrup mixture over peaches; toss to coat. Allow to cool slightly.

5. Spoon peach mixture into chilled pastry-lined pie plate. Arrange pie dough strips over top to create a lattice (see below for instructions). Trim dough strips about 1/2-inch longer than bottom pie crust. Fold strips underneath crust and pinch to adhere. Crimp or flute crust edges, as desired. Brush lattice with water and sprinkle evenly with remaining 1 tablespoon sugar. Place pie plate on large shallow baking pan.

6. Bake 25 minutes or until crust is lightly browned. Reduce heat to 375 degrees F. Rotate pan. Bake 30 to 35 minutes longer, until crust is golden brown, and filling is bubbly. Cool on wire rack. Serve with vanilla ice cream, if desired.

How to weave a lattice top crust: Using longer strips for the centre of pie and shorter strips for edges, arrange 5 pie dough strips vertically over top of filling, leaving about 1 inch of space between each strip. Fold back every other strip (2 and 4) to just above midline of pie. Place one of the longer strips across pie horizontally,

just below the fold. Fold vertical strips back down over top of the horizontal strip. Fold back the opposite vertical strips (1, 3 and 5) and place another strip below the first horizontal strip, again leaving about 1 inch of space between them. Fold vertical strips back down over top. Repeat this process with one more strip below, and then

2 strips above first crosswise strip. Work quickly, as the warm filling may make the dough difficult to work with.

After 15 to 20 minutes of baking, cover edge of crust with foil strips to prevent excessive browning.

- StatePoint



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HEALTH



www.caribbeantoday.com

It's Alzheimer's And Brain Awareness Month

June is also Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, in addition to being National Caribbean American Heritage Month. It aims to raise awareness and encourage people to donate time or money to research and support people with Alzheimer's disease, a progressive brain disorder that typically starts with mild memory loss, confusion, and difficulty with problem-solving.

As it progresses, it can lead to more severe symptoms, such as the inability to communicate,

recognize loved ones, and carry out basic tasks.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60 - 70% of all cases. It affects an estimated 6.5 million Americans aged 65 and over and could increase four times by 2050. Among Black Americans ages 70 and older, 21.3% are living with Alzheimer's.

While there is no cure for Alzheimer's, medications and interventions can help manage

symptoms and improve a person's quality of life. Medications include cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine.

Age is the main risk factor for Alzheimer's. The risk doubles every 5 years after age 65. Other risk factors include genetics and head injuries. There may be a link between Alzheimer's and certain medical conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity.

The Alzheimer's Association encourages people to wear the purple ribbon during Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Here are some ways to get involved in Alzheimer's Awareness Month:

Volunteer

Volunteering with an organization focused on Alzheimer's disease can be a meaningful way to make a difference. Consider volunteering at a local Alzheimer's Association chapter or another advocacy group to help raise awareness, provide support to families, or assist with fundraising events.



Researchers have reported that Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, (ADRD), is 64 percent more likely to strike Black than non-Hispanic white. (Getty image)

#ENDALZ.

Get Help

Many organizations are available to support people affected by Alzheimer's. They include:

The Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association provides support groups, education programs, and care consultations to help families cope with the challenges of the disease. To access these resources, visit alz.org or call their 24/7 helpline at 1-800-272-3900.

National Institute on Aging

The National Institute on Aging is a government organization providing information on Alzheimer's disease and other aging-related health topics. Their website offers information on symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, caregiving, and resources for clinical trials and research studies.

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

This non-profit organization offers a helpline (1-866-232-8484) staffed by licensed social workers, support groups, educational materials, and a network of resources for Alzheimer's care.



Donate

Donating to organizations focused on Alzheimer's research and support services can help fund research and help those affected by the disease. Consider making a one-time donation or recurring donation to support ongoing efforts.

Participate In Fundraising Events

Many organizations host fundraising events to support research and awareness efforts. Consider participating in events such as walks, runs, or galas to show support and help raise funds.

Spread Awareness

Sharing information about Alzheimer's disease can help raise awareness and reduce stigma. Consider sharing articles, personal stories, or resources on social media using the hashtag

Final Expense Insurance

So many of us are unprepared financially when our Love One dies, or more unfortunate, when we die.

Now is the time for us to consider a final expense plan, which would eliminate the confusion and headache of funding funeral expenses from our savings.

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US, Canada Warn About Travel To Jamaica

As the summer heats up and many look to fly to the Caribbean, both the US and Canada are issuing travel advisories about travel to Jamaica due to violent crime.

The U.S. Department of State is warning Americans to reconsider traveling to Jamaica, listing it as a “Level 3” nation. The department warned “violent crimes, such as home invasions, armed robberies, sexual assaults, and homicides, are common” and said “sexual assaults occur frequently, including at all-inclusive resorts.”

The advisory added that “local police often do not respond effectively to serious criminal incidents.”

A ‘do not travel advisory’ was issued for several areas on the island, including downtown Kingston.

Meanwhile, Canada is also warning its nationals to “exercise a high degree of caution” if travelling to Jamaica due to

“violent crime.”

“Violent crime, including armed robbery and murder, is a problem in large cities and tourist areas, including parts of Kingston and Montego Bay, despite the presence of police to counter criminal activity,” the Canadian advisory said. “The availability of firearms is widespread, and most violent drug- and gang-related crimes, especially murder, involve firearms. There is a risk of becoming the victim of crossfire in these areas. Tourists are also at risk of crimes of opportunity, especially theft and robberies.”

Tourists are warned to avoid the following areas:

Greater Kingston

Arnett Gardens
August Town
Balmagie
Cassava Piece
Delacree Park
Denham Town
Drewsland

Felstead Pen
Four Miles
Glendale
Grant’s Pen
Greenwich Town
Hannah Town
Harbour View
Hunts Bay
Jones Town
Lower Cockburn Gardens
Maverly
Mountain View
Nanse Pen
Olympic Gardens
Payneland
Portmore
Rennock Lodge
Riverton City
Salmagie
Seaview Gardens
Tavares Gardens
Tivoli Gardens
Tower Hill
Trench Town
Waltham Gardens

West Kingston

Whitfield Town

St. Catherine



Both the US and Canada are warning nationals to reconsider travel to Jamaica.

Central Village
Ellerslie
Homestead
Ravensworth
Spanish Town
Tawes Pen

Montego Bay

Bottom Pen
Canterbury

Flankers
Hart Street
Mount Salem
Norwood Gardens
Rose Heights
St. Clavers Avenue

South Coast

May Pen.



Barbados Is Proving That The Future Of Caribbean Tourism Is Intra-Regional Travel

BY BRANDON WEBLEY

For an island that was once a cornerstone of the Caribbean sugar cane industry, Barbados currently faces the unique challenge of scaling down cane sugar production and utilizing tourism to boost its Gross Domestic Product, (GDP.)

On May 6th, I attended a press trip to Bridgetown, Barbados to cover the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association’s 41st Caribbean Travel Marketplace. It was the first time Marketplace had been held in Barbados. The excitement was clearly palpable as more than 700 delegates and 200 companies from 25 countries participated in the event.

It was also the first time I had the pleasure of traveling to the island. My taxi driver Hashim became my first introduction to life in Barbados. “Barbados’ Coat of Arms carries the motto ‘Pride and Industry,’” he explained to me as we were driving through Christ Church Parish to get to Bridgetown. “Barbados has pride, but we lack industry,” he added with a laugh.

He then clarified that Barbados has been forced to reduce its dependence on the sugar cane industry due to housing needs and the limited availability of land. What he explained wasn’t much different from what I later learned about the future of the sugar industry on the island: competition from much larger sugar-producing countries is stiff. In fact, the production of cane sugar in Barbados has decreased so extensively over the years that out of twenty-six factories, only two remain.



Harrison Cave, Barbados

MIA MOTTLEY

Barbados’ Prime Minister Mia Mottley realizes this. She has shifted the focus of her administration to the development of tourism as a driver for regional wealth. In a keynote speech she gave at the Caribbean Travel Forum, an industry-focused discussion held the day before CHTA’s Travel Marketplace, she stated: “Will we be shapers or takers? For the most part, this modern incarnation of tourism has been driven by foreign capital, has been driven by foreign airlift, has been driven by foreign markets, has been driven by things that are exogenous effectively to our development how do we allow others to control whether the tap is turned on or off with respect to the flow of people to this region?”

In her words, this approach to tourism has “carried us as far as it can.”

When the world was locked down due to the COVID-19 pandemic and there was limited travel to the Caribbean from the US and Canada, the Caribbean

suffered.

Her speech underlined a striking trend. According to CHTA’s President Nicola Madden-Greig, and ForwardKeys Vice President of Insights, Olivier Ponti, the Caribbean’s tourism recovery is outpacing other regions across the globe.

Indeed, part of that recovery was due to the proliferation of short-term rentals like



Dividing in Barbados

Airbnb’s. Regional analysts are seeing that the post-pandemic traveller is more interested in unique experiences than accommodations. Short-term rentals place the modern traveller squarely in local communities and give them access to experiences they may otherwise be shielded from at traditional hotels.

The future of wealth generation in the Caribbean is exactly that - a parallel strategy that incorporates local short-term rentals and a re-imagining of traditional hotels as a means of experiencing travel luxury.

The fact that Barbados currently serves as a regional hub for inter-island transportation and allows this strategy to come into

play. Improving intra-regional travel is a priority for Caribbean governments. InterCaribbean Airways uses Barbados as a pick-up point before shuttling travellers from other regional islands like Grenada, St. Lucia, and Dominica.

BARBADOS’ TOURISM OFFERINGS

For an island that is only 166 square miles, small enough

the descent occurred when the captain of the submersible turned off all of the lights on the submarine. Looking out of the submarine window, all we could see in the pitch-black darkness was the subtle glow of trillions of plankton churning in the sea around us. In that moment they appeared as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Barbados is also one of only a handful of Caribbean islands that has monkeys. The species, the African Green Monkey, was brought from Africa during colonialism and it has since thrived. You can see them at the Eco-Adventure Park at Harrison’s Cave in the middle of the island. The Park features lush botanical gardens, an aviary, and a tram ride through the famed Harrison’s Cave, a geologically active limestone cavern. It was perhaps the most unique nature-based experience I had on Barbados. The tram took us more than 130 feet underground through caverns full of geological features tens of thousands of years old. The sheer scale and beauty of the formations was unlike anything I’d ever experienced before.

The day before I was set to fly out, I sat by the beach enjoying a marlin sandwich dubbed a “fish cutter” at Cuz’s Fish Stand. Dabbing pepper sauce on my sandwich, I laughed to myself at how clear it was that though we may hail from different islands and have different histories and traditions, the roots of our communities and nations are shared.

As Prime Minister Mia Mottley noted in her presentation: “The first tourists are us.”



to see coast to coast from the highest vantage point, Barbados has rich cultural and nature-based experiences for interested travellers. Barbados is indeed unique in the experiences it offers. For one, it is one of only three destinations on Caribbean islands that offer the unique experience of taking a submarine to explore a coral reef, courtesy of Atlantis Submarines.

In Barbados I participated in the night tour. We descended 150 beneath the surface of the ocean with only the lights of the submarine illuminating the sea floor. As the submarine cruised around for nearly 90 minutes, we saw turtles, stingrays, transparent squid, and even a shipwreck. The most enchanting part of

It's Hurricane Season - Are You Prepared?

BY CHRISTINE HARRISON

Each year hurricane season begins on June 1st and last through Nov. 30th, with storms typically peaking in August and September. As with every hurricane season regardless of forecast, knowing the essentials of how to prepare could truly be a life saver.

First, know your hurricane facts and understand common terms used during hurricane forecasts. Storm conditions can vary on the intensity, size and even the angle which the tropical cyclone approaches your area, so it is vital you understand what the forecasters and news reporters are telling you.

HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT TERMS YOU MAY HEAR:

Tropical Storm Watch: Tropical storm conditions are possible in the area.

Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are possible in the area.

Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Tropical Storm Warning: Tropical storm conditions are expected in the area.

Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected in the area.

Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of tropical storm force winds.

Eye: Clear, sometimes well-defined centre of the storm with calmer conditions.

Eye Wall: Surrounding the eye, contains some of the most severe weather of the storm with the highest wind speed and largest precipitation.

Rain Bands: Bands coming off the cyclone that produce severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, wind and tornadoes.

Storm Surge: An often underestimated and deadly result of ocean water swelling as a result of a landfalling storm, and quickly flooding coastal and sometimes areas further inland.

During a watch, prepare your home and evacuation plan in case a warning is issued. During a warning, carefully follow the directions of officials, and immediately leave the area if they advise it. In the event of an Extreme Wind Warning/Advisory, which means that extreme sustained winds of 115 mph or greater are expected to begin within an hour, immediately take shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

Major hurricanes are defined by the Saffir-Simpson scale. This scale only takes wind speed into account, it does not factor in rainfall, storm surges and tornadoes. A major hurricane is considered to be a Category 3, 4 or 5, with a wind range of 111 mph to



Hurricane Ian devastated Fort Myers in 2022. (Cristobal Herrera-Ulashkevich/EPA via Shutterstock)

157 mph, and beyond. A Category 3 or higher can have catastrophic property damage and power outages, forcing people out of their homes for days to several months.

HURRICANE KITS

It is important to create a kit of supplies that you could take with you if you are forced to evacuate. This kit will also be useful if you are able to stay in your home, but are still affected by the storm, such as through the loss of power. One common trend seen when hurricanes are approaching is a wide-spread panic. When this happens, people rush in large numbers to get all the supplies they think they need. However, if you prepare your kit ahead of time, you can alleviate a lot of the potential stress of a very chaotic situation. You should create your kit in a bag that you can easily take with you. Some recommended items to include are:

- Non-perishable food (enough to last at least 3 days)
- Water (enough to last at least 3 days)
- First-aid kit (include any prescription medication you may need)
- Personal hygiene items and sanitation items
- Flashlights (have extra batteries on hand)
- Battery operated radio (again, have extra batteries)
- Waterproof container with cash and important documents
- Manual can opener
- Lighter or matches
- Books, magazines, games for recreation
- Special needs items: pet supplies and baby supplies if applicable
- Cooler and ice packs

A plan for evacuation and for if family members are separated

SECURING YOUR HOME

Know how to secure your home in the event of damaging winds, storm surge and flooding. Cover all of your windows, either with hurricane shutters or wood.

Although tape can prevent glass from shattering everywhere, be warned that tape does not prevent the window from breaking.

If possible, secure straps or clips to securely fasten your roof to the structure of your home. Make sure all trees and shrubs are trimmed and clear rain gutters. Reinforce your garage doors. Bring in all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, decorations, and anything else that is not tied down. If winds become strong, stay away from windows and doors and close, secure and brace internal doors.

POWER OUTAGES

In the event a storm should leave you without power, there are a few things to consider and help you be ready and stay safe outside of your normal hurricane preparedness.

- **Gas:** Make sure your tank is full far in advance of an approaching storm. Most people wait until the last minute, rush to get extra gas for cars and generators, and subsequently gas stations can run out early.
- **ATMS:** Have extra cash on hand in the event no ATMS in your area are accessible or working.
- **Cell Phones:** Charge your cell phone and limit use after power is out.
- **A/C:** This can be the most uncomfortable side effect of losing power during a storm. Try to prevent as much light from entering and warming the house by covering up your windows on the inside. If you have back-up or battery-operated fans, don't run them unless you are in the room. Fans create a difference in perceived temperature but do not cool the room; instead, they create a cooling effect by dispersing the heat off your skin. It is said they can actually add heat to a room just by running.

• **Water:** Fill bathtub and large containers with water for washing and flushing only.

• **Food:** Turn your fridge temperature down and/or freeze any food or drinking water that can be frozen if you expect a power outage. Here is a guide on freezing food: Freezing and Food Safety. Have a cooler with ice packs prepared to cool your drinks

and snacks after power has been out for more than 4 hours. And importantly, check out this food safety guide for when to discard your perishable food: foodsafety.gov/keep/charts/refridg_food.html

• **Health/Safety:** The CDC has a great guide on how to stay safe in the event of a power outage: Power Outages

Remember, any severe storm can be deadly and destructive. If you've survived a landfalling cyclone, you know

the inconvenience and distress it can cause. One of the best tips to be prepared is knowing the cycle of a cyclone - Approach, Arrival & Aftermath. Prepare ahead of time and listen to the directions of officials for the approach. Secure your home, or find a safe shelter for its arrival, and know how to proceed safely during the aftermath.

- [Stateoflouisiana.com](https://www.stateoflouisiana.gov)



NOAA Forecasts Near Average Atlantic Hurricane Season With 12-17 Named Storms



Remains of destroyed houses are seen almost one month after Hurricane Ian made landfall in Fort Myers Beach, Florida, October 26, 2022. (Marco Bello/Reuters)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), has announced that this year's Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be near average. Forecasters predict the formation of 12 to 17 named tropical storms, with five to nine of them potentially becoming hurricanes. Furthermore, up to four of these hurricanes may reach major hurricane status, classified as category 3 or stronger.

The last time the number of named storms fell below the average of 14 was in 2015. Although the hurricane season officially begins on June 1, storms have been known to develop before that date.

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, speaking at a news conference, stressed the significance of preparing for potential devastation caused by hurricanes. She highlighted the need for individuals to understand their risk and heed the warnings issued by state and local officials, regardless of the number of storms predicted.

The intensity of this year's hurricane season will depend on two factors: El Niño, which inhibits storm development, and near record-high ocean temperatures, which contribute to hurricane fuel.

While El Niño's impact on the season remains uncertain due to its early development stage,

the warm anomalies in the North Atlantic Ocean could potentially counteract El Niño's suppressing effect on hurricane formation. Climate model forecasts indicate the persistence of warm anomalies, which may reduce the wind shear impact typically associated with El Niño.

It is important to note that hurricanes are now being influenced by human-caused climate change, resulting in intensified and altered storm behaviour. Rising global temperatures, warmer waters, increased atmospheric moisture, and rising sea levels have set the stage for hurricanes to pose unprecedented risks to coastal communities.

Recent history has shown an increase in the frequency of high-end landfalling hurricanes, with six category 4 or 5 hurricanes hitting the mainland since 2017. The effects of climate change, particularly the heat build-up in the oceans, contribute to a higher percentage of hurricanes reaching the most severe categories on the scale.

As the Atlantic hurricane season approaches, it is crucial for individuals and communities to stay informed, prepared, and resilient in the face of these potentially destructive storms.

It's Hurricane Season - Are You Prepared?



Putting The Spotlight On The Jamaica Nurses Association Of Florida

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

“To be a good nurse you must have the passion to serve, be willing to put in the work, for it is a lifelong learning profession.”

That’s the sage advice from Joan Howard, President of the Jamaica Nurses Association of Florida, (JNAF). It is this passion that inspired the association’s founding members, led by Joyce Harris-Wright, to establish the Jamaica Nurses Association of Florida in 1983.

Their main purpose - welcoming new nurses from Jamaica and helping to ease their transition into their new home and work environment in the United States. Now celebrating 40 years of volunteerism, support, and dedicated healthcare, the organization has expanded its mission to embrace local and international communities.

Registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2004, the Association diversified its membership base to include any professional who embraces its mission and vision. With ideals guided by an altruistic spirit of giving back to the community and living up to its motto “Together We Achieve,” JNAF welcomes a growing number of professions from all disciplines, committed to helping in both its local and international initiatives.

In fact, JNAF’s major undertaking is its medical mission to Jamaica, which takes place August 13-20th this year. “With approval from the Ministry of Health, we are going to conduct community health clinics in Kingston and other areas across the island,” Howard, an advanced practice registered nurse with more than 30 years in the profession, told Caribbean



Joan Howard, President of the Jamaica Nurses Association of Florida, (JNAF). (Contributed image)

Today. “We will conduct health checks at Dinthill Technical High school and three other schools across the island. We have a delegation of about 50 healthcare professionals including nurses, doctors, dentists, ophthalmologists, and so on. We have procured medications that are needed for conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes. In addition, we will do diagnostic assessments such as EKG (electrocardiogram).”

In fact, for of its continued work in Jamaica over the years, JNAF was honored with the Prime Minister’s Medal of Appreciation in 2018, an award presented to those recognised for their services to the country.

SUCCESSION

JNAF’s core mission has always been to encourage deserving young minds into nursing and other allied health services, and to maintain the strength of the organization through succession planning.

To that end, they have established several annual scholarships, awarding more than \$60,000 to students in the United States and Jamaica since the start of program.

Two deserving students in the US will receive \$1,000 each toward their nursing or healthcare-focused education.

The Hyacinth Scarlett Foundation Scholarship was established in honor of the late Hyacinth Scarlett who was a JNAF member and a lover of the arts and music. This award is given to a student majoring in nursing,

music, or a related field. A \$500 award is also given to a nursing student through the Ralph Farquharson Award, named after one of JNAF’s first male nurse member.

The Joyce Harris-Wright Scholarship, named for the Founder, is given to a nursing student in Jamaica in the amount of US\$1,000. The organization has also awarded non-healthcare students who meet certain academic criteria. These

scholarships are testament to the Jamaica Nurses Association of Florida’s commitment to advocacy, commitment to education, and growing the nursing profession.

“We are committed to the professional development of our members, so we give educational workshops and seminars, which can help to enhance their skills and knowledge in nursing,” Howard explained. “Our nurses have access to continuing education, which gives you CEUs (Continuing Education Unit), necessary toward the renewal of your professional licence.”

That training, she added, is also a strategy to help address the current nursing shortage in the United States, as knowledge in patient care, cultural competence, the latest technology can fully engage and inspire the professional to stay in the field.

Although there are various factors affecting the shortage, aging is also a contributing factor. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing website states that a significant segment of the nursing workforce is nearing retirement age. This is substantiated by a 2020 National Nursing Workforce Survey

conducted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing reporting that “the average age for an RN is 52 years old, which may signal a large wave over the next 15 years.”

The pandemic has also exacerbated the situation as 29 percent of nurses across all license types were considering leaving in 2021, compared to 11 percent in 2020, according to a 2022 Nurse Salary Research Report. Lower than expected nursing school enrolment as well as the need for nursing school faculty is also an issue.

But, in spite of these concerns, Howard still sees a bright future for the nursing profession and is committed to helping boost numbers through the Jamaica Nurses Association of Florida.

“My appeal is that we all reignite the fervor within us that started this organization 40 years ago, so as to attract and increase membership, that we can coach and mentor as succession leaders to continue steering this dynamic organization forward under our motto Together We Achieve,” she added.



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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
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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.

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



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Caribbean American Congresswoman Wants Marcus Garvey Exonerated

BY NELSON A. KING

As the White House declared another National Caribbean American Heritage Month on May 31st, Caribbean American Democratic Congresswoman, Yvette D. Clarke, has joined 22 of her Congressional colleagues in sending a letter to President Joe Biden calling for the exoneration of Jamaica's first national hero, Marcus Mosiah Garvey.

"We write with due respect to express our strong support for the April 18, 2023, request for a posthumous pardon of Marcus Mosiah Garvey's 1923 conviction for fraudulent use of the mail, submitted to your administration," they wrote.

"Nearly 100 years ago, Marcus Garvey was convicted of mail fraud in a case that was marred by prosecutorial and governmental misconduct. As a result of this injustice, President Calvin Coolidge commuted Garvey's sentence upon eligibility.

"The evidence present and available at our disposal paints an abundantly clear narrative that the charges brought against Marcus Mosiah Garvey were not only fraudulent but executed in bad faith.

"A Presidential pardon for Mr. Garvey would correct the historical record and shift the narrative during a time when African American history faces the existential threat of erasure by radical state legislatures. More importantly, exoneration would reaffirm our commitment to a criminal justice system that guarantees de facto equity under rule of law," the letter added.

The Congressional members said that Marcus Garvey's contributions and influence are interwoven into the fabric of American history, adding that his works have influenced leaders from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Nelson Mandela, as well as inspiring generations of leaders and planting the seeds for the civil rights movement.

The congressional representatives note that, as the founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League, Garvey inspired nearly six million people across 40 countries with a message of social progress through economic prosperity.

They also wrote that, although President Coolidge commuted his sentence, Garvey was immediately deported and never permitted to return to the



Marcus Garvey

United States and that calls for Garvey's exoneration have been constant since his conviction. "Many people had supported pardon efforts during Garvey's lifetime and have continued to do so posthumously, Congressional efforts to rectify this matter began in 1987, when then-Congressman, John Conyers held a Judiciary Committee hearing regarding Garvey's unfair trial."

Since then, the representatives say that Congressional resolutions have been introduced by former Congressman Charles Rangel, of Harlem, New York, and, most recently, by Clarke, seeking to clear Garvey's name.

"In light of Marcus Garvey's sustained efforts to uplift and empower peoples of African descent, his determination to build communities through economic independence, and his lasting impact on society, we find it imperative that Mr. Garvey be exonerated by way of a posthumous pardon.

"The passage of time has confirmed his place in history but has not removed the stain of this injustice from his legacy. Mr. Garvey's vision of racial justice has been honoured by

governments around the world; this is the US government's opportunity to honour his work for the Black community and remove the unjust stain on his legacy.

"Furthermore, this is an opportunity for the Biden Administration to renew and deliver on its inaugural promise of delivering racial justice. We appreciate your time and consideration regarding this pertinent matter."

In February, Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, and Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson introduced legislation in the United States House of Representative calling for Garvey's exoneration and identifying him as a champion for the liberation of people of African descent.

"The world deserves to know the truth about Marcus Garvey and the truth about Black history," said Clarke, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York.

"I was raised under the teachings of Marcus Garvey," added the first vice-chair of the

Congressional Black Caucus. "I was raised to believe that we must come together to do the necessary work to improve our communities. And I was raised with the Garvey commitment to social service, including an abundance of faith in God.

"It's time to reclaim Garvey's legacy and accomplishments as a human rights activist before Congress, America, and the world," Clarke added.

Garvey, who was born in 1887, was a Jamaican-born Black nationalist and leader of the Pan-Africanism movement, which sought to unify and connect people of African descent worldwide.

In the United States, he was a noted civil rights activist, who founded the Negro World newspaper, a shipping company called Black Star Line, and the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA).

In 1922, Garvey and three other UNIA officials were charged with mail fraud involving the Black Star Line. On June 23, 1923, Garvey was convicted and sentenced to prison for five years.

He appealed his conviction, claiming to be a victim of a politically motivated miscarriage of justice, but it was denied. In 1927, Garvey was released from prison and deported back to Jamaica, where he continued his political activism.

Eight years later, he moved to London, where he died, in 1940, after several strokes. Garvey's body was interred in London in view of travel restrictions imposed during World War II.

However, in 1964, his remains were exhumed and taken back to Jamaica, where the government proclaimed him Jamaica's first national hero and re-interred him at a shrine in the National Heroes Park.

- Rewritten from CMC





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West Indies Wicketkeeper/Batsman Charged With Corruption

West Indies wicketkeeper/batsman Devon Thomas has been charged by the International Cricket Council, (ICC), with seven counts under the Anti-Corruption codes. The ICC has provisionally suspended Thomas with immediate effect following the charges brought against him on behalf of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), and the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

The charges primarily involve allegations of

“contriving or being party to an agreement to fix or attempt to fix, contrive or influence improperly the result, progress, conduct, or other aspects of matches in the Lanka Premier League 2021,” as stated in an ICC statement released on Tuesday. Thomas is also facing charges related to failing to disclose full details of an approach in the Lanka Premier League 2021, Abu Dhabi T10 2021, and CPL 2021.

The specific charges brought against Thomas are as follows:

- 1: Contriving or being party to an agreement to fix or attempt to fix, contrive, or influence improperly the result, progress, conduct, or other aspects of matches in the Lanka Premier League 2021.
- 2: Failing to disclose full details of an approach or invitations received to engage in Corrupt Conduct in the Lanka Premier League 2021.
- 3: Failing or refusing, without compelling justification, to cooperate with the investigation by the Designated Anti-Corruption Official.
- 4: Obstructing or delaying the investigation into Corrupt Conduct.
- 5: Failing to disclose full details of an approach or invitations received to engage in Corrupt Conduct at the Abu Dhabi T10 2021.
- 6: Failing to disclose full details of an approach or invitations received to engage in Corrupt Conduct in relation to the CPL 2021.
- 7: Failing to disclose the receipt



West Indies wicketkeeper/batsman Devon Thomas has been provisionally suspended by the International Cricket Council for corruption. (CWI image)

of any gift, payment, hospitality, or benefit that may have been made to procure a breach of the CPL Code or bring the player or the game of cricket into disrepute.

The 33-year-old last played in December 2022, making his Test debut against Australia in Adelaide. He has represented the West Indies in 21 ODIs, 12 T20Is, and one Test match. Thomas has a period of 14 days from May 23, 2023, to respond to the charges leveled against him.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has acknowledged that charges have been laid against Thomas by the ICC’s Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) but refrained from making further comments regarding these charges. In collaboration with the ICC and the West Indies Players’ Association (WIPA), CWI said it remains dedicated to raising awareness and providing education to players and officials on anti-corruption measures in sports.



Reggae Boyz Face Crucial Friendly Matches Ahead of Concacaf Gold Cup



Damion Lowe, the vice-captain of the Jamaican national senior football team, the Reggae Boyz.

Damion Lowe, the vice-captain of the Jamaican national senior football team, the Reggae Boyz, emphasizes the significance of the upcoming friendly international matches against Qatar and Jordan for the Boyz’s preparations for the Concacaf Gold Cup this summer.

Scheduled for June 15th and June 19th at the Wiener Neustadt Ergo Arena in Austria, these matches hold vital importance for the senior Boyz. Lowe, an integral part of the national side for the past five years, emphasizes the need for consistent play, team cohesion, and strategic preparation heading into the tournament.

While winning is desirable, Lowe believes the primary focus should be on establishing a team identity, understanding the system, and developing camaraderie among teammates. As a tough-tackling defender, Lowe has earned 48 appearances for the Reggae Boyz since his debut in 2016. Currently playing in Major League Soccer for the Philadelphia Union, he eagerly

anticipates representing his country in both matches and the upcoming Gold Cup tournament.

Reggae Boyz Head Coach Heimir Hallgrímsson emphasizes that these friendly matches provide an opportunity for players to secure their spots in the Gold Cup squad. While points won’t be awarded in these games, Hallgrímsson believes they are essential for players to showcase their abilities and fight for their positions. The coach expresses optimism about the team’s performance and emphasizes the seriousness with which they approach these matches as their sole preparation for the Gold Cup.

The 2023 Gold Cup, scheduled from June 24th to July 16th, will take place in the United States and Canada. The Jamaican team is determined to make their mark and improve upon their previous achievements in the tournament.

- *Rewritten from the Jamaica Observer*



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Peter A. Webley
Publisher



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