

# Caribbean Today

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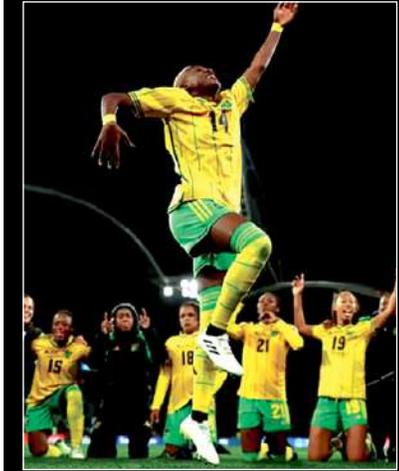
# DATE WITH DESTINY



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

**REGIONAL**

The Barbados-based Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) says that for the next three months, ocean temperatures should remain well above average, continuing to amplify heat stress in the Caribbean.

In its latest edition of the Caribbean Climate Outlooks, CariCOF said that for the period September to November “Pacific and Atlantic Ocean temperatures should remain well above average, continuing to amplify heat stress in the Caribbean through October by increasing temperatures, humidity and heatwave frequency to rival some of the warmest heat seasons on record.”

It said that a moderate to strong El Niño, a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, should dampen rainfall frequency and tropical cyclone intensity in Belize and the islands and lead to more short-term dry spells than usual.

**HAITI**

A tragic incident unfolded in Haiti on August 26th, as a powerful gang controlling a northern suburb of Port-au-Prince, the capital, unleashed machine gun fire on a protest led by a Christian church leader. Reports suggest that at least seven people lost their lives, with many more wounded and some churchgoers even abducted during the demonstration aimed at purging the community of gang presence. CARDH, a Haitian rights group, anticipates a higher death toll, while local media reports claim around 10 participants were killed. The incident highlights the escalating influence of gangs since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, with some estimates suggesting they control up to 80% of the capital.

The news comes as a 10-member Kenyan delegation held talks with the Haitian government as well as the High Council of Transition, (HCT), as efforts continue for the East African country to lead a multi-national force to help the Haitian National Police, (HNP)

in their bid to restore peace and security in the French-speaking Caribbean Community, (CARICOM) country.

The Kenyan delegation has assured the government that it understands the Haitian demands and the urgent need to put an end to a situation which is paralyzing the functioning of the country and putting the future of its citizens in danger.

**BELIZE**

Belize opposition Leader, Shyne Barrow, has described as a “farce” the decision by Prime Minister John Briceño to allow his embattled Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, Andre Perez, to proceed on leave while an investigation will be conducted into the recent allegations against him.

Barrow has questioned why the Belize Police Department has not launched a criminal investigation into the matter instead of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, who according to a government statement “will advise the Prime Minister on whether there has been any actionable wrongdoing” by the minister.

Barrow has also questioned why the Belize Police Department has not launched a criminal investigation into the matter instead of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, who according to a government statement “will advise the Prime Minister on whether there has been any actionable wrongdoing” by the minister.

Perez, the Rural South Area representative is embroiled in a sex scandal involving a female attorney who has made allegations against the minister with whom she allegedly had an affair. A demand is being made for a criminal investigation to be launched, given the graphic descriptions shared by the attorney in her account of what purportedly took place involving Perez.

The government statement said that the “Cabinet is confident that Minister Perez



A screenshot from a video from a Haitian church in Port-Au-Prince shows the church-led protestors marching against gang violence before gangsters opened fire on them, killing at least seven.

remains committed to and will continue to serve the interests of his constituents in Belize Rural South” and that “in the meantime, the Cabinet respects Minister Perez’s privacy as he and his family work through this difficult situation.”

**JAMAICA**

The Jamaica government says male Rastafarian students will no longer be required to wear tams to cover their dreadlocks while in classes.

Education Minister Fayval Williams, addressing the 59th annual conference of the Jamaica Teachers Association, (JTA), said the measure would most likely go into effect this new academic term. “There have been a few times that I’ve gone to schools, and I see boys, maybe not more than one or two in a particular school, wearing tams to school to cover their locks. This is 2023 we really, really should not be doing that anymore. We need to respect other people’s religion,” Williams said.

**BARBADOS**

University lecturer, Dr Ronnie Yearwood, has been re-elected to the presidency of the main opposition Democratic Labour Party, (DLP). “It’s a time that we just go forward in unity, as a party we have to put aside whatever differences and disputes [we have], and unify,” he said.

The DLP had suffered two

whitewashes in the last general elections, failing to win a seat in the 30-member Parliament and Yearwood acknowledged that while “this party as battered and as bruised as it is, this party has to stand up for the people of Barbados.”

**CAYMAN ISLANDS**

The United Kingdom’s Cabinet office has confirmed that veteran Cayman parliamentarian, McKeeva Bush, has lost the title Order of the British Empire, (OBE), based on his criminal conviction for assaulting a bar manager in February 2020.

According to the UK Cabinet office’s newly published list of honors that have been revoked by the Sovereign, Bush forfeited his royal medal following his criminal conviction.

However, Bush, in a post on social media, claimed that he made the decision to give up the OBE that he has held for 26 years because times had changed. He claimed he had formally written to the responsible bodies in the United Kingdom to return the royal title.

But the list from the Cabinet office clearly states that the honor was revoked because of criminal offences and not because of Bush’s change of heart over the medal’s connection to the British Empire and the negative legacy of Cayman’s colonial masters.



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# Jamaican Immigrant Judge's Date With Destiny And The Donald



Jamaican Judge Tanya Chutkan is set to make history as an immigrant and Caribbean national overseeing Donald Trump's criminal trial.

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL  
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

With just over one year before the US presidential election, Jamaican-born Judge Tanya Chutkan has emerged as a key player in that race, even though she is not on the ballot.

A United States district judge for the District of Columbia since 2014, the Caribbean immigrant judge has a date with destiny and Donald Trump come March 4, 2024.

Judge Chutkan, who has shot to international fame after being picked to oversee the election conspiracy case against the former president, has gotten high praise for her fairness in upholding the law from her aunt and a fellow alumnus.

Jean Barnes, Chutkan's aunt and mother of John Barnes, the former Liverpool and England soccer star, insists her niece will be balanced when the Trump case is called up.

"I think that she's an excellent choice; I think the case is in the very best of hands. She's a determined person, she knows our own mind, and above all, I think she's really fair," Barnes told the Jamaica Observer newspaper in July, shortly after her appointment was announced.

Michelle Morris-Penn, a past student of St. Andrew High and spokesperson for the school's Florida chapter, hailed Chutkan in an interview with Caribbean Today.

"The St. Andrew High School Old Girls Association is very proud of the achievements of Judge Tanya Chutkan, and we know she will carry out her duties with integrity, following the law," said Morris-Penn.

Chutkan, who has been the toughest judge in cases against rioters in the January 6, 2021, insurrection in the US capital, was randomly assigned the Trump case in July. Her appointment came after a grand jury charged Trump with four counts to subvert the 2020 presidential election which he lost to Biden.

The 61-year-old Chutkan's no-nonsense rulings against insurrectionists has earned plaudits from liberals and criticism from conservatives. Trump wailed against her appointment on his Truth Social

platform, writing: "THERE IS NO WAY I CAN GET A FAIR TRIAL WITH THE JUDGE 'ASSIGNED' TO THE RIDICULOUS FREEDOM OF SPEECH/FAIR ELECTIONS CASE. EVERYBODY KNOWS THIS, AND SO DOES SHE!"

In a court filing, Chutkan warned Trump's attorneys: "I caution you and your client to

take special care in your public statements in this case. I will take whatever measures are necessary to protect the integrity of these proceedings."

Not everyone agrees. On August 5th, a Texas woman named Abigail Jo Shry allegedly phoned the court in Washington DC and used a racial slur ("stupid slave nigger") in a

message meant for Chutkan.

Shry, 43, allegedly said: "You are in our sights, we want to kill you. If Trump doesn't get elected in 2024, we are coming to kill you." She was visited at her home in Alvin, Texas by Federal law enforcement and subsequently ordered jailed in Houston court without bond for 30 days.

## EARLY LIFE

Born in Kingston, Jamaica's capital, Chutkan attended St. Andrew High School, a leading institution for middle-class girls. Her father Winston, a physician, is of East Indian heritage while her mother Noelle is black and an original member

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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# Dominica To Get First Female And Indigenous Head Of State

Dominica is poised to make history by electing its first-ever female head of state. The island's Parliament is scheduled to convene on September 12th to select a replacement for outgoing President Charles Savarin, whose 10-year term concludes in October.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit outlined the constitutional provision for consultation between the head of government and the Opposition Leader in the candidate selection process. He announced Sylvanie Burton, a member of the island's indigenous community, as the

government's nominee for the position. If appointed, Burton will become the 11th head of state since Dominica gained political independence from Britain on November 3, 1978.

Skerrit's Dominica Labour Party, (DLP), holds a significant majority in the 21-member Parliament, making it likely that the government's nominee will secure election.

While the preference is for a joint nominee, Skerrit emphasized that the process will proceed regardless. He expressed anticipation for the Opposition Leader's response and willingness to sign the joint letter to the Speaker.

Sylvanie Burton, 58, hails from the Kaliango Territory,



Sylvanie Burton is set to become the first female and indigenous head of state in Dominica.

home to the Carib descendants. She has served as a senior public servant since 2014 and currently holds the position of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment,

Rural Modernization, Kalinago Upliftment, and Constituency Empowerment. Burton brings extensive experience, having been a Justice of the Peace for 25 years. She holds a Master's Degree in Project Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Rural Development.

In addition to her professional achievements, Burton is a married mother of two. Her nomination marks a significant milestone as she would become Dominica's first female and first indigenous president, as highlighted by Prime Minister Skerrit.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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# CARICOM Leaders To Meet On Haiti This Week

Leaders of the Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), are scheduled to convene on Wednesday, September 6th, for discussions on the ongoing social and political crisis in Haiti, as announced by CARICOM Chairman and Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerrit.

During a press conference, Skerrit outlined that the virtual meeting of CARICOM heads will primarily address the situation in Haiti, in addition to addressing climate change concerns.

Skerrit noted that the United Nations Security Council had tasked Secretary General Antonio Guterres with proposing actions and support needed to restore security and normalcy in Haiti. CARICOM had previously established an Eminent Persons Group, (EPG), led by Dr. Kenny Anthony of St. Lucia, to engage with various stakeholders and coordinate efforts to support Haiti.

Skerrit highlighted CARICOM's crucial role in coordinating global efforts to provide Haiti with necessary support and reported Kenya's commitment to sending troops and police officers to assist in restoring order.

UN Secretary General Guterres presented two potential options to the Security Council, focusing on logistical support to a multinational force and strengthening a UN political mission in Haiti.

CARICOM countries such as the Bahamas and Jamaica, along with the United States, have expressed willingness to provide personnel, and Kenya has offered to deploy 1,000 police officers to assist in training and restoring normalcy.

Skerrit emphasized that the Haitian situation remains a top priority for CARICOM and expressed the need for collective commitment and support from the entire Caribbean Community. He cautioned against any sign



Men run next to burning tires during a protest demanding an end to gang violence, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, August 14, 2023. (REUTERS/Ralph Tedy Erol/File Photo)

of "Haiti fatigue" and assured the public that outcomes of the discussions would be shared.

Skerrit also highlighted that climate change remains a fixed agenda item for CARICOM, emphasizing the importance of engagement among regional leaders on this critical issue.

## US

The meeting comes as the US State Department on August 30th urged all U.S. citizens to leave Haiti, strengthening previous warnings over safety concerns in the country.

"Given the current security situation and infrastructure challenges, U.S. citizens in Haiti should depart Haiti as soon as possible via commercial or private transport," the Department said.

Conditions in the Caribbean country, and especially its capital Port-au-Prince, have deteriorated dramatically in recent months. The U.S. Embassy was briefly closed earlier this month among widespread gang violence and gunfire in the city's streets.

In late July, an American nurse and her daughter were kidnapped and held for ransom by a gang in the country. She was returned to safety about two

weeks later.

The State Department first issued a "do not travel" notice for Haiti in late July, noting the risk of kidnappings. Non-emergency embassy personnel were also asked to leave the country.

Gang violence in Haiti increased by 28 percent in the first quarter of 2023, and the senior U.N. representative in Port-au-Prince told the U.N. Security Council earlier this year that in 2022, "gang violence overall reached levels not seen in decades."

The sharp increase in gang activity began following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, and it has continued to expand since then.

The violence has caused at least 165,000 Haitians to flee their homes, mostly to temporary shelters.

The U.S. has backed a United Nations plan for a multinational police force in the country, led by Kenya. That force would focus on combating gang violence, mostly in Port-au-Prince.

- *Rewritten from CMC and The Hill*



# Family Of Former British Prime Minister William Gladstone Apologizes For Slavery

The family of former British Prime Minister William Gladstone has issued an apology for their ancestral involvement in slavery in Guyana. This comes in response to calls for reparations from descendants of slaves.

John Gladstone, William's father, was a prominent slaveholder in the British-colonized Caribbean territories. He is also believed to have owned ships that transported Asians from India and other places to work as indentured laborers after slavery's abolition in 1834.

Charles Gladstone, William's great-great grandson, expressed deep regret and shame

for their ancestor's role in this crime against humanity. He conveyed the apology during the launch of the University of Guyana's International Centre for the Study of Migration and Diaspora. Charles acknowledged the ongoing impact of slavery and urged other descendants of beneficiaries of slavery to engage in conversations about their ancestors' actions and their responsibility for a better future.

While the apology was welcomed by some, several Guyanese descendants of African slaves present at the event rejected it as insufficient, emphasizing the importance of

reparations.

The Gladstone family also apologized for their involvement in indentureship, a system that bound workers to employers. The family pledged support for the new university department and called on the United Kingdom to engage in discussions with the Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), about reparations.

CARICOM seeks not only a formal apology but also repatriation rights for descendants of enslaved individuals, debt cancellation, development programs for Indigenous communities, and funding for cultural institutions such as slavery museums.

Guyana's President Irfaan Ali joined the conversation by suggesting that descendants of European slave traders should offer reparations to today's generations. He also proposed



Descendants of slaves in Guyana protesting amid The Gladstone family apology during the launch of the University of Guyana's International Centre for the Study of Migration and Diaspora. (AFP image)

posthumously charging those involved in the slave trade for crimes against humanity.

CARICOM Reparations Commission member Eric Phillips estimated that the descendants of Africans in Guyana are owed over \$1.2

trillion by Britain, though Charles Gladstone cautioned against focusing solely on the monetary aspect of reparations.

- *Rewritten from Al Jazeera*



## Jamaican Immigrant Judge's Date With Destiny And The Donald

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

of the National Dance Theatre Company, a creative dance group founded by Rex Nettleford.

Noelle Chutkan's father is Frank Hill, a politician and co-founder of the People's National Party (PNP). His older brother, Ken Hill, was a journalist and senior member of the PNP.

At St Andrew High School, Chutkan was in the 'most likely to succeed' bracket. She came to the US for college and attended George Washington University. She then went to law school and received her JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

She spent more than a decade as a public defender in Washington, D.C. She later worked for the law firm Boies Schiller & Flexner before being confirmed as a federal trial judge in Washington in 2014.

Chutkan was appointed to her current post in 2014 by President Barack Obama. She previously worked as a public defender for over 10 years in DC, presiding over mainly felony cases. Last December, she handed down the harshest sentence to Robert Palmer, a Florida man who sprayed Capital police with a fire extinguisher during the insurrection.

Judge Chutkan sentenced him to 63-months in prison and stated: "You have made a very good point that the people who exhorted you and encouraged you and rallied you to go and take action and to fight have not been charged," she told Palmer. "The issue of who has or has not been charged is not before me. I don't have any influence on that. I have my opinions, but they are not relevant."

"The people who planned this and funded it and encouraged it haven't been charged, but that's not a reason for you to get a lower sentence," she said. "I have to make it clear



The now infamous mug shot of Donald Trump, the 45th president of the United States, taken at the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 24, 2023.

that the actions you engaged in cannot happen again. Every day we're hearing about reports of antidemocratic factions of people plotting violence, the potential threat of violence, in 2024."

Chutkan has also alluded more specifically to Trump in other Jan. 6 sentences, including her first - to misdemeanor defendant Carl Mazzocco, who she said "went to the Capitol in support of one man, not in support of our country."

At time of writing, Trump had chalked up 91 charges in cases in Washington DC, New York, Florida and Georgia, which released his mug shot, the first state to do so.

Barnes is well aware of her famous niece's date with destiny.

"Whether Mr. Trump goes free or whether he is convicted, he's going to go down in history because it's the first time a US president has ever been charged criminally and she would be the first judge ever to try such a person. So, the whole thing is historic. Regardless of what the outcome is, she's going to go down in history," she said.

Judge Chutkan herself has given some insight on her fairness in upholding the law based on her 2-year-old ruling: "Presidents are not kings, and Plaintiff is not President."



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# St. Vincent PM Urges US To End Exclusion Of Caribbean And Latin American



St. Vincent & the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves addressing the Permanent Council of the Organisation of American States. (OAS image)

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, is calling on the US to move beyond exclusionary attitudes and let go of outdated ideologies.

In an address at a recent session of the Permanent Council of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington, Gonsalves emphasized the need for open discussions on crucial matters between the United States and the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean, (CELAC).

Gonsalves pointed out that during the Summit of the

Americas, certain vital issues were not adequately addressed due to the exclusion of countries like Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua. He emphasized that it is time to initiate conversations and suggested that discussions could begin with topics of shared importance, such as migration.

The Prime Minister highlighted the necessity of involving countries like Cuba,

Venezuela, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Honduras in conversations about migration. He criticized the United States for what he termed an "infantile" approach of excluding certain Caribbean and Latin American nations from regional and hemispheric talks and called for engagements that are free from preconditions, unilateral sanctions, and impositions, advocating for a practical and mature approach that prioritizes peace, security, and prosperity.

Gonsalves also expressed the need to rejuvenate a spirit of unity, integration, and

international solidarity among the countries of the Americas and emphasized the importance of multilateralism, international law, and cooperation while

criticizing the hypocrisy of great powers and their pursuit of dominance. He concluded by highlighting that societies built solely on individualism are

unsustainable.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



# Grenada PM Renews Call For UK Apology For Slavery

Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell has once again urged the United Kingdom to issue an apology for the historical slavery in the Caribbean and its former colonies, as well as to provide reparations.

Speaking in an interview with the UK magazine, *The Independent*, Mitchell criticized Britain for its failure to apologize for its role in capturing and enslaving African people. He argued that the absence of remorse sends a negative message and undermines the values of justice, fairness, democracy, and equal treatment of all human beings.

Mitchell emphasized that if the UK truly stands for these values, it should openly apologize for its historical involvement in slavery. Despite repeated appeals from various prime ministers of former colonies, neither King Charles, the British Monarch, nor Rishi Sunak, the British Prime



Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell wants an apology from the UK over slavery.

Minister, have offered apologies or committed to reparations. Sunak's response was that attempting to revisit history is not the appropriate approach, while King Charles spoke of his "sorrow" and deepened "understanding" of slavery.

Mitchell expressed that reluctance or refusal to acknowledge the past sends a contrary message. He stressed that, as a former colony of the UK, Grenada recognizes the legacy issues it grapples with and views an apology as a fundamental gesture.

While Mitchell believes it's crucial to strengthen relations with Britain, he emphasized that former colonies must be treated as equals by the colonizing country. He condemned a recent statement from a British Foreign Office minister that acknowledged Britain's role in enabling the slave trade, while also noting its role in ending it. Mitchell characterized this response as attempting to whitewash the past, stating that acknowledging a wrong was committed is essential.

Mitchell's call for reparations and an apology coincides with the decision of numerous Caribbean nations, former British colonies, to consider becoming republics and severing ties with the monarchy. While Mitchell expressed his hope that Grenada might follow suit, he stressed the importance of gaining broad societal support for such a move to avoid it being exploited for political purposes.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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# Countdown Begins To Miami Carnival 2023

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

At 39 years-old, the Miami Carnival is the granddaddy of live West Indian entertainment in South Florida. This year, it runs from September 30-October 8, with most of the activities taking place over the Columbus Day Weekend - October 6th - 8th.

The party starts with the Junior Carnival, which takes place at Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill. Activities culminate with a parade and concert at Carnival Village in Miami, Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc., 10901 SW 24th St, Miami, FL.

There is also Panorama, set for October 6th, and the ever-popular Jouvart, set this year for October 7th. Both take place at the Carnival Village.

John G. Beckford, chief marketing officer for Miami Carnival, says rigid planning by he and his colleagues is largely responsible for the event's longevity. That, and the creativity of designers and soca artists who consistently draw diverse throngs.

"The bands have unveiled some of the most exotic and unique costumes for 2023! Revelers are sure to enjoy the wide selection of mas bands and sections to choose from," Beckford told Caribbean Today



Flashback – Miami Carnival 2022 as the countdown begins to 2023.

recently. "Then for our concert, the headliner (this year) is the reigning T&T Road March winner Bunji Garlin, with Fay-Ann Lyons and the Viking Band, Olatunji, Skinny Fabulous, Jadel, Pumpa, Julien Believe, and many more to be added."

Unlike many live shows that took two or three years off due to COVID-19, Miami Carnival was back on the road in 2021, after a one-year break because of the pandemic. Beckford reports that 2019 was a "record-breaking

year" and promoters were looking forward to following-up with a bumper 2020.

The specter of COVID prevented that, but last year saw another strong showing. Despite the enthusiastic response from fans and corporate partners, Beckford admits not everything is rosy.

"Getting sponsors is always challenging, especially for a week-long event like Miami Carnival," he told CT. "Sometimes it takes years to

land a sponsor as there is a process to build and nurture business relationships, earn trust, and transition to a strategic partnership. So many things have changed since COVID - people get their information differently, social habits have been adjusted, socio-economic dynamics were adversely affected, and some of that translates to fewer people playing mas or coming out to spectate."

Beckford, who is Jamaican, has been with the Miami

Carnival since its inception in 1984. Initially, he was a fan but has been the event's marketing man for the past 24 years.

He disclosed that the main source of revenue to produce the annual spectacle comes from ticket sales, costume registration, sponsorship and grants. Getting marquee soca acts such as Alison Hinds, Machel Montano, Kes The Band and Bunji Garlin have also helped bring out fans who are mainly West Indians who live in South Florida.

Miami Carnival has not reached the magnitude of Caribana in Toronto or the West Indian Day Parade in New York City, but Beckford believes it has earned the respect of its Caribbean brethren.

"One of the key elements that keeps Miami Carnival as a trending brand is our year-round marketing and advertising, not just locally or via our social media footprint, but also as a result of our destination marketing campaign," he told CT. "Each year, we take a small marketing team to other carnival destinations. While there, we go on a media blitz and pop in on radio and TV to promote Miami Carnival and the destination... Miami and Fort Lauderdale are two great destinations that our carnival visitors come back to after the carnival."



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# Caribbean Mother-Daughter Duo Soar Into Space History

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

August 10, 2023, will be an indelible memory for Keisha Schahaff. That was the day she flew into space and space history.

Accompanied by her 18-year-old daughter, Anastasia Mayers, she saw the earth from suborbital space on Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity (Galactic 02) space craft. Together they became the first female astronauts from the Caribbean and the first mother-daughter duo from the Caribbean to take that epic journey into the heavens. They are also now in the history books as the most women in space; the most women who have ever gone to space as well as the sixth and seventh Black women to go to space. Mayers is also the youngest person to ever go to space.

This second commercial spaceflight for Virgin Galactic carried three private passengers, including a former Olympian, 80-year-old Jon Goodwin and opened access to ordinary humans with the desire to fly. But, before the historic flight, Caribbean Today caught up with Schahaff, Astronaut 012, to find out how she got on this unforgettable path.

Born, raised, and still resident on the Caribbean island of Antigua, Schahaff, 46, a mother to two daughters and a self-development coach, was always curious about the universe.

"I've always had an interest in space. I was one of those kids who would ask you every question. I needed to know what's our purpose here on this planet. Why are clouds there? Why is Earth there," explained a passionate Schahaff. "I've always felt like there's so much more to know beyond our planet. And for us to understand our existence here on this planet we need to know what more is out there. And I feel that the foundation of life is not what's on earth, but what's beyond."



Keisha Schahaff, (R), and her daughter Anastasia Mayers were welcomed back to Antigua & Barbuda on August 19th by Charles Fernandez, the Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation, and Investment of Antigua and Barbuda, whom they presented with the national flag that had journeyed with them to space.

## CONSPIRED

The proud Antiguan never thought she would ever get the chance to explore her passion for the world beyond planet earth. But the universe conspired to give her that opportunity on a Virgin Atlantic flight from the Caribbean to the United Kingdom in 2021.

On that fateful journey to get to Aberdeen, Scotland, where her daughter Anastasia would be studying at Aberdeen University, an ad came up on her window seat TV screen boldly asking: "Would you like to be an astronaut?"

It was a competition to win two seats on Virgin Galactic's commercial spacecraft. Open to all, it was run by Space for Humanity, a non-profit organization with the commitment to bring diversity to space and science. Almost in a trance, she applied to the draw that raised \$1.7 million for the program, expanding access to space for all humans. Schahaff won those two seats and she choose her daughter Anastasia, (Astronaut 013), who incidentally wants to be an astrobiologist, as her co-astronaut.

"When I say this is beyond

me and bigger than me, it is. All I can do is surrender and show up," Schahaff said, when asked about her reaction to winning the seats.

"My whole life has been an exploration of self," she continued. "And I believe that just as we see the universe as external, it's within us. As a self-development coach, this is what I promote, constantly developing yourself. So, all I can see is that my life has been one of transformation."



Anastasia Mayers in space on August 10, 2023. (Virgin Galactic image)

Schahaff proudly represented her country, the wider Caribbean and all women. She noted: "As women we are so powerful, we are the healers of this planet. If we want our planet to thrive and be successful, then us women we need to step up. We need to heal ourselves. And this journey is one of healing."

## GRATITUDE

So, how did she and Anastasia prepare for this epic flight into space?

"My daughter has such a strong mind and a strong will. But at the end of the day, she's still human, and she's still delicate. It's like in everything there are the two sides. She's watched me from since

she was a little baby, meditating and practicing positive affirmations and gratitude. An awareness of self through meditation, gratitude practice, and affirmations to rewire your mindset. So, I've been preparing for this all my life," Schahaff explained.

In addition, they got support from Virgin Galactic's readiness program, where they learnt about the various steps like, fitness regimen, and the safety procedures of the craft. They are also part of Space for Humanity's leadership and citizen astronauts programme that looks at how they can make an impact at the end of the experience.

Schahaff pointed out that without Virgin Galactic and Space for Humanity, a journey like this would not be possible for the ordinary person like herself. Their vision has opened up space to so many that will allow them to experience the overview effect, seeing the earth and all around it from suborbital space, she added.

Together these organizations are breaking the mold, bringing space encounter to those who never thought it possible. The monumental voyage marked a significant achievement for Virgin Galactic, owned by entrepreneur Richard Branson. After years of rigorous test flights, the company has taken a crucial step toward commercial passenger service, offering a taste of weightlessness to those willing to pay the \$450,000 ticket price.

"If more minds can start coming together like this and expanding like this, then we're really going to another level on our planet," Schahaff added. "This is how we bring unity, because this is something that we're sharing with everybody. And when we have something in common, we can go into peace."

## PERFECT LANDING

After some 90 minutes on board followed by a perfect

landing at Virgin Galactic's New Mexico launch site, the crew emerged changed for the experience.

"I was shocked at the things that you feel. You are so much more connected to everything than you would expect to be. You felt like a part of the team, a part of the ship, a part of the universe, part of earth," said an emotional Anastasia.

"It's one of the most inspiring things that could ever happen. It tells us that we can do anything that we set our minds to, anything that we want we can achieve. And I hope that it's motivation for other young people to dedicate their time and their efforts to reaching their goals," said the youngest person to travel to space.

Her mom's advice? Dream big.

"You will be uncomfortable trying to get to that dream. But this is how we stretch ourselves. You have to go beyond your limits, and that's how you get there. Don't worry about how to get there, the universe will figure that out for you. You just keep taking that step and the next step. You never know how things will align for you, it did for me."



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# Harry Belafonte Gets Posthumous "Key To The City Of New York"

New York City Mayor Eric Adams has posthumously awarded a "Key to the City of New York" to the late legendary Caribbean American performer and civil rights activist, Harry Belafonte, for his decades of entertainment in music, film, theater and television.

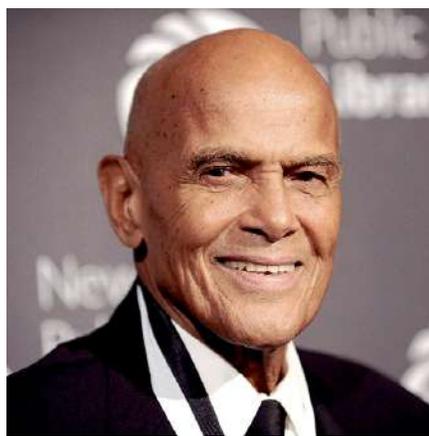
Belafonte was also given the award for his leadership on national civil rights issues, which included playing a major role in the March on Washington nearly 60 years ago. Known as the "King of Calypso," Adams said Belafonte, who died on April 25, 2023, was "a singular, multi-generational, international cultural trailblazer."

"The legacy of Harry Belafonte, from music to movies to civil rights, is unparalleled. He balanced artistry and activism with a voice that pushed through racial boundaries and transcended the confines of the

recording studio," said Mayor Adams. "When daylight comes, and we can all go home, it's because Harry led the way in letting the light shine through. I am honored to present Harry Belafonte, through his family, with a Key to the City of New York."

New York City Public Advocate, Jumaane D. Williams, also honored the late entertainer and civil rights activist with a proclamation as part of the annual Harlem Day celebrations on August 20th. The Public Advocate presented the posthumous award for this artist to his widow, Pamela Belafonte, and family, to recognize both his achievements as an artist and his contributions to the advancement of civil rights across decades.

Born in Harlem, New York



New York City Mayor Eric Adams posthumously awarded a "Key to the City of New York" to the late legendary Caribbean American performer and civil rights activist, Harry Belafonte, who passed away on April 25, 2023. (Getty Image)

as Harold George Bellanfanti Jr. to Jamaican immigrants, Belafonte trained at the American Negro Theatre and would later become one of the few to earn the "EGOT" title, meaning he won Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and

Tony awards.

The "Key to the City of New York" was first awarded in 1702 by New York City Mayor Phillip French, when he offered "Freedom of the City" to Viscount Edward Cornbury, the then-governor of New York and New Jersey.

By the mid-1800s, it became customary to award the "Key to the City of New York" as a direct symbol of the city's wish that a guest feels free to come and go at will.

Adams said that the "Key to the City of New York" is a "beloved symbol of civic recognition and gratitude reserved for individuals whose service to the public and the common good rises to the highest level of achievement."

- Rewritten from CMC



# The Irony Of Donald Trumpeto's Judicial Fate

Donald Trumpeto's xenophobia and sexism is legendary. He kicked off his presidential campaign attacking immigrants and continued that trend throughout his campaign and presidency. But as the legendary saying goes, "Karma is a b\*\*\*h."

Now as Trumpeto battles against three separate federal indictments, the irony of all ironies is that two of the judges chosen to oversee his case are non-other than first generation immigrants.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Be careful what you put out as it will come right back to you says teachers of karma and the law of attraction. Trumpeto has so intently focused on voicing his disdain for immigrants that he has now manifested two immigrant judges, both of whom are women.

'What a thing,' as my Jamaican friends would say. So, let's dig a little deeper into who these judges are who will be hearing the federal cases.

## JUDGE MOXILA A. UPADHYAYA

The first who read from the 45-page indictment presented by special counsel Jack Smith the four criminal offences and the potential maximum jail sentences he might face on August 3rd, was Judge Moxila A. Upadhyaya.

Judge Upadhyaya was born in Gujarat, India, and raised

near Kansas City, Missouri. She received her Bachelor of Journalism, magna cum laude, from the Missouri School of Journalism and Bachelor of Arts, with honors in Latin, from the University of Missouri and received her J.D., cum laude, from the American University, Washington College of Law, where she earned distinction for her trial work representing clients in the Criminal Justice Clinic and was a member of the Administrative Law Review.

After she graduated from law school, Judge Upadhyaya served a two-year term as law clerk to the Honorable Eric T. Washington, former Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals. Judge Upadhyaya then joined Venable LLP's Washington, D.C. office, where she practiced complex commercial and administrative litigation. Judge Upadhyaya left Venable from 2011-2012 to serve as the first law clerk to the Honorable Robert L. Wilkins (currently U.S. Circuit Judge for the D.C. Circuit), during his tenure as a District Judge on this Court.

Judge Upadhyaya rejoined Venable after her clerkship with Judge Wilkins and continued her litigation practice until her appointment to the bench in September 2022. During her time as an associate and ultimately partner at Venable, Judge Upadhyaya devoted her pro bono practice to representing indigent clients in post-conviction proceedings, including representing clients who raised challenges under the D.C.

Innocence Protection Act and the D.C. Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act.

For her work in this capacity, the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project awarded Judge Upadhyaya its Defender of Innocence Award in 2009 and Venable named her Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year in 2006. The case was heard in the court

of District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan on August 28th. She will preside over the eventual trial.

## JUDGE TANYA CHUTKAN

Judge Chutkan is also a first-generation immigrant. She born in Kingston, Jamaica and received her B.A. in Economics from George Washington University and her J.D. from the

University of Pennsylvania Law School. She was also an Associate Editor of the Law Review and a Legal Writing Fellow.

After law school, she worked in private practice for three years, then joined the District of Columbia Public Defender Service ("PDS"), where she worked as a trial attorney and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

# Women, Love, Money



If you notice, I put a comma between the words, women, love and money, just to play it safe. Money doth make the mare run, it takes cash to care; with money all things are possible. The love of money is the root of all evil, the lack of money is the root of all evil. Take your pick, money



TONY ROBINSON

is at the central core of almost everything, good and bad, and so are women.

Women, love, money, a winning combination. So much so that many phrases have been expressed about the female affinity for funds and finances. Some are not too flattering, such as gold digger, money grabber, etc., and others that are really disparaging. But the fact remains that when it comes to money, women's eyes light up and they salivate like Pavlov's dogs.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

## CANNABIS ON CAMPUS

The growing prevalence of marijuana in K-12 schools

Medical cannabis use is legal in Florida, recreational use is not. Yet many forms of the controversial plant are showing up in K-12 schools.

Watch the Conversations on Cannabis live virtual forum to hear school officials and health experts discuss state and national laws regarding legal and illicit cannabis use in and around school environments.

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## Windies Cricket: Will Everything Be Alright?

BY BASIL SPRINGER

Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley recently inspired hope and excitement across the region for the revival of West Indies (WI) cricket during the 22nd Annual Frank Worrell Memorial Lecture.

She challenged Cricket West Indies, (CWI), to engage in disruptive innovation to build on the core pillars of brand, history, culture, unity, talent and may I add, the spirit of the legendary "Fire in Babylon" film.

In any successful WI cricketing resurgence the following are paramount: (1) robust governance (note that under the existing CWI structure many WI cricket fans are disenfranchised, i.e., they are deprived of the right to vote for the CWI leadership); (2) well-being and sustainability of players and staff; (3) enhancing the overall experience for supporters; (4) access to adequate infrastructure and modern technology; and (5) public and private sponsorship.

A significant driving force behind the revival is a thriving marketing strategy to develop sustainable revenue streams in response to the demand for live cricket, global TV audiences, strategic advertising opportunities for countries (tourism linkages) and businesses (products and services), and attractive membership packages for supporters so as to foster deeper engagement of stakeholders with the iconic WI cricket brand.

The revival extends beyond the men's cricket team to encompass all aspects of cricket in the Caribbean. Efforts should be made to promote and develop women's cricket and nurture talent across various age groups.



Brandon King, of the West Indies hits a six during the fifth and final T20I match between the West Indies and India at the Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill, Florida, on August 13, 2023. (Photo: AFP)

With a plethora of formats available, from the traditional Test matches to the shorter white ball games, the WI cricket revival will cater to diverse cricketing preferences, ensuring a vibrant cricketing ecosystem.

To revive the WI cricketing legacy, a strong emphasis needs to be placed on training across various dimensions. Mental conditioning helps players overcome challenges and perform consistently at the highest level. Physical training enhances fitness, agility, and endurance, enabling players to endure the gruelling cricketing calendar. And honing cricketing skills embraces excellence and ensures the team's competitiveness against the world's best.

Test cricket began in England in 1877. My grandparents were born around that time. The WI men's team's first international test series was in 1928. WI first beat the mother country in Tests (3-1; with no matches drawn) in 1950.

Starting in 1980, the WI team produced a staggering 15-year period of unrivalled Test success, where they went unbeaten in 29 series – winning 20 and drawing nine. Between 1982 and 1986, they were good enough to reel off seven straight series victories. The WI cricket brand was stellar.

Since then, there has been a steady decline culminating with the devastating reality that the WI team, two-time champions in 1975 and 1979 and finalists in 1983, did not qualify for the 2023 ODI World Cup for the first time in the history of the tournament and is struggling in all formats of the game.

PM Mottley stated that she could not snap her fingers and say like Bob Marley, "everything's going to be alright. Wishing and wanting will not be enough, what is needed is a change by CWI in the governance model."

I support PM Mottley's call. There are six territorial organizations which constitute

CWI, associated with Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad & Tobago and the Windward Islands. The Barbados Cricket Association is an entity set up by an Act of Parliament in 1933 to administer cricket in Barbados. These six organizations need to be replaced by an "International CWI Club", say, to administer cricket in the Caribbean.

The logical next step is for CWI to meet with the CARICOM

Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket to prepare a scope of work and hire an appropriate team of West Indian organizational change

consultants (from home and abroad) to design and implement a WI cricket revival strategy. It's time to change our strategy in order for everything to be alright.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Springer is a Director of the New Jersey based Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Tourism (CMEx), which has hosted many international events as well as Marketplace Excellence (MPE) - a Public Relations, Marketing and Media Company. He is also the Chairman of Global Business Innovation Corporation (New Jersey), which launched the Caribbean Food Business Innovation Revolution initiative in Trinidad in January 2015.**

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Women, Love, Money

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Pavlov's dogs - animals that develop a conditioned reflex and respond to a stimulus such as a bell ringing right before they are fed. After a while, they associate the bell ringing with food, so as soon as they hear a bell, they jump up and down in a feeding frenzy, even if no food is presented. A conditioned reflex.

Are women like that? Does the very hint, suggestion, mention or promise of money make them jump up and down in a frenzy and salivate in anticipation of being romanced?

I know that I'm in trouble now, but what I'm saying is not new, but has been expressed by many long before I even existed. Recently, while channel surfing, I came across the game show, 'Family Feud,' with Steve Harvey. One question was put forward: "We asked a hundred men, what do women love the most apart from men?" Well, the number one answer was money. And even though the poll was not scientific, it summed up and gave a general view of the sentiments, perception and reality that women love money.

Now of course not every single woman in the world loves men with money or are money grabbing gold diggers who set out to relieve men of their hard-earned cash, but many are. Some aren't though and rely on their own resources to fend for themselves without the assistance of men. Single mothers fall into this category.

That's because they are resilient, independent, and resourceful. But that's not to say that they wouldn't choose a man with money over a man who has none.

I'm yet to hear a woman say: "I don't want you because you have too much money."

I put it to those women - if you had a choice of marrying a handsome man who is dirt poor and homeless, or a dumpy, wrinkly ugly old man who is as wealthy as a sheik and lives in a mansion, who would you choose? Who would you prefer that your daughter marry - the vendor on the street or the doctor or lawyer, even though the vendor is a nice decent young man who looks like a model?

Money is a means to independence, money is a way out, money is a tool for survival, and some women use their assets to achieve all that. Some may go to the extreme and are downright vulgar with their behavior, like those young women who target those old wealthy men to marry them.

And who says that it's negative? For if those old guys want to splash their cash on the young lass, then that's their call, nobody forced them to do it. Who says that money can't buy love? Well, it buys something, even the semblance of love.

"I know that I'm 80 years old and she's 24, but I know that she loves me."

"I love him for who he is, not for his money."

So maybe all men are dogs (Pavlov's) and women love men with money. Maybe that's why they say that a dog is man's best friend, but diamonds are a girl's best friend.

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



## The Irony Of Donald Trumpeto's Judicial Fate

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

supervisor. During her tenure at PDS, she argued several appellate cases and tried over 30 cases, including numerous serious felony matters. Eleven years later, she left PDS to join Boies, Schiller, & Flexner LLP, where she specialized in litigation and white-collar criminal defense. During her 12 years at the firm, her clients included antitrust class action plaintiffs, as well as individual and corporate defendants involved in complex state and federal litigation.

From 1996 – 2000 Judge Chutkan was a member of the Steering Committee for the Criminal Law and Individual Rights Section of the District of Columbia Bar. She is a frequent lecturer on trial techniques, and she has served as a faculty member at the Harvard

Law School Trial Advocacy Workshop. Judge Chutkan was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in June 2014 by former President Barack Obama.

She has already dealt Trumpeto one of the most significant legal blows of his lifetime, triggering perhaps the greatest deluge of evidence about his bid to subvert the 2020 election - a scheme for which he now stands charged with serious crimes.

It was Judge Chutkan who ruled in fall 2021 that the House Jan. 6th select committee could access reams of Trump's White House files - a ruling that was subsequently upheld by an appeals court and left undisturbed by the Supreme Court.

She has also delivered some of the harshest sentences to Jan. 6 defendants and made her disgust and horror over the attack

clear, lamenting the prospect of renewed political violence in 2024, and noting that no one accused of orchestrating the effort to subvert the election had been held accountable.

"You have made a very good point," she told Jan. 6 rioter Robert Palmer at his December 2021 sentencing, "that the people who exhorted you and encouraged you and rallied you to go and take action and to fight have not been charged."

Judge Chutkan, 61, was randomly selected to preside over Trump's latest criminal case, his fourth in the last four months. Oh, the irony! Or is it simply KARMA?

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



## Prominent Trinidad & Tobagonian Singer Dead At 69

The Trinbago Unified Calypsonians' Organisation is among those mourning the death of prominent Trinidad and Tobago calypsonian and gospel artiste, Denyse Burnadette Kirline Plummer.

Plummer, 69, passed away on Sunday August 27th after a long battle with cancer. She left an indelible mark on Trinidad and Tobago's musical landscape. In a heartfelt Facebook post, the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians' Organisation acknowledged that Plummer's legacy has become an integral part of the nation's musical heritage.

"Her remarkable journey, starting from her early days singing in the choirs of Holy Name Convent, and culminating in her ascent to the zenith of the calypso realm, stands as a truly inspiring testament to her unwavering dedication and perseverance," the post read. The organization further highlighted that Plummer shattered norms and cleared a path for female calypsonians, breaking through barriers that once stood in their way.

T&T's Culture and Arts Minister Randall Mitchell, says

Trinidad and Tobago has lost an "an important cultural giant" as the country continues to mourn the death of the 69-year-old singer and performer.

### ABOUT PLUMMER

Born in 1953 to a middle-class family in Saint James, Denyse Plummer's heritage was a mix of white Trinidadian from her father, Dudley "Buntin" Plummer, and light-skinned Afro-Trinidadian from her mother, Joan Plummer. Her father was a member of the folk band Le Petite Musicale, playing guitar. Plummer attended Holy Name Preparatory and Holy Name Convent in Port of Spain, where her musical talents emerged. She sang in the folk choir and won several youth music competitions.

Plummer initially held various white-collar jobs, including working as a computer operator at Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company, until her mid-thirties. She began performing pop music at local bars and hotels in Trinidad and Tobago during the evenings. Eventually, she transitioned to pursuing music full time,



Denyse Plummer made her debut in 1986 at Calypso Fiesta, the National Calypso Monarch semi-finals, but on that day, the audience who disapproved of the mixed-race singer threw oranges and rolls of toilet paper at her.

recording pop songs between 1977 and 1983.

In 1985, she was invited by Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, Phase II Pan Groove steel band arranger, to sing two calypso songs. Despite initial doubts, Plummer embraced the opportunity and made her entry into the world of

calypso. She joined Superblue's calypso tent and qualified for the Calypso Monarch competition. Her official calypso career commenced in 1986 at the Calypso Fiesta, where she faced opposition from some attendees due to her multiracial background. She persevered

through adversity, using her performance to win over sceptics by humorously incorporating thrown objects into her act. Plummer's career continued to flourish, marked by winning the NWAC Calypso Queen crown in 1988 with "Woman Is Boss" and earning eight Calypso Queen titles overall. She was known for her lavish costumes, often designed by mas artists like Peter Minshall, and her distinctive hair accessories.

She ventured into the Chutney Soca Monarch competition in 1998 with "Carnival Queen." Plummer achieved recognition for addressing societal issues through her calypso, including her 2001 hit "Nah Leaving," co-authored with Christophe Grant, which highlighted concerns like racism and violence.

In 2015, Plummer announced her conversion to Christianity, signaling a shift in her musical focus to gospel-themed performances. Despite her transition, her legacy as a multitalented performer remains, spanning calypso, chutney soca, and her impactful embrace of gospel music.



## Queen Ifria Threatened With Lawsuit Over Claims She Was Raped By Father

Ska singer Derrick Morgan has announced his intention to take legal action against his daughter, Queen Ifria, for her accusation of rape against him. The 83-year-old singer shared this decision in a post on Instagram over the weekend.

In his Instagram post, he referred to Queen Ifria as "Queen I Freak Ya" and labelled her accusations as lies. He emphasized that his legal team is actively addressing the matter.

Queen Ifria, in her account, mentioned having a distant relationship with her father due to her mother's influence but later reaching out to him as an adult. She alleged that he raped her during a stay at his Kingston residence, an experience that inspired her advocacy for survivors of domestic abuse. She revealed that this incident also influenced her 2009 song "Daddy," which addresses incest.

Morgan responded by sharing a video from a 2017 interview where Queen Ifria discussed the inspiration behind the song. He pointed out her evolving narrative from her earlier claims.

Merrick, Morgan's son, also came to his father's defence, stating that he is seeking legal



Queen Ifria (left) and Derrick Morgan

counsel in response to Queen Ifria's claim that he too was a victim of rape by a family member.

Despite the controversy, Queen Ifria has received support from her fans and peers in the entertainment industry. Tanya Stephens, a fellow artist and survivor of sexual abuse, challenged Morgan's son's assertion that being molested makes someone "classless." Producer Skatta Burrell praised Queen Ifria for her courage in speaking out and commended her bravery.

Numerous entertainers including Blvk H3ro, Turtleman, ZJ Sparks, as well as creative director Bling Blang and TV personality Saudicka Diaram, sent messages of support and encouragement to Queen Ifria via comments on her post.

- *Rewritten from Dancehallmag.com*



## From Jamaica To Texas' Country Music Scene ~ This Is Wesrok

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

In a country world-famous for reggae and Rastafarian artists, Jamaica has a long affinity for American country music. It's not strange to hear songs by Marty Robbins, Kenny Rogers, Shania Twain or LeAnn Rimes on the airwaves.

But Jamaica has never produced a serious country artist until Wesrok, a singer whose blend of reggae and country, is catching on in his homeland. A former policeman, Wesrok performed at shows in Texas and Maryland in August and July. He was promoting 'Perfectly Imperfect,' his latest song, as well as trying to break his unique hybrid outside of Jamaica.

"Performing in Texas is a dream come true. I grew up on country music so to perform in a state that loves country music is special to me. Especially knowing that I am blending country music with reggae," said Wesrok, who has shows scheduled for the United Kingdom later this year.

The shows in Texas took place in Dallas and Houston, major markets for country music. That is also where some of Wesrok's heroes, including Kenny Rogers, are from.

Born Percival Buddan, Wesrok is from a family of East Indian heritage. He was raised in Bog Walk, a misty area in rural



Jamaica's Country Music Singer Wesrok with fans in Texas. (Contributed image)

St. Catherine parish known for its bountiful citrus production.

While in the Jamaica Constabulary Force, he developed a love for country music. The trailblazing Charley Pride, Jim Reeves, Skeeter Davis and Marty Robbins were some of his favorite acts, but it was not until he left law enforcement that Percival Buddan took the plunge and became a singer.

That took place three years ago when he debuted as Wesrok, with 'Looking Back,' and 'Poor

Country Boy.' His EP, 'Look At Me Now,' was released in early 2021.

Wesrok portrays the image associated with country acts, wearing cowboy hats and wielding an acoustic guitar. He has also collaborated with high-riding dancehall acts such as Masicca, on the song, 'Try to Hold Me,' and performed on the 2022 Reggae Sumfest in Montego Bay.



## David Katz - A Journey Into Reggae

BY DAWN D. DAVIS

The bass line reverberates off the walls in the low-lit room. The music blares from the large speakers positioned at the corners of the ceiling. The wide glass doors to the balcony are flung wide open to let in some cool breeze. The crowd sways almost in unison to the sweet sounds of roots reggae music.

This is 'Dub Me Always' brought to you by David Katz every second Wednesday in the heart of Brixton, UK, at the well-known Ritzy Cinema, one of the oldest surviving cinemas in the UK. It's music from the 60s, 70s, 80s, original soundtracks on vinyl from a sound system collection.

Katz invites selectors from across the UK, and Jamaica, to play their valuable records as well as adding his own dub 'voice' from his personal stock.

Brixton, known for the race uprisings in the 1980s, is now one of the trendiest places in South London. And, although the area's residential mix has changed somewhat, it still has a very healthy Caribbean presence and flavor. So, 'Dub Me Always' Upstairs at the Ritzy feels just right.

"I remember going there one night, because it's right there in the heart and soul of Brixton. It's a community space. I saw a woman spinning these records and I thought, hmm, I could do a reggae night here," Katz recalled in conversation with Caribbean Today. "So I approached the music manager about doing a reggae night and he said, Yes. That was back in 2004."

### EMERSION

Now almost 20 years at the Ritzy, Katz, who is of Jewish heritage, reflected on his journey into reggae music. The American-born author, documentary radio and film producer, and music journalist was surrounded by music from very early in life.

He grew up in a small town just north of San Francisco in a household where his mother's love of western classical music and opera, and his father's great jazz collection filled the house with continuous music. It is that emersion that would eventually bring him to the music born in Jamaica.

"One of my father's prized possessions as a teenager was a Billie Holiday 78 record. He also listened to the jazz station 24/7. He had Lead Belly's 10-inch records," Katz said with pride. "I also remember him bringing home Beatles records, The Doors first album, Santana's first album. And my mother had Calypso records, which I still have."

During his teen years Katz would frequent music events at a local concert hall in the little town of San Rafael where he grew up. He enjoyed classics, jazz, opera, and East Indian music. But his reggae journey truly began through the only radio station in town, KTIM, that featured a two-hour radio show called 'Midnight Dread,' hosted by Doug Wendt every Sunday night.

Wendt was a frequent traveler to Jamaica, and he was a real ambassador for the music and the culture, Katz explained.

He was not just playing commercial reggae as released by Island Records or a major label. He went really deep into the music.

"I remember hearing tracks from a Studio One dub album on his show, Jukes Incorporation. I hear some deep Nyabingi drumming with a little organ in the background and this Holy Mount Zion chant, a guy coming on top with heavy Patwa, and stereophonic panning," said Katz. "So I was just like, What on earth is this music breaking all the rules? I remember in particular, the Revelation Time album Max Romeo released. So, these records had a huge effect on me."

But Katz's profound transformative reggae moment would come in July 1981 when the Jack Ruby Sound System came from Jamaica and performed in San Francisco with the 50,000 Watts of Dub Power tour.

"It just blew my mind to smithereens. I just couldn't understand what I was experiencing. There were these custom handmade wooden speaker boxes of triangular stacks that filled the room with sound with this incredibly warm, rich tone... I remember they were playing, Burning Spear records that I knew from the radio and from the film Rockers, but they sounded nothing like



David Katz delivers 'Dub Me Always' every second Wednesday in the heart of Brixton, UK, at the well-known Ritzy Cinema. (Photo by Etienne Bordet)

that," said an emotional Katz. "They were being torn apart and bass dropping out and bass boosting up, and toasters doing these extemporaneous rhymes, free styling on the spot. It was just incredible."

### SOUTH LONDON

He wanted to learn more about reggae music, so he devoured any books he could find on the subject including Timothy White's 'Catch A Fire, Reggae Bloodlines' and 'Reggae International' by Stephen Davis and Peter Simon. His search would take him to England in 1983, specifically South London where he immersed himself in the vibrant Jamaican community with its lively community reggae music radio stations.

Katz would eventually return home to begin his university education. With reggae now running through his veins, he returned to London to finish his final year of university. Before leaving the US, he began writing about reggae music for a San Francisco-based music magazine called Wiring Department.

It was in this publication where his first article on Lee Scratch Perry appeared. He

used this article to approach Perry upon his return to London in 1986. The musician connected with Katz's work and contracted him to ghost write his autobiography. Although it took many years, the book (People Funny Boy: The Genius of Lee Scratch Perry) was first published in 2000. This solidified Katz's career as an author and reggae music authority.

He writes on music and culture for major publications including The Guardian, The Independent, Caribbean Beat; produces radio and television documentaries; contributes to and writes his own books on reggae music and Caribbean popular culture. In fact, a revised and expanded edition of his book Solid Foundation: An Oral History of Reggae is due out in March 2024. And of course, Dub Me Always gives Katz a chance to play the music he was baptized in back in the 1980s.

King Tubby's UK with Father Cecil & Natty Harvey, Entebbe Sound System, Jah Youth the Roots Ambassador, Dennis Bovell, Gladly Wax, Moa Anbessa, Sir Coxson International is just the tip of the iceberg of sound systems Katz has hosted at Dub Me Always.

Asked about the future of the music he loves so much, Katz noted: "One thing about Jamaican popular music is you can never really predict where it's gonna go. It's constantly reinventing itself. And I think these days, it's not just one music, it's multiple strands at the same time. But one thing's for sure, there's always going to be something interesting coming out of Jamaica. It's an attitude, an approach, a feeling, and a liberty."



## Shaggy Honored At NY Jamaica Independence Gala

Multi-Grammy-winning singer Orville "Shaggy" Burrell recently accepted an award for "being an international cultural icon in reggae music and philanthropy" before a crowd of hundreds at the NYC Hilton hotel for Jamaica's 61 Independence Gala in the Big Apple on August 19th.

Other honorees included Jamaican actress Sheryl Lee Ralph; Assistant Chief of the New York Police Department Ruel Stephenson; Chairman of Pan Jamaica Group Limited, Stephen Facey; board-certified Dermatologist and Medical Director of Ingleton Dermatology, Dr. Rosemarie Ingleton; and Jamaican-born business leader and writer, Dr. Marlon Lindsay.

The Jamaica Independence Gala New York is an annual fundraising event to support charitable causes that have a positive impact on Jamaicans.



Shaggy receiving his award at the Jamaica Independence Gala New York. (Photo Credit: Leonard McKenzie)

This year, the organization aimed to offer financial support to a number of initiatives.

"The goal of the event is to bring together Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica in recognition of the nation's independence, while supporting various causes at home through the generosity of the attendees," said Consul General of Jamaica, New York, Alison Wilson.



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## Jamaican Owned Hot Sauce In Target Stores

A scotch bonnet recipe cherished by a Jamaican grandfather has transcended from a humble dinner table in Westmoreland to gracing the shelves of hundreds of Target stores across the United States.

Drew Gray, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Scotch Boyz, shared with the Jamaica OBSERVER ONLINE that his grandfather, a Portland native who settled in Westmoreland, imparted his treasured recipe, along with his wisdom of spices and sauces, to the family.

“Spices and sauces have deep roots in my family, and we’ve always been closely connected to the kitchen. I’ve been cooking from a young age. Our family gatherings always featured pork and jerk cuisine because we have a strong jerk heritage,” Gray expressed. “As I grew older, I began adding my own twists to various family recipes and honed my culinary skills.”

Gray’s personal touch to

his grandfather’s recipe marked the inception of what would eventually become the renowned Scotch Boyz hot sauce.

In 2016, during his time at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Gray and his friends and co-founders of Scotch Boyz – Kemar Swaby, Matthew Wallace, and Neil Hudson (the company’s CEO)

– entered a barbecue competition purely for fun, showcasing their “secret” sauce. The sauce was an instant hit, its popularity soaring so high that they decided to bottle the creation.

Four years down the line, these young entrepreneurs introduced their hot sauce online on Amazon after Caribbean distributors turned them away due to the saturated sauce



Kemar Swaby, Matthew Wallace, and Neil Hudson, the founders of Scotch Boyz hot sauce now in Target. (Jamaica Observer image)

market. In the same year, their sauce gained the spotlight as an Amazon homepage seller in support of the Black Businesses Initiative, and it was also featured on QBC’s Big Ticket Winner, resulting in several thousand bottles being sold in a mere eight minutes.

Their greatest milestone materialized this year when they successfully launched their

product in 600 US retail giant Target stores, facilitated by the Shae Moisture Next Black Millionaire’s program.

Scotch bonnet peppers, primarily found in Africa and the West Indies, are a type of chili pepper dubbed for its supposed resemblance to a Scottish tam o’ shanter bonnet. They’re occasionally referred to as Jamaican hot peppers, Bahama mama, or Caribbean red peppers.

To maintain their brand’s authenticity, these enterprising youths opt to purchase their ingredients locally. “We strive to support Jamaican products as much as possible. Sourcing raw materials locally from small farmers across the island is our priority. While scotch bonnet is our main ingredient, we also use pimento, scallions, and onions in our sauces, which are essential components of jerk cuisine. Whenever feasible, we source locally, but for items like bottles and cans, we have to import since

they aren’t produced locally,” Gray clarified.

Their commitment to giving back resonates in their initiatives to assist the Westmoreland parish in western Jamaica. In 2021, they donated tablets to the Savanna-la-Mar Primary School, and they continue to engage in various charitable efforts.

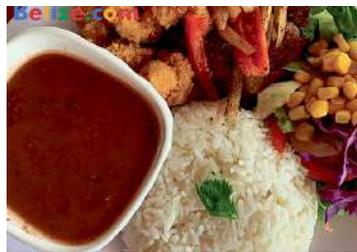
“Three out of the four founders were raised in Westmoreland, and we ensure we support our community. Our contributions extend beyond our product; sales revenue is reinvested into the community by funding local school projects. The brand embodies our heritage, friendship, and community,” Hudson emphasized.

In their future plans, the Scotch Boyz envision expanding to include a vegan line, diverse variations of jerk seasonings, and an array of sauces.



## Two Recipes To Celebrate Trinidad & Tobago & Belize

As we marked the 61st independence of Trinidad & Tobago on August 28th and gear up to celebrate the 42nd birthday of Belize on September 21st, here are two recipes to celebrate each country that you can try at home this month.



### BELIZEAN STEW BEANS

#### Ingredients

- 1-pint Fresh Red Kidney beans
- 2 Tablespoons of Oil (for best results use Coconut Oil)
- 1/2 Onion
- 1 TBSP Chili Powder
- 2 TBSP Tomato Paste
- 2 Tsp cubes
- 1 small green pepper

#### Method

Clean the beans and cover with two inches of water. Boil an hour. Add Onion, Pepper, and Oil. Simmer until tender, adding water as required to keep the beans well covered.

**Tip:** Soak the beans overnight, or bring water to a boil, turn off the stove and let the beans sit for an hour. Discard that soaking water

and wash beans thoroughly. Heat pot, coat the bottom of the pan with a little oil, and refill with water. (the oil helps to prevent sticking.)

In addition to onion, add 1/4 to 1/2 diced small green pepper. Add 1 TBSP Chili Powder, add 2 TBSP Tomato Paste, 2 Tsp cubes. Cook the beans until really soft. Turn off the fire, cover and let stand for an hour.

Serve with white or brown rice and a protein and salad.  
Photo: Belizean Stew Beans



### TRINIDAD CORN SOUP

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup yellow split peas
- 5 slices bacon, chopped.
- 1 small onion, chopped.
- 2 scallions thinly sliced.
- 4 garlic cloves finely chopped.
- 2 medium carrots, peeled, chopped.
- 1/2 green bell pepper, ribs and seeds removed, chopped
- 1 seasoning pepper (pimiento), finely chopped (optional)
- 3-4 tsp. Diamond Crystal or

1 1/2-2 tsp. Morton kosher salt, divided,

- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 2 plum tomatoes, chopped
- 1/4 cup homemade green seasoning or store-bought green seasoning (such as Chief)
- 1 tsp. thyme leaves
- 1 cup fresh or frozen corn kernels
- 2 cups 1”-cubes peeled kabocha or butternut squash
- 1 13.5-oz. can unsweetened coconut milk
- 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup all-purpose flour (optional)
- 2 ears of corn, husked, cut crosswise into 1”-thick rounds

#### Method

##### Step 1

Place 1 cup yellow split peas in a small bowl and pour in room temperature water to cover. Let soak 30 minutes, then drain and set aside.

##### Step 2

Meanwhile, heat a large Dutch oven or other heavy pot over medium. Cook 5 slices bacon, chopped, stirring occasionally, until browned and beginning to crisp, 7-9 minutes. Spoon off all but about 2 Tbsp. fat from pot; discard excess or save for another use. Add 1 small onion, chopped, 2 scallions, thinly sliced, 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped, 2 medium carrots, peeled, chopped, 1/2 green bell

pepper, ribs and seeds removed, chopped, 1 seasoning pepper (pimiento), finely chopped (if using), 1 tsp. Diamond Crystal or 1/2 tsp. Morton kosher salt, and 1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper. Cook, stirring often, until onion is softened and beginning to turn golden, 5-8 minutes. Add 2 plum tomatoes, chopped, 1/4 cup green seasoning, and 1 tsp. thyme leaves and stir to coat evenly. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tomatoes burst and break apart and peppers are softened slightly, 7-9 minutes.

##### Step 3

While vegetables are cooking, blend 1 cup fresh or frozen corn kernels, a pinch of kosher salt, and 1/4 cup water in a blender or food processor until texture is similar to creamed corn; set aside.

##### Step 4

Add 2 cups 1” cubes peeled kabocha or butternut squash, one 13.5-oz. can unsweetened coconut milk, 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth, 2 tsp. Diamond Crystal or 1 tsp. Morton kosher salt and reserved split peas to pot. Bring to a boil, then cover and reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer 20 minutes.

##### Step 5

While the squash is simmer, make the dumplings if desired, or skip to step 7. Mix 1 cup all-purpose flour and 1 tsp. Diamond

Crystal or 1/2 tsp. Morton kosher salt in a small bowl to combine. Using your hands, work in 5 Tbsp. water, a tablespoonful at a time, until a firm dough forms. Turn out onto a surface and knead until a smooth ball forms, about 3 minutes. Let rest 10 minutes.

##### Step 6

Break dough up into 4 equal pieces. Working one at a time, roll each piece on surface with your hands to create a 1/2”-thick rope. Cut ropes into 1” pieces. Add dumplings to pot and stir to combine. Re-cover pot and cook until dumplings are mostly tender, 13-17 minutes.

##### Step 7

Add 2 ears of corn, husked, cut crosswise into 1”-thick rounds and reserved puréed corn to soup; reduce heat to medium and cook until soup is thickened, and dumplings are completely tender, 9-11 minutes. Taste soup and season with more salt if needed.

##### Step 8

Ladle soup into bowls and serve with Trinidadian hot sauce if you can get your hands on it.

*NOTE: Soup can be made 4 days ahead. Let cool; cover and chill. Reheat over medium, thinning with water as need, before serving.*



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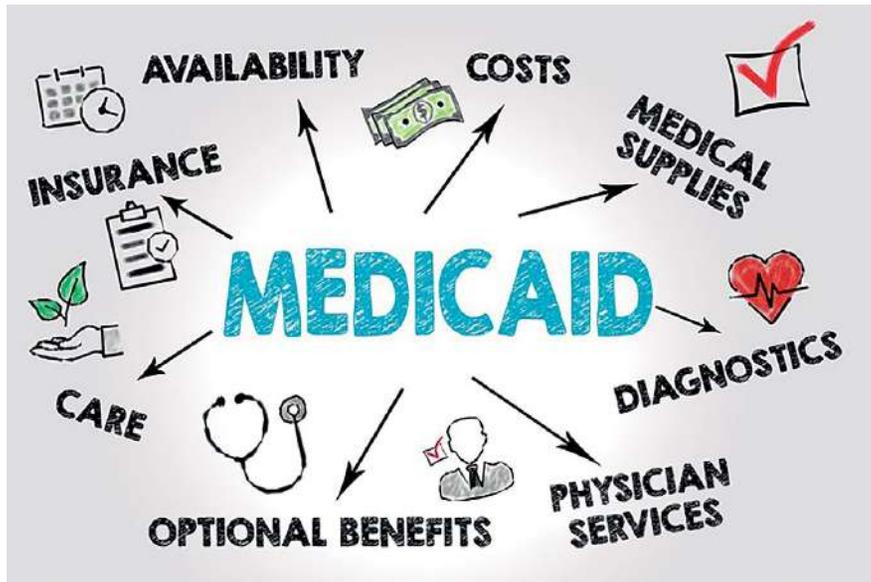
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Peter A. Webley  
Publisher

# Florida Sued Over Medicaid Move



Jason Weida, secretary of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. Florida has already sent out over 182,000 notices informing residents of their ineligibility, as the state resumes its annual reviews of Medicaid eligibility, which were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many more notices are expected to be sent, with the state having until March 2024 to review the eligibility of nearly 5 million recipients.

According to Sarah Grusin, a senior attorney at

the National Health Law, the recipients of these notices are left confused about the state's actions and their next steps. This confusion can result in the loss of crucial care, such as prescriptions, vaccinations, and postpartum care.

The Florida Department of Children and Families has contested the lawsuit, asserting that the notices are legally sufficient and adhere to the regulations set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The department's spokesperson, Mallory McManus, highlighted that the eligibility determination process involves multiple steps and that the final notice is just one part of the communication from the department.

However, the lawsuit argues that Florida officials should have recognized that the standardized, computer-generated notices are perplexing. Instead of offering a legal foundation for the agency's decision, the notices use a series of reason codes that often provide inadequate or no explanation. The lawsuit cites a 2018 review of Florida's Medicaid operation that revealed officials were aware that the notices sent to beneficiaries were causing confusion.

- *Rewritten from the Tampa Bay Tribune*



Two healthcare advocacy organizations have jointly filed a lawsuit in a federal court seeking to halt Florida's removal of individuals from its Medicaid program.

The Florida Health Justice Project and the National Health Law Program filed the lawsuit in the federal court of the Middle District of Florida on August 22nd, according to the Tampa Bay Tribune. They argue that the notices sent by the state to Medicaid recipients, notifying them of their ineligibility for

the program, are unclear and fail to adequately explain the procedure for challenging the state's decision. The lawsuit emphasizes that without the intervention of the court, families in Florida will continue to lose their health coverage and will be unable to access medical care.

The lawsuit represents three residents who lost their Medicaid coverage. The defendants in the case are Shevaun Harris, secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families, and

# Florida Continues To Add COVID Cases

During the week beginning August 11, the state of Florida recorded 18,518 new reported cases, and during the week starting August 4, there were 18,556 new cases. These figures mark the highest totals in at least the last 10 weeks.

While this increase is not on the scale of the numbers observed in the past two years of the pandemic, experts suggest that COVID-19 has entered an endemic phase. In this phase, the virus remains consistently present in the population, with periodic spikes.

The report, which is released every two weeks, was published on Friday by the agency.

Additionally, the updated data indicates that Florida is nearing a total of 90,000 reported resident deaths linked to COVID-19 since the pandemic's onset in 2020. As of August 17th, the state had reported 89,905 COVID-related deaths, compared to the 89,565 reported as of August 3.

The new data further highlights that 77.6 percent of the deaths, totaling 69,774, involved residents aged 65



or older, and around 85.2 percent, totaling 76,573 deaths, involved individuals aged 60 or older.

Due to reporting delays, the exact timing of the additional deaths is uncertain.

Experts have speculated that the recent uptick in cases could be attributed to diminishing immunity, an increase in social and family gatherings during the summer, and the hot weather pushing people indoors and facilitating the faster spread of the virus. The Department of Health has noted a decline in the number of administered COVID vaccine doses.

Nationally, new weekly

COVID-19 hospitalizations increased more than 20% in early August, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The week ending in Aug. 12 saw more than 12,600 new coronavirus hospital admissions – a jump of nearly 22% of the previous week. The CDC no longer tracks COVID-19 infections, but researchers say the spread is likely significant given the increase in hospitalizations. Deaths, which tend to lag behind hospitalizations, have not yet shown a similar increase.



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## Dengue Alert In The Caribbean

Several Caribbean Community, (CARICOM) nations have reported cases of dengue, prompting the Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency, (CARPHA) to emphasize that arboviral diseases like dengue, chikungunya, and Zika are still present in the Caribbean region.

Among the CARICOM countries, Guyana is the sole nation reporting fatalities linked to dengue, a disease transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito.

Given the rise in regional and international travel to the

Caribbean, coupled with the presence of the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes inherent to the region, CARPHA is urging member states to enhance regular surveillance for cases of undifferentiated fever within their communities.

CARPHA underscores the importance for Health Ministries to sustain public awareness campaigns that remind individuals about eliminating mosquito breeding grounds and preventing mosquito bites. This involves securing water drums

and barrels tightly, as well as removing stagnant water from sources like flower vases, old tires, and other containers.

Dengue symptoms encompass rash, fever, muscle and joint pain, and nausea, whereas chikungunya can cause comparable symptoms, including prolonged muscle and joint discomfort.

- CMC



# Trinidad & Tobago Turns 61



The twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is now 61 years old. T&T turned 61 on August 31st, after achieving independence from Britain on August 31, 1962. T&T was one of the first islands to encounter Europeans when Christopher Columbus landed on July 31st, 1498. The country was part of the West Indies Federation from 1958 until 1962 when Trinidad and Tobago gained its independence from the United Kingdom on August 31st, 1962.

City of Miramar Commissioner, Maxwell B. Chambers, hosted a celebration to mark the anniversary at

Miramar City Hall.

In T&T, an Independence Day military parade to mark the anniversary was held on August 31, 2023. It began at the Savannah then proceeded South onto Frederick Street, West onto Park Street then onto Tragarete Road via Green Corner, to the Roxy Roundabout, before proceeding onto the Western Main Road, then North onto Long Circular Road, prior to entering the football field located at the Western end outside of the Police Barracks, where the Parade was dismissed.



# Belize To Mark 42nd Birthday

On September 21, 2023, Belize, a Central American CARICOM nation, will proudly commemorate 42 years of independence. Emerged from centuries under British colonial rule, Belize achieved full sovereignty on September 21, 1981.

The forthcoming occasion promises an array of splendid festivities, gatherings, and engaging events. Each year, Belize's September celebrations carry a distinctive theme. The official theme for this year is encapsulated as "Embracing Triumphs,



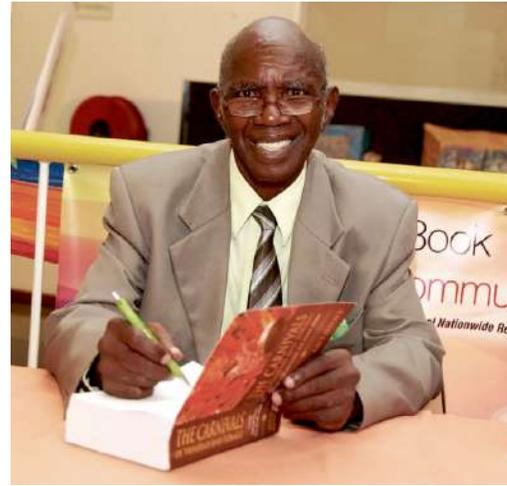
Honouring Unity, Vision Renewed: Belize@42!" Belize Prime Minister Johnny Briceno said in May that the country is "quite likely" to be the next state to leave the Commonwealth and become a

# Trinidadian Literary Giant Is No More

Trinidad & Tobago's oldest living writer and regional literary giant, Michael Anthony, renowned for his accomplishments in both the realms of fiction and non-fiction as well as his role as a historian, passed away at the age of 93 on August 24th.

"It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of our beloved father, who passed away peacefully last night at home surrounded by his family," his family shared on August 25th. "Michael held a monumental presence in the literary domain, leaving an enduring mark on our nation's essence, which he held in the highest esteem. Above all, Michael was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and his absence will be acutely felt. We are grateful for your kind wishes and gently request privacy during this challenging period."

Trinidad & Tobago's



Michael Anthony debuted with his first book, "The Games Were Coming," a tale inspired by real-life cycling events.

PM, Dr. Keith Rowley, hailed Anthony as a patriot, adding that the nation has lost one of our best timekeepers.

Dr Rowley, via a post on Facebook, said: "He encouraged us and made it possible to visit and revisit our ancestry and our progress. He recorded the apparent inconsequential only to enlighten us about who we are and how we made it."

"As we mourn his loss let us all be comforted by the literary legacy, he bequeathed to us for now and for future generations. My condolences to the family with thanks and respect," the PM added.

Trinidad and Tobago's Culture and Arts Minister, Randall Mitchell, commemorated Anthony's contributions to the nation's cultural and social landscape, by stating that he etched Trinidad and Tobago's history and heritage into the minds of successive generations.

Mitchell said: "Michael Anthony's legacy remains woven into the fabric of Trinidad and Tobago's literary heritage. His dedication as an educator and mentor undeniably influenced and moulded countless minds and talents, ensuring his legacy lives on."

Born on February 10, 1930, in Mayaro, a town to the southeast, Anthony's initial collection of poems was published by the Trinidad Guardian in 1954, the same year

he embarked on a journey to the United Kingdom aboard the Hildebrandt.

During his time in England, he held diverse roles, including working as a sub-editor at Reuters News Agency from 1964 to 1968, nurturing his career as a writer. He crafted short stories for the BBC radio program, 'Caribbean Voices.'

Four years down the line, Anthony debuted with his first book, "The Games Were Coming," a tale inspired by real-life cycling events. This triumph was succeeded by "The Year in San Fernando," and "Green Days by the River." Returning to Trinidad in 1970 after a two-year tenure in the Trinidadian diplomatic corps in Brazil, where his novel "King of the Masquerade" is set, he took on roles as an editor, a researcher for the Ministry of Culture, and a historical program broadcaster on the radio.

In 1992, he graced the University of Richmond in the U.S. state of Virginia with his presence, contributing as a creative writing instructor.

Spanning a remarkable career of five decades, Anthony published an impressive array of over 30 titles, encompassing novels, collections of short stories, works tailored for younger readers, travelogues, and historical accounts. He also lent his literary voice to numerous anthologies and journals, including "Caribbean Prose," "Island Voices," "Stories from the Caribbean," "Response," "The Sun's Eyes," "West Indian Narrative," "The Bajan," and "BIM Magazine."

In recognition of his literary accomplishments, Anthony was honoured with the Hummingbird Medal, (Gold) in 1979, and in 2003, the University of the West Indies, (UWI) bestowed upon him an honorary doctorate.

He is survived by his wife Yvette Phillips and four children -Jennifer, Keith, Carlos, and Sandra.



## CITY OF PLANTATION Public Notice August 20, 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Proposed 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan for 10/1/2023 – 9/30/2024

The City of Plantation has developed a draft Annual Action Plan for the use of CDBG funds estimated to be \$430,200. The following projects are included in the draft Annual Action Plan:

- Public Services (\$60,000) to include: Public Agency Programming for low-and-mod-erate income residents to supplement future and existing supportive services, funds will be allocated for Women In Distress (\$15,000), 211 First Call Broward (\$15,000), Take Stock in Children (\$15,000) and Lighthouse of Broward (\$15,000)
- Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program (\$164,160.00)
- Down Payment Assistance Program (\$120,000)
- Administration of CDBG Program (\$86,040)

### Public Comment:

Citizens are encouraged to review the draft Annual Action Plan and provide written comments. Copies of the document are available for review and comments commencing Monday, August 21, 2023, and ending Friday, September 22, 2023:

between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, at the following location:  
Planning, Zoning & Economic Development Department  
401 NW 70 Terrace | Plantation, Florida 33317  
(954) 414-7871

Additionally, the plan will be available for review online at [www.plantation.org/PZED](http://www.plantation.org/PZED)

The City of Plantation complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are a disabled person requiring any accommodations, please notify the Office of the City Clerk at least 72 hours (3 days) in advance by contacting 954-797-2100 for assistance.

Translation and/or interpretation services are available upon request. If you have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), please notify the HFD.

Para obtener información adicional, visite el sitio web de HFD mencionado anteriormente. Servicios de traducción pueden ser disponibles bajo petición.



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## More Caribbean Flights From Miami Coming

American Airlines, (AA), has significantly expanded its flight offerings to the Caribbean for the winter season, from Miami International Airport.

The airline's latest expansion encompasses the following routes and schedule details:

MIA to Anguilla: From January 8 to April 3, 2024, American Airlines will provide two daily flights from Miami to Anguilla.

MIA to Barbados and St Maarten: The flights from Miami International Airport (MIA) to Barbados and St Maarten will increase to three daily flights between January 8 and April 3, 2024.

MIA to Tortola: On Saturdays

from January 8, 2024, to April, American Airlines will operate three flights from Miami to Tortola.

American Airlines holds a prominent position as the largest carrier connecting the United States with the Caribbean and Latin America. In line with their expansion efforts, the airline plans to enhance seat capacity by 10 percent compared to the previous winter season.

Moreover, American Airlines will increase flight services on 23 routes to the Caribbean and Latin America, catering to travellers seeking respite from the winter months starting in December.

A notable boost of 40 percent in seating capacity for flights to

the Caribbean and Latin America from Charlotte is also anticipated, compared to the winter of the previous year. The airline will introduce additional seasonal service to newer destinations, including Tortola, British Virgin Islands (EIS), marked by the addition of two daily nonstop flights.

In addition to the aforementioned expansions, American Airlines is set to launch new nonstop service from Nashville (BNA) and Cincinnati (CVG) to Cancun (CUN), offering travellers enhanced connectivity to popular destinations in the region.



## InterCaribbean Airways Slammed

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves has criticized the quality of service provided by Turks & Caicos'-based InterCaribbean Airways in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), describing it as "absolutely terrible." He expressed his dissatisfaction during a radio program, where he also mentioned that he is awaiting documents related to a "new LIAT."

Gonsalves highlighted the numerous complaints from passengers over the past months regarding long delays with InterCaribbean flights, causing some to miss their international connections. There have been instances where passengers had to purchase new tickets for their connections due to late or cancelled flights by the airline.

Gonsalves shared an email from a passenger who experienced significant inconvenience due to the airline's operational issues, including incorrect flight

routes and unexpected delays. He emphasized that such incidents tarnish the airline's professionalism and customer communication.

Addressing the issue, Gonsalves mentioned that he is expecting documents from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) pertaining to the establishment of a new iteration of LIAT, a regional airline that entered administration in 2020 due to debt and the impact of the pandemic. He discussed the ongoing efforts to improve regional air travel, including potential collaborations with private carriers.

Gonsalves expressed his commitment to enhancing air connectivity within the Caribbean, emphasizing the importance of reliable and efficient services for the benefit of both locals and tourists. He referenced previous challenges faced with LIAT and the efforts to secure proper investments

and funding for sustainable air transportation in the region.

The PM's comments come as Guyana's Public Works Minister, Juan Edghill, recently told the airline it could face sanctions if it does not avoid prolonged flight delays and cancellations.

Edghill said senior government officials as well as representatives of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority has met with representatives of the airline to address repeated concerns by travellers and that the airline had indicated that there were issues with crew and other internal matters.

"If they don't fulfil those obligations that they made last week Thursday, we will have to step in and take additional actions or possible sanctions," Edghill told the Guyana-based Demerara Waves Online News.



## First Secrets Hotel Opens In The Eastern Caribbean

The first Secrets hotel has opened in the Eastern Caribbean. The Secrets St. Lucia Resort and Spa, managed by Hyatt Hotels, has been warmly embraced by the St. Lucia government, with the resort set to commence operations on the island in the middle of 2024.

Occupying the site of the former St. James's Club Morgan Bay, north of the island, the Secrets St. Lucia Resort and Spa project is expected to generate numerous employment opportunities, contributing to the island's economic growth.

During the groundbreaking event, Prime Minister Phillip J Pierre expressed his government's commitment to ensuring the success of the 351-room establishment. He emphasized the importance of fairness to the people and workers of St. Lucia, making the island a top priority for the resort's operations.

"We are dedicated to upholding the law and fostering



St. Lucia Prime Minister Phillip J Pierre, (third from right), at the sod turning ceremony for the new Secret Resorts in St. Lucia. (CMC image)

a conducive environment not only for the hotel's construction but also for building a unique St. Lucian experience," Pierre stated. He urged the resort to proudly associate with the destination, inviting visitors to discover the secrets of St. Lucia.

Pierre affirmed the government's ongoing focus on making tourism a leading economic contributor, aiming to establish beneficial connections between tourism and other sectors to enhance the well-being

of the population. Tourism Minister Dr. Ernest Hilaire highlighted the significance of the project for St. Lucia, offering an exceptionally luxurious Secrets option in the Eastern Caribbean. He underlined the value of this high-quality addition to the nation's portfolio as they promote St. Lucia to global travellers.

- Rewritten from CMC



## Anguilla Gears Up For Third 'Anguilla Culinary Experience'



BBQ participants at a past ACE event in Anguilla.

Anguilla is counting down to the upcoming Anguilla Culinary Experience, (ACE), scheduled to take place from Thursday, May 23rd through Sunday, May 26th, 2024. Now entering its third year, this gastronomic festival highlights why Anguilla is undeniably recognized as the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean. The event encompasses four days of chef-hosted dinners, resort soirées, beach barbeques, and culinary competitions. Renowned local and international chefs will collaborate, infusing their diverse influences with Anguilla's fresh seafood, fish, and produce.

Tickets for ACE 2024 will be available for purchase starting in November 2023 at [anguillaculinaryexperience.com](http://anguillaculinaryexperience.com). A portion of the festival's proceeds are allocated each year to support educational initiatives for the next generation of chefs, bartenders, and hospitality professionals, as well as the Anguilla National Culinary Team.

ACE co-chair and Villa Alegria owner, Wendy Freeman, expressed her delight with the success of the Anguilla Culinary Experience, emphasizing its role in celebrating the island's culinary heritage, fostering global connections, and providing essential financial backing for Anguilla's emerging talents. She anticipates that ACE 2024 will surpass expectations and looks forward to welcoming both first-time attendees and returning guests to partake in this

exceptional event.

The festivities will commence with a grand opening night celebration on Thursday, May 23rd, hosted by the Aurora Anguilla Resort & Golf Club, promising to captivate guests once again.

During the four-day extravaganza, attendees can indulge in a variety of exclusive dining experiences, prix fixe menus, and collaborations between local and guest chefs. Participating venues include Aurora Anguilla Resort & Golf Club, Cap Juluca (a Belmond Hotel), Four Seasons Resorts & Residences Anguilla, Zemi Beach House (LXR Hotels & Resorts), Malliouhana, Veya Anguilla, Savi Beach Club, Villa Alegria, and more. Additionally, participating restaurants will offer lunch and dinner specials. The ACE Beach BBQ and Basket Battle is set to return in 2024 at the Anguilla Great House Beach Resort, featuring a thrilling mystery basket competition alongside signature barbeque prepared by skilled local grill masters.

Between ACE's main events, guests can partake in various activities, such as learning to make traditional Johnny Cakes, embarking on guided hikes to the iconic West End arch with Quest Experiences, touring seaside bars via open-air moke, or simply unwinding on the beaches while exploring Anguilla's expansive 35 square miles at their leisure.



*In Loving Memory of Marilyn Chin.*

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# SPORTS NEWS



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## After History Making World Cup Performance Reggae Girlz Look To Olympics Qualifier

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Following their heroic performance at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia last month, Jamaica's women's soccer team turned their focus to qualifying for the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France.

The Reggae Girlz, who made the knockout round Down Under, play 2020 gold medallists Canada in a two-way tie later this month to see who joins the United States from the CONCACAF group. Jamaica will host the defending champions for the first match on September 22, before travelling to Toronto 4-days later for the second leg.

The winner will advance to the Olympic tournament.

Canada and Jamaica qualified for this phase by finishing second and third respectively at last summer's CONCACAF Championship. Canada defeated Jamaica 3-0 in

the semifinals of that tournament before falling 1-0 to the United States in the final.

The Canadians beat Sweden 3-2 on penalties at the Tokyo

Coach of the Jamaica National Team, Lorne Donaldson, says the players are high on confidence following their good showing at the World Cup.



Jamaica's Reggae Girlz celebrate qualifying for the last 16 after the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023 Group F match between Jamaica and Brazil at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, August 2, 2023, in Melbourne, Australia. (Photo: Will Murray/GETTY)

Games to claim their first gold medal after claiming bronze at the previous two Olympics.

### WORLD CUP

As fans know, Jamaica drew 0-0 with kingpins Brazil



Jamaica's Deneisha Blackwood and Jamaica's Tierny Wiltshire celebrate after drawing 0-0 with Brazil in the Women's World Cup Group F football match in Melbourne, Australia on August 2, 2023. (AP image)

and France in their World Cup matches in Australia on August 2nd, after defeating Panama 1-0 in group action on July 29th. However, they were sadly eliminated 0-1 by Colombia in the round-of-16 on August 8th.

Like their 1998 male counterparts at the World Cup in France, the Reggae Girlz

were a sensation in Australia and subject of feature stories on major networks including ABC.

The draw with Brazil earned them a place in the knockout stage. It drew ecstatic reaction from Jamaica's prime minister Andrew Holness, who bellowed

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

## Jamaican Finishes With 12 Medals At World Athletics Championships

Jamaica's women's relays team may not have bagged gold in the 4x400-m women's relay finals in Budapest, but the country's athletes completed an impressive performance throughout the championships.

They earned a total of 12 medals – three gold, five silver, and four bronze – leading them to a fourth-place finish overall.

On the final day of the 2023 World Athletics Championships on August 27th, Jamaica secured



Jamaica's team of Candice McLeod, Janieve Russell, Nickisha Pryce and Stacey-Ann Williams took the silver in the women's 4x400-m relays.

a silver medal in the 4x400-m women's relay finals as Candice McLeod, Janieve Russell, Nickisha Pryce, and Stacey-Ann Williams, displayed strong determination and led much of the race. However, Dutch athlete Femke Bol managed to overtake Williams in the final five meters, securing gold for her country with a time of 3:20.72.

Jamaica finished closely

behind, clocking 3:20.88, while Great Britain claimed third place with a time of 3:21.04. This silver medal marked Jamaica's 12th medal of the championships.

In the men's 4x400-m relay, Jamaica had been anticipated to contend for a medal. However, they ended up in fourth place with a season-best time of 2:59.34. The USA clinched gold

with a world-leading time of 2:57.31, France secured silver with a national record time of 2:58.45, and Great Britain claimed bronze with a season's best time of 2:58.71.

In the high jump competition, Lamara Distin from Jamaica finished fifth. After successfully clearing 1.94-m and positioning herself as a potential medallist, Distin faltered in her three attempts at 1.97-m, ultimately exiting the competition. Yaroslava Mahuchikh of Ukraine won gold with a clearance of 2.01-m, while Eleanor Patterson of Australia claimed silver with 1.99-m. Patterson's teammate, Nicola Olyslagers, secured the bronze with the same height. Great Britain's Morgan Lake finished fourth, having cleared 1.97-m.

- Rewritten from SportsMax





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## After History Making World Cup Performance Reggae Girlz Look To Olympics Qualifier

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

“HISTORIC!” on Facebook. The country’s sports minister, Olivia Grange, posted on Instagram, “I could not help shedding a few tears. Tears of joy.”

But there was also criticism of the Jamaica Football Federation for not providing adequate financial support for the squad, which largely benefited from donations secured by longtime benefactor Cedella Marley, daughter of reggae legend Bob Marley.

In July, the JFF’s general secretary Dennis Chung told Jamaican media that each member of the squad would receive \$30,000 (J\$4.6 million) due to them for making the World Cup. This is stipulated by FIFA, soccer’s governing body.

“We have a contract with the players, and we will ensure that players are paid everything due to them under our contract,” Chung said.

Eighteen of the 24-member squad named for the World Cup by the JFF were either born in the US, England or Canada. Most play professionally in the US and Europe, the best-known being Manchester City striker, Khadija “Bunny” Shaw.

They were coached by Donaldson, who was appointed to the post one year earlier following the resignation of his predecessor. Donaldson has an impressive track record of coaching the Colorado Foxes in the American Professional Soccer League, and mentoring youth players in Colorado where he has lived for over 35 years.

But even after the Reggae Girlz impressive showing in Australia, his future with the team is uncertain. There has been no official word from the JFF if his one-year contract will be extended after the matches with Canada in September.

“Maybe I have had a good run. So maybe after the September game, the Olympic qualifiers, I don’t think anybody is going to do anything before that, knowing the way we work in Jamaica. I don’t think anything is going to happen before, so we will wait until after that and see what happens,” Donaldson said in August. “It is my country, but we have to sit and sort some stuff out.”

### HISTORY

In 2008, the JFF ceased funding the women’s team, claiming it was impossible given its finances, despite continuing to fund the men’s side.

In 2014, reggae icon and soccer lover Bob Marley’s daughter Cedella Marley stepped in to help finance the team, producing a single to raise money for the squad and providing sponsorship through the family’s Bob Marley Foundation.

Despite the boost, the team was again disbanded in 2016 by the national federation.

Marley called for change within the JFF and continued to fund the team through the family’s foundation and, in 2019, the Reggae Girlz qualified for their first Women’s World Cup. They failed to win a single game and left in the group stages

of the tournament, however.

Even during the buildup to the 2023 Women’s World Cup, the team continued to fight for financial backing from the Jamaican federation. The JFF said it was struggling to fund the women’s team and called on the country’s government to help out.

But help came once again

from elsewhere. One of the player’s mothers set up a crowdfunding page, called “Reggae Girlz Rise Up,” to help cover their costs, and it brought in close to \$50,000. Just days before the 2023 Women’s World Cup began on the other side of the globe in New Zealand and Australia, the Reggae Girls put out a

statement voicing their “utmost disappointment” with the JFF over the organization’s “subpar” support for their team.

The players called for change and laid out details of what they claim is rampant disorganization within the federation.



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