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# HAITIAN BACKLASH



Haitian-American Celebrities, Lawmakers, Advocates Slam MAGA's Racist Attacks On Haitian Immigrants - Page 3



Wyclef Jean, Garcelle Beauvais denounce attacks as Haitians protest. (X/Riddit images)

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# REGIONAL NEWS



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

### JAMAICA

Jamaica's main opposition People's National Party, (PNP) is calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Andrew Holness following an integrity commission report that raises questions about his finances and potential enrichment since assuming office over six years ago.

The report, which followed two years of investigations, was presented to the 63-member parliament this week. However, Holness, who faces general elections next year, maintains that the report has cleared him of any wrongdoing or illegal enrichment.

Opposition leader Mark Golding disputes this, pointing to unresolved issues surrounding tax compliance for three companies linked to Holness, some of which have not filed returns for two years. Golding argues that this has never happened to any prime minister since Jamaica's independence in 1962.

As the investigation continues, the PNP is reviewing the report with its legal team and

plans to address the nation soon, accusing the prime minister of having "deliberately misled the country and parliament."

Meanwhile, the Jamaica Financial Services Commission (FSC), says the embattled Stocks and Securities Limited (SSL) will pay out an estimated US\$30 million to its clients who have been waiting more than one year to collect on their investments.

In a statement, the FSC said based on the latest information provided by the SSL trustees, the company is advanced in its plans to make a payout to its clients. It said the payout will be primarily from the proceeds of the sale of SSL's international securities client portfolio, valued in excess of US\$30 million. SSL has been embroiled in a fraud scandal since January 2023 which has seen multiple lawsuits and court cases to determine control of the firm.

Last year, the Jamaica government announced that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the United States would be assisting local investigators in their probe into the alleged



Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Dr. Amery Browne and Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, Prime Minister of the State of Palestine signed a Joint Communiqué establishing diplomatic relations on September, 22, 2024 at the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations in New York, recognizing the State of Palestine. (CMC image)

multi-billion fraud at SSL that has affected several clients, including eight-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt who is said to have lost more than US\$12 million.

### TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago has officially established diplomatic

relations with the State of Palestine, four months after formally recognizing Palestine in May. The joint communiqué was signed on September 22nd by Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Dr. Amery Browne, and Palestinian Prime Minister

Dr. Mohammad Mustafa at the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations in New York.

The establishment of diplomatic ties underscores Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to contributing to international peace and security. The statement highlighted the country's ongoing support for a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, advocating for a two-state solution with secure borders for Israel and an independent, sovereign Palestine within the pre-1967 boundaries.

### MARTINIQUE

France has deployed special anti-riot police to Martinique to address violent protests over the high cost of living that erupted recently, leaving at least six police officers and one civilian injured by gunfire. Demonstrators continue to gather despite a government ban on protests in parts of the island.

The elite riot police, known as the Companies for Republican Security, (CRS), were previously banned from Martinique after being accused of using excessive force during deadly protests in 1959. Though rarely deployed in French Caribbean territories, they were called in during the 2009 Guadeloupe riots.

Protestors are demanding lower food import taxes, as prices are reportedly up to 40 percent higher than in France. Talks between stakeholders have so far failed to reach a resolution.

### GUYANA

The Guyana government has announced plans to establish an oil and gas data repository later this year, consolidating all historical and current petroleum data in a central local facility. Currently, Guyana's data is stored in Houston, Texas, and companies must request access to the overseas repository.

Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat called the project a major initiative aimed at boosting job creation and revenue by keeping data within Guyana. A petroleum data repository stores critical information on oil and gas exploration, including seismic and drilling data.

### ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne has extended an invitation to Damani Tabor, the former public relations officer of the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP), to join the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, (ABLP). Tabor is the latest high-profile member to resign from the UPP.

Tabor joins other former UPP members, including Dr. Edmund Mansoor and Anthony Smith, who have also recently left the party.

- Compiled from CMC News & NewsAmericasNow.com



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# Haitian-American Celebrities, Lawmakers, Advocates Slam MAGA's Racist Attacks On Haitian Immigrants

BY DAVID L. SNELLING  
Edited by Felicia J. Persaud

Haitian-born celebrities have joined lawmakers, advocates and Haitian nationals across the US in denouncing Donald Trump and his MAGA Republicans over racist and false claims that Haitians in Springfield, Ohio, are "eating pets," including cats and dogs.

These baseless accusations have sparked fear and outrage among Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio. City officials in Springfield said Haitian immigrants feel unsafe and asked for police protection because they feel like they are being targeted with hate. Some Haitian immigrants reportedly are afraid to leave their homes to go work while others have temporarily shut down their businesses and seek refuge in their domicile.

Haitian-American public figures are using their platforms to combat this dangerous rhetoric. Haitian-born rapper and musician Wyclef Jean took to social media to express his thoughts on Trump's claims about Immigrants/Haitians eating pets, urging his fans to ignore the lies.

"I will be forever grateful for my family's life, for having a fair chance to live what is called the 'American Dream,'" said Jean. Having immigrated to New York City at age 9, Jean emphasized the value of the immigrant community in America. "Haitian-Americans are good neighbours and good people," he added.

"On behalf of Haitian Americans, I ask that we stop these racist messages and accusations. Put our hands out in peace and say thanks for being my neighbor," Jean continued. "We need to respect one another and vote based on policies and facts, not wild talk. And we need to shake hands with one another and be thankful we are part of an America for all."

Jean, a member of the Fugees, has long been vocal against Trump's racist rhetoric, even releasing a 2015 freestyle criticizing Trump's comments about Mexicans. He also condemned Trump's plan to deport nearly 60,000 Haitians who received temporary protected status after Haiti's 2010 earthquake.

Haitian-born actress Garcelle Beauvais, best known for her role on Bravo's Real Housewives of Beverly Hills, also spoke out against the claims. In a video posted to her social media, Beauvais condemned the false narratives targeting her community, saying, "This madness has got to stop."

"Staying silent in the face of racism and hate is something that I refuse to do," Beauvais said. "The lies that have been spewed about the Haitian community —



Springfield residents join hands to protest against the latest racist attack by MAGA's Donald Trump and J.D. Vance against their community. (YouTube Screengrab)

about my community - have been disgusting, deeply hurtful, and dangerous." Beauvais, who moved to the U.S. from Saint-Marc, Haiti, at age 7, emphasized that this issue transcends politics, stating, "We must condemn this kind of hatred, this kind of racism, for anyone."

The false claims have also

infuriated Haitian American leaders nationwide who have blasted Trump and his VP candidate and Republican Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, who spread the false claim on his X account and has since acknowledged he made up the story to bring attention to the Trump campaign's continued lies about

immigrants invading the country from asylums and prisons.

North Miami state Representative Dotie Joseph, an Haitian American Democrat, said Vance's claim is pathetic.

"Because if you actually cared about Ohio, the 'Renewal' would have taken place by now," Joseph told Caribbean Today. "The conman's compulsion to deflect from your inadequacies by scapegoating immigrants, especially Black ones, is plain pathetic."

"Just keep your ignorant, asinine accusations to yourself, and focus on kissing the one piece of flesh you actually care about," he added. "If you knew anything about the shared history between the U.S. and Haiti being the first two countries to gain independence in the Western hemisphere, albeit under markedly different circumstances of freedom for Black people versus bondage, then you would know that Haitians helped fight in the American Revolution."

Broward County state

Representative Marie Woodson, who is also a Haitian immigrant, said Vance's claim was hateful toward Haitian immigrants who are seeking better opportunities in America. She said Vance and former president Donald Trump's comments are outrageous and unacceptable.

"As a Haitian American serving the people in House District 105, I choose to rise above," Woodson said. "Let's focus on electing a credible, qualified, humane president and vice president for the United States. We must reject the hatred, division, racism and lies that Trump and Vance and some others promote."

U.S. Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, the lone Haitian American in the US House, said Vance's comments about Haitians eating pets and local wildlife are not only vile, racist lies but also beneath the dignity of any public office.

"It's disgusting and disgraceful that someone seeking the nation's second-highest office



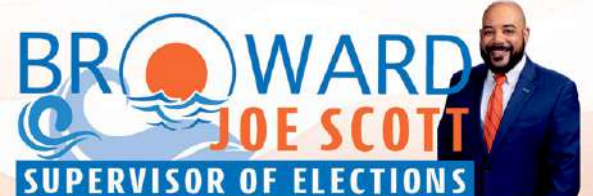
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# Countdown On To Nov. 5th Elections

**BY DAVID L. SNELLING**  
 Edited by Felicia J. Persaud

On November 5th, voters nationwide will head to the polls for the highly anticipated matchup between Vice President Kamala Harris and former Vice President Donald Trump who are both seeking to become the next president of the United States.

Florida is among the key battleground states and Harris is seeking to cut into Trump's home court advantage. He beat Biden in Florida in 2020 but still lost that general election.

Following the debate last month between Harris and Trump last month in Pennsylvania, polls show both still neck and neck as several hot button issues, including immigration, abortion, inflation, the economy and the Israeli war continues to be of concern to voters.

Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Michigan are the four most populous states most likely to decide the November election, according to CNN.

In Florida, Republicans have the most registered voters with 5,324,654 as of July 31, 2024, according to the Florida Division of Elections. Democrats have 4,327,859 registered voters and 3.5 million voters are of No party affiliation.

Haitian voters, who have been annoyed at the false claims by Trump of nationals in Springfield, Ohio eating "cats, dogs and pets" are vowing locally to turn out for Harris.

**LOCAL RACES**

The November 5th election will also see several

local candidates competing for the U.S. Senate, Congress, the state Legislature, sheriff, school board, state attorney, county commission and judicial offices. Voters also must vote on two constitutional amendments - one repealing abortion rights and the other legalizing recreational marijuana.

**U.S. SENATE**

For the U.S. Senate, incumbent Republican Senator Rick Scott, who won the Republican primary election by a landslide, faces former Democratic Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell in a face-off for the seat.

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

For U.S. House of Representatives District 21, incumbent Brian Mast, a Republican, faces Democratic challenger Thomas Witkop, who ran unopposed in the Primary, and write-in candidate Elizabeth Felton.

For House District 22, Dan Franzese, who won the Republican Primary, Franzese will face Democratic incumbent State Rep. Lois Frankel.

For House District 23, Republican Joe Kaufman faces incumbent U.S. Rep. Jared Moskowitz, who won the Democratic Primary by default.

For House District 24, Jesus Navarro, a Republican, faces U.S. Congresswoman



Fredrica Wilson, who won the Democratic Primary unopposed, and write-in candidate Lavern Spicer.

For House District 25 in Broward County, Republican Chris Eddy is challenging Democratic Congresswoman Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who beat Jennifer Perelman by 83 percent of the vote to win the Democratic Primary.

**STATE RACES**

For state Representative for District 94 in Palm Beach County, which is an open seat, Palm Beach Moms and Liberty Chair Meg Meinberger, who won the Republican Primary, faces former Palm Beach commissioner Rachele Litt who won by default to secure the Democratic nomination.

For Florida House District 105, state Rep. Marie Woodson, a Haitian American who is seeking a third term, faces Libertarian Party political newcomer Hlavka in the Primary. Woodson was first elected to the House in 2020 as the first Haitian American from Broward County and won reelection in 2022.

For state Senate District 35, former Broward County mayor Barbara Sharief, who won the Democratic Primary, faces Republican Vincent Parlatore, who served in the U.S. Air Force and worked at the Broward County Sheriff's office.

For state Rep. District 89 in Palm Beach County, Democratic newcomer Debra Tendrich, executive director of a non-profit, will face teacher Daniel Zapata, a Republican who lost a close race in 2022.

**SHERIFF**

For the first time in nearly 60 years, voters will pick a Miami-Dade County Sheriff as Miami-Dade Public Safety Chief James Reyes, a Democrat, and Miami-Dade Assistant Director Rosanna

Cordero-Stutz, a Republican, face off in November.

For Broward County Sheriff, incumbent Sheriff Gregory Tony, who won the Democratic Primary over three challengers, will face independent candidate Charles Edward Whatley, a former United States Marine Corps veteran and law enforcement professional.

**SCHOOL BOARD**

For Palm Beach County School Board District 1, attorney Matthew Jay Lane and Page Lewis, executive director of a Christian youth ministry that serves children living in poverty, face off in a run-off.

For Palm Beach County School Board District 5, teacher Gloria Branch and Mindy Koch, a Former Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee chairwoman, also are in a run-off.

**STATE ATTORNEY**

For Palm Beach State Attorney, Alexcia Cox, the deputy chief assistant, faces Republican winner Sam Stern, a former assistant state attorney who has his private practice, in November.

**COMMISSIONER**

For Palm Beach County Commissioner, former state Senator Bobby Powell Jr., a Democrat, will face Republican Leonard L. Serratore.

**SUNRISE MAYOR**

In Sunrise, FL, Jamaican-American Sunrise City Commissioner Mark A. Douglas has officially announced his candidacy for Mayor of Sunrise, Florida, in the upcoming November 5, 2024 election. A seasoned public servant and attorney with over 18 years of leadership experience, Douglas is ready to take his commitment to the city to the next level.

Born in Rock River,

Clarendon, Jamaica, and raised in Kellits, Douglas migrated to the U.S. in 2001. Since 2016, he has served as a commissioner in Sunrise, where his leadership has contributed to the city's growth and development. A graduate of Clarendon College, UTech, UWI, and Florida International University, Douglas credits his Jamaican roots with instilling values of resilience and hard work.

"My decision to run for mayor is driven by my deep love for this city and a desire to build a thriving and inclusive Sunrise," Douglas said. His campaign will focus on economic growth, public safety, and improving the quality of life for all residents.

Douglas has made history as the first minority elected to the Sunrise City Commission and aims to continue fostering representation, transparency, and collaboration as mayor.

**JUDGES**

For Broward County Court Judge Group 10, family attorney Samuel Ford Stark and assistant city attorney Woody Clermont will face off in a run-off.

Palm Beach County Judge Group 2, defense attorney and former prosecutor Lourdes Casanova and trial lawyer Jean Marie Middleton will also face off in a run-off.

**Constitutional Amendments**

Voters will decide on two constitutional amendments.

Amendment 4 is to restore abortion rights with no government interference, and Amendment 3 is asking voters to legalize recreational marijuana.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE**

**October 7th** – Deadline to register to vote or to update your address/signature – go to whenweallvote.org.

**October 24th** – Deadline to renew your request your vote by mail ballot in Miami-Dade – go to miamidade.gov/global/news-item.page?Mduid\_news=news1674748818419172. This includes any college student family members away from home on campus.

**October 20th** – November 3rd – Early voting period begins. You can vote from any location, 7a.m. – 7 p.m.

**November 5th** – Election Day - You must vote from your assigned precinct.

For more log on to <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/for-voters/voting/vote-by-mail/>



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# Caribbean American U.S. Attorney Leads Case Against Sean “Diddy” Combs

Caribbean American U.S. Attorney Andre Damian Williams, Jr. is leading the high-profile case against rapper and entrepreneur Sean Combs, also known as “Puff Daddy,” “P. Diddy,” and “Love.” Combs, 54, was arrested on September 16th and faces serious charges, including racketeering conspiracy, sex trafficking, and transportation for prostitution, as outlined in a three-count indictment, unsealed on September 17th.

Williams, born to Jamaican immigrant parents in New York City and raised in Atlanta, has an impressive legal background. He graduated from Harvard University and Yale Law School in 2007. After clerking for notable judges, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, Williams worked at top law firms before



Caribbean American U.S. Attorney Andre Damian Williams Jr. is prosecuting the Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs case.

joining the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, where he now leads the investigation.

The charges against Combs allege that since 2008, he has

oversen a criminal enterprise involved in sex trafficking, forced labor, and other serious crimes. According to the indictment, Combs used his power and influence to exploit

women through violence, intimidation, and coercion. Williams made a public plea for victims to come forward, stating, “This investigation is far from over.”

The indictment accuses Combs of orchestrating events known as “Freak Offs,” in which women were forced to engage in sexual activities with male commercial sex workers, sometimes transported across state lines. These events were allegedly recorded, and Combs used the footage to further control his victims. The indictment also details repeated physical abuse by Combs against both women and witnesses.

“As alleged in the Indictment, for years, Sean Combs used the business empire he controlled to sexually abuse and exploit women, as

well as to commit other acts of violence and obstruction of justice,” said DA Williams. “Today, he is charged with racketeering and sex trafficking offenses. If you have been a victim of Combs’ alleged abuse – or if you know anything about his alleged crimes – we urge you to come forward. This investigation is far from over.”

If convicted, Combs faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. He remains in detention at the Brooklyn federal prison. Authorities encourage anyone who believes they are a victim to contact Homeland Security Investigations at [Sextrafficking\\_outreach@hsa.dhs.gov](mailto:Sextrafficking_outreach@hsa.dhs.gov) or via their tip-line at 1-877-4-HSITIP, referencing this case.

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# 10 Things To Know About The Haitian-Born U.S. Attorney Leading Trump Assassination Attempt Case

Haitian-born Markenzy Lapointe, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, is overseeing the case against Ryan Routh, who faces gun-related charges after a Secret Service agent spotted a firearm near Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach. At the time, former President Donald Trump was in the vicinity. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Dispoto is leading the prosecution, according to court records.

**Here are 10 things you should know about Lapointe.**

## 1: First Haitian-Born U.S. Attorney

Lapointe made history as the first Haitian-born American and first Black attorney confirmed to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. He took on this prestigious role in

January 2023, after being nominated by President Joe Biden.

## 2: Leading the Prosecution in a High-Profile Case amid Racist Comments

Lapointe's office is prosecuting Ryan Routh, the suspect in an alleged assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump. The case involves gun-related charges after a Secret Service agent spotted a firearm near Trump's golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida. This high-profile case unfolds amid a backdrop of increased tensions, as Trump has recently spread misinformation about Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, leading to bomb threats and school evacuations in the area.

And as Donald Trump



Haitian born Florida USDA Markenzy Lapointe

Jr. suggested that Haitian immigrants were less intelligent than people from other countries, and claimed that there was demographic evidence to back this up. He provided none.

## Haitian-American Celebrities, Lawmakers, Advocates Slam MAGA's Racist Attacks On Haitian Immigrants

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

would stoop to such baseless, hateful rhetoric," said Cherfilus-McCormick, a Democrat whose district includes portions of Broward and Palm Beach counties. "Instead of peddling these falsehoods, Vance would be better suited to continue writing his fictional tales and testing out his sofa. This is just another page from the same old Republican playbook using fear, division and racism to distract from their lack of real solutions for the American people."

U.S. Rep. Maxwell Frost, who is of Cuban descent, also blasted Republicans for unsubstantiated attacks alleging that Haitian immigrants are eating people's cats.

"I am deeply proud to represent one of the largest Haitian communities across the United States in my hometown of Central Florida," the Orlando Democrat said. "Haitian Americans and folks of Haitian descent are our neighbors, family, friends, loved ones, and valued members of our communities. JD Vance and GOP leaders' racially motivated attacks against Haitian people are disgusting, bigoted, and based on flat-out lies."

North Miami Mayor Alix Desulme, a Haitian-American and mayor of one of the largest Caribbean communities in South Florida, said Trump and Vance's claim is part of the anti-immigrant rhetoric of the presidential campaign.

Desulme said the Haitian Diaspora in the United States is outraged. "It was deeply troubling to hear a presidential candidate of the highest office of the United States to stand on

a debate stage [with] 67 million people watching to make these false statements. It's very, very despicable. It's racist and it's divisive," Desulme said.

The chaos and tension in Springfield, Ohio recently turned into solidarity, as Ohio residents have come out to support their Haitian neighbors.

People have been patronizing Haitian businesses to show there's no hate or bigotry in their town.

"Springfield is diverse," city resident Steve McQueen, who helped arrange the act of "organized love," shared with Dayton 24/7 Now. "We know Springfield is full of love. [It] does not have the hate that is being told to the rest of the country and world as they're even talking about."

Some Springfield, Ohio residents have recently expressed contrite over the allegations of stealing and eating their pets. According to Upworthy: Springfield Residents Conquer with Love, a social media platform, Anna Kilgore issued an apology to Haitian immigrants for falsely accusing them of stealing her cat, Sassy. She said she initially filed a police report and named her Haitian neighbors as the culprits but found her missing cat hiding in her basement.

Using a translation link on the platform, Kilgore said she apologized to her Haitian neighbors for the mistake.

Ohio has seen a flux of Haitian immigrants in the past two years, according to Springfield city officials. The Times reported that city officials estimated an influx of as many 20,000 Haitian immigrants to the

town in the past several years. The arrivals have overwhelmed community health clinics, which saw a 13-times increase from 2021-2023, and put a strain on housing and schools.

Tension between the long-time residents and the new immigrants escalated after an accident involving a Haitian immigrant driver, whose foreign license was not valid in the state and a school bus left an 11-year-old boy dead, the New York Times reported. The driver involved has been convicted of first-degree felony involuntary manslaughter and fourth-degree felony vehicular homicide.

A social media group began posting cats and dog memes indicating that Haitian immigrants in Ohio have been allegedly abducting people's pets and eating them. The posts reached conservative media and the GOP including Vance who began spreading the rumors on his social media platform.

The Haitian immigrant community in Springfield, Ohio, has since been targeted by these conspiracy theories, leading to heightened tension. Bomb threats have been reported, schools are receiving threats, and businesses are closing early due to fears for safety. Springfield, a predominantly white city, has seen an influx of Haitian immigrants in recent years, drawn by the area's economic revival.

**EDITOR'S NOTE - NewsAmericasNow.com contributed to this story**



"You look at Haiti, you look at the demographic makeup, you look at the average I.Q. — if you import the third world into your country, you're going to become the third world," Mr. Trump said in an interview with Charlie Kirk on Real America's Voice, a conservative broadcasting network. "That's just basic. It's not racist. It's just fact."

## 3: Background in Military Service

Lapointe is a U.S. Marine Gulf War veteran. His service in the Marine Corps helped shape his disciplined and focused approach, which he now applies to his legal career.

4: Career Beginnings in Florida He started his legal career as a law clerk for the Florida Supreme Court. Later, he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of Florida, handling cases related to narcotics, firearms, and fraud.

## 5: Successful Legal Career in Miami

Before becoming U.S. Attorney, Lapointe was a partner at two prominent Miami law firms, where he worked on high-exposure commercial cases, product liability, and professional malpractice. He also co-chaired a committee promoting diversity in the legal profession.

## 6: Recognized for Pro Bono Work

Lapointe has maintained a significant pro bono practice throughout his career. He has received awards for his efforts in child advocacy and family law, including reuniting families

affected by the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

## 7: Inspiration From Humble Beginnings

Lapointe emigrated from Haiti as a teenager and grew up in Miami's Liberty City neighborhood. He shared a two-bedroom apartment with his mother, a street vendor, and four siblings. His journey from those humble beginnings to U.S. Attorney is a testament to his perseverance.

## 8: Pioneering Role Model

As the first Black and Haitian-American U.S. Attorney in his district, Lapointe is keenly aware of the significance of his position. He understands the responsibility to represent and inspire communities that have historically been underrepresented in the justice system.

## 9: Focus on Fairness in the Jovenel Moise Case

Lapointe's office is also handling cases related to the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moise. Despite his personal connection to Haiti, he emphasizes the importance of impartiality in prosecuting the case.

## 10: Commitment to Service

Lapointe credits his mother as his hero and remains dedicated to serving both his country and his community. His legal expertise and deep sense of gratitude for the opportunities he's had fuel his commitment to justice.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Caribbean Nations Named Major Drug Transit Countries For 2025

Several Caribbean nations, including The Bahamas, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica, have been designated by U.S. President Joe Biden as Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2025. This designation was outlined in a memorandum issued by the President to the U.S. State Department on September 15th.

The memorandum highlights that these countries play a significant role as direct sources of precursor chemicals used in the production of drugs that have a considerable impact on the United States.

Other nations included in this list are Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, and

Venezuela.

President Biden clarified that a country's presence on this list does not necessarily reflect its government's efforts or level of cooperation with the U.S. in countering drug trafficking. Instead, the inclusion stems from geographic, commercial, and economic factors that allow drug transit or production, even in cases where governments have implemented strong narcotics control and law enforcement measures.

Additionally, Biden named Bolivia, Burma, and Venezuela as countries that have failed demonstrably in the past 12 months to meet their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Miami Carnival Turns 40

The countdown is on to the 40th Miami Carnival, a vibrant celebration of Caribbean culture in South Florida. The celebration this year will get underway with the Miami Broward Junior Carnival, presented by TD Bank, on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at Central Broward Regional Park.

Hosted by Visit Lauderdale and the City of Lauderhill, this vibrant cultural event celebrates Caribbean heritage while offering young people a platform to showcase their creativity and artistry.

With gates opening at 1 p.m. and the parade starting at 2 p.m., the Junior Carnival reflects the

community's dedication to youth and cultural unity. Attendees can expect a dynamic day featuring 10 Junior Masquerade bands competing for top honors, alongside the Junior Steel Pan and Calypso competitions.

Comedian and radio host Nikki Crosby, also known as "Granny," will serve as the event's emcee.

The Junior Masquerade Parade will be the highlight, with bands like Break Awa Kru, China Mas Kids, D-Junction Mas Jr., Fun Generation Too, Karnival Kidz, La Familia, Major Players, Mas Dynasty/Party Room Squad, Natural Disasters, Royalty Kidz, Wassi Babes, and Zing-



Miami Carnival gets underway from Oct. 5th.

Zing Kidzz, each offering their own vibrant interpretations of Caribbean culture.

The day also promises a diverse display of cultural performances, including American marching bands, African-Afro drumming, and Tassa drumming, adding to the rich, multicultural atmosphere. The event will culminate in a highly anticipated performance by the Romeo Tasso Group, making it a celebration of global unity.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://miamijuniorn carnival.org>. The Miami panorama,

j'ouvert and parade is set for October 11 to 13, 2024, in Miami. Over the past four decades, the event has grown into a significant cultural, economic, and community gathering in South Florida.

Known for its colorful costumes, pulsating soca, and calypso rhythms, Miami Carnival has become a premier cultural tourism attraction. The Miami Broward One Carnival Host Committee, (MBOHC), is set to celebrate this milestone in grand style, supported by the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, Miami-Dade

County Department of Cultural Affairs, and other local partners.

The highlight events include the Miami Carnival J'Ouvert on October 12th and the iconic Parade of Bands and Concert at the Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds on October 13th.

MBOHC Chair Joan Hinkson-Justin expressed her excitement about the event, saying, "Miami Carnival stands as a testament to the vibrancy and resilience of Caribbean culture. Our 40th anniversary signifies the enduring spirit that unites us all."

The festivities will also feature a Dancehall Zone, a Kompa music hour celebrating Haitian-American culture, and food vendors offering a variety of Caribbean delicacies. The Parade of Bands will showcase over 18,000 masqueraders in elaborate costumes, with bands competing for the coveted Band of the Year title.

Early bird tickets for the Parade of Bands and Concert are available, with a chance to win a special edition Miami Carnival watch for early registrants. For more see <https://miamicarnival.org/about-us/>



## Honored For Advocating For Afro-Latina Representation



Afro-Latina star Amara La Negra was recently honored by Commissioner Yvette Colbourne of the City of Miramar, Florida, in recognition of her ongoing efforts to uplift the Afro-Latina community. (Contributed image)

In a proud and emotional moment, Afro-Latina star Amara La Negra was recently honored by Commissioner Yvette Colbourne of the City of Miramar, Florida, in recognition of her ongoing efforts to uplift the Afro-Latina community. The special proclamation was presented at the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, acknowledging Amara La Negra's dedication to fostering unity and enhancing the visibility of Afro-Latinas across the United States.

"It's such an honor to share this moment with my daughters," said a visibly moved Amara La Negra during the ceremony. She expressed gratitude to Commissioner Colbourne for recognizing her contributions and supporting her work. The honor also highlights her positive influence on Hispanic culture and her commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Surrounded by her family, including her daughters, the Royal Twins, and her mother, Amara La Negra shared her appreciation. "I'm so thankful my efforts to unite the community are being acknowledged. Having my

family with me, alongside the fans who support me every day, made it all the more special."

Amara La Negra also took the stage at the "Miramar Latin Music Festival 2024" on September 21st, energizing the crowd with her vibrant hits. Held at the Miramar Regional Park Amphitheater, the festival was a key part of the Hispanic Heritage Month festivities, celebrating Latin music and culture. This performance marked her return to the stage after a four-year hiatus, showcasing the same passion that has defined her career.

As one of the most influential figures in Latin culture, Amara La Negra continues to inspire, using her platform to advocate for diversity and representation. Her message to young Afro-Latinas is clear: embrace your heritage and use your voice to create meaningful change.

This Hispanic Heritage Month, Amara La Negra stands as a trailblazer, breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations.



# ELECTION WRAP UP

Caribbean today will be spotlighting local and state-wide elections in an early printing of our November issue. **(Print date is October 22)** Come with Caribbean Today as we enter the last lap of this most intriguing election season. Candidates, you need to earn the people's vote. This has been a presidency like no other.

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

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

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

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18, 2024**

**ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

# From Banker To Award-Winning Wedding Planner - Natalie John

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

It all happened naturally, seamlessly as if it were meant to be. Or, as Natalie John reflected: "As if it was divine intervention."

John founded her destination wedding business, Dreamy Weddings, in 1999. Today that company has grown to become a leading player in the industry, creating unforgettable moments for couples from across the globe. Born and raised in Saint Lucia but based on the island of Saint Kitts where she was working with the Central Bank at the time, John had no idea she was heading in another direction until a fateful email from a couple out of the blue.

"I got an email from a gentleman out of the UK who wanted information because he was celebrating his 10th anniversary of marriage and he wanted to plan a vow renewal in Saint Lucia for his wife. I answered all the questions, but I was like, PS: how did you get my email address?"

"He replied and said he got it from the Saint Lucian country list which supplied people's contact details at the time... and he just picked mine," John explained incredulously.

She added: "I kept getting emails from him and responding. And remember, I was working in banking. I didn't know anything about putting together events of that nature. He asked me about a wedding package saying that he wanted to book."

That's when John got into research gear and started Googling wedding packages. And with help from her mother and others she put together a package for the couple from the United Kingdom who renewed their vows in front of the same magistrate who married them 10 years before in Saint Lucia. That's when Dreamy Weddings was officially born.

"Ultimately, the client was super satisfied, wanting to give me a testimonial. And I said, you know, 'that had to be God's hand,'" exclaimed the certified wedding specialist.

## EMPIRE

Twenty-five years on it's no longer just Dreamy Weddings, The CEO is building an empire. From operating in Saint Kitts and Saint Lucia, John now caters for destination weddings across thirteen idyllic Caribbean islands. Her innovative vision creates environments to pamper discerning couples, assist corporate groups planning Caribbean events, and help island tourism officials give visitors exceptional vacation experiences through concierge travel services, unique tours, and entertainment bookings. The Dreamy Group of companies now includes Dreamy Weddings & Tours Inc., Dreamy Floral & Décor Bar Ltd., Dreamy Rentals, and Elite St. Kitts.

The award-winning entrepreneur was designated Caribbean Wedding Planner and Off-Site Wedding Planner of the Year titles in 2018 and 2019 and was also honoured with the Saint Kitts Business Excellence Awards in 2019. John is also named as an A-List Wedding Planner by Destination Weddings & Honeymoons magazine.

John explained that the expansion of her wedding business started after an issue with florals for a client's wedding in Saint Kitts.

"Dreamy was a name that was known so I used that brand to establish the florals. And the intention was really to do florals for the weddings and maybe if the hotels here wanted service we would provide it," she told Caribbean Today. "But again, that grew beyond what the plan was, beyond what I anticipated, and the public really accepted it. By extension, we started doing decor services."



Natalie John founded her destination wedding business, Dreamy Weddings, in 1999. (Contributed image)

Dreamy Florals has grown to become the premier florist in St. Kitts, providing services to hotels, the general public and the cruise market. Encouraged by this success, in 2023 John opened the branded floral business in Saint Lucia, offering services similar to the well known 1-800-flowers.

Beyond that, the Dreamy brand has become a complete concierge service for clients seeking destination weddings in the Caribbean. This means the bulk of John's clients are from overseas. But more importantly, Dreamy Weddings also has a substantial Caribbean market from couples in neighboring islands seeking to have their nuptials in sister islands.

## SELLING THE CARIBBEAN

The wedding planning industry is huge. So, what does it take to compete in such a market and maintain a high standard? For the Dreamy Wedding CEO it is about being a professional, guiding her clients and selling the Caribbean.

She noted that whether clients are from the Caribbean or abroad, they are looking to you

as the professional, the expert, to guide them. And being a leader in the industry in the Caribbean, she takes that role very seriously.

"For us, it's not about the money; it's about the experience and selling the Caribbean," said John. "So while we offer various destinations, my heart is always Caribbean because there are so many destinations to choose from. Apart from sea and sand we have the warmth of our people and we truly try as best as possible to give you all the options available."

Indeed, as a Caribbean woman, John knows the value of community. And it is in that spirit that she created the Caribbean Weddings and Event Professionals, a volunteer organization set-up for industry-wide professionals to foster networking and creativity amongst bartenders, florists, hair stylists, makeup specialists and bartenders among others.

"It's about knowing that even in competition, there is community," she said. "It's not just about competing against each other all the time. Everybody needs to grow. And we want to see ourselves as the wider

CARICOM community."

So, what's next for Natalie John?

"I am looking at the Natalie John brand," she said.

Bringing 25 years of solid, successful businesses to the table, the entrepreneur started a new event called 'Bloom and Sip,' geared towards getting busy individuals to try their hand at floral making, but more importantly, to see what flowers do to you, to touch it, to feel it all while sipping cocktails, wines, and indulging in hors d'œuvres.

So successful was the first event in Saint Kitts, the now signature Bloom and Sip has blossomed in Saint Lucia and talks are in progress for one in Jamaica as well. John sees her newest brand as creative ways to celebrate, network and share stories.

"I'm realizing that persons are actually looking for other ways to celebrate and to network, and I'm trying to see it from an entrepreneurial journey," she added. "I am hoping that it will ignite something in you to realize there's always another step in your journey."



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# Jamaican Immigrant Reflects on Surviving 9/11

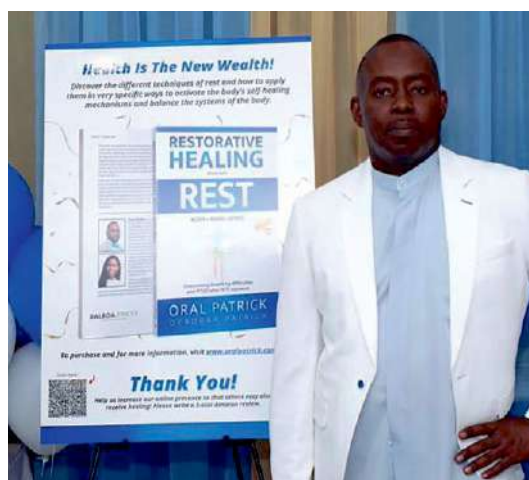
"I survived 9/11 not once, but twice. First by being fired from my job, and second by recovering after falling ill at the site of that job."

These are the powerful words of Caribbean immigrant and Jamaican-born consultant, Oral Patrick, an engineer, and former World Trade Center employee, who shares his extraordinary journey in his book Restorative Healing Begins With Rest: Overcoming Breathing Difficulties and PTSD After 9/11 Exposure.

Co-authored with his daughter Deborah Patrick, the book recounts his escape from death, subsequent illness, and eventual recovery. Patrick, who narrowly avoided being present at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, shares how he was laid off from his job at Lava Trading Inc., located on the 83rd floor of One World Trade

Center, just one day before the attacks. His survival story took a turn when he volunteered to assist at Ground Zero, leading to debilitating health issues. His recovery came through a holistic approach that emphasized the restorative power of rest for the body, mind, and spirit, which he outlines in his book.

Born in Old Harbour, Jamaica, Patrick grew up in a family of eight siblings, attended Marlie Mount Primary, and later graduated from The University of the West Indies with a degree in Physics and Mathematics. He immigrated to the U.S. with his family in



Caribbean immigrant and Jamaican born 9/11 survivor Oral Patrick. (Photo courtesy of Patrick family archives)

search of the American dream, overcoming challenges along the way.

In Restorative Healing Begins With Rest, Patrick explains how after months of illness - resulting from exposure

to toxins at Ground Zero - he discovered the healing power of rest. His book provides practical advice on how to allow the body to heal itself by removing external stressors, much like rebooting a computer after shutting it down.

Patrick, who later founded Patrick Internet Computer Systems, also became a pastor and established a real estate company to meet post-9/11 housing needs. He now shares his message of healing with others, encouraging them to embrace rest as a powerful tool for recovery and wellness.

His inspiring book is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Audible, with more information at oralpatrick.com.

- NewsAmericasNow.com





# Where Are The Haitians For Trump In This Latest Racist Attack Against Haitians?

In the 2016 presidential campaign, then-candidate Donald Trump visited Little Haiti in Miami at the invitation of the now-late Haitian immigrant and Republican, Bernard Sansaricq. Trump promised the Haitian-American community that his administration would tackle their concerns and that he would be their “greatest champion.” Fast forward to today, and the story of Haitians for Trump reveals a grim reality - one of empty promises and, now, racist attacks.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Sansaricq, to his credit, eventually saw through Trump’s façade. Before his death, he penned an open letter denouncing the Trump administration, stating, “The gangs now have full control of the country and for three and a half years under Trump’s presidency the situation has worsened both politically and economically - corruption is the law all over the land... Haiti, which was once the Pearl of the Caribbean, is now worse than Somalia.”

It’s hard to forget that, just two years after vowing to support Haitians, Trump allegedly claimed that Haitian immigrants “all have AIDS” and referred to Haiti as a “sh--hole” country. In 2017, he canceled Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti. And yet, despite these egregious actions, Trump continues to enjoy some Haitian support.

Enter Madgie Nicolas, who leads the current iteration of Haitians for Trump. Nicolas touts her credentials on her Instagram profile as a “former Advisor to the 45th President” and the Chair of Haitians for Trump. Recently, she hosted a rally for Trump in Florida and claims to have been involved in several political campaigns, serving as an appointee and surrogate on Black Voices for Trump.

But today, as MAGA nativists and proponents of the Great Replacement Theory launch vile campaigns against Haitian immigrants, Nicolas and her followers have remained conspicuously silent. The latest wave of racist rhetoric has

erupted in Springfield, Ohio, a predominantly White city and the home state of Republican U.S. Senator J.D. Vance, who has seized on a baseless and inflammatory claim targeting Haitian immigrants.

The allegations began with a local Facebook post by Springfield resident Erika Lee, who falsely claimed that a cat was found hanging from a tree, butchered, and eaten by Haitian immigrants. Lee has since apologized for her story. This grotesque lie was quickly amplified by the Neo-Nazi group Blood Tribe, which organized an “anti-Haitian Immigration march” in Springfield on August 10. The group marched with swastikas and used the incident to spread their hate.

Not surprisingly, Vance took to X (formerly Twitter) to amplify the falsehood, declaring that Haitian immigrants were “causing chaos” in Springfield. He went further, claiming that people’s pets were being abducted and eaten by Haitian newcomers.

Other prominent figures joined in, including Sen. Ted Cruz, who posted a meme on X depicting cats begging people to vote for Trump “so Haitian immigrants don’t eat us.” Even Elon Musk and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene jumped on the bandwagon, spreading more incendiary memes.

Then, on September 10, Trump himself took the hateful rhetoric to a new level during a debate with Vice President Kamala Harris, stating: “They’re eating the dogs. They’re eating the cats. They’re eating the pets of the people that live there.” These unfounded accusations have triggered bomb threats against a school and City Hall in Springfield and have tarnished the reputation of the Haitian Community Help & Support Center, a non-profit established to support new Haitian arrivals.

In the face of these outrageous and dangerous lies, Nicolas has remained silent—unlike Sansaricq, who had the courage to acknowledge that Haitians were deceived. Instead, Nicolas has previously dismissed Trump’s racist attacks, calling them part of “a dirty fight” and accusing Democrats of “playing the victim.”

The rhetoric being used is a clear echo of the dangerous

Great Replacement Theory (GRT), a racist narrative that claims the nation’s greatness is imperiled by an influx of foreign races, ethnicities, or religions. Throughout history, GRT has been used to justify mass atrocities. Hitler propagated it in his genocidal quest against Jews and Black soldiers in Europe. In the U.S., it has inspired mass murders like the 2015 Charleston church shooting and the 2019 El Paso Walmart massacre.

Trump’s latest attacks put a dangerous bull’s eye on the backs of Haitian immigrants across the country. The silence from Nicolas and Haitians for Trump only serves to fuel the fire. One can’t help but wonder: is this victimhood, as Nicolas claims, or is this the sinister ideology of the Great Replacement Theory at play?

The time has come for Nicolas and others who have thrown their support behind

Trump to take a stand - because history has shown us that this kind of rhetoric can quickly lead to tragic consequences.



**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Felicia J. Persaud is the publisher of *NewsAmericasNow.com*, a daily news outlet focused on positive news on the Black immigrant communities of the Caribbean and Latin America.




## TEEN DRUG COURT

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## Beauty Or Brains

The question has been asked from time immemorial, what is more important, beauty or brains? What do you place more value on, looking good or having an education; having a dunce pretty baby or one who is an ugly genius?



TONY ROBINSON

For some people, nothing beats beauty, for as far as they are concerned, that’s enough to take them through life. It works for some women too, for a beautiful woman will have many doors opened for her, including the door to a rich man’s heart. For others it’s education, for with a good educational background, many opportunities will be available for you, and you can have almost anything that you desire.

Now we’ve all heard that beauty is only skin deep, all that (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

VIEWPOINT



# We Lost Count Of Trump's Fabrications And Lies

BY ROGER CALDWELL

The first debate is over and Vice President Harris is ready for another one. "Under the bright lights, the American people got to see the choice they will face this fall at the ballot box: between moving forward with Kamala Harris, or going backward with Trump," says Harris' team.

President of the Hillsborough County Democratic Hispanic Caucus, Victor Rudy DiMaio commented: "Donald is just not working with a full deck of cards and Kamala's right on the money. She's sharp, she's intelligent, she's well spoken, and she's doing a phenomenal job. And that's what we need in a President of the United States."

On Tuesday September 10th, there were 70 million Americans watching the debate, and Vice President Harris was strong and confident while former President Trump was weak, angry, and no vision for the future of America. Vice President Harris as the prosecutor was able to get people excited because she spoke of a plan for the future.

On the other hand, Trump came to the debate unprepared, with no plan and plenty of lies that made no sense. According to CNN-Cable News Network, Trump delivered more than 30

false claims during the presidential debate. It is obvious that Trump wants to scare Americans to doom and gloom in the country.

Trump is claiming that migrants are arriving to US from prisons and mental institutions, and there is no evidence of the claim. Trump is also claiming that 21 million people are crossing the border since President Biden has become president. The number is false and around 8 million legal and illegal have entered America. One of the biggest false facts that Trump claimed was Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio are eating people's pets. This false claim is now being promoted by numerous Republicans. They are specifically claiming that Haitian migrants in the city of Springfield, Ohio, are stealing people's pet dogs and cats, and eating them.

There is no evidence for this claim. Meanwhile schools and some administration buildings were unable to open up, because of numerous bomb threats. As Trump's untruthfulness starts to hurt communities, families, and people, when will the lies stop or slow down?

Vice President Harris is ready for a second debate, but is Trump ready to challenge Harris again. "I am not inclined to do it because I won the debate by a lot. But I think we let it settle in, and let's

see what happens. Look, I've been told I'm a good debater. I think it was one of my better debates, maybe my best debate," says Trump.

When 70 million Americans are watching a presidential debate, there will be 70 million different opinions and thoughts. Some Americans will say Harris won and other will say Trump won.

Recent news polls after the debate have Harris at 50% and 45% for Trump. The Yahoo news

poll is claiming that Trump's performance was poor, incoherent, insulting, incompetent, and untruthful.

Vice President Harris has a plan and she talks about making things more affordable, such as homeownership. She talked about helping children and families with the child tax credit. She talked about protecting Social Security and Medicare, thereby protecting seniors. She talked about the environment and how she is

working for all Americans.

It was only one person on the stage that was serious, disciplined, with a vision and a plan. She is the first Black women to ever run for president, and she supports women health care, wants to protect the economy and improve the middle class - which helps everyone.

Her name is Kamala Devi Harris.



## Beauty Or Brains

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

glitters is not gold, beauty fades like a rose, pretty face and bad character, and all that. But despite all the pronouncements and proclamations said about beauty, the only negative sayings are those said by people who are not beautiful.

I have never heard a gorgeous woman say that beauty is only skin deep or being beautiful isn't all. It's the same way that I've never heard a rich man saying that money can't buy happiness. Those negative utterances usually come from a background of envy. It was Keri Hilson who sang: 'Don't hate me 'cause I'm beautiful.'

The truth is, beauty is of a premium, and everyone, at least every woman, wants to be beautiful. Because of this, the cosmetic, magazine, movie, beauty and media platforms promote and thrive on the fact that women want to be beautiful. Nobody wants to see an ugly face staring back at them from the TV reading the news.

Of course, there are a few exceptions, with some being maybe not absolutely beautiful. What we will never see though, is a downright ugly, hideous, hog face woman reading the news on TV.

But what if that same homely person was armed with a good education, even to the highest level? Would he or she be preferred by society? Would that prime-time news reader, ugly like a goblin, but holder of an MBA or PhD in broadcasting, be allowed to bring the news to us every evening?

Would a man, ugly like sin, be allowed to hold the highest office in the land, even though he holds a doctorate in Political Science? How would you as a parent feel if your son brought home a young woman who resembled Shrek's wife, even though she was as



brilliant as Einstein?

"Mom, dad, I want you to meet my fiancée and intended bride, Brumhilda, she has a PhD." "I don't care what PH or D she have, you not marrying that ugly woman and give us ugly grandchildren."

Of course, education will take people far, and I'm all for it, but I know many women who are highly educated and can't find or hold a man, simply because they fall short in the looks department.

I also know many women who are not very educated, but breeze through life on a flying carpet made of silk, having a gold spoon in their mouths and driving a criss SUV, simply because they were beautiful.

A man will see a beautiful woman working as a waitress, a nanny or a helper, and whisk her away and marry her, all because she's beautiful. History is replete with stories like that. Famous men like OJ Simpson who met his wife while she was working as

a waitress. Tiger Woods married his friend's children's nanny and Prince Rainier of Monaco was so smitten by actress Grace Kelly, that he married her, making her Princess Grace of Monaco.

Fairytale endings only happen for beautiful women. I can't recall any such romantic episode happening to a highly educated but ugly woman. When people ask about weddings, the first thing that they ask is: "How does the bride look? Is she pretty?" "Beautiful bride."

Beauty or brains, It's a reality that is infused in almost every society in the world, irrespective of what their standards of beauty are.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Tony Robinson is an independent contributor to Caribbean Today and the views expressed here are his own. He can be reached at [seidoIyard@gmail.com](mailto:seidoIyard@gmail.com) for feedback.



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Peter A. Webley  
Publisher

## Belize Politician And Former Rapper Shyne Denies Knowledge of Diddy's "Freak-Offs"

Belizean politician and former Bad Boy rapper, Moses "Shyne" Barrow, has made it clear that he had no knowledge of or involvement in Sean "Diddy" Combs' alleged "freak-off" parties. Barrow, now Leader of the Opposition in Belize, addressed the issue during a recent press conference, following Combs' arrest in New York City on September 16th.

Barrow, who was once signed to Combs' Bad Boy Records, reflected on his relationship with the music mogul, accusing Combs of having "destroyed" his life. "At 18, I just wanted to make my mother proud and put Belize on the map. I defended him, only for him to turn against me and testify in court, which led to my imprisonment," Barrow stated, though he did not provide

specific details to support the claim.

Barrow's comments reference his 1999 conviction for a nightclub shooting in New York, which left three people injured. While Barrow was sentenced to 10 years in prison, Combs was acquitted of all charges. Combs maintained at the time that he had no involvement in the shooting, stating, "I do not own or carry a gun."

Since his release from prison in 2009 and subsequent deportation to Belize, Barrow has turned his focus to politics.

Barrow emphasized that his relationship with Combs was never personal. "We never vacationed together or had any close, brotherly bond. He ruined my life, but I forgave him and moved on. I pursued investments



Belizean politician and former Bad Boy rapper, Moses "Shyne" Barrow, has made it clear that he had no knowledge of or involvement in Sean "Diddy" Combs' alleged "freak-off" parties.

for Belize's education system, knowing he had the resources to contribute," Barrow explained. When asked by a reporter whether he had any knowledge of or participation in Combs' alleged "freak-off" events,

Barrow firmly denied any involvement. "I had nothing to do with Sean Combs' personal life; our dealings were strictly professional," he responded.

Combs is currently facing charges of sex trafficking,

racketeering, and other offenses related to the alleged events. According to the federal indictment, victims were reportedly coerced into participating in the "freak-offs" using drugs, and some instances were allegedly captured on camera without consent.

Combs has pleaded not guilty and remains in custody at the Brooklyn Detention Center as he awaits trial.

For those who believe they are victims of Combs' alleged crimes, authorities urge them to contact Homeland Security Investigations at [Sextrafficking\\_outreach@hsi.dhs.gov](mailto:Sextrafficking_outreach@hsi.dhs.gov) or via their mobile tip-line at 1-877-4-HSITIP, and reference this case.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Caribbean-Born Jazz Singer Wins 2024 InterContinental Music Award



Caribbean-born-jazz-singer-Marie-Claire-Giraud

Acclaimed Caribbean-born jazz artist Marie-Claire Giraud has been named the winner in the Jazz category at the prestigious 2024 InterContinental Music Awards, (ICMA). These global awards celebrate outstanding musical talent across diverse genres, recognizing artists from all over the world.

Marie-Claire, originally from Dominica and raised in the Bronx, expressed her excitement at receiving this recognition. "Winning 'Best of America Jazz' for my original song Chasin' Rainbows is incredible because it means more people will hear my song, which is all about positivity and never giving up on your dreams," she said.

The 2024 ICMA competition attracted submissions from over 55 countries, highlighting the rich diversity of musical talent across the globe. A total of 116 winners were selected across genres such as Flamenco, Reggae, New Age, Asian Pop, and Jazz, with entries divided into geographic regions to spotlight talent from Africa, Europe, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East.

"We celebrated not just individual melodies, but a harmonious global symphony where artists from different cultures, time zones, and backgrounds shared their voices and stories," said Shahed Mohseni, Founder and Executive

Director of ICMA.

Judges for the awards included top professionals from Hollywood's music, entertainment, film, and media industries. They evaluated entries based on originality, composition, production quality, and overall message. Winners, including Marie-Claire, will receive prizes such as scholarships, mentoring sessions, promotional support, and official ICMA awards.

Marie-Claire is currently working on her upcoming jazz album Caravan with Plaid Dog Recording, set for release in late October 2024. A seasoned performer, she regularly appears with renowned pianists Jon Davis and Matt Baker at the Scarlet Jazz Lounge in New York City. Her previous performances include her acclaimed one-woman show The Great American Songbook at the Movies and headlining at Maui's Jazz Maui Sunset Jazz Series.

Beyond her jazz career, Marie-Claire has graced iconic venues like Carnegie Hall, the Barclays Center, and Madison Square Garden. She has also performed at international festivals such as the Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival and Cartagena Jazz Festival.

A recipient of several accolades, including the NYC Caribbean Heritage Award and recognition from the NAACP for her career achievements and community service, Marie-Claire continues to inspire through her music and advocacy.

For more updates on her upcoming performances, visit her official website at [marie-clairegiraud.com](http://marie-clairegiraud.com).



## Guyanese Singer Eddy Grant Wins Copyright Case Against Donald Trump



Eddy Grant has won his case over Donald Trump. (X Image/Eddy Grant)

Guyanese-British singer Eddy Grant has won a copyright infringement lawsuit against former U.S. President Donald Trump, after a federal judge ruled that Trump's 2020 campaign unlawfully used Grant's hit song "Electric Avenue" in a campaign video without permission.

The case was filed by Grant in 2020 when Trump's team used the 1982 chart-topping song in a video shared on social media attacking then-presidential candidate Joe Biden. Grant expressed dismay at the unauthorized use of his music, which led to the lawsuit.

Trump's legal team had argued that their use of the song fell under the fair use doctrine, which allows limited re-use of copyrighted material under certain circumstances. However, Judge John G. Koeltl firmly rejected this argument, stating that the campaign video did not modify the song's lyrics, vocals, or instrumentals, and offered no justification for its extensive use.

In his ruling, Judge Koeltl said, "The video has a very low degree of transformativeness,

if any at all," describing it as "wholesale copying of music to accompany a political campaign ad."

Following the ruling, Grant's attorney, Brian D. Caplan, said that his client was "gratified" by the decision, noting that it underscores the importance of protecting artists' rights. "Politicians are not above the law, and the court reaffirmed that," Caplan said.

While the court ruled that Trump and his campaign were legally liable for copyright infringement, the amount of damages Trump will have to pay Grant is yet to be determined in future proceedings.

Trump has faced similar complaints from other artists during his political campaigns. Notable acts such as Beyoncé, Celine Dion, and ABBA, as well as the estates of Sinead O'Connor and Isaac Hayes, have voiced opposition to the unauthorized use of their music.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Dancehall Star Spice Releases New Single



Queen of Dancehall, Spice

Queen of Dancehall, Spice, has just released her latest single, "Sitt'n Fi Chat," via VP Records and Shaggy's label, Ranch Entertainment.

The track is the third release on the popular "Badman" riddim, following Olaf Blackwood and Shaggy's "Selector Pull It" and Junior Cat's "Rude Bwoy Sumthin." Produced by Shaggy and Shane Hoosong, the single

is already generating excitement across the dancehall scene.

Accompanying the release is a dynamic, career-spanning music video featuring legendary artists like Ninja Man and Vybz Kartel, highlighting Spice's journey as a dancehall icon.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## The Cimarons: Pioneering UK Reggae Band Honoured In New Documentary



The Cimarons, a film on Locksley Gichie, Franklyn Dunn and Mike Arkk is set to hit a UK theatre this month. (The Cimarons promotional image)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Whenever reggae's history in the United Kingdom is discussed, The Cimarons are usually given token mention despite playing a major role in the development of Jamaican music in that country.

'The Cimarons Story - Harder Than The Rock,' a documentary on the band, which formed in 1967, is scheduled to officially open in the UK this month, according to J6 Films and Margot Films.

Directed by Mark Warmington, it premiered on June 15 at the Sheffield Docs Fest.

"It's been an absolute honour to have Cimarons entrust me to tell their story, which started in 1967 and continues to the present day," Warmington said of the film.

If ever a band had an excuse to be bitter and resentful of the music industry, I think Cimarons would be top of the list. The way those guys have been exploited is obscene,

but they've persevered with dedication, humour and, above all, a commitment and love for reggae music. I'm delighted that this documentary is now going some way to getting them the recognition they deserve."

Guitarist Locksley Gichie and bassist Franklyn Dunn formed The Cimarons in north west London 57 years ago. They are the only original members in a band that maintains a steady touring schedule and recently released 'Paul Bogle,' a song written by Maurice Ellis, their original drummer who died in 2021.

"The Cimarons have done some great work that needs to be mentioned, needs to be known. I think this documentary will finally do that," said Gichie.

That great work includes backing elite artists like Bob Marley, McCartney, Jimmy Cliff, Toots and The Maytals, Dennis Brown, Ken Boothe, Lee 'Scratch' Perry and Errol Dunkley in the UK. The Cimarons also recorded an

album, 'Reggaeability,' which was produced by Paul McCartney.

Gichie, who is from Montego Bay, first arrived in England in 1962, the year Jamaica got independence from the UK. Its damp, foggy weather took some getting used to, but after making acquaintances with the growing West Indian community, he gradually got over homesickness.

The Cimarons, who were all Jamaicans, formed at a youth club in the London borough of Harlesden, an area where the early wave of West Indians settled during the 1950s. As Gichie recalls, there were no auditions.

"I asked Franklyn if he could play (bass) guitar and he said yes. The same thing with Carl Levy (keyboards), and Maurice. Nothing was planned, it was just meant to be," Gichie reminisced recently.

Over the years, The Cimarons have had several lead singers including Carl Lewis, Patrick Guy and Winston Reedy. Michael Arkk is their current vocalist.

During the 1970s, the quintet made groundbreaking tours to Japan, Thailand, Nigeria and Ghana. In the mid-1980s when music trends evolved in the UK, Gichie says demand waned for The Cimarons, but in recent years their reputation as pioneers has earned them gigs at major European festivals like Geel in Belgium and Ostroda in Poland.

'The Cimarons Story - Harder Than The Rock,' is co-produced by Warmington, James Baxter and Jeremiah Cullinane.



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Caribbean Today

## Millie Small's 'My Boy Lollipop' Tops Veteran Broadcaster's List of Best Reggae Covers

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

'My Boy Lollipop,' the 1964 ska ditty by Millie Small, has been named the number one reggae cover song by veteran broadcaster Clinton Lindsay, whose Top 100 Cover Songs were released recently.

Sixty years ago, 'My Boy Lollipop,' originally done in 1956 by American singer Barbie Gay, went to number one in the United Kingdom. Distributed by the fledgling Island Records, it peaked at number two in the United States and introduced ska to mainstream audiences in both countries.

At number two on Lindsay's list is 'Now That We've Found Love,' by Third World, originally done by The O'Jays. Third World's version was released in

1978 by Island Records and did well in the United States.

'Everything I Own,' Ken Boothe's take on American group Bread's hit single, is number three. It topped the British chart in October 1974.

At number four is 'Someone Loves You Honey,' JC Lodge's 1978 spin on the Charley Pride country song. 'A Love I Can Feel,' John Holt's 1970 take on an obscure song done by The Temptations seven years earlier, is number five.

Coming in at number six is 'Breakfast In Bed,' the bass-heavy, 1972 Lorna Bennett hit, which was originally done by Dusty Springfield. 'You Don't Care,' by The Techniques, done for producer Duke Reid in 1967, is number seven. It

was originally recorded by The Impressions.

'No Man Is An Island,' a 1968 Dennis Brown classic first done by The Van Dykes one year earlier, is number eight. At number nine is Mikey Spice's 2013 'Do Over' of Neil Diamond's 1971 hit, 'I Am...I Said.'

Completing the Top 10 is Peter Tosh's 1983 rendition of Chuck Berry's 'Johnny G Goode.'

A stalwart of New York/South Florida West Indian radio, Lindsay told the Observer Online that he selected the Top 100. "The main criteria I used, is that the cover song must retain at least 80 per cent of its original lyrics and that the title can be adjusted," he said.



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FOOD &amp; DINING

# Manjay Aims To Bring Caribbean, Latin American Cultures Together Through Culinary Arts

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

The city of Doral, which constitutes about 86 percent of the Hispanic population, is considered one of the Latin American culinary destinations in Miami-Dade.

But Manjay, a Caribbean restaurant from owner Cristian Dominique, is making a splash by exposing Haitian, Jamaican and Bahamian dishes to the predominantly Hispanic community, with a population of 75,874, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

Manjay, which expanded in Doral several years ago at 2000 N.W. 87th Avenue, serves a variety of delicious, colourful, and high-quality foods inspired by Dominique's Caribbean roots. The menu includes Caribbean conch fritters, Tootay, a Haitian style Ratatouille, Haitian fried chicken sandwich, Creole style braised pork, jerk chicken, coco loco shrimp, jerk shrimp, steak frites and vegan bowls.

Dominique was born and raised in Haiti.

"We prepare our food efficiently, and we make sure that we provide our customers with safe, high-standard ingredients at a reasonable price," he said. Manjay opened its first location in Little Haiti, 8300 N.E. 2nd

Avenue, in the Citadel, a mixed-use complex, which also offers shopping, entertainment, and office space, houses a food hall with concepts from a handful of Miami's most popular chefs and restaurants.

Dominique said he chose Doral when he decided to expand to bring the Caribbean and Latin American cultures together through the culinary arts.

In addition, opening up in Doral, which encompasses 15 square miles, was Dominique's opportunity to expose Caribbean dishes in a big city with shopping centres, financial institutions and other businesses, and attract tourists since the municipality is just west of Miami International Airport.

"When I started the concept, I wanted to expose Caribbean food to diverse people," he said. "We felt like Doral is a good place. The flavors are similar and we exposed a lot of people to ours at the Doral location."

But Dominique, 42, experienced some ups and downs in the restaurant business. He said at first, he was planning to open up the restaurant in Delray in 2017 but ran into some issues.

Dominique said he was searching for a new location and chose the spot inside the Citadel in Little Haiti in 2019 after

saving up enough money to finally open the business.

"The Citadel was the perfect place to open," he said.

But the COVID-19 pandemic struck with government restrictions limiting operation for all restaurants in Florida. Dominique said he then bought a food truck because he thought the Citadel was planning to shut down.

"We didn't want to lose that momentum so we operated the food truck for a while," he told Caribbean Today.

He said when the restrictions were lifted, he reopened in Little Haiti and first expanded in Wynwood, but the restaurant business was still reeling from COVID-19 and he decided to sell the location to avoid financial issues.

That's when the opportunity to start a location in Doral was staring him right in the face. "I love the process of exposing Caribbean culture to other people," he said. "I think it's unique but the culture doesn't get enough credit for making some great food. Caribbean culture is about flavours and where they come from in general."

Dominique decided



Manjay's owner Cristian Dominique. (Contributed image)

to follow his grandfather's footsteps. His grandfather owned a restaurant and hotel in Haiti for years and Dominique decided to study hospitality management at Florida International University.

After he graduated with a bachelor's degree, Dominique returned to Haiti to work for his grandfather's first hotel, which by that time was a bit rundown and was experiencing insolvency. During his time there, Dominique was able to turn it around and get the hotel back to its prominent years, posting record revenues in his first 2 years.

After 3 years, he decided it was time for him to do his own thing, so he left the hospitality industry and tried different

things. He then started to work with his father who owns a shipping company, which led him to travel throughout the Caribbean.

But Dominique still held on to his dream of owning his own restaurant. It wasn't until he spoke to his wife about it that he started to put his dream to work. Dominique said she was supportive of his dream and she started doing some research on his behalf.

She knew he didn't just want to have a restaurant, but that he wanted to do something that was different and that reflected his personality.

Dominique said when he started his concept in 2014, Haiti's economy was in decline and he needed a contingency plan, which gave him the opportunity to demonstrate the Caribbean flavor, especially Haiti's flavor, in Miami.

"That is what we are about," he said. Dominique said he created all the recipes for his restaurant himself.

Dominique now employs a staff of 11 people at his Doral and Little Haiti locations. He said sometimes he sits down at tables to watch people's facial expressions while they are eating, especially customers eating Caribbean food for the first time.

"Some smile and some people dance," he said. "People appreciate what we are doing and some don't. You can't please everyone."



## Golden Krust Ends FLAVOR 2024 Tour in South Florida

Golden Krust, the premier family-owned Caribbean fast-casual restaurant chain, recently celebrated the final stop of its 2024 FLAVOR - Jamaican Patty Day Tour - on September 21st at the Axis Lounge in Pembroke Pines. The event marked the third and final celebration in a series that included stops in Atlanta and New York.

The evening brought together key figures from the Florida, Miami, and Jamaican media and culinary scenes. Notable musical guests included Jamaican Billboard-charting artist Kranium, DJ Nico, Dutty Dex, and DJ Don Hot, who kept the energy high throughout the night. Popular radio personalities Papa Keith from 103.5 FM's The Beat and Supa Cindy from 99JAMZ were also in attendance, along with influencers like Kemoy Martin, Naemah McKenzie, and model Zoe Chin Loy.

FLAVOR was part of Golden Krust's annual National Jamaican Patty Day celebration, a holiday the brand founded in 2015 to raise awareness of Caribbean culture and commemorate the opening of its first restaurant in the Bronx in August 1989. The day, celebrated on the first Saturday in August,



Billboard Charting Jamaican Singer, Kranium at the Golden Krust's Jamaican Patty Tour in Pembroke Pines. (Credit - Roger B Stillz)

also coincides with Jamaica's Independence and Emancipation holidays.

Golden Krust, known for its signature Jamaican patties, produces over 50 million patties annually and has grown to more than 110 locations across North America, with grocery products available in 22,000 stores. The brand continues to celebrate its Caribbean heritage while expanding its reach.

For more information on Golden Krust's Jamaican Patty Day celebrations, follow @goldenkrust on social media.



# TRAVEL NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

## Tony Robbins To Help Bring First Luxury Wellness Ecosystem To St. Kitts

St. Kitts & Nevis is set to welcome a groundbreaking development with the arrival of The Estate, the Caribbean's first luxury hospitality and residential ecosystem. Announced by global hospitality leader Sam Nazarian, life coach and best-selling author Tony Robbins, Latin music icon Marc Anthony, and international strategist Richard Attias, The Estate promises to revolutionize the region's luxury travel and wellness industry.

Slated to open its first of four luxury hotels and residences in 2026, The Estate will bring a new level of

opulence to the Caribbean. Located in St. Kitts & Nevis, a nation of fewer than 50,000 residents, the project is the result of collaboration between some of the world's most influential figures, with a combined social media following of up to 150 million. This marks a historic moment for the region, as influential business and cultural icons such as Robbins, Anthony, Nazarian, and Attias join forces for a luxury development of this magnitude.

The Prime Minister of St. Kitts & Nevis played a pivotal role in securing the project,

bringing this global innovation in wellness to the islands ahead of competing destinations like the United Kingdom, Italy, and Switzerland.

The Estate represents a vision born pre-pandemic, when Nazarian and Robbins conceived the concept of luxury that prioritizes longevity and wellness. Their goal is to create a hospitality platform that meets guests wherever they are, integrating high-end experiences with world-class preventive medicine and wellness.

A key feature of The Estate will be its collaboration with

Fountain Life, a leader in disease detection, prevention, and longevity. Together, they aim to establish the largest global ecosystem focused on preventive medicine, with 15 luxury hotels and residences and 10 urban longevity centers planned by 2030.

Additionally, The Estate will partner with Clinique La Prairie, a leader in longevity for over 90 years. Guests will have access to the 'Longevity Hub by Clinique La Prairie,' offering holistic health treatments and supplements aimed at enhancing vitality.

Construction of The Estate in St. Kitts & Nevis is set to begin in 2025, with pre-sales of the residential units anticipated later that summer. The development will also benefit the local community through the sbe Foundation, which aims to provide access to preventive diagnostics and treatments for underprivileged groups by partnering with charitable organizations.

For more information, visit [estatehotels.com](http://estatehotels.com).



## Blue Diamond Resorts Launches Private Island Diamond Experience In Jamaica

Blue Diamond Resorts has introduced a new level of luxury with the launch of its *Private Island Diamond Experience* at the Hideaway at Royalton Blue Waters, An Autograph Collection All-Inclusive Resort – Adults Only, in Jamaica.

This exclusive offering enhances the Diamond Club™ suite experience, allowing guests to enjoy a secluded, personalized escape on a private islet designed for relaxation and intimate connections.

Set against the stunning

backdrop of Montego Bay's turquoise waters, the *Private Island Diamond Experience* offers a private adults-only retreat, prioritizing privacy and bespoke service.

Guests staying in select Diamond Club™ suite categories can book one of four lavish beach cabanas located on this 111-square-foot private island,



Private Island Diamond Experience at Royalton Resorts

just offshore from the resort.

Upon arrival, guests can book the service during check-in and will be introduced to their

dedicated private island butler. The butler ensures every need is met, from cold towels infused with tropical scents to live entertainment that showcases the vibrant culture of Jamaica. Guests can enjoy spa treatments from The Royal Spa, savor gourmet meals and premium cocktails in their cabana, or simply relax with uninterrupted views of the Caribbean Sea.

For guests seeking an even more immersive experience, those booking a seven-night stay in the exclusive *Diamond Club™ Chairman Beach Walk Out Swim Out Suite* receive full-

day access to the private island. This experience is designed with personalized touches, including custom music selections and a cooler filled with premium beverages.

To enhance their stay, guests can also choose from a variety of add-on packages, featuring authentic Jamaican cuisine, premium spirits, and unique, personalized elements.

For more information or to reserve a *Private Island Diamond Experience*, visit [royaltonresorts.com](http://royaltonresorts.com).



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## Jamaica Welcomes Over 2 Million Stopover Visitors In 2024

Jamaica has welcomed over 2 million stopover visitors and approximately 3 million total visitors, including cruise arrivals, between January 1st and September 14th, 2024, according to preliminary figures revealed by Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett.

This marks an increase over last year's numbers for the same period.

"Surpassing 2 million stopover arrivals and reaching 3 million total visitors is a remarkable milestone for Jamaica," said Minister Bartlett. "Despite challenges like US travel advisories, Hurricane Beryl, and limited airlift capacity, we've generated around US\$2.97 billion in revenue this year. This reflects the resilience of our tourism sector and Jamaica's

enduring appeal as a top travel destination."

Minister Bartlett emphasized that expanding airlift from new and emerging markets remains a priority under the Ministry's Blue Ocean Strategy, particularly strengthening ties with South America.



## Visa Free Travel To Thailand To End For These Caribbean Countries

Beginning December 1, 2024, travellers from five Caribbean nations will no longer have visa-

free access to Thailand. Instead, they will need to secure an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) before visiting by air, sea, or land. This new requirement is part of Thailand's broader efforts to enhance immigration controls and strengthen border security for international visitors.

Travellers from the following Caribbean nations will now need to apply for an ETA before travelling to Thailand:

- Cuba
  - Dominica
  - Dominican Republic
  - Jamaica
  - Trinidad and Tobago
- Previously, visitors from these nations could enter Thailand without a visa.

Thailand has long been a favoured destination for

Caribbean tourists, with its beautiful beaches, rich culture, and vibrant cities attracting increasing numbers of visitors from Havana, Santo Domingo, and Kingston. Caribbean travellers can easily apply for their ETA online through Thailand's official e-Visa portal. The process is fully digital and will be free of charge.

The ETA will allow a single entry into Thailand and is valid for up to 60 days. Travellers who wish to extend their stay can apply for a one-time extension of an additional 30 days, enabling longer visits without the need for multiple re-entries.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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SCAN ME

# Amazon Opens Largest Fulfillment Center In Naranja

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

One of Miami-Dade County's impoverished communities is experiencing an economic uptick due to a partnership between County Commissioner Kionne McGhee and Amazon.

Amazon recently opened its new one-million-square-foot fulfillment center in Naranja, 13200 S.W. 272nd Street, with an agreement to hire the workforce living in South Dade's District 9 which includes Richmond Heights, Goulds, Homestead and Florida City.

Amazon will employ over 1,000 residents, offering high-quality jobs with the lowest salary at \$17 an hour, boosting the Black community's economic growth.

McGhee said the facility is so large that it's the size of 17 football fields.

"Bringing Amazon to Naranja is about more than just creating jobs, it's about providing dignity, pride, and opportunity to the people of South Dade," said McGhee. "This fulfillment center will be a cornerstone of our community, offering employment that helps families thrive and encouraging lifelong learning

through educational opportunities."

McGhee said the grand opening of Amazon marks the beginning of a new chapter for District 9 residents who have been living at the poverty threshold for years.

When he was first elected in 2020, one of McGhee's campaign promises was pumping money into his district through an economic development program to bring jobs, businesses, building shopping centers and entertainment venues to the region.

As part of The McGhee Plan 2025, the Amazon fulfillment center is one of many strategic initiatives of his ongoing commitment to creating employment opportunities designed to enhance the quality of life for South Dade residents.

By securing large-scale investments and working with key stakeholders, McGhee continues to position South Dade as a hub for innovation,



Miami officials at the opening of the new Amazon fulfillment center in Naranja. (Contributed image)

business, and community development.

Amazon's investment in Naranja goes beyond job creation. The company has partnered with the Economic Development Council of South Dade to foster long-term growth for the region.

McGhee's close collaboration with Amazon helped ensure that local South Dade residents were prioritized for employment, strengthening

the ties between the community and the company.

District 9 residents hired by Amazon will also have employee benefits including healthcare, vision and dental coverage, a profit sharing play with a 50 percent company match, and wages that exceed the local living wage standard.

In addition, Amazon is offering their employees guaranteed paid tuition for employees who want to enroll

in college and pursue degrees at Miami-Dade College for career advancement.

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, who was at the grand opening, said Amazon's new facility is a game changer for economic development in District 9.

"This transformative project created over 1,000 jobs with a starting wage of \$17/hr, making it a major local employer," she said. "This is a win for our community, reducing commutes and boosting our economy."

Miami-Dade County commissioners approved to sell the vacant lot to Amazon for \$22 million for the center of at least one million square feet near the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

The company also agreed to pay the county \$22 million, with 25 percent of that going toward the Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the remaining proceeds going to the Homestead Air Reserve Base Fund to further economic development in the area.

For more information about employment opportunities at the Amazon fulfillment center, visit [www.amazon.jobs](http://www.amazon.jobs).



# Florida Legislators Grant JAXPORT \$23 Million for Crane Upgrades to Boost Cargo Efficiency

Florida legislators have presented JAXPORT with a \$23 million check to upgrade its crane infrastructure. The funds will be used to purchase a new container crane from Germany-based Liebherr Crane Company for the Talleyrand Marine

Terminal, as well as refurbish existing cranes at the port's facilities.

This investment, approved during the last legislative session and signed by Governor Ron DeSantis, aims to improve JAXPORT's cargo handling

efficiency, supporting job creation and strengthening supply chain security for Florida. As the state's largest container port, JAXPORT plays a vital role in facilitating commerce across Florida and the Eastern seaboard. JAXPORT CEO Eric Green

expressed gratitude for the support, noting that upgrading the crane fleet will allow the port to maintain efficiency while accommodating future growth. This \$23 million follows \$30 million in previous funding from the legislature, bringing the total

awarded to JAXPORT over the past two years to \$53 million. The new cranes are expected to arrive in 2025 and will further enhance JAXPORT's role as a leading port in Florida and the nation.



# Knutsford Express To End International Shipping Services

Knutsford Express, a major player in Jamaica's transportation and logistics sector, has announced that it will discontinue its international shipping and e-commerce services, effective October 7, 2024. Packages arriving at the company's U.S. mailing addresses in Doral and Lauderdale Lakes, Florida on or after this date will be returned to the sender, the company confirmed.

Knutsford Express emphasized that the decision was not made lightly, assuring customers of a smooth and orderly transition. The company

also reassured clients that its customer support team is available to assist with any questions regarding packages already en route from the U.S.

The move marks a shift for Knutsford Express, which significantly expanded its courier services during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. By leveraging its transportation network and bus terminals for local package deliveries, the company met the rising demand for courier services. This pivot helped Knutsford Express boost its earnings during a time when passenger travel—a core aspect

of its business—was severely impacted.

During the pandemic, the company saw a 200% surge in package volumes, contributing significantly to its bottom line. However, in more recent times, its courier business has faced challenges. For the fiscal year ending May 31, 2024, Knutsford Express reported a 10% drop in revenue from overseas courier services, with earnings falling from \$5.79 million in FY 2023 to \$5.233 million in FY 2024.

Knutsford Express will continue its local courier service, which remains a core part of its business, offering same-day

delivery in major cities and towns across Jamaica, operating seven days a week.

- *Rewritten from the Jamaica Observer*



# Caribbean Shipping Conference For St. Maarten

The Caribbean Shipping Association, (CSA), has officially opened registration for its 54th Annual General Meeting, Conference, and Exhibition, set to take place at the JW Marriott St. Maarten Beach Resort & Spa from October 7-8, 2024. Hosted by

Port St. Maarten, the event will bring together industry leaders to discuss the latest trends in shipping, featuring presentations, networking opportunities, and the prestigious Ports of the Year awards.

The conference will kick

off with a port tour on October 6 from 3:30-4:30 PM. Early bird registration is available until August 30, 2024, offering significant savings at <https://caribbeanshipping.org/>



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# SPORTS NEWS



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## Caribbean Olympian Inducted Into University Of Kentucky Athletics Hall Of Fame



Jasmine Camacho-Quinn (right) and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone were inducted into the University of Kentucky Hall of Fame. (CMC image)

Caribbean immigrant and Puerto Rican sprint hurdler Jasmine Camacho-Quinn was among six athletes and officials inducted into the University of Kentucky Athletics Hall of Fame recently.

Camacho-Quinn, who won gold in the 100-meter hurdles at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and bronze at the 2024 Paris Olympics, was joined by fellow inductees including four-time Olympic gold medalist Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, coach John Cropp, Henrik Larsen

(rifle), Jodie Meeks (men's basketball), and Corey Peters (football).

During her time at Kentucky, Camacho-Quinn earned three NCAA titles - two in the 100-meter hurdles (2016, 2018) and one in the 4x100-meter relay, (2017). A six-time SEC champion, she also set four school records and remains one of Kentucky's most decorated track and field athletes.

Following her induction at the Central Bank Center in

Lexington, Camacho-Quinn, who represented Kentucky from 2016 to 2018, expressed her gratitude on Instagram. Reflecting on her journey, she thanked her family, coaches, and supporters, acknowledging the challenges she overcame during her time at the university.

"The journey wasn't the easiest, but it was well worth it. Although I only got to represent Kentucky for three years, those three years taught me so much about myself and life. Six years after graduating, I am now part of the University of Kentucky Hall of Fame!" she wrote.

- Rewritten from CMC



## West Indian Cricketers Secure Key Contracts For 2025 ILT20

Several West Indian cricketers have secured contracts for the 2025 edition of the International League T20 (ILT20), with a number of stars set to make their debut in the competition.

Shai Hope, Romario Shepherd, Terrance Hinds, Dominic Drakes, and Roston Chase are among the debutants set to showcase their talents. Hope joins Obed McCoy and Rovman Powell on the Dubai Capitals squad.

Romario Shepherd will play for MI Emirates, forming a formidable West Indian lineup alongside Kieron Pollard, Akeal Hosein, Andre Fletcher, Dwayne Bravo, and Nicholas Pooran.

Keemo Paul has been signed

by the Sharjah Warriors, joining fellow St. Lucian Johnson Charles. Roston Chase will represent the Abu Dhabi Knight Riders, alongside Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Gudakesh Motie, and Terrance Hinds.

Drakes will suit up for the Gulf Giants, featuring Guyanese batter Shimron Hetmyer, while Sherfane Rutherford will be part of the Desert Vipers squad.

The third season of the ILT20 begins on January 11, 2025, with the month-long, 34-match tournament culminating in the final on February 9, 2025.

- Rewritten from CMC



## Jamaican Football Community Mourns Sudden Passing of Longtime Referee

The Jamaican football community is mourning the sudden loss of long-time referee Wilverglen Lamey, who tragically collapsed and passed away while officiating a match on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

Lamey, a highly respected figure in local football, collapsed 15 minutes into a Business House semi-final match between Metrodade Security and Seprod at the Alpha Institute. Despite efforts to rush him to the Kingston Public Hospital, he could not be saved.

The Jamaica Football Federation, (JFF), Kingston and St. Andrew Business House Football Association (BHFA), and Waterhouse Football Club have all expressed deep sorrow at Lamey's passing.

JFF President Michael Ricketts expressed the federation's grief, describing Lamey as a dedicated servant



Long-time referee Wilverglen Lamey tragically collapsed and passed away while officiating a match on Saturday, September 21, 2024. (SportsMax Image)

of the game. "Mr. Lamey was a familiar face in games across the country, serving with quiet respect and ensuring the games were played in good spirit. Our condolences go to his family, friends, and the entire referee fraternity."

BHFA President Wayne Shaw, who knew Lamey for

over two decades, shared his admiration for Lamey's passion and dedication. "He was one of the most committed referees I've ever met. His love for the game was clear in every match he officiated. His loss has left the football fraternity in shock."

Waterhouse Football Club also honored Lamey's memory, stating, "His dedication to fairness and integrity on the field will always be remembered. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed."

Lamey's long-standing contribution to Jamaican football, officiating at all levels of the sport, has left a lasting impact on the football community. His sudden passing leaves a void, but his legacy of dedication and passion for the game will live on.

- Rewritten from CMC





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## World's Fastest Woman Gets Own Day



Julien Alfred of Saint Lucia became the world's fastest woman at the Paris Olympics. (Photo by Li Gang/Xinhua via Getty Images)

September 27th was officially the "Julien Alfred Day" in St. Lucia as the country and its nationals honoured the historic achievements of Olympian Julien Alfred at the recent Paris Olympics. Alfred is now the world's fastest woman after winning the 100-m gold medal at the Summer Olympics.

Alfred, 23, became the first St. Lucian to win an Olympic medal, securing gold in the women's 100 meters with a national record time of 10.72 seconds, and adding a silver in the 200 meters.

The homecoming celebrations kicked off with a motorcade along the East Coast upon her arrival on

September 24th. National school rallies followed on September 25th at the Soufriere Mini Stadium and La Resource Playing Field, highlighting her accomplishments.

On September 26th, Alfred visited Ciceron Primary School for the unveiling of a mural in her honor, accompanied by major announcements.

"Julien Alfred Day" culminated in a free concert at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground on September 27th, with Saint Lucians encouraged to attend and celebrate their national icon.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Jamaican Reggae Boyz Lembikisa Joins Yverdon Sport On Loan



Yverdon Sport has Jamaican international and Reggae Boyz Dexter Lembikisa from Wolverhampton Wanderers for the 2024/25 season.

Yverdon Sport has Jamaican international and Reggae Boyz Dexter Lembikisa from Wolverhampton Wanderers for the 2024/25 season. The 20-year-old right-back is the final addition to Alessandro Mangiarratti's squad as the team prepares to compete in the Swiss Super League.

Reggae Boyz defender Dexter Lembikisa will suit up for club Yverdon Sport in the Swiss Super League for the 2024/25 season

Lembikisa, who has earned

10 caps for Jamaica, joins Yverdon Sport after spending last season on loan with Scotland's Heart of Midlothian, where he played nine matches and scored one goal. A product of Wolverhampton's academy, Lembikisa has made 52 appearances and scored three goals for the U21 side.

Known for his athleticism and aggressive playing style, Lembikisa expressed his enthusiasm for joining Yverdon Sport: "I come here with the desire to continue my

development, gain experience, and most importantly, win. I love winning! On the field, I enjoy one-on-ones and taking on the opponent."

Lembikisa trained with the squad for the first time on September 17th and played in the match against Lausanne-Sport. He also reunites with former teammate Christian Marques, with whom he previously played in England.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Khadija Shaw's Strike Secures First WSL Win For Manchester City

A decisive strike from Jamaican international Khadija 'Bunny' Shaw secured Manchester City's first win of the new Women's Super League (WSL) season on Sunday. Shaw, Manchester City's all-time leading goal scorer, found the back of the net in the 44th minute, giving her side a 1-0 victory over Brighton & Hove Albion at the Joie Stadium.

This marked Shaw's third goal in two games, following her impressive brace in last week's Champions League qualifier against Paris FC, where City triumphed 3-0. The winning goal came when Kerstin Casparij set Shaw up just in front of the goal, allowing the striker to skillfully flick the ball in to put City ahead right before halftime.

Brighton posed challenges early on with their efficient play from the back, but Manchester City took control in the second half, creating several chances to extend their lead. A crucial block



Khadija Shaw scored the winner for Manchester City against Brighton & Hove Albion. (CMC image)

by Guro Bergsvand prevented Shaw from scoring a second, and Lauren Hemp was a constant threat in the opposition's box.

Shaw, however, had to leave the game after taking a knock while trying to finish a cross from Hemp. After receiving medical attention, she was

substituted by Mary Fowler. The victory gave Manchester City their first win of the season, following a 2-2 draw against Arsenal in their opening match.

- Rewritten from CMC



## Get Ready For The CPL 2024 Play-Offs

The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2024 is heading into its thrilling playoff stage, with the top four teams set to battle for the championship. After an exhilarating league phase, the play-offs will get underway on October 2nd at the Providence Stadium in Guyana.

### Teams Qualified for CPL 2024 Playoffs:

- Guyana Amazon Warriors** – The defending champions, known for their resilience, will be determined to retain their title.
- St. Lucia Kings** – Led by Faf du Plessis, the Kings have the firepower to go all the way in the playoffs.
- Trinbago Knight Riders** – A powerhouse in the CPL, the Knight Riders, captained by Kieron Pollard, are hungry for another title.
- Barbados Royals** – Under the leadership of Rovman Powell, the Royals have been standout performers

this season.

### CPL 2024 Playoff Schedule:

- Eliminator** (October 2): Trinbago Knight Riders vs Barbados Royals
- Qualifier 1** (October 3): Guyana Amazon Warriors vs St. Lucia Kings
- Qualifier 2** (October 5): Winner of Eliminator vs Loser of Qualifier 1
- Final** (October 7): Winner of Qualifier 1 vs Winner of Qualifier 2

All matches will be held at Providence Stadium, Guyana, where fans are expected to create an electric atmosphere.

The CPL 2024 playoffs promise high-stakes action, where one slip-up could end a team's journey. With the competition intensifying, cricket fans can expect a gripping end to an already exciting season.



# Pregnancy Can Be Deadly For Black Women In Florida

BY LYNN JONES

The number of Black women suffering from maternal morbidity and mortality locally continues to rise, causing physicians to sound the alarm. According to Dr. Washington Hill, Florida is one of the southern states with that dubious distinction. The Sarasota obstetrician-gynaecologist has watched the malady grow in his fifty years of experience as a high-risk pregnancy physician.

The condition refers to health problems that result from pregnancy and childbirth and can lead to death. Because Black women in Florida die at three times the rate of White women, pregnancy is risky according to Hill. "It is clear that there are

disparities in the outcomes of women in this country having babies. My data from Louisiana, data from Mississippi, and data from Florida made it clear that the outcomes of a Black woman having a baby in this country in most states are poor, worse - more sickness, more death - than a white woman."

Those obstacles were just a precursor to the impact of the Florida abortion ban that took effect on May 1st of this year. The risks escalated for Anya Cook. She was desperate for help and rushed to a Coral Gables emergency room bleeding heavily after a miscarriage. All the symptoms and complications were there. She had lost half of the blood in her body. But instead of receiving what was considered



Dr. Washington Hill is sounding the alarm concerning the rise of maternal morbidity and mortality among Black women in Florida.

standard care, she was sent home with a prescription for antibiotics.

Dr. Hill says not only are Black Women disproportionately

burdened with pre-existing health conditions, but discrimination is also a major factor derailing the treatment of their healthcare needs. "Other factors are how the women are treated, how they're taken care of, and this is due to racism, and explicit and implicit bias," she said. "Unless we recognize that exists, and do something about it, the disparities will never change."

But the abortion ban law is so severe it blocks a common surgical procedure that follows a miscarriage or the removal of a weeks-old fetus that will not survive. Anya almost died. The loss of life-saving treatment has disappeared because doctors refuse to act fearing severe penalties and jail time. This leaves women like Anya to face

death or an end to her ability to bear children.

In 2018 as a US Senator, Vice President Kamala Harris joined Florida US Senator Bill Nelson in sponsoring legislation to combat maternal morbidity and mortality among Black women. That fight is ongoing because the abortion ban has compounded horror stories and deaths untold among pregnant Black women.

Women advocates say the November 5th ballot will offer lifesaving relief with the passage of Constitution Amendment 4. The amendment will reverse the abortion ban restoring the freedom to decide the best treatment for a woman's healthcare needs.



# Florida Health Officials Advise Against The New mRNA COVID-19 Booster

A recent memo from the Florida Department of Health advises against receiving the new mRNA COVID-19 booster, citing that it does not target the current dominant variant. The booster, approved last month by the FDA, was designed to combat the KP.2 strain, which was prevalent during the summer. However, as of mid-August, the KP.3.1.1 variant has become dominant, accounting for 52% of U.S. cases, while KP.2 now represents just 3%, according to

the CDC.

Despite the health department's guidance, Edwin Michael, an epidemiologist at the University of South Florida College of Public Health, believes the booster will still offer protection. He noted that the KP.2 and KP.3.1.1 variants are closely related, so the new shot should remain effective.

For Michael, the main consideration is whether individuals need the booster in the first place, rather than

questioning its effectiveness.

"I'm not overly concerned about a major outbreak," he said, likening the situation to how the flu behaves seasonally. He explained that the recent rise in COVID-19 cases was anticipated as people returned to school and college, leading to increased social interaction and waning immunity.

The Florida Department of Health also raised concerns about the lack of extensive human clinical trials for the

updated vaccine. Michael acknowledged that accelerated testing has been a reality since the pandemic began, but noted that most vaccines have undergone rapid and smaller-scale trials. He suggested that individuals who are not immunocompromised or in high-risk groups, such as the elderly or those with respiratory issues, may not need to get the booster.

This marks the third consecutive year that the state has advised against FDA-

approved mRNA COVID vaccines. In both 2022 and 2023, Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo argued against the shots, citing insufficient testing, lack of efficacy, and concerns about adverse health effects.

- *Rewritten from Health News Florida*



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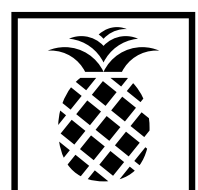
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# Help Keep Your Brain Healthy With Foods We Eat Everyday

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

It can happen all too often. Someone is talking and – right in the middle of a sentence – lose their train of thought, forget someone’s name or even a word they want to use. Whether it is called a senior moment, memory lapse or just plain forgetfulness, it can be quite embarrassing – and sometimes, even scary.

But just because someone experiences these moments, it may not mean they are developing a debilitating brain disease like a type of dementia for which there are yet no cures. Actually, according to medical experts, as people age, it is perfectly normal to experience changes in brain health and memory.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC) and other medical agencies, there are also ways to boost brain health; including choices of healthy foods.

A CDC article, “Healthy Diet. Healthy Brain,” reports “a healthy diet may reduce your risk for memory loss and confusion. A healthy diet can help to improve your overall health, including brain health.”

It lists certain types of foods as the very best to boost brain health: They include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products, lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs and nuts; also, foods low in saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, salt (sodium) and low in added sugars are best for a healthy brain.

More specifically, according to the Harvard Medical School, in an article, “Foods Linked to Better Brain Power,” research has revealed that “the best brain foods are the same ones that protect your heart and blood vessels,” including the following foods that we eat every day, but just need more:

## Green, leafy vegetables

Leafy greens such as kale, spinach, collards, and broccoli are rich in brain-healthy nutrients like vitamin K, lutein, folate, and beta carotene. Research suggests these plant-based foods may help slow cognitive decline.

## Fatty fish

Fatty fish are abundant sources of omega-3 fatty acids, healthy unsaturated fats that have been linked to lower blood levels of beta-amyloid—the protein that forms damaging clumps in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease. Try to eat fish at least twice a week, but choose varieties that are low in mercury, such as salmon, cod, canned light tuna, and pollack. If you’re not a fan of fish, ask your doctor about taking an omega-3 supplement, or choose terrestrial omega-3 sources such as flaxseeds, avocados, and walnuts.

## Berries

Flavonoids, the natural plant pigments that give berries their brilliant hues, also help improve memory, research shows. A study done by researchers at Harvard’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital found that women who consumed two or more servings of



**Eat healthier.** Research has revealed that “the best brain foods” are the same ones that protect your heart and blood vessels. (iStock/Shurkin\_son image)

strawberries and blueberries each week delayed memory decline by up to two-and-a-half years.

## Tea and coffee

The caffeine in your morning cup of coffee or tea might offer more than just a short-term concentration boost. In a study published in The Journal of Nutrition, participants with higher caffeine consumption scored better on tests of mental function. Caffeine might also help solidify new memories, according to other research. Investigators at Johns Hopkins University asked participants to study a series of images and then take either a placebo or a 200-milligram caffeine tablet. More members of the caffeine group were able to correctly identify the images on the following day.

## Walnuts

Nuts are excellent sources of protein and healthy fats, and one type of nut in particular might also improve memory. A study from UCLA linked higher walnut consumption to improved cognitive test scores. Walnuts are high in a type of omega-3 fatty acid called alpha-linolenic acid (ALA). Diets rich in ALA and other omega-3 fatty acids have been linked to lower blood pressure and cleaner arteries. That’s good for both the heart and brain.

Yes, so-called ‘senior moments’ can be scary, embarrassing; sometimes even comical, causing us to laugh at ourselves. But often times, through self-care, the goal of a healthier brain can be accomplished with foods that we eat every day.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This article is part of a series powered by AARP for the purpose of brain health education.



# Legal Battle Erupts Over Florida’s Role In Abortion Amendment Campaign

Supporters of a proposal to enshrine abortion rights in Florida’s Constitution clashed with Governor Ron DeSantis’ administration in court on Wednesday. The lawsuit, brought by the Floridians Protecting Freedom political committee, accuses the state of unlawfully using public resources to spread “misinformation” about the ballot measure.

The legal action seeks a temporary injunction to stop the Agency for Health Care Administration from sharing this information through TV, radio, and online platforms. Daniel Marshall, representing the political committee, argued before Leon County Circuit Judge Jonathan Sjostrom that the state is unfairly influencing the debate over Amendment 4, which will appear on the November ballot.

Marshall contended that the state had abandoned neutrality and was engaging in electioneering. “The state’s website and ads contain false and misleading information,

using politically charged rhetoric to discredit supporters of Amendment 4,” Marshall stated, adding that the state may only educate voters in a neutral manner.

The amendment aims to protect abortion access by preventing laws that “prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary for the patient’s health.” DeSantis, a vocal opponent of the amendment, has led efforts to defeat it, with the state’s website warning that the measure could lead to “unregulated and unsafe abortions.”

In response, Clark Hildabrand, representing the DeSantis administration, argued that nothing the state has done has blocked the proposal from making it onto the ballot. He noted that it is common for public officials to express their opinions on proposed amendments, which is not against the law. He further argued that the Florida Constitution allows and even requires public agencies to

express their views on public policy matters.

Judge Sjostrom has yet to issue a ruling but promised to make a decision soon, given the urgency of the matter.

The DeSantis administration is also opposing another ballot proposal, Amendment 3, which seeks to legalize recreational marijuana use. This has sparked criticism from the Smart & Safe Florida political committee, which accused the state of running misleading public-service ads against the measure. These ads, warning about DUI crashes linked to marijuana use, are seen by proponents as an effort to sway public opinion against the amendment using taxpayer dollars.

The legal challenges surrounding both amendments highlight the growing controversy over the state’s use of public funds in political campaigns.

- *Rewritten from the Sun Sentinel*



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