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Dolly Parton on the
cover of the 2022 album
Country Goes Reggae.
CREDIT: (Country Goes
Reggae)



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REGIONAL NEWS



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Here Are Some Of The Top Headlines Making Caribbean News:

REGIONAL

CARICOM has hired an external regional law firm to handle its response to Trinidad and Tobago's challenge over the reappointment of Secretary General Dr. Carla Barnett. CARICOM Chairman and St. Lucia Prime Minister Phillip J. Pierre said the move is intended to ensure transparency, noting that both Barnett and CARICOM's own legal counsel have recused themselves from the process.

Trinidad and Tobago has questioned the legality of the procedure used to reappoint Barnett, arguing that its objection is institutional rather than personal or political. CARICOM leaders agreed last month to seek an advisory opinion from the Caribbean Court of Justice on the matter.

Pierre said Trinidad and Tobago has prepared its position and CARICOM's external counsel is reviewing the relevant documents and precedents. The CCJ previously said it had not yet received a formal request for an advisory opinion. Once submitted, member states will have an



United States Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and the Jamaican Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Dr. Horace Chang, signed a Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA, with the United States on August 20, 2026.

opportunity to make written submissions before the court issues its opinion.

JAMAICA

Jamaica's Parliamentary Opposition is seeking a full government briefing on a newly signed Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA, with the United States, citing national security concerns and the need for clarity on safeguards protecting the country's interests. Opposition Spokesperson on National Security Fitz Jackson

has written to National Security and Peace Minister Dr. Horace Chang requesting details of the agreement, including its key provisions and security protections.

The agreement, signed Aug. 20, sets out the terms governing the temporary presence of U.S. military personnel in Jamaica for mutually agreed activities, including military training exercises and joint operations. It followed discussions between Chang and U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth during a bilateral

meeting in Panama on Aug. 12.

The Jamaican and U.S. governments said the agreement is intended to strengthen cooperation against regional criminal networks involved in gun, drug and human trafficking and provide a framework for broader collaboration in defense, regional security and disaster response. Jackson said the Opposition would respect parliamentary confidentiality while awaiting the requested briefing.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says Jamaicans account for about 15 percent of Antigua and Barbuda's prison population as his government steps up immigration enforcement against people living or working in the country without legal status.

Speaking on his weekly radio program, Browne said non-nationals make up a growing share of inmates and warned that people who overstay or work illegally must regularize their status.

He said the government does not currently plan to criminalize overstaying alone, but affected

individuals have been given 60 days to correct their immigration status and may also use an existing amnesty program. Those who fail to do so could face deportation.

Browne also cited recent cases involving Jamaican nationals accused of serious crimes and alleged that some undocumented non-nationals are involved in narcotics trafficking. He said law enforcement and immigration officials have been instructed to identify and remove individuals who remain unlawfully or are involved in criminal activity.

DOMINICA

Police in Dominica have arrested a third officer in connection with the death of 16-year-old Jerbiah Paul, whose decomposing body was discovered earlier this month after she had been reported missing since July 24. The latest officer is expected to appear in court on a charge of perverting the course of justice. A 21-year-old woman has already been charged with the same offense.

Two other members of the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force, Joshua Hamlet and Jean-Luc Langlais, have been charged with Paul's murder and remanded to prison. They are scheduled to return to court on Oct. 2. Paul's body was found in a precipice in Capuchin, in northern Dominica, by members of the Barbados-based Regional Security System.

Police said an autopsy has been completed and investigators are awaiting the pathologist's findings on the cause of death. DNA samples have also been sent to an overseas forensic laboratory for identification analysis.

BAHAMAS

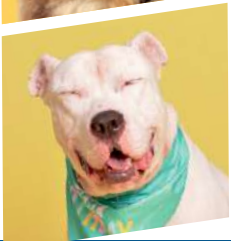
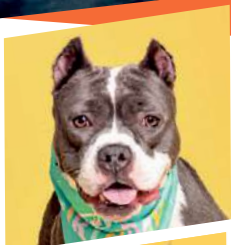
A Bahamas man who was left paralyzed after being shot by a police officer in 2016 has been awarded an interim payment of US\$80,000 to help cover urgent medical treatment. Justice Camille Darville Gomez ordered the Commissioner of Police and the Attorney General to make the payment to Thorne Clarke, who is paralyzed from the sternum down and has developed a severe stage-four pressure ulcer requiring surgery.

Clarke, who was 22 when he was shot in the back, sued the state in 2018 and obtained a default judgment the following year. The final damages award remains unresolved, with Clarke seeking more than US\$2 million while the defendants value the claim at about US\$539,000. While awaiting a ruling, Clarke's condition worsened, and he was hospitalized with an infected pressure sore. The judge said his medical needs justified immediate assistance and awarded the interim payment while limiting the risk of overpayment.

- Rewritten from CMC News & The Jamaica Gleaner



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Can Caribbean-Rooted Byron Donalds Make History - Or Will He Fall Like Kamala Harris?

BY CT STAFF WRITER

Byron Donalds has already made history by reaching this point. The Brooklyn-born Republican congressman, whose mother is of Jamaican and Panamanian heritage, has won the GOP nomination for governor of Florida and will face Democrat David Jolly in November.

If elected, Donalds would become Florida's first Black governor and one of only a handful of Black governors elected in U.S. history. But biography alone does not deliver votes.

Kamala Harris learned that lesson in 2024. The daughter of a Jamaican father came close to becoming America's first woman and first Black woman president, but Caribbean heritage and historic symbolism were not enough to carry her across the finish line. Donalds now faces his own version of that test - from the opposite end of America's political spectrum.

The Trump-backed conservative won Florida's Republican primary with nearly 48 percent of the vote and enters the general election in a state Republicans have dominated for years. No Democrat has won the Florida governorship since 1994.

The Haiti Test

Florida is home to hundreds of thousands of Haitians, Jamaicans and other Caribbean immigrants and descendants, many of whom traditionally lean Democratic. That presents Donalds with a difficult political contradiction.

Days after winning the Republican nomination, he appeared on CBS' Face the Nation and defended the Trump administration's decision to terminate Temporary Protected Status for Haitians. "You can't do on immigration is just say that every program just runs into perpetuity, with no end," Donalds said, while noting that he had met with Haiti's transitional government and representatives about stabilizing the country.

His comments came as the United States resumed deportations to Haiti, including a flight carrying more than 160 people on Aug. 20, while the U.S. State Department continued warning Americans against travel there because of gang violence, kidnapping and insecurity.

Roughly 158,000 Haitian TPS holders lived in Florida earlier this year, with thousands working in health care, agriculture and other industries. Donalds has acknowledged that replacing Haitian workers would take time and has suggested retraining and apprenticeship programs.

Caribbean Roots,

Conservative Politics

Donalds' immigrant family story may sound familiar to Caribbean-American voters, but politically he occupies very different territory from many Black Caribbean voters. He remains one of President Donald Trump's most visible Black allies and has strongly defended the administration's immigration policies.

Donalds has also selected Cuban-American state Sen. Bryan Avila as his running mate, underscoring the importance of Florida's Latino electorate and particularly Miami-Dade County, which has shifted Republican in recent election cycles.

Still, Democrats showed signs of enthusiasm in the Aug. 18th primary, with Democratic turnout in Miami-Dade exceeding Republican turnout by more than 22,000 votes. About one-third of county voters are registered independents. Polling remains limited, but several surveys show the



Byron Donalds, whose maternal roots trace to Jamaica and Panama, faces Democrat David Jolly in the race for Florida governor.



general-election contest within single digits, including an Aug. 24 poll showing Donalds ahead of Jolly by three points.

A Party Problem

Donalds also faces another complication: racial rhetoric and far-right currents within parts of the Republican coalition.

A self-described white supremacist candidate drew

roughly 10 percent in Florida's Republican primary, creating an uncomfortable contrast for a Black nominee seeking to make state history. Gov. Ron DeSantis has also stopped short of formally endorsing Donalds, although he praised Avila after his selection as running mate.

For Donalds, victory may require holding Trump's base while persuading Black,

Caribbean, Latino and independent voters that his candidacy represents something broader than the movement that elevated him.

History Or Defeat?

That is where the Kamala Harris comparison becomes instructive. Harris' Jamaican roots made her candidacy historic, but identity could not overcome larger political forces. Donalds now faces the same fundamental reality.

Being the son of a Jamaican-Panamanian mother may make his candidacy historic. It does not automatically make him the candidate of Caribbean America. If Donalds wins in November, he will make history.

If he loses, he may discover the same lesson Harris did: heritage can open a door, but voters ultimately decide whether you walk through it.



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Jamaican-American Everton Blair Makes History With Georgia Congressional Win

Dr. Everton Blair Jr., the son of Jamaican immigrants, has made history in Georgia after winning a special election runoff for the state's 13th Congressional District.

Blair defeated Marcy Scott by 53 percent to 47 percent, becoming the first openly gay Black person elected to Congress from Georgia, the first from a Southern state, and the first Jamaican American elected to represent Georgia in the U.S. House.

He will serve the remainder of the term of the late Rep. David Scott, who died in April at age 80 after more than two decades in Congress. The victory marked a significant comeback for Blair. In the initial special election one month earlier, Scott led with 46 percent of the vote while Blair received 38 percent. He reversed that result in the runoff.

Born and raised in Gwinnett County, Blair has frequently connected his political story to his Jamaican heritage. "My family came to this country from Jamaica and worked hard to achieve the American Dream right here in Georgia's 13th," Blair said. "Today, that dream is now impossible for many."

His father, Everton Blair Sr., is originally from Kingston, Jamaica, while his mother, Fiona Anderson, is also a Jamaican immigrant. Blair has described his upbringing as rooted in faith, hard work, and community. A former Atlanta Public Schools math teacher, Blair first made political history in 2018 when he became the youngest person and first person of color elected to the Gwinnett County School Board. He later became board



Dr. Everton Blair Jr., the son of Jamaican immigrants, has made history in Georgia after winning a special election runoff for the state's 13th Congressional District. He is now the first openly gay Black person elected to Congress from Georgia, the first from a Southern state, and the first Jamaican American elected to represent Georgia in the U.S. House.

chairman by unanimous vote and helped lead one of Georgia's largest school districts through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Blair previously worked with

President Barack Obama's White House Initiative on Educational Excellence and holds degrees from Harvard University and Stanford University. During

his campaign, Blair focused on economic pressures facing working- and middle-class families, including housing affordability, long commutes to good-paying jobs, rising healthcare costs, and the effects of large-scale development.

He also criticized growing corporate influence over housing and other basic economic resources. "Over time, corporations have quietly taken over the very pillars that once made our communities a place of hope and economic opportunity," Blair said.

Georgia's 13th Congressional District is a majority-Black, heavily Democratic suburban district in metro Atlanta. Roughly two-thirds of residents are Black. Blair has said his policy priorities will include economic opportunity, affordable housing, education, healthcare and wealth

creation, particularly for Black communities.

His arrival in Washington will slightly narrow the Republican majority in the U.S. House. However, Blair's tenure could be short. In a separate Democratic primary for the district's full two-year term, State Rep. Jasmine Clark defeated Blair and is heavily favored to win the November general election in the deep-blue district.

Even so, Blair's special-election victory secures his place in political history. He will join Congresswoman Yvette Clarke as one of the Jamaican-American members currently serving in Congress.

- *Rewritten from NewsAmericasNow.com*



King Charles For Caribbean Visit As Reparations Pressure Mounts

Britain's King Charles III is set to visit several Caribbean Community countries in late October, Buckingham Palace announced, in a tour that comes as Caribbean governments intensify calls for reparations over slavery and colonialism.

The King and Queen Camilla will travel to The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana as part of an autumn tour running from Oct. 27 to Nov. 4, 2026. The royal visit will coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, or CHOGM, being held in Antigua and Barbuda from Nov. 1st to 4th.

Before CHOGM, King

Charles will visit The Bahamas, where he remains head of state. It will be his first visit to the country since ascending the throne in 2022.

He will then make a state visit to Guyana at the invitation of President Irfaan Ali and at the request of the British government. Buckingham Palace said the visit will mark 60 years of bilateral relations between the United Kingdom and Guyana.

"Their Majesties' Autumn Tour will celebrate communities, cultures and nature within the Commonwealth family," Buckingham Palace said.

The timing of the visit is particularly significant. Across

the Caribbean, governments and reparations advocates have stepped up pressure on Britain and other former colonial powers to move beyond expressions of regret and begin formal discussions on reparatory justice.

CARICOM leaders have continued to advance a regional reparations agenda seeking a formal apology, development programs, public health and education support, debt relief and other forms of repair for the transatlantic slave trade, Indigenous genocide and centuries of colonial exploitation. Jamaica Prepares Historic Petition Jamaica is expected to take its case directly to King Charles this month. The Jamaican government has announced plans to formally petition the King on Sept. 6, asking him to refer three legal questions concerning slavery and reparatory justice to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The questions include whether the forced transportation and enslavement of Africans in Jamaica were lawful, whether those actions constituted crimes against humanity, and whether Britain has an obligation to provide a remedy for the consequences of slavery under British rule.

Jamaican Culture Minister Olivia Grange has described the planned petition as a historic step in the country's reparations campaign.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has also stressed that Jamaica's reparations push is about more than financial compensation, arguing that meaningful repair should include acknowledgment of historic wrongs, dignity, institutional reform, cultural restitution and the return of important artifacts.

The wider Caribbean



Britain's King Charles III is set to visit several Caribbean Community countries next month as calls for reparations mount.

reparations movement has also gained momentum internationally, with regional leaders strengthening cooperation with African governments and organizations in support of reparatory justice.

King Charles has previously expressed "personal sorrow" over the suffering caused by slavery but has stopped short of issuing a formal apology on behalf of the British monarchy. His October visit will therefore place the monarch directly in a region where questions about Britain's colonial legacy, reparations and the future of the monarchy remain very much alive.

The Bahamas visit also fulfills an intention Charles expressed in 2024, when he was unable to attend the country's 50th independence celebrations while undergoing cancer treatment and told Prime Minister Philip "Brave" Davis that he hoped to visit in the future.

With Jamaica preparing to formally petition him and CARICOM governments pressing ahead with their broader reparations campaign, the King's latest Caribbean tour is likely to unfold against a far more politically charged backdrop than a traditional royal visit.



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Haiti TPS Fallout Hits South Florida As Deportations Begin And ICE Arrests Surge

BY CT STAFF WRITER

The end of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians is beginning to reshape daily life in South Florida, where businesses are reporting disappearing customers, employers are losing workers, and families are staying home out of fear of immigration enforcement. The first deportation flight following the termination of TPS landed in Haiti on Aug. 20, carrying more than 160 people. The aircraft landed in Cap-Haïtien rather than Port-au-Prince, where the U.S. government currently bans American commercial flights because of continuing gang violence.

That contradiction has become a central criticism of the administration's policy. "The Supreme Court's decision may have cleared the legal path for the administration to terminate TPS, but it does not make Haiti safe," said Guerline Jozef, executive director of the Haitian Bridge Alliance.

"We cannot say Haiti is too dangerous for a U.S. flight to land and simultaneously claim it is safe enough to send human beings there," she added.



Monsanto Maler collapses outside a Department of Homeland Security field office on August 9, 2026, after being forced to wear an ankle monitor. (Carol Guzy/ZUMA Press Wire/Shutterstock image)

Fear Empties Businesses

In South Florida, home to the largest Haitian diaspora in the United States, signs of the new reality are already visible. A popular Haitian restaurant was nearly empty during what would normally be a busy lunch hour. Nearby parking lots and bus stops were unusually quiet, while workers at one restaurant reportedly remained inside the kitchen.

At a local salon, owner Johana Jacob said customers have

stopped coming. "I have a lot of clients that don't come anymore because, you know, they're scared," Jacob told News 10.

The same fear is affecting businesses elsewhere. Fort Lauderdale store owner Clement Marcel told the Miami Herald that customer traffic at his neighborhood convenience store has nearly disappeared.

"Everything is dead right now," he said.

In North Miami-Dade, businesses that ship used clothing,

furniture, and household goods to Haiti have also reported a sharp slowdown.

"The streets are empty," Pierre Deshomme, who works from a warehouse yard used to pack shipping containers, told the Miami Herald. "You rent a depot and all you do is sit around waiting."

Nearby vendor Jacqueline Jean also told the Herald that customers were staying indoors because they feared encounters with immigration authorities.

"They can't come out," she was quoted as saying. "How can they?"

Workers Disappear From Key Industries

The economic consequences extend beyond small businesses. Approximately 93,000 Haitian TPS holders were part of Florida's workforce as of January, according to an analysis by FWD.us, the Haitian Bridge Alliance and the UndocuBlack Network. That workforce included an estimated 16,000 cooks and servers, 12,000 agricultural workers and 4,000 nursing assistants.

Home health care has been particularly affected. Two home-care agencies in Miami-Dade and

Broward counties reportedly shut down after each lost more than 80 Haitian TPS workers, according to the Home Care Association of Florida. Hotels, nursing homes and other employers have also reported staffing shortages. For South Florida, the loss of Haitian workers could have consequences across health care, hospitality, tourism, agriculture and other industries that have long depended on immigrant labor.

OHIO

Meanwhile, Haitians living in Springfield, Ohio are being required to wear ankle monitors and turn their passports over to United States Immigration and Customs. Haitians in Springfield are getting letters telling them to report to the ICE office in either Blue Ash (near Cincinnati) or Westerville (near Columbus).

"When they do, their passports are collected," Carl Ruby, pastor of Springfield's Central Christian Church told the Ohio Capital Journal. "They're fitted with ankle (monitors); I call them ankle shackles."

This is happening after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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NEWS



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Jennifer Carroll Moves Closer To U.S. Ambassador Post In Trinidad And Tobago

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Former Florida Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll, who became the state's first Black lieutenant governor, is moving through the confirmation process to become the next U.S. ambassador to her native Trinidad and Tobago.

President Donald Trump nominated Carroll for the diplomatic post, which would place her at the center of U.S. relations with one of the Caribbean's key partners. The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee considered her nomination during a hearing on July 30, 2026.

If confirmed, Carroll would add another historic milestone to a career already marked by several firsts. Born in Trinidad and Tobago before immigrating to the United States as a child, she would return to her country of birth as America's top diplomat there. Carroll was the first Trinidadian American elected to statewide office in Florida.

According to the U.S. Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago, the two countries maintain close ties in trade, investment, energy, security, education, technology, and people-to-people relations. As ambassador, Carroll would represent U.S. interests in

government, business, and civil society; strengthen bilateral relations; support U.S. citizens abroad; promote trade and investment; and advance security cooperation, including defense and counter-narcotics efforts.

Carroll made history in 2010 when she was elected Florida's first Black lieutenant governor and the first woman to hold the office. She served alongside then-Gov. Rick Scott until resigning in 2013 after her name surfaced during an investigation into Allied Veterans of the World, a charity for which she had previously worked as a public relations consultant.

Carroll was never charged with a crime, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement later concluded that she had not violated any laws. A U.S. Navy veteran and former member of the Florida House of Representatives, Carroll represented parts of Northeast Florida before being elected lieutenant governor.

Since leaving office, she has remained active in Republican politics, serving as a political

commentator, mentoring candidates and advising businesses on government affairs. In 2025, she joined VisionFirst Advisors as a senior adviser.

Carroll earned an associate degree from Leeward Community College in 1981, followed by a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of New Mexico in 1985 while participating in the U.S. Navy's Enlisted



Former Florida Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll, who became the state's first Black lieutenant governor, is moving through the confirmation process to become the next U.S. ambassador to her native Trinidad and Tobago.

Commissioning Program. She later earned a Master of Business Administration from St. Leo University in 2008.

Her academic career complemented a 20-year Navy career, during which she rose from enlisted jet mechanic to lieutenant commander before

entering politics. The timeline for Senate confirmation of ambassadorial nominees can vary widely. If Carroll's nomination proceeds without major delays, a final confirmation vote could come later this year, although no date has been announced.



Haiti TPS Fallout Hits South Florida As Deportations Begin And ICE Arrests Surge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

that President Donald Trump can end temporary protected status for the 330,000 Haitians who've fled the violence in their home country. TPS officially ended for Haitians on July 27th.

Communities Prepare For ICE

At the Sant La Haitian community center, Pastor Adenet Medacier was recently collecting informational flyers for members of his church. The materials explain what residents should do if Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents come to their homes.

"It's a very stressful situation," Medacier told News 10. He rejected suggestions that community groups were trying to obstruct federal immigration authorities.

"We are not interfering with ICE or their operation," he was quoted as saying. "But what we are doing is what the Bible recommends. We have to help those who are in need."

DHS has maintained that immigration enforcement will continue in communities such as Little Haiti.

ICE Arrests Reach New High

The crackdown on Haitian nationals is unfolding amid a much broader surge in immigration arrests.

ICE arrested 49,571 people in July, the highest monthly total of President Donald Trump's second administration, according to government figures obtained by the Deportation Data Project and analyzed by The Associated Press.

That represented a 15 percent increase from June and a 70 percent jump from February.

Florida and Texas accounted for nearly 20,000 of the July arrests, reflecting the growing role of state and local law enforcement agencies working with ICE through federal 287(g) agreements.

The data also complicates administration claims that

immigration enforcement is primarily targeting dangerous criminals.

More than half of the immigrants arrested in July had no criminal convictions or pending criminal charges, while fewer than one-quarter had been convicted of a crime. Half of the arrests occurred in communities rather than through transfers from jails or prisons.

Among those recently detained was a 36-year-old Haitian asylum seeker working as a cook and supervisor at a Key West restaurant. His manager said the man had fled Haiti in 2017 after receiving death threats and had never been in trouble with the law.

Calls To Halt Deportations

The Haitian Bridge Alliance is urging the administration to suspend deportation flights following another deadly gang attack in Kenscoff that killed at least 30 people and destroyed homes.

Between March and July, the United Nations documented at least 613 deaths, 375 injuries and more than 18,000 newly displaced people in violence concentrated in parts of Haiti, according to the organization.

The group is also calling on the U.S. Senate to extend TPS for Haitians for three years and for federal officials to conduct a new assessment of conditions inside Haiti before additional deportations occur.

For South Florida's Haitian community, however, the effects of the policy are no longer theoretical. Customers are disappearing. Workers are gone. Businesses are struggling. Families are preparing for encounters with ICE.

And with deportation flights now underway, a community that has helped shape South Florida for decades is entering one of its most uncertain periods yet.



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Caribbean Candidates See Mixed Results In High-Stakes South Florida Primaries

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Caribbean candidates were well represented in South Florida's Aug. 18, 2026 primary elections, competing for seats in Congress, the Florida Legislature, the governor's mansion, the Miami-Dade County Commission and School Board. But the results were mixed, with several Caribbean-American candidates falling short in closely watched congressional contests, while others secured victories or advanced to the pivotal November general election.

Among the winners were Haitian-born former lawmaker Daphne Campbell, who captured the Democratic nomination for Florida House District 108, and Haitian-American Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien, who easily won another four-year term. Meanwhile, Haitian-American Linda Cothière advanced to a November runoff for the Miami-Dade County School Board.

Congressional District 20 One of the most contentious races involving the Caribbean community was the Democratic primary for Congressional District 20. The historically Black district had been represented since 1992 by the late U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings and, later, former U.S. Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, who became the first Haitian-American Democratic woman elected to Congress in 2022. That streak ended when U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz won the Democratic primary with 47 percent of the vote.

Wasserman Schultz faced criticism from some fellow Democrats and Black political leaders after choosing to run in District 20 following the redrawing of her previous district into Republican-leaning territory. Cherfilus-McCormick resigned from Congress amid proceedings related to ethics allegations and a federal indictment involving COVID-19 relief funds. She later launched a campaign seeking to regain the seat but finished with approximately 9 percent of the vote.

Former Broward County Mayor and Jamaican-American Dale Holness finished second with 22 percent, while teacher and community activist Elijah Manley received 13 percent. Rap pioneer Luther "Uncle Luke" Campbell received 5 percent.

Wasserman Schultz will face Republican Brent Andersen in November. Andersen defeated a Republican field that included Haitian-American Army veteran Rod Joseph, Navy veteran Carla Spalding and Lateresa "LA" Jones.

Congressional District 24

Another closely watched contest was the Democratic primary for Congressional District 24, where former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Oliver Gilbert narrowly defeated former state Sen. Shevrin Jones. Gilbert received



Haitian-born former state lawmaker Daphne Campbell won the Democratic nomination for Florida House District 108 with 47 percent of the vote. She will face Republican Wancito Francius, who was unopposed in his primary, in November.

approximately 34 percent of the vote, while Jones finished with 32 percent.

Gilbert had been endorsed by retiring U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson, who has represented the district since 2011. He will face Republican Mayonna Te Brown in November.

Two Haitian-American candidates also competed for the Democratic nomination. Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jean Monestime received approximately 5 percent, while physician and attorney Rudolph "Rudy" Moise received 8 percent.

Governor's Race

In the Democratic primary for governor, former Congressman David Jolly won with 62 percent of the vote and will face Republican nominee U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds, who has Caribbean roots, in November. The winner will succeed Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is term-limited. One of the surprises of the Democratic contest was Jamaican-born teacher and political newcomer Dayna Foster, who finished second with 15 percent of the vote. Foster outperformed North Miami state Rep. Dotie Joseph, who received 9 percent.

Florida House District 108 In Florida House District 108, former state lawmaker Daphne Campbell won the Democratic nomination with 47 percent of the vote. Community activist and business owner Dinah J. Escarment received 41 percent, while Peter Walsh finished with 12 percent. Both Campbell and Escarment are Haitian-born.

Campbell, who previously served in both the Florida House and Senate, will face Republican Wancito Francius, who was unopposed in his primary, in November.

Bastien Wins Another Term

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien, a Haitian American, won re-election decisively with 78 percent of the vote. Miguel "Skip" Quintero finished second with 13 percent, while Ernst Jean Louis received 9 percent. The victory keeps Bastien, the first Haitian-American woman

elected to the Miami-Dade County Commission, in office through 2030. Her district includes one of the largest Haitian populations in Miami-Dade County.

Cothière Advances To School Board Runoff

In the race for Miami-Dade County School Board District 1, Linda Cothière advanced to the Nov. 3 runoff and is seeking to become the first Haitian American elected to the board. Cothière received 21 percent of the vote and will face Katrina Wilson, who led the eight-candidate field with 33 percent.

Because Wilson did not receive the 50 percent required to win outright, the top two candidates advanced to the runoff. The winner will succeed Dr. Steve Gallon III, who won a seat on the Miami-Dade County Commission.

The race has particular significance for South Florida's Haitian community because a Cothière victory would place a Haitian American on the board governing one of the nation's largest public-school systems. District 1 includes Miami Gardens, Opa-locka, portions of North Miami and several unincorporated communities.



Jamaica PM Andrew Holness To Keynote 2026 ACMF Anchor Awards

Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness will serve as keynote speaker and special guest at the 9th Annual American Caribbean Maritime Foundation Anchor Awards, set for Nov. 5th at The Diplomat Beach Hotel in Hollywood, Florida.

Held under the theme "Caribbean Maritime Professionals: The Backyard Advantage," the event will also honor Marie McKenzie, senior vice president of government and destination affairs at Carnival Corporation, and Richard Scheff, a partner at Faegre Drinker.

Both honorees are being recognized for their contributions to the Caribbean maritime sector, including cruise, shipping, logistics, and legal services, as well as their support for the foundation's mission.

"We are deeply honored to welcome Prime Minister Holness to the ACMF Anchor Awards," said Jennifer Nugent-Hill, ACMF interim board chairman and assistant vice president of government and community affairs at Tropical. "His presence underscores the importance of the maritime sector to Jamaica

and the Caribbean and the critical role that education and human capital development play in creating opportunity for our young people."

The Anchor Awards have become a major gathering for leaders across the cruise, cargo, shipping, logistics, ports, government and maritime industries.

Proceeds from the event will support scholarships and grants for aspiring Caribbean maritime professionals, including future marine engineers, captains, logisticians, port managers and other professionals working across the maritime and logistics sectors.

The American Caribbean Maritime Foundation says its mission is to reduce poverty and expand opportunity in the Caribbean through maritime education and community development.

The organization provides scholarships, grants, and educational resources to students pursuing careers throughout the maritime industry.



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Boscoe And Geoffrey Holder: Artistic Sons Of Trinidad And Tobago

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

The biggest and most colorful celebration of Caribbean culture takes place in London every August. This year was no different. Marking its 60th year, Notting Hill Carnival, which took place August 29-31, brought out massive crowds honoring and reveling to the sounds of iconic steel band orchestras, soca, calypso, and reggae music.

This much-loved tradition took root in London in 1955 with a concert at the Royal Albert Hall dubbed the “first Caribbean Carnival in London.” Among the performers at this celebration of Caribbean culture was Boscoe Holder, the older brother of dancer/choreographer/actor Geoffrey Holder. Both were born in Trinidad and Tobago.

Spread The ‘Gospel’

As the Twin-Island nation commemorated its 64 years of independence on August 31st, it is fitting to celebrate the contributions of the pioneering Boscoe brothers, who helped spread the ‘gospel’ of Trinbagonian arts through dance, music, and painting across the Americas and Europe.

Born in Arima, Trinidad, on July 16, 192, Boscoe Holder, the youngest of 5 siblings, was a child prodigy who played piano professionally from a young age. In his teens, Boscoe’s natural artistic leanings would blossom into dance, choreography, and painting.

His younger brother Geoffrey, born August 1, 1930, in Port of Spain, followed Boscoe’s lead into artistic expression through dance, choreography, and painting. Both would become important artistes in their own right, influencing the cultural landscape of countries far afield.

After migrating to London, England, in the 1950s, Boscoe introduced Trinidadian traditions such as steelpan and limbo dancing to British society. He performed in London’s famous West End theatres and on radio and television programs. He later formed his own dance company, Boscoe Holder and his Caribbean Dancers, and toured and performed across Britain and Europe. He made it his life’s work to share the richness of his native country’s culture.

Elevating Caribbean Culture

Perhaps one of Boscoe’s most meaningful contributions to elevating Caribbean culture was his performance, with his dance company, at the Royal Albert Hall’s first Caribbean carnival concert in 1955. It was this concert that ‘opened the eyes’ of the British public to Trinidadian music and dance traditions. In fact, archival images of Boscoe and his Dance Company, along with a program from that concert, have recently been unveiled.

His fine art was another facet of this multi-talented artist. Boscoe continued to produce

his uniquely Caribbean paintings, highlighting the beauty of the human form in his richly painted nudes, both male and female, and portraits. His work was, and still is, widely exhibited in London art galleries and collected internationally.

Boscoe’s wide-ranging work is currently available through Campbell’s of London Gallery.

Inspired by his brother, Geoffrey Holder’s trajectory took a very similar path. Like Boscoe, he was also a gifted dancer and choreographer. Migrating to New York in the 1950s, his graceful movement, stature, and commanding presence were quickly noticed by established dance companies. He worked with the famous American dancer and activist Katherine Dunham, teaching folk dance at her dance school. He was also a principal dancer at the Metropolitan Opera Ballet.

But this was only the beginning for Geoffrey. His choreography collaborations with the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, and his work with Carmen de Lavallade, who would become his wife, established his career



Boscoe and Geoffrey Holder, London, 1961. (Courtesy of the Holder Family Archive and the Victoria Miro exhibition, <https://online.victoria-miro.com/boscoe-holder-geoffrey-holder-london-2024/>)

as a professional dancer/choreographer. He also won two Tony Awards for his creative genius in costume design for the musical *The Wiz*.

His powerful performances were noticed, so it was only a matter of time before he landed roles on the big screen, including *All Night Long*, *Doctor Dolittle*, and the 1973 Bond film *Live and Let Die*. His film career would continue for another three decades.

Geoffrey turned everything he did into an artistic experience.

His 7-Up commercials in the 70s and 80s were unforgettable, with his booming baritone voice proclaiming the soft drink “The Uncola.”

Indeed, his artistic talent was evident in all his work. Like Boscoe, his younger brother was also a painter with many solo exhibitions and collectors’ interest. His figurative paintings of male and female nudes, dancers, and portraits put Geoffrey on his own artistic ground, not competitive with his sibling, but harmonious in their perspective of black bodies. London’s Victoria Miro Gallery exhibited a retrospective of the brothers’ work together for the first time in 2024.

As we observe Trinidad and Tobago’s independence celebrations, let’s not forget these Trinbagonian brothers, who undoubtedly shaped the reach, influence, and talent of Caribbean peoples in world culture, expanding a culture defined by the syncopated, shifting rhythms, colors, and indomitable spirit of this twin-island nation.



From Jamaica To China And Back: Hazel Knight Celebrates 101 Remarkable Years

At 101 years old, Jamaican-born Hazel Knight has a life story that spans continents, hardship, faith, and more than a century of extraordinary change. And judging from her radiant appearance at 101, Knight appears to be embracing her latest milestone with remarkable grace.

Born in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, in 1925, Knight grew up with limited formal schooling but demonstrated a natural talent for numbers. She and her husband eventually operated a small dry goods store before circumstances forced them to close the business.

Then came an extraordinary chapter. Her husband was originally from China, and in 1947, Knight boarded a merchant boat with him and their four-year-old daughter for his small hometown village outside Hong Kong.

Life there was dramatically different from Jamaica. The village had a single footpath and no running water or electricity. Knight adapted, learning the Hakka language and adjusting to

village life.

Tragedy struck when her husband died unexpectedly, leaving Knight and her young daughter without money or a way to return home. Mother and daughter subsequently spent two years in a refugee camp before finally making their way back to Jamaica in 1952.

But Knight’s journey was far from over. She later moved to England, where she studied to become a practical nurse. An opportunity through friends at her church eventually brought her to the United States, where she settled in New York City.

Knight lived in the Bronx for more than a decade and worked as a hospital nurse’s aide before relocating to Miami in the late 1970s. She settled in South Miami, where she remained in the same home for decades.

Caring for others became



Hazel Knight - an extraordinary Jamaican woman – turns 101.

one of the defining themes of her life. Knight provided live-in home health care to people with limited family support and routinely opened her own home to those who needed somewhere to stay.

Her Christian faith has also remained central to her life. Knight dedicated her life to Jesus in 1960 and has been a member of Miami Temple Seventh-Day

Adventist Church since 1978. Although health challenges now prevent her from attending services in person, she continues to worship with the congregation through YouTube.

Her message after more than a century of living is remarkably simple: treat others as you would want to be treated. Knight’s family now stretches across five generations.

She has five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Her daughter, with whom she made that extraordinary journey to China as a child, died in Ohio in June 2024.

From Ocho Rios to rural China, a refugee camp, England, New York and ultimately South Florida, Knight’s 101 years have encompassed loss, migration, reinvention and service.

Through it all, she has remained guided by faith and a desire to care for others - an extraordinary Jamaican woman’s century-long journey that continues today.



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Before I Could Make A Florida Doctor's Appointment, They Asked About My Immigration Status

I had one of the most disturbing experiences of my life last week, and I'm still mad about it. My primary care physician referred me to an endocrinologist in South Florida's Memorial Healthcare System for additional thyroid testing.

Like any patient, I picked up the phone to schedule the appointment. The scheduler asked for my name, my date of birth, and my insurance information.

Then came two questions I had never been asked before: "Where were you born?" and "Are you a legal resident or a U.S. citizen?"

I went silent. "Excuse me," I stated with attitude. "Why do you need that information?"

The young man on the other end of the line became instantly uncomfortable. "I'm sorry, ma'am," he replied. "It's the law. We have to ask."

For a moment, I considered hanging up. Not because I had anything to hide. I am a naturalized United States citizen. But because something about that conversation felt profoundly different and disturbing. Before anyone asked why my doctor wanted me to see a specialist; before anyone asked about my symptoms; before anyone asked about my health, I was being asked about my immigration status and where I was born.

When I got off the phone, I was livid. As an immigration journalist, I was stunned that I had somehow missed a law requiring healthcare providers to ask patients about their immigration status. Or perhaps I forgot or paid little attention because I didn't think it would impact me.

I immediately began researching it, wondering how something with such significant implications had managed to escape my notice. I learned the appointment scheduler had simply been following Florida law. Since 2023, under Senate Bill 1718, signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis on May 10, 2023, and effective July 1, 2023, hospitals

that receive Medicaid funding are required to ask admitted patients and emergency room visitors about their immigration status during registration. This requirement applies even if you have private insurance.

Of course, medical treatment cannot be denied because of a response, and hospitals are required to tell patients that their individual information will not be reported to immigration authorities. Instead, only anonymous, aggregate data are submitted to the state. The requirement applies to hospitals, not private physicians' offices or independent clinics, but somehow, because of the doctor's association with a hospital system, this question is now being asked.

Knowing that did not make the questions feel any less unsettling because laws are not experienced as statutes. They are experienced as conversations. And for many immigrants - documented or undocumented - the first conversation before receiving medical care is no longer simply about health. It may now begin with questions about immigration status.

I found myself wondering if I, as a U.S. citizen, felt uneasy after being asked those questions; how must they feel for someone without citizenship? Or to a lawful permanent resident, a refugee, an asylum seeker, or the parent of a sick child already terrified of drawing attention to their family?

The law says patients may decline to answer, but fear does not always distinguish between what the law requires and what people believe it requires. Researchers have warned about precisely this concern.

A 2024 analysis by KFF found that while Florida's law requires hospitals to request immigration status, patients retain the right to refuse to answer, and hospitals must continue providing care regardless of a person's response. Yet the researchers concluded that the requirement - combined with other restrictive immigration policies - would likely increase fear among immigrant families, discourage them from seeking needed medical care, and negatively affect both physical and mental health.

Ironically, the same report notes that immigrants generally use less healthcare than U.S.-born Americans while contributing significantly to the healthcare system through taxes and insurance premiums. The report also found no clear relationship between undocumented patients and uncompensated hospital care in Florida.

I ultimately answered the questions because I needed the appointment; others may not.

Some may postpone seeing a doctor; some may avoid hospitals altogether; some may wait until a manageable illness becomes a medical crisis.

That may never have been the intention of Florida's law. But history has shown that fear rarely announces itself with handcuffs or headlines. More often, it begins quietly - with a question, hesitation, a second thought. Sometimes it begins with a simple phone call, when a patient seeking medical

care is asked about immigration status before anyone ever asks: "How are you feeling?"

Felicia J. Persaud is the founder and publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com, the only daily syndicated newswire and digital platform dedicated exclusively to Caribbean Diaspora and Black immigrant news across the Americas.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

CANNABIS & PSYCHOSIS



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Food Glorious Food

Food is the staff of life, they say. An army marches on its stomach; a hungry man is an angry man. The way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Even songs have been written glorifying food:

*"Food glorious food, what wouldn't we give for
That extra bit more
That's all we live for
Magical food
Wonderful food
Marvelous food
Beautiful food
Food, glorious food, glorious food."*

'Oliver' movie soundtrack

So much has been said about food, and yet we hardly hear about the sin of gluttony. Imagine serving eternity in Hell for eating

too much?

"Why are you here in Hell, my brother-mass murder, robbery?" "No, I committed the sin of gluttony; I ate my way to Hell."

Jack Sprat could eat no fat, his wife could eat no lean, and so between them both, they licked the platter clean. And so it is with many people, fat, slim, short, tall, rich or poor; many are besotted with food.

Just check out any buffet line and see how people overindulge (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



TONY ROBINSON

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Florida's Primary Election Is A Lesson On Black Political Representation

BY KEVIN HARRIS

Florida's primary election poses interesting questions for Black voters and representation. Election Night brought about the opportunity to help elect the state's first Black governor, first Black US Senator, and the choice of a white Jewish woman to represent a congressional district historically held by a Black member of Congress.

In the case for governor, Republican Congressman Byron Donalds is a Trump backed conservative whose views are largely out of step with a majority of Black voters. For the US Senate, state Representative Angie Nixon is a Democratic socialist who also excites the traditional Black democratic establishment. And Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz cruised to victory against several Black candidates. She won on the argument that despite being white, her years of experience in Congress made her better qualified to represent a newly drawn majority-Black district. Black voters agreed and sent her back to Congress.

These results raise valid questions about what Black voters actually want when it comes to representation.

Is having a first Black representative enough when we know they are unlikely to represent a majority of the community? Does a Black woman Democratic socialist better represent where Black voters are today after years of backing the establishment? Do Black voters even care if the person representing them is also Black?

Is representation simply having someone who looks like you in the governor's mansion or the U.S. Senate? Or is representation electing someone whose policies reflect your interests, regardless of race? And should Black voters, after generations of fighting for access to political power, demand both? What should Black folks do if neither candidate provides that opportunity?

Donalds challenges the assumption that Black political advancement and Democratic political advancement are the same thing. A Black Republican can make the same history while also advancing conservative policies many Black voters oppose.

Angie Nixon offers almost the opposite proposition. Her progressive politics ask voters to judge representation by outcomes. Being Black isn't necessarily enough if that doesn't make housing more affordable, improve public schools, raise wages, expand access to health care or help Black families accumulate wealth.

Those questions become increasingly important because Black America has now experienced generations of historic firsts while overall progress remained slow.

Black folks have elected Black mayors, members of Congress, prosecutors, senators, and governors. Black folks have served as Cabinet secretaries, attorneys general, and corporate executives. And Black folks elected a Black man president for two terms.

These achievements broke barriers. But they also taught Black folks that a Black person gaining power and Black people gaining power are not necessarily

the same thing.

Wasserman Schultz proves that a representative does not necessarily have to share your race to represent you. Her victory shows that Black voters ultimately support candidates they believe listen to their community, advocate for policies they support, can deliver for the community, and remain accountable to them.

There's a lot of ambiguity in Florida's election results, but some lessons are clear. Republicans cannot point to Donalds and declare their work with Black America complete. They must persuade Black voters that conservative policies will improve their lives. A Black face doesn't automatically mean Black votes.

Democrats cannot point to Nixon, or decades of overwhelming Black support, and assume loyalty is permanent. They must show that Democrats can produce results. Nixon won not because she was the establishment Democrat. Nixon handily beat the establishment by better articulating what she could get done. And Nixon didn't wait for anyone's permission to show her value. Establishment Democrats should take note. And finally, neither white nor Black Democrats can treat Black votes as entitlements. Democrats have to work hard for Black votes as Wasserman Schultz did. Democrats cannot assume that Black voters are so monolithic and simplistic that they can't see beyond race to advance what they believe to be in their best interest. Again, a Black face isn't necessarily enough to get Black votes.

For generations, Black Americans fought simply to enter the political system. Then we fought to elect Black people within it.

Florida demonstrates a more complicated dynamic. We can make history. We can vote for who represents us. We can acknowledge that the answer to both might mean looking past a Black candidate entirely and supporting someone who isn't Black at all.

Donalds can make Black history and likely won't represent the best interests of Black Floridians. Nixon can represent policy-centered Black representation while still facing doubts that a Black face alone will deliver change. And Wasserman Schultz could represent surrendering Black political power to advance short-term political interests. Whatever this all means, Florida is an example of Black voters deciding for themselves what representation means without a party, politician, or pundit defining it for them. That's progress worth celebrating in itself, even if we don't know yet

what it all means.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kevin Harris is a Democratic strategist who has advised over 100 campaigns and ballot measures, including the past five presidential elections, served in

the Obama Administration, as a cabinet member for two big city mayors, and as the executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus.



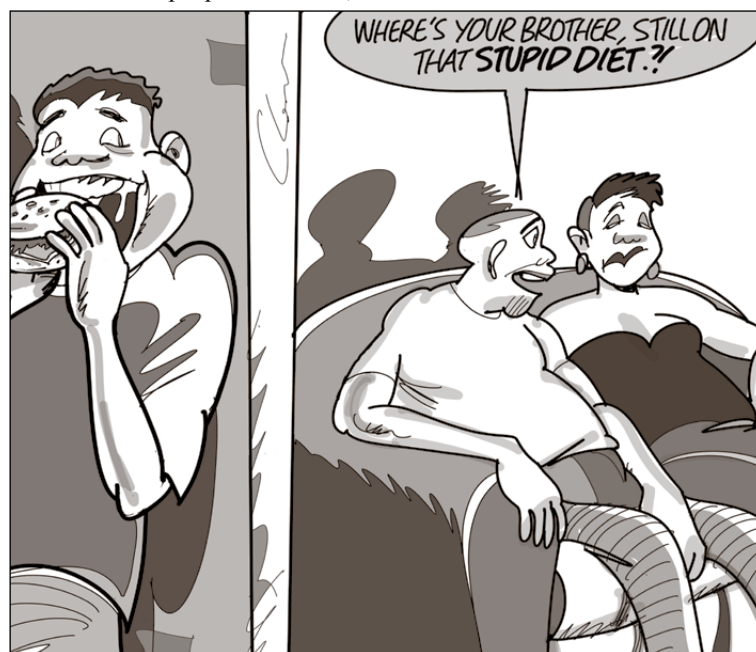
Food Glorious Food

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

on food, piling their plates higher than yonder mountain as they just have to indulge in everything. As for those 'all-inclusive hotels' where food is always available, their behavior borders on being animalistic

Caribbean people love to eat,

always sickly. Every virus, every cold, every flu, every Chick, Zik, and Bik V - they catch it. They're always coughing, sneezing, blowing their noses, and fighting fever. I tell them, "If you had a nice thick juicy pork chop or stew peas with pig's tail, you wouldn't be so sickly."



and we eat everything, from pork, beef, chicken, fish, conch, lobster, goat, sheep, cow skin, cow tongue, cow foot, chicken foot, pig trotters and more. If it moves, we'll eat it.

Oxtail and pig's tail are still favorites, but people still can't understand why oxtail is so expensive. "Me don't know why oxtail cost so much when is just bone and little meat!" In contrast, many tourists abhor such delights and would die first before they partake of the tail of any animal. Some even refuse to eat fish head. "I just can't stand to see the little eyes staring up at me."

And look how we love fish head? It's probably the best part of the meal. As for curry goat, our love for it is legendary, and yet many Americans balk at the idea of eating goat. Jamaicans love goat so much that curry goat patties are in vogue.

Have you noticed how in foreign countries, many people have all sorts of food idiosyncrasies? Many are lactose intolerant, vegetarians, vegans, allergic to this and that, and can only eat gluten-free foods. Not so Caribbean people, who have no such luxury. We eat all that we can get. "Lactose what, gluten what, vegan who? Man, just pass the box of milk and the half dozen patties."

What I have found is that most of the people I know who are vegetarians or vegans, are

As for dieting and fasting, those never really caught on in the Caribbean, except for a few uptown people. Don't be fooled by those who are always talking about their diet this and their diet that. Don't believe them; it's usually only a fad that exists in their minds only. When they're alone, they eat like it's feeding time at the zoo. They're the ones who eat the biggest triple burger but have a Diet Pepsi with it. If you notice, it's always the fattest ones who are always carping about dieting. "I'm going to resume my diet as soon as I leave this buffet."

People's food choices are based on culture. One man's meat is another man's poison. Cubans don't like spicy food, but Mexicans do. The Masai of Africa subsist on cow's blood and milk, drunk directly, fresh from the animals. The Inuit live on whale blubber. In some places, roast cat and field rats are prime fare. Some relish snakes and lizards. In the Western World, some folks have fast food every day.

Food, glorious food.

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 seido1yard@gmail.com for feedback.






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Dolly Parton And Her Surprising Jamaica Connection

BY CT STAFF WRITER

As fans around the world mourn the death of country music icon Dolly Parton, who died Aug. 25, 2026, at age 80 after a brief battle with cancer, one lesser-known chapter of her extraordinary career connects the Tennessee-born superstar directly to Jamaica.

Parton spent more than six decades crossing musical genres, generations, and cultural boundaries, but in 2022 she made one of her most unexpected moves when her 1978 hit “Two Doors Down” was transformed into reggae by a collective of Jamaican musicians known as Positive Vibrations.

The track appeared on Country Goes Reggae, an 11-song project that paired country stars with Jamaican musicians and reimagined well-known country songs through reggae arrangements. Parton did more than simply allow her original recording to be remixed: she specifically reworked her vocals to fit the new reggae instrumentation.

It created an unlikely musical bridge between Nashville and Jamaica - two places that, on the surface, might appear worlds apart.

From Negril Came The Idea

Producers Christian and Frank Berman, known as the Berman Brothers, created the project with partner Ron Oehl. The concept was born during a 2019 trip to Negril,



The legendary Dolly Parton during “Dolly: An Original Musical” fireside chat and press conference at The Fisher Center for the Performing Arts on January 28, 2025, in Nashville, Tennessee. (Jason Kempin/Getty Images)

Jamaica, where the producers sat at a beach bar listening to reggae when a passing vehicle played American country music. Hearing the two sounds side by side convinced them that the genres could work together.

The resulting album brought together country performers including Parton, Toby Keith, Rascal Flatts, Alabama, Jimmie Allen, Lainey Wilson and others with Jamaican reggae musicians.

Parton enthusiastically embraced the finished project. “To say that I’m proud of the Country Goes Reggae album with Positive Vibrations would be, certainly, an understatement,” she said at the time. “So many wonderful artists, so many wonderful songs and such great arrangements!”

She added that she hoped listeners would enjoy her reggae version of “Two Doors Down” and predicted fans would be enjoying the album for years.

Jamaican Musicians Behind The Sound

The Positive Vibrations collective included respected Jamaican musicians and engineers with deep roots in reggae. Among them were guitarist Ian “Beezy” Coleman, bassist Devon Bradshaw, saxophonist Guillaume “Stepper Sax” Briard and trombonist Henry “Matic” Tenyue. The musicians brought the bass-heavy rhythms, horns and syncopation of reggae to country songs originally built around very different musical traditions.

The result was less a novelty recording than an experiment in how two storytelling traditions could meet. Country and reggae both developed strong traditions of writing about ordinary life - love, heartbreak, struggle, family, faith, and survival. Country Goes Reggae demonstrated that the distance between the two genres was perhaps much smaller than geography suggested.

For Parton, that willingness to experiment fit naturally into a career spent refusing to remain confined to one category.

She also contributed heavily to medical research, disaster relief and education, including a \$1 million donation to Vanderbilt University that helped support research connected to the development of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Parton was married to businessman Carl Dean for nearly six decades until his death in March 2025.

From Tennessee To Jamaica

Parton will be remembered foremost as the Queen of Country Music - a songwriter, performer, actress, businesswoman, and philanthropist whose songs became part of the American soundtrack.

But tucked inside that enormous legacy is a small and delightful Caribbean chapter. For one summer in 2022, Dolly Parton allowed one of her best-known songs to leave Nashville, find a new rhythm in Jamaica, and return sounding unmistakably like both worlds. It was exactly the kind of musical boundary-crossing that defined her career - proof that even a country classic could find new life riding a reggae bass line.



Ras Ajai’s Rising Acting Career Cut Short By Murder In Jamaica

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

To prepare for his role as Claudius Massop in the 2024 movie Bob Marley: One Love, Ras Ajai cut his Rastafarian locks. It was a commitment to playing the West Kingston enforcer who was the reggae legend’s close friend.

Like Massop, Ras Ajai was controversially killed in Jamaica. The 47-year-old singer-turned-actor - real name Brian Todd Boucher - was murdered in his hometown of Waterford, Portmore, on August 1.

He and another man were shot by gunmen in that community, a rough, working-class area located on the outskirts of Kingston, Jamaica’s capital. Police have arrested and charged a man for his murder.

Ras Ajai, who lived in New York City, had arrived in Jamaica just hours before the incident. For several years, he toured as an opening act for Sean Paul as a member of the Grammy winner’s Dutty Rock Crew.

Stanicia Pate, a member of his management, told Caribbean Today that Ras Ajai’s latest song, ‘Love is Kind,’ is scheduled for release on September 4th. It is produced

by Money Matters Entertainment. She said appearing in ‘Bob Marley: One Love’ piqued his interest in acting.

“Acting had definitely become another part of his creative journey. He actually did a couple of voiceover commercials and just sent out an audition taping for an upcoming role,” Pate said. “After Bob Marley: One Love, Ajai talked about how the experience gave him an even deeper appreciation for storytelling. Music was always at his core, but he absolutely welcomed the opportunity to continue growing as an actor.”

Known for songs like ‘Well Misbehave’ and ‘Vice Grip,’ Ras Ajai featured on ‘Buss A Bubble,’ Sean Paul’s 2019 single. That track is from ‘Live N Living,’ Sean Paul’s album, which was nominated for a 2022 Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album.

“Ajai was so full of life and

deeply passionate about what he was trying to build. His daughter meant everything to him,” said Pate. “He loved his community, and he really believed his music could not only create a better life for himself and his daughter but show young people coming from places like Waterford that there was another way.”



Ras Ajai was murdered in his hometown of Waterford, Portmore, Jamaica, on August 1, 2026.

Mr Easy, Future Fambo Team Up On New Dancehall Single ‘Cyaan Go Round Yuh’

Dancehall veterans Mr Easy and Future Fambo have joined forces with Deejay Yellow on a new single, “Cyaan Go Round Yuh,” released on Yellow House Records.

Produced by Yellow House Promotions, the track is the first release from the label’s new “Aktive” riddim and blends a contemporary dancehall sound with the collaborative energy associated with the genre’s 1990s era.

Written by Mr Easy and Troy Auxilly Wilson, the female-focused track came together quickly after Mr Easy first heard the riddim while driving in New York.

“The minute I put the riddim on in the car, the whole vibe just hit me,” Mr Easy said. “I started vibing, and the song just came.”

Mr Easy, known for dancehall favorites including “Drive Me Crazy,” said the experience reinforced the importance of remaining open to new producers and sounds. “One thing I’ve learned is you can’t underrate or underestimate any producer,” he said.

The release comes as both artists enjoy renewed attention.



Mr Easy and Future Fambo have released ‘Cyaan Go Round Yuh.’

Mr Easy recently appeared on On The Radar Radio, performing “Drive Me Crazy” alongside his newer track “Gal It’s Ya Birthday,” while Future Fambo has gained fresh momentum through the viral popularity of “Red Light Pepper Light” across TikTok and other social platforms.

“Cyaan Go Round Yuh” brings the two established dancehall voices together with Deejay Yellow over the upbeat Aktive riddim.

“People want to hear this type of vibe again,” Mr Easy said. “It’s positive energy, and the song came out amazing.”

The single is now available across digital streaming platforms.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

Buju Banton, Kes To Lead 59th New York Caribbean Carnival Parade

The countdown is on for the 59th Annual New York Caribbean Carnival, with Jamaican reggae icon Buju Banton and Trinidad and Tobago soca star Kees



Kes, lead vocalist of KesTheBand, is a grand marshal at this year's West Indian American Day Carnival

The West Indian American Day Carnival Association, (WIADCA), announced that the two Caribbean music stars will help lead the annual celebration on Monday, Sept. 7, along Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn, New York.

Their selection reflects this year's theme, "One Caribbean," bringing together two of the region's most internationally recognized musical traditions - Jamaica's reggae and dancehall and Trinidad and Tobago's soca and Carnival culture.

Dieffenthaler, better known as Kes, named honorary grand marshals of this year's Labor Day parade.

The appointment of Kees Dieffenthaler of KesTheBand and Buju Banton as Honorary Grand Marshals is a powerful representation of what One

Caribbean means to us," the WIADCA Board of Directors said. "They have each carried Caribbean music and culture to the world, while remaining deeply rooted in the communities and traditions that shaped them."

Grammy-winning Banton has spent decades taking Jamaican reggae and dancehall to audiences worldwide, while Kes, lead vocalist of KesTheBand, has become one of contemporary soca's most recognizable international ambassadors.

Together, organizers say, the artists symbolize the cultural connections that unite Caribbean people across national



Also joining Kes in the grand marshal role will be Jamaican Grammy winning star Buju Banton.

borders, generations and musical traditions.

The two will be formally recognized earlier on Carnival Day during WIADCA's 59th Annual VIP Breakfast, scheduled from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Carlos Lezama Netball Court at Lincoln Terrace Park in Brooklyn.

Held under the theme

"M.A.S.: Music, Action, Soul - Enjoy the Rhythm, Feel the Mas," the breakfast will bring together elected officials, community leaders, business executives, cultural ambassadors and members of New York's Caribbean-American community.

The main parade gets underway at 11 a.m. along Eastern Parkway, continuing a nearly six-decade tradition that has grown into one of the largest annual celebrations of Caribbean culture in the United States. The annual carnival traditionally draws Caribbean nationals and descendants from across the diaspora for a massive display of masquerade, costumes, music, dancing, and Caribbean pride.

This year, with a Jamaican reggae legend and Trinidadian soca star sharing grand marshal honors, WIADCA is putting the "One Caribbean" message front and center.



From Waterhouse To National Honor: Mikie Bennett To Get Order Of Distinction

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Eager to make his name as a producer/songwriter in dancehall-reggae, Mikie Bennett regularly visited Waterhouse, one of the toughest communities in Jamaica, during the late 1980s. For someone from a middle-class family, those trips were eye-opening and beneficial.

Bennett co-wrote some of the genre's biggest hit songs of the 1980s and 1990s. They include 'Housecall' and 'Mr. Loverman' by Shabba Ranks; 'Temptress' by Maxi Priest; 'Can You,' (Brian and Tony Gold) and 'Telephone Love,' (J C Lodge).

Citing his contribution to the development of reggae, the Jamaican government has made Bennett a recipient of the Order of Distinction (Officer class), Jamaica's sixth-highest honor. He will receive the award on October 19th in Kingston.

Bennett described the recognition as a "wonderful feeling". He added that it is something to savor with family and those who helped him develop musically.

"I remember just walking through Waterhouse, feeling safe and protected. I saw another side of Kingston I never knew," he said.

Waterhouse is one of

Kingston's grittiest neighborhoods and has a long history of gang and political violence. But it also has a rich music legacy, producing artists like Black Uhuru, Junior Reid and Wayne "Sleng Teng" Smith.

Bennett learned the ropes from street-smart producer/engineer Lloyd "King Jammy" James, whose legendary recording studio is based in Waterhouse. Another mentor was Gussie Clarke, the man who produced hit songs like 'Rumors' by Gregory Isaacs and 'Pass The Kutchie' by The Mighty Diamonds.

Some of the songs Bennett helped create introduced dancehall music to the American mainstream. Major labels like Epic Records signed Jamaican acts such as Shabba Ranks, who made the pop charts with tracks like 'Housecall' and 'Mr. Loverman.'

Bennett, who is in his early 70s, continues to write and produce songs. He usually reaches out to the current generation of dancehall-reggae artists and producers.



Legendary dancehall and reggae producer/songwriter Mikie Bennett will receive the Order of Distinction (Officer class), Jamaica's sixth-highest honor on October 19th in Kingston, Jamaica. (Contributed image)

"Every generation figures their music is the best, so I'm not surprised I'm not as excited about some of the younger stuff by the younger people, and that is natural," he noted. "As much as possible, I surround myself with young people in my productions and take myself out of it as much as possible to see how they feel when they hear certain rhythms."



rhythm."

The performance will take place at the Miniaci Performing Arts Center on the Nova Southeastern University campus, 3100 Ray Ferrero Jr. Boulevard in Davie. Tickets are on sale now through the venue's box office and website.



NE-YO, Machel Montano, Maxi Priest Lead Dominica's 2026 World Creole Music Festival



Grammy-winning R&B singer NE-YO is among the performers at the 2026 Dominica World Creole Music Festival.

Dominica's World Creole Music Festival returns Oct. 23-25 with a star-studded lineup led by Grammy-winning R&B singer NE-YO, soca superstar Machel Montano, reggae veteran Maxi Priest, and Jamaican dancehall acts Alkaline and Skillibeng.

The three-night festival will be staged at Windsor Park Sports Stadium in Roseau during Dominica's Independence season and will feature a broad mix of R&B, soca, dancehall, reggae, bouyon, cadence-lypso, kompa, soukous and amapiano.

Other major performers include Jamaican reggae star Capleton, Haitian-American singer-songwriter Fridayy, South African amapiano artist Uncle Waffles, Haiti's Klass and Tabou Combo, Guadeloupe's Les Aiglons, Jean-Marc Ferdinand and Edday, Martinique's Maurane Voyer, and Congolese guitarist Diblo Dibala.

Dominican artists will also play a central role, with Midnight Groovers, TK International, Asa Bantan, Signal Band, Extasy Band, Colton T, Mr. Ridge, Pudaz, Reo, Nice, Gwada G and Shaxx among

the homegrown acts confirmed.

Discover Dominica Authority CEO Marva Williams said the festival remains one of the island's most important cultural and tourism events. "For nearly three decades, the World Creole Music Festival has provided a distinctly Dominican platform where our music meets the sounds of the Caribbean and the world," Williams said.

The festival also continues to generate significant visitor traffic. Organizers said the 2025 edition attracted more than 42,000 attendees over three nights, while Dominica recorded 10,540 visitors during the nine-day period surrounding the event.

Tickets are already on sale, and tourism officials are encouraging visitors to book accommodations and travel early as demand is expected to increase closer to the festival.

The World Creole Music Festival is presented by the Government of Dominica through the Ministry of Tourism and Discover Dominica Authority.



Tito Puente Jr. Brings Latin Music Celebration To Davie

Tito Puente Jr. and his orchestra will bring the music of legendary bandleader Tito Puente to South Florida on Sept. 12 at the Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center in Davie.

The 7:30 p.m. concert, "The Music of Tito Puente," will celebrate the enduring legacy of the "King of the Timbales," whose career helped shape

mambo, salsa and Latin jazz. Backed by his orchestra, Puente Jr. will perform classics associated with his father while adding his own high-energy stage presence.

"This isn't simply a tribute concert," Puente Jr. said. "It's a celebration of music that continues to unite people of every generation and culture through

Jamaican Chef Rebuilds Life After Nearly 10 Months In Ice Detention

Jamaican immigrant and chef Newton Waite is back behind the counter at his Martha's Vineyard restaurant after spending nearly 10 months in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention, as his family continues raising money for the legal battle that could still end with his deportation.

Waite, who has lived on Martha's Vineyard for 20 years, was arrested by ICE in Massachusetts in September 2025 while he was reportedly in the process of securing permanent U.S. residency. His daughter, Oshantay Waite, said he had unknowingly missed an immigration court hearing after notification was sent to the wrong address.

During his detention, Waite

was transferred through facilities in six states and eventually ended up at the Imperial Regional Detention Facility in California. His family alleges he was denied adequate medical care and other basic necessities while his health deteriorated.

Waite described being confined in overcrowded rooms with as many as 70 people, sometimes without reliable access to showers or bathrooms, and sleeping on the floor. He said he suffered two "mini heart attacks" while detained in New York and received inadequate medical treatment.

His detention attracted support from the Martha's Vineyard NAACP and U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley, while community members donated

toward his mounting legal expenses.

A federal judge in California granted Waite a writ of habeas corpus on July 9, ruling that his prolonged detention was unconstitutional. He subsequently returned to Martha's Vineyard, where customers have been stopping by Vineyard Caribbean Cuisine not only for his red snapper and oxtail, but to welcome him home.

"I got off the boat that morning, and I bent down to kiss the ground," Waite recalled of his return to the island.

But his immigration fight is



Jamaican immigrant and chef Newton Waite is back behind the counter at his Martha's Vineyard restaurant after spending nearly 10 months in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention. (GoFundMe Image)

far from over. His underlying case is now before the Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and ICE continues to monitor him while requiring regular check-ins in

Boston. His U.S.-citizen daughter has also filed a petition seeking to provide him a pathway to legal permanent residency.

Meanwhile, the family's GoFundMe has raised nearly \$29,000 toward a \$31,000 goal to help cover legal expenses.

Waite is now trying to rebuild his health, business, and life while awaiting the outcome of his case.

"I think I deserve a chance to pursue liberty and happiness," he said. "All I do is work here, stay on the good side of the law."

But after his experience in detention, Waite added: "It makes you feel like there's no more American dream."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Taste Flavors From Around the Globe Without Leaving Your Kitchen

The flavors and aromas of global cuisines are closer than ever - no passport or flights required.

"With a thoughtfully curated spice collection, home chefs can transport their senses anywhere in the world, while adding depth and incredible flavor to every dish," says Giovanna DiLegge, vice president of Marketing, McCormick & Company.

Featuring 72 distinctive herbs and spices, including an extensive selection of certified organic varieties, the McCormick Gourmet Collection offers a refined approach to everyday cooking. Sourced from regions known for their exceptional quality, the collection makes it easy to explore global flavors in your kitchen.

And to help get you started on your global culinary journey, McCormick is sharing a recipe for one of Spain's most iconic dishes: Spanish Paella Mixta. Paella pairs tender seafood with saffron-infused rice and the smoky depth of paprika. Designed for sharing, it's best served straight from the pan and finished with fresh parsley and bright lemon wedges.

Spanish Paella Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 2 medium sweet onions, chopped
- 4 cloves fresh garlic, chopped



- 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Organic Paprika
- 8 ounces dry-cured Spanish chorizo, cut on a bias into 1/2-inch thick slices
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Organic Coarse Ground Black Pepper, divided
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Sea Salt Grinder, divided
- 1-pound boneless skinless chicken thighs, trimmed and quartered
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) petite diced tomatoes
- 2 cups of short or medium grain rice, such as bomba or Calasparra
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Organic Saffron, crumbled
- 1-pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 12 fresh mussels, cleaned and rinsed
- 1/2 cup frozen peas
- Chopped fresh parsley

- Fresh lemon wedges, to serve

Instructions:

1. Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in large, wide bottom skillet (or paella pan) on medium-high heat. Add onions, garlic, bell pepper, paprika, and 1/4 teaspoon each of the black pepper and salt. Cook and stir for 6 to 8 minutes or until fragrant and softened. Remove sofrito from the pan to a large plate.
2. Add chorizo to the pan; cook and stir 4 to 6 minutes, until well-browned. Transfer to a plate with sofrito. Heat 1 tablespoon of the remaining oil in pan. Add chicken and sprinkle with remaining 1/4 teaspoon black pepper and 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Cook just until chicken is browned on all sides, about 6 minutes. Remove from pan; set aside with sofrito and chorizo.
3. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon of oil and diced tomatoes to the pan. Cook, stirring occasionally until slightly caramelized and liquid has reduced, about 6 to 8 minutes. Add rice; cook and stir just until rice is fragrant and slightly translucent. Return sofrito mixture, chicken and chorizo to pan. Stir in stock, white wine, saffron and remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low. Simmer 20 minutes or until rice has absorbed most of the liquid.

Tip: Test rice for doneness, it

should be al dente — firm, with a slight chew. If rice is too hard, stir in up to 1/4 cup of warm stock. Cover and cook 3 to 5 minutes longer before adding seafood.

4. Nest shrimp and mussels into rice. Sprinkle with peas. Partially cover pan and cook on medium heat 10 minutes or until shrimp are pink and mussels have opened. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes. Stir before serving. Garnish with chopped fresh parsley and lemon wedges, if desired.

For more information about the collection and for more global recipes, visit mccormick.com/gourmet. From the floral complexity of golden-hued saffron to the balanced sweetness of vibrant red paprika, all you need are the right spices and seasonings to explore a world of flavor in your very own kitchen

- StatePoint



Caribbean Seeks Private Capital To Cut \$6B Food Import Bill

The Caribbean is seeking to reduce its heavy dependence on imported food through a new regional investment pipeline valued at more than US\$315 million.

The initiative emerged from a Food Systems Financing Forum convened in June with United Nations support and brings together investment opportunities across seven Caribbean countries in agriculture, fisheries, agro-processing and logistics.

The region currently spends more than US\$6 billion annually on food imports, while also facing food insecurity, high levels of diet-related illness, climate risks and supply-chain disruptions.

The new regional "Deal Book" is designed to connect governments and businesses with private investors, commercial banks, asset managers and development partners. UN officials say the goal is to treat food systems not only as a development priority but as an investment opportunity that can create jobs, strengthen regional supply chains, and reduce vulnerability to global price shocks.

The UN is also supporting youth-led food security initiatives in Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while promoting stronger regional procurement and local food markets.



*Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves.
If you are going to a party or a formal function, don't you dress well?
We all want to promote a favorable impression of ourselves to other people we meet and talk to.
If we agree on that, then think of this. Why should it be any different for your business?
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Peter A. Webley
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HEALTH NEWS



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Federal HIV Funding Cuts Threaten Prevention Programs Serving South Florida's Caribbean Communities

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Deep federal cuts to HIV prevention funding could have a significant impact on South Florida's Caribbean communities, where community clinics, mobile testing programs and outreach organizations play a critical role in reaching underserved residents.

The concern follows a Trump administration decision not to renew a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HIV prevention grant supporting community-based organizations across the country.

The grant provided more than \$46 million to nearly 100 organizations working on HIV testing, education, prevention and linkage to care.

The loss of funding is particularly significant in South Florida. Miami-Dade and Broward counties remain among

the areas with the nation's highest HIV burdens, according to public health data, and Caribbean and Latino communities are among those disproportionately affected.

In Miami-Dade, outreach programs have focused heavily on Haitian, Dominican and other Caribbean and Latino populations, using mobile clinics, rapid testing and community health workers to reach people who may face transportation, language or healthcare-access barriers.

Programs such as the University of Miami's Community-Based HIV Awareness for Minority Populations, or CHAMP, have



used street-based testing and education to reach African-American and Haitian residents considered at elevated risk.

Mobile teams operate in neighborhoods, housing communities, community centers and public spaces, often providing services in languages commonly spoken by Caribbean residents and connecting

individuals directly with counseling, testing and treatment.

Local providers including Borinquen Medical Centers, Care Resource Community Health Centers and AIDS Healthcare Foundation facilities also provide HIV testing, prevention services and treatment resources across Miami-Dade.

Florida continues to report thousands of new HIV infections annually. The federal Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative has identified Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach and Pinellas counties as among Florida's highest-burden jurisdictions.

Federal funding has helped support rapid testing, same-day connections to medical care and access to prevention medications such as PrEP, services health advocates say are particularly important in communities where cost and access remain significant barriers.

Researchers and HIV advocates warn that funding disruptions can have consequences beyond

testing, including shortages of medications, condoms, laboratory supplies and other prevention resources.

"These disruptions threaten to reverse progress toward controlling the HIV epidemic," said researcher Greg Millett.

Carl Schmid, executive director of the HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute, said community organizations remain essential to preventing new infections.

"Community clinics are the ones doing the work on the ground," Schmid said. "They're the ones who are testing people, who are educating people about HIV, about prevention, about PrEP. They are extremely valuable to our efforts to end HIV."

For South Florida's Caribbean communities, advocates fear the loss of federal support could mean fewer testing opportunities, reduced outreach and greater difficulty connecting vulnerable residents with prevention and treatment services.



Florida Records Rise In Leprosy Cases, With Central Region A Key Concern

Florida recorded an increase in reported cases of Hansen's disease, commonly known as leprosy, in 2025 and has continued to identify new infections this year, drawing renewed attention to the rare but curable disease.

Florida Department of Health figures cited in news reports show the state confirmed 36 cases in 2025, with 27 believed to have been acquired within Florida rather than overseas. Another 19 cases had reportedly been recorded through August 2026, although this year's totals remain provisional.

Investigators have paid particular attention to Central Florida, where an unusual number of locally acquired cases have emerged among people without traditional risk factors such as

travel to countries where the disease is more common. Federal researchers have previously said the pattern adds to evidence that Hansen's disease may be endemic in parts of the southeastern United States.

The disease is caused by slow-growing bacteria and primarily affects the skin, peripheral nerves, eyes and lining of the nose. Symptoms can include discolored skin patches, numbness, muscle weakness, and loss of sensitivity to pain. Because symptoms may take years to develop, cases are sometimes misdiagnosed at first. Nine-banded armadillos can carry the bacteria responsible for Hansen's disease, and animal-to-human transmission has been documented in the southern United

States. However, health officials emphasize that the illness remains rare and does not spread easily.

Most infections are believed to occur following prolonged, close contact with an untreated person. The Florida Department of Health advises residents to avoid unnecessary contact with armadillos and to consult a healthcare provider about persistent skin lesions accompanied by numbness or loss of sensation.

Hansen's disease is curable with multidrug antibiotic therapy. Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent permanent nerve damage and other disabilities, while patients typically become noninfectious after beginning treatment.



Trump Administration Moves Ahead With Federal Workers' Health Data Collection

The Trump administration is moving forward with a controversial plan to collect medical records for millions of federal employees, retirees, and their family members, despite continued privacy concerns, according to KFF Health News.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) said it will begin collecting identifiable health information from insurers covering more than 8 million people enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits and Postal Service Health Benefits programs. The policy took effect July 24th.

The agency says the data will be used to identify fraud, waste, and improper payments within the federal health insurance programs, which cost about \$80 billion

annually.

Under the revised policy, personal identifiers such as names, addresses, and Social Security numbers will be removed before most agency analysts review the records. However, OPM acknowledged it can reconnect the data to individual enrollees when necessary.

The records will include diagnoses, prescription drug information, medical providers and payment details. OPM is also seeking access to Medicare claims for federal workers and retirees who are enrolled in both programs.

The proposal has drawn criticism from privacy advocates, labor unions and some lawmakers, who argue that even partially anonymized health records could

potentially be traced back to individuals.

Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) urged the administration to work with Congress before implementing what he described as sweeping changes that would affect the privacy of federal workers and their families.

Health privacy experts told KFF Health News that while the updated plan offers stronger safeguards than an earlier proposal, concerns remain because detailed medical information can sometimes identify individuals even after personal information has been removed.

- Rewritten from KFF Health News



Jamaican-Born Woman Celebrates 103rd Birthday After Receiving New Pacemaker



Veneita Dempster with Broward Health Coral Springs nurses. (Contributed image)

A Jamaican-born Tamarac resident is celebrating her 103rd birthday with renewed energy after receiving a life-saving pacemaker replacement at Broward Health Coral Springs.

Veneita Dempster, 102 at the time of the procedure, was taken to the hospital after experiencing weeks of shortness of breath and a persistent cough. Doctors discovered that her pacemaker had reached the end of its lifespan and needed to be replaced.

Cardiac electrophysiologist Dr. Sameer Satija implanted a new pacemaker, restoring her heart's normal rhythm and allowing her to return home in

time to celebrate her milestone birthday with family.

Pacemakers typically require replacement every seven to 10 years. Surrounded by loved ones, Dempster marked her 103rd birthday with her five children and 10 grandchildren.

Her family said the successful procedure gave them the greatest birthday gift of all - more time together. Broward Health said the procedure highlights the advanced cardiac care available through its Level 1 Heart Program and cardiac catheterization laboratory in Coral Springs.



A Caribbean Trail Through Charleston

BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Charleston, South Carolina, is often marketed through cobblestone streets, pastel homes, seafood, and Southern charm. But for Caribbean travelers like me, there is another story running beneath the surface - one that leads directly back to Barbados, West Africa, and the wider Caribbean.

That history begins at Charles Towne Landing, where English settlers arrived in 1670 after stopping in Barbados to study the island's successful plantation economy. According to park manager David Baker, the settlers deliberately came through Barbados before establishing the Carolina colony, bringing with them knowledge of plantation agriculture, labor systems, and colonial administration.

Rhoda Green, founder and CEO of the Barbados Carolinas Legacy Foundation, says Barbados' role in shaping Carolina went far beyond geography.

"The transition is so very important, and the role Barbados played was very important," Green said, noting that what settlers learned in Barbados helped them "get off the ground running" once they reached Carolina.

The connection is still written across the map. The Ashley and Cooper rivers were named for Lord Anthony Ashley Cooper, whose family held plantation interests in Barbados, while nearby Johns Island and James Island were named after St. John and St. James in Barbados.

But the strongest Caribbean imprint was human. Sir John Yeamans, one of Carolina's earliest governors, had plantation interests in Barbados and brought roughly 200 enslaved people from the island to Carolina. Some had already been enslaved in Barbados, while others had only recently been trafficked from Africa. Their labor helped establish the colony's early plantation economy.

"One of the significant imprints from Barbados [was] St. Nicholas Abbey," Green said, noting that Yeamans had a plantation there and was among the earliest settlers to bring enslaved people from Barbados into Carolina.

From Barbados To Carolina Gold

Carolina planters initially tried to reproduce Barbados' sugar model, but sugar cane failed in the local climate. They experimented with other crops before rice became the colony's great source of wealth.

By the early 1700s, enslaved Africans from West Africa's rice-growing regions were being brought into South Carolina in increasing numbers. Their agricultural knowledge proved

critical to the expansion of rice cultivation, including irrigation systems, field engineering, and water management.

By 1730, rice exports had soared, helping turn Charleston into one of colonial America's wealthiest ports.

Middleton Place Tells The Story

For visitors, one of the best places to understand that history is Middleton Place, about 16 miles outside downtown Charleston.

The Middleton family, like



Eliza's House at Middleton Place in Charleston, South Carolina, is an authentic c. 1870 Reconstruction-era freedman's dwelling. Named after its final resident, Eliza Leach, it houses the permanent "Beyond the Fields" exhibit, documenting the lives of over 3,200 enslaved individuals and post-emancipation African American history on the plantation

many early Carolina elites, first lived in Barbados before relocating to Carolina. They later became major rice planters, building enormous wealth through enslaved labor.

Today, visitors can still see demonstration rice fields, plantation work areas, gardens, and Eliza's House, which contains the names of people once enslaved by the Middleton family.

George McDaniel, director of Interpretation and Education at Middleton Place Foundation, said enslaved Africans were skilled horticulturists whose knowledge shaped both the rice fields and the formal gardens.

"In reading these names, speaking these names, acknowledging these names, we have restored humanity to these people," McDaniel said.

A Museum On Sacred Ground

Another essential stop is the International African American Museum, built on Gadsden's Wharf, where an estimated 40 percent of enslaved Africans brought into the United States first arrived.

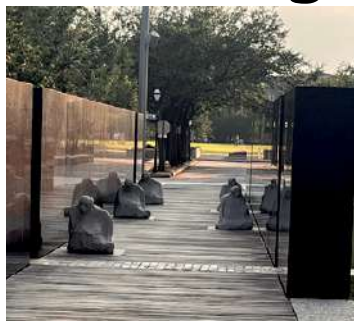
The museum traces journeys from West Africa through the Caribbean and into North America, with exhibits dedicated to Gullah Geechee culture and the wider African diaspora.

The story also includes Denmark Vesey, born enslaved in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, who later purchased his freedom in Charleston and helped establish what became Mother Emanuel AME Church.

The Caribbean Is Still There

Charleston's Caribbean influence survives beyond museums.

Historians trace elements of the city's distinctive porch architecture to Barbados and the West Indies, while Gullah Geechee



These hand-sculpted, kneeling, and hunched figures represent the slaves of the Middle Passage brought to Charleston. They sit here at the walkway to the International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina, located on the historic site of Gadsden's Wharf. (Felicia J. Persaud/NewsAmericasnow.com image)

food, basket weaving, farming traditions, and language preserve cultural connections to West Africa and the Caribbean.

Visitors can also stop at the historic Charleston City Market, where Gullah Geechee artisans continue the centuries-old tradition of weaving sweetgrass baskets. So, while Charleston may present itself as quintessentially Southern, its history tells a broader story.

For Caribbean visitors in particular, Charleston offers more than another U.S. getaway. It offers a trail through shared history - from Barbados to Carolina, from West Africa to the Lowcountry, and from slavery and survival to cultural traditions that remain alive

today.

Upcoming Caribbean and island-themed events in the Charleston area this fall include the Island Vibe Reggae Block Party on Sept. 26, 2026, in North Charleston, and the annual Latin American Festival, celebrating Caribbean and Latin American cultures, on Oct. 4.

Charleston Carifest, the city's Caribbean carnival, also continues to highlight the region's living Caribbean identity. Its Caribbean American Heritage Month events included a symposium and reception in June, while the full carnival celebration - complete with mas bands, soca and calypso - is currently slated for Sept. 12, 2026. Find details at Charleston Carifest.

For Caribbean travelers, timing a Charleston visit around one of these events offers a chance to experience the city's living connection to the islands - not simply its 356-year-old Caribbean roots.

WHERE TO STAY

For a central base, the Francis Marion Hotel sits on King Street across from Marion Square and within walking distance of downtown shopping, Mother Emanuel AME Church, and the visitors center. Opened in 1924, the 235-room hotel blends historic character with modern comforts.

Ask for a higher floor for stronger city views.

WHERE TO EAT

The menus also offer a chance to taste the overlap between Lowcountry and Caribbean food traditions - rice, okra, peas, seafood, and spices - shaped by generations of African and Caribbean influence. For classic Charleston dining, Fleet Landing is a strong downtown choice for seafood, including crab cakes and fried green tomatoes with crab salad. Magnolia's offers upscale Southern cuisine, while the Middleton Place Restaurant is worth combining with a plantation visit for Lowcountry favorites such as fried okra, chicken, and she-crab soup.

FLYING THERE

Getting to Charleston from South Florida is relatively easy. Breeze Airways offers nonstop service from Fort Lauderdale, while American Airlines flies nonstop from Miami to Charleston International Airport. For help planning a Charleston visit, check Explore Charleston at charlestoncvb.com/, the city's official visitor resource, for information on accommodations, attractions, dining, and upcoming events.



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For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit JacksonUrgentCare.com/Sports-Physicals.

Coral Gables

3737 S.W. 8th St.
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-575-1600
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Country Walk

13707 S.W. 152nd St.
Miami, FL 33177
305-585-9200
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Cutler Bay

18910 South Dixie Hwy.
Cutler Bay, FL 33157
305-585-9230
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Doral

7400 N.W. 104th Ave.
Doral, FL 33178
305-585-9250
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Remember Project 2025? Look At America's Immigration System 20 Months In

BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

During the 2024 presidential campaign, Americans were repeatedly warned about Project 2025 - the controversial conservative blueprint for a second Donald Trump presidency. This was as Trump distanced himself from the Heritage Foundation-led project, insisting he had nothing to do with it.

But perhaps it is time to pull that document off the proverbial shelf and read it again. Because 20 months into Trump's second presidency, when it comes to immigration, much of what once sounded like a hardline conservative wish list now increasingly resembles the Trump administration's checklist:

1. Mass deportation? Check.
2. Expanded immigration detention? Check.
3. Ending of Temporary Protected Status? Check.
4. Asylum restricted especially to Black and Brown people? Check.
5. Legal immigration pathways tightened? Check.
6. Immigration enforcement expanded deep into American communities? Check.
7. Birthright citizenship roll-back? Check.
8. Citizenship denaturalization? Check.

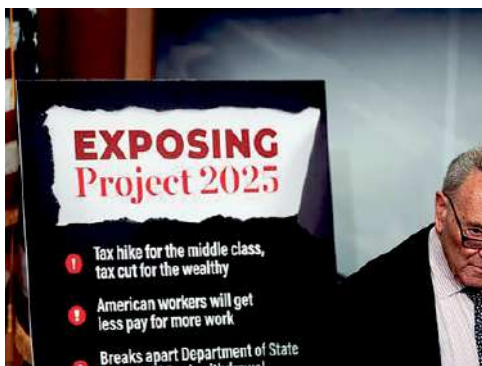
In August 2024, months before the presidential election, the non-partisan American Immigration Council examined Project 2025's immigration proposals and described them as a detailed

plan to restrict legal immigration while laying the foundation for potential mass deportation. Perhaps most tellingly, the Council wrote that Project 2025 could be understood as an attempt to ensure a second Trump administration could pick up where the first one left off - "without the learning curve."

Now 20 months after Trump returned to the White House, that observation seems remarkably prescient. Project 2025 proposed dramatically expanding ICE detention capacity, including seeking congressional funding for as many as 100,000 detention beds. It called for intensified interior immigration enforcement, greater use of ICE personnel for deportation operations, and penalties against countries refusing to accept deportees.

And here we are now! The Trump administration said late last year that more than 600,000 non-citizens had been removed. It has also claimed enormous numbers of immigrants have left voluntarily or "self-deported," although independent analysts caution that limited government data and changing definitions make comparisons and verification difficult.

Meanwhile, immigration detention has exploded. Immigration and Customs



Although Democrats, including the Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, spent months trying to tie Donald J. Trump to the 900-page plan to overhaul the federal government, he repeatedly disavowed it on the campaign trail.

Enforcement (ICE) holds approximately 65,765 immigrants in detention centers across the United States, according to tracking data current as of July 2026. And despite the administration's repeated rhetoric about targeting the "worst of the worst," the data tells a more complicated story. According to TRAC data, approximately 70 percent of those in ICE detention have no criminal convictions, even as some three dozen have died in custody to date.

Project 2025 also went far beyond deporting undocumented immigrants. The American Immigration Council warned in 2024 that virtually every major avenue of legal immigration or humanitarian protection faced restrictions under the blueprint.

- Humanitarian parole expansions? Project 2025 wanted them gone.
- Refugee admissions? Reduced.
- Temporary Protected Status?

The document called broadly for stripping protections.

- Student visas? Greater scrutiny.
- Family immigration? Reduced.
- H-1B, H-2A and H-2B employment visas? Restricted or ultimately eliminated in some cases.
- Even T and U visas, which protect certain victims of trafficking, domestic violence and other crimes who assist law enforcement, faced proposed eligibility restrictions.

Now look around. The Trump administration has moved aggressively against TPS designations, humanitarian parole programs and refugee protections while expanding expedited removal and pursuing third-country deportations. Some 350,000 Haitians have been stripped of TPS protection and could be deported to a country the US itself warns Americans not to travel to.

The immigration courts are also changing. Mass hearings involving dozens - sometimes more than 100 - immigrants at once are being used to move cases through overwhelmed dockets. New immigration judges are being hired as the administration seeks faster adjudication and removal.

Project 2025 anticipated something broader than individual immigration policies. It envisioned restructuring the government itself so immigration restrictionists would exercise greater control over the agencies implementing those policies. The American Immigration Council warned that

many such changes could happen quietly through staffing decisions, budgets, and internal directives largely invisible to the public.

That may ultimately be Project 2025's most consequential lesson. It wasn't simply a list of policies; it was an instruction manual for changing the machinery of government so those policies could happen faster.

To be clear, not every immigration action taken by the Trump administration originated with Project 2025. Many of these ideas existed long before the document was published, including within Trump's first administration and Stephen Miller.

But that almost misses the point. Project 2025 was published for everyone to read. We were all told what its authors wanted to accomplish, and we were told over and over about the consequences. All this despite Donald Trump falsely claiming he had nothing to do with it.

Now less than two years into his second presidency, Americans no longer need to debate campaign rhetoric. They can compare the blueprint with the immigration system taking shape before their eyes.

Project 2025 was supposed to be a warning about what could happen; 19 months later, the question is no longer whether Trump embraced Project 2025. The question now is how much of Project 2025 America has already become.



Florida Bars Undocumented Students From State's 28 Public Colleges

Florida has begun enforcing a new rule requiring applicants to prove U.S. citizenship or lawful immigration status before enrolling in any of the state's 28 public colleges, effectively shutting undocumented students out of the Florida College System.

The amendment to Rule 6A-10.0240, approved by the Florida Board of Education in July, took effect Aug. 5 and clarifies admissions standards for the statewide college system. The change could affect undocumented students seeking traditional college admission as well as high school students hoping to participate in dual-enrollment programs that allow them to earn college credits before graduation.

At Tallahassee State College, administrators said they were awaiting additional guidance from the Florida Department of Education on how the rule should be implemented.

"Tallahassee State College is awaiting implementation guidance from the Florida Department of Education regarding the new rule approved by the State Board of Education," Vice President of Communications and Marketing Amanda Clements told the FSView. "We will work closely with the Florida Department of Education and the other institutions in the Florida College System to implement the rule

once additional guidance is provided."

Millions In Tuition Could Be Lost

The policy could also carry financial consequences for Florida's public colleges. Research by the Florida Policy Institute estimates that excluding undocumented students could cost institutions approximately \$15 million in tuition revenue statewide.

Tallahassee State College said it could not determine the potential impact on its own enrollment or finances because the institution has not historically collected information about students' immigration status.

Critics also warn that excluding undocumented students from community colleges could make higher education significantly more expensive or inaccessible.

Florida College System schools generally offer lower tuition than four-year universities. At Tallahassee State College, in-state tuition is approximately \$76.80 per credit hour, compared with about \$105.07 per credit hour at Florida State University.

"Placing any barrier on immigrants to receiving a cheaper college education is only trying to limit economic mobility," said Aeden Bennett, president of the Tallahassee Immigrants' Rights Alliance and a Tallahassee State College student.

The rule may also affect access to dual enrollment, which allows eligible high school students to complete college courses and reduce the number of credits they later have to pay for while pursuing a degree.

Bennett said undocumented students should have access to the same cost-saving opportunity.

Others Support The Change

FSU undergraduate Dylan Knaggs, who previously participated in dual enrollment, said taxpayer-supported programs should be reserved for students who meet legal eligibility requirements.

"This policy would likely preserve dual enrollment opportunities for law abiding students who are working to advance their education through the proper channels," Knaggs told the FSView.

DACA Students Could Be Affected

The rule also raises significant questions for students participating in the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program.

DACA provides qualifying undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children with temporary protection from deportation and work authorization, but it does not provide lawful immigration status.

The Florida Department

of Education said colleges should look to the 2019 federal appeals court ruling *Estrada v. Becker* when determining lawful presence for admissions purposes.

"To support consistent implementation of the rule, the Florida Department of Education provided guidance to Florida College System institutions to rely on the legal framework established by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in *Estrada v. Becker* ... when developing their admission policies, rules, and procedures," department press secretary Olivia Wester said.

That Georgia case upheld a policy preventing DACA recipients from attending certain public colleges after the court found that DACA did not establish "lawful presence" for purposes of the admissions policy.

Legal Questions Remain

The Florida rule has also drawn scrutiny from Democratic lawmakers. State Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith, D-Orlando, has questioned whether the Board of Education had adequate legal authority to impose the new admission requirements.

"Across the country, between ICE raids, anti-immigrant legislation and rhetoric, and now statewide rulings like this one, our immigrant communities are increasingly under attack," Smith

said.

"Our immigrant neighbors are also an important part of our local economies and workforce, and they contribute to our communities in countless ways," he added. "They pay tuition, often at significantly higher rates because of other state policies, and deserve the opportunity to pursue an education and continue to contribute to the state they call home."

Smith serves on Florida's bipartisan Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, which reviews rules adopted by state agencies.

Committee coordinator Kenneth Plante said the panel asked the Board of Education to identify the statutory authority it relied on in establishing citizenship and immigration-status requirements.

The board responded that its rulemaking powers include authority to establish admissions standards.

Plante said the committee cannot stop the rule from taking effect, although the policy can still be challenged through the courts.

For undocumented students across Florida, however, the consequences are already immediate: unless they can demonstrate citizenship or lawful presence, the doors to the state's 28 public colleges are now closed.



Jamaica's Bunny Shaw Wins Second PFA Women's Player Of The Year Award

Jamaican football star Khadijah "Bunny" Shaw has been named the Professional Footballers' Association Women's Player of the Year, capturing the prestigious honor for the second time in three seasons.

The 29-year-old Manchester City forward becomes only the third player to win the award multiple times, joining Lucy Bronze and Fran Kirby. Shaw earned the honor after another outstanding season in the Women's Super League, scoring 21 goals in 22 appearances to claim her third consecutive WSL Golden Boot while helping Manchester City secure its second league title.

The Reggae Girlz star recorded hat-tricks against Tottenham and Aston Villa, scoring four goals against the

latter, before netting twice against West Ham on the final day of the season. That performance made Shaw the first player to score 20 or more goals in three different WSL seasons.

She also became the first player in league history to win three WSL Golden Boots, moving ahead of two-time winners Vivianne Miedema and Sam Kerr. Shaw's impact extended beyond league competition. She scored another five goals in the FA Cup, including the opening goal in the final, as Manchester City lifted the trophy.

Manchester United midfielder



Khadijah Shaw (c.) has been named the Professional Footballers' Associations (PFA) Women's Player of the Year. (CMC image)

Bruno Fernandes was named the PFA Men's Player of the Year.

- Rewritten from CMC



Dwayne Bravo, Ian Bishop To Become First CPL Hall Of Fame Inductees

Trinidad and Tobago cricket greats Dwayne Bravo and Ian Bishop will make history on Sept. 15th as the first inductees into the new Caribbean Premier League Hall of Fame. The pair will be honored at a gala at the Hilton Hotel in Barbados, recognizing two very different but equally significant contributions to Caribbean cricket.

Bravo, the most decorated player in CPL history, won five tournament titles as a player with the Trinbago Knight Riders and St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots, before adding a sixth as head coach when he guided the Knight Riders to the 2025 championship. The former West Indies all-rounder also won two

ICC Men's T20 World Cups and became the first bowler in T20 history to reach 500 wickets.

"It's a real honor to be the first player inducted into the CPL Hall of Fame," Bravo said.

Bishop, a former West Indies fast bowler turned broadcaster, is being recognized for his decade-plus role as one of the CPL's defining voices.

"Cricket has given me so much, and commentary has allowed me to give something back," Bishop said.

Proceeds from the gala will benefit the Sir Clive Lloyd Healthcare Foundation, supporting prostate cancer awareness and testing across the Caribbean.



Barbados Teen Luke McIntyre Wins Americas Triathlon Junior Cup

Barbadian teenager Luke McIntyre delivered a standout performance to win the Junior Men's title at the 2026 Americas Triathlon Junior Cup in Lima, Chile. The 17-year-old crossed the finish line in 58 minutes, 26 seconds, defeating a competitive 18-athlete field over the sprint-distance course, which included a 750-meter swim, 18.7-kilometer bike leg and 5-kilometer run.

McIntyre shared the fastest swim split of the race at 10:54, completed the cycling leg in 31:40 and then sealed victory with the fastest run of the day, clocking 14:27 over 5 kilometers.

Chile's Maximiliano Bobadilla finished second in 58:40, while Uruguay's Elias Medina Paolucci placed third in 58:52.

The victory caps a strong

stretch for McIntyre, who was selected for the Americas Triathlon Development Committee's Team Americas training camp in South America. It was also his second podium of the regional



17-year-old Barbadian teenager Luke McIntyre crossed the finish line in 58 minutes, 26 seconds, defeating a competitive 18-athlete field over the sprint-distance course, which included a 750-meter swim, 18.7-kilometer bike leg and 5-kilometer run. (CMC image)

swing. In July, he placed third at the Americas Triathlon Championships in Chile. According to World Triathlon data, McIntyre now has five victories and seven podium finishes from 12 career starts.

- Rewritten from CMC



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SPORTS NEWS



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Seville Sends September Warning With 9.83 Diamond League Win

Olympic 100m champion Oblique Seville delivered another major statement late last month, clocking 9.83 seconds to win the men's 100-m at the Silesia Diamond League in Poland.

The Jamaican sprinter produced a powerful start and controlled the race from the opening strides, setting a new meet record at Stadion Śląski. Seville's time bettered the previous meet mark of 9.87, set by American Fred Kerley in 2024, and came just one-hundredth of a second shy of his season-best 9.82.

American Kenneth Bednarek finished second in a season-best 9.87, while Christian Coleman placed third in 9.93.

Nigeria's Kayinsola Ajayi, who had defeated Seville earlier in the season in London and Eugene, finished fourth in 9.94, while South Africa's Gift



Jamaican sprinter Oblique Seville clocked 9.83 seconds to win the men's 100 m at the Silesia Diamond League in Poland on August 23, 2026. (CMC image)

Leotlela was fifth in 9.95.

Seville said afterward that he was pleased with his form heading into the final major competitions of the season. "I am in pretty good shape, and I feel pretty good about the win,"

he said. "There are great things ahead of me."

The performance further underlined Seville's strong late-season form as he looks to carry his momentum into September.



Jamaican Lloyd Barker Inducted Into CF Montréal Wall Of Fame

Former Jamaican international footballer Lloyd Barker has been inducted into the Wall of Fame of Canadian club CF Montréal, recognizing his outstanding contribution during a distinguished career with the organization.

The 55-year-old was honored during halftime of CF Montréal's match against the LA Galaxy, becoming the eighth player in club history to receive the distinction.

Barker, who grew up in Harbour View, Jamaica, and also represented Harbour View FC, played 191 regular-season matches for the club, formerly known as Montreal Impact. He ranks seventh in club history in appearances and fourth all-time with both 34 goals and 31 assists.

The former Jamaican international helped Montreal capture championships in 1994 and 2004, as well as three



The 55-year-old former Jamaican international footballer was honored during halftime of CF Montréal's match against the LA Galaxy, becoming the eighth player in club history to receive the distinction. (CMC image)

consecutive regular-season titles from 1995 through 1997.

Barker's individual honors included the Giuseppe Saputo Trophy as the club's Most Valuable Player and selection to the APSL First All-Star Team in 1995.

He was previously recognized for his contributions when he was named among the club's Builders in 2006.

- Rewritten from CMC



CPL's Jamaica Return Sparks New Hope For Local Cricket



Keemo Paul delivered a superb all-round performance to inspire the Jamaica Kingsmen to their second consecutive win in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), as they defeated the St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots by 51 runs in front of a deafening crowd at Sabina Park. (cpl20.com image)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Enthusiastic crowds welcomed the return of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), to Jamaica in August. Fans turned out at Sabina Park to cheer the Jamaica Kingsmen in the four T20 cricket matches at that famous venue.

The Kingsmen, with star all-rounder Andre Russell in their lineup, lost the opening matches to the Barbados Royals and Guyana Amazon Warriors. They bounced back to defeat defending champions Trinibago Knight Riders and St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots.

Russell, a major star in the T20 format, said the CPL's return to Jamaica after a two-year absence is a positive for the country's cricket.

"It means so much to all of the players that dream over the last couple of years that what we've been dreaming about is now reality. To hear those horns at Sabina Park is a memorable sound," he said.

Several celebrities, including Olympic gold medal sprinters Usain Bolt and Asafa Powell, and former West Indies cricket captain Chris Gayle, attended the evening matches.

The Jamaica Kingsmen are owned by Kingsmen Sports Enterprise, an American group with an interest in the new Pakistan Super League. They

replaced the Jamaica Tallawahs, three-time CPL champions who were owned by Guyanese businessman Kris Persaud.

Persaud sold the franchise to the CPL in 2023, saying he received little support from the Jamaican government. Olivia Grange, Jamaica's sports minister, hopes the boisterous fan support for the Jamaica Kingsmen is a good sign.

"We're going to do everything that is possible to... make sure we build back cricket here in Jamaica. We are starting with the very young, and we will build out some of the best cricketers, like we had in the good old days," she stated. "Additionally, I always say cricket is a gentleman's sport... [but the participation of] women is also [equally] important. So we're on a mission, and we're going to achieve that."

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons and Saint Lucia Kings are the other teams in the 2026 CPL, which is scheduled to end on September 20th at Kensington Oval in Barbados.

Jamaican cricket fans have enjoyed the return of international cricket in recent times. In late 2024, the West Indies played Bangladesh in a Test match at Sabina Park. In July 2025, the regional team played Australia at the same venue.



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Merit Made Sir Garry Immortal

BY BASIL SPRINGER

The passing of The Right Excellent Sir Garfield St. Auburn Sobers at the age of 89 has inspired captivating tributes from around the world. For us Barbadians, it has been a period of pride, reflection and sadness.

One tribute shared on “Mornin’ Barbados” captured the essence of Sir Garry’s extraordinary global stature. Pearson Bowen interviewed Maurice Greenidge, a government official who accompanied Sir Garry on his travels while he served as an ambassador for Barbados.

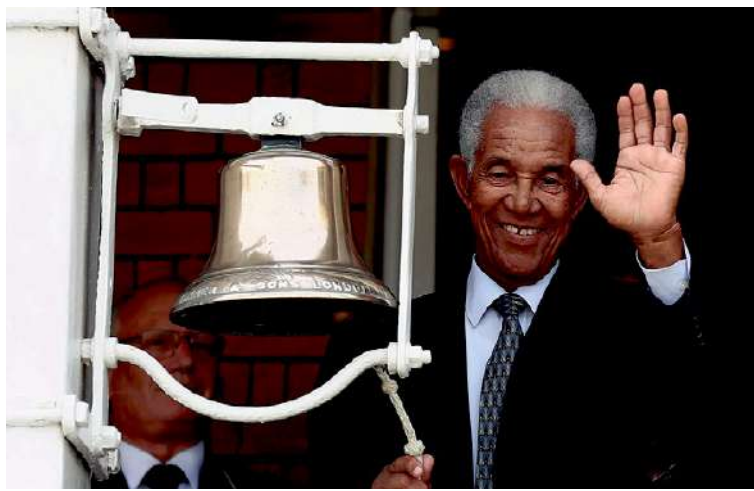
Maurice recalled arriving in London from Bermuda, where Sir Garry wanted to purchase golf equipment. Their taxi had not arrived, so they took the first one in line, driven by an Indian gentleman living in London. Sir Garry sat in the back, while Maurice took the front seat. “Where are you from?” the driver asked.

“Barbados,” Maurice replied. “Barbados? Do you know Sir Garfield Sobers?” Maurice happened to be holding Sir Garry’s passport. “Do I know him? Not only do I know him, but here is his passport - and he is sitting in the back seat.” The driver slammed on the brakes in disbelief. Thankfully, no accident occurred. After recovering from the shock, he asked where they wished to go. When Maurice told him they were looking for a golf shop, the driver replied, “I know exactly where to take you.”

Fifteen minutes later, pandemonium broke out as the great master was recognized inside the shop. Sir Garry selected his equipment and went to pay. “Pay?” the owner responded. “Sir, you have already paid. Your purchase is on the house.”

That was Sobers. Not color, but merit made him immortal.

My own association with him was modest. Many years



The passing of the Right Excellent Sir Garfield St. Auburn Sobers at the age of 89 has inspired captivating tributes from around the world. (ICC image/Facebook)

ago, I sat next to Sir Garry at a National Heroes function in Barbados. I was probably present because my late uncle, Sir Hugh Springer, was also a National Hero. Sir Garry and I had a pleasant conversation - a treasured encounter with a man whose presence was as commanding as his achievements.

My other connection was vicarious. In 1966, the year of Barbados’ Independence, I was a student in London. Sir Garry and his cousin, David Holford -

my Harrison College classmate - both scored centuries in the West Indies’ second innings of the second Test at Lord’s. David kindly offered me a ticket, and I had the privilege of witnessing that historic performance. In London during that era, once people heard you were from Barbados, they inevitably asked, “Do you know Sir Garry Sobers?”

To say yes was almost to share in Sir Garry’s greatness. That is what true greatness does: it lifts an entire nation. Sir

Garry did not merely dominate a cricket field; he carried Barbados and the West Indies onto the world stage with brilliance, dignity and unmistakable Caribbean pride.

His records tell only part of the story. His greater legacy resides in the generations he inspired, the barriers he transcended and the respect he commanded in every corner of the globe. He showed that a young man from a small Caribbean island, armed with exceptional talent, discipline and humility, could become the greatest the world had ever seen.

His final innings has ended, but Sir Garry’s name will never leave the scoreboard of history. Barbados has lost a beloved son; the Caribbean has lost one of its finest ambassadors; and the world has lost a sporting immortal. May his soul rest in peace, and may his magnificent legacy continue to lift us all.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Basil Springer GCM is a corporate governance adviser. His columns may be found at <http://www.nothingbeatsbusiness.com>.



Trinbago Knight Riders Retire Dwayne Bravo’s No. 47 Jersey



Dwayne Bravo poses with a picture of his retired number 47 jersey during the ceremony on Saturday, August 29, 2026. (CMC image)

The Trinbago Knight Riders have retired Dwayne Bravo’s No. 47 jersey, making the Trinidad and Tobago cricket great the first player in Caribbean Premier League history to receive the honor.

Bravo, 42, was recognized during a ceremony ahead of the Knight Riders’ match against the Jamaica Kingsmen at Queen’s Park Oval on Saturday.

The former West Indies all-rounder won the CPL five times as a player and added another championship as head coach of the Knight Riders last year.

“Retiring No. 47 is our way of ensuring that his legacy will forever be a part of this franchise,” Knight Riders Group

CEO Venky Mysore said.

Bravo played 107 CPL matches, taking 129 wickets at an economy rate of 8.74. Despite last playing in 2024, he remains the tournament’s third-highest wicket-taker, behind Sunil Narine and Imran Tahir.

Knight Riders captain Nicholas Pooran, along with Narine and Kieron Pollard, also paid tribute to Bravo’s influence.

“Thank you for being an inspiration and a role model,” Pooran said. “Thank you for being a bigger brother. Thank you for being a father figure at times for us.”

- Rewritten from CMC



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