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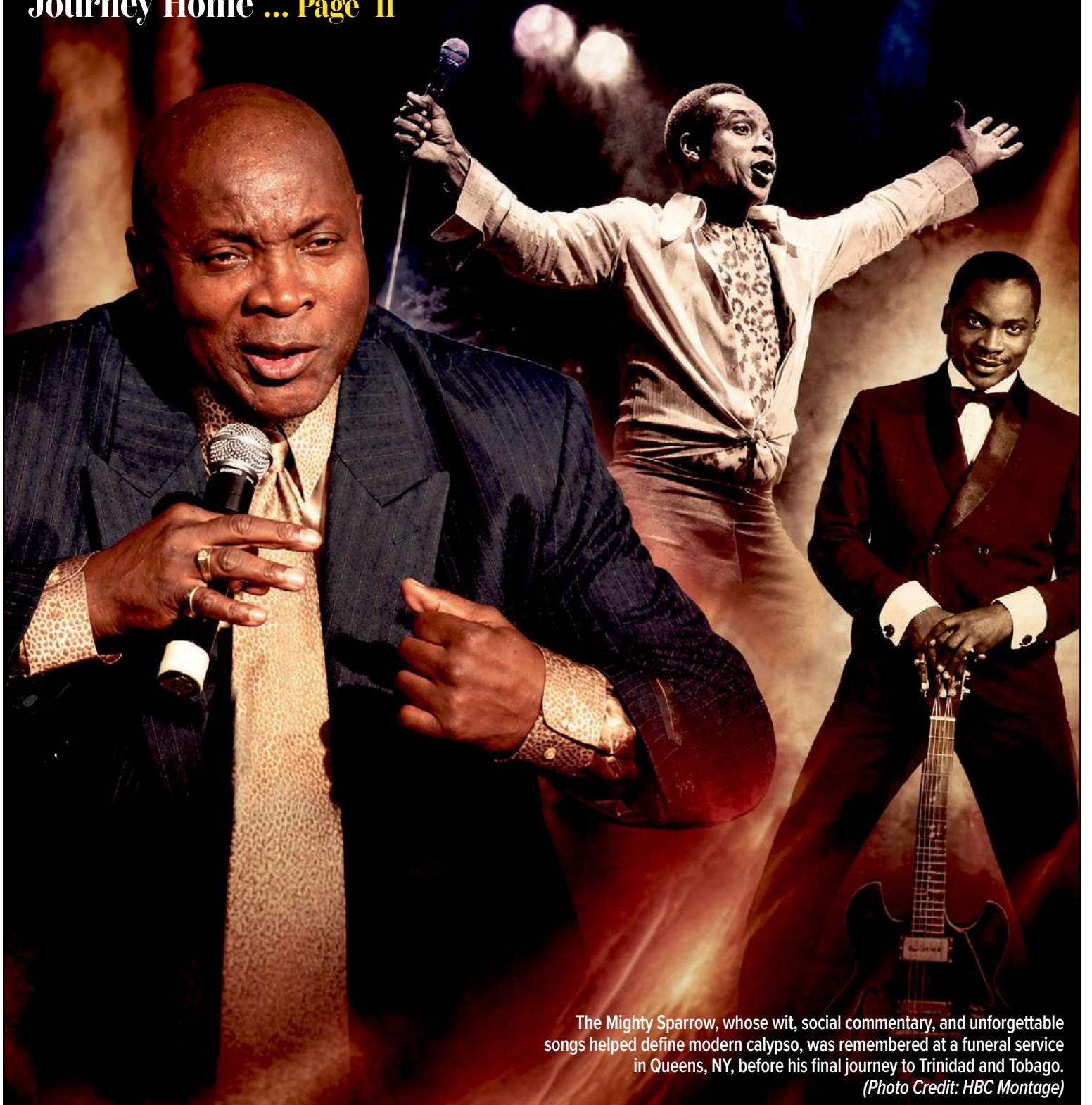


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STITCHIE**
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SPARROW SOARS

Calypso King Begins His Final
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1935-2026



The Mighty Sparrow, whose wit, social commentary, and unforgettable songs helped define modern calypso, was remembered at a funeral service in Queens, NY, before his final journey to Trinidad and Tobago.
(Photo Credit: HBC Montage)

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REGIONAL NEWS



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Here Are Some Of The Top Headlines Making Caribbean News:

JAMAICA

Jamaica has welcomed the United Nations Security Council's decision to extend the mandate of the Gang Suppression Force in Haiti for another six months, while urging greater international support for the mission.

The Security Council voted Sept. 29 to extend the force, which works alongside the Haitian National Police and armed forces to combat gangs, protect critical infrastructure and support humanitarian access. Foreign Minister Kamina Johnson Smith said the international community must provide the personnel, financing, equipment and logistical support needed to strengthen the mission.

"Jamaica stands firmly with the Haitian people," Johnson Smith said, calling for sustained support to help restore security and create conditions for political stability and credible elections. Jamaica has contributed personnel to the international security effort and is among the countries providing strategic support to the GSF. The force remains below its authorized strength as Haiti continues to battle widespread gang violence and displacement

CUBA

More Cubans are seeking temporary residence in Jamaica as economic hardship, power outages and shortages of food, medicine and fuel continue to affect the neighboring Caribbean nation. Temporary residence permits granted to Cubans increased by about 60 percent over five years, rising from 374 in the 2021-2022 financial year to 601 in 2025-2026, according to Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency data obtained by The Sunday Gleaner through Jamaica's Access to Information Act.

Overall extensions of stay, including temporary residence, work permits, permanent residence, and other categories, also increased from 940 to 1,214 during the period. The Gleaner reported that three Cubans applied for refugee status in Jamaica in

2025, while four have applied so far this year.

Cuban-born Rachel Martinez, 36, who has Jamaican grandparents, moved to Kingston in 2016 and has since become a Jamaican citizen. Martinez said severe shortages in Cuba have forced her to send medical supplies and other necessities to her parents.

The growing residency numbers come as Cubans continue seeking opportunities elsewhere amid deteriorating economic and living conditions at home.

GUYANA

Guyana Opposition Leader Azruddin Mohamed and his father, businessman Nazar Mohamed, will return to court Oct. 21 as proceedings continue in the U.S. extradition case against them. Guyana Chronicle

The hearing follows weeks of testimony and cross-examination of Special Branch head Prem Narine over the Oct. 31, 2025 arrests.

Narine testified that U.S. Marshal Sandy Rao accompanied him during the operation after Narine picked him up at the Kingston Marriott Hotel. He also acknowledged that Special Branch had the Mohameds under surveillance before their arrests. News Source

Defense attorneys have questioned the handling of the arrests and documentation surrounding the operation. Narine has rejected suggestions that political considerations influenced his actions. Kaieteur News

The father and son are wanted in the United States on an 11-count federal indictment alleging wire and mail fraud, money laundering, conspiracy and customs offenses. They have denied the allegations. Guyana Chronicle

Proceedings resume before Chief Magistrate Judy Latchman on Oct. 21, with another hearing scheduled for Oct. 22.

HAITI

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has



In response to the attack reportedly carried out on September 28th by members of the armed gang Kokorat San Ras in Gros-Morne, Artibonite department, in which at least 11 people were killed and several others injured according to available information, Ana Piquer, Amnesty International's Americas Director, said: "Once again, a Haitian community is mourning after a brutal attack by armed gangs. The killings in Gros-Morne reveal an unbearable reality: as violence continues to spread beyond Port-au-Prince, people are paying with their lives for a deepening crisis."

condemned a gang attack in Haiti's Artibonite region that left at least 11 people dead and several others injured.

The Sept. 28 attack in Gros-Morne was attributed to the Kokorat San Ras gang and followed an operation by a Sri Lankan unit of the UN-backed Gang Suppression Force against gang members operating illegal checkpoints in the area. Three suspected gang members were killed during the security operation.

Local officials said the gang subsequently attacked residents in retaliation, killing civilians and burning homes. The violence came as the U.N. Security Council extended the mandate of the Gang Suppression Force for another six months, through March 31, 2027.

Guterres' spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said the killings underscored the urgent need to strengthen security efforts in Haiti. More than 3,000 people were killed in gang-related violence and security operations during the first half of 2026, according to U.N. figures.

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has launched a tourism and investment outreach campaign following a mass shooting that left four people dead and four others wounded in Green

Hill near Kingstown.

Deputy Prime Minister and National Security Minister St. Clair Leacock said Tourism Minister Kishore Shallow has established a response team led by Tourism Authority CEO Shafia London to reassure potential visitors following international coverage of the killings.

"We have had some very bad press, very terrible international headlines," Leacock said, while stressing that the country remains open to visitors. Police have made no arrests in the Sept. 25 shooting and continue investigating the motive. Authorities said markings associated with a group were discovered near the crime scene.

Leacock said tourism, investment and diplomatic officials are working overseas to limit economic fallout while authorities address security concerns.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Antigua and Barbuda has broken with several of its CARICOM partners by backing former Ecuadorian Foreign Minister María Fernanda Espinosa to become the next United Nations Secretary-General.

CARICOM countries have largely rallied behind Guyana's UN Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, who was endorsed as the regional candidate at the bloc's July summit.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Antigua and Barbuda Ambassador Walton Webson said his country believes Espinosa has the experience and leadership needed as the organization confronts wars, geopolitical divisions, financial pressures and the climate crisis.

No woman has served as UN Secretary-General in the organization's more than 80-year history. "Our case for Ms. Espinosa rests not on gender," Webson said. "It rests on competence, experience, independence and leadership."

Espinosa and Rodrigues-Birkett are among seven remaining candidates seeking to succeed António Guterres when his second term ends this year.

THE BAHAMAS

Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Davis says the United States must follow established procedures when conducting drug enforcement operations in his country amid a dispute over undercover U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration activity.

Bahamian officials have accused some DEA agents of operating without authorization, a complaint raised directly with the U.S. Justice Department this month. Davis said the dispute is not about protecting suspected criminals but respecting established cooperation between the two countries.

"We all want to get criminals out, ensure that they pay for their crimes," Davis said. "It's a question of the process."

U.S. Ambassador Herschel Walker has rejected claims of illegal DEA activity as "fake news" and urged continued cooperation against drug trafficking. Davis said he does not expect the disagreement to damage longstanding U.S.-Bahamas relations.

- *Rewritten from CMC News, NewsAmericasNow & The Jamaica Gleaner*



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NOW ENROLLING!

Byron Donalds Courts Haitian Voters After Voting Against Haiti TPS Extension

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Republican Florida gubernatorial nominee Byron Donalds is stepping up his outreach to Haitian-American voters in South Florida, months after voting against legislation that would have extended Temporary Protected Status for Haitians.

Donalds, a U.S. congressman whose maternal roots extend to Jamaica and Panama, met with Haitian community members during a Sept. 12 campaign event at Katz Miami Restaurant and Lounge in North Miami, home to one of Florida's largest Haitian-American communities. The gathering was part of an 11-county campaign swing ahead of the Nov. 3 general election against Democratic nominee David Jolly.

The visit comes as immigration and Haiti policy remain particularly consequential issues for South Florida's Haitian community.

Donalds' vote on Haitian TPS is part of a broader congressional record supporting tougher immigration enforcement. He has backed legislation expanding mandatory detention for certain noncitizens, increasing grounds for deportation and inadmissibility, strengthening penalties for

illegal entry and requiring greater cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

On April 16, Donalds voted against H.R. 1689, legislation requiring the Department of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for TPS. The measure passed the House 224-204, with 10 Republicans joining Democrats and an independent in support. Florida Republican Reps. Mario Díaz-Balart, Carlos Giménez and María Elvira Salazar were among those voting for the measure.

TPS has allowed eligible Haitians already living in the United States to remain in the country and work legally when conditions in Haiti make their return unsafe. Haiti was first designated for TPS following the devastating 2010 earthquake, with the protection subsequently extended or redesignated as the country confronted political instability, natural disasters, economic hardship and escalating violence.

The Trump administration moved to terminate Haiti's latest TPS designation, affecting approximately 350,000 Haitians who had been protected from deportation and authorized to work in the United States. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the administration to end those protections, leaving affected Haitians without TPS-



GOP gubernatorial candidate Byron Donalds speaking at Katz Miami Restaurant and Lounge (Photo courtesy of Facebook)

based authorization to remain and work in the country unless they have another legal basis to do so.

Donalds has also defended the Trump administration's decision to end TPS protections for Haitians, arguing that the humanitarian program was intended to be temporary. In July, he said the program had been "abused" under the Biden administration. The issue carries particular weight in Florida, home to one of the nation's largest Haitian communities, including a significant population in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

At the North Miami event, however, Donalds emphasized his interest in Haiti's future and described the Haitian community

as resilient, faithful and hardworking.

"What we have seen with TPS is Democrats keep making promises to make it permanent, but they don't have control in Washington," Donalds said. "What the administration is doing for the first time is providing certainty around TPS. It was always supposed to be a temporary program."

Donalds also said he had been in contact with Haiti's transitional authorities about efforts to restore security in the country.

"I want to see a stable Haiti," he said. "I think the number one thing the next governor of Florida should be advocating for is that the right security team be put in place to

stabilize that country because a stable Haiti has a direct effect on Florida."

Donalds' position on Haitian TPS is consistent with a broader congressional record favoring tighter immigration enforcement. He voted for the Republican-backed Secure the Border Act of 2023 and supported the Laken Riley Act, which expanded mandatory federal detention requirements for certain noncitizens accused of specified crimes.

His vote on Haitian TPS, however, placed him at odds with several fellow Florida Republicans representing South Florida. The issue has also become part of the gubernatorial campaign. Jolly has called for Florida Republican Sens. Rick Scott and Ashley Moody to support the House-passed Haiti TPS legislation.

"Florida cannot afford to lose thousands of essential workers overnight, nor should we ask law-abiding families to return to conditions our own government considers extraordinarily dangerous," Jolly wrote in a recent Sun Sentinel commentary.

Meanwhile, North Miami officials have formally opposed termination of Haitian TPS. The city adopted a resolution

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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One Year Later, Hurricane Melissa's Scars Remain Across Jamaica

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

In the days leading up to October 28, 2025, Adrian Daley began preparing for the monster hurricane he heard was about to hit Jamaica. A resident of rural St. Elizabeth parish in the country's southern region, he has horrific memories of that day.

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 beast, decimated Jamaica's southwestern parishes, leaving 45 dead and thousands homeless. Its 185-mile-per-hour gusts destroyed hospitals, schools, and businesses in St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. James, and Trelawny. It was the most brutal force of nature to hit Jamaica since Hurricane Gilbert in 1988. That was also a Category 5 system that caused severe damage.

Daley, who is in his late 40s, was paralyzed from the waist down four years ago. When Melissa made landfall, he was at home with his 70-year-old father, who is blind. October 28 is a date he will never forget.

"Bwoy, dat was a long day, wi suffer a lot! It blow mi father mind," said Daley. "One year later an' people down here still have it rough."

As the one-year mark since

Melissa's devastating surge beckoned, St. Elizabeth is still recovering, despite millions of dollars in assistance from the government, Diaspora groups and overseas agencies.

While not as dire, other parishes affected by the hurricane are on the mend. Jamaica's prime minister, Dr. Andrew Holness, commented on the recovery process in September.

"About six weeks after the hurricane, we made some commitments that we would purchase what we call modular, semi-permanent housing solutions. And now we are almost a year past the event, and we are now just being able to sign contracts and starting to deliver the houses," he said. "Now, the process does not take into consideration the suffering of the families there who are waiting for those houses, who are still, some of them, sleeping outside. And you know what? No matter what I say here today, it is not an excuse for them. It doesn't give them any comfort."

Schools faced post-Melissa challenges when they reopened in September. Several of them were without roofs, and some classes were held outside as repairs were done to classrooms.



Reconstruction works at the hurricane-damaged Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth.

Farms in St. Elizabeth, long considered Jamaica's breadbasket, were ravaged. The situation was similar in the sugar belt parish of St. James and Trelawny, world-famous for its yams. Farmers in those regions complain that the government's financial support to date is inadequate.

Tourism, Jamaica's most buoyant sector, has recovered most strongly. Tamar Henry, a senior spokesperson in the Ministry of Tourism, said about 89 percent of attractions have resumed operations; 75 percent of rooms have reopened, while electricity and water services have been restored to as high as 90 percent.

Henry said the airports and cruise ports are fully operational.

"Jamaica successfully reopened as of December, in an effort to [maintain] our international confidence in the market," she said.

The Opposition People's National Party (PNP) has criticized the government's recovery campaign, saying it has failed to address the needs of those affected.

PNP president Mark Golding was at his most vocal during his address to the organization's annual conference in September. "I want to outline a recovery roadmap for western Jamaica. Firstly, Jamaica needs a public reconstruction dashboard showing every damaged school, health facility, road and public building, the money allocated, the contractor who is responsible and the deadline for completion," he said.

"The people must be able to see where the money is going and whether work is being done for the money," Golding added. He recalled that one month after Melissa struck, Holness announced plans for a dashboard.

"Well, we are still waiting 10 months later, and no dashboard is there. Secondly, we need a properly-funded recovery facility for farmers, for fisher folk and for small businesses," Golding stated. "Assistance must reach the people quickly and on reasonable terms so they can replace equipment, restore production, rehire workers, restock businesses and start earning again."

Political crosstalk means little to Adrian Daley, a musician/carpenter who lost the ability to walk after a motor accident. He still earns a living but not enough to repair his home, which, like many of his neighbors, has tarpaulin for a roof.

"Mi nuh (I don't) trust politician, 'cause I never vote from I born. What they have to do is build back di communities an' once yuh do that, yuh will bring back a sense of unity," he said.



Byron Donalds Courts Haitian Voters After Voting Against Haiti TPS Extension

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)
in January calling for the protections to be reinstated, citing Haiti's continuing violence, displacement and political instability.

For Donalds, the North

Miami stop puts one of the most consequential immigration issues for Haitian-American voters directly into his gubernatorial campaign.



Date	Measure	Donalds' vote	What it did
Apr. 16, 2026	H.R. 1689 - Haiti TPS	NO	Required DHS to designate Haiti for TPS through three months after Jan. 20, 2029.
June 9, 2026	S. 2 - Secure America Act	YES	Immigration/border-enforcement legislation.
Mar. 18, 2026	H.R. 1958 - Deporting Fraudsters Act	YES	Made certain noncitizens convicted of defrauding the U.S. government or unlawfully receiving public benefits inadmissible/deportable.
Sept. 11, 2025	H.R. 3486 -Stop Illegal Entry Act	YES	Increased criminal consequences connected to unlawful entry/reentry.
June 26, 2025	H.R. 875	YES	Made certain DUI offenses grounds for inadmissibility or deportability.
June 12, 2025	H.R. 2056	YES	Required Washington, D.C., to comply with federal immigration enforcement requirements.
Jan. 22, 2025	S. 5 - Laken Riley Act	YES	Expanded mandatory federal detention requirements for certain noncitizens accused of specified crimes.
Jan. 16, 2025	H.R. 30	YES	Expanded grounds for inadmissibility/deportability for certain sex offenses and domestic violence-related crimes.
Jan. 7, 2025	H.R. 29 - Laken Riley Act	YES	House version of the detention legislation.

Congratulations
TO DR. SHAWNA WEBLEY
who earned her Doctor of Nursing degree
on October 3rd. 2026. Your Father Errol would be over
the moon. Upwards & Onwards!



Jamaica: ‘We Are Not A Walkout Country,’ Says Foreign Minister

Jamaica’s Foreign Affairs Minister Kamina Johnson Smith says walking out of speeches at the United Nations is not part of the country’s diplomatic approach.

Her comments followed questions about whether Jamaica joined dozens of delegates who left the UN General Assembly as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began his Sept. 24 address. The walkout occurred amid widespread international criticism of Israel’s military actions in Gaza and elsewhere in the region.

“We are not a walkout country,” Johnson Smith told a Jamaican diaspora town hall in New York. The foreign minister did not explicitly confirm whether Jamaica’s delegation remained in the chamber throughout Netanyahu’s speech, but said the country generally seeks to listen regardless of which nation is addressing the



Jamaica’s Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, addressing the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

assembly.

“It’s not a judgment call as to who is speaking,” Johnson Smith said. “We make note of what is being said, and that is a part of our understanding of the world in which we are.”

She described that approach as longstanding Jamaican diplomatic practice.

- *Rewritten from CMC*

Grenada Sets Nov. 5 General Election

Grenadians will head to the polls Nov. 5th after Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell formally announced an early general election.

Mitchell made the announcement Oct. 4 as his ruling National Democratic Congress launched its election campaign and presented its slate of candidates for the country’s 15 parliamentary constituencies.

Parliament was dissolved Oct. 2 by proclamation of Governor-General Dame Cécile La Grenade, beginning the formal election process. Voter registration closed with the issuance of the election writ, while Nomination Day is Oct. 15.

Mitchell led the NDC to power in June 2022, when the party won nine of the 15 elected seats, defeating the New National Party, which captured six.

The NNP will contest the



Grenada’s Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell.

election under Emmalin Pierre, who succeeded former Prime Minister Keith Mitchell as party leader. It will be the party’s first general election without Keith Mitchell at the helm after more than four decades in Parliament. A third party, the Democratic People’s Movement, led by former Foreign Affairs Minister Peter David, is also expected to contest the election.

- *Rewritten from multiple sources.*

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King Charles To Confront Slavery Past On Caribbean Tour - But No Apology

King Charles III will acknowledge Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade during his upcoming Caribbean tour, but Buckingham Palace says there will be no formal apology as regional demands for reparations intensify.

Charles and Queen Camilla will visit The Bahamas and Guyana before traveling to Antigua and Barbuda for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, scheduled for Nov. 1-4. Buckingham Palace said the King would not avoid what Charles has previously called the "darkest days of our past," but stressed that formal apologies and reparations are matters for the British government.

The British government continues to reject demands for reparations, despite growing pressure from Caribbean and African nations whose people were enslaved under European colonial rule. Reuters The issue is expected to follow Charles throughout the Caribbean visit and into the Commonwealth summit.

Britain transported an estimated 3.2 million enslaved Africans during the transatlantic slave trade, making it one of the



Jamaica Minister Olivia 'Babsy' Grange and other officials from the Caribbean delivered a historic \$10 billion reparations petition to Buckingham Palace on Monday, but King Charles was absent, and the UK government reaffirmed that it will not pay reparations. (Facebook image)

largest European participants. Charles has previously expressed sorrow over slavery and supported research into the British monarchy's historical connections to the trade.

The tour also comes shortly after Jamaica formally petitioned the King to seek legal advice on Britain's potential obligation to provide reparations. Jamaica's petition asks that three legal questions be referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, including whether

the enslavement of Africans in Jamaica was lawful under English law and whether Britain has a legal obligation to compensate for the resulting harms.

The Jamaican government has said it was encouraged by Buckingham Palace's engagement with the issue. The reparations debate has gained momentum across the Caribbean, where governments have increasingly pressed former colonial powers to address

the enduring consequences of slavery and colonialism.

The issue carries an additional constitutional dimension for the region. Eight CARICOM countries - Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines - remain Commonwealth realms with Charles as head of state. Jamaica and Antigua and Barbuda have both discussed transitioning to republics, although neither has yet completed the constitutional process.

Buckingham Palace said Charles' visit will acknowledge the past while focusing primarily on the modern relationship between Britain and Caribbean nations.

For Caribbean reparations advocates, however, the question increasingly extends beyond acknowledgement to whether Britain will move toward a formal apology and compensation.

- *Rewritten from Reuters & NewsAmericasNow*



Jamaica's Speaker of The House Elected Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Vice-Chair



Jamaica's Speaker of the House of Representatives, Juliet Holness, is now also the new vice-chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. (Photo courtesy of mix102.com).

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Jamaica's House Speaker Juliet Holness has been elected vice-chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), becoming the first Jamaican to hold the position in 33 years and the first female presiding officer from Jamaica to do so.

Holness was elected during the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa, in September. She will serve a one-year term as vice-chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee. CPA Canada

Her election marks Jamaica's return to the position for the first time since former House Speaker Headley Cunningham served as vice-chairperson from 1992 to 1993. Jamaica Observer

"For Jamaica to return to this office after 33 years is a proud and significant moment for our Parliament and our country," Holness said. "I accept this responsibility with

humility and with a clear sense of purpose." Jamaica Observer

Holness previously served as chair of the CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region. She said she intends to ensure that the experiences of small states and smaller jurisdictions continue to be represented in the association's work. Jamaica Observer

Generation 2000 (G2K), the young professional affiliate of the governing Jamaica Labour Party, also welcomed Holness' election.

"This is a proud moment for our country and our region," G2K President Sashana-Lee Edwards said, adding that the support Holness received from Commonwealth colleagues reflected confidence in her leadership and parliamentary service. Jamaica Observer

Established in 1911, the CPA brings together nearly 180 parliaments and legislatures across nine Commonwealth regions and works to strengthen parliamentary democracy and cooperation.



Four Caribbean Immigrants Among Those Charged in Florida And New Jersey Voter Fraud Cases

Four Caribbean immigrants - three from Jamaica and one from the Bahamas - are among those facing charges in a wave of noncitizen voting cases announced this week by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which said it assisted Florida and New Jersey investigators in building the cases.

In Florida, the state's Office of Statewide Prosecution charged 16 non-U.S. citizens with registering to vote by falsely claiming citizenship and then casting ballots, working with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of State's Office of Election Crimes, and USCIS. Among them:

Selvin Uton Whilby, 74, of Tampa, a Jamaican national and lawful permanent resident since March 1989. He registered to vote in 2008, falsely affirming U.S. citizenship, and voted by mail in both the 2024 primary and general elections as part of a mail-voting history dating back to 2008. He later signed a form acknowledging he is not a citizen and faces two counts of Unqualified Noncitizen Electors Willfully Voting.

Craig William Smith,

69, of Ocala, is a Bahamian national and lawful permanent resident since March 1978. He registered in 2002, falsely claiming citizenship, and voted in the 2024 primary and general elections, with a voting history dating to 2006. He also signed a Citizenship Acknowledgment Form admitting he is not a citizen, and faces two counts of the same charge.

Kadian Gabrielle Amai Johnson, 29, of Lehigh Acres, is a Jamaican national and lawful permanent resident since April 2018. She registered on Sept. 30, 2024, falsely affirming citizenship, and voted in person on Nov. 5, 2024. She is charged with Unqualified Noncitizen Electors Willfully Voting and False Swearing.

Each charge is a third-degree felony under Florida law, carrying up to 10 years in the Florida Department of Corrections.

In New Jersey, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey - through its Election Integrity Task Force - separately charged Patrick Terrance Reid, 61, of Orange, N.J., a Jamaican national who entered the U.S. on an SA1 immigrant visa. Prosecutors

allege Reid voted in person in the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections and by mail in 2020 and 2024, despite not being a citizen at the time. He is charged with voting by an alien in a federal election and making false statements on his naturalization application (Form N-400), where he allegedly denied ever having registered or voted. The voting charge carries up to a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine; the false-statement charge carries up to 10 years and a \$250,000 fine.

USCIS said the investigations relied on federal database checks, voter registration and poll-book records, and Citizenship Acknowledgment Forms signed by several of the defendants admitting their noncitizen status. As with all four cases, the charges are accusations, and each defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The investigations remain active, with USCIS and federal partners signaling that additional charges and arrests are expected.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



www.caribbeantoday.com



LOCAL NEWS

Florida Museum Of Natural History Reopens Nov. 23

The Florida Museum of Natural History will reopen Nov. 23 following a 20-month closure for a major renovation and expansion.

The Gainesville museum says nearly every area has been upgraded, including its exhibition hall, lobby, gift shop, classrooms, and public spaces. Visitors will also find a new interactive science gallery featuring hands-on activities, real specimens and displays developed with NASA and NOAA, along with a new presentation space where scientists and educators can conduct live demonstrations.

Popular attractions, including the Butterfly Rainforest, Florida Fossils, and Water Shapes Florida,



This architectural rendering shows the new façade that will greet visitors to the Florida Museum of Natural History. (Courtesy Florida Museum of Natural History)

have also been renovated. The former South Florida People & Environments exhibit has been transformed into Florida Coastal Life with updated displays and a pavilion overlooking its mangrove section.

"We are so excited to share

this beloved museum with the public again," Interim Director David Reed said.

The museum, part of the University of Florida, will be open seven days a week following its reopening.



Miami-Dade Parks Turn Playtime Into Reading Time

A new Miami-Dade County initiative is transforming playground visits into opportunities for young children to build early reading and language skills.

"Pages in the Park," launched by The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces and Uplift Literacy, features colorful interactive signs installed throughout

playgrounds. The signs encourage children and caregivers to read, talk, sing, write, and play together through activities such as letter hunts, storytelling, vocabulary exercises, and listening for sounds in nature.

"By turning everyday park visits into opportunities to read, talk and learn together, we're helping children develop the skills and confidence that

support lifelong learning," said James R. Haj, president and CEO of The Children's Trust.

The program is currently available at Oak Grove Park, Ruben Dario Park, Westwind Lakes Park and J.L. and Enid Demps Park. Organizers plan to expand Pages in the Park to additional Miami-Dade parks in the coming years.



\$225,000 Investment To Expand Health Access In Little Haiti, Overtown

A new \$225,000 investment will help expand access to healthcare for families in Miami's Overtown, Little Haiti and Liberty City communities.

The Health Foundation of South Florida is providing the funding over three years to the Overtown Youth Center, which serves about 5,500 people annually. The initiative will combine on-site telehealth services with community health navigators who can connect residents with screenings, health education, chronic disease management, and primary care.

The program is being implemented with the University of Miami Global Health Institute, which will provide clinical guidance, staff training, and referral support. Over three years, organizers expect to provide blood pressure

and diabetes screenings to 900 people and connect more participants with ongoing primary or outpatient care.

"This investment from the Health Foundation of South Florida strengthens our ability to advance health and wellness as an essential part of building

stronger communities," OYC CEO Tina Brown said.

The program is designed to address barriers including transportation, scheduling difficulties, and unfamiliarity with the healthcare system.



South Florida Pastor Goes On Trial In Haitian President Assassination Case

A Haitian-American pastor from South Florida has gone on trial in Miami on federal charges stemming from the 2021 assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse.

Christian

Emmanuel Sanon, 67, faces eight charges, including conspiracy to kidnap or kill a person outside the United States. He has pleaded not guilty.

Federal prosecutors allege that South Florida played a central role in planning and financing the plot that ultimately led to Moïse's killing. According to prosecutors, Sanon participated in meetings in South Florida, helped finance the operation, and arranged travel and lodging for those involved.

Moïse was shot and killed July 7, 2021, after armed men stormed his private residence near Port-au-Prince. His wife, Martine Moïse, was wounded but survived.

The sprawling U.S. investigation has resulted in charges against more than 40 people and convictions of more than a dozen, including five serving life sentences.

The case expanded further in September when U.S. authorities transferred 18 additional



Pastor Christian Emmanuel Sanon, 67, faces eight charges, including conspiracy to kidnap or kill a person outside the United States.

defendants from Haiti to South Florida, including former Haitian government official Joseph Felix Badio and 17 former Colombian soldiers.

Sanon's trial began Sept. 28 in U.S. District Court in Miami with jury selection. Prosecutors contend Sanon had ambitions to lead Haiti following Moïse's removal, while his defense maintains that although he had political aspirations, he did not know about the plan to kill the president.

The Miami proceedings come as Haiti's own investigation has repeatedly stalled amid insecurity and turmoil in its judicial system.



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Celebrating Caribbean Woman - Dr. Camille Edwards

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

The front entrance of her home is a calm tropical oasis inviting you in. A small gurgling waterfall, healthy green foliage with blossoming Bougainvillea flowers, a compact table and chairs invite you for a respite.

Entering the house, a vast open space embraces you with its Caribbean art adorning the walls. It says: 'welcome home.' Everything about Dr. Camille Edwards celebrates her Caribbean-ness. It is this passion that has driven her to create the annual HERS (Honoring Exceptionally Regal Sisters) event.

Now in its fourth year, the event held in September 2026 at the Tamarac Community Center in Tamarac, Florida, brought out hundreds of women and men to salute Caribbean sisters supporting and uplifting their communities.

The Jamaican-born program collaborator at Island SPACE Caribbean Museum, Dr. Edwards, has moved beyond historical honors. Instead, she celebrates all aspects of Caribbean womanhood. The result? The birth of HERS.

"I think that we come from a matriarchal society, and that it is the women in the Caribbean who have brought us to where we are now. And I think it is important for us to honor them, to honor us, to celebrate our accomplishments, our achievements, despite the drawbacks of being female and sometimes being black and sometimes being away from home," said an animated Edwards in a conversation with Caribbean Today. "It is just really, really important for us to honor each other. Let us



Dr. Camille Edwards, founder of HERS (Honoring Exceptionally Regal Sisters) and program collaborator at Island SPACE Caribbean Museum.

not wait for others to pat us on our backs."

Six Celebrated

From a cohort of 22 women, six were selected for the September celebration. Among those saluted were:

- Bahamian-American Saisha Delevoe, Founder and CEO of EqualPath Solutions an educational consulting firm focused on closing the access gap to higher education for underserved populations.
- Jamaican-born Tremaine L. Hemans, Esq. is an immigration attorney who founded her own firm, The Hemans Law Group, advocating for the much-maligned immigrant community and is one of South Florida's Most Prominent and Influential Black Women in Business.
- Haitian-American Lynne W. Gassant, the Founder and Executive Director of Scholar Career Coaching (Scholar CC), a non-profit organization dedicated

to helping first-generation and English Language Learner students achieve success through mentorship, college access, career readiness, and workforce development.

- Jamaican-born Reverend Dr. Joan Williamson, founder and CEO of Living Well Community Care Center, who has devoted her life to serving humanity through faith, healthcare, education, and charitable outreach through her capacity as a Doctor of Nursing Practice and Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner.

- Haitian roots, Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Melky Jean, who utilizes her fame altruistically. As the founder of The Carma Foundation, she works with underserved communities in the United States, Haiti, South America, and Africa - providing food security, housing initiatives, healthcare access, education, women's empowerment programs, and sustainable development support.

- Afro-Latina from the Dominican Republic, Jessyka Castillo, CEO/Founder of Fitness + Financial Gains, rooted in health consciousness and socioeconomic networking. She champions mental health and holistic well-being by cultivating empowering community spaces that fuse fitness, financial growth, and cultural connection.

Next Generation

Dr. Edwards whose doctoral dissertation focused on the success journeys of 12 South Florida-based professional Jamaican women, is determined to elevate sisterhood and the work they are doing in their communities. "We must continue to honor each other, to uplift each other,

and to share in each other's grace," said an impassioned Edwards.

Essential to her work is educating the next generation about their Caribbean roots and the contributions the region has made and continues to make across the waters. As leader of the Youth and Education Program at Island SPACE, Edwards is leveraging her almost two decades as Program Manager at Broward County Schools to teach students about the importance of heritage and culture.

"In preserving our culture, we must pass it on to the next generation. You and I walk through the museum with remembrance of what we were, what we had," Edwards stressed. But for them, this is in awe. But it is important for them, growing up in this country, to know where they came from, what they came from, and the greatness that has been achieved."

As part of her active work to get The Museum into schools, Edwards and her team of volunteers are developing field trips through community engagement opportunities. They have introduced storybooks written by Caribbean authors and shared games many of her generation played during their school days to create meaningful experiences for the young.

"We now turn our attention to high school students who need to incorporate what they learn in the museum into their social studies, their language arts in particular," Edwards added. "Then we want to do an internship program for those who may be interested in museum sciences or history, or what have

you."

Despite its primary challenge of financial stability, Island SPACE Caribbean Museum aims to secure a larger space to expand its programming and accommodate more artists and artifacts from across the Caribbean. Operating on grants, donations, and volunteer contributions, the Museum has an active membership program aimed at increasing those numbers.

Partnering with other educational institutions has also become an important growth initiative. Edwards noted that Island SPACE has partnered with South Florida's African American Research Library and Cultural Center as sponsors and event collaborators. Island SPACE will also attend the Caribbean Museum Conference in Trinidad this November to market and spread its important work.

"We want people to know the museum is ours. It doesn't just belong to the future. Everybody who comes through the door as a Caribbean person shares in that responsibility to bring artifacts, to bring life to the museum, to bring financial support for the museum," she said.

HERS is just one example of that support. "It is our combined responsibility to support and sharpen each other. HERS should only be the beginning," Edwards added.



Book Review - Dèy Celebrates Human Connection

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Deeply moving, warm, and celebrating human connection, 'Dèy' Edwidge Danticat's new novel, takes us to a place where each and every one of us has been at some point in our lives - experiencing grief, longing, loving, the desperate need for family.

Danticat takes us on a contemplative journey that is at times quiet, at times full-on, at times raw. From the very first chapter, we are forced to face our deepest fear - death.

We follow Magnolia as she narrates the story, her story of family and what it takes to navigate within that group and build something called home, whatever the definition. It is a story of a family uprooted (many come voluntarily, some flee for myriad reasons) from Haiti, to New York, and finally to Miami. But as most immigrants learn, the American dream is far from the perfect picture many expected.

Refuge

The story opens with a mass shooting in a Miami shopping mall where Magnolia is looking for a mobile phone for her young daughter Zoë. Forced to take refuge in a Caribbean restaurant called Oasis, she cowers under a table while shots ring out and cries of terror from the wounded and dying punctuate the air.

All she can think of is Zoë, her partner Harrison, and her Haitian-based parents also living in fear. She survives the traumatic event, but

decides to keep it to herself, allowing the violent experience to creep into her bones.

Dèy, a Haitian Kreyòl word for mourning, brings home Magnolia's grief as she psychologically mourns the loss of her seemingly 'normal' life, her reticence to marry Harrison, the homeland she has lost, and those who lost their lives that fateful day.

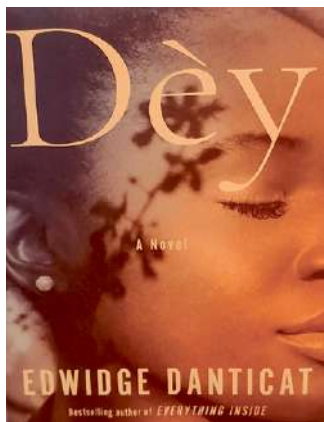
Her near-death experience causes Magnolia to reevaluate her life: the importance of family relationships, accepting her mother's mental illness, forgiving her father's infidelity, sharing the weight of grief with loved ones, letting go of preconceived notions of home.

The Haitian-American writer deftly shifts between the homes that helped shape Magnolia. The life she lived on her parents' farm in Haiti, safe and cocooned among the magnolia flowers she was named after; the vibrant immigrant neighborhoods highlighting Brooklyn's immigrant communities to the familiar Haitian smells, foods, and markets of Miami's Little Haiti; and the homeless tent cities of downtown Miami. These divergent 'homes' all came together to define the new environment she would now call home.

Many Worlds

Indeed, we can live in many homes, many worlds simultaneously as Magnolia teaches us. The successful Miami real estate agent steps, or stumbles, through divergent spaces.

Many of us in the diaspora easily shift from one language to



another, through various cultural dress codes, and even church-going habits in order to survive in a land we now call home. We need echoes of the familiar. That's why many immigrants find their 'tribe' in communities that 'speak' to them. Some parts of Brooklyn, with its large Caribbean population and Little Haiti, where many Haitian nationals reside, are just two examples.

But home, family, and connections are not always clear. Sometimes circumstances beyond our control tear them apart. As a real estate agent, Magnolia is sometimes obliged to negotiate with developers who are focused only on profits, not saving cultural hubs. Danticat's characters also raise the issue of gentrification in Little Haiti. And of course, gun violence that threatens communities in South Florida, including affluent enclaves such as Parkland, is also highlighted. Dèy does not end with a perfect

ending or resolution. Magnolia eventually reveals the secret she has held from her family, which seems to create stronger bonds. But she still has to navigate her own internal questions: what is home really?; does it have to look or feel one way?; is it the place where you were born, the place you landed in, the place that tugs at your heart, the place where family is celebrated?

Danticat skillfully paints multiple perspectives through her characters' nostalgic stories, their celebrations of beloved cultural practices, and their identities.

Through it all, Magnolia and her extended family carry on as many immigrants do. Sunday dinners, birthday celebrations, and graduations bring the clan together with the matriarch at the helm. Doubts, fears, and anxiety are all left at the door. Tomorrow will be enough time to think about the questions that haunt them all. Will we ever be safe in Miami? Is Haiti any safer? Will love always bind us together? Where do we go from here?

We all must contemplate these questions no matter who or where we come from.

TITLE: Dèy
AUTHOR: Edwidge Danticat.
PUBLISHER: Alfred A. Knopf/
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Caribbean Today

Miami Office:

9020 SW 152nd Street
Miami, FL 33157
Tel: (305) 238-2868

Email: editor@caribbeantoday.com

West Palm Beach Office:

(By Appointment Only)

5840 Corporate Way, Suite 250
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 363-7838

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PETER A WEBLEY

Publisher

publisher@caribbeantoday.com

FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Editor

news@newsamericasnow.com

BRANDON WEBLEY

Web Copy Editor

editor@caibbeantoday.com

LORNA ASENCOR

Accounting Manager

accounts@caribbeantoday.com

HYACINTH LEIBA

Account Executive

hyacinth@caribbeantoday.com

SABRINA G. ALEXANDER

Graphic Design

sabrina@gocreateart.design

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What If America's Immigrants Actually Left?

I recently came across a series of brilliant satirical sketches by Cameroon-born creator Leeno Daash, built around a provocative question: What would Europe look like without immigrants? The premise is simple. An angry White man tells a Black immigrant doctor that immigrants should go home because they are taking jobs and ripping off the system.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

So the doctor says, "Okay." And he mobilizes all the immigrant doctors and nurses in the hospital to leave. Suddenly the hospital's White patients are begging them to come back, and the same man brings his wife to the hospital and is mad he cannot get care for her, as the few White doctors and nurses tell him they all left. Deliveries disappear. Restaurants close. Food becomes ridiculously expensive. Even a soccer team can barely field enough players.

It is satire, exaggerated for comedy. But watching it from America in 2026, I found myself wondering: what if America's immigrants actually went home?

The uncomfortable answer is that we may already be getting glimpses. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, foreign-born workers accounted for 19.1 percent of the entire U.S. civilian labor force in 2025.

They are especially concentrated in occupations Americans depend on every day. Foreign-born workers were more likely than native-born workers to work in service occupations; natural resources, construction and maintenance; and production, transportation and material-moving jobs.

Then there is health care. After Temporary Protected Status and related work authorization ended for hundreds of thousands of Haitians this summer, employers and families began experiencing what happens when immigrant workers suddenly disappear.

An analysis of Census data cited by Reuters estimated that about 21,000 Haitian TPS holders worked as caregivers and nursing assistants, collectively serving approximately 77,000 patients nationwide.

One New York non-profit serving people with disabilities lost workers after Haitian TPS ended. In South Florida, home-care agencies have reportedly closed, nursing homes have scrambled for workers, restaurants have reduced hours, and employers have struggled to replace experienced Haitian employees. These aren't theoretical economic models; they are people missing from shifts.

And agriculture presents the same fundamental question. Who plants, harvests, processes, transports, cooks and ultimately delivers America's food when significant portions of an immigrant workforce disappear?

The effects reach far beyond farms. Construction companies, hotels, restaurants, cleaning contractors and other employers are confronting similar questions. The Washington Post reported this month that restaurants, hospitals and construction firms had already begun laying off Salvadoran workers amid uncertainty over their Temporary Protected Status. One small environmental-remediation contractor warned that it could lose a third of its skilled workforce.

And losing workers is only half of the economic equation. Immigrants are also consumers. They rent and buy homes. They

shop. They eat at restaurants. They start businesses and pay taxes. Their children attend schools, and their families buy cars, clothes and groceries.

When immigration enforcement makes entire communities afraid to leave their homes, local businesses can lose the people on both sides of the cash register.

A March 2026 report by Democratic staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship cited an estimate that small, consumer-facing businesses in Minneapolis could have lost as much as \$81 million in revenue in January amid intensive immigration enforcement.

Independent academic evidence shows the same phenomenon. Researchers at the University of California, Irvine, found that Orange County lost \$58.9 million in economic output over an eight-week period following intensified federal immigration enforcement in 2025. In neighborhoods with high concentrations of foreign-born residents from Latin America, spending fell by an estimated 20 to 25 percent.

So when you remove a worker, you don't simply create a job opening. You can also remove a customer, taxpayer, tenant, entrepreneur, parent, and neighbor. This does not mean native-born Americans do not perform these jobs. Millions do. Nor does it mean immigration laws should never be enforced.

But it does mean that a serious national conversation about mass deportation should include an equally serious conversation about its economic consequences. Because an economy does not distinguish neatly between "immigrant worker" and "American economy."

The immigrant worker is already part of the American economy.

That is what makes Daash's comedy so effective. He takes a familiar anti-immigrant demand - "go home" or "go back where you come from" - and asks audiences to imagine what happens the morning after everyone actually does.

America is now confronting its own version of that question. Immigration enforcement has expanded dramatically. Temporary legal protections have been terminated for hundreds of thousands of people. Employers in some sectors are already describing staffing disruptions.

Perhaps America's immigration debate has been asking only half the question. For years, we have debated what immigrants supposedly cost America.

Maybe it is time to calculate the other side of the ledger. What will it cost America if immigrants disappear?

Leeno Daash imagined the answer and made people laugh and think. America may increasingly have an opportunity to discover the answer for itself.

So before celebrating the prospect of millions of immigrants leaving, perhaps one more question is worth asking: can America afford to live without them?

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.



Relationship Ratio

I recently learned something new that involved percentages and the human condition. I learned about the 80/20 rule as it applies to relationships.

Yes, it seems the rationale behind couples' dissatisfaction lies in the 80/20 rule. I always thought the reasons were more about emotions, mental state, lust, or even a spirit of adventure.

I was told that the real reason why men cheat is that even though their wives offer 80%, they are drawn to the 20% that the 'other woman' offers.

Apparently everyone wants 100%, but nobody can offer the full hundred, at least not on a sustained basis. So that 20% is the allure and the lure.

But how can something smaller overcome something greater? The wife gives 80% doing the duties at home, taking care of the household, looking

after the meals, the children, the groceries, shopping, and all the other mundane things that women do to run a tight ship.

But as the song says, something's got to give, so she falls short of the balance of 20%, which sends the man seeking to make up that mathematical shortfall. He sees someone who offers that 20%, fills that gap, fulfills that need, and completes the hundred that he so desperately seeks.

Bear in mind that the 'other woman' offers far less than what the wife offers; after all, it's only 20% compared to 80%. But even though it appears to be of a numerical disadvantage and a smaller ratio, it's gigantic in its appeal, gargantuan in its enticement, so the man is drawn to it.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Culture Is Not Decoration, It Is Nation Building

BY ANDREW CLARKE

When we speak about nation building and national development, the conversation often turns to roads, bridges, technology, investment, education, healthcare, and economic growth. These are essential pillars of development. However, another force is just as important and too often treated as an afterthought: culture.

Culture is not simply music, food, dance, fashion, festivals, or the arts. Culture is the collection of values, traditions, stories, beliefs, creative expressions, and shared experiences that tell a people who they are and what they aspire to become. It's a shared way a group of people understands, experiences and expresses life.

A nation that understands the power of its culture has an important resource for building confidence, strengthening communities, educating its young people and creating economic opportunity. For countries such as Jamaica and our Caribbean neighbors, this should be particularly clear. We are small nations geographically, but our cultural footprint is enormous.

From reggae, dancehall, calypso and soca to cuisine, literature, theatre, fashion, carnival and the visual arts, Caribbean culture has traveled far beyond our shores. It has become part of the global conversation and, in many instances, has influenced how the world sees us.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the United States.

The Caribbean And America: A Shared Cultural Story

The relationship between the Caribbean and the United States is not simply one of migration and geography. It is also a story of cultural exchange. Caribbean people have been contributing to American society for generations: as entrepreneurs, educators, artists, musicians, healthcare professionals, scientists, public servants, community leaders, and workers across virtually every sector. New York City provides perhaps one of the clearest examples.

Walk through Brooklyn, Queens, or the Bronx, and you encounter the Caribbean not as an abstract concept, but as a living presence. Our restaurants, churches, businesses, community organizations, cultural institutions, festivals and neighborhoods have helped shape the character of New York.

The annual West Indian American Day Carnival Parade in Brooklyn is one of the most visible expressions of that influence. What began as an expression of Caribbean identity has become a major New York cultural tradition, bringing together communities and showcasing the music, costumes, food, and traditions of the Caribbean. But the contribution goes much deeper than a parade.

Caribbean immigrants and their descendants have helped shape American music and popular culture. Jazz, reggae, calypso, soca, hip-hop and other musical traditions have crossed borders and

influenced one another. Caribbean food has become increasingly woven into America's culinary landscape. Caribbean writers, filmmakers, actors, designers and visual artists have brought our stories and perspectives into the American cultural mainstream.

This is culture at work. And it shows something policymakers, educators, and business leaders should take seriously: cultural influence can become economic influence, social influence, and diplomatic influence.

Culture Creates Economic Opportunity

There is a tendency to separate culture from economics. That is a mistake. The creative industries represent a significant economic opportunity. A successful musician creates employment for producers, engineers, managers, publicists, designers, venues and countless others. A cultural festival supports vendors, hotels, transportation providers, restaurants and small businesses. A film or television production can generate work for performers, technicians, caterers, location managers and other professionals.

Tourism provides another powerful example. People do not travel simply to see a beach. They travel to experience a place. They want to taste its food, hear its music, understand its history, experience its festivals, meet its people and participate in its way of life. That means culture is part of the tourism product.

Jamaica's music, cuisine, heritage, people and creative expression are among the elements that differentiate the country in a highly competitive global tourism marketplace. If we invest in our culture, we are therefore not merely preserving the past. We are also investing in industries and opportunities for the future.

Culture Builds Confidence

Another dimension may be even more important: identity. Young people need to know where they come from. They need to understand that their history did not begin with the challenges they see around them today. They need to encounter stories of creativity, resilience, achievement and innovation.

When a Jamaican child sees a Jamaican artist succeeding on an international stage, a Caribbean entrepreneur building a global business or a Caribbean filmmaker telling stories that resonate around the world, it sends an important message: Our stories matter. Our ideas matter. We matter. Cultural programming can therefore become a form of education.

Theatre, music, literature and the visual arts can introduce young people to history and heritage in ways that traditional textbooks sometimes cannot. That is part of why organizations such as Braata Productions matter.

Our work in presenting Caribbean theatre and culture in the Diaspora is rooted in the belief that culture provides a bridge: between generations, between countries and between the Caribbean and the wider world.

Culture is the story a people tell about who they are, and how they choose to preserve, reinterpret and share that story with the world. Braata Productions provides a vital platform for cultural preservation, artistic development and nation-building, ensuring that Jamaican and Caribbean stories continue to be told, valued and passed on.

The Diaspora Is An Asset

The Caribbean Diaspora should also be viewed as an important development partner. There are millions of Caribbean people living outside the region who maintain strong connections to their countries of origin. They send remittances. They invest. They establish businesses.

They support schools and community organizations. They promote Caribbean products. They travel home. They introduce friends and colleagues to the region. But perhaps most importantly, they carry Caribbean culture with them.

The Diaspora becomes an unofficial cultural ambassador. A Jamaican restaurant in New York can introduce someone to jerk chicken for the first time. A Caribbean festival can introduce an American audience to soca. A theatre production can expose someone to Jamaican history. A reggae concert can create an entirely new appreciation for Jamaican music. Every one of these encounters creates a connection.

And connections can become partnerships, investments, tourism opportunities and lifelong relationships.

America Has Been Changed By The Caribbean Too

The cultural conversation must also acknowledge that influence does not move in only one direction. The Caribbean has been profoundly influenced by the United States, but America has also been transformed by Caribbean people and Caribbean culture.

From the streets of Brooklyn to the stages of Broadway, from American universities to corporate boardrooms, Caribbean Americans have contributed to the country's cultural, intellectual, and economic life. The story of America is, in part, a story of people bringing their cultures with them and creating something new.

The Caribbean is an important part of that story. That reality should be embraced rather than viewed as a footnote.

We Must Invest In Our Cultural Infrastructure

If culture is important to national development, then we must treat cultural institutions and creative practitioners accordingly. That means investing in theatres, museums, archives, libraries, festivals, cultural centers and creative spaces.

It means supporting artists and arts organizations while creating pathways for them to become sustainable businesses. It means documenting our history before stories disappear.

It means ensuring that our

children have access to music, theatre, dance, literature and the visual arts. And it means developing stronger partnerships between governments, the private sector, educators, cultural organizations and the Diaspora. We cannot constantly tell young people to be proud of their culture while failing to invest in the institutions that preserve and promote it.

Our Culture Is Our Capital

The Caribbean has spent generations exporting talent and

creativity to the world. Now we must ask how we can convert that cultural capital into sustainable development.

- How do we turn music into businesses?
- How do we turn festivals into economic engines?
- How do we turn our heritage into educational experiences?
- How do we create international markets for Caribbean fashion, film, theatre, cuisine, literature and visual art?

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

Relationship Ratio



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

That twenty percent may seem numerically smaller as numbers go, but it has a terrific magnetic pull on most men who somehow discard all good sense, ignore all the warning signs, and take that plunge off the cliff with no parachute.

What's perplexing is that the young girl only has 20%, so how is she going to hold the man who requires 100%? Therein lies the conundrum. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.

That 80% is now supplied by the man and is added to the 20% that the young woman offers. He's now the one who's making up the full hundred percent; he's the one who's supplying the finances to fulfill her lifestyle, her needs, her wants.

He's become what his wife used to be to him, and he doesn't even know it. The 100% is complete, but not the way he envisaged it. As long as he can maintain that 80%, the young lady will stick around, but if he falls short, she'll fall away and is outta there faster that you can say 'see ya.'

These men are so stressed as they try to keep up with the young women who offer this 20%. They try to look younger, act younger, but they can't be younger.

There may be health issues, for if his health fails and he can't be at the optimum 80%, that 20% is not going to stick around. But what happens when it's the other way around, when it's the woman

who's drawn to another man, even though her main man offers her 100%?

Here's the irony: no man is perfect, and no man can provide 100%, but some men certainly try. Most fail, for the woman is never satisfied and lets the man know that he's fallen short. Some men will even give 110%, but it seems as if he's giving nothing. We've seen it time and time again: men breaking their backs to satisfy their women, making great sacrifices, holding down two jobs, plus a side hustle, catering to her needs, giving her everything that she desires. And yet, it's never enough. It's not my theory, my sayings, or my findings, but the fact is, many women are never satisfied, and even when given 100%, will seek extra percentage elsewhere. Have you ever wondered why some women will leave a man who gives them everything for a man who has nothing, not even 20%?

That doesn't even fall under the 80/20% theory, but more under dissatisfaction. There is no mathematical equation for that, as it's infinite. Men and women succumb to the 80/20 ratio and make up the balance elsewhere.

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.



Mighty Sparrow Begins Final Journey Home

Hundreds of mourners gathered in Queens, New York, Sunday to bid farewell to legendary calypsonian Dr. Slinger Francisco, the Mighty Sparrow, ahead of his final journey to Trinidad and Tobago, where the government is preparing a state-assisted funeral and national tribute.

Family members, fellow entertainers, political leaders and admirers filled the Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church in Laurelton for a Celebration of Life honoring the “Calypso King of the World,” who died Sept. 27 in New York at age 91.

The service blended scripture, music and personal reflections on the Grenada-born performer whose wit, satire and social commentary helped define modern calypso during a career spanning more than seven decades. New York elected officials were among those paying tribute, while musicians celebrated Sparrow through the art form he helped carry from Trinidad and Tobago to audiences worldwide.

Following the New York farewell, Sparrow’s body is being prepared for transport to Trinidad and Tobago, where the

government has announced an official state-assisted funeral. Culture and Community Development Minister Michelle Benjamin said a special committee is working with Sparrow’s family to organize what she described as a “funeral fit for a legend.” The date has not yet been announced.

Trinidad and Tobago has also dedicated this year’s Calypso History Month to Sparrow and is planning a national tribute in his honor. Books of condolence opened Oct. 1 at several locations across the country and will remain



The Mighty Sparrow was remembered at a Celebration of Life in Queens, New York, as mourners honored the calypso legend ahead of his final return to Trinidad and Tobago. (YouTube Screengrab: NewsAmericasNow)

From Junior Mas To J’ouvert, Miami Carnival Keeps Caribbean Culture Alive

Miami Carnival may draw thousands of visitors and generate millions of dollars for South Florida, but behind the costumes, concerts, and crowds lies something more enduring: the passing of Caribbean culture from one generation to the next.

That tradition will again take center stage when Miami Broward Carnival returns Oct. 3-11 for its 43rd year, with an expanded program stretching across two weekends.

The celebration begins Oct. 3 with Junior Carnival and Pan Jamboree, putting young masqueraders and steel pan musicians at the front of the festivities before the adults take over the following weekend. More than eight children’s masquerade bands are expected to participate in Junior Carnival, while Pan Jamboree will feature more than four steel bands.

The programming reflects an important part of Carnival’s role in South Florida’s Caribbean Diaspora: ensuring that children growing up hundreds of miles from their parents’ and grandparents’ homelands remain connected to the music, masquerade and traditions that shaped generations before them.

A Growing Celebration

Miami Carnival began in 1984 as a relatively small Caribbean cultural gathering, heavily influenced by Trinidad and Tobago’s Carnival tradition. More than four decades later, it

has developed into one of South Florida’s major Caribbean cultural events, drawing participants and visitors from across the United States, the Caribbean and beyond.

Its evolution also mirrors the changing Caribbean population of South Florida. While Trinidadians played a central role in its creation, Carnival has grown to encompass the wider Caribbean Diaspora, with people tracing their roots to Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and other nations participating in the celebration.

This year’s expansion continues with the introduction of the Red Road Fete on Oct. 9, followed by J’ouvert on Oct. 10 and the signature Carnival Parade and Concert on Oct. 11. More than 20 bands are expected for J’ouvert, while Carnival Day will feature more than 16 masquerade bands.

Yet even as the event expands, its foundation remains familiar: steelpan, soca, mas, J’ouvert and the communal experience of Caribbean Carnival. That cultural foundation has become increasingly significant as generations born and raised in the United States participate alongside Caribbean-born parents and grandparents.



It’s carnival time in Miami again this month. (visitflorida.com image)

For South Florida, Carnival has also become an economic and tourism draw. Organizers estimate annual attendance at more than 100,000, with visitors contributing to hotels, restaurants, transportation, and other businesses.

But perhaps its most lasting impact cannot be measured solely in attendance or tourism dollars. Every child who puts on a costume, learns to play pan or experiences J’ouvert becomes part of the continuation of a Caribbean tradition that crossed the sea with earlier generations and found another home in South Florida.

Miami Carnival 2026 culminates Oct. 11 with the Parade and Concert at Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium in Lauderhill.



Culture Is Not Decoration, It Is Nation Building

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

• And how do we ensure that the economic benefits reach the communities and creators who produce the culture?

These are not merely cultural questions. They are development questions.

Culture can strengthen national identity. It can support tourism. It can create jobs. It can stimulate entrepreneurship. It can strengthen international relationships. It can give young people a sense of belonging and possibility. That is why culture

must move from the margins of our national development conversations to the center. We should stop asking whether culture is important enough to receive investment. Instead, we should be asking whether we can afford not to invest in it.

Our culture is one of the greatest resources we possess. It tells the world who we are. It connects us to where we came from. And if we are willing to invest in it strategically, it can help shape where we are going. Culture is not decoration.

Culture is more than entertainment. Culture is identity. Culture is connection. Culture is economic opportunity. And ultimately, culture is nation building.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Andrew Clarke is the Founder of Braata Productions, a cultural organization dedicated to celebrating and presenting Caribbean culture and heritage through the performing arts.



available through Oct. 14.

Born July 9, 1935, in Grand Roy, Grenada, Francisco moved to Trinidad and Tobago as a child and became one of the Caribbean’s most influential entertainers. His breakthrough came in 1956 with “Jean and Dinah,” when he captured both the Calypso King and Road March titles. Over his career, Sparrow composed more than 500 calypsos, recorded more than 70 albums, and won eight Calypso Monarch and eight Road March titles.

His catalog ranged from political and social commentary

to humor and provocative double entendre, with classics including “Jean and Dinah,” “Dan Is The Man,” “Melda,” “The Slave” and “Saltfish.” Sparrow received Trinidad and Tobago’s highest national honor, the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, in 2014. Presidency TT

Now, after a life and career that stretched from Grenada to Trinidad and New York and across the world, the Caribbean icon is returning to the country where he became The Mighty Sparrow for his final farewell.



Dancehall Mourns Lieutenant Stitchie

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

When Lieutenant Stitchie died on September 28th, it ended a two-year medical fight for one of dancehall music’s most gifted lyricists. His wife, Sophia Laing, confirmed his death, which came one day before his 61st birthday.

Stitchie died at the Kingston Public Hospital, where he was admitted the previous day with a low blood count. The deejay, whose given name was Cleve Laing, suffered a brain hemorrhage in August 2024.

From Spanish Town, Jamaica’s first capital, Stitchie made his name as a sound system artist before achieving mainstream success in the mid-1980s with the humorous Wear Yuh Size. That was followed by other radio-friendly hits such as Natty Dread and Big Broad Hips.

His breakthrough 40 years ago coincided with similar acceptance for acts like Josey Wales, Charlie Chaplin, Papa San and Admiral Bailey, all of whom started their careers on inner-city sound systems.

Stitchie recorded three albums for Atlantic Records, producing hit songs like Night And Day and Romance. He became a Christian in 1997 and recorded several gospel albums.

Isaiah Laing (no relation) promoted the annual Sting show that Stitchie performed on many times. He remembers the toaster as the consummate professional.

“He was one of the great crowd-pullers. I can’t remember



Lieutenant Stitchie died on September 28th, one day before his 61st birthday.

him having a dull moment on stage. Fire from start to finish,” said Laing. The last time he performed at Sting was 1995 when he clashed with Papa San.”

Since news broke of his illness, the Jamaican entertainment industry rallied around Stitchie. Last October, he received \$10,000 from fellow deejay Rodney “Bounty Killer” Pryce’s Bounty Foundation to assist with his medical expenses.

Sophia Laing said her husband underwent surgery shortly after he suffered the hemorrhage. One year ago, she reported that he was responding to “familiar voices and holding his hands up.”

The Jamaican music community has lost several stalwarts in 2026. Drummer Sly Dunbar of Sly and Robbie; guitarist Stephen “Cat” Coore of Third World; singer-songwriter Ernie Smith; roots singer Fantan Mojah; singer/actor Ras Ajai; and bass guitarist Jackie Jackson also died.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



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Cardi B To Make Jamaica Debut At BZR WKND 2026

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Cardi B, one of the most sensational names in pop music, is the headline act for BZR WKND Jamaica 2026, scheduled for October 16-19 at the National Stadium in Kingston.

The American rapper, whose roots extend to Trinidad & Tobago and the DR, appears on the second day, with fellow American vocalist Keyshia Cole

as supporting act. Promoters hope the event attracts a full house, similar to Nigerian Afrobeats star Burna Boy in 2022 and American R&B singer Chris Brown in 2023.

Vybz Kartel's epic Freedom Street concert at the same venue on December 31, 2024, also drew a stellar crowd. The National Stadium's capacity is 35,000. It will be Cardi B's first performance in Jamaica. BZR

WKND takes place over the annual Heroes weekend, which honors the country's national heroes and stalwarts who have served in various sectors.

Kaylia Williams, a spokesperson for BZR WKND, says anticipation for the show has been high since it was announced Cardi B would be the main attraction.

"She is one of the biggest and most recognizable



Cardi B, seen on her latest album cover, is heading to Jamaica for her first-ever performance this month.

personalities in global music right now, but what makes this even more exciting is her genuine connection to Caribbean culture and Jamaica," she disclosed. "We have seen her embrace dancehall, celebrate Jamaican culture, and even bring Vybz Kartel onto her Little Miss Drama Tour in Miami. So, for us, bringing Cardi B to Jamaica feels like a natural crossover rather than simply importing an international superstar."

Delano Seiveright, deputy minister in Jamaica's Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, believes BZR WKND means big economic news for Kingston and Jamaica.

"In addition to the tens of thousands of people who will be making their way to Jamaica... hotels will benefit,

Airbnbs, restaurants, bars, food vendors, taxi operators, Uber drivers, fashion designers, barbers, hairstylists, nail technicians, beauty professionals, event producers, security, photographers, videographers, printers, caterers, decorators; micro, small and medium enterprises," he noted. "Millions of US dollars will be flowing through Jamaica's economy in October."

Cardi B was born in New York to parents from the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago. Raised in the Bronx, her hit songs include Bodak Yellow and I Like It, while her first two albums - Invasion of Privacy and Am I The Drama? - topped the Billboard 200 chart.



Papa Michigan Travels 'So Many Roads' On New Album

BY LYNDON TAYLOR

Veteran Jamaican deejay Papa Michigan is reflecting on decades of reggae and dancehall while looking firmly toward the future with his latest studio album, *So Many Roads*. Released Aug. 14 through his Rashanco Music imprint, the album blends roots reggae, foundation dancehall and contemporary sounds, representing different stages of the veteran entertainer's career.

"*So Many Roads* is a reflection of life, growth, and the winding paths we take as human beings and as artists," Papa Michigan said. "Life isn't a straight line; it's full of turns, detours, trials, and triumphs." Pasted text

The project opens with "Hustle Mode Always On," a song Papa Michigan describes as a statement about the dedication and persistence required to survive both life and the music industry. That theme continues with "Grind Neva Sleep," while "Style" takes listeners back to the foundation dancehall sound that helped establish his career.

"Recording 'Style' felt like stepping right into my home court," he said. "The passion and energy are identical, but the perspective has broadened."

Papa Michigan said the difference today is the experience gained through decades of recording, producing, and touring. "It's the original foundation energy, refined by wisdom," he said. Pasted text The album also pays tribute to Jamaican music history. "Natty Rebel" honors late reggae deejay U-Roy, whom Papa Michigan describes as a pioneer who helped establish the deejay tradition. "U-Roy is the godfather of the deejay art form, and he paved the highway we all walk on today," he said. Pasted text

Another track, "Africa Children Unite," featuring Elli Hekima, explores connections between Africa and its global Diaspora. Papa Michigan said that after decades in the business, his motivation to continue recording remains rooted in his love of music and preserving Jamaican musical culture.

"Music is a gift, and as long as I have breath and ideas, I'm inspired to capture them," he said. "Seeing how new generations connect with baseline culture and foundation vibes gives me fresh energy every time I walk into the studio." Pasted text

So Many Roads is available on major streaming platforms.



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Jamaican Mother-Daughter Team Gives Brooklyn's The Grotto BK A Fresh Look

A taste of Jamaica is getting a fresh setting in Brooklyn as family-run restaurant The Grotto BK reopens after a year-long renovation, with an expanded kitchen, redesigned dining space, new patio, and updated menu.

Located in Bedford-Stuyvesant, the restaurant is led by mother-and-daughter team Amelda Josephine Smith, chef, co-owner, and culinary director, and Amelda Ashley Hazle, co-owner and managing director. The restaurant, which opened in 2021, was inspired by the tradition of Jamaican Sunday dinner and serves dishes rooted in family recipes passed through generations.

"I've always believed there was an opportunity to present Caribbean food in a



Amelda Josephine Smith, chef, co-owner, and culinary director with some of The Grotto BK's offerings. (Contributed image)

way that feels both authentic to who we are and elevated in the experience we provide," Hazle said. "We're not trying to reinvent our culture; we're

creating a space where it can be celebrated at its highest level." Pasted markdown

The renovated restaurant features what the owners describe as a contemporary, modern-industrial design, along with a rebuilt and expanded kitchen. A new bar is also expected to open soon.

The menu remains unmistakably Jamaican, with signature dishes including oxtail, jerk chicken and pork, curry goat and curry chicken. New additions include ackee tostones, oxtail pasta and Bashment Branzino prepared in several styles. A forthcoming bar-bites menu puts another spin on Caribbean

flavors, with oxtail-loaded fries, jerk wings, a smashburger with jerk mayo, a fried jerk chicken sandwich and tacos filled with jerk chicken, shrimp or escovitch fish.

But for Smith, rebuilding The Grotto is about more than food. "My husband and I worked hard for many years to provide for our family, and because of that, I missed most dinners with my children," she said. "So being able to build The Grotto BK alongside my daughter at this stage of my life means more to me than I can put into words."

Smith said the restaurant

represents the family's Jamaican roots and traditions and something she hopes can become a legacy for future generations. Pasted markdown The intimate restaurant seats 22 indoors and another 40 on its outdoor patio. Its new bar will feature Caribbean-inspired cocktails, including sorrel mimosas, passion fruit daiquiris, and tropical drinks incorporating guava, pineapple, and passion fruit. Pasted markdown

The Grotto BK is located at 321 Nostrand Ave. in Brooklyn, NY.



Jamaica's Christmas Sorrel Tradition Gets A Spirited Twist

For generations, the arrival of sorrel on Jamaican tables has signaled that Christmas is near. Now the traditional crimson holiday drink is getting a modern, spirited interpretation.

Kingston Imperial Jamaican Sorrel Liqueur, made with Jamaican-grown sorrel, fresh ginger and island spices, has expanded into the U.S. market after winning two gold medals, including Best Floral Liqueur, at the 2025 New Orleans Spirits Competition. The 17 percent alcohol-by-volume liqueur takes its inspiration from the traditional Jamaican drink made by steeping the deep-red calyces of Hibiscus sabdariffa with ginger and spices.

Sorrel's Jamaican history stretches back centuries. Brought to the Caribbean from West Africa, it was documented in Jamaica as early as 1707 and had become widely known as "Jamaica sorrel" by the late 18th century. Over generations, the drink became closely associated with Jamaican Christmas celebrations, when families traditionally prepare batches of sorrel to serve alongside holiday meals.

Kingston Imperial Spirits has taken those familiar flavors and bottled them as a liqueur that can be served over ice or incorporated into cocktails. The company says its version contains no artificial flavors or colors and combines floral notes and acidity with a ginger finish.

The liqueur is being sold through select Florida retailers,

bars and hotels and online in participating states, reflecting the growing presence of Caribbean flavors in the U.S. cocktail market.

And for adults looking to put a different spin on sorrel this holiday season, Kingston Imperial offers this tropical cocktail:

Kingston Harbour



Ingredients:

- 1½ oz. Kingston Imperial Sorrel Liqueur
- 1 oz. Wray & Nephew passion-berry-pepper infusion
- 1 oz. pineapple juice
- ¾ oz. lime juice
- ¾ oz. simple syrup.

Method:

Add ingredients to a cocktail shaker with ice and shake well. Strain into a rocks glass over fresh ice. Garnish with a pineapple leaf or lime wheel. Gerard Chaimberlain of Apotheke Mixology created the cocktail.



Jamaica Food And Drink Festival Makes International Debut In Brooklyn

BY LYNDON TAYLOR

The Jamaica Food and Drink Festival took its flavors beyond the island for the first time, making its international debut in Brooklyn, New York, with a showcase of Jamaican cuisine and culture.

Held Sept. 24 at Aliyah's at the Indigo Hotel in Williamsburg, the event brought together food enthusiasts, industry stakeholders and members of the Jamaican and Caribbean Diaspora.

Four international chefs of Jamaican descent - Scotley Innis, India Doris, Patrick Simpson, and Andre Fowles - took center stage, each presenting their own interpretation of Jamaican cuisine. Guests also sampled rum cocktails from Worthy Park, while DJ Max Glazer of Federation Sound provided the music.

Alicia Bouges, director of the Jamaica Food and Drink Festival, said Brooklyn was a natural choice for the festival's first event outside Jamaica. "Brooklyn had to be the first stop for the event's international launch, and we were delighted to partner with Aliyah to showcase these four



Left: Victoria Harper, Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) District Sales Manager, Northeast USA, shares a lens with sisters Keisha Phipps, Director, Give to Jamaica, and Dr. Candice Phipps, Veterinarian. Right: DJ Max Glazer of Federation Sounds keeps guests entertained throughout the launch event. (Contributed image)

international chefs who each provided their take on food leaning into their Jamaican roots," Bouges said.

She said the launch comes as Jamaican cuisine continues to gain greater international recognition and move beyond some of the dishes traditionally associated with the island. "The world is starting to recognize that Jamaican food is more than just jerk and street food and is now elevated," Bouges said.

The Brooklyn event served as a preview to the next Jamaica

Food and Drink Festival, scheduled for March 4-7, 2027, in Kingston. "We invite persons to book their tickets early and come experience Jamaica in a different way," Bouges said. "As many of you know, we're more than sun, sand and sea."

The festival, which showcases Jamaican chefs, cuisine and beverages, is supported by several corporate and tourism partners, including the Jamaica Tourist Board, Visa, Victoria Mutual Group and Worthy Park.



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Peter A. Webley
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FOOD NEWS



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Little Havana Restaurant Lands On New York Times' Top 50 List

A Little Havana newcomer has earned national recognition, landing on The New York Times' list of 50 favorite restaurants in America for 2026.

Cuban fusion restaurant Tin Tin is the only Miami restaurant selected for this year's unranked list and one of only two Florida establishments included.

Co-chefs and owners Sachi Statz and Víctor Santos opened Tin Tin as the dinner-focused sibling of Tinta y Café, the Cuban coffee and sandwich shop operated by Statz's family for more than two decades.

The chefs describe their approach as "Miami cuisine," combining Cuban flavors with French and Italian cooking techniques.

The menu reflects that fusion



Cuban fusion restaurant Tin Tin is the only Miami restaurant selected for this year's unranked list and one of only two Florida establishments included.

with dishes including ropa vieja Wellington, fruta bomba with jamón serrano and malanga gnocchi cacio e pepe.

Statz grew up working at Tinta y Café before studying at Miami Culinary Institute and interning at Spain's acclaimed

El Celler de Can Roca. Santos brings two decades of culinary experience in Miami and New England.

Unlike many of Miami's high-profile dining destinations, Tin Tin offers a more understated Little Havana setting, while bringing an inventive approach

to the Cuban flavors deeply associated with the neighborhood.

Its selection places the young restaurant among 50 establishments chosen nationwide by a team of New York Times reporters and editors.



4 Ways to Elevate Football Season With Better-for-You Game-Day Bites

Football season brings family and friends together, making it the perfect time to serve crowd-pleasing snacks that are both delicious and nourishing. To help take the stress out of hosting, Registered Dietitian and Nutritionist Dawn Jackson Blatner offers simple tips for creating a satisfying spread that lets you spend less time in the kitchen and more time enjoying the action.

1. Upgrade the classics

The goal isn't to take game-day favorites off the menu, it's to build on classics with satisfying, balanced upgrades that add more nutrition to the lineup. Think nachos loaded with beans and fresh salsa, grilled sliders with colorful slaw, creamy dips with both chips and veggies, and protein-packed snacks like hard-cooked eggs and nuts.

2. Mix up flavors and textures

Offering a variety of flavors and textures can make even a simple appetizer spread more exciting. Try including a combination of creamy, crunchy, savory and spicy bites, so there's something to appeal to every guest. You can also vary how foods are served by mixing dips, skewers, and other handheld appetizers.

3. Bring out food in stages

Instead of putting everything on the table at once, stagger appetizers throughout the event. Start with a few easy snacks you've already prepped when everyone arrives, introduce another option around kickoff, and save something special for halftime. Serving food in stages helps keep the spread feeling fresh and gives guests something new to look forward to as the game continues.

4. Keep game-day prep simple

To make entertaining easier without sacrificing nutrition or flavor, keep versatile, ready-to-use ingredients on hand that can quickly become appetizers, snacks or additions to a larger spread. One easy way to put that advice into action is with Cobb Salad Skewers made with Eggland's Best Hard-Cooked Peeled Eggs. Packed with protein and fresh ingredients, they're a simple handheld bite that delivers the familiar flavors of a Cobb salad in an easy-to-serve game-day snack.

Eggland's Best Hard-Cooked Peeled Eggs provide 6 grams of protein per egg and come ready to eat, making them a convenient addition to your gameday spread. Plus, they contain more than double the Vitamin B12 and 25% less saturated fat than ordinary eggs, making them a nutritious option to keep you energized from



kick-off to the final whistle.

Eggland's Best Hard-Cooked Peeled Eggs Recipe

Ingredients:

- 12 Eggland's Best Hard-Cooked Peeled Eggs, halved
- 6 slices of cooked bacon, chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 2 large chicken breasts
- 2 small garden cucumbers, sliced into 1/2-inch slices
- 6-8 ounces cheddar cheese, cut into small cubes
- 1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes
- 1/2 head of iceberg lettuce, rinsed and roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil, for topping
- Sea salt and ground pepper, to taste
- 8-inch bamboo skewers

Directions:

1. Prepare the chicken: Rub chicken breasts with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Allow them to sit at room temperature for about 20 minutes.
 2. Grill the chicken: Preheat a grill or cast-iron skillet/grill pan over medium-high heat. Grill the chicken for about 6 minutes per side, or until the chicken is cooked through (165 degrees F). Remove from the grill and let it rest for a few minutes before cutting into 1/2-inch cubes.
 3. Prepare the remaining ingredients: Slice the cucumbers, cube the cheese, chop the bacon, halve the eggs, and rinse and chop the lettuce.
 4. Assemble the skewers: Thread the ingredients onto the bamboo skewers in the desired order.
 5. Dress the skewers: Drizzle with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Or, level up by pairing the skewers with blue cheese or ranch dressing.
- For more nutrition information and game-day recipe ideas, visit <https://www.egglandsbest.com/>. This football season, don't fumble your game-day spread. With a few hosting tricks and ingredient swaps in your playbook, you can serve delicious, nutritious snacks your crowd will go wild for.

- StatePoint



Guyanese Chef Brings 'Taste Of Home' Back To Guyana

Guyanese-born chef and author Hollis Barclay is returning home in December with a culinary series celebrating the foods and traditions that followed her from Guyana to the United States.

Barclay, who grew up in Stanleytown, New Amsterdam, will also introduce the Diamond Jubilee edition of her memoir cookbook, From Coal Pot to Corporate CEO, featuring more than 60 Guyanese and Caribbean recipes alongside stories of family, migration and entrepreneurship.

Many of the recipes grew from a style of cooking learned not from written instructions, but by watching - knowing when cassareep went into the pot, how dough should feel and how a dish should taste.

"This book is about much

more than recipes," Barclay said. "It is about what we carry with us when we leave home - the food, the people, the traditions and the memories that continue to shape us."

Barclay later migrated to the United States and founded Bleu Fin Bar & Grill in Brooklyn, which operated from 2019 to 2026. She now heads Caribbean CEO Kitchen in Florida.

Her Guyana homecoming will include a Dec. 18 author conversation and book signing at Bookland Gardens in Georgetown, followed Dec. 21 by "A Taste of Homecoming," a five-course Guyanese culinary experience.

The menu will reinterpret familiar Guyanese flavors through dishes including cassava crisp with smoked herring

and wiri wiri sauce, crab and callaloo velouté, pepperpot with plait bread and cassareep, and cassareep-glazed pineapple.

"Guyanese cooking deserves to be presented with the same care and pride as any cuisine in the world," Barclay said. "This return is about celebrating where those lessons began."

Barclay is also inviting Guyanese at home and across the diaspora to share the foods that connect them to the country through a campaign asking a simple question: "What does home taste like?"

Admission is complimentary with advance RSVP at: eventbrite.com/e/author-conversation-book-signing-with-chef-hollis-barclay-tickets-2000249657571



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Cuba Travel Troubles Send Canadians Elsewhere In Caribbean

Cuba's worsening economic and energy crisis is reshaping Canadian winter travel, with more vacationers turning to alternative Caribbean destinations as airlines suspend service to the island.

Global Affairs Canada has advised Canadians to avoid non-essential travel to Cuba amid shortages of food, fuel and electricity, while Canadian airlines have suspended flights to the destination indefinitely.

The disruption is significant because Cuba has traditionally been one of the most popular and affordable Caribbean destinations for Canadian travelers.

Flight Centre Canada says 20 percent of Canadians are now choosing other Caribbean destinations for upcoming vacations, while 14 percent are heading to Mexico. Others are opting for Florida, cruises or domestic Canadian trips.

"We have a lot of Canadians filling all these different places

around the Caribbean that normally would be traveling to Cuba," said Anita Emilio, executive vice-president of Flight Center Canada.

That shift is also putting pressure on prices and resort availability elsewhere.

Tour operators are searching for alternatives that can accommodate travelers who might ordinarily have booked Cuba, but Emilio said other destinations do not have the same volume of hotel inventory.

"The challenge for these tour operators is they are trying to find alternatives, but there is not the supply Cuba had, so smaller supply, higher demand, and prices are going up," she said.

Travelers planning Caribbean vacations during the Christmas holidays and other peak periods are being encouraged to book early and remain flexible with travel dates as demand increases.



Jamaica To Host Global Travel Week In Negril



Jamaica will welcome tourism leaders from around the world to Negril Oct. 10-15 for the inaugural World Travel Week Jamaica, a six-day gathering spanning hospitality, cruise tourism, travel technology, culinary tourism and destination resilience.

The event, to be held at Princess Resorts, will bring several international travel industry programs and awards ceremonies together in Jamaica for the first time.

World Travel Awards will stage its Caribbean & The Americas Gala Ceremony Oct. 11, followed by the World MICE Awards, World Travel Tech Awards and World Cruise Awards on Oct. 12.

The inaugural World Social Media Awards will be held Oct. 13, followed by the World Culinary Awards on Oct. 14. The program will also include the World Villa Awards and Global Tourism Resilience Awards.

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett said the gathering will give Jamaica an opportunity to contribute to discussions about the future of global tourism.

"We want to bring the world to Jamaica, but we also want Jamaica to contribute something meaningful to the world," Bartlett said.

The week is expected to attract destination leaders, hoteliers, cruise executives, tourism organizations, technology companies and culinary industry figures.

Tourism resilience will also feature prominently as destinations confront challenges ranging from climate events and economic shocks to rapidly changing technology and traveler behavior.

"Jamaica does not simply want to host the tourism industry," Bartlett said. "We want to help shape its future."



Royal Caribbean Takes 50% Stake In Sandals In \$3 Billion Deal

One of the Caribbean's best-known resort brands is entering a new era following a landmark partnership between Sandals Resorts and cruise giant Royal Caribbean Group.

Royal Caribbean has agreed to acquire a 50 percent equity stake in Sandals and Beaches Resorts for approximately \$3 billion, bringing together two major names in Caribbean tourism and potentially expanding the vacation experiences offered to travelers across the region.

RCCL Investors -

The deal, announced Sept. 23, creates a joint venture combining Sandals and Beaches' all-inclusive resort portfolio with Royal Caribbean Group's cruise brands, private destinations and growing collection of land-based vacation experiences.

For travelers with existing Sandals and Beaches reservations, however, there are no immediate changes. The companies said existing bookings, loyalty programs and resort operations will continue as usual. RCCL Investors -

Sandals Executive Chairman Adam Stewart will also remain in his leadership role, with the new joint venture governed by a board under the shared leadership of Stewart and Royal Caribbean Group Chairman and CEO Jason Liberty.

The companies say the partnership will provide additional resources to accelerate the growth of Sandals and Beaches while making it easier for travelers to discover vacation experiences across both companies' portfolios. Sandals News

Sandals currently operates adults-only all-inclusive resorts



Jason Liberty, Chairman and CEO of Royal Caribbean Group, and Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts, mark the signing of an agreement to form a landmark partnership that expands Royal Caribbean Group into the all-inclusive resort space and supports the future growth of Sandals and Beaches Resorts.

across several Caribbean destinations, including Jamaica, The Bahamas, Antigua, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Barbados, Curaçao and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Its Beaches brand caters primarily to families.

The agreement represents a major expansion beyond cruising for Royal Caribbean, whose portfolio includes Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Silversea. The company has also been expanding its private destination offerings and plans to enter river cruising in 2027. RCCL Investors -

"For nearly 60 years, we've reimagined what a vacation can be," Liberty said, adding that the Sandals partnership represents another step in building Royal Caribbean's broader vacation platform.

For Stewart, the deal represents another chapter for the company founded in Jamaica by his late father, Gordon "Butch" Stewart. "My father, Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, founded Sandals

Resorts with the belief that a company built in the Caribbean could stand on the world stage alongside the most respected names in hospitality," Stewart said. "Today is proof of how far that vision can go."

Stewart said the partnership would allow Sandals and Beaches to grow faster while maintaining the Caribbean identity that has defined the brands. "As we continue to grow, we will remain true to what has always defined us: delivering authentic vacations that exceed expectations while creating opportunities for our team members, travel advisor partners and the communities we call home," he said.

The approximately \$3 billion transaction is expected to close in early 2027, subject to regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions. RCCL Investors -

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Jamaica Climbs In Global Tourism Competitiveness Ranking

arrivals or tourism earnings.

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett said the improved ranking reflects investments Jamaica has made in strengthening the industry. "To rise four places in a highly competitive global tourism environment demonstrates that the investments we are making in our people, infrastructure, visitor experience, connectivity, resilience and destination development are producing measurable progress," Bartlett said.

Jamaica ranked 76th in 2015 before reaching 69th in 2017. It fell to 76th in 2019 and 82nd in 2024 before improving to 78th this year.

Bartlett said the country's tourism strategy is increasingly focused on competitiveness and resilience rather than simply increasing visitor numbers.

"Tourism competitiveness today is about much more than

sun, sea and sand," he said.

"It is about the quality of our human capital, the strength of our infrastructure, our ability to innovate, our digital readiness, sustainability, connectivity and the overall value proposition that we offer to visitors."

The improved ranking comes as Jamaica continues implementing its Tourism 3.0 strategy, which emphasizes innovation, workforce development, sustainability, resilience and stronger links between tourism and the wider economy.

The announcement was made during Tourism Awareness Week at an AI Youth Forum at Sandals Dunn's River, where approximately 250 Jamaican high school students explored the growing use of artificial intelligence and digital technology in tourism.



HEALTH NEWS



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Medicare Misconceptions To Be Aware Of This Annual Enrollment Period

Each fall, the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) for Medicare, which runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, gives people eligible for Medicare a chance to choose the health plan that will work best for them in the coming year.

While Original Medicare provides broad coverage, some services aren't covered, including many people are likely to need as they age, according to Jane Funk, vice president of Medicare Market Growth with HealthSpring, which offers Medicare and supplemental policies across the country.

First, people who choose Original Medicare generally remain responsible for deductibles and coinsurance, and there is no annual out-of-pocket maximum. Either Medicare Supplement or standalone Supplemental Health & Life policies can help with some of those costs. Medicare Advantage (MA) plans have annual limits on out-of-pocket spending for covered services, but costs, networks and authorization requirements vary.

Funk points to the following areas that can be particularly tricky for those looking to secure their coverage for the year ahead. Routine dental, vision and hearing care. Original Medicare generally doesn't cover routine dental care or dentures, routine eye exams for glasses or contacts,

or hearing aids. Many MA plans or standalone dental, vision and hearing policies offer additional benefits in these areas. Services, provider networks, frequency limits, and member costs vary, so make sure you know exactly what is covered.

Hospital status

Hospital services can also trip people up. Someone may spend several nights in a hospital but still be classified as an outpatient receiving observation services rather than as an inpatient. Under Original Medicare, that distinction can affect both the hospital bill and whether a subsequent skilled nursing facility is covered. Patients or their caregivers should ask directly: "Am I admitted as an inpatient, or am I here under observation?"

Annual wellness visits

An annual wellness visit is not the same as a traditional comprehensive physical. The wellness visit focuses on preventive planning and assessing health risks. If the provider performs additional tests or addresses medical concerns, deductibles or coinsurance may apply. Some MA plans offer more comprehensive annual exams at no additional cost to the member. Prescription drugs. Many

people assume they have outpatient drug coverage under Original Medicare, but they do not. Original Medicare doesn't include outpatient prescription drug coverage; beneficiaries need a separate drug coverage plan, called a Part D plan, or they need an MA plan with Part D included (MAPD) for that. Each plan has its own formulary, pharmacy network and coverage rules, such as prior authorization, step therapy or quantity limits. Just because a medication is prescribed doesn't mean it will be covered by a specific plan.

International care

Original Medicare provides very limited foreign travel coverage. Medicare Supplement and plans may offer certain emergency benefits abroad, but Medicare beneficiaries with any Medicare plan should verify those provisions before traveling, rather than assume their usual coverage will follow them.

One last note. Being wary of unsolicited calls from fraudsters about Medicare plans is important. Do not provide insurance or personal information without verifying that you are speaking to a legitimate Medicare provider. If you are not sure who you are speaking with, hang up and call back using a number from a verified source, such as

the back of your Medicare card or a website. Credible sources of information include Medicare.gov and HealthSpring's website at <https://HealthSpringMedicare.com/LearnMore>.

"Plan benefits, formularies and networks can change, and so can one's health, so people should never assume that last year's plan will still fit their needs best," says Funk. "Spending time doing

research can prepare people to make an informed decision during AEP."

HealthSpring products and services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company.

- StatePoint



Jamaican Father To Be Honored For Turning Son's Death Into Stroke Awareness Mission

Jamaican-born Michael Hylton Sr. will be honored for more than 15 years of community service after transforming the devastating loss of his son into a mission promoting stroke awareness and prevention.

Hylton, co-founder of Smiley's Voice Foundation, will receive the Community Service and Distinguished Achievement honor at the Friends of the African American Research Library and Cultural Center's annual luncheon Oct. 31st in Sunrise, FL.

The foundation was established in 2010 in memory of his son, Michael Hylton Jr., affectionately known as "Smiley." "We could not change what happened to our son, but we could use our experience to educate other families about stroke and encourage them to take the warning signs seriously," Hylton said.

Smiley's Voice Foundation says it has educated more than 10,000 people and provided more than 2,500 free health screenings across South Florida. Its work has



Michael Hylton Sr., vice president & co-founder, Smiley's Voice Foundation, Inc. (Contributed image)

also extended to Jamaica through support for the Stroke Program at the University Hospital of the West Indies in Kingston. Pasted markdown

Hylton encourages families to remember BE FAST - balance problems, eye or vision changes, facial drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty, and time to call 911. "Every minute matters during a stroke," he said.



Low-Cost, Free Mammograms Offered In Broward During October

Women in Broward County will have access to reduced-cost and free mammograms throughout October as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Broward Health's MammoThon 2026 will offer 3D screening mammograms for \$75 from Oct. 1-31 for women who are uninsured, underinsured or paying out of pocket.

No prescription or referral is required, and extended hours and weekend appointments will be available at Broward Health hospital locations throughout the county.

Broward Health is also partnering with the Florida Department of Health in Broward County to provide free mammograms to qualifying women on select dates through its Beating

Cancer Together program.

To qualify, women must be between ages 40 and 64, live in Broward County, have little or no health insurance and have income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Women diagnosed with breast cancer through the program may also qualify for free treatment services.

Breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers among women in the United States, and mammograms can help detect the disease earlier, when treatment may be more successful.

For information about MammoThon appointments, visit BrowardHealth.org/Mammo.



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Cancer Survivor Urges Women: Don't Ignore Unusual Bleeding

Miami businesswoman Lizbeth Muller thought something was wrong when she began experiencing light spotting and vaginal discharge years after her periods had stopped.

She was right. Tests in 2023 revealed that Muller, now 60, had Stage 1 endometrial cancer, a cancer that develops in the lining of the uterus. "I stopped having periods years earlier, but I began noticing slight spotting and discharge," Muller recalled. "That wasn't normal." The diagnosis came as a shock.

"It was an aggressive form," she said. "It scared the living daylights out of me."

Muller was referred to Dr. Scott Jordan, a gynecologic oncologist with Broward Health Physician Group, and underwent robotic-assisted surgery at Broward Health Medical Center. Her cervix, uterus, ovaries, fallopian tubes, and nearby lymph nodes were removed, followed by several weeks of radiation therapy.

Now cancer-free, Muller is sharing her experience to encourage other women to pay attention when their bodies change.

"I want women to be aware of their bodies," she said. "If you see or feel something that isn't quite right, even if you're healthy and take care of yourself, see your doctor."



Miami businesswoman Lizbeth Muller prior to her surgery. (Contributed image)

Cases On The Rise

Endometrial cancer is the most common gynecologic cancer, and the number of new cases has been increasing for more than a decade, according to the American Cancer Society.

Treatment varies depending on the cancer's stage and other factors and can include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy.

Jordan said advances in treatment are improving outcomes for some patients with advanced disease. "In endometrial cancer, we started combining immunotherapy and chemotherapy for patients with advanced disease about three years ago," he said. "We're seeing massive improvements in patients' outcomes as a result."

Robotic-assisted surgery is also increasingly used for some gynecologic cancers, potentially allowing patients to recover more

quickly and begin additional treatment sooner.

Know The Warning Signs

Symptoms of gynecologic cancers vary depending on the type, but women should talk with a health care provider about unusual vaginal bleeding or discharge, persistent pelvic, abdominal, or back pain, changes in urination or bowel habits, feeling full unusually quickly after eating, or persistent vulvar pain, itching, burning, or skin changes.

Obesity is a significant risk factor for endometrial cancer, while genetic mutations and family history can increase the risk of some ovarian cancers. Smoking and conditions that weaken the immune system are among the risk factors for cervical cancer.

Regular gynecological care also remains important. Pap and HPV testing can help prevent or detect cervical cancer, while women experiencing unusual symptoms should seek medical evaluation rather than waiting for their next routine screening.

For Muller, surviving cancer has brought a renewed appreciation for life. A few years after completing treatment, she continues follow-up care but is looking forward to spending more time simply enjoying life.



9/11 Responder Survives Three Cardiac Emergencies 25 Years Later

Retired NYPD officer and 9/11 responder Joe Gomes recently reunited with the first responders and medical professionals credited with saving his life after he suffered three cardiac emergencies in a single day.

Gomes, 64, of Royal Palm Beach, collapsed Sept. 11 while participating in a hockey tournament for first responders at the Florida Panthers IceDen.

The date carried particular significance: It was the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, after which Gomes spent months working at Ground Zero.

After making a play during the tournament, Gomes sensed something was wrong, went to the bench, and collapsed. Fellow players immediately began CPR and used an automated external defibrillator, or AED, restoring his heart rhythm about a minute after it stopped.

Coral Springs-Parkland Fire Rescue transported him to Broward Health Coral Springs, where he experienced two additional cardiac events — one in the emergency room and another shortly before surgery.

Gomes was rushed to the cardiac catheterization lab, where doctors performed a procedure to



Joe Gomes, a retired NYPD officer, survived three heart attacks and recently reunited with the doctors and nurses who saved him. (Contributed image)

open a blocked artery and place a stent. Remarkably, he suffered no neurological deficits and was discharged the following day.

His survival highlights the importance of what health professionals call the "chain of survival" — quickly recognizing cardiac arrest, immediately performing CPR, rapidly using an AED and getting the patient advanced medical care.

Gomes recently returned to Broward Health Coral Springs to reunite with members of the fire-rescue agencies and hospital teams who treated him. Dr. Gary Lai, chief of emergency medicine at Broward Health Coral Springs, presented Gomes with the hospital's Gift of Life Award. Gomes also reunited with members of the cardiac team that treated him.



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Julien Alfred's Olympic Legacy Set In Stone In Saint Lucia

Two years after Julien Alfred delivered Saint Lucia its first Olympic gold medal, the Caribbean sprint star is set to become a permanent part of the island's national landscape.

Plans for a statue honoring Alfred have reached the advanced planning and design stage, with the government considering several artistic concepts for the monument.

A site has already been purchased near the Julien Alfred Highway, another tribute to the sprinter whose historic performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics transformed Saint Lucia's sporting history.

Alfred captured the women's 100 meters in 10.72 seconds, becoming the first Saint Lucian to win an Olympic gold medal.

Sports Minister Kenson

Casimir said architects, designers and government technical officers are now working on the statue project.

"I believe Julien Alfred absolutely deserves it," Casimir said. "I am very happy and excited about some of the designs I have seen."

Officials are assessing the proposed location for road safety, visibility and public accessibility before making a final decision.

The government hopes the monument will become both a national landmark and a source of inspiration for young Saint Lucians.



Plans for a statue honoring St. Lucian Julien Alfred have reached the advanced planning and design stage.

For Alfred, it would mean her historic Olympic run is commemorated not only in Saint Lucia's record books, but permanently in the country she represented on the world stage.



West Indies Tipped To Challenge For Over-40s World Cup

Former Guyana opening batsman Krishna Arjune believes West Indies have the experience and home advantage to challenge for the International Masters Cricket Over-40s World Cup title when Guyana hosts the tournament Oct. 17-31.

West Indies will be captained by former regional wicketkeeper-batsman Denesh Ramdin, with several former international players included in the squad. "I like the side, especially with so many established players in the squad," Arjune said. "These guys will bring a lot of experience, and that will be important."

Former West Indies players Ramnaresh Sarwan, Sewnarine

Chattergoon, Jason Mohammed, Rayad Emrit and Devendra Bishoo are among those selected. Arjune also expects Ramdin's leadership experience to benefit the team.

"He was an excellent captain for his country, Trinidad and Tobago, and the West Indies, so with a good all-round squad I know he will lead from the front," he said.

West Indies will open their campaign against Australia at the National Stadium at Providence.

The regional side has been drawn in Group A alongside Australia, Wales, Canada, Colombia, Namibia, Sri Lanka and defending champions South

Africa.

Arjune believes playing the tournament in Guyana could provide another advantage because many members of the squad are familiar with local conditions.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals, with the championship match scheduled for the National Stadium at Providence.

South Africa won the inaugural tournament in 2024, defeating New Zealand in the final in Cape Town.

- Rewritten from CMC



Jamaica Lacrosse Begins Road To LA28 With Funding Appeal

Jamaica's men's national lacrosse team is taking another major step on the international stage as it begins the qualification journey toward the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The Jamaicans are competing in the Pan-American Sixes Lacrosse Championships in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada through Oct. 4, with a place in the 2027 World Lacrosse Sixes Championships at stake. The tournament comes just weeks after Jamaica secured qualification for the 2027 World Lacrosse Men's Championship in Tokyo following an impressive performance on home soil in Kingston. Jamaica punched its ticket to Tokyo with a 13-6 victory over Puerto Rico on Aug. 21. It will be the country's third appearance at the men's world championship after competing in 2018 and 2023.

Now the focus shifts from traditional field lacrosse to Sixes, the faster six-player version of the sport that will be played when lacrosse returns to the Olympic



Jamaica's Lacrosse team needs your help as it is in contention for a place at the 2028 Olympic Games.

Games at LA28. Jamaica has been drawn alongside the United States, Puerto Rico and Chile in Pool A of the men's competition in Canada. Brazil, Canada, Haudenosaunee and Mexico make up Pool B.

The top five men's teams will qualify for the 2027 World Lacrosse Sixes Championships in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which will serve as the next stage on the pathway to Olympic qualification. But as Jamaica pursues that Olympic dream, the program is also appealing to Jamaicans at home and throughout the Diaspora for financial support. Head coach Mark Wilson said the

team needs assistance covering travel, lodging, meals, and local transportation associated with international competition.

"The players are ready. Our challenge is funding," Wilson said in an appeal to Caribbean Today. The Jamaica Lacrosse Association has launched a fundraising campaign with a goal of \$3,000 to help cover expenses for players and volunteer coaching staff.

Wilson said financial limitations should not prevent the team from building on the progress it has already made internationally. "This group has already helped establish Jamaica among the world's best lacrosse nations," he said. "We'd hate to see finances become the obstacle that keeps them from pursuing the next dream."

The Oshawa competition marks the first stage of a much bigger ambition: putting Jamaica in contention for a place at the 2028 Olympic Games. For information on supporting the national program, visit <https://jamaicalacrosse.net/>



CWI Financial Crisis Hits Players, Forces Tournament Cancellations

Cricket West Indies' financial difficulties are now hitting players and the regional cricket calendar, with the organization cutting contract payments and suspending several major tournaments.

CWI chief executive officer Chris Dehring announced that international player retainer fees will be reduced by 25 percent, while domestic player contracts will be shortened from 12 months to seven months.

The changes were agreed to following discussions with the West Indies Players Association.

"While not ideal, it is a necessary step towards financial stability," Dehring said.

CWI has also suspended this year's men's Super50 tournament and Women's T20 Blaze as it redirects limited resources toward international preparation and Olympic qualification.

The reductions come despite the International Cricket Council approving a US\$16 million loan facility to provide temporary cash-flow relief. The funding will be available in



CWI chief executive officer Chris Dehring announced that international player retainer fees will be reduced by 25 percent, while domestic player contracts will be shortened from 12 months to seven months.

three tranches over the next year, but CWI must meet specified conditions to access the money.

Dehring said resources previously earmarked for the Super50 will instead help prepare West Indies ODI players for the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifiers in February and the 2027 Cricket World Cup in South Africa.

CWI also plans to introduce new men's and women's tournaments next year as part of the qualification pathway for Olympic cricket.

- Rewritten from CMC



Barbados Open Water Festival Returns In November



Swimmers from around the world will head to Barbados Nov. 4-8 for the 12th annual Barbados Open Water Festival. (Contributed image)

Swimmers from around the world will head to Barbados Nov. 4-8 for the 12th annual Barbados Open Water Festival.

The five-day event at Carlisle Bay will feature practice and recreational swims followed by races over 1.5K, 3.3K, 5K and 10K distances.

Launched with just 89 participants in 2013, the festival attracted nearly 600 swimmers of varying ages and abilities in 2025. Organizers say participants have traveled from 25 countries over the event's history.

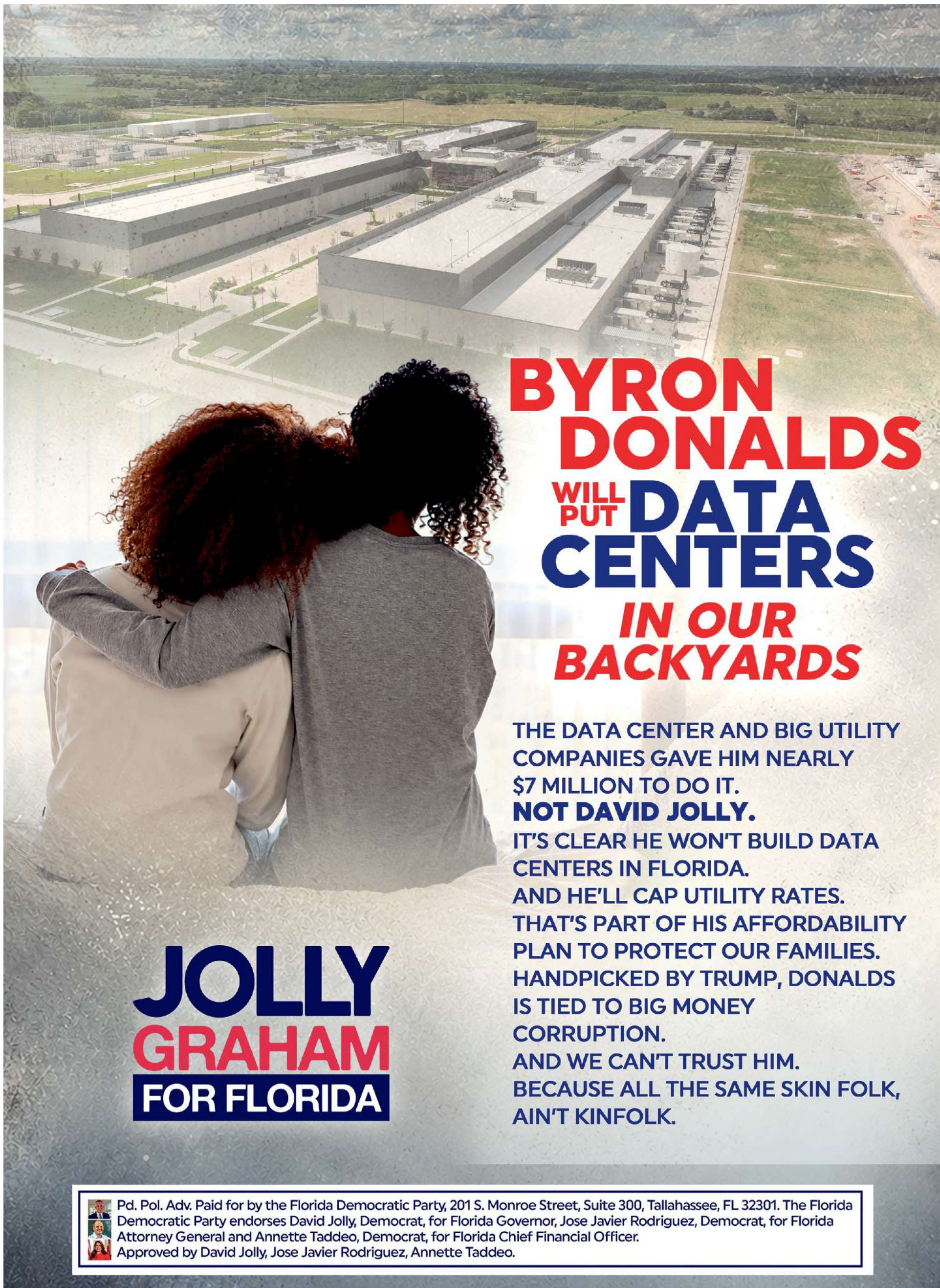
"The mood is always upbeat, Soca music fills the air,

and everyone is so friendly," said U.S. Masters swimmer Ed Tsuzuki, 67, who has participated since 2014.

Festival founder and Event Director Zary Evelyn said the event has helped showcase Barbados as a destination for sports and active travel while receiving strong support from the island's swimming community.

Registration for the competitive races closes Nov. 4, while registration for the recreational 1.5K "Just for Fun" swim remains open through Nov. 7.





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Pd. Pol. Adv. Paid for by the Florida Democratic Party, 201 S. Monroe Street, Suite 300, Tallahassee, FL 32301. The Florida Democratic Party endorses David Jolly, Democrat, for Florida Governor, Jose Javier Rodriguez, Democrat, for Florida Attorney General and Annette Taddeo, Democrat, for Florida Chief Financial Officer. Approved by David Jolly, Jose Javier Rodriguez, Annette Taddeo.

Election 2026: Who's On The Ballot In South Florida?

South Florida voters will head to the polls Nov. 3 to choose Florida's next governor, a U.S. senator, members of Congress, and state and local officials, while also deciding constitutional amendments and local ballot questions.

With races varying by where voters live, here is a look at some of the major contests Miami-Dade and Broward voters will face.

STATEWIDE RACES

U.S. Senate: Republican Ashley Moody, Democrat Angie Nixon and no-party candidate Neil J. Gillespie are seeking Florida's U.S. Senate seat. Miami-Dade County

Governor/Lieutenant

Governor: The ballot is led by Republican Byron Donalds and running mate Bryan Avila and Democrats David Jolly and Gwen Graham. Libertarians Scott Eckhard Jewett and Nicole Skelly are also running, along with no-party tickets Charles Burkett/Ruben A. Coto, Frank J. Russo/Rachel Rodriguez, Moliere "Moe" Dimanche/Benjamin Rojas, Dean Ocean Abrams/Joe Van Vactor and Jeffrey Peter "Dr. Jeff" Datto/Juan Santana. Miami-Dade County

Attorney General: Republican

James Uthmeier faces Democrat Jose Javier Rodriguez.

Chief Financial Officer: Republican Blaise Ingoglia faces Democrat Annette Taddeo.

Agriculture Commissioner: Republican Wilton Simpson faces Democrat Joey Mendoza Atkins, with a write-in candidate also qualified. Miami-Dade County

MIAMI-DADE CONGRESSIONAL RACES

Miami-Dade voters will see congressional races based on their district.

In District 24, Republican Te Mayonna Brown faces Democrat Oliver G. Gilbert III. In District 26, Republican Mario Diaz-Balart faces Democrat Nicole Locklin and no-party candidate Deborah Ann Meidinger Hosey. Miami-Dade County

In District 27, Republican Maria Elvira Salazar faces Democrat Eliott Rodriguez. In District 28, Republican Carlos A. Gimenez faces Democrat Phil "Felipe" Ehr and no-party candidate Eddy Rojas. Miami-Dade County

The finalized Miami-Dade ballot also includes District 25, where Republican Scott Singer, Democrat Jared Moskowitz and Libertarian Peter Jassenoff are



Not every race listed above will appear on every ballot. Congressional, legislative, county and municipal contests depend on a voter's residential address. (Hard Beat Communications design)

running. Miami-Dade County

Miami-Dade voters may also encounter Florida Senate and House contests, judicial retention questions and local races and referendums depending on their address. The county has released both a countywide master ballot and customized ballots for individual voters. Miami-Dade County

BROWARD RACES

Broward voters will also see congressional, Florida Senate and House contests by district, along with county and municipal races.

Among the congressional contests affecting the region,

Springs, Hollywood, Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes, Oakland Park, Plantation, Pompano Beach, Sunrise, Tamarac, West Park and Weston. Because those races vary considerably by municipality and district, voters should check their personalized sample ballot before voting. Broward County Supervisor of Elections

KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 5. Early voting in both Miami-Dade and Broward runs Oct. 19-Nov. 1 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is 5 p.m. Oct. 22. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mail ballots must be received, not merely postmarked, by 7 p.m. Election Day. Broward County Supervisor of Elections

Miami-Dade voters can review their official customized ballot through Miami-Dade Elections. Broward voters can check theirs through Broward County Elections.



Your Vote Matters: South Florida Voters Urged To Get Ready For Nov. 3

South Florida voters, like many across the nation, will head to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 3, for the 2026 General Election, and election officials urge eligible voters to prepare now by checking their registration, reviewing their ballot, and deciding how they plan to vote.

For Caribbean Americans and other naturalized U.S. citizens, the election provides an opportunity to participate in decisions affecting their communities at the federal, state, and local levels.

The deadline to register to vote in Florida's General Election is Monday, Oct. 5. The deadline to request that a vote-by-mail ballot be mailed is 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22. Florida Department of State

Voters can cast ballots by mail, during early voting or at their assigned polling place on Election Day. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 3. Palm Beach County Elections

In Miami-Dade County, voters can review a customized sample ballot online showing the candidates and questions that will appear on their individual ballot. Voters can also check their registration, voting location, and other election information through the county elections department.

In Broward County, early voting will run Oct. 19 through Nov. 1, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters can also check their registration, request and track a mail ballot, and locate early-voting sites through the Broward County Supervisor of Elections. Broward County Supervisor of Elections

Broward election officials began mailing more than 136,000 domestic vote-by-mail ballots

Sept. 24 and encourage voters to sign up for ballot-status notifications, which can alert them when their ballot has been mailed, received, and counted, or if there is a problem requiring attention. Broward County Supervisor of Elections

In Palm Beach County, early voting will also run Oct. 19 through Nov. 1, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters can use the county's "My Status" service to verify their information, request a mail ballot, review their sample ballot and find their Election Day polling place. Palm Beach County Elections

Palm Beach election officials are also reminding voters who received a new Florida driver's license or state identification card since July 31, 2024, to make sure their voter information contains their current identification number. Palm Beach County Elections

Voters using vote-by-mail should return their ballots early. Under Florida law, ballots generally must be received - not merely postmarked - by 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. Florida Department of State

Before Nov. 3, voters should check their registration information, review their sample ballot, and plan when and how they will vote.

Election Information:

Miami-Dade: VoteMiamiDade.gov | 305-499-VOTE (8683)
Broward: BrowardVotes.gov | 954-357-VOTE (8683)
Broward County Supervisor of Elections
Palm Beach: VotePalmBeach.gov | 561-656-6200



Donalds, Jolly Split On AI, Data Centers And Property Tax Relief

Florida's candidates for governor are drawing sharp distinctions over artificial intelligence, the rapid expansion of data centers and a property tax amendment voters will decide Nov. 3. Republican U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds and Democrat David Jolly outlined differing approaches to the issues in separate recent interviews as the gubernatorial campaign enters its final weeks.

Jolly has pledged to impose a moratorium on new hyperscale data centers on his first day in office, citing concerns about their impact on water, electricity, communities and the environment.

"This is moving too quickly," Jolly said, arguing that large technology and data companies are moving into Florida before questions surrounding their impact have been adequately addressed.

Donalds said decisions about where data centers are built should remain primarily with local governments. "County commissioners issue building permits, not governors," he said. Donalds said the state should ensure that data centers do not increase utility bills for residents and that Florida's freshwater resources remain protected. He

has also pledged to release the results of a state study on data centers expected in June 2027.

Artificial Intelligence

Both candidates see potential benefits from artificial intelligence but differ over how Florida should respond to its rapid expansion. Jolly describes himself as an AI optimist but has raised concerns about job displacement, children's privacy, and the technology's use in classrooms. He said teachers should be able to use AI as a tool, but it should not replace them. Jolly has also suggested Florida may eventually need programs to retrain and assist workers whose jobs are displaced by AI.

Donalds argues that AI is already deeply embedded in modern life and that policymakers should concentrate on protecting children and families while allowing the technology to create new economic opportunities. "The question is, how do we protect families? How do we protect communities and how do we protect children?" Donalds said.

Amendment 3

The candidates are also on opposite sides of Amendment

3, the property tax proposal on Florida's November ballot. The amendment would increase the homestead property tax exemption from \$50,000 to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028. It would require at least 60 percent voter approval to pass.

Donalds supports the amendment, arguing Florida homeowners need relief from rising property taxes. "It's not our money. It belongs to the citizens. It belongs to the taxpayer," he said. Donalds argues local governments should control spending while maintaining funding for essential public safety services.

Jolly said he expects to vote against the amendment, citing concerns from local governments and law enforcement officials about potential revenue losses for public services. Instead, Jolly has proposed targeted property tax relief, including a larger exemption for first-time homebuyers and income-based assistance for seniors.

Florida voters will choose between Donalds and Jolly for governor while also deciding Amendment 3 on Nov. 3rd.



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POLITICS



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South Florida Haitian Leaders Push Voter Turnout Amid TPS Concerns

Haitian American elected officials and community leaders in South Florida are urging eligible voters to participate in the Nov. 3 general election as immigration and economic concerns weigh heavily on the community.

At a news conference in Pembroke Pines, speakers including state Reps. Wallace Aristide and Marie Woodson, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien and North Miami Mayor Alix Desulme urged voters to check their registration status ahead of Florida's Oct. 5 deadline.

"Whatever you are dealing with, I'm telling you now, not voting is not the answer," Bastien said, pointing to rising rents, transportation costs

and financial pressures facing families.

Immigration dominated much of the discussion following the Trump administration's termination of Temporary Protected Status for Haiti.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 25 that the administration could proceed with ending the designation. Haiti TPS officially terminated July 27, ending TPS-based work authorization and deportation protections for beneficiaries who do not have another legal basis to remain or work in the United States. GovDelivery

Woodson called for Senate action on legislation that would restore protections for eligible Haitians.

"Behind every policy is



At a news conference in Pembroke Pines, speakers including state Reps. Wallace Aristide and Marie Woodson, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien and North Miami Mayor Alix Desulme urged voters to check their registration status ahead of Florida's Oct. 5 deadline.

a person, a mother, a father, a child, a worker, a neighbor," she said. "This moment demands more than concern; it demands

action."

Aristide also raised concerns about returning Haitians to a country still confronting

widespread insecurity.

"We cannot send people to get their lives taken," he said. "We cannot put people in desperate situations."

The gathering comes as immigration policy has become an increasingly prominent issue in South Florida politics, particularly in communities with large Haitian populations. More than 350,000 Haitians were covered by TPS before the administration was allowed to terminate the designation. Reuters

Florida's voter registration deadline for the Nov. 3 general election is Oct. 5. The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is Oct. 22, while mandatory early voting runs Oct. 24-31.



After Losing Two Children, Marly Metayer Seeks To Carry On Daughter's Legacy

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

The deaths of two of her children within four months plunged Marly Metayer into unimaginable grief. Now, the Haitian-born registered nurse is channeling that loss into mental health advocacy and a campaign

ready for any type of loss of that magnitude," Metayer said during an appearance on CNEWS TV, produced by Miami's Community Newspapers. "My baby boy was full of life. Unfortunately, he is not here with us physically."

Metayer, who immigrated from Haiti at age 13 and has

listening to them and talking to them."

She said the loss of her daughter just months later tested her faith. "There is no way a mother can bury two children in four months," she said. "How could anyone sustain that if you don't have God in your life?"

Nancy Metayer Bowen made history in 2020 as the first Black and Haitian American woman elected to the Coral Springs City Commission. She was re-elected in 2024 and later selected by fellow commissioners to serve as vice mayor. Coral Springs

Her mother is now seeking to complete the remaining two

years of her daughter's term. Coral Springs "Nancy was an advocate in the community," Metayer said. "We need to continue that legacy and represent the Haitian population because everyone deserves to be heard and present in their community."

Metayer said her campaign focuses on mental health, public safety, economic opportunity, and community engagement. She also wants the city to help small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs better understand available grants and streamline zoning processes for new businesses.

She is one of five candidates

seeking Seat 3 in the Nov. 3 election, along with William "Bill" Caplis, Kohy Holmes, Erick Nyatenya and Terry Ann Williams Edden. Coral Springs

Coral Springs Mayor Scott J. Brook faces Commissioner Joshua Simmons in the mayoral contest, while Jeffrey "Jeff" Adelman, Tristan Celestin and Jennifer Levi are seeking Seat 4. Commissioner Shawn Michael Cerra is unopposed for Seat 2. Coral Springs

The voter registration deadline is Oct. 5. Early voting runs Oct. 19 through Nov. 1.



Marly Metayer is among five candidates seeking to fill her daughter's Seat 3 in Coral Springs. (Photo courtesy of Facebook and the City of Coral Springs)

for the Coral Springs City Commission seat her daughter once held.

Metayer's 26-year-old son, Donovan, died by suicide in late 2025. In April, her daughter, Coral Springs Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer Bowen, 38, was found shot to death in her home. Her husband, Stephen Bowen, has been charged with first-degree murder and tampering with physical evidence. He has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial. WLRN

"As a parent, you're never

spent decades in nursing, said her son's death underscored for her how difficult mental health struggles can be to recognize. "This is what's so tricky about mental health. Sometimes you just don't see any signs," she said.

Her experiences as a nurse, she added, have taught her the importance of listening. "Some of the most important things I learned in my life didn't come from a classroom," Metayer said. "It came from knowing people, by sitting at a patient's bedside,

Caribbean-Born Candidates Seek South Florida Offices

South Florida voters will find two Caribbean-born candidates seeking elected office on the Nov. 3 ballot, with candidates of Haitian and Jamaican heritage competing for congressional and judicial seats.

Dr. Kedner Maxime, a Haitian-born pastor, businessman and longtime South Florida community advocate, is running as an independent for Florida's 20th Congressional District. Dr. Maxime immigrated to the United States from Haiti in 1981 at age 18. His campaign says he worked a series of jobs after arriving in Florida before building a career in business and community service. He founded Advantage Tax Firm Consulting Services and has served as a pastor at L'Eglise la Voix du Salut and as a longtime Haitian Creole radio host on WLQY 1320 AM.

Maxime is running in a district that includes portions of Broward and Palm Beach counties. He faces Democrat Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Republican Brent Andersen in the general election.



Jamaican-born Tamar N. Hamilton, an attorney, special magistrate, adjunct law professor, and community leader with more than twelve years of litigation experience, is running for civil court judge in Broward County.

Also, on the ballot in Broward County is Jamaican-born attorney Tamar N. Hamilton, who is seeking election as a 17th Judicial Circuit Court judge in Group 52. Hamilton, a native of

Kingston, has lived in Florida for more than 25 years and has practiced law for more than two decades. She previously taught as an adjunct professor at St. Thomas University College of Law and has been active in community legal education.

Hamilton has said her interest in serving on the bench grew from her work educating Broward residents about the legal system and helping community members navigate legal issues.

The two candidacies add another Caribbean dimension to South

Florida's 2026 election, in a region where Haitian and Jamaican immigrants and their descendants represent significant parts of the population.







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"Tradition was passed down by being included in the cooking process, from a young age until a young adult. I am writing down the recipes in a cookbook to share with my children as they get older."

– Christina S., Georgia

"My grandmother cooked with lots of love. Her food brought the family together—nourished the soul. Watching her prepare and cook was almost magical to me as a kid."

– M. Moses, Georgia

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