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A Caribbean Slap To Russia ...
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FIGHTING BACK

Jamaicans Step Up To Fight Racism
In Ukraine ... Page 3



Some Jamaican students returned to Jamaica as Professor Rosalea Hamilton joins a global fight against the racism exhibited against them and other black students in Ukraine. (JIS Image)



Professor Rosalea Hamilton
(LinkedIn Image)

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Regional Caribbean News Round Up

Here are some of the top Caribbean news making headlines this month.

REGIONAL

Caribbean people in the region are getting fatter! That's according to The Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency, (CARPHA).

The agency is warning that obesity is now a major public health concern in the region. It said that the Caribbean has some of the highest rates of overweight and obesity in the Americas among adults.

"Childhood obesity is associated with health problems such as Type 2 diabetes during childhood and has been linked to a higher risk of disability and premature death into adulthood," said CARPHA executive director, Dr. Joy St. John in a message marking World Obesity Day.

CARPHA warned that being obese, places an individual at a high risk for developing non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases.

It said that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has posed an additional risk to people living with obesity, as they are twice as likely to be hospitalized if they contract the COVID-19 virus.

"The pandemic has also added a burden to Caribbean health care systems which has, in some instances, led to delays and reduced access to support and treatment for people living with obesity," St. John said.

JAMAICA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Dr Horace Chang, has credited improved technological solutions and increased collaboration involving the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Jamaica Customs Agency, the Major Organised Crime & Anti-Corruption Agency and the Jamaica Defence Force for the recent successes of the Government's 'Get Every Illegal Gun Campaign.'

According to Chang, there is now a whole of government approach to crime fighting, with a strong focus on guns, gunmen and gangs. He was speaking against the background of the latest seizure on Friday, March 4th, that netted 21 illegal firearms at a West Kingston warehouse.

The 21 firearms, several rounds of ammunition and three pounds of marijuana were found at a West Kingston warehouse. The guns were reportedly found in two barrels shipped from Florida for an intended address in Clarendon.

HAITI

The United States Department of State says Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Anne Witkowsky will travel to Haiti for talks with top Haitian officials and "a diverse array of Haitian stakeholders."

Witkowsky will visit the French-speaking Caribbean country from March 7-9th to meet with Prime Minister Ariel Henry and members of the Montana Group "in support of



Russia's bombing of Ukraine could impact food and fuel prices in the Caribbean at least one Caribbean head of state has said. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

an inclusive, Haitian-led political dialogue."

The Assistant Secretary will also meet "a diverse array of Haitian stakeholders" – including civil society and women leaders – "to reinforce the US Government's long-term commitment to the Haitian people by promoting long-term stability and development, and to discuss US support for Haitian solutions to issues facing the country."

Last month, United Nations Special Representative in Haiti, Helen La Lime, said that, despite some signs of progress in ending the political, economic and humanitarian crisis that has worsened across Haiti since the assassination of its president last year, the situation there remains "fraught and highly polarized."

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

An investigation has been

launched by the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard following another incident at sea, this time involving the crew of a vessel from Grenada.

According to reports out of Grenada, the crew of the Grenadian vessel, called "Rainia" that travels weekly to Trinidad and Tobago to conduct trade, claimed that its members encountered a "nightmare," experience with the TT Coast Guard, which resulted in the physical assault and hospitalization of at least one crew member.

It's reported that eight crew members on the vessel were met with hostility by Coast Guard officers last week and this reportedly escalated to the assault of the crew's captain and one crew member. The report states that the crew member was seriously injured now requiring surgery.

The Grenada Broadcasting Network reported that a routine check was performed by the Trinidad and Tobago Coast and according to the vessel's operator, Keith Joseph the crew was met with aggression, and one officer reportedly used obscene language and pointed a gun in the direction of the crew. In response the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard said that it is aware of the reports and that the ongoing investigation will involve all parties concerned by the time of its completion.

GRENADA

A Jamaican man in Grenada who attempted to export cocaine to the United Kingdom concealed in honey, coffee and other household items, is facing charges that could lead to up to 20 years in prison if found guilty of the violations.

Michael Anthony Burrell, 59, a construction worker residing in the suburban community of Confer, Grenada, was arrested and charged by officers attached to the Drug Squad Unit with two counts of Trafficking in a Controlled Drug and one count of Attempting to Export a Controlled Drug.

Police say that the charges were laid following a search of his home during which several items were discovered. The items found in a black plastic bag contained one pound of cocaine with an estimated street value of US\$45,454.00 along with two bottles of hair product that also tested positive for the presence of cocaine. Burrell was jailed and is scheduled to reappear in court on March 14th.

GUYANA

Former Guyana opposition leader, Joe Harmon, has announced that he will be walking away from politics.

According to Guyana news reports, Harmon, who is currently the outgoing APNU General Secretary, has decided to leave the National Assembly and submitted a letter of resignation as a Member of Parliament for the APNU+AFC Coalition.

It's reported that Harmon on Friday, handed his resignation letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly and his party's leadership as well as to the leader of the coalition's candidates list – stating that it will take effect on March 15th.

Harmon was elected Leader of the Opposition in 2020 just after the APNU+AFC Coalition found itself in the opposition benches in the Assembly following the 2020 elections, which saw the People's Progressive Party, being returned to office.

Harmon's stint as Opposition Leader lasted for 17 months and he resigned following a defeat in his quest to become leader of the People's National Congress Reform, which is the largest party in the coalition.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne has told nationals there to brace for increased prices for goods and services as oil prices soar past US\$100 a barrel as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Oil prices have jumped as Western allies imposed more sanctions on Russia and blocked some Russian banks from a global payments system, which could cause severe disruption to its oil exports.

"Now, I believe that within the last few days petroleum prices are about US\$100 per barrel and potentially it could get up to maybe US\$120 within the next week or two, especially if this conflict continues," Browne said. "So, there is the implication of potentially where we have been subsidizing the pricing and would have kept the pricing of petroleum products stable for the last few years, we could have a situation where we are forced to increase the price at the pump."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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Jamaicans Join UN Complaint For Black Ukraine Refugees

BY CT STAFF WRITER

Two prominent Jamaicans have joined with renowned US attorney Benjamin Crump and other prominent civil rights lawyers from around the world to file an appeal to the United Nations on behalf of Black refugees, including Jamaicans, facing discrimination while trying to flee Ukraine.

Professor Rosalea Hamilton, Founding Director of the Institute of Law and Economics in Jamaica, and Anthony Hylton, Jamaican member of parliament and attorney, have joined the alliance.

Hamilton, at a news conference hosted by Crump and Jasmine Rand, noted that Jamaica awaits more details of the “horrible experiences” lived by Jamaican students in Ukraine and will share them moving forward.



Jamaican student Matthew DeSilva, who was in Ukraine, on arrival at the Sangster Airport in Montego Bay Jamaica on Mar. 2, 2022. (JIS IMAGE)

“Jamaicans have watched with deep concern the plight of our students in Ukraine,” she said. “It is imperative that we stand strong and we built a strong coalition to fight against all forms of racial discrimination facing people African descent across the world. In 2022, we ought not to be fighting for basic human rights and being treated as human beings; the fact that we’re doing this speaks volumes to where we are.”

Professor Hamilton then proceeded to quote lines from ‘Get Up, Stand Up’, a reggae song composed by

Peter Tosh and Bob Marley - musicians who she described as “two of Jamaica’s strongest human rights advocates”.

“We are ready to get up, stand up and stand up for our rights,” she added.

Hylton added: “What we’re witnessing is Black people of African descent fighting two wars - one against the Russians and the other against racial discrimination in Ukraine itself and Polish law enforcement officers.”

“We particularly want the UN to hold accountable those governments who, either through policies or practices, are encouraging discriminating against people,” Hylton said. “I think it’s high time the international community and the UN in particularly step into this space, because this is not the first time we’ve seen people

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



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This Caribbean Country Slaps Sanctions On Russia

One Caribbean country has stepped outside of the box and slapped sanctions on Russia as its war on Ukraine escalates. Antigua and Barbuda

Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders, said his Caribbean island is instituting measures to ensure it implements international

sanctions against named Russian persons and entities.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne approved the measure and Foreign Affairs Minister, E Paul Chet Greene, has since instructed that the complete existing list of US sanctioned Russian persons and companies is to be respected and followed and Sir Ronald said that he has made a formal request to the US State Department for the most up to date US list.

The United States and Europe are leading the sanctions campaign against Russia after President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of people and more than a million having already fled the East European country.

“It is important to appreciate that not all Russian persons and entities have been placed on a sanctions list. These lawful persons and entities



A resident stands in an apartment that received a shelling in Kharkiv, Ukraine on February 24, as Antigua & Barbuda announces sanctions against Russia. (PHOTO CREDIT: REUTERS/Vyacheslav Madiyevskyy)

continue to be entitled to benefit from services provided by Antigua and Barbuda and other countries,” Sir Ronald said. “In this regard, the relevant agencies in Antigua and Barbuda will be required to follow the international sanctions lists.”

Earlier this week, Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

chairman and Belize Prime Minister, John Briceno, said that regional leaders at during their Inter-Sessional summit in Belize left the possible imposition of sanctions on Russia to individual member states

- CMC



Jamaican National Arraigned On First Degree Murder Charge

A Jamaican national has been arraigned on charges of first-degree murder and robbery for killing a Puerto Rican-born employee at a Burger King restaurant in East Harlem in January.

A New York Supreme Court judge in Manhattan on March 3rd ordered Winston Glynn, 30, held without bail in the January 9, 2022 fatal shooting of Kristal Bayron-Nieves, 19.

New York Police Department (NYPD) Chief of Detectives James Essig said that Glynn, a former employee at the restaurant before Bayron-Nieves' employment, had four prior arrests. He said Glynn wore a mask and demanded

more money from Bayron-Nieves during the armed robbery.

Police said that Glynn, who lives at a homeless shelter at the Days Inn, near John F. Kennedy International Airport in Jamaica, Queens, was found in Brooklyn and arrested.

Prosecutors said they were adamant in not offering a plea to a lesser charge against Glynn, a move that Glynn's Legal Aid attorney, Eric Williams, said he will challenge.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a statement that Bayron-Nieves “had her whole life ahead of her when she was senselessly killed at just 19-years-old.

“While we can never bring her back, or fill the hole left in her loved ones' hearts, this indictment brings us one step closer to securing justice for her and for her family,” Bragg said. “New York City is in the midst of a gun crisis and tackling gun crime with important prosecutions like these is the top priority for my Office.”

Glynn was remanded into custody until his next court appearance on June 18. He has been behind bars since his January 14 arrest.

- CMC



Regional Caribbean News Round Up

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

A man accused of an October 2020 murder, who fled to St Vincent and the Grenadines, has been deported and is expected to appear before a Trinidad, Sangre Grande magistrate charged with the

crime.

Nekeiva “Darko” Glasgow, 36, of Abbe Pougade Street, Carenage was also charged with possession of a gun, ammunition and two related charges.

Glasgow is accused of murdering Parris Maharaj, 34, of Jacob Coast Extension, North Eastern Settlement, Sangre Grande on

October 4, 2020. Police said with the assistance of Interpol and other local authorities, Glasgow was arrested and deported from St Vincent.

- *Rewritten from CMC, Jamaica Observer and NewsAmericasnow.com*



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US Coast Guard Nab Over 100 Haitians On Overloaded Vessel

For the second time in a week, the U.S. Coast Guard on March 4th stopped an overloaded sailboat packed with people migrating from Haiti.

This time, the vessel was stopped about 10 miles off Anguilla Cay, a Bahamian island just north of Cuba. The Coast Guard said 123 people were on board.

"Increased patrols are stopping these unsafe voyages before lives are lost at sea," the Coast Guard said in a tweet. The interdiction came six days after the Coast Guard stopped a sailboat with 179 people from Haiti 30 miles off Andros Island, also in the Bahamas.

If the numbers of Haitian migrants stopped at sea continue at the current rate, fiscal year 2022 will surpass last fiscal year, which saw the most people interdicted by the Coast Guard since FY 2019.

Since October, the Coast Guard stopped 1,116 Haitian migrants likely headed to Florida, compared with 1,527 in all of fiscal year 2021. In fiscal year 2020, the Coast Guard only encountered 418 people from Haiti at sea.

The March 4th incident is also part of a trend in which Haitian migrants are overloading



on to sailboats to make the dangerous maritime journey. Several of these vessels have

arrived off the coast of Key Largo in the Upper Keys since November. In January, 176

people were stopped near the exclusive gated north Key Largo community of Ocean Reef.

On Christmas Eve, Border Patrol agents took 52 people from Haiti into custody after they arrived by sailboat off a remote two-lane highway that leads to Ocean Reef called Card Sound Road. That landing came after 63 Haitian migrants landed in almost the same location on Card Sound Road, again in an overloaded sailboat.

- *Rewritten from the Miami Herald*



Jamaicans Join UN Complaint For Black Ukraine Refugees

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

of Africans descent treated in disparate ways."

The coalition's appeal comes after both the Ukrainian government and the UN acknowledged that some refugees had been subjected to racially discriminatory treatment after their experiences were dismissed as lies and "Russian disinformation" by online commentators.

Crump said "This is an urgent matter, and the UN has the power to ring the alarm. For whatever reasons we don't think that alarm has been rang. How many more guns have to be put to the heads of descendants of Africans, how many have to be told to get off the train or go to the back of the bus before the UN says: 'This is an urgent matter'?"

"Our sympathy for the Ukrainian people in this conflict remains unstinting; at the same time we cannot allow that to dilute our vigilance in resisting racism against Black students who have been trying to leave Ukraine under these circumstances," he added.

JAMAICAN STUDENTS' DISCRIMINATION

Jamaicans were among students on a bus from Lviv to the Polish border that was attacked by an angry mob on Sunday, Feb. 27th, according to Foreign Affairs Minister Kamina Johnson Smith.

The students then opted to walk instead of turning back and during the trek, two of the group fell and one had to receive medical care in an ambulance.

Prior to their voyage, one of the group members was reportedly threatened with a gun by a "white Ukrainian" in an incident described as racist. He was ordered to disembark a train to Lviv, temporarily splitting him up from his peers.

During an interview with Jamaican cable network TVJ,



Dr. Rupert Francis says that Jamaican Men of Florida will assist the students to get home safely from Ukraine and eastern Europe, without the added burden of having to get a loan.

his pal told anchor Giovanni Dennis: "While getting on the train, a Ukrainian actually put a gun to his head and told him that he needs to get off the train so he couldn't get to Lviv."

"So because of that his journey got delayed and he had to come back to the train station another day in order to get on a train to Lviv," he added.

FLORIDA HELP

Meanwhile, a Florida-based, Jamaican organization is proving love is an action word as it tries to help Jamaican students still trying to get home from war torn Ukraine.

As Russia escalates its bombing of the Eastern European country and the Jamaican government tries to get students studying in Ukraine and also Russia back home, Florida-based Jamaican Organization, Jamaican Men of Florida (JMOF), has said it will either underwrite the loan being offered by the government to the students or provide the necessary tickets to get them home to Jamaica.

President of the Association, Dr. Rupert Francis, said that the students who are stranded in Ukraine and neighboring countries like Poland, without means of getting home should not have the added burden of having to secure a loan to able to leave the war-torn country.

"The safety of the students should be first and foremost. Getting them out of Ukraine must be the highest priority," he was quoted by South Florida Caribbean as saying. "And, they should not have to deal with getting loans to be able to get home. Loans to which they do not have full details about repayment and interest rates to be charged."

JMOF said it will raise the necessary funds to either underwrite the government loan or purchase tickets for the students. He said that Jamaican Men of Florida will assist the students to get home safely without the added burden of having to get a loan.

Dr. Francis noted that the organization is available to have discussions with the Jamaican government on this proposal immediately and also so arrangements can be put in place to assist the students to leave Ukraine for Jamaica at the earliest possible time.

He pointed to the fact that several countries around the world are offering to get foreign nationals and Ukrainians out as a matter of priority.

Dr. Francis said that the Jamaican government should seek to have the students travel to a neutral country under the umbrella of the United Nations and under a truce flag.

"The number one priority of any government is the safety of its citizens. Especially in this instance the students are caught in a situation not of their making," he said. "Therefore, the government's prime focus should be to getting them out

safely."

SOME STUDENTS BACK HOME

Twenty Jamaican students arrived back in the Caribbean after escaping from war-torn Ukraine on March 2nd.

The students were studying medicine in Ukraine and were forced to flee for their lives, after Russia launched a series of deadly military action on February 24, 2022.

They arrived at Sangster International Airport (SIA) in Jamaica during the early hours, after the Jamaican government made arrangements to get their students out of the war zone.

GET OUT OF RUSSIA

This comes as the Jamaica Ministry of Foreign Affairs


is encouraging Jamaicans in Russia to seriously consider making arrangements to leave arising from the growing impact of sanctions on that country in response to its invasion of Ukraine.

The Ministry issued an appeal to nationals in Russia to take precautionary measures for their safety and leave where necessary. Since then, it said that there are now real indications that nationals in Russia and surrounding Eastern European countries will be severely impacted as a consequence of the crisis in Ukraine.

Foreign affairs minister Kamina Johnson Smith said that there are some 18 students at universities in Russia.



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Justice March Held For Murdered Caribbean Immigrant

Almost three months have passed since a 29-year-old Caribbean immigrant was shot to death during a hunting trip with white acquaintances, but no one has not been arrested and charged to date.

On Feb. 21st, dozens marched in downtown Pittsburgh, PA as they justice for Peter Bernardo Spencer, the Jamaican migrant who was killed on Dec. 12, 2021 in Venango County in what relatives call a modern day lynching. Police say he was shot nine times – once in the mouth, twice in his buttocks, and six times in the chest, back and abdomen.

“What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!,” protesters chanted Monday. Several streets were shut down during the march as dozens marched with Spencer’s family holding “Justice for Peter Spencer” signs and wearing t-shirts in his memory.

The Venango County district attorney and others investigating the case have so far made no arrests as Spencer’s family express frustration with the case is being handled.

“We just want to know what happened to my brother. We’re

looking for the truth in that matter,” said Tehilah Spencer, Peter Spencer’s brother.

He said it appears there is a double standard when it comes to homicide cases and compared it to missing Uber driver Christi Spicuzza’s death.

“Her suspect murderer was put out two days later. They knew the face. They knew the name. Two months later, they know the dude admitted to killing my brother. All of this is known but we can’t know the name. What are they protecting? What is the double standard?” Tehilah said.

Tehilah said his family has hired a private investigator and medical examiner in hopes to get more answers on the case.

“We have found out some very interesting information throughout all of this,” Tehilah said.

“The disrespect of how they’re handling it. They ask my mom, they said, ‘Oh, does



A scene from the Justice for Peter Spencer march held on Feb. 21, 2022.

he have any gang affiliations or tattoos?” They were there on the scene that day. They clearly seen this man has no tattoos on his body,” Tehilah revealed.

He said until there’s an arrest in the case, his family will continue to fight for justice, saying his brother didn’t deserve to die.

“He was hustling every

single day trying to get to his American dream in any way he can,” Tehilah said.

“We want fair justice. That’s what we want. Justice for that life,” said Peter’s father Conrad Spencer.

Spencer called Pittsburgh home. He migrated to the US in 2013, was on a camping trip with 3 white males and a white female when he was killed. He was dropped off by his fiancée King.

King said she received a text shortly afterward to say he was staying the night. But at 2.30 a.m. on December 12, Franklin police were called to the cabin at 279 Carls Road in Rockland Township and found the Jamaican immigrant dead at the scene.

Paul Jubas, an attorney for the Spencer family, said he is not surprised that Spencer would have accepted an invitation, even though family members said he was the only

Black man at the camp.

“He was an outdoorsman and he loved nature. He loved being in nature. He loved being among the animals of nature. This is something he would regularly do. It’s exactly why he would have been out there,” Jubas said.

PA police said they found multiple guns and drugs at the scene of the cabin and detained and questioned four people, including a 25-year-old white man they called a suspect. But all four were released from custody and to date, remain free as no charges have been filed.

Spencer’s killing has captured international attention, including in Jamaica and the Jamaican Diaspora, and prompted outrage from Caribbean American and Black leaders who are concerned the murder may have been racially motivated.

His family’s attorney wants the FBI/Department of Justice to get involved in the investigation and provide transparency. The family also wants the Venango County district attorney to refer the case to Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro and for the Venango County coroner to turn over all photos and other pertinent information to forensic pathologist Dr. Cyril Wecht.

On Jan. 19th, Shapiro has said he expected the autopsy report in three to four weeks but to date, no word has come on the autopsy or the case. State police only say they continue to investigate the case.

A GoFundMe for Spencer’s fiancée has so far reached nearly \$50,000 of its \$60,000 goal.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Dominica Suspends Russians And Belarusians From CBI Program

Dominica has suspended with immediate effect, applications from nationals of Russia and Belarus seeking citizenship under the island’s Citizenship by Investment Program, (CBI).

Under the CBI program, Dominica grants citizenship to foreign investors who make a substantial investment in the socio-economic development of the island. Dominica is among a handful of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries with CBI programs.

Dominica said its position to suspend nationals from Belarus and Russia from the CBI program follows Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine and the decision of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to

condemn Moscow for its action.

Dominica was among 141 UN member states that voted last week to condemn Russia and the coordinator of the CBI Unit, Ambassador Emmanuel Nanton said that agents of the program have been informed of the Dominica government’s position.

In 2020, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrett told Parliament that the CBI had earned Dominica EC\$1.2 billion (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) over the last three years and that for the fiscal period 2017-2020, a total of 5, 814 applications had been approved.

- CMC



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Jamaicans In South Florida Presented With Community Excellence Awards

Ten community stalwarts in South Florida continuing the legacy and works of Jamaica's National Hero, Marcus Mosiah Garvey were recipients of the Community Excellence Award celebrating Black History Month and Reggae Month.

Making the presentations were Miramar Commissioner Maxwell Chambers and Jamaica's Consul General Oliver Mair. Mr. Mair described the event as "undoubtedly a phenomenal ending to Black History Month and Reggae Month activities here in the Diaspora."

"Celebrating Garvey & Reggae" was the theme of the finale held at the Miramar Performing Arts Theater, held on Feb. 28th.

According to Consul General Mair, the ten honorees were all recognized for their works in continuing Garvey's message or embodying his principles. The award recipients were:

- **Mrs. Jean Garvey** – wife of late Marcus Garvey, Jr.
- **Kymani Marley** – Internationally renowned reggae artist
- **Keith 'Anthony B' Blair** – Internationally renowned reggae artists



The ten community stalwarts in South Florida receiving their Community Excellence Award at the Black History Month and Reggae Month event last month.

- **Geoff Philp** – Author / Poet
- **Priest Dougie Smith and I. Jabulani Tafari** – Principals of the Rootz Foundation Inc.
- **Dale Holness** – Former Broward County Mayor
- **Andy Ballentine** – Artist
- **Michael Dawson** – Author, playwright and entrepreneur
- **Norman "Humble Lion" Lawrence** – Media personality

The entire audience in the fully packed 800-seat theater enjoyed an evening of free entertainment with featured performances from ASHE. The internationally known performing arts group from Jamaica.

Other acts included cameo

performance from Kymani Marley, and Anthony B. One of Jamaica's premier performing artists, Bunny Rose invited Consul General Mair on stage as they serenaded the awardees with the musical classic "My Way". Jamaican tenor, Steve Higgins sang the USA and Jamaican National Anthems while Claudia Chance sang the UNIA Anthem. Mistress of Ceremonies was South Florida's cultural entertainer, Ms. Sophia Nicholson.

- *Rewritten from South Florida Caribbean News.*



Florida Jamaican Charged With Laundering Money Jailed



U.S. District Judge Marilyn Horan recently sentenced Jamaican migrant Marcia Cunningham, of Plantation, Florida., to 178 months in federal prison in a Pennsylvania District Court.

A Jamaican woman living in Florida who laundered money for an international cocaine ring distributing the drug in Pittsburgh and New Castle, Pennsylvania, is headed to prison for more than 14 years and could be deported.

U.S. District Judge Marilyn Horan recently sentenced Marcia Cunningham, 54, of Plantation, Florida., to 178 months in federal prison for violations of money-laundering and drug laws in connection with a ring run by Hector Forbes of California.

Forbes pleaded guilty in 2020 and is awaiting sentencing. His operation arranged for the importation of multiple kilos of coke from Mexico, according to agents and police who investigated the case as part of the federal Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force program.

The cocaine was distributed through the mail to customers in Western Pennsylvania and

elsewhere. Cunningham's role was to launder the proceeds.

According to the criminal investigation division of the IRS, she set up a post office box using fake ID and used dozens of bank accounts to take in drug money and then use it to buy cars, property, jewelry and other items to support a lavish lifestyle.

She also arranged to use drug money to buy assets in Jamaica, her native land, where she hoped to return to live, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Cunningham is not a U.S. citizen and is likely to be deported after serving her prison term, prosecutors said. She, Forbes and 15 others in four states were indicted in Pittsburgh in 2019. Former U.S. Attorney Scott Brady said at the time that the ring was one of the largest cocaine operations uncovered in this region.



Now You Can Submit Nominations For Jamaica's National Awards

The deadline for submitting nominations for the Jamaica National Honors and Awards for 2022 is fast approaching.

The nomination forms and guidelines are available online through the Chancery of the Orders of the Societies of Honour, Office of the Prime Minister, at opm.gov.jm, by mail, to The Chancery of the Orders of the Societies of Honour, Office of the Prime Minister, 1 Devon Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica, or through the overseas locations of the Jamaican Foreign Missions.

It must be submitted on or before March 21, 2022. Nomination forms, once submitted, will remain confidential and should be accompanied by a current and brief biographical outline of achievements of service rendered by the nominee. In cases where the candidate is not a citizen of a Jamaica, the Government of Jamaica is required to obtain the approval of the relevant Commonwealth or foreign government prior to the award of any Order of Decoration to that nominee.

Candidates can be nominated for honors and awards

in the following categories: The Order of Merit (OM); The Order of Jamaica (OJ); The Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander (CD) or rank of Officer (OD). Decorations and

Awards are given for Badges of Honor for Gallantry (BHG), Meritorious Service (BHM) or Long and Faithful Service (BHL).



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From Jamaican American To Jamaican

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Two Jamaican Americans recently became certified Jamaican citizens as they went 'Back To Roots' on Feb. 17th.

Reggae singer Gramps Morgan and his siblings, and young rising soccer star Sydney Bellamy took the oath of Jamaican citizenship during the 'Back To My Roots' virtual ceremony at the office of Jamaica's Consul General to Miami, Oliver Mair. It was the fourth such event held since 2019.

A toddler at the time of his first visit to Jamaica, Gramps Morgan has vague memories of that maiden trip to his parents' homeland. As he grew older, the singer developed a passion for the Caribbean country.

That passion was documented when Morgan and his siblings in the Grammy-winning band, Morgan Heritage, became Jamaican citizens last month. All were born in the United States but longed to hold Jamaican passports and enjoy benefits of citizenship.

They officially took the oath along with Bellamy and some 290 other Americans of Jamaican descent.

"It's a great feeling to be a Jamaican citizen. It's not something that was decided ... we just had the time and did it," the burly Gramps, who was born in New York, explained.

"The Jamaican culture was always prevalent. Having a sense of Jamaican-ness was strong in our house."

While working on their breakthrough album, "Don't Haffi Dread," in the 1990s, Morgan Heritage re-located to Jamaica and lived in rural St. Thomas parish. Since then, they toyed with the idea of seeking Jamaican citizenship.

With COVID-19 putting their touring schedule on hold for the past two years, Gramps said they filed the required paperwork. Once presented to Jamaican authorities, a successful application takes maximum three months to process.

Morgan also performed at the ceremony.

Bellamy also became a Jamaican citizen in February. The 18-year-old freshman at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana is goalkeeper for her school's soccer team. She was born in Pembroke Pines, South Florida, to Jamaican parents.

Like Morgan, Bellamy developed a deep love for her family's homeland from infancy. She traveled to Jamaica annually, visiting the country's fabled beaches and tourist areas. As her interest in soccer grew with the help of Jamaican coaches in Pembroke Pines, Bellamy wanted closer ties to Jamaica.

"I feel proud and honored



Gramps Morgan and Sydney Bellamy recently joined 290 other Jamaicans Americans in becoming official Jamaican citizens. (Contributed images)

to finally and officially be a Jamaican citizen. And to be associated with a country that has produced so many people who have influenced the world. People like Bob Marley, Usain Bolt and Colin Powell to name a few," she said. "I feel a sense of belongingness to a beautiful culture."

The latest 'Back To My Roots' ceremony represented the largest batch of Jamaican-Americans seeking citizenship in Jamaica. Consul General Mair said interest has grown since the initial ceremony three years ago.

Mair, who has held office since 2018, noted that most

applicants want citizenship to learn more about their family's home or about the culture that nurtured them. He outlined some of the benefits of Jamaican citizenship. Among them:

- Being able to apply for a Jamaican passport.
- Voting in general and municipal elections.
- Access to government programs.
- Living indefinitely in Jamaica.
- Being employed without a work permit.
- Exemption from international fees at Jamaican universities, and
- Travel to countries not

associated with the US, such as Cuba and China.

To qualify for Jamaican citizenship, applicants must provide documents proving Jamaican lineage, such as birth certificate, their parents' original birth certificates and a notarized copy of their government ID. The application form, Jamaican Citizens by Descent, can be downloaded at jamaicacgmiami.org.

Citizenship is ultimately certified through the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency at the Ministry of National Security in Jamaica.

While having Jamaican citizenship gives them solid benefits, Gramps Morgan and Sydney Bellamy look forward to different pursuits.

"Now I can fly to Jamaica on a one-way ticket," said a laughing Gramps.

As for Bellamy, she noted: "My dream is to one day represent Jamaica (soccer team) as part of the Reggae Girlz."



The Harry Belafonte Highway Is Coming To Jamaica

BY DERRICK SCOTT

You could soon be driving down the Harry Belafonte Highway on your next visit to Jamaica.

That's according to Prime Minister Andrew Holness, The PM, in a message to mark Belafonte's 95th birthday anniversary on March 1st, said that one of Jamaica's highways is to be named in honor of renowned singer, actor and civil rights activist, of Jamaican parentage.

"As we celebrate with Harry Belafonte, his 95 years, the government and people of Jamaica... in this our 60th year of Independence... will name one of our highways after our Titan, in his honor and in recognition of the long road to freedom Harry Belafonte has traversed on behalf of our people," the prime minister said.

He pointed out that Belafonte "is an icon whose pristine voice, soaring melodies, and music on the global stage, magically matched the rhythm and power of his stride in the



Harry Belafonte at the 2017 Ripple of Hope Awards at the New York Hilton. (Photo by Andy Kropa/Invision/AP)

march for equal rights, justice, and empowerment."

In saluting his 95 years, PM Holness said: "Harry Belafonte's fierce defense of the dignity and integrity of our people, has inspired us to make our own commitment to the struggle toward the fuller, mental freedom asserted by Garvey."

Referring to Belafonte as a humanitarian and an activist,

he added: "We celebrate his unflinching political stance for the upliftment and fulfillment of the promise and power of the lives of the black race."

"Throughout, his has been a constant voice against racial prejudice not only in the United States of America, but in South Africa and anywhere in the world that injustice reared its ugly head," the PM declared.

Holness did not disclose

which highway would be renamed after Belafonte or when. Belafonte's 95th birthday was marked by numerous celebrities at The Town Hall in New York City on March 1st with a program that included performances and the presentation of the inaugural Harry Belafonte Social Justice Awards.

Presentation of the awards honored the tenth anniversary of Sankofa.org, the social justice organization Belafonte co-founded.

The evening featured musical performances, video tributes and testimonials by civil rights and racial justice leaders, elected officials, musicians and actors. Participants included Aloe Blacc, John Legend, The Belafonte Alumni Band, Laurence Fishburne, Doug E Fresh, Danny Glover, Amy Goodman, Lenny Kravitz, Michael Moore, Q-Tip, Tim Robbins, Rev. Al Sharpton, Bryan Stevenson, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Jesse Williams and Alfre Woodward.



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Black, Undocumented And Dead

On Saturday, Feb. 26th, I attended the funeral of a black Caribbean immigrant who had spent most of her life in the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant.

Now she is a dead undocumented immigrant. Just another black immigrant that not many will remember because she was not anyone “important” enough in the eyes of the world.

She was not a politician, or a social media influencer with millions of followers. She was not a singer, an actress, a celebrity, or even an author, a lobbyist or a media personality.

She was, however, a real Christian woman, who spent most of her life serving in the black church and sowing into many, who are today bishops and pastors in the Church of God.

She was undoubtedly a woman of faith, but one whose life, since migrating to the US from Jamaica more than two decades ago, was a tough one. It was made tougher by the fact that she was an undocumented immigrant.

Despite her status, she found work as a nurse’s aide, and with her husband, who was also undocumented, got by somehow. She had no kids and once her husband passed – also without getting his “papers,” she was all alone in the world, except for her so-called church family. Sadly, she died pretty much all alone, poverty stricken and without the much sought-after green card that many immigrants aim for once they arrive in America.

She was robbed blindly by a scam attorney who took her and her then husband’s hard-earned money, promising to get them both green cards. Sadly, that was a lie and so they gave up hope of ever being legalized.

Not even the so-called church family bothered to help this poor woman, who dedicated her life to the church. At 74, she is no more, and went “home” without ever holding the elusive green card in her hands.

As I sat through her homegoing service and listened to all the glowing tributes from speaker after speaker, including the pastor, I could not help but think of the pain and sorrow this poor woman must have carried daily too.

Baptism by fire, but hoping on, nonetheless, sharing her pain with few.

It is the story of so many

immigrants living in the US without documentation. Scared, depressed, in limbo, some without hope, teetering on the economic edge of bare survival. I could not help but reflect too on how many, like this poor Caribbean immigrant woman, have died without ever achieving legal status. Broken and alone!

With war now occurring between Russia and Ukraine, and America and the rest of the world’s attention now focused on this new challenge and the possibility of Ukrainian refugees, the issue of immigration reform for millions in the US is slipping further and further away.

That is the hard truth. Yet, it is desperately needed by so many – within the borders of this country. How many more will die before obtaining a green card, after toiling for decades in the great United States?

How many more must suffer and struggle because of a lack of care and empathy by law makers? These are not “illegal aliens,” but real human beings, whose dedication to making the society in which they live better is evident in decades of service to their communities despite the struggle and handicap of having no legal papers.

As someone who was once undocumented because of an immigration system that handicaps millions, I understand the pain and frustration firsthand. It is why I have so much empathy for immigrants who are still caught up in this quandary.

I was lucky. I am today a U.S. citizen. But it has raised my awareness and commitment to lending my voice to the need for immigration reform so those within the US who have contributed to this country for years. Notice I’m not promulgating here people coming across the border and getting refugee status. That is not my concern.

My concern is for the undocumented in the country who have paid their dues. It is time the Biden administration and Congress get back to immigration reform.

VP Kamala Harris should be leading this fight as a product of immigrant parents. Yet, as the so-called czar, we have heard nary a peep from her. Here we are, more than a year into this administration and in Black History Month over, with nothing, as immigrants like Ms. Olivia live and die - undocumented, illegal and scared!

- The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com



First Encounter, Lasting Impression

There’s never a second time to make a first impression, so you had better make that first impression a good one.

That great first impression may impress some people, but there are certain things that are done or said that can have the opposite effect, making the person who you’re trying to impress flee like a pickpocket running from an angry crowd.

There are certain words that women say to men that make those guys lose interest really quickly and that first encounter is usually an exit signal. So, here you go on that first encounter, that all important first date that can forge the foundation of your romantic future.

Your interest may be piqued by her looks, but when she starts to speak it’s an entirely different matter and you quickly lose interest when she says certain things. But what could she possibly say that would shatter that first impression?



TONY ROBINSON




One huge negative is her first utterance of matters that are financial. As you both sit across that table, you munching on the stew chicken, while she’s ripping into that lobster tail, her first words are: “My rent, light, water and cable bills are due next week.” Her ordering the lobster should have been a giveaway regarding the type of person that she is.

But when you hear that


shopping list of utility bills, you almost choke on the chicken, but still manage to remain your composure and break a half smile, pretending that you didn’t hear. But she makes sure that her words strike home and repeats the list of unpaid utilities, waxing poetic as if it’s something that she’s done before.

Immediately, all positive

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



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No Busting Of Sanctions Against Russia

BY SIR RON SANDERS

The Caribbean cannot escape the economic and financial consequences of the Russian Federation's invasion of the sovereign, independent nation of Ukraine.

The effects of these consequences are already being felt in higher oil prices, the highest since June 2014, and they will intensify if the Russian action continues, forcing the world community to show its displeasure through the many sanctions that have been imposed on Russia, not only by countries but also on bodies responsible for international sport.

Rightly, Caribbean countries have participated fully in expressing their disapproval of Russia's infringement of the United Nations Charter, the Charter of the Organization of American States, and of international law by its unlawful, unjustified, and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

On February 24, all CARICOM states jointly issued a statement, making it clear that "the hostilities against Ukraine go counter to the principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of another sovereign state

and the prohibition on the threat or use of force, and the peaceful resolution of disputes, which are the bedrock of this Community."

On February 25th, all but four CARICOM countries, joined in co-sponsoring an OAS Declaration by more than two-thirds of its member states, led by Antigua and Barbuda and Guatemala, that "strongly condemn(ed) the unlawful, unjustified, and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and call(ed) for the immediate withdrawal of the military presence and the cessation of any further military actions in that country".

On that same day, the UN Security Council failed to issue its own condemnatory resolution because Russia, exercised its veto, as one of five permanent members, to stop the resolution. The continued existence of a veto by any one of only 5 countries is a serious anomaly in today's world. Each of these countries can halt binding UN action against their own violations, crippling the ability to censure them, as is evident from the Russian veto.

After hesitation by some CARICOM countries to participate in the UN General Assembly meeting on Ukraine two days before the invasion,



Russia's assault on Ukraine continues.

all of them were among the 141 nations at the Special Emergency Session, on March 2, that deplored "in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine" and demanded "that Russia "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders."

It is, of course, right that CARICOM countries should adopt a strong position on any country that violates international law by invading other nations, and by seeking to alter the settled

OAS, where the overwhelming number of countries made a declaration condemning the Russian invasion, I stated on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda the following: "Small and military powerless states depend upon adherence and respect to the agreed and settled principles that are set out in the UN Charter and in international law. When these principles are flouted and international law is violated, small states are obliged to speak out loudly in our own interest as much as in the interest of nations that are the actual victims of aggression".

And that is the crux of the matter. When international law is breached, the wall that safeguards the interest of small states crumbles, exposing them to the aggression of others; and that aggression can come in many forms, not only military.

In any event, the action of Russia in Ukraine is now so vicious, so inhumane and so alarming that no right-minded society anywhere in the world can do anything but forcefully condemn it. Innocent people, including children and babies, are being killed in their homes as Russia bombards them with long-range missiles in the Russian

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

borders of countries by force. Within CARICOM, Venezuela threatens Guyana's territorial integrity and Guatemala threatens Belize's. In the case of Guatemala and Belize, they have both agreed to seek a peaceful settlement through the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and Guatemala has led from the front in condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, Venezuela has refused to accept the jurisdiction of the ICJ, and its President is reported to have stated his support for Russia's unlawful actions against Ukraine.

At the meeting of the

First Encounter, Lasting Impression

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

thoughts of her evaporate. If this is how she is on the first date as she tries to impress you, and her demands are so deep, can you just imagine what the future will bring?

Then if on that very first encounter, after he wines and dines her, she allows him to take her back to his place, that ironically can be a red flag. Afterwards he may think: "Imagine, I just met her and she jump into bed with me. I wonder how often she do this?" Yes, being an easy lay can be a bad first impression. To compound this, when a woman talks about her romantic history on that first date, going into lurid explicit details about her activities, that can be a terrible first impression that makes some men flee.

"Over the last ten months I had ten men who couldn't satisfy me."

Most men would lose interest at that point, but there's an irony. The reverse can have the same effect on the potential future of the relationship. If upon bringing up the subject of romance on that first date, she makes it clear that she has no intentions of being romantic with you or anyone anytime soon, and can take it or leave it, or, rather leave it more than take it.

"Lovemaking is not enjoyable, but only to have

children. I can do without it."

After he tabulates how much he's spent on the evening, and then calculates how much the future will cost him, computes the cost benefit analysis and determines the diminishing returns, he's outta there faster than a cheetah.

The bombshell though, is if she tells you on the first date, "Oh, by the way, I'm pregnant." Now which man in his right mind is going to even consider taking it one step further with this woman who just dropped this thunderclap on him?

Maybe the only thing that's comparable is if she tells the man that she has three children for four different men, and one of them is in prison for murder. "He didn't really mean to kill him, but he caught me in bed with another guy. He's so jealous."

That first encounter can be so important, and that's why many persons do their utmost best to make a great first impression, even if it means concealing their true self.

I know that some of those scenarios may seem farfetched, but I can assure you, all are real experiences from various men. Remember, you never get a second chance to make a first impression.

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



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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: MARCH 29, 2022

This Top Label Is Paying Tribute To Bishop Denroy Morgan

Top reggae label, VP Records, is among those paying tribute to reggae legend, Bishop Denroy Morgan, who passed away in Atlanta on March 3, 2022, at age 76.

"We are saddened by the news of Reggae icon Denroy Morgan's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Morgan family at this time," the label said in a statement.

"We've been blessed to have a long personal and business relationship with this one-of-a-kind individual and feel great sadness for the family," said VP Records President Randy Chin. "He will be remembered."

The hitmaker who topped the international charts in 1981 with his smash single "I'll Do Anything for You" died peacefully surrounded by close family members, his family said in a statement.

Morgan was the father of 30 children with over 120 grandchildren, and his musical and spiritual shepherding of his family members led to the creation of the Grammy winning group Morgan Heritage. Three generations of Morgans have produced hit records over the years.

A statement from the family a short while ago read, "It is out of sincere love that we share that our beloved father and patriarch The Honourable Bishop Ras Denroy Morgan has ascended. Daddy has been our light, our source of love and joy throughout all our lives." The statement continued,



Bishop Denroy Morgan transitioned at age 76.

"Our family thanks you in advance for your overwhelming love and support, and we ask for your continued prayers as we go through the process. We also ask that you please respect our privacy during this time of healing."

Morgan's association with the VP Records family began in the late 1990s with the signing of Morgan Heritage, the sibling group which Mr. Morgan managed. Over the years, we have released over 40 albums together and a new release, Denroy Morgan and The Black Eagles "Divine Destiny" is scheduled for release through VPAL Music distribution on April 22, 2022.

His career in music began in the late '60s, playing reggae and rocksteady with a band called the Mad Creators after migrating to New York. By 1974, Morgan had co-founded the Black Eagles Band, whose original line-up released a handful of singles and the album Warning, in 1978.

Morgan's breakthrough came in 1981 with the dancefloor smash "I'll Do Anything for You," an

early fusion of R&B, rap, and reggae styles, which earned him a two-album deal with RCA Records. A reggae version of the hit was later released as the lead single to his 1998 VP Records album Salvation. Theocracy Reign (2009), and Link Up To Ethiopia (2011) continued the association with the label.

Morgan's legacy may best be cited through the lives and careers of his 30 children, which include the sibling musical groups Morgan Heritage and LMS. whom he managed and performed with for many years. More recently he established his own Abrahamic Covenant Family Ministry, in association with Hilltop Tabernacle in Port Morant, St Thomas. Morgan was 76.

Morgan was a bishop at the Abrahamic Covenant Family Ministry Church. Morgan was passionate about the legalization of marijuana, and his landmark successful sacramental defense of a marijuana charge in New York City in 2011 was an important turning point that led to the relaxation of marijuana legislation in New York City. Morgan had also been pushing to establish November 2, the coronation day of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie as a United Nations International Day.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dave Rodney contributed to this story.



Lady Saw Wants 50 Cent To Pay Up

Now back to being Lady Saw, the dancehall artist wants US rapper 50 Cent to pay up for using her classic hit in one of his Power Book II: Ghost episodes.

Marion Hall says she is looking to recoup money owed to her to use one of her songs in the first episode of the spin-off for 50 Cent's hit series, Power, which aired in 2020.

Lady Saw, who now operates her own Christian ministry, has confessed to reaching out to rapper, businessman, and tv-show producer Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson for information on the use of her 2004 song "Strip Tease" in the first episode of his Power Book II: Ghost, starring Jamaican actor Michael Rainey Jr.

Hall's latest attempt took place on Instagram, where she praised 50 Cent for being a savvy businessman while asking for clarification on if he paid for the use of the track and to whom.

"I know you got some money for me, for using one of my songs in one of your power episodes. Or you might have given it to someone, who's been



Lady Saw

taking my money, and not giving it to me, cause I haven't gotten paid for that song, or any other songs that was used in other movie," she explained to 50 Cent below a recent post on his Instagram page.

"I use to go by the name Lady Saw. With all due respect. I need to know who to go to, so I can collect what is mine. I know you're a respectable businessman, and wouldn't mind if you could produce a movie about my life. Look me up, and see if my story, interest you. I did send you a private message before, but I know you must have gotten so many messages, that some gets lost in the trash. I hope this one doesn't," she wrote before sharing her email address.

- Rewritten from Urban Islandz



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GAME	DATE	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TIME
Week #1				
#1	MARCH 5, 2022	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	INDIA	4:30 PM
#2	MARCH 5, 2022	JAMAICA	GUYANA	7:30 PM
Week #2				
#3	MARCH 12, 2022	WORLD XI	PAKISTAN	4:30 PM
#4	MARCH 12, 2022	TEAM USA	INDIA	7:30 PM
Week #3				
#5	MARCH 19, 2022	COMBINED ISLANDS	TEAM USA	4:30 PM
#6	MARCH 19, 2022	PAKISTAN	JAMAICA	7:30 PM
Week #4				
#7	MARCH 26, 2022	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	COMBINED ISLANDS	4:30 PM
#8	MARCH 26, 2022	GUYANA	WORLD XI	7:30 PM
Week #5				
#9	APRIL 2, 2022	COMBINED ISLANDS	INDIA	4:30 PM
#10	APRIL 2, 2022	WORLD XI	JAMAICA	7:30 PM
Week #6				
#11	APRIL 9, 2022	GUYANA	PAKISTAN	4:30 PM
#12	APRIL 9, 2022	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TEAM USA	7:30 PM
APRIL 16, 2022 - EASTER WEEKEND - NO GAMES				
Week #7				
#13	APRIL 23, 2022	ZONE A-RUNNERS-UP #1	ZONE B-RUNNERS-UP #2	4:30 PM
#14	APRIL 23, 2022	ZONE B-RUNNERS-UP #1	ZONE A-RUNNERS-UP #2	7:30 PM
Week #8				
#15	APRIL 30, 2022	WINNER OF ZONE B	WINNER OF GAME #13	4:30 PM
#16	APRIL 30, 2022	WINNER OF ZONE A	WINNER OF GAME #14	7:30 PM
Week #9				
#17	MAY 7, 2022	SOUTH UNDER-23	NORTH UNDER-23	4:30 PM
#18	MAY 7, 2022	MAYOR'S INVITATIONAL XI	SOUTH FLORIDA ALL-STAR	7:30 PM
Week 10				
#19	MAY 14, 2022	WINNER OF GAME #15	WINNER OF GAME #16	6:00 PM

Teams
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HEALTH



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DeSantis Wants Legislature To Defend Free Speech Of Florida Health Care Workers



Governor Ron DeSantis recently held a press conference on the issue at FSU Panama City. (WJHG/WECP image)

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis wants the Florida Legislature to protect health care practitioners' freedom of speech and bolster patient access to and education of COVID-19 treatments through right to prescribe.

The Free Speech of Health Care Practitioners Act, House Bill 687 and Senate Bill 1184, would solidify these rights for both patients and health care workers.

"Despite ongoing health care practitioner shortages across the nation, these crucial frontline

workers continue to face threats to their licenses if they dissent from the prevailing narrative of the medical establishment," DeSantis said recently. "I am calling on the Legislature to pass this important free speech bill and strengthen the legislation by solidifying the right to prescribe and access COVID treatments. We must safeguard the free speech of our health care providers because it is through open dialogue and debate that science advances and patients receive the best care."

The governor was joined at the press conference by Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joe Ladapo; Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis; President of Dermatology Specialists of Florida Dr. Jon Ward; Oncology Specialist Dr. Raj Bendre; and Rheumatologist Dr. Ellen McKnight.

The Free Speech of Health Care Practitioners Act would protect health care workers from having their licensure revoked for simply exercising their right of free speech. With the enhancements proposed by DeSantis, the bill would also ensure that woke corporations cannot prevent a doctor from

exercising their sound judgement by prohibiting hospitals from interfering with a doctor's recommendation for COVID-19 treatment if the patient agrees. Further, it would ensure doctors are providing patients with all of the options for treatment.



March Is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

March is widely known for being Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is the third most fatal cancer across the country in both men and women. Colorectal cancer is also the third most common cancer amongst both genders.

Whether you or a loved one are worried about getting colorectal cancer, have just been diagnosed, are going through colorectal cancer treatment, or are trying to stay well after treatment, this detailed information can help you find the answers you need.

Colorectal cancer starts in the colon or the rectum. These cancers can also be called colon cancer or rectal cancer, depending on where they start. Colon cancer and rectal cancer are often grouped together because they have many features in common.

Many lifestyle-related factors have been linked to colorectal cancer. In fact, the links between diet, weight, and exercise and colorectal cancer risk are some of the strongest for any type of cancer.

Being Overweight Or Obese

If you are overweight or obese (very overweight), your risk of developing and dying from colorectal cancer is higher. Being overweight raises the risk of colon and rectal cancer in both men and women, but the link seems to be stronger in men. Getting to and staying at a healthy weight may help lower

your risk.

Not Being Physically Active

If you're not physically active, you have a greater chance of developing colon cancer. Regular moderate to vigorous physical activity can help lower your risk.

Certain Types Of Diets

A diet that's high in red meats (such as beef, pork, lamb, or liver) and processed meats (like hot dogs and some luncheon meats) raises your colorectal cancer risk.

Cooking meats at very high temperatures (frying, broiling, or grilling) creates chemicals that might raise your cancer risk. It's not clear how much this might increase your colorectal cancer risk.

Having A Low Blood Level Of Vitamin D May Also Increase Your Risk.

Following a healthy eating pattern that includes plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and that limits or avoids red and processed meats and sugary drinks probably lowers risk.

Smoking

People who have smoked tobacco for a long time are more likely than people who don't smoke to develop and die from colorectal cancer. Smoking is a well-known cause of lung cancer, but it's linked to a lot of other cancers, too. If you smoke and want to know more about quitting, see our Guide to Quitting Smoking.

Alcohol Use

Colorectal cancer has been linked to moderate to heavy alcohol use. Even light-to-moderate alcohol intake has been associated with some risk. It is best not to drink alcohol. If people do drink alcohol, they should have no more than 2 drinks a day for men and 1 drink a day for women. This could have many health benefits, including a lower risk of many kinds of cancer.

There's no sure way to prevent colorectal cancer. But there are things you can do that might help lower your risk, such as changing the risk factors that you can control.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

Screening is the process of looking for cancer or pre-cancer in people who have no symptoms of the disease. Regular colorectal cancer screening is one of the most powerful tools for preventing colorectal cancer.

From the time the first abnormal cells start to grow into polyps, it usually takes about 10 to 15 years for them to develop into colorectal cancer. With regular screening, most polyps can be found and removed before they have the chance to turn into cancer. Screening can also find colorectal cancer early, when it's small and easier to treat.

- American Cancer Society Facts





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Caribbean Food Sector Likely To Be Impacted By Russia War

Caribbean economists and leaders are reflecting on how conflict in the breadbasket of Europe will affect an import dependent region that is still reeling from the financial impacts of COVID-19, amidst supply chain disruptions, hikes in oil and commodity prices, rising shipping costs and limited availability of vessels and containers.

With Russia, the second-largest exporter of crude oil and the world's largest natural gas exporter being cut off from global markets, economists predict that oil prices per barrel could easily hit the \$120s. Former Managing Director of the World Bank, Juan José Daboub, has suggested that

most Caribbean governments may need to increase national budgets by at least 20% this year, to adjust for prior assumptions.

"Freight costs are related to fuel prices (marine gas oil and fuel oil) and fuel prices are obviously linked to oil prices. This all means higher prices for food," says Kevin Ramnarine, Trinidad & Tobago's former Minister of Energy.

Since 2020, Covid-19 related supply chain issues and



The Caribbean could be a major food exporter, but 19 percent of its own food and agricultural goods are imported.

supply-side deficits have exerted inflationary pressures on the price of food in the Caribbean. The Food and Agriculture Organization's Food Price Index (FFPI), a measure of the monthly change in international

prices of a basket of food commodities, reveals that before the war, global food prices were already at a ten year high.

"Markets are rather spooked by the prospect of war," says Barbadian economist, Jeremy Stephen. "You are going to see a general trend upwards [in the price of oil] which further compounds the current issue of logistics globally that has affected food security within the region. Everything is day by day now, as this conflict has been brewing for some time and there has been no will towards stopping it. It depends on the probability of escalation or de-escalation and that is up in the air as we speak today. Food security in the region is going to

be rather contrived, particularly for the remainder of 2022 if there are no efforts to deescalate rapidly."

With an annual average of 19 percent of all imports to the 15-member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), consisting of food and agricultural goods in the amount of more than \$5 billion each year, which is typically covered by tourism-generated foreign reserves, Caribbean food security is deeply threatened by any major disruption that impacts the region.

- *Rewritten from Forbes*



An Easy Lenten Recipe With African Roots – Mogo Mogo

It's the Lenten season and many are observing a no-meat season on Wednesdays and Fridays. Here's a recipe that's different and easy to help those committed Catholics keep this Lent and still celebrate the foodie in all. The African root in Latin America is also dominant in many recipes in the region. In Mexico, one of those recipes with clear African roots is Mogo Mogo which also comes from fufu. Here is a recipe for Mogo Mogo from Mely Martinez of Mexico In My Kitchen.



Mogo Mogo

Ingredients

- 3 Plantains ripened (With some black spots)*
- 4 Tablespoons of butter
- ¾ cup Mexican cream
- Salt to taste

Instructions

Cut the tips off the plantains and place in a large pot. Cover with cold water and turn heat to medium-high.

Bring to a boil and then turn down to simmer until they are cooked. Depending on how ripened the plantains are, they will take between 10 to 15 minutes. They have to be soft to the touch and the skin will start to split into some of their sides. Remove from pot, drain excess

water and let cool until you are able to handle them. Remove their peels.

Place plantains in a frying pan and, with the help of a bean or potato masher, mash to form a puree.

Now, turn the heat to medium-high and add the butter. Stir well, allowing it to melt, then stir in the cream and season with salt.

Usually, the texture is more like a paste than a soft puree, but you can add more cream or butter if that is your choice. Once everything has been well mixed and warmed, it is ready to be served.

Bon Appetite

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



Easter Celebration Planning 101

Have Easter guests jumping for joy by planning a celebration that is not only memorable and joyful, but affordable too!

To ease the stress of organizing the holiday event, the experts at Dollar General are offering these egg-citing ideas for activities, recipes and basket essentials that are convenient and budget-friendly.

Hoppin' Activities

While the egg hunt is a classic Easter hit, consider activities before the hunt to keep guests entertained and in a festive mood. Start the celebration with crafts, such as egg dyeing and decorating. By purchasing eggs, food coloring and paint, each guest can get creative with their egg. Next, host competitions of egg minute-to-win-it games, like an egg toss and an egg and spoon race. Fill plastic eggs with small prizes, such as candy, self-care items, beauty products or gift cards, and see who can collect the most eggs. These activities are sure to have no-bunny leave without something special.

Treats for Your Peeps

After guests work up an appetite from the activities, present an array of healthier and inexpensive dishes. Easter is a great time to try new spring recipes. Begin with a main course like Shrimp & Scallop Skewers or Salmon Patties from Dollar General's collection of



Better-For-You recipes found at dollargeneral.com, where all ingredients can be found at any DG store. Pair these entrées with light, refreshing and healthier side dishes, such as Veggie-Packed German Potato Salad or Skinny Pasta Toss. Finally, treat guests to candy or homemade bunny cupcakes, which can also be a fun activity for kids.

Egg-cellent Easter Baskets

For a basket full of fun goodies, include a wide range of foods, toys and games, and self-care products. Be sure to pick up bunny-themed chocolates, assorted candies or make homemade baked goods. For a fun surprise for children, consider putting in a couple affordable toys and games that

won't break the bank. Finish off the basket with self-care products such as face masks, a new toothbrush and toothpaste, beauty products, colognes and more. And for the person who has everything, consider gift cards so they can personalize their Easter presents.

Smart shopping strategies can help you plan a fun and festive Easter celebration that's also budget friendly. With games, crafts and activities, delicious food and delightful gifts, you can get everyone talking about the spring's celebration, and save time and money in the process.

- *StatePoint*



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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

New Caribbean Travel Protocols You Should Know

Several Caribbean islands are updating their COVID-19 travel protocols as the pandemic lessens. So, if you are planning to travel soon or booking a Spring vacation, here's what you should know:

St. Lucia

Saint Lucia has updated its travel protocols, creating what the island is calling "Seamless Saint Lucia."

The changes, which became effective on March 5th, mandates that fully vaccinated travelers and in-transit passengers aged 5 and up must show proof of a negative antigen or rapid PCR test within one day of travel.

Travelers can also provide a negative RT-PCR test taken up to five days prior to arrival.

All unvaccinated travelers must present a negative RT-PCR test, taken up to five days before entering Saint Lucia.

All travelers, regardless of vaccination status, must register their information and test results on the island's website at stlucia.org/en/covid-19/.

Barbados

The island of Barbados has given travelers more options - including the acceptance of rapid antigen tests for entry.

Visitors can use either a negative rapid antigen test result taken no more than one day prior to arrival in Barbados, or a negative PCR test taken and received within three days prior to arrival.

Barbados also announced some changes to the airport experience at Grantley Adams International; that includes allowing travelers once again to use the "more spacious" main arrivals hall, instead of the provisional Gate 14-16 arrivals hall that had been set up to



Saint Lucia is among several Caribbean islands updating its COVID-19 travel protocols.

manage port health entry checks and testing amid the pandemic.

Most notably, particularly for those heading to destinations like the Grenadines, travelers who are merely transiting through Barbados will not be required to test in order to do so.

Sint Maarten

As of March 1st, Sint Maarten updated its travel protocols. The centerpiece of the update will see testing waived for all fully vaccinated travelers.

St Maarten will also waive pre-testing for anyone who has recovered from Covid in the last nine months. Unvaccinated travelers must, however, still provide a PCR test taken within 48 hours before arrival or an antigen test taken within 24 hours before arrival.

All travelers will still have to fill out a health pre-authorization form within 72 hours before arrival at <https://stmaartenehas.com/>.

The destination said it was also planning to begin a "phased transition" to move

from pandemic protocols to "endemic" strategies.

Dominica

All travelers to Dominica are required to complete a health questionnaire online

before arrival in Dominica at <http://domcovid19.dominica.gov.dm>. They must also upload a negative PCR test result from a swab taken within 72 hours prior to arrival or upload a pre-arrival negative Rapid Antigen Test result from a swab taken within 48 hours prior to expected arrival time into Dominica.

Prior to boarding airlines or other travel carriers, travelers must also present a Negative PCR test result or a Negative Rapid Antigen Test result.

Upon arrival in Dominica, fully vaccinated travelers shall be medically cleared after documents have been validated. For un-vaccinated travelers, the protocols for disembarkation remain unchanged. Therefore, un-vaccinated travelers shall take a Rapid Antigen test and proceed to a Safe in Nature certified property for at least 5 days.

Bahamas

The Government of The Bahamas has relaxed on-island testing protocols for all travelers, replacing the previously required 48-hour test. All persons, both vaccinated or unvaccinated, visiting for five days or longer, must now obtain a negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test on the fifth day. Before booking, travelers should visit Bahamas.com/travelupdates to stay up to date on the latest travel information.

Jamaica

Jamaica now no longer requires visitors to complete a travel authorization form. All travelers to the island aged 12 and up will, however, still have to show proof of a negative antigen or PCR test taken and received within 72 hours before they check in at their departure airport.

- *CaribJournal.com contributed to this story*



Bahamas Makes History



The Lynden Pindling International Airport in Nassau has made history.

The Bahamas has made history as it becomes the first Caribbean nation with an international airport where travelers will have access to US TSA PreCheck.

The US program lets eligible low-risk travelers enjoy expedited security screening at airports. It recently officially debuted at Lynden Pindling

International Airport in Nassau, The Bahamas.

The PreCheck program joins existing US Customs and Border Protection Preclearance at Nassau's Airport, where travelers can go through customs before they get on their plane back to the United States.

"This is a big deal for our country and our friendship and partnership with the USA. This is the first of its kind anywhere outside of the USA. We can now boast of sun, sand, sea, warmth of our people and TSA PreCheck," said Bahamas Tourism Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Chester Cooper.

- *Rewritten from CaribJournal.com*



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These Airlines Have Expanded Their Caribbean Routes

Several airlines are adding routes to the Caribbean.

American Airlines has launched a new route to the Caribbean's most popular tourism destination, the Dominican Republic. Last weekend, the world's largest airline kicked off its first-ever route from Miami and Samaná.

Samaná, set on a peninsula in the northeast of the country, has been one of the fastest-growing tourism hotspots in the wider country in recent years.

American had been previously serving Samana from its Charlotte hub. Now, that route has been shifted to Miami, with service on Wednesdays and

Saturdays. The flight takes just under 2.5 hours, according to the carrier.

Meanwhile, Frontier Airlines has kicked off new nonstop flights from Miami to Kingston, Jamaica, a big boost for one of the fastest-growing urban destinations in the wider region.

The new service will kick off on May 5th, marking the company's first-ever flights to the Jamaican capital.

The flights will operate year-round, with service three times per week.

And Spirit Airlines has launched another new route to Puerto Rico, this time to

the island's "Second City."

The airline has kicked off nonstop service between Orlando and Ponce, another boost for a city that continues to grow as both a tourism and investment destination.

The new service is operating daily between Orlando International Airport and Ponce's Mercedita International Airport. Ponce becomes the newest destination in Puerto Rico for Spirit, joining San Juan and Aguadilla.

- *Rewritten from CaribJournal.com*



Black Supreme Court Nominee Finds Inspiration In Black Caribbean American Justice

Judge Constance Baker Motley, the daughter of black Caribbean immigrants from Nevis in the West Indies, could undoubtedly have been a US Supreme Court Justice had she lived.

But her legacy is living on through the appointment of the US' first black Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, whose life has been inspired by Mottley.

Judge Brown Jackson accepted the nomination from President Joe Biden and spoke about a woman that not only inspired her legal career, but extraordinarily shared her birthday as she gave tribute to Judge Constance Baker Motley.

"Today, I proudly stand on Judge Motley's shoulders sharing not only her birthday but also her steadfast and courageous commitment to equal justice under the law," Jackson said during the formal White House announcement of her nomination.

Motley was born on September 14 in 1921 in New Haven, Connecticut, the ninth of 12 children born to Caribbean immigrant parents. Brown Jackson was born on September 14 in 1970.

Mottley's mother was a community activist and founded the New Haven NAACP. She graduated from New York University in 1943 and after earning her law degree from



US Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson says she is inspired by late Caribbean American judge Constance Baker Mottley.

Columbia University in 1946, she became the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund's (LDF) first female attorney.

Motley became renowned as a chief courtroom strategist of the civil rights movement. She wrote the original complaint in Brown v. Board of Education with Thurgood Marshall and served with him at the LDF as a legal advocate for civil rights for over two decades.

In addition, Motley pioneered the legal campaigns for several seminal school desegregation cases, defended Martin Luther King, Jr.'s right to march in Albany, Georgia and did litigation that ended

segregation in Memphis restaurants and whites-only lunch counters in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brown Jackson was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Miami, Florida. She attended Harvard University for college and law school, where she served as an editor on the Harvard Law Review. She began her legal

career with three clerkships, including one with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer. Prior to her elevation to an appellate court, from 2013 to 2021, she served as a district judge for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Jackson was also vice chair of the United States Sentencing Commission from 2010 to 2014. Since 2016, she has been a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers.

Motley was a woman of many firsts. She was the first Black woman to argue before the Supreme Court and went on to win nine out of ten cases. She was the first Black woman to serve in the New York State Senate, the first Black woman in history to serve as a federal judge. In 1965, she became first woman and first African American to be the Manhattan

Borough President.

And from 1986, served on the bench with distinction for nearly two decades. Constance Baker Motley passed away at the age of 84 on September 28, 2005.

Brown Jackson is the first black woman to be nominated to the Supreme Court. On February 28, 2022, her nomination was sent to the Senate. Her nomination is pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



DIANA FUNG was born on Oct 31, 1952 in Jamaica and passed away in McDonough, Georgia on Jan 12, 2022. Memorial service was held on Feb 12, 2022 at Caballero Rivero Woodlawn Funeral Home in Miami Florida.

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No Busting Of Sanctions Against Russia

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

government's attempt to seize control of their country. Nothing could justify such brutal and cowardly behavior.

In standing up for an immediate end to the unjustified violence and slaughter in Ukraine, and for the sanctions that have been imposed on Russia, the 141 countries that voted at the UN, and the 25 that voted at the OAS, including all CARICOM states, were also standing up for the protection of themselves from the tyranny of more militarily powerful countries. They were standing up for human values of the right to life and the right to live in peace within secure borders.

In every society, there are those who seek to gain from misfortune and misery. Sadly, there is already some speculation in the Caribbean that governments should allow private companies to profit from busting sanctions against Russia by accommodating, for instance, the yachts of the Russian Oligarchs who have become billionaires through their cozy relationships with the Russian government.

Still, others complain about the higher prices that they will have to pay for commodities, such as oil and its related uses.

But such persons should be reminded that freedom and the protection of human life and dignity comes by defending what is right and by some sacrifice.

Higher prices will have to be paid for a time, but it is worth the freedom and rights that all humanity deserves. To see the sacrifice for rights and freedom, we need look no further than the courage of the Ukrainian people – men, women, and children – who are confronting Russian military tanks and weaponry with nothing in their hands but the flag of their besieged nation.

In the Caribbean, we should remind those, who advocate sanction busting for short-term gain, of the biblical admonition: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sir Ronald Sanders is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organisation of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto.

- CMC



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HIT & RUN FATALITY

VICTIM/PEDESTRIAN
Rupert Webley
B/M, 68 years old

On **Sunday, May 2, 2021, at approximately 9:25 p.m.**, the above-pictured victim/pedestrian began crossing at **SW 184 Street and SW 112 Avenue, Miami, Florida**, when the subject vehicle, a Hyundai silver in color, struck and killed him. The driver of the subject vehicle fled the scene without rendering aid and/or reporting the crash.

SUBJECT VEHICLE DESCRIPTION: HYUNDAI SILVER IN COLOR. NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

Anyone with information on the above **HIT & RUN FATALITY**, the whereabouts of the subject vehicle and/or its driver is requested to contact Miami-Dade Police Department Traffic Homicide Detective J. Childers at (305) 471-2425. If you wish to remain anonymous, then contact Miami-Dade County Crime Stoppers at the following:

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ISSUE DATE: 5/11/2021 RN SUPERVISOR: Sgt. Francisco Armendariz MBPD C/N PD210502138114

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SPRING CARGO



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Caribbean Airlines Cargo Expands Its Reach

Notwithstanding the challenges presented by the pandemic, over the last two years, Caribbean Airline's cargo business has expanded exponentially, owing to the efforts of its hardworking team members, strategic partnerships and investment in technology to improve efficiency and enhance the customer experience.

This upward trajectory and consistent growth prompted the carrier to bolster its weekly freighter volume by 400,000 pounds in 2021. In May of the same year, Caribbean Airlines Cargo introduced additional Boeing 767 freighter flights augmenting capacity between Miami and Trinidad as well as Miami and Kingston. Growth has been recorded on all freighter destinations which also includes Guyana and Barbados.

The airline also resumed cargo services in the belly hold of its Boeing 737 and ATR passenger aircraft in July 2021, following the reopening of borders at its base in Trinidad and Tobago. Now, customers can transport cargo to more destinations including Antigua, Grenada, Nassau, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Vincent and the newest addition, Dominica.

Technology continues to play a critical role in bolstering the carrier's cargo business. Through partnerships with



Caribbean Airlines Cargo's fleet comprises of ATR72-600 aircraft, Boeing 737-NGs and 737-8 jets and 767 freighters.

digital solution providers, the airline is working towards improving its processes, offering a more tailored and streamlined approach to customer's shipping requirements, accessing additional distribution channels, leveraging sales and much more.

For 2022, Caribbean Airlines is on a mission to reset expectations. This means that its customers and valued stakeholders can look forward to even more value-added products and services to serve and satisfy everyone's shipping needs.

Caribbean Airlines Cargo has expanded its reach to better

serve its customers and may just be the ideal answer to your shipping needs.

The airline provides air cargo services connecting North America, Europe, Asia and scores of destinations worldwide to the Caribbean, making shipping easier, affordable and more convenient.

Caribbean Airlines Cargo's fleet comprises of ATR72-600 aircraft, Boeing 737-NGs and 737-8 jets and 767 freighters. The airline's freighters have a capacity of up to 120,000 pounds per flight.



USGC To Caribbean Clean Freight Hits 2022 High

Clean freight rate loading on the US Gulf Coast to the Caribbean has already reached the highest level in 2022, as traders rushed to fill a high-demand spot market after waiting out a tricky February month roll that favoured short-haul trips to ballast ships back to the Gulf Coast quickly for fresh cargo.

Freight rates loading on the USGC en route to the Caribbean for Medium Range tankers rose \$75,000 Feb. 25th to a lump sum of \$800,000, up roughly 22% from the start of 2022.

At least 10 product cargoes were fixed throughout the last week of February from the Gulf Coast to the Caribbean: The Aquasmeralda for Trafigura, Velebit and Eurosailor for Marathon, Essie C for Valero, Agioi Fanendes for Chevron, Stena Impulse for ST, and Alpine Link and another ship to be nominated for Exxon, sources told S&P Global Platts. The Bastille Street and UACC Ras Laffan were also fixed, with the charter not reported.

"Bunkers are moving higher, folks are looking for longer haul runs right now, so they are going to have to price in an incentive," said a shipowner to S&P Global Platts, emphasizing the need for quick trips to ballast tankers back to the USGC.

A Latin America products trader said that the availability of

ships coincided with a changing market structure and high demand from countries, such as Jamaica and Colombia, which usually exports diesel but had to import due to refinery issues.

"The issue here was the massive backwardation in the market. We all waited until end-February ... to load cargoes," he said. "All the Caribbean is dry. We all had positions trying to clean inventories and avoid the roll, so everyone and their aunt was loading cargoes. Besides, Colombia brought more in for March due to refinery issues."

Tonnage was noticeably tight for mid-February dates for prompt Medium Range tankers, with roughly three to five ships available Feb. 17 for immediate load out of the US Gulf Coast. More availability picked up later, with nine to 11 ships available to load in the prompt window for Feb. 22.

The Latin America product market was shifting from the tender process to the fixing process. Traders said during the week that tender markets finally hit a lull, with global tensions adding to reduced seasonal demand, the passing of a major wave of tenders, and rising prices for cost-sensitive consumers in the region.

- S&P Global Platts





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This Shipping Company Is Shifting Operations From Backlogged California To Jacksonville

Sea-Lead, a privately owned global shipping line, headquartered in Singapore, with a presence in 18 countries, will be moving part of their operations from California to JAXPORT in Jacksonville, Florida.

Governor Ron DeSantis, in making the announcement on March 4th, said Sea-Lead is moving in order to bypass heavy congestion at the Port of Long Beach. This will be the first U.S. East Coast container service for the company and JAXPORT will serve as the last port of call on Sea-Lead's Asia East Coast rotation, connecting Jacksonville to 4 locations in Asia.

"In October, in the midst of severe supply chain disruptions we made a public effort to get companies to bring more cargo to Florida ports, and we have seen great results," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Florida's continued investment in our seaports and transportation infrastructure make this exciting announcement possible. We will continue to make infrastructure investments that keep our supply chain moving and make sure that

Florida has a strong workforce ready to support these businesses moving to our state."

"This new service, and the jobs and economic impact it brings to Jacksonville, is a direct result of the dedication and foresight of our elected officials who have invested in a deeper channel and infrastructure upgrades to enable JAXPORT to serve a wider variety of vessels," said JAXPORT CEO Eric Green. "We are grateful to Sea-Lead for choosing Jacksonville as a port of call on their first US East Coast service and look forward to putting our city's efficiencies and strong transportation network to work for their customers throughout the Southeast."

Sea-Lead has been in communication with SSA Marine, the terminal operator at JAXPORT, and will call JAXPORT's Blount Island Terminal every two weeks, beginning in May 2022. Sea-Lead's move to JAXPORT can be attributed to berth availability, strong labor force available in Jacksonville, and strong infrastructure connecting freight to consumers. JAXPORT



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on March 4, 2022 at Jacksonville Port Authority in Jacksonville as he announced that Sea Lead Shipping Pte. Ltd. would be joining operations at Jaxport. (Corey Perrine/Florida Times Union image)

has same-day truck access to 98 million US consumers. Sea-Lead's new service is initially expected to bring 400-500 loaded containers to be discharged at JAXPORT and will bring in \$400,000 in new revenue.

Since 2019, Florida has invested nearly \$1 billion into its seaports to ensure that they have

the capacity to serve as much cargo as possible. The state has also prioritized infrastructure investments in roadways to

ensure capability of handling freight movements.

Port Miami recorded its busiest cargo year in its history, up almost 18% over last year with most of the additional cargo attributed to imports coming from Asia which would normally go into California.

Port Tampa container tonnage increased by 14% in the first quarter of 2022, with huge jumps in building material specifically. Steel is up 122% and lumber is up 160%.

Port Everglades saw 11% growth year over year, and they are up more than 25% year to date.

At Port Manatee, the first quarter of 2022 showed a 15% increase in short tons. Wood products which normally go into California have been coming to Port Manatee instead.



Miami Airport Shatters Freight Record

Miami International Airport handled 2.7 million tons of freight in 2021, shattering its previous record of 2.3 million tons in 2020 by 17 percent, for its second consecutive year of growth.

International freight grew by 17 percent to 2.2 million tons, while domestic freight rose 15 percent to 500,000 tons as MIA continues to rank as the busiest airport in the U.S. and ninth busiest in the world for international freight.

"I am thrilled to see MIA have another record-breaking year in freight shipments and expand on its role as the cargo gateway of the Americas, further increasing the transportation of essential goods and life-saving supplies across the world," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. "This is yet another example of how Miami-Dade County is ready to increase its capacity exponentially and help alleviate the supply chain crisis nationwide."

MIA's sustained and robust upward trend in cargo volume spurred two major facility expansions that were completed in 2021. In November 2021, DHL Express completed a \$78-million renovation and



Miami Airport is shattering its freight record.

expansion of its MIA hub.

The investment, which includes a state-of-the-art, fully automated package sorting system, nearly doubled the facility's sorting capacity and warehouse space to 206,000 square feet. To accommodate its growth, DHL Express also expanded its workforce by 70 percent in 2021 to 731 employees at the new facility.

In December, FedEx Express completed a \$72.2-million, 138,000 square-foot expansion of its hub at MIA, doubling its total facility size to more than 282,000 square feet. The enhancements include a new customs clearance area and a new 70,000 square-

foot cold chain facility, the largest in the FedEx global network. The expansion created hundreds of new jobs at the hub for the busy winter holiday shipping season.

"Thanks to the growth and success of our diverse and extensive cargo community in 2021, MIA continued to strengthen its position among the world's leading cargo airports," said Ralph Cutié, MIA Director and CEO. "Congratulations to all our cargo partners for helping MIA soar to another record year and for supporting our ongoing recovery from the pandemic."



Russia-Owned SCF Oil Tanker Now In The Bahamas

The Liberia-flagged oil tanker SCF Neva changed course from Canada on March 3rd and today landed in the Bahamas, in the Caribbean, vessel data show.

The vessel was carrying bunker fuel for Canada's Irving Oil, the company said. It loaded in mid-February in Colombia and made a stop at a storage terminal in St. Eustatius in the Caribbean, according to Refinitiv Eikon tanker tracking data.

Irving Oil, which owns the 320,000-barrel-per-day Saint John refinery, confirmed the SCF Neva had been scheduled to arrive at its New Brunswick facility.

As countries impose formal and informal restrictions on Russian vessels, many might be also rerouted to Asia, officials say.

Russian-flagged ships represent a very small percentage of U.S. traffic but barring Russian cargo from the United States would have a dramatically larger impact. It was not clear if the administration is seriously considering that more drastic step.

- *Rewritten from Reuters*



How to avoid spinning your wheels when shopping for a used car

Used cars have gotten more expensive during the pandemic. It pays to do some work upfront, so you'll feel better driving out. In fact, start by researching the price of cars you're interested in. Then, before you shop for the car, shop for financing. Check with banks, credit unions, and finance companies — you don't have to finance a car through the dealer.

When you think you've found the car you want:

- **Call the dealer.** Make sure the car is really on the lot and get the out-the-door price in writing, before you head to the dealership.
- **Get a vehicle history report and check the Buyer's Guide.** The report will tell you that car's history, and the Guide will tell you if has a warranty or is being sold "as is."
- **Discuss the out-the-door price first if you want to talk financing with the dealer.** That means the total price, before financing, including taxes and fees.
- **It's ok to say no to add-ons, or at least ask the price.** Add-ons are extra things dealers offer along with the car, like extended warranties and service contracts. Make sure you know what they are, how much they cost, and how they'll change your monthly payment.
- **Review the terms before you sign for the purchase and financing.** Make sure everything you agreed to is in writing. Spoken promises are hard to enforce.

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS



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Ann McNeill - The Master Builder

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

It started way back, in 1979. To be exact, at 9 p.m. on December 31, New Year's Eve.

Ann McNeill decided to stay home while her husband and friends went out to ring in the new year. She picked up the book *Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill, started reading, and her life changed forever.

Today, more than 40 years later, McNeill is the founder/owner of five businesses including MCO Construction and Services, a Florida-based full-service construction management company recognised as outstanding in its field and paving the way for others.

"I'm the first black female contractor in our state operating at the level that I do, focusing on billion-dollar programs," said McNeill in a conversation with Caribbean Today.

Indeed, McNeill and MCO Construction, with 80 percent of its staff being of Caribbean heritage, has been an integral partner to some of the largest

construction contractors in the region providing services on major projects including the American Airlines Arena, CONRAC – Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Scripps Research Institute, Marlins Ballpark Parking Garage to name a few.

But how did it all begin?

Aha Moment

A young African American mother and wife in 1979 and deeply in debt, McNeill learned the keys to riches and was faced with hard questions from reading Hill's book. She took it to heart, implemented those lessons and began building wealth.

"The first question he asked was, how much money do you want? I never thought about that. Nobody ever asked me how much money do you want? The second question was, what are you going to do to get the money? I had a good corporate job, I thought I was doing okay. Married with one child, with a picket fence and house."

Looking hard at the family finances, she decided to work



Known as the Master Wealth Builder, Ann McNeill says her desire is to not just to build buildings, but to build lives and community.

on the debt. Her next move was to bring like minds together as suggested by Hill. She formed a Mastermind group focusing on growth, investing, and positive mindset. Then the 'aha' moment happened.

McNeill and her husband were doing repairs on their home and had the opportunity to purchase the house across the street, which also needed extensive repairs. Combing through library books for construction tips to do the repairs themselves, they realized how much they could save, and learned how much construction workers actually earn.

"So I said I'm gonna' go to trade school. My husband started laughing. But I ended up working on my masters degree, my family,

a job, and I went to our local trade school," said McNeill with pride.

Exponential Potential

She later took a leave of absence from her corporate job to work with one of the largest construction companies in the United States in order to learn the trade, noting that she had to surround herself with the people equipped with what she wanted to do.

Then, as her business grew McNeill saw the exponential potential of what she could offer. She grew from small contractor to general contractor to construction manager to program manager encompassing all aspects of the industry. Headquartered in Miami, MCO Construction Services offers expertise in engineering, research, accounting, management working with partner companies in building public and private projects.

The inspirational catalyst that began in 1979 led McNeill to go beyond constructing buildings to management to investing to empowerment coaching. Known as the Master Wealth Builder, McNeill is helping women forge ahead, not just in the construction industry, but in wealth, mind, and spirit.

When she founded the National Association of Black Women in Construction it's vision was to help women succeed

in the construction industry through innovative solutions and partnerships. But the association has become much more than an industry-focused entity; it is based on the principles of mastering success in all aspects of life.

"My desire is to not just to build buildings but to build Lives, to build community... You have to have a larger vision of yourself and a larger dream and self-confidence. For American blacks unlike any other black people in the world, we have been so programmed to think we can do nothing. Our dreams have been stolen from slavery. Our bodies are free, but sometimes our minds are still enslaved. And so, the whole idea of self-worth and confidence is to know that in spite of everything I can do this. I have a responsibility to teach"

In fact, in her 40+ years of business the Master Builder has trained more than 100 interns in the business of building and the entrepreneurial mindset. Everything starts with how we think, she proclaimed.

"The future is so bright," said McNeill. But it's going to mean absolutely nothing if we don't have a desire for better quality of life and be willing to work for it, be willing to do the inner work, work on yourself. that's where it starts."



This Jamaican Immigrant Woman Is The Provost At Miami Dade College

One of the executives and black influential women in education in Florida is none other than Jamaican immigrant Dr. Malou C. Harrison.

Dr. Harrison is the Executive Vice President and Provost at Miami Dade College, and a respected leader with more than 35 years of transformative leadership championing the cause of underserved students in public higher education.

She has been a part of MDC's family for over three decades serving in various capacities, including president of multiple campuses and Dean of Students.

Throughout her tenure, she has led the establishment of many high impact partnership initiatives at the College that have furthered equity, academic excellence and student success.

Dr Harrison was recently selected among Florida's most impactful and influential Black women by ONYX Magazine, the premier publication celebrating Black achievement throughout the Sunshine State.

She will be recognized at the 7th Annual Women on the Move, (WOTM), event, which honors trailblazing Black women during Women's History Month on Friday, March 18, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Alford Inn in Winter Park, Fla.

"I am humbled and honored to be recognized alongside this stellar group of Florida women," Dr. Harrison said. "I'm grateful to Onyx Magazine, and I look forward with great enthusiasm to exploring possibilities for meaningful collaborations with fellow honorees."

Dr. Harrison has been at the helm of resource development that has garnered substantial funding from a combination of private sources as well as public funders such as the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education. She is the author of two Book Chapters: "Community Colleges: Fertile Ground for Black Male Student Success" in the book titled "Engaging African Males in Community College (Contemporary perspectives on Access, Equity, and Achievement); and "Toward Equity: The Immigrant Experience at Miami Dade College" in the book titled, "Working Toward an Equitable and Prosperous Future for All: How Community Colleges and Immigrants are Changing America".

Dr. Harrison serves on several boards, including the National Advisory Board of the Community College Consortium on Immigrant Education; Board



Jamaican immigrant Dr. Malou Harrison is the Executive Vice President and Provost at Miami Dade College.

of Directors of Thriving Mind of South Florida; Board of Directors of Centro Campesino; and the Board of Directors of the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League.

She has been recognized with the Florida College System's Cameron Hall Practitioner Award for student advocacy and humanitarianism; Educate Tomorrow Founders' Award for leadership in foster youth student achievement; Miami Dade County's In the Company of Women Award for Education; the Nigerian American Foundation Educator Leadership Award, and the Jamaican Consulate General Community Leader Award.



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Can West Indies Women Repeat Their Winning Performance?

The West Indies women's cricket team's shocking win in the opener of the ICC Women's World Cup at Bay Oval on March 4, 2022, has fans now hoping for a repeat this week.

The Windies women face a difficult opening fixture list with reigning champions England next up on Wednesday, March 9th, followed by India three days later on March 12th, and then a clash with Australia on March 15th.

The top four teams following the seven-match group stage will advance to the semi-finals, a stage West Indies have not reached since featuring in the final of the 2013 showpiece.

The West Indies women's cricket team defeated their New Zealand counterparts by three runs in the opening game of the ICC Women's World Cup at Bay Oval on March 4, 2022, during the Round 1 Women's Cricket World Cup match.

The Windies women scored 259 off 50 overs with Hayley Matthews being the main contributor with her knock of



Members of the West Indies Cricket Team celebrating their opening win over New Zealand on March 4, 2022. (Getty Image)

119. She then bagged 2 Kiwi wickets for just 41 runs.

Matthews said after that she believes the West Indies' shock win in the opener released some of the pressure on the Caribbean side.

Expectations surrounding West Indies for the rest of the tournament is now high.

"It's massive. I keep saying we've obviously come into this tournament a bit as underdogs playing under the radar and yeah, I think that's really good for us," said Matthews, whose Player-of-the-Match 119 formed the basis for West Indies' win.

- Rewritten from CMC and NewsAmericasnow.com



Wisden Trophy Gives Way To The Richards-Botham Trophy

The Wisden Trophy is now the Richards-Botham Trophy.

The new trophy is named after cricket legends Sir Vivian Richards and Ian Botham. The Wisden Trophy served as the symbol of competition between the West Indies and England for the last six decades until being retired following the 2020 series in England.

Both Sir Viv and Botham hailed the unveiling of the new Trophy, ahead of the three-Test series between West Indies and England.

"It's a truly special feeling to have the fantastic trophy named in honor of my friend Ian and myself," Sir Viv said. "We played a lot together and built a great friendship on and off the cricket field. As I said earlier, I am truly delighted to know that the game that I have shown my love for is naming such a prestigious award in recognition of what I managed to achieve."

Botham, perhaps England's greatest ever all-rounder, said: "It's a great idea and a truly lovely trophy. It really stands out and I'm honored to have my name on the trophy alongside my friend Sir Viv. The captain who picks up the trophy at the end of the upcoming series will be a happy man."



Sir Vivian Richards (left) and Ian Botham pose with the new Richards-Botham Trophy. (CMC Image)

West Indies faced England in the opening Test at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on March 7th, with the second carded for Kensington Oval in Barbados from March 16-20.

The series will climax with the third Test at Grenada's National Stadium from March 24-28.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite, who took over the leadership of the Test side last year, said the new trophy made the series "extra special."

Brathwaite's opposite number Joe Root, who presided over England's 2-1 series defeat on the last tour here three years ago, said his side were also pumped over the series.

"Test series between England and West Indies are iconic, and to have a trophy named after arguably the two most outstanding England and West Indies cricketers of all-time in Lord Ian Botham and Sir Vivian Richards is a fitting tribute for this great rivalry," Root said. "We are enthused about the next month of competition, and we hope to make the England fans proud by lifting the Richards-Botham trophy."

- CMC



The Penn Relays Are Back

After being shut down for two years, the Penn Relays are back. This year's relays, the 126th, return to Franklin Field on the University of Pennsylvania campus from April 28-30th.

The Penn Relays is the oldest and largest track competition held annually - before the pandemic - in the United States. It attracts more than 110,000 spectators and 15,000 competitors each spring.

The 126th running of the Penn Relays in April will feature the addition of an elite-level Olympic development program as well as athletes from Jamaica, competing at the high school and college level. The Olympic Development program will be spread throughout the Friday and Saturday schedule, with a concentrated Friday evening session.



Jamaican High Schoolers are set to compete again at Penn 2022. (Hayden Roger Celestine/NewsAmericasNow.com)

Tickets start at USD\$25 and you can book at see more details at pennrelays.com.

Meanwhile, Jamaican American organization, Team Jamaica Bickle, is also returning to serve Caribbean athletes who will be participating in the relays this year. The organization, founded and headed by Irwine Clare, Sr., OD, is in full fundraising mode, with a fundraiser set for April 24th at the Crest Hollow Country Club

in Westbury, NY from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$150 and you can buy tickets on Event Brite by searching Team Jamaica Bickle.

Jamaican athletes have been included in the Penn Relays since 1964 and they're among the fiercest competitors. For example, in 2019, Jamaican women won two relays: the 4x100 and the 4x400.

If the performance at the recent Gibson Relays was any indication, then Edwin Allen girls in the 4x100-m are the ones to beat. They put on another show thanks in part to the Clayton sisters, who helped EA run 43.37 or 1.07 seconds faster than the US national record.

In the Boys 4x800m, Kingston College ran 7:36.21 for second and St. Jago was third with their 7:45.46 clocking, meaning they are also coming to Penn with gold in mind.



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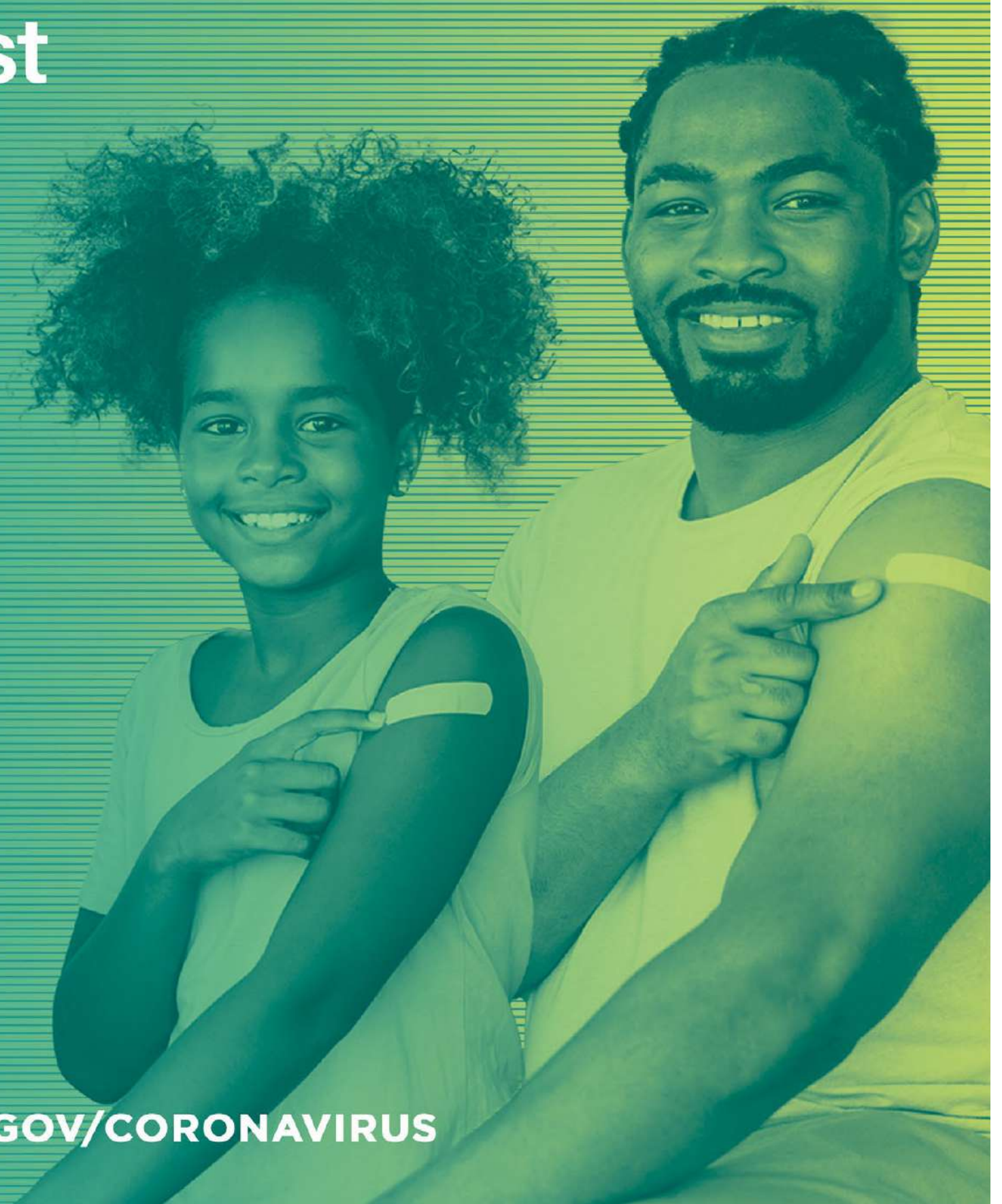
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