

Caribbean Today

APRIL 2025

CELEBRATING 36 Years

Consistently Credible~We Cover Your World

Vol. 36 No. 5

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT NO. 7315

Tel: (305) 238-2868
1-800-605-7516
editor@caribbeantoday.com
sales@caribbeantoday.com
www.caribbeantoday.com

THE MULTI-AWARD WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE WITH THE LARGEST PROVEN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA GUARANTEED



Rubio Slams China's Caribbean Influence ... Page 4



ICED Guyanese Influencer Out On Bond .. Page 5



Kartel's Back ... Page 11



SHOWDOWN

Protests, Legal Fight Escalates Over TPS Rollback For Haitians, Other Immigrants ... Page 3

New York City's Public Advocate, Caribbean American Jumaane D. Williams, protested the DHS' decision recently. (Photo: Office of the Public Advocate/X)

INSIDE

Regional News Page 2	Food News Page 13	Sports News Page 18
Feature Page 8	Spring Health Page 15	
Viewpoint Page 9	Summer Educational Tips Page 17	

READ CARIBBEAN TODAY ONLINE AT CARIBBEANTODAY.COM



REGIONAL NEWS



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

REGIONAL

The Caribbean Development Bank, (CDB), is projecting 2.5% economic growth for its 19 borrowing member countries in 2025, following 1.7% growth in 2024, (excluding Guyana).

Presenting the Regional Economic Performance and Prospects Report, CDB Director of Economics Ian Durant noted that Guyana's growth will slow to 11.9%, down from 43.5% in 2024, but will still be a major contributor to regional expansion. With Guyana included, overall regional growth is expected to reach 4.6%.

Tourism and construction will remain key economic drivers, while commodity-exporting economies are expected to gain momentum. However, Durant warned of risks, including geopolitical tensions, U.S. policy shifts, and climate change impacts.

He also noted that upcoming elections in many Caribbean nations could create fiscal pressures, potentially affecting economic reforms and investment momentum.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Twenty-four hours after being sworn in as Trinidad and Tobago eighth prime minister, Stuart Richard Young, 50, has called elections. Young announced that general elections will be held on April 28th - four months ahead of schedule.

Young, who succeeded Dr. Keith Rowley, also dissolved Parliament, with Nomination Day set for April 4. The opposition United National Congress, (UNC), led by



New Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister Stuart Richard Young SC was sworn into office by President Christine Kangaloo on March 17, 2025. (CMC Photo)

Kamla Persad Bissessar, has called Young's appointment unconstitutional and signaled possible legal action.

The People's National Movement, (PNM) and other parties, including Gary Griffith's National Transformation Party, (NTP) and Tobago's Tobago People's Party, (TPP), are gearing up for a highly competitive race.

BAHAMAS

A High Court judge in the Bahamas has set June 11th as the sentencing date for a father who was found guilty of incest over a four-year period.

The Supreme Court heard that the father engaged in unlawful sexual intercourse with his daughter between 2015 and 2019, beginning when she was just 10 years old. Now 19, the victim testified that she initially kept the abuse a secret out of fear, but by age 15, it became unbearable, leading to nightmares. In March 2021, she confided in her mother by allowing her to read a journal

detailing the abuse.

She later turned over the journal and her cellphone - which allegedly contained voice recordings of her father to the police. However, the court heard that both items were initially missing.

The sexual acts reportedly occurred in

Abaco, when the father visited her, and in Freeport, where she and her brothers' spent summers with him. The father now awaits his sentencing on June 11.

JAMAICA

Police in the southern parish of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, recently apprehended three Haitian nationals and seized over 500 pounds of marijuana during an operation in the town of Lacovia. According to authorities, the operation was launched based on intelligence, leading officers to a residence where the substantial quantity of marijuana was discovered.

The three individuals, all women, were taken into custody as investigations continue. Law enforcement officials revealed that the location is suspected to have been used as part of a broader operation involving the exchange of narcotics for firearms. The police say investigations are ongoing as they work to dismantle networks involved in transnational

criminal activity.

SAINT MARTIN

The French Caribbean territory of Saint Martin has joined the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, (OECS) Saint Martin joins Guadeloupe and Martinique as French territories now included in the OECS, which traditionally consisted of English-speaking Caribbean states. The BVI has been an associate member of the OECS since 1984.

CURACAO

In a historic political shift, the Movementu Futuro Kòrsou (MFK) party has made history by becoming the first political organization in Curaçao to secure an outright majority in parliament, winning 13 out of 21 seats in the latest general election.

The March 22nd official results confirmed the groundbreaking victory, signaling a new era in the island's political landscape - one that breaks from the long-standing tradition of coalition governments. With an absolute majority, the MFK will now be able to govern without relying on coalition partners, effectively reshaping how political power is exercised in Curaçao.

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has warned that the Caribbean faces severe economic fallout if the U.S. imposes a proposed US\$1 million port fee on Chinese-built vessels calling at American ports.

Speaking on NBC Radio, Gonsalves cautioned, "This would be one of the most severe blows to the economies of the Caribbean." The issue was discussed during a recent virtual CARICOM leaders' meeting and with the CARICOM Private Sector Organization, (CPSO).

The U.S. measure is part of efforts to curb China's dominance in maritime logistics, proposing penalties on Chinese-built ships and operators. CPSO President Dr. Patrick Antoine warned the move could drastically increase shipping costs, threatening trade for countries heavily reliant on Chinese-built vessels.

Gonsalves highlighted that regional shipping companies like Tropical Shipping, Seaboard Marine, and King Ocean have significant Chinese-built fleets. Many operate routes connected to Southern Florida ports, making them vulnerable to the proposed fees.

He added that the policy aims to deter future Chinese vessel purchases, privileging U.S.-built ships under the Jones Act. "The Caribbean is exposed. These measures could deeply

disrupt our trade and economic stability," he said.

BARBADOS

The Barbados government is defending its decision to grant land and concessions to international organizations, including the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), for its Caribbean headquarters.

Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Kerrie Symmonds said offering land is standard practice used to attract global institutions, citing similar arrangements with the Caribbean Development Bank, CXC, and the UN. He noted the Afreximbank project includes a BDS\$300 million headquarters, trade center, and hotel - expected to boost employment, foreign exchange, and business development.

However, the opposition Democratic Labour Party, (DLP) criticized the move, calling it a "giveaway" of prime real estate to a commercial entity. DLP Senator Andre Worrell argued the government relinquished ownership without public transparency or long-term safeguards.

Symmonds countered that such agreements are essential to securing economic opportunities and deepening ties with Africa, especially amid shifting global dynamics.

HAITI

Haiti's Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé is calling on Haitians to support the creation of a stronger Constitution amid ongoing efforts to restore security and political stability.

Marking the 38th anniversary of the 1987 Constitution, Fils-Aimé acknowledged its role in establishing democracy but stressed the need for change. "It is time to write a new page in our history," he said, urging all citizens - especially youth and women—to embrace a renewed framework better suited for today's challenges.

Adopted after the fall of the Duvalier regime, the 1987 Constitution laid the foundation for a semi-presidential republic. Now, a May 2025 referendum aims to modernize it and build citizens' trust in governance.

Fils-Aimé also visited displaced families at a school turned shelter, where he shared moments of comfort with children affected by gang violence. "Every Haitian deserves safety and dignity," he said, reaffirming his government's commitment to rebuilding hope.

- *Rewritten from CMC and NewsAmericas.*



THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

NURTURING GREATNESS

fun.

Miami-Dade is full of

The Children's Trust is dedicated to nurturing the dreams and potential of every child and family in our community. With hundreds of Trust-funded programs available, we strive to enhance the lives of children and families across Miami-Dade. From enriching early learning experiences to promoting after-school and summer programs, as well as providing parenting support, our programs provide the support and opportunities your family needs.

Find a program at TheChildrensTrust.org

Protests, Legal Fight Escalates Over TPS Rollback For Haitians, Other Immigrants

A growing coalition of immigrants, advocates, and lawmakers is pushing back against the Trump administration's decision to rescind protections for hundreds of thousands of Haitian and Venezuelan nationals.

Plaintiffs in the case *NTPSA v. Noem* recently amended their lawsuit to challenge what they call the unlawful and discriminatory rollback of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), as the Biden-era humanitarian parole program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans – is also set to be terminated by late April.

The amended suit now includes four Haitian TPS holders challenging Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem's "partial vacatur" of the TPS extension and re-designation for Haiti, which the Biden administration had issued in July 2024. That order had extended protection through February 2026, but Noem's move now leaves 500,000 Haitians at risk of losing legal status as early as August 2025.

These plaintiffs join seven Venezuelan TPS holders who filed the initial lawsuit in February. Together, the legal challenge aims to protect more than one million immigrants facing legal limbo and possible deportation.

"Stripping us of our legal status is the latest attack on Haitians, and one that cannot be allowed," said Viles Dorsainvil, a plaintiff in Springfield, Ohio, and founding director of the Haitian Community Help & Support Center. "Our community is suffering. We cannot safely return to Haiti, which is in crisis, and TPS has allowed us to be productive members of our communities. It must continue."

The suit contends that DHS violated the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) by rescinding TPS designations prematurely and without proper legal review. It also alleges the decision was motivated by racial animus, violating the Fifth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

"The racial animus behind this administration's targeting of Haitians with TPS is clear," said Erik Crew, attorney with the Haitian Bridge Alliance, which - along with the ACLU Foundations of California, the UCLA Center for Immigration Law and Policy (CILP), and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) - is representing the plaintiffs.

In addition to the legal battle, a bi-partisan group of lawmakers is demanding that DHS reverse course. Caribbean American Congresswoman, Yvette D. Clarke, (NY-09), Rep. Ayanna Pressley (MA-07),



Protestors gathered in Brooklyn, NY with the city's Public Advocate, Caribbean American Jumaane D. Williams, to protest the DHS' decision. (Photo: Office of the Public Advocate/X)

and Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), led 62 House and 23 Senate colleagues in sending a letter to Secretary Noem, urging the administration to redesignate and extend TPS for Haiti to the full 18-month limit allowed by law.

The lawmakers wrote: "The July 1, 2024, Federal Register notice extending Haiti's TPS cited 'grave insecurity, gang violence, socio-economic collapse, and environmental disasters' as an ongoing crisis warranting protection. However, your February 2025 notice asserts that the 18-month period lacked justification. This decision ignores the overwhelming evidence that Haiti remains an unsafe place for anyone to return to."

They emphasized that conditions in Haiti have only worsened since the Biden administration's designation. "Armed groups now control over 90% of Port-au-Prince, terrorizing civilians with widespread kidnappings, sexual violence, and indiscriminate killings," states the letter. "The UN reports that at least 5,601 people were killed in Haiti last year, over 1,000 more than in 2023. Nearly half the country - 5.5 million people - require urgent humanitarian aid, and 1.6 million are facing 'catastrophic' food insecurity. Gang sieges and arson attacks have displaced over 1 million people."

The lawmakers also referenced troubling past rhetoric by former President Trump, including his 2017 attempt to terminate Haiti's TPS - which was blocked by a federal court - and his 2024 campaign comments singling out Haitian TPS holders.

"This decision is not a thoughtful policy in the best interest of the United States," the letter stated. "It revives a legally dubious playbook, destabilizing the lives of Haitian immigrants through shortened protections and heightened uncertainty."

The letter has been

endorsed by over 100 national and grassroots organizations, including the UndocuBlack Network, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, and the National Immigration Project.

Meanwhile, DHS confirmed on March 21st, that the CHNV parole program - which allowed over 531,000 people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to enter the U.S. for up to two years - will be shut down in late April. Without another form of legal protection, such as pending asylum applications, beneficiaries will have 30 days to leave the U.S. or face deportation. Work permits will also be revoked.

Florida received nearly 80% of CHNV entrants. As of December 2024, the program had facilitated entry for 110,240

Cubans, 211,040 Haitians, 93,070 Nicaraguans, and 117,330 Venezuelans, all of whom had to pass background checks, secure sponsors, and fund their own travel.

While the Trump administration calls the program "ineffective," South Florida lawmakers, including Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar, warned against penalizing those who followed the law.

"Trump is cleaning up Biden's political mess, and the legal limbo the Cubans, Venezuelans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans are facing is entirely Biden's fault. He fooled them," Salazar told the Miami Herald. "The Trump administration should take this under consideration and not punish them for Biden's mistakes."

As legal, political, and humanitarian challenges continue to mount, immigrant advocates say the consequences of these reversals could be devastating.

"Haiti has been in a protracted humanitarian crisis," said Emi MacLean, an attorney with the ACLU of Northern California. "TPS exists exactly for this context. The law clearly requires the government to keep its promise."

A protest rally was held recently in Brooklyn, NY.

"Many Haitian TPS holders came to the U.S. legally, they follow the rules they pay taxes," said Harry D'Janite, known as "DJ 'Hard Hittin' Harry," who served as the rally's MC, in kicking off the rally held on the steps of St. Jerome Roman Catholic Church.

New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, during his turn at the podium, criticized Mayor Eric Adams - not for his widely scrutinized immigration discussions with President Donald Trump - but for his absence at the rally. "The mayor should be cheerleader number one," said Williams, adding that it's paramount to reassure immigrant communities that they can be protected.

Several members of the crowd began calling the mayor a "sellout," following Williams' remarks.

Ironically, the reversal from the US government comes as the Trump administration warned against all travel to Haiti.



Eyes on the Road. Lives in Your Hands.




Sheriff Gregory Tony, Ph.D.
sheriff.org

Drive Smart. Drive Safe. Every Trip. Every Time.

Every second your eyes leave the road, lives are at risk. Texts, calls and notifications can wait—safety can't. This April, during National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, we're reminding everyone: Stay focused. Stay alive.

"Distracted driving isn't just texting—it's eating, adjusting the radio or even daydreaming. One glance away can lead to life-altering consequences. Your attention saves lives."

- Sheriff Dr. Gregory Tony
SERVICE EQUALS REWARD



Join us in making our roads safer. Scan to learn more about safe driving.

@browardsheriffsoffice @browardsheriff

SHOPTALK WITH THE SHERIFF PODCAST

Rubio Slams China's Role In The Caribbean



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (third left), along with members of his Cabinet and government officials, engage in bilateral talks with United States Secretary of State, Hon. Marco Rubio (fourth right), and members of his delegation at Jamaica House on Wednesday, March 26th in Kingston, Jamaica. (JIS IMAGE)

“We don’t talk about spheres of influence. The United States is an Indo-Pacific nation... My problem with China is twofold,” Rubio said as he wrapped up a visit to the Caribbean Community nations of Jamaica, Guyana and Suriname. “In many cases, we don’t have American companies that have shown interest. But where China does show up, the quality of work is terrible.”

Rubio recounted a recent experience in Guyana where a Chinese-built road was so poorly constructed it nearly caused injuries. “We almost all had concussions,” he said. “It was a bad road. If you did that job in America, someone would sue you.”

He further criticized Chinese companies for importing their own labor and offering infrastructure projects that

often go over budget and leave host nations burdened with unsustainable debt. “They bring their own workers; they don’t hire you... or they want you to borrow a bunch of money and hold it over your head.”

Rubio also raised concerns over national security, particularly in sectors like telecommunications. “If you’re going to have a telecommunications system that is controlled by Chinese companies, you’re going to have trouble having American investors come in,” he warned. “They don’t want all their stuff stolen or yanked out through a backdoor the Chinese installed.”

Rubio emphasized the U.S. goal is to provide “real alternatives” that include high-quality work, respect for local labor, and long-term partnerships based on transparency and mutual benefit.

President Santokhi echoed the importance of diversified partnerships, stating that while Suriname works with

over 170 countries, including China, the U.S. private sector is “very welcome.” He encouraged greater U.S. investment in Suriname’s energy and infrastructure sectors, emphasizing proximity and strategic value: “They don’t have to look for opportunities in the Far East or in Africa. Here we are.”

Rubio’s visit to Suriname was part of his first official tour of the Caribbean as Secretary of State, underscoring the Trump administration’s renewed emphasis on strengthening ties with democratic allies in the hemisphere.

His comments come on the heels of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stating on March 7th that “what people in the Caribbean and Latin America want is to build their own home, not become someone else’s backyard; what they aspire to is independence and self-decision, not the Monroe Doctrine.”



Mass US Deportations Will Squeeze The Caribbean Between A ‘Rock And A Hard Place’ - Experts

By Dawn A. Davis
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

The devastating effects of the Donald Trump administration’s draconian mass deportation policies are not just being felt by those directly affected but will be felt by the countries deportees are being returned to.

That’s the consensus of several experts of a recent online seminar organized by Diplomats Without Borders, (DWB), and the Caribbean Policy Consortium, (CPC).

With thousands of undocumented immigrants already arrested and deported from the US, the fear is real for many thousands more, especially under the powers given to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE) to raid schools, hospitals, and even churches.

The panel of experts on the Caribbean looked at the Trump-era immigration policies and the repercussions these laws will have on the future of the region. Besides impacting the construction, agriculture, and hospitality industries in the United States, the ripples they said will also cause catastrophic socio-economic and psychological effects across the Caribbean.

DEPORTATION AGENDA

“The deportation agenda - is it really a new US policy?” asked Dr. Natalie Dietrich-Jones, Research Fellow at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona. “Elements of it are new, the challenge to birthright citizenship, the suspension of

asylum processing, and now this heightened challenge in terms of the visa restrictions that could be imposed against Caribbean states that receive medical missions from Cuba. But by and large, this deportation agenda has defined the US immigration policy.”

Dietrich-Jones added that one of the things that unifies the Republican and Democratic approach is their anti-immigrant, anti-undocumented immigrant rhetoric and approach, which is managed through deportation. She also noted that the policy agenda is larger than the deportation agenda because it involves some key challenges to human rights and protection of the human rights of migrants, including the end of asylum processing and the eventual suspension of Temporary Protective Status, (TPS), for some vulnerable categories of migrants such as Haitian and Venezuelan migrants.

Underscoring the point, Barbadian lawyer, human rights activist, and Commissioner for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Roberta Clarke, emphasized that “while the commission recognizes that states have the authority to set their migration policies and determine who may enter, exit, and remain in their territory, according to national principles, all policies, laws, and practices implemented on migration must respect and ensure the human rights of persons in mobility, which are just rights and liberties that derive from human dignity.”

Clarke emphasized the need for states to establish measures that uphold the right to seek asylum and receive international protection, ensuring



Panelists included Dr. Natalie Dietrich-Jones, Research Fellow at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona. (Contributed image)

fair immigration procedures that respect due process and judicial safeguards. She stressed that these measures must also uphold the prohibition of cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment, while preventing discrimination based on nationality, ethnicity, color, gender, gender expression, gender identity, language, religion, and other factors.

LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Importantly warned Clarke: “Origin countries receiving returnees may lack the infrastructure and the resources to support their reintegration, particularly if they’re coming in large numbers, and as such, the sudden return of these large numbers of persons can overwhelm social services, contribute to unemployment, and increase social tensions.”

“This may also impact Caribbean economies by reducing remittances, which is a vital source of income for many

countries,” she said.

Pointing to Haiti as an example, Clarke noted that when there is mass deportation to a country where internal displacement is already at an all-time high, this will contribute to the severe political, economic, and social instability and expose those who are returned also to the prospects of violence.

CPC Fellow and Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, looked at the percentages of deportations per Caribbean country and its impact on the entire region.

“Haiti is at the top of the list,” he said. “About 76 percent of all the Caribbean deportations are intended to be Haitians. Next would be Jamaica followed by Guyana followed by Trinidad and Tobago. Even the very small jurisdictions like Montserrat and Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos are impacted. We hear dramatically about a Jamaica, we hear about Guyana, Trinidad, but almost every country in the Caribbean is impacted by this contemporary regime of deportations.”

The Guyanese-born Professor also stated that Caribbean countries have also been deporting other Caribbean nationals, noting that the Cayman Islands has been sending back Jamaicans; Bahamas and Jamaican have been sending back Haitian while Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname and Barbados have been sending back Guyanese.

He also noted the massive, continued deportations from the Dominican Republic to Haiti.

More than 206,000 Haitians were deported from the Dominican Republic to Haiti in 2024 alone even as the country grapples with gang violence.

Thinking about the mass deportations from the United States and those from other Caribbean states, Griffith pondered the effects on the region caught between ‘a rock and a hard place.’

“We’re not sure what’s going to be the impact on the crime situation in many jurisdictions that already have significant challenges with criminality,” he said. “But think of what the people in Haiti are pondering. Think of what the people in Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica, and in parts of Guyana are thinking that already have significant challenges with criminality.”

But is there a solution and how does the region handle this massive problem threatening to tip its socio-economic balance?

Clarke made a provocative yet valid point: “Perhaps, in addition to our focus on the deportation policy of another country, we should be focusing on how Caribbean states can better align our governance and our social and economic policies to increase the sense of security and opportunities for all in this region, so that so many won’t feel that they have no choice but to take risks that come with irregular migration.”

“After all,” she added, “It is the case that migration for the most part is triggered by our inabilities or incapacities to progressively realize economic and social rights in the Caribbean.”



Guyanese Social Media Influencer Granted Bond Following ICE Arrest

Guyanese-born social media activist Melissa “Melly-Mel” Atwell-Holder has been granted bond in the United States as she continues to resolve her immigration status.

A U.S. immigration judge on March 28th approved a US\$7,500 bond for Atwell-Holder, who was detained earlier this month and faced possible deportation. Judge Mwangi Francis noted that Atwell-Holder is married to a U.S. citizen and is actively pursuing an adjustment of status, a factor weighed in the decision to release her.

According to the Department of Homeland Security’s legal representative, Atwell-Holder’s status has been verified, and she is not considered a flight risk or a threat to the United States. The department did not oppose her release on bond.

Atwell-Holder, dressed in



Guyanese Melly Mel during the court hearing.

a brown jumpsuit and holding a book, appeared emotional during the hearing, reportedly shaking her head throughout the proceedings. Her attorney, Joyce Booth, confirmed that Atwell-Holder legally entered the U.S. in 2022, married an American citizen, and has been residing

in New York for the past two years.

“She has no criminal history, is not a threat, and is not a flight risk,” Booth said, describing the case as “a regular case of overstaying.”

Judge Francis granted the bond with the understanding that

Atwell-Holder could continue her adjustment of status application. If her application is denied, the Department of Homeland Security may resume removal proceedings. Her case has now been transferred to Immigration Court in New York for any future proceedings.

Atwell-Holder, known online as “Melly-Mel,” has developed a strong social media following for her outspoken commentary. Her detention sparked significant public interest and support, particularly among the Guyanese diaspora. A GoFundMe campaign has raised nearly US\$40,000 to assist with her legal and living expenses during the process.

Her case also drew political attention in Guyana. Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton of the People’s National Congress Reform, (PNCR), alleged that political pressure was involved in her detention, asserting that

Atwell-Holder had exposed government wrongdoing. Norton announced plans to launch an international campaign for her release.

However, Guyana’s Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, dismissed the claims, stating the government had no involvement in her arrest or detention. “This is a matter of U.S. law enforcement handling immigration violations, not anything related to Guyana’s government,” he said.

Nandlall encouraged protesters to direct any concerns toward U.S. authorities rather than the Guyanese government.

Atwell-Holder now awaits further legal proceedings while continuing the process to resolve her immigration status in the United States.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



EVERY GAME GIVES BACK
BILLIONS TO EDUCATION

FLORIDA Lottery
it's good fun

Since the Florida Lottery was established in 1988, we've contributed more than \$47 billion to public education in our state, and helped nearly one million Floridians attend college on a Bright Futures Scholarship. A portion of every Florida Lottery game purchase goes directly to this mission. That means, every time you play, you play it forward.

Learn more at floralottery.com/education

©2024 Florida Lottery

Antigua Opposition Distances Itself From U.S. Legal Case Over Sale Of Russian-Owned Superyacht

Antigua and Barbuda's main opposition party, the United Progressive Party (UPP), has firmly distanced itself from an ongoing legal matter in a United States court, where attorneys representing a Russian woman are seeking to issue subpoenas related to the sale of the luxury yacht Alfa Nero.

The vessel, reportedly abandoned by Russian billionaire Andrey Guryev, is now at the center of a legal challenge led by his daughter, Yulia Guryeva Motlokhov, who claims rightful ownership and is pursuing legal action in the U.S.

Antigua & Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne, named in the filing along with other officials, dismissed the case as a "spiteful vendetta," and accused the UPP of aligning with "foreign forces" to damage the country's international reputation. He described the

situation as being "fueled partially by wicked and hateful elements in the United Progressive Party... using stale propaganda that has been fully ventilated and debunked."

However, in a statement, the UPP condemned what it called the Prime Minister's attempts to "deceive the public" and "spin a literally incredible tale" accusing the opposition of involvement in the case. The party emphasized it has played no role in Motlokhov's legal pursuit and rejected any claims suggesting otherwise.

The UPP also recalled its walkout from Parliament in March 2023, after it said members were not given sufficient time to review



The legal tangle over the Alfa Nero yacht in Antigua continues.

amendments that enabled the government to seize and sell the Alfa Nero. The yacht was subsequently sold for US\$40 million.

On March 11, Motlokhov's legal team filed in U.S. federal court, alleging that Prime Minister Browne's administration has not disclosed key documents regarding the sale. A federal judge has instructed that subpoenas to U.S. financial institutions - including

the Federal Reserve Bank of New York - can only proceed once the prime minister and others are officially notified.

Attorney Martin De Luca of Boies Schiller Flexner LLP stated, "The financial records will speak for themselves."

The government of Antigua and Barbuda has responded, stating that affidavits and documentation were submitted to the local High Court of Justice by Finance Ministry officials. These, it said, outline how the US\$40 million was allocated - including expenses tied to the yacht's upkeep, agent commissions, and nearly US\$29 million used to meet key fiscal obligations. These payments included debts to domestic and international creditors, such as the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the Caribbean Development Bank, (CDB), and other entities.

Despite this, the UPP continues to express concern over the transparency of the transaction and maintains that the yacht's proceeds should have been held in escrow to address potential future claims - or directed to humanitarian support in Ukraine.

"The United Progressive Party calls on Mr. Browne to stop making wild and unfounded accusations against the opposition and to come clean on the Alfa Nero deal," the party said in its statement.

The UPP further argued it was "grossly unfair" for taxpayers to bear the legal costs associated with the international lawsuit.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Walter Rodney Would Have Turned 83 Had He Lived

By Howard Campbell
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Guyanese-born historian, professor, political activist and founder of the Working People's Alliance, (WPA), Walter Rodney, would have turned 83 on March 23rd, had he lived.

The revolutionary's life was cut short at age 38 when a time bomb, placed in a walkie-talkie, detonated in his car on June 13, 1980, in Georgetown, Guyana's capital. The instrument was given to him by Gregory Smith, a sergeant in the Guyanese army who was also a supporter of the country's then president, Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham.

Rodney was a staunch critic of Burnham, who had become a dictator in the country and whose base comprised most

of Guyana's Afro-Guyanese population. Burnham's biggest rival, Cheddi Jagan, was strongly supported by the South American country's Indo-Guyanese community.

Born in Georgetown, Rodney studied history at the Mona campus. After graduating, he taught that subject at the University of Dar-Es-Salaam in Tanzania and on his return to Jamaica, there was a global black conscious surge, sparked by the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

When Rodney returned to Jamaica to teach at the University of the West Indies' Mona campus in early 1968, he was disturbed to find that after five years of independence, the country's black majority had little economic or political clout.

A lecturer in the Department of History, the Guyanese firebrand staged informal 'groundings' with residents from August Town, a working-class community close to the UWI. Those 'conferences' heard Rodney espousing the importance of black pride and empowerment.

In 1969, several of Rodney's August Town speeches were compiled in the book, 'Groundings With My Brothers.' Professor Rupert Lewis, professor emeritus in the Department of Government at UWI Mona, said Rodney made a lasting impact on black Jamaican youth.

"Rodney's talks and groundings radicalized a generation of youth who became active in politics in the 1970s in Jamaica, in the Trinidad Black Power Revolution of 1970, the 1979 Grenada Revolution and the movement in Guyana in 1979," he noted.

Lewis has written two books on Rodney, whom he met as a freshman at the UWI's



The late Dr. Walter Rodney's 83rd birthday was March 23.

Mona campus in January, 1968. The first, 'Walter Rodney: 1968 Revisited,' looks at the academic's expulsion from Jamaica by the government in October that year, which triggered a day-long riot in Kingston, the country's capital.

"Walter Rodney's talks on African history to youth in urban and rural communities made them connect to their historical roots in West Africa. Our history was therefore not confined to the degradation of plantation slavery and

colonialism," said Lewis. "He awakened their consciousness of themselves as makers of their history and agents of their own self-emancipation. The word of Rodney's groundings spread through many communities wherever he went."

Rodney returned to Jamaica in 1976 and 1978. By that time, he had become a force in Guyanese politics, which was still dominated by Burnham and Jagan.

His tragic death summed up the political climate in Guyana, which gained independence from Britain on May 26, 1966.

Initially, Rodney's demise was ruled "death by misadventure" by the Guyanese authorities, but in June 2021 the country's current Attorney General, Anil Nandlall, changed that ruling to "assassination." Nandlall added that the government would revive the Walter Rodney Chair at the University of Guyana and declare his grave site a national monument.



Haiti Goes From Bad To Worst

Haiti's humanitarian crisis has deepened, with nearly 60,000 people forced to flee their homes in just one month due to escalating violence, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported recently. The capital, Port-au-Prince, remains under siege as gangs extend control over key areas, displacing thousands and straining already limited resources.

According to the IOM, affected communities in Delmas, Carrefour-Feuilles, Martissant, Fort National, Pétion-Ville, and Tabarre have seen large-scale evacuations. Many have sought shelter in 48 displacement sites, while others rely on host families

already struggling to provide support.

"This alarming surge in displacements underscores the relentless cycle of violence devastating Haiti's capital," said Grégoire Goodstein, IOM's Chief in Haiti. "Families are being uprooted time and again, leaving everything behind."

The crisis follows years of instability, worsening since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. Armed groups continue to kill civilians, including women and children, while targeting essential institutions like hospitals and humanitarian aid groups.

The United Nations Security Council has previously backed

a Kenya-led security mission to help stabilize the country, but the situation remains dire. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported that armed groups attacked their Turgeau emergency center, forcing its closure after treating 27 victims of violence in one day.

Despite security challenges, IOM and MSF continue to deliver aid, providing water, medical care, and shelter. However, humanitarian access remains limited, and resources are stretched thin. The UN Secretary-General has urged new global action, warning that Haiti's crisis demands immediate attention to prevent further catastrophe.



May is Haitian Heritage Month. Come with Caribbean Today as we celebrate this most exciting and eventful time of year, while we salute the wonderful people of Haiti. The Haitian culture is one filled with strength, beauty, and grace. Let us be the conduit for showcasing your tribute to Haitian Heritage Month in this special issue of Caribbean Today. Have your ad message in front of over 112,000 esteemed readers eagerly awaiting this special edition.

Call now to reserve your space in this great edition of Caribbean Today!!!

EDITORIAL COPY FOR CONSIDERATION
DUE BY APRIL 15, 2025

305-238-2868 • Fax: 305-252-7843 • 1-800-605-7516
email: sales@caribeantoday.com

Caribbean Today

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: APRIL 23, 2025

Jamaican Eddie Edwards Ready To Work As Miramar City Commissioner

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Working behind the political scene for over two decades, it was time for Eddie Carson Edwards to step out of the shadows and into the spotlight. The Jamaican-born Edwards won a four-way race for an open seat on the Miramar City Commission on March 12th, bringing his leadership to a bigger political stage and says he's ready to go to work.

Edwards, 69, beat out Kerri-Ann Nesbeth, Kertch Conze and Pamela Reid to replace Miramar Vice Mayor Alexandra P. Davis, who was elected to the Broward County Commission in November 2024.

Edwards said campaigning was an uphill battle but he is glad it's finally over. "It was a matter of relief," Edwards told the Caribbean Today. "It was a long hard-fought election with four candidates battling out. It could've gone anyway but I'm happy to see that we have won."

Though he's a political neophyte on the dais, Edwards, an entrepreneur, worked on the campaigns of many Miramar candidates since 2001, including Davis'.

When Davis' seat became vacant, Edwards said residents urged him to run. "It was an opportunity where Davis got elected to the Broward County Commission and provided an open seat to run," said Edwards, who's a long-time Miramar resident.

Edwards said he plans on keeping his campaign promises that got him elected. He outlined his 5-point plan, including being responsive to residents, improving the city's permits and applications process, addressing



Commissioner Eddie Edwards, center right, takes the oath of office on March 17, 2025, as his wife Bridget, right, holds his mom's bible at the swearing-in ceremony at the Miramar Cultural Center. His son, a left, a city of Miami Firefighter, administered the oath. Edwards' mother is standing next to him.

residents' high-water rates and being accessible.

Edwards said he learned on the campaign trail that public officials failed to return residents' messages for calls for help. He said he plans on stepping up to the plate.

"Residents contacting city officials and no one returning calls is unacceptable," he said. "I want to respond to residents within 24 hours."

Edwards said Miramar's permits and applications process should be streamlined after residents' complaints of difficulty completing the process. He also said there's been a surge in residents' water bills as high as \$250 when the previous rates were between \$120-\$150.

"I want to make sure the water meters are being read accurately," he said. "Residents should be charged fairly for their water consumption."

Edwards said more residents

should be aware of the programs and resources Miramar is offering.

Edwards moved to New York from Jamaica but relocated to Florida since he was accustomed to a warm climate. He started Deejaying at local radio stations and clubs in Miramar and was part of a group who purchased Stingerz, a popular Jamaican night club. Edwards said he decided to get involved in community advocacy when the City Commission was devoid of Caribbean representation.

OTHER RACES

Other races were decided on March 12th in Broward and Palm Beach counties.

For Coconut Creek Commission District B, incumbent Commissioner

Jacqueline Railey easily won by capturing 78 percent of the vote over Philippa Sklaar.

For District C, incumbent Commissioner Sandra Welch also hung onto her seat by winning 70 percent of the vote over Patricia Louise Duaybes who won 29 percent.

For District E, Commissioner Joshua David Rydell also easily won reelection with 85 percent of the vote against

Felicia Shuman Newkirk who had 14 percent.

In Deerfield Beach, Toddy Drosky is the new mayor winning the open seat by capturing 56 percent of the vote over Dan Herz who captured 40 percent and Caryl Berner with 2.2 percent of the vote.

For Deerfield Beach Commissioner, Daniel Shanetzky captured 50 percent of the vote to win the open District 3 seat.

Shanetzky defeated Philip Edward Bradley, who had 28 percent and 20 percent went to Karen A. Shelly.

For Deerfield Beach Commissioner District 4, Thomas Plaut won 84 percent of the vote over Chauncey Chapman who got 15 percent.

For races in Palm Beach

County cities, Boynton Beach residents elected a new mayor. Rebecca Shelton won a four-way race by capturing 56 percent of the vote to replace the term-limited Ty Penserga.

In the race for the City Commission in District 3, incumbent Thomas Turkin won another term by defeating challenger Dominick Vargas 58 to 42 percent.

Incumbent District 1 Commissioner Angela Cruz ran unopposed.

In Lake Worth Beach, incumbent City Commissioner Christopher McVoy won re-election in District 2 by capturing 57 percent of the vote against Carla Blockson.

Two candidates will be heading to a runoff in the race for District 4.

Anthony Segrich and Greg Richter are the top two vote-getters over incumbent Commissioner Reinaldo Diaz.

In Palm Beach Gardens, Councilwoman Marcie Tinsley won reelection by beating Scott Gillow with 85 percent of the vote to his 15 percent.

In an open race for Seat 4, John Kemp picked up 55 percent of the vote over Charles Millar.

In Riviera Beach, Councilman Bruce Guyton kept his seat for another term by beating Tradrick McCoy in District One and incumbent Commissioner Shirely Lainer also hung onto her seat by beating challenger Cedrick Thomas in District 3.



AFUWI To Host 28th Annual Awards Gala Honoring Caribbean Leaders

The American Foundation for the University of the West Indies, (AFUWI), will host its prestigious 28th Annual "The Legacy Continues" Scholarship Awards Gala on April 4, 2025, at 583 Park Avenue in Manhattan. This annual event recognizes distinguished individuals and organizations making significant contributions to the Caribbean and beyond while raising funds for scholarships at The University of the West Indies, (UWI).

This year's honorees include new Jamaican Senator and Ambassador to the US, Audrey Marks, OJ, who will receive the Trailblazer Award for Excellence in Diplomacy; William Mahfood, Chairman of WISYNCO Group, who will receive the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Global Business Leadership and Philanthropy;

and Cedric Gayle, Esq., who will be honored with the Pelican Award for his contributions to law and community service.

Additional honorees include Althea Brown, Managing Director of LPL Financial, who will receive the Vice Chancellor's Achievement Award, and Olympic gold medalist Thea LaFond Gadson, awarded the Salute to Caribbean Gold for her historic win in the women's triple jump at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Half Moon Hotel, Jamaica will also be recognized with the Pinnacle Award for Excellence in Global Hospitality Services for its contributions to tourism and community development.

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit afuwi.org.



THE MIAMI-DADE TALENT SEARCH IS BACK!

Time for Young Performers To Show Their AMAZING
Instrumental, Dance, Voice, Original Composition or Spoken Word talent to the WORLD!

FREE COMPETITION
NO ENTRY FEES!

GRAND PRIZE:
\$500 CASH

Courtesy of
Actors' Playhouse

YOUNG TALENT BIG DREAMS | 2010-2025

YTBDD 15

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

ACTORS' PLAYHOUSE
AT THE MIRACLE THEATRE

www.actorsplayhouse.org • 305.444.9293 • OPEN TO AGES 8-18

FEATURE



www.caribbeantoday.com

The Stones Know The Truth - A Review Of Diana McCaulay's 'A House For Miss Pauline'

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

Old houses have stories to tell. Their stone walls bulging with secrets longing to be revealed. Diana McCaulay's 'A House for Miss Pauline' forges a gripping tale about such a house that screams with secrets.

An engaging read, it grips you from the start. We are curious about Miss Pauline's world, this strong, feisty woman who 'nuh tek no backchat.' This 99-year-old, soon to reach 100, has marked two centuries. She is trying to understand this new age - yet holding on to a past that shaped her.

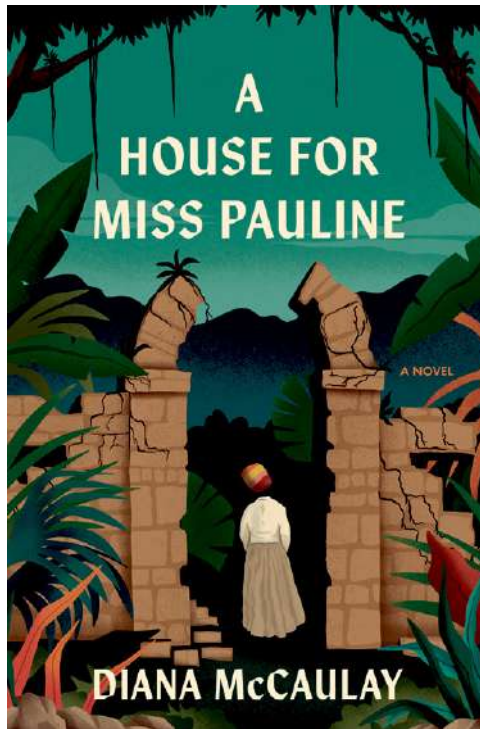
In this woodsy, shadowy village of Mason Hall in the parish of St. Mary, Jamaica most of the houses are made of stone as a message to those who came centuries before - bringing with them enslaved possessions. But where did these stones come from? They came from the dismantled history of

pain, forced labor, and rape - the suffering that connects us all.

McCaulay weaves all the stories of Miss Pauline, her relations and her friends, into a unique tapestry that forces the reader to think about their ancestral background. Each character has a distinctive account of past events that adds depth and color to what could have been the usual novel about a family saga. Not this one!

FIGHT BACK

Through personal trials, graphic scenes and flashbacks, the author paints a world of a small rural village that many Jamaicans are familiar with. We know the disapproving church sisters; we know the



meddling post mistress; we know the gullible youth who long to move to Kingston; we know the



Author Diana McCaulay

preacher man stalking young girls; we know the ones who fight back.

Miss Pauline fights back, in every sense of the word. But she must put things right before she reaches the century. Her children have gone in different directions. Her love, the man who opened her eyes to life outside Mason Hall, is no more. So, what's there

to do? The old woman revisits her past and with growing questions and guilt she goes on a journey to seek the truth and eventually reveals her own.

But what she finds will shake her and change her life - what's left of it - and the lives of those she will leave behind. Miss Pauline's action more than 50 years ago, one that haunts her, will be the one act that opens the door to an unexpected, splintered heritage.

Miss Pauline did what she did to protect her family, the life she built, and in the end, she reckons with the past that unfolds the true definition of family. An epic read. One that will reshape our own thoughts about family, truth and acceptance.

BOOK: A House For Miss Pauline

AUTHOR: Diana McCaulay
PUBLISHER: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill
YEAR PUBLISHED: 2025
Now available on Amazon and Barnes & Nobles.



Childhood Tragedy Inspired My Passion For Education, Says Jamaican-Born Entrepreneur

For Jamaican-born entrepreneur and community leader Jenniffer Brown, a difficult childhood marked by personal loss became the driving force behind a lifelong passion for education and empowerment.

Jamaican-born Jenniffer Brown shares how personal loss inspired her passion for education and her leadership of the Westwood Old Girls' Association in New York. "I firmly believe that the challenges we experience in childhood can serve as the inspiration for us to do as much as we can to make the lives of others better. Because that is my story," says Brown, President of the Westwood Old Girls' Association, (WOGA), New York Chapter.

Brown's journey began in Petersfield, Westmoreland, where she was born into a family of six. At just nine years old, she lost her mother, Joyce Yvonne Spence, to a long illness. Her mother's dying wish was for her daughters to attend the prestigious Westwood High School for Girls in Stewart Town, Trelawny.

"It was, and still remains, one of Jamaica and the Caribbean's oldest and most respected high schools, consistently ranked among the nation's top ten tertiary institutions in academic achievement," Brown shared. "Our list of alumnae includes Pan-Africanist Amy Ashwood Garvey, first wife of Marcus Garvey, and Iris Collins, the first woman elected to Jamaica's House of Representatives, among others."

Despite the privilege of

attending Westwood, Brown's years there were filled with hardship. "My dad migrated to the US while I was there and then my older sister graduated before me also, which meant I didn't have my closest friend there anymore," she recalled. "It was devastating to watch other students getting visitors and being picked up for a 'home-Sunday' knowing that we'd be stuck on campus like nobody's children.

Still, Brown persevered, excelling academically and eventually immigrating to the United States where she attended Pace University. She went on to have a successful career in legal administration, spending over two decades at the Manhattan law firm Weiner, Millo, Morgan and Bonanno, before becoming Chief Administration Officer at a cannabis law firm. Today, she runs her own business, JKL Productions, alongside partners Karlene Largie and Leslyann Samuel, offering event planning and leadership training services.

Brown also built a fulfilling personal life, marrying her first love, Elorde "Lexy" Brown, and raising three children, whom she describes as "extremely proud" of. But something was still missing.

"Very shortly after graduating, I came to appreciate how much Westwood prepared



Jamaican-Born Entrepreneur Jenniffer Brown, President of the Westwood Old Girls' Association, (WOGA), New York Chapter. (Photo courtesy of Anthony Legg)

me for life. I was able to work with and lead all types of people. I was inclusive and empathetic long before those became buzz words," she said.

Her moment of clarity came in 2014 when she hosted a delegation of Westwood students attending a conference at the United Nations in New York. "That situation underscored the great need for someone - namely me - to re-start the New York chapter of the Westwood Old Girls Association to assist the school back in Jamaica," she said.

She revived the chapter in 2016 and has served as President ever since. Under her leadership, WOGA New York has not only cultivated a strong relationship

with the school's administration but has also helped restore the visibility and reputation of the institution.

"WOGA New York has been focusing on donating laptops to the school since COVID-19, as well as erecting and equipping an AutoCAD (Computer-Aided Design) lab on campus," Brown noted. "We recently became aware of the need for a second lab and better internet connectivity on the campus, among other issues."

She emphasized that achieving these goals will require substantial support. "Resolving all this will come at a high price, thus the desire for sponsors, donors and compulsory fundraising. Growing the membership of our association also remains a challenge, but under our newly adopted slogan 'Westwood Strong,' we plan to go on an active membership drive in 2025."

Through all of her initiatives, Brown remains anchored by one core belief: "With all my heart, I believe that the greatest tool you can give to anyone is that of a good education," she says. "And for young women especially, in the world we currently inhabit, it is vital because once it's yours, it is the one thing that nobody can ever take away. It can literally set the course for your entire future. And that has never been more true than it is today."

For more information on joining WOGA New York, contact 929-242-9156 or email woganyc@gmail.com.



Miami Office:

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

Email: editor@caribbeantoday.com

West Palm Beach Office:

(By Appointment Only)

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

www.caribbeantoday.com

Send ads to:

sales@caribbeantoday.com

Vol. 36, Number 5 - APRIL 2025

PETER A WEBLEY

Publisher

publisher@caribbeantoday.com

FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Editor

news@newsamericashow.com

BRANDON WEBLEY

Web Copy Editor

editor@caribbeantoday.com

LORNA ASENCOR

Accounting Manager

accounts@caribbeantoday.com

HYACINTH LEIBA

Account Executive

hyacinth@caribbeantoday.com

SABRINA G. ALEXANDER

Graphic Design

sabrina@gocreateart.design

Opinions expressed by editors and writers are not necessarily those of the publisher. Caribbean Today, an independent newsmagazine, is published every month by Caribbean Publishing & Services, Inc. Caribbean Today is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photos. To guarantee return, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Articles appearing in Caribbean Today may not be reproduced without written permission of the editor.

Trump's 'Gold Card': A Gateway For Russian Oligarchs?

When Donald Trump unexpectedly introduced a "gold card" for \$5 million - set to replace the longstanding \$1 million U.S. investor visa - one question immediately came to mind: Was this designed to give Russian oligarchs a backdoor to U.S. residency?

The timing is telling. Just two days before the U.S. met with Russia to discuss a so-called peace deal for Ukraine - without Ukraine or European allies at the table - Trump's new investment-for-residency scheme was unveiled. The details of that meeting remain undisclosed, but Trump keeps boasting that Russia is suddenly interested in making peace. At the same time, the U.S. shockingly voted alongside Russia at the United Nations, opposing a European-backed resolution that condemned Moscow's actions and affirmed Ukraine's territorial integrity. Instead, the U.S. drafted a weaker UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to the conflict - without directly criticizing Russia.

Even more concerning, the Department of Defense, under Trump's leadership, has reportedly ordered U.S. Cyber Command to halt offensive cyber and information operations against Russia - a major strategic shift.

So, what does this have to do with Trump's new golden visa? Everything.

A Safe Haven For Russian Elites?

Since late 2023, Russian elites have faced increasing roadblocks in securing foreign citizenship due to the Ukraine war. While investment-based citizenship remains possible in the UAE, Hungary, Portugal, and Malta, most European and Caribbean countries have severely tightened their "golden visa" programs, cutting off access for rich Russians seeking to

buy second passports. A \$5 million U.S. residency program could be exactly what these individuals need - a new escape route, providing both safety and financial security in America.

Maíra Martini, CEO of Transparency International, and Gary Kalman, Executive Director of Transparency International U.S., have warned about this very issue. Writing in Fortune, they argued that Trump's plan could offer a "golden escape route" for corrupt figures to funnel illicit wealth into the U.S.

"Explicitly inviting Russian oligarchs may be saying the quiet part out loud," they wrote, adding that golden visa programs have historically welcomed "the corrupt and money launderers" under the guise of attracting "exceptional global citizens."

The 'Right' Vs. 'Wrong' Immigrants

As usual, Trump has been light on specifics but laser-focused on who he deems worthy of U.S. residency. At the State of the Union on March 4, he argued that these \$5 million investors would "create jobs" and help America pay down its debt.

"For \$5 million, we will allow the most successful job-creating people from all over the world to buy a path to U.S. citizenship," Trump declared, branding the initiative as "like the green card, but better and more sophisticated." He emphasized that these wealthy newcomers would be required to pay U.S. taxes.

Yet, at the same time, his administration is aggressively tightening legal immigration including asylum and refugee status, restricting work visas,



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

and attempting to eliminate birthright citizenship. The contrast is stark: while Trump pushes to block asylum seekers and deport long-term immigrant families, he's simultaneously rolling out the red carpet for the ultra-wealthy - anyone with the means; questionable financial backgrounds be damned.

A Program Ripe For Abuse

The U.S. already has an investment-based visa - the

EB-5 program, created in 1990 - which grants residency to those investing \$800,000 to \$1.05 million in job-creating ventures. However, the EB-5 has been riddled with corruption and fraud, including a major scandal involving a Vermont ski resort where foreign investors were scammed out of millions.

If the existing system is already prone to abuse, what safeguards will prevent Trump's new "gold card" program from

becoming a laundering pipeline for questionable money?

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



Can Medical Cannabis Help People with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)?

Learn the Risks and Benefits

Watch a Conversations on Cannabis virtual forum to learn how using medical cannabis may impact the quality of life for patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)



FAMU FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY MEDICAL MARIJUANA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INITIATIVE



Watch Now

Need Or Want Women?

Do men need women, or are they merely a want in their lives, something to get them through, to fill a gap? Mark you, there is a distinct difference between a need and a want, for many people want things that they do not really need.



TONY ROBINSON

But let's cut to the chase, women are not only necessary, but are essential in the lives of men, even though many men take them for granted and often treat them badly. Maybe that's why that now famous line was penned: "Women, you can't live with them, you can't live without them." Written by a man of course.

By definition, a need is something essential for survival and basic functioning, like food, water and shelter, while a want is something desired or preferred, but not necessarily for survival, like a new car or a fancy meal.

Essentially, needs are required for life, while wants are simply things that you would like to have. So, which is it? Do men want women, or do they need women?

Many men will say that they want women, and they certainly do, but how many men will admit to needing a woman? "I want women, plenty of them, but I don't really need them."

That's where he's so wrong - for a man will want a woman yes, but he also needs her more than he knows. From birth and before, a man needs a woman, and for the first few years of his

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Follow 'Conversations on Cannabis' on



@MMERIForumRadio

VIEWPOINT



Trump's EPA Is At War With The Americans It Is Supposed To Protect

BY BEN JEALOUS

As they say in horror movies, the call is coming from inside the house.

Under Donald Trump, the Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) has reversed its own mission. And recently, EPA Administration Lee Zeldin outright declared war on the American people.

Zeldin announced 31 actions he celebrated as "the largest deregulatory announcement in US history." The administration is attempting to undo critical progress that is currently saving lives and saving Americans' money – on health care costs, energy bills, and more. Moreover, Trump and Zeldin are trying to undercut the EPA's very ability to do its job and protect our health, our communities, and our futures.

If Trump and Zeldin are successful in undoing the rules they have targeted, the consequences are guaranteed to be dire. Dire for the thousands of Americans who will die needlessly every year. Dire for the thousands of children who spend more days



In what he called the "most consequential day of deregulation in American history," the head of the Environmental Protection Agency announced a series of actions on March 12, 2025, to roll back landmark environmental regulations, including rules on pollution from coal-fired power plants, climate change and electric vehicles.

in the hospital and fewer days in school. Dire for working families whose electricity and health care bills will go up, and whose air and water will become the things that are killing them rather than keeping them alive.

Dire for the tens of millions of American children and adults living with asthma – like Kyla Peck, whom I spoke with last World Asthma Day. Kyla recalled

her first rude awakening with how poor air quality was not just a threat to her daily physical wellbeing but also her bank account: "I was home in Chicago from college, maybe 20 years old, and I had a really, really bad asthma attack. I was hospitalized

for maybe about 12 hours.

"Then I received the bill. Even after insurance paid their part, I owed about \$500. I was in college; I had no money ... It was stressful, not only having to navigate the asthma attack but having to learn to navigate my own financial situation living with this illness."

Now let us look at just one of the rules under attack by the Trump administration that are helping people like Kyla every day. Just over a year ago, when the EPA was fulfilling its mission, it finalized improved air quality standards. At the time, the agency estimated that, come 2032, that one rule alone would "prevent up to 4,500 premature deaths and 290,000 lost workdays, yielding up to \$46 billion in net health benefits;" that in that year, for every dollar spent from that rule, "there could be as much as \$77 in human health benefits."

Announcing that rule back in February of 2024, then EPA

Administrator Michael Regan said, "Cleaner air means that our children have brighter futures, and people can live more productive and active lives."

It is pretty hard to argue with that statement... unless you are not bothered by your actions killing Americans and making their lives worse. And that is exactly what we are seeing with this presidential administration. What a difference a year makes.

Among Zeldin's 31 actions is doing away with the EPA's own 2009 finding that planet-warming greenhouse gas pollution "threatens the public health and welfare of current and future generations."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.



Need Or Want Women?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

life, that maternal bond grows by leaps and bounds. It often lasts a lifetime.

It's that female bonding that prepares him for his future with other women, making the old saying ring true: "Most men marry their mothers," meaning of course that they often marry women who exhibit the similar traits and characteristics of their mothers.

That first woman in a man's life certainly impacts him greatly on the way how he treats future women. As a teenager, a boy needs to be around female company. At that stage, his hormones are raging, and he must have that emotional outlet.

Those urges and feelings are vital and essential for his emotional development. In fact, that may be the most critical stage in a man's life when it comes to needing a woman. A man needs a woman to fulfill his life, although not many men would admit to this. After the bachelor life and the rampant running up and down, the man needs a woman for stability.

Sometimes that woman proves to be that man's anchor, his conscience, his second thought when making important decisions. I must add here though, that this only applies if it's the right woman, one who genuinely has the man's interest at heart. Anyone else can prove to be a living hell and a nightmare of epic proportions from which he will never wake up.

A man needs a woman for emotional support, and this manifests itself when the man is at his lowest ebb and needs that propping up to keep his head above water.



Again, she must be the right woman who has his back, for there are some women who jump ship the moment they sense any crack in the structure of the man. One proof of this is sickness. Some men get sick, and that's when their woman decides to cut and run. "Man, I was down and out sick in bed and is gone she gone."

To add to this, a man needs a woman to massage his ego and bolster his self-esteem. Let's not forget the physical and get back to those basics - a man needs a woman for lovemaking. And that is why men continue to pursue women from here to eternity, to the ends of the earth and back, through hell and high water.

Men need women to fulfill their fantasies, they need women

to satisfy their desires, they need women to bring out the macho. They may say that they want women, and they certainly do, but that need is greater than just the want, even though they aren't fully aware of it.

Nevertheless, the expert psychologists say that it's better to want rather than to need, for to need means dependency, and nobody wants to be dependent on anyone else.

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



Marshall L. Davis Sr. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

SANKOFA JAZZ CONCERT

4/5/2025
@ 7:00pm

featuring Grammy Awards nominee and NAACP Image Awards winner

JAZZMEIA HORN

TICKET \$50

Purchase at www.Sankofa2025.Eventbrite.com

Miami Dade College North Campus
Lehman Theater
11380 NW 27th Avenue
Miami, FL 33167

For more information visit WWW.AHCACMIAMI.ORG

The Marshall L. Davis Sr. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is managed by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, with funding support from the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, CARE, and/or any accommodation to participate in African Heritage Cultural Arts Center sponsored programs or meetings, please contact Gloria Diaz at 305-638-6771 or ahcac@miamidade.gov, at least (5) five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service.)

Countdown On To Kartel's First US Performance In Over Two Decades

Jamaican dancehall legend Vybz Kartel is officially making his long-awaited return to the U.S. stage after more than 20 years, headlining an epic concert at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, NY, on April 11, 2025.

This highly anticipated event, presented by Reggae Fest, is set to be one of the biggest dancehall concerts in U.S. history. Due to the concert's high demand, Kartel and the event organizer Reggae Fest have added a second date at Barclays for Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Kartel's return to the global stage follows the reinstatement of his U.S. and UK visa in January 2025, a moment that sent shockwaves through the dancehall community. Now, after two decades away from the U.S. music scene, The Worl' Boss is back, and fans are eager to witness his legendary stage presence live.

"This is a monumental moment for me and the culture," Kartel stated. "To be back on U.S. soil performing for my fans is a blessing that I don't take lightly. The wait is finally over. New York, get ready!"

Vybz Kartel's Historic Comeback

Kartel's visa was revoked

in the early 2000s, preventing him from performing in some of dancehall's most influential markets. Now, with his return, he is set to reclaim his rightful place on the international stage. CJ Milan, CEO and Founder of Reggae Fest, described the upcoming Barclays Center show as a game-changer for dancehall.

"This is going to be the biggest dancehall concert in U.S. history," Milan declared. "To have Vybz Kartel performing at Barclays Center is epic! It's about time dancehall gets the recognition it deserves. I'm incredibly excited to bring this historic moment to life." Fans can expect an electrifying setlist featuring Kartel's timeless classics and new material, proving why he remains one of the most influential figures in dancehall.

Vybz Kartel Takes Over the Grammys & MOBO Awards

Before his upcoming performance in New York, Kartel



Vybz Kartel is set to take over Barclays Center in NYC after his MOBO Awards 2025 performance at the Utilita Arena on February 18, 2025 in Newcastle upon Tyne, England. (Photo by Joseph Okpako/WireImage)

made his first U.S. appearance in over 20 years in February 2025, attending the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, where he was nominated for Best New Reggae Album. His presence at the event marked a major milestone in his career and solidified his global resurgence.

Shortly after, Kartel travelled to England for the MOBO Awards, where he was honoured with the prestigious Impact Award. Fellow dancehall star Spice introduced him in an emotional tribute, celebrating his unparalleled contributions to the genre. Kartel also took the stage

to perform a medley of chart-topping hits, including "Fever" and "Clarks", much to the delight of his UK fans.

More Big Moves Ahead: Wireless Festival 2025 & Major Media Features

Kartel's return to live performances doesn't stop at Barclays Center. On July 13, 2025, he will take the stage at the 20th anniversary of London's Wireless Festival, performing alongside Drake, PARTYNEXTDOOR, Summer Walker, and Burna Boy. The event is expected to be one of the biggest in the festival's history, further cementing Kartel's influence in the international music scene.

His momentum continues off the stage as well. Kartel recently graced the cover of Billboard's first issue of 2025 and was featured on the Spring 2025 cover of the UK's The Face Magazine. His media presence has been explosive, with a viral interview alongside Twitch streamer Kai

Cenat at the Grammys and an appearance on Drink Champs with Noreaga and DJ EFN, where the episode amassed over 1 million YouTube views in record time.

A Triumphant Return for The Worl' Boss

After two decades of absence from the U.S. and UK stages, Vybz Kartel is back, and he's making sure the world knows it. With a massive Barclays Center concert, a Wireless Festival appearance, and multiple industry accolades, 2025 is shaping up to be a defining year for The Worl' Boss.

With dancehall continuing to dominate global music, Kartel's return marks a pivotal moment for the genre, proving that his reign is far from over. Fans across the U.S., UK, and beyond can expect nothing short of dancehall history in the making.

- NewsAmericasnow.com



'Sounds & Pressure' Documentary Explores Reggae's Legacy In Canada



BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

It took Chris Flanagan and Graeme Mathieson over five years to complete 'Sounds & Pressure: Reggae In A Foreign Land,' their second documentary. A 75-minute project, it was shown in Jamaica for the first time in February, celebrated as Reggae Month in that country.

'Sounds & Pressure' had two viewings in Kingston, Jamaica recently - at the Bob Marley Museum and the University of the West Indies' Mona campus the following day. The project, which is split into five interviews with Jamaican artists and producers who lived in Canada, looks at reggae's history there.

Singers Johnny Osbourne, Leroy Sibbles, Nana McLean, the husband-and-wife duo of Roy and Yvonne and producer Jerry Brown, recall their experience as reggae stalwarts in the Greater Toronto Area.

Flanagan, who was born in Adelaide, Australia, discovered Jamaican pop culture while living Down Under. Moving to Toronto, which has a large Jamaican community, he found reggae songs more accessible and became fascinated with the music's roots in Canada.

He and Mathieson, a Toronto

native, did not want 'Sounds & Pressure' to be run-of-the-mill.

"We tried to select subjects that had made a big impact on the Canadian reggae scene through their perseverance and talent. Some are household names, some are lesser known but equally important," he said. "We wanted to represent different eras of the music from ska to reggae to dancehall and have the subjects themselves tell their own stories. This meant we only focused on living artists. That said, these six icons represent the tip of the iceberg of Canadian reggae."

The duo's first project was Ruff and Tuff - Stranger Cole's Toronto Roots. Released in 2017, it focuses on the ska singer's years living in Canada.

Although there was a vibrant reggae colony in the GTA during the 1970s, the music never took off in Canada. Like Brooklyn in New York and Brixton in the United Kingdom, Eglinton and Bathurst Street were hubs for the Jamaican community in Toronto.

Reggae fans can purchase the latest songs at record stores there. Brown, one of Canada's best known reggae producers, operated his Summer Records in Mississauga, Ontario.



Bounty Killer Returns To U.S. After 15-Year Visa Ban

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Long hailed as the 'Poor People Governor,' Bounty Killer is one of dancehall's elder statesmen. Approaching his 53rd birthday, the deejay has mellowed since his heyday of the 1990s when he had several run-ins with law enforcement in Jamaica.

In March, the gangly toaster's United States visa was re-instated after 15 years. He made his first visit to that country shortly after, triggering a flurry of congratulatory messages on social media from colleagues including Vybz Kartel, whose US visa was re-instated in January after he spent 13 years in prison for murder.

"Fifteen years ago, I lost my US visa and have been waiting patiently to have it restored ever since. A few days ago, I finally had it restored," said Bounty Killer in a statement. "First and foremost, I want to acknowledge and express my deepest gratitude to God, the source of all my blessings. I am forever grateful for His divine intervention."

Last November, he performed for the first time in the United Kingdom in 13 years. His visa for that country was also revoked almost 20 years ago, allegedly because of his criticism of the LGTQ community.

Bounty Killer, whose hit songs include 'Fed Up,' 'Look,' and 'Eagle And Di Hawk,' headlined the 'Legends of



DJ Khaled is teasing a new collaboration with Bounty Killer & Vybz Kartel now that their visas have been re-instated.

Legends' concert with former rival Beenie Man and Baby Cham at the OVO Arena in Wembley on November 17th. One week later, he performed alongside Richie Stephens at the Forum in Birmingham.

There are no immediate shows in the US for him, but Beenie Man, who also got back his visa after 15 years, will headline a comeback event on May 24th at the UBS Arena in Long Island as part of his 'King Of The Dancehall Tour.'

George Crooks, a veteran Jamaican booking agent/show promoter, is in charge of that show. He believes because Beenie Man, Bounty Killer, Vybz Kartel and Buju Banton were away for extended periods, that works in their favor.

"People haven't seen them in 15 years. In the case of Beenie Man, I expect a sold-out show

because there's a pent-up fan base waiting to see him," said Crooks.

Buju Banton has been the most successful comeback story to date. Since his release from US prison in December 2018 on drug-related charges, he has done sold out shows in Jamaica, the Caribbean, Europe, Canada and the United States.

The Grammy winner's US and Canadian visas were reinstated in May 2024.

Meanwhile, DJ Khaled has sparked excitement after hinting at new music with Bounty Killer and Vybz Kartel, following their link-up at his Florida home. Khaled shared a video of the Dancehall legends vibing in the studio, strongly suggesting a collaboration is on the way.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



www.caribbeantoday.com

Tributes Paid To Star Cocoa Tea, Who Sang Tribute To Barack Obama

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Tributes continue to pour in for Jamaican singer Cocoa Tea, born Calvin Scott, who lost a long fight with cancer in a Broward County hospital at age 65 on March 11, 2025.

Official confirmation of his death came from Cocoa Tea's family who endured three years of rumors on social media that he died. A number of his fellow artists, producers and music industry insiders paid tribute. "We have lost a great Jamaican artist...[and] we will continue to honor and treasure what [he's] left with us," said Olivia Grange, Jamaica's entertainment minister. Producer Lloyd "King Jammy" James, who produced several of Cocoa Tea's hit songs including Young Lover, pointed to the singer's unique ability to come up with catchy lyrics.

"I never see dat man go home an' write a song, he always wrote di lyrics on spot," he said. Reggae label VP Records paid tribute, stating: "Rest In Power Cocoa Tea, a true Jamaican music icon whose music will continue to resonate with his fans and generations to come. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time." Irwine Clare Sr., OD, founder of Team Jamaica Bickle

and Caribbean Immigrant Services, (CIS), remembered Cocoa Tea as a legend who generously supported TJB without hesitation. "Cocoa Tea

always supported Team Jamaica Bickle through his talent without hesitation and never asked for a dime in payment," Clare shared. "I remember once he performed in Jamaica the night before and then got on 'the iron bird' as he called it, Caribbean Airlines, to perform at a TJB event at Brooklyn College the next day - without pay."

Almost one year after Barack Obama announced his candidacy for president of the United States in February 2007, Cocoa Tea recorded 'Barack Obama,' a song hailing the junior senator from Illinois.

In a January 2016 interview with the Jamaica Gleaner newspaper shortly after Obama left office after two terms as America's first black president, Cocoa Tea - who died on March 11, 2025, in South Florida - recalled what inspired the reggae track.



Cocoa Tea passed away from a battle with cancer on March 11, 2025 in a Broward County hospital.

"Why me is so interested in the politics of America is that it affects I an' I. I was in touch with the primaries from it start. The only message that speak to I was from Obama, and that message was change," he said. "In addition, as a Rastafarian, according to prophecy, it was the right time for a Black man (to) come to power in the United States of America."

The diminutive singer was also best known for dancehall staples like 'Rocking Dolly,' 'I Lost My Sonia,' 'Lonesome Side,' 'Holy Mount Zion' and 'Young Lover.'

Cocoa Tea was born in Rocky Point, a fishing village in rural Clarendon parish, southern

Jamaica. He recorded his first song at 13 years-old but gave music a break to become a jockey.

When that failed, he took a second crack at music, getting his big breakthrough with 'Rocking Dolly' in 1984 for producer Henry "Junjo" Lawes. That set the tone for a number of

radio-friendly lovers rock songs in the late 1980s and 1990s for top producers including James and Bobby Digital.

Cocoa Tea is survived by his wife, eight children, six grandchildren, brothers and sisters.



New Music Releases You Should Know Of

This month is bursting with fresh Caribbean sounds, delivering new music from some of the region's most legendary voices. From reggae to gospel, fans have much to celebrate.

Kicking things off, Grammy-winning duo Sting and Shaggy are back with their reggae-infused single, "Til A Mawnin." Released via Ranch Entertainment and VP Records, the track pays tribute to reggae's Sound System culture. Co-written with the late Henry "Junjo" Lawes, it reimagines the iconic "I'm Not Getting Crazy" riddim, brought to life by the Roots Radics Band.

Gospel icon Carlene Davis has released her 13th gospel album, Songs of Zion, through VPAL and Glory Music. A fusion

of roots reggae, Nyahbinghi, and gospel, the album delivers messages of faith, featuring top Jamaican musicians like Dean Fraser and Othneil Lewis.

Meanwhile, British reggae pioneers Steel Pulse team up with producer Clive Hunt for a vibrant reggae cover of The Police's "So Lonely." The single is part of Fields of Gold: A Reggae Tribute to Sting, out March 14 via Ineffable Records, featuring reggae greats like Third World and Maxi Priest.

From uplifting gospel to roots revival, this month's releases shine a spotlight on Caribbean musical brilliance.

- NewsAmericasnow.com



FOUNDING



HOST



PRESENTING



MAJOR



Two Easter Bun Recipes To Try This Easter

Easter is almost here! Despite the challenges in the U.S. and as we continue to navigate this evolving reality, we remain hopeful and look forward to a joyful celebration.

For those looking to add a Caribbean touch to their Easter festivities, here are two delicious Easter bun recipes to try - one from Jamaica and the other from Guyana.

In Guyana and many Caribbean nations, Hot Cross Buns are a beloved tradition, especially on Holy Thursday. If you'd like to try making the Guyanese version, here's a delightful recipe from Cynthia Nelson's Taste's Like Home blog.

Guyana Hot Cross Buns



INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon active dry yeast (or instant)

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 cup warm whole milk (110 – 115 degrees F)
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt (1/4 teaspoon table salt)
- 1/3 cup currants

For the glaze:

- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 cup icing sugar
- 1/4 cup whole milk

METHOD

- Add sugar to bowl along with milk and stir to dissolve sugar. Toss in yeast and give a little stir. Cover and leave to raise for 10 minutes in a warm place.
- Add flour to bowl along with ground cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and salt and stir to mix thoroughly; toss in raisins and mix.
- Make a well in the centre of the flour mixture and pour in the yeast-milk mixture and mix to form dough.
- Once formed, knead the dough for 2 minutes, place in an oiled bowl, cover and put in a warm place to rise for 1 -1/2 hours or until the dough has more than

doubled in size.

- Punch down risen dough and knead for 2 minutes and then cut dough into equal pieces. Form each piece into a ball and place in oiled baking dish. Cover and let rise for 1 hour.
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F with the rack in the middle 20 minutes before the 1 hour of rising is complete.
- Add 3 tablespoons sugar and 2 tablespoons water to small bowl and stir to dissolve sugar.
- Brush risen dough with sugar-water and transfer dish to the oven. Bake for 12 minutes; brush with sugar-water and bake for another 12 minutes. Brush again with sugar-water and bake for 3 minutes.
- Remove dish from oven, place on wire rack and brush a few times with sugar-water and leave to cool in the dish for 10 – 12 minutes.
- Use your spatula to pry the buns from the pan and transfer to wire rack then place the wire rack on the baking sheet/tray and let buns continue to cool.
- Meanwhile, add icing sugar and milk to a bowl and whisk to dissolve. Using a tablespoon, drizzle the glaze all over the buns – on the top and sides. Let

buns continue to cool until you are ready to serve them.

Jamaica Easter Bun



Preparation time 10m

Cooking time 1h
For 8 Person(s)

INGREDIENTS

- 2-ounces Margarine
- 1 bottle stout
- 1/2 a cup of wine
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 tablespoon Browning
- 1 tablespoon Guava Jam
- 1 medium egg (optional)
- 8 ounces dark sugar
- 1 pound counter flour
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon mixed spice
- 1/4 pound mixed peel, chopped
- 1/4 pound raisins, soaked

METHOD

- Melt margarine and allow to cool, then add stout, wine, vanilla, Browning, Guava Jam and beaten egg (if used).
- Stir in the sugar and mix until all the granules are dissolved.
- Mix together all the dry ingredients then add the chopped mixed peel and raisins.
- Combine liquid mixture with dry ingredients and mix well.
- Scrape the batter into a greased loaf pan 12"x4"x3".
- Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C/350°F or until a skewer inserted comes out clean.
- Cool on a cooling rack.
- To Glaze: Combine 2 tablespoons honey with two tablespoons water and bring to a boil; remove from flame and use a pastry brush to apply it over the surface of the bun.

To Serve: Serve with slices of cheese.

Yield: 1 loaf

Bon Appetite and Happy Easter



Your Easter Meal, Your Way

If you'll be entertaining friends and family this Easter, make it "egg-stra" special with all-day grazing and personalized options to keep everyone at your table happy. Hosting has never been easier!

Need a one-stop shop for all of your hosting essentials? Consider Sam's Club and its private brand Member's Mark. The retailer has tapped into member feedback to ensure that this Easter, it can better meet your needs. The findings uncovered that many celebrants are hoping to spend all day grazing, beginning with brunch. And, because Easter is happening well into spring this year, many are also planning to fire up their grills for the occasion.

With the majority of Sam's Club members preparing an Easter meal, and most working within a budget, chances are that you're looking to serve up something memorable and

delicious without breaking the bank.

Whether you see your Easter involving breakfast, a smorgasbord, barbecue, or all the above, Sam's Club's private brand Member's Mark is making it easy and affordable to create your Easter, your way with a fully customizable, all-day grazing experience. From brunch to dinner and everything in between, here are the high-quality, Member's Mark seasonal favorites you can pick up in-store or have delivered for a complete Easter feast, including:

Member's Mark Brunch Favorites:

- Croissants
- Sous Vide Egg Bites
- Caesar Salad
- Brussels Sprouts
- Fruit and Cheese Tray



- Spring Muffin Tray
- Ribeye Steaks
- Carrot Bar Cake
- Fresh Squeezed Orange Juice
- Prosecco

Member's Mark Traditional Favorites:

- Spiral Ham
 - Mashed Potatoes
 - Mac 'n' Cheese
 - Naan Bites & Spinach Artichoke Dip
 - Deluxe Mixed Nuts
 - Strawberry Yogurt Almonds
 - Easter Cake Bites
 - Toffee Truffles
- Regional Favorites:

- Cherry Pie
- Blueberry Pie, available exclusively in the Northeast

Along with ensuring all your culinary bases are covered, here are a few additional ways to eliminate stress around Easter prep:

1: Simplify Clean-Up: Use Member's Mark disposable paper plates and napkins to make clean-up ongoing and simple, particularly if you'll be encouraging guests to graze all day. Plus, they're easier for backyard hosting, better for the planet, and commercially compostable.

2. Get A Head Start On Gifts: Don't wait until the last second to plan your Easter baskets. Give them a personalized touch by shopping with a retailer like Sam's Club, which offers Easter-themed sweet treats, candies, toys and books, all of which are already available online and on store shelves. They also

offer festive pre-filled baskets if you're feeling time-crunched or want to rely on the handiwork of professionals.

3. Save On Décor: Easter décor doesn't have to be complicated. Fresh flowers make for great centerpieces. Sam's Club is committed to floral freshness and backs its arrangements and bouquets with a seven-day fresh-or-free guarantee. However, you can jazz things up with Easter wreaths, bunny-shaped candles and decorative eggs.

For more information on Member's Mark Easter meals, visit samsclub.com.

While planning a big holiday celebration can feel overwhelming, with a few simple strategies, Easter can be one of the most joyous celebrations of spring for everyone - hosts included.

- *StatePoint*



Can We Talk?

Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves.
If you are going to a party or a formal function, don't you dress well?
We all want to promote a favorable impression of ourselves to other people we meet and talk to.
If we agree on that, then think of this. Why should it be any different for your business?
If you want to project a favorable image of your company, in order to win customers, you should keep your company with good friends and...dress your company well in...

Caribbean Today

We cover your world

For information, please call 305-238-2868, or fax 305-252-7843



Peter A. Webley
Publisher

TRAVEL NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

US Denies Existence Of Draft Travel Ban List Amid CARICOM Concerns



The United States has denied the existence of a draft travel ban list, following concerns raised by several Caribbean Community, (CARICOM) nations over reports suggesting potential travel restrictions.

US Department of State spokesperson Tammy Bruce dismissed the claims, stating, "There is no list. What people have been looking at in recent days is not something that exists here or is being acted on." She clarified that there is an ongoing review under President Trump's executive order regarding visa policies and national security.

The New York Times had reported that six Caribbean nations - St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Cuba, and Haiti - were included in a proposed list of countries facing possible travel restrictions. The reported proposal categorized countries into three levels: a "red" list barring entry, an "orange" list, imposing restrictions, and a "yellow" list allowing 60 days for compliance.

In response, Antigua and Barbuda formally requested

clarification from the US via a diplomatic note, expressing "deep concern" and stating that the government had received no prior notice regarding such a list. Other CARICOM nations, including St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, and St. Lucia, have also sought official clarification.

These nations emphasized their commitment to tightening their Citizenship by Investment, (CBI) programs, working closely with the US to prevent misuse by criminals. Antigua and Barbuda reaffirmed that all applicants undergo rigorous screening, including INTERPOL vetting, to uphold the program's integrity.

That country's government put out a statement that said: "The Government of Antigua and Barbuda wishes to reassure all travelers from the United States that travel between our two countries is not banned. Nationals and legal residents of the United States continue to enjoy visa-free entry when traveling to and from Antigua and Barbuda."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Jamaica Tourism Leaders Welcome U.S. Secretary Of State's Travel Advisory Reassessment Pledge

Jamaica's tourism leaders are welcoming the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to the island, applauding his commitment to reexamining the current U.S. State Department travel advisory for the country.

During his official visit to Kingston on Wednesday, March 26th, Secretary Rubio met with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness and senior government officials. He acknowledged the concerns raised by Jamaican authorities and assured them that, "We pledge [that] we're going to go back and re-evaluate the travel advisories as they currently stand."

The announcement was met with enthusiasm by Jamaican

tourism officials. Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, expressed gratitude, stating, "We are very grateful to Secretary of State Rubio for considering our position that the current travel advisory is outdated. Jamaica and the U.S. have long been closely aligned, and our friendship remains strong."

Donovan White, Director of Tourism for the Jamaica Tourist Board, emphasized the importance of the U.S. market, noting, "We love our U.S. visitors and they, in turn, love us. We welcomed more than 4 million visitors last year with the majority coming from the U.S."

For travel information and updates, visit visitjamaica.com.



U.S. Upgrades Travel Advisory For Turks And Caicos, Citing Crime And Firearm Laws

The U.S. State Department has upgraded its travel advisory for the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), urging visitors to exercise increased caution due to concerns over crime and strict firearm laws in the British Caribbean territory.

The Level 2 advisory warns travellers about crime risks, particularly in Providenciales, the main island in the Turks and Caicos archipelago. U.S. officials noted that local police may have limited investigatory resources, and the U.S. embassy serving American victims of crime is located in Nassau, The Bahamas, rather than in Turks and Caicos. Strict Firearm And Ammunition Laws

The advisory also highlights severe penalties for possession of firearms or ammunition, even if brought by mistake.

"Police strictly enforce these laws, even at the airport when travellers are leaving," the warning states. "Some U.S. citizens have been detained for weeks or longer after being found with bullets in their luggage. Offenders can face 12 years or more in prison."



The Level 2 advisory warns travellers about crime risks, particularly in Providenciales.

While the law allows for some exceptions and discretion, the State Department cautioned that it cannot guarantee the release of detained travellers. Safety Recommendations For Travelers

If you plan to visit Turks and Caicos, the State Department advises:

- Check your luggage carefully for bullets or firearms before leaving the U.S. Do not bring these items to Turks and Caicos.
- Avoid walking alone or at night

in unfamiliar areas.

- Do not open your door at hotels or residences unless you know who it is.
- Do not resist a robbery attempt - complying is the safest course of action.

As the Caribbean remains a top destination for U.S. tourists, travellers are urged to stay informed and take precautionary measures to ensure a safe and hassle-free trip.



UK Imposes Visa Requirement On Trinidad And Tobago

The United Kingdom has officially imposed a visa requirement on nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, citing concerns over asylum claims. The policy, which took effect on March 12th, has been met with frustration and disappointment from government officials, business leaders, and citizens of the Caribbean nation.

The British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Jon Dean, released a video explaining the move, emphasizing "friendly ties" between the two nations and stating that the change was made to "support safe and secure travel" while protecting UK borders. However, many in Trinidad and Tobago see this as diplomatic lip service, given the historical relationship between the two countries.

Asylum Claims And UK's Justification For The Change

A press release from the UK government clarified that the visa requirement was imposed due to "a significant increase" in Trinidad and Tobago nationals entering the UK as visitors only to claim asylum upon arrival. A transit visa requirement was also introduced on March 13th. However, official UK asylum statistics tell a different story.

In 2024, the UK received a record high of 84,231 asylum applications. Among these, the largest applicant groups came from Pakistan, (10,542), Afghanistan, (8,508), Iran, (8,099), Bangladesh, (7,225), and Syria, (6,680).

By contrast, only 88 applications came from Trinidad and Tobago, accounting for a mere 0.00104% of total asylum seekers. Many critics, including Facebook user Marise Kelly Johncilla, pointed out that this insignificant percentage hardly justified restricting travel for the 1.3 million citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

The visa requirement has also drawn criticism for its high cost.

A six-month multiple-entry UK visa now costs GBP 115 (TTD 1,012) - significantly higher than the cost of a U.S. visitor visa (USD 185 / TTD 1,258) or a Canadian visa (CDN 100 / TTD 475).

A medical visa (11-month stay) costs GBP 200 (TTD 1,760), and a two-year, five-year, or 10-year visa ranges from GBP 432 (TTD 3,800) to GBP 963 (TTD 8,500 - with each still limiting visits to six months at a time.

Government Response

Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Amery Browne, expressed strong disappointment with the decision, stating:

"This move is within their rights as a sovereign nation, but we do not see it as a proportionate response to what UK authorities conveyed to us. They observed that a relatively small number of T&T nationals were misusing the system by obtaining an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) and then applying for asylum upon arrival."

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce also warned that the decision could negatively impact trade, investment, tourism, student mobility, and cultural exchanges.

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley Sunday said that decision by the United Kingdom to impose a visa requirement for Trinidad and Tobago nationals to visit the European country should be used as a springboard for the Caribbean country ditching the London-based Privy Council and becoming a full member of the Caribbean Court of Justice, (CCJ).



CDC Issues Health Advisory On Measles Outbreak In Texas And New Mexico

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC), has issued a Health Alert Network, (HAN) Health Advisory to warn healthcare professionals, public health officials, and travellers about a measles outbreak spreading across Texas and New Mexico.

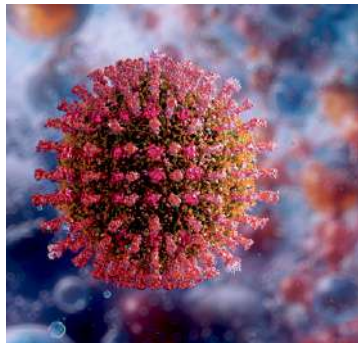
As of March 6, 2025, 222 measles cases have been reported across 12 states, including Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, and Washington.

The Maryland Department of Health confirmed that a Howard County resident tested positive for measles after returning from international travel.

Highly Contagious And Potentially Severe

Dr. Jill Roberts, associate professor at the USF College of Public Health, emphasized the extreme contagiousness of measles, calling it "one of the most infectious viruses on the planet."

According to the Florida Department of Health, measles can lead to severe complications, including pneumonia and encephalitis, a rare but life-threatening brain swelling



condition. In severe cases, encephalitis can cause seizures, blindness, hearing loss, memory loss, and permanent brain damage.

Measles Symptoms and Transmission

Symptoms of measles typically appear 7 to 14 days after exposure and include:

- High fever (up to 105°F)
- Red, watery eyes
- Cough and runny nose
- Red rash, which begins on the face and neck before spreading to the rest of the body (appears 3-5 days after initial symptoms)

Measles spreads through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. The virus can remain infectious in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the area. If 10 unvaccinated individuals are exposed, up to 9 will contract the

disease.

Concerns Over Herd Immunity

Dr. Roberts warned that herd immunity is at risk due to declining vaccination rates.

"If we don't have 95% vaccination coverage, we lose herd immunity. Many communities have already lost it," she said. "In Miami, when the recent case occurred, we checked the numbers—only 91% of people were vaccinated, which means herd immunity is no longer effective."

So far this year, Florida confirmed its first measles case in a student at Palmetto Senior High School.

Protection Through Vaccination

According to the Florida Department of Health, individuals who have had a prior measles infection or have received two doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella, (MMR) vaccine are 98% protected against the virus. As cases continue to rise, health officials are urging vaccinations and heightened precautions to prevent further spread.



April Is National Minority Health Month



Studies have indicated that prostate cancer in Black men has a different genetic makeup than in other races or ethnicities.

April is still a time to celebrate National Minority Health Month, despite the changes by the current administration. It is a time dedicated to raising awareness about health disparities among racial and ethnic minority communities and driving action toward health equity.

A Legacy Rooted In Black Health Advocacy

The origins of this observance date back to 1915, when Booker T. Washington, a prominent Black educator and leader, launched National Health Improvement Week (later known as National Negro Health Week). Washington recognized that racial progress could not be achieved without first addressing the higher rates of illness and mortality among Black communities. His initiative focused on community health education, sanitation, food safety, and school health programs.

While significant progress has been made over the past century, health disparities persist. Black women continue to experience higher maternal mortality rates, Mexican Americans face higher rates of diabetes, and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders encounter barriers to mental health care.

Prostate Cancer And Minority Health Disparities

Prostate cancer is one area where racial disparities remain stark:

- One in 6 Black men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, and they are more than twice as likely to die from the disease compared to white men.
- Between 2012-2018, Hispanic men were less likely to receive PSA screening compared to non-Hispanic white men.
- American Indian/Alaskan Native men are more likely to be diagnosed at an advanced stage and have a lower five-year survival rate compared to white men.

National Minority Health Month serves as a crucial reminder that equitable healthcare access, early screenings, and culturally competent care are essential to reducing these disparities and improving health outcomes for all communities.



It's time to take charge of your health.



IT'S **ZO** TIME

Over 50% of men skip health screenings. They put them off, make excuses, and avoid them altogether. But you don't have to be one of them. Take charge of your health—just like Alonzo Mourning, the legendary Miami HEAT player. He got screened early, and it saved his life.

Don't wait. Talk to your doctor and **schedule your check-up today**. It could save your life too. No more excuses. No more delays. It's your time. It's go time.

BaptistHealth.net/ZoTime



Baptist Health

Scan this QR code to learn more.



SPRING HEALTH



www.caribbeantoday.com

An Annual Exam Can Help Older Adults Stay Healthy

One of the best ways to prioritize your vitality is with an annual health exam. That's especially true for older adults, who tend to have more health issues to manage, according to Dr. Grant Tarbox, national medical executive with Cigna Healthcare's Medicare business.

Annual exams can vary and go by different names, depending on your coverage. Generally, they are offered at no cost to you through Medicare or Medicare Advantage, (MA) and there are a host of reasons to get one, Tarbox said, including the following:

Having A Health Care Team Leader: It's important to have a trusted advisor leading your health care team. That is the purpose of a Primary Care Physician, (PCP). A PCP knows your family and treatment histories and concerns. They play an important role keeping a broad view of all your care needs and can help you navigate them. By visiting your PCP at least annually, you maintain a critical relationship that will serve you well when you need it.

Putting A Plan Together: Your annual exam is the time to discuss which health screenings and immunizations could be important for you based on your age, gender, and medical and family history. These include



Annual exams can vary and go by different names, depending on your coverage.

such things as a flu shot, a mammogram, or a colorectal screening. Talk to your doctor about what preventive care activities are right for you and put together a plan to get them. Most are covered at no extra cost through Medicare or MA.

Addressing Conditions Before They Worsen: Aging increases the risk of certain chronic illnesses such as hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and arthritis. Ignoring these conditions won't make them go away. Always tell your health care provider about any recent changes you are experiencing. Working with your

provider to proactively manage a chronic condition before it worsens helps you to maintain your independence and vitality.

Reviewing medications: If you take one or more medications, an annual exam is a good time to review them with your PCP. You may even want to take your prescriptions to your appointment. Are these medications effective? Are you taking them as prescribed? Are there any undesirable side effects? Are there potential harmful interactions, including with over-the-counter drugs? You also can secure your refills and maybe even shift to home

delivery for convenience or to save money.

Making Lifestyle Adjustments: Even small changes can help you live longer and better. Talk honestly with your health care provider about your lifestyle. They may recommend changes, such as exercising, stopping smoking, or eating healthy.

Checking On Your Mental Health: Your emotional health impacts your physical health. Depression doesn't have to be a part of aging. Let your health care provider know if you are feeling sad, anxious or hopeless. They may recommend increasing your social interaction. Additionally, treatments, such as talk therapy, medication or both, may be covered by Medicare or

MA.

For more tips on how to make the most of your annual exam, visit cigna.com/medicare/member-resources/#media-resources.

If those aren't compelling enough reasons to get an annual health exam, then consider the fact that some Medicare Advantage plans will even pay you an incentive to ensure that you get one, said Tarbox. He added that you may also want to see your dentist and eye doctor annually to ensure whole body health. Those visits are among the extra benefits often covered by an MA plan, he said.

- StatePoint



Tips To Support Your Digestive Health

Ever have that feeling of sluggishness that you can't seem to shake? Did you know that it could be because your digestive system isn't working optimally? For better digestive wellness, consider the following tips:

Hone Your Diet

Eat a diverse diet and limit processed foods and added sugars. A well-rounded diet that prioritizes whole foods is typically high in fiber and other nutrients that promote a healthy gut. Some great choices include beans, seeds, fruits, broccoli, kimchi and avocados.

Stay Hydrated

As you increase your fiber intake, be sure to drink plenty of water to support regularity and keep everything moving through your system. Your digestive system will thank you!

Get Moving

Daily activity is a natural digestive aid. Exercise boosts circulation to deliver blood and oxygen to your digestive tract, helps you maintain a healthy metabolism, and keeps your digestive muscles strong. For greater digestive wellness, be sure to incorporate some movement into your routine.

Manage Stress

The mind-body connection is powerful, and poor digestive health is just one of the many potential side effects of too much stress. Common stress management techniques include meditation, self-care, exercise and reaching out to loved ones.

Get Quality Sleep

High-quality sleep is needed to keep all the systems of your body in tip-top shape, and your digestive system is no exception. The Mayo Clinic recommends that adults get more than 7 hours

of sleep per night.

Get A Massage

According to research, abdominal massage is a safe, easy remedy for occasional constipation that most people can do themselves.

Take Fiber Supplements

Less than 10% of Americans get enough fiber from diet alone, making a fiber supplement an excellent way to boost your intake. One great option to consider, which is associated with a number of wellness benefits, is Metamucil 4-in-1 Lemonade Flavored Psyllium Fiber Supplement Powder.

Stay Consistent

New habits can be hard to adopt. To kickstart your commitment to digestive health and to stay motivated, try taking on the Metamucil Two Week Challenge. After you sign up on the brand's website, you'll receive an email every day for two weeks with tips, tricks, and reminders for taking your fiber supplement and for staying on track. Many of those who have taken the challenge felt noticeable results. In fact, in a survey of adults who completed the two-week challenge, a majority self-reported that they felt lighter.

"Psyllium fiber supplements have the potential to make a meaningful change in your digestive health when taken daily," says Evan Smith, NA Metamucil brand director. "That's why we're excited to help people see just how amazing a healthy gut feels."

For more information and to sign up for the challenge, visit metamucil.com.

- StatePoint



Turn pain...into power.

At Broward Health, our orthopedic specialists will get you moving again and help you turn pain into power and peace of mind. Learn how we can help you at BrowardHealth.org/Ortho.

Broward[®] Health

Well Into Your Future

CUSTOMIZED TREATMENT PLANS
COMPREHENSIVE ORTHOPEDIC CARE
MINIMALLY INVASIVE ROBOTIC SURGERY

How Will The Education Department Cuts Impact Your Student Loans, FAFSA And Your Child's IEP?



The U.S. Department of Education has laid off more than 1,300 employees to date with those cuts set to impact borrowers who rely on federal student aid nationally. The sweeping cuts to the U.S. Department of Education under President Donald Trump's administration are raising concerns among students, parents, and educators nationwide. With half of the department's workforce laid off or bought out, critical functions like student loan disbursement, financial aid processing, and special education oversight face uncertainty. The Federal Student Aid Office and the Office for Civil Rights, which ensure non-discrimination in education, were among the hardest hit by the reductions announced recently. The cuts have left many wondering how the department can continue to fulfill its mission without essential staff.

What Does This Mean For Student Loans And Financial Aid?

Despite Trump's repeated calls to eliminate the Education Department, experts say federal financial aid programs remain protected by laws passed by Congress, including the Higher Education Act of 1965. However, the loss of experienced staff may lead to significant processing delays for student loans and grants.

Additionally, the administration has proposed moving the Federal Student Aid Office - which employs over 1,400 people - to the Small Business Administration. The transition, if approved, could take years and create disruptions in financial aid processing.

Will The FAFSA Process Be Affected?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, (FAFSA) remains a legal requirement for students seeking federal financial aid. However, staff shortages and potential agency restructuring could slow down processing times, leading

to delays in grant and loan approvals.

How Will Special Education And Disability Support Be Impacted?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IDEA) guarantees special education services and 504 accommodations, ensuring that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate education. These protections remain in place, but enforcement could become more challenging.

The Education Department's Office for Civil Rights, responsible for investigating disability-related complaints, has already faced disruptions. Further cuts may delay investigations, making it harder for parents and students to seek legal recourse for violations of disability rights.

During her Senate confirmation hearing, Education Secretary Linda McMahon suggested moving disability rights enforcement to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), a shift that experts warn could cause delays in critical services.

Will Colleges Lose Federal Funding?

Many colleges are already experiencing federal funding cuts unrelated to the Education Department's downsizing. The Trump administration has proposed further reductions to research grants, including a controversial policy at the National Institutes of Health that was temporarily blocked by a federal judge. Some universities have responded by implementing hiring freezes and limiting graduate admissions.

Can Trump Shut Down The Education Department?

The U.S. Constitution grants Congress - not the president - the power to create and dismantle federal agencies. While Trump can push for downsizing, completely eliminating the Education Department would require Congress to pass new

legislation, a move unlikely to gain bipartisan support.

A more feasible option would be to redistribute the department's responsibilities to other federal agencies, but this process would still require congressional approval. Given the current political divide, experts say such a move faces

significant challenges.

What's Next?

As the Trump administration moves forward with its plan to shrink the Education Department, concerns over student loans, special education services, and campus funding remain at the forefront.

While federal education laws remain intact, staffing shortages and administrative reshuffling could lead to delays and disruptions affecting millions of students and families.

- *Rewritten from USA Today*



WELLNESS CENTER & SPA
12955 SW 132ND ST
BLDG #3B, STE 104, 33186
305.520.5750
drwjarratt.com

• Body Treatments
• Laser Hair Removal
• Massage Treatments
• Facial Treatments
• Botox and Fillers

- Family Medicine
- Preventive Care
- Medicare Plans

- Wellness Exams
- Diabetic Counseling
- Women's Healthcare
- On-site Lab

305.520.5699
drj-spa.com

NOW ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS! ➔ **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL**

Your health comes first

April is National Minority Health Month – a time to focus on small changes that can make a big difference in your health. Many chronic conditions affect minority communities more often, but staying active can help lower the risk. Even a few minutes of movement each day can have a lasting impact. At Jackson Health System, we provide expert care for every community. No matter where you are on your health journey, we're here to support you every step of the way.

Call 786-761-1598 to find a Jackson specialist near you.

Jackson
HEALTH SYSTEM
Miracles made daily.

SPORTS NEWS



Historic Grand Slam Comes To Jamaica

The highly anticipated Kingston Slam is set to electrify Jamaica from April 4-6, 2025, as Grand Slam Track unveils its full line-up of 96 Racers and Challengers for the inaugural event at the Jamaica National Stadium.

Headlining the Challenger division are global track and field stars, including Grace Stark, Dalilah Muhammad, Ackeem Blake, Favour Ofili, and Dominic Lobalu. However, the competition will miss two key Racers, Devon Allen and Luis Grijalva, who are sidelined due to injuries. In response, Grand Slam Track has added an extra Challenger to each of their event groups to maintain the high-caliber competition.

With 22 nations represented, the Kingston Slam underscores Grand Slam Track's vision of creating a truly global league, bringing together the world's top athletes for an electrifying showcase of speed and endurance.

A New Era For Track And Field

"We're thrilled to finalize the lineup for our first-ever Grand Slam Track event," said US Olympian, Michael Johnson, the league's Founder and Commissioner. "With 96 world-class competitors,

the Kingston Slam will be a spectacular celebration of speed and athleticism. We invite fans from around the world to join us in Jamaica for what promises to be an unforgettable festival of track and field at the National Stadium."

The league also confirmed that the Challengers for upcoming Slams in Miami, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles will be announced soon.

Jamaica Set To Witness Elite Competition

The Kingston Slam will feature an impressive lineup of sprinters, hurdlers, and distance runners, including:

Men's Short Sprints:

Kenny Bednarek, Fred Kerley, Oblique Seville, Zharnel Hughes, Courtney Lindsey, Ackeem Blake, Terrence Jones, Joseph Fahnbulleh.

Women's Short Sprints:

Brittany Brown, Daryll Neita, Melissa Jefferson-Wooden, Alana Reid, Jacious Sears, Tamara Clark, Favour Ofili, Kemba Nelson.

Men's Long Sprints:

Quincy Hall, Muzala Samukonga, Matthew Hudson-Smith, Jereem Richards, Busang Collen Kebinatshipi, Vernon



The historic Grand Slam is set for Jamaica's iconic National Stadium in Kingston, April 4-6, 2025.

Norwood, Chris Bailey, Deandre Watkin.

Women's Long Sprints:

Gabby Thomas, Nickisha Pryce, Alexis Holmes, Marileidy Paulino, Salwa Eid Naser, Dina Asher-Smith, Talitha Diggs, Stacey Ann Williams.

Men's Short Hurdles:

Freddie Crittenden, Sasha Zhoya, Daniel Roberts, Orlando Bennett, Hansle Parchment, Cordell Tinch, Cameron Murray, Dylan Beard.

Women's Short Hurdles:

Ackera Nugent, Jasmine Camacho-Quinn, Masai Russell, Cyréna Samba-Mayela, Danielle

Williams, Grace Stark, Denisha Cartwright, Alia Armstrong.

Men's Long Hurdles:

Clément Ducos, Alison Dos Santos, Caleb Dean, Roshawn Clarke, Malik James-King, CJ Allen, Chris Robinson, Trevor Bassitt.

Women's Long Hurdles:

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Shamier Little, Rushell Clayton, Jasmine Jones, Shiann Salmon, Cathelijn Peeters, Andrenette Knight, Dalilah Muhammad.

Men's Short Distance:

Cole Hocker, Josh Kerr, Yared Nuguse, Marco Arop, Emmanuel Wanyonyi, Bryce Hoppel, Neil

Gourley, Mohamed Attaoui.

Women's Short Distance: Jess Hull, Nikki Hiltz, Diribe Welteji, Mary Moraa, Nelly Chepchirchir, Heather MacLean, Natoya Goule-Toppin, Susan Ejore.

Men's Long Distance:

Grant Fisher, Ronald Kwemoui, Hagos Gebrhiwet, Cooper Teare, Thierry Ndikumwenayo, Dominic Lobalu, Dylan Jacobs, Telahun Haile Bekele.

Women's Long Distance:

Nozomi Tanaka, Tsige Gebreselama, Agnes Ngetich, Elise Cranny, Hellen Ekalale, Whittni Morgan, Melissa Courtney-Bryant, Ejgayehu Taye.

A Must-See Event

With an electrifying lineup of world-class athletes, the Kingston Slam is set to be a historic moment for both Grand Slam Track and Jamaica's rich track and field legacy. Fans can expect high-energy races, thrilling performances, and a celebration of the sport at its finest.

- Rewritten from CMC



Count-Down On To 129th Running Of The Penn Relays

The count-down is on to the 129th running of the annual Penn Relays from April 24-26, 2025, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Local Jamaica Diaspora organization, Team Jamaica Bickle, (TJB), is hard at work raising funds to help Caribbean athletes who will be running at the relays. The group, founded by Jamaican immigrant advocate Irwine Clare, O.D., is approaching its 31st year of its mission of providing vital assistance to athletes and coaches

competing in Philadelphia.

To support its efforts, TJB will host the 2025 "Black Tie Gowns & Sneakers" 3.1 Labor of Love Gala Fundraising Luncheon on Sunday, April 13th at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, New York, starting at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$200 per seat, with early bird tickets available for \$175 until February 28th.

The gala promises entertainment, awards, special guests, and surprises, all under

the theme "Our Athletes, Our Ambassadors." Clare emphasized TJB's ongoing commitment to athlete welfare, ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all delegations. "The core of our efforts has and continues to be the welfare of our athletes," said Clare.

For tickets and updates, visit teamjamaicabickle.com.

- NewsAmericasNow.com





Perrine SDA School
A CHRISTIAN PRE-K THRU 8 INSTITUTION

Educating the whole child

Enrolling now for 2024-2025

Available Scholarships:




- School Readiness
- Step Up For Students
- McKay
- VPK

APPLY NOW!

(786)429-3942 • (754)368-7023

School's Office OPENS 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday to Friday.
Visit us online at psdaschool.org

HIGH DEMAND HIGH-PAYING CAREERS IN 1 TO 2 YEARS

■ NO LOANS TO REPAY ■ AFFORDABLE ■ CONVENIENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION
305.558.8000

CAREERINAYEAR.COM



M-DCPS
YOUR BEST
CHOICE



NOW ENROLLING!

CWI And WIPA Reaffirm Commitment To Player Safety Amid Sexual Harassment Allegations

Amid renewed allegations of sexual harassment involving a female West Indies player at the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Australia, Cricket West Indies, (CWI) and the West Indies Players' Association, (WIPA) have jointly reiterated their commitment to maintaining a safe and professional environment for all players.

In a joint statement issued this week, both organizations emphasized that they take such matters seriously and are united in their efforts to uphold the highest standards of safeguarding across

West Indies cricket. "WIPA and CWI remain fully committed to ensuring a safe, professional, and supportive environment for all players and staff," the statement read.

The two bodies also announced that they would be conducting a comprehensive review of all current athlete safeguarding protocols in light of the reported incident.

"This joint effort reflects our shared responsibility to uphold player welfare and to ensure that all safeguarding policies remain both robust and effective," the

release added.

According to the statement, several proactive measures have already been implemented over recent years to enhance player protection. In 2021, new safeguarding protocols were introduced for women's international tours to improve player well-being and security.

Further, in May 2023, CWI expanded its safeguarding policy to ensure gender parity, including offering single-room accommodation for the West Indies Senior Women's team during international assignments—

matching the standard afforded to the men's team. These updates were incorporated into the ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering the period from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2027.

To further advance women's cricket, the CWI Women's Cricket Transformation Committee was also established. Meanwhile, strict adherence to UNICEF's Child Protection Policy remains a priority, ensuring that minors never share accommodations with adults, under any circumstances.

The statement also highlighted

that ongoing training is mandatory for all officials to strengthen and maintain safeguarding awareness and standards.

"WIPA and CWI remain committed to fostering a culture of respect, accountability, and professionalism within West Indies cricket," the release concluded. "Every player deserves to feel safe, valued, and fully focused on their career, and our review will reinforce this unwavering support."

- *Rewritten from CMC*



St. Lucian Elected President Of Caribbean Football Union

Lyndon Cooper, president of the St. Lucia Football Association, has been elected as the new president of the Caribbean Football Union, (CFU).

Cooper, who previously served as vice president of the CFU Executive Committee for 13 years, was elected unopposed during the CFU's 48th Ordinary Congress at the Royalton Hotel on Sunday. He succeeds Randy Harris, president of the Barbados Football Association, who opted not to seek re-election after securing a position on the FIFA Council on March 15th.

New Leadership Team Announced Joining Cooper at the helm of the CFU are newly elected vice presidents:

- Michael Ricketts (Jamaica)
- John Krishnadath (Suriname)
- Jean Dartron (Guadeloupe)
- Ivan Rivera (Puerto Rico)



New president of the Caribbean Football Union, Lyndon Cooper, (right), seen here with FIFA president Gianni Infantino. (CMC image)

The executive committee includes:

- Glen Etienne (Dominica)
- Anya James (Bahamas)
- Girdon Connor (Anguilla)
- Mark Wade (Bermuda)

A Vision For Unity And Development

In his acceptance speech, Cooper emphasized collaboration and unity among the CFU's 31 member associations, reaffirming his commitment to strengthening ties with FIFA and Concacaf.

"We have and will continue to enhance the value we provide to our members through our initiatives and partnerships with Concacaf, FIFA, and all stakeholders," he stated.

He also underscored the power of football to unite the Caribbean, calling on members to break cultural barriers between the region's English, Dutch, French, and Spanish-speaking nations.

"As I take on this presidency, I urge everyone to use football as a means to unite, eliminate obstacles to development, and foster relationships and alliances," Cooper said.

Outgoing President Reflects On Achievements

Meanwhile, Randy Harris, who led the CFU since 2017, reflected on the progress made during his tenure.

"We prioritized accountability, integrity, and transparency as our guiding principles, and we succeeded in this endeavour," Harris said. "I take pride in our achievements,

which have enhanced both our reputation and the advancement of football in our region."

With Cooper now at the helm, the CFU looks forward to continued growth and development of

Caribbean football on the global stage.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Barbados' Randy Harris Makes History As First Bajan Elected To FIFA Council

Randy Harris, president of the Barbados Football Association (BFA), has made history by becoming the first Barbadian elected to the FIFA Council. His election took place on March 15th during the 40th Ordinary Congress of Concacaf, held in St. Lucia.

Harris will join re-elected Caribbean representative Sonia Fulford of the Turks and Caicos Islands on the FIFA Council, while Martinique's Maurice Victoire was also re-elected to the Concacaf Council. Stepping Down From CFU To Focus On FIFA Role

Following his historic appointment, the 69-year-old Harris announced that he will not seek re-election as president of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU), a position he has held since 2017. However, he confirmed that he will continue to serve as president of the BFA.

"It is really an honour and a privilege to be elected as a member of the FIFA Council," Harris said. "I look forward to strengthening the voice of the region at the global table and continuing to support the FIFA president's vision for football development worldwide."

With nearly five decades of experience in football administration, Harris' election marks a major milestone for Barbados and Caribbean football, ensuring that the region has a stronger presence on the global stage.

"Big congratulations to Randy Harris on his election to the FIFA Council, the first Barbadian to ever hold a position on this high-level football body," said PM Mia Mottley. "With close



Randy Harris, president of the Barbados Football Association (BFA), has made history by becoming the first Barbadian elected to the FIFA Council. (CMC image)

to five decades of dedication and leadership in football administration in Barbados and the Caribbean, this is truly a well-deserved achievement. We look forward to seeing you champion local and regional football on the global stage."

- *Rewritten from CMC*



QUALITY ONE
INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING EXPRESS CORP.
SHIP TO JAMAICA & OTHER CARIBBEAN ISLANDS. www.qualityoneshipping.com

FLORIDA
We ship to Jamaica & other Caribbean Islands

PICK UPS DAILY MONDAYS - SATURDAYS
DOOR TO DOOR DELIVERY SERVICE
PREPARE RETURNING RESIDENTS DOCUMENTS
PRE CLEARANCE SERVICE

FLORIDA LOCATION:
3457 NW 19TH STREET, LAUDERDALE LAKES, FLORIDA 33311

954-530-3997

WE SELL BARRELS FREE ESTIMATES WEEKLY SAILING TO KINGSTON & MONTEGO BAY

Go First Class with CT

Yes, send me 1 year (12 issues) of Caribbean Today for: \$50(US) First Class Payment Enclosed

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
Country: _____ Telephone: _____

Please make check or Money Order payable to Caribbean Today, and mail to:
9020 S.W. 152nd Street • Miami, Florida 33157

Caribbean Today



A shared triumph.

As we celebrate excellence and perseverance on the road to graduation, we honor those who have supported graduates on their journey to academic success.

Watch now at publix.com/sharedtriumph.

