

Caribbean Today

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



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CAGED

Dozens Of Caribbean Immigrants Also Held In Cages At Florida's "Alligator Alcatraz" - Page 4



Protesters gather to demand the closing of the immigrant detention center known as "Alligator Alcatraz" in Ochopee, Fla., on July 22. (Chandan Khanna / AFP via Getty Images)

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REGIONAL NEWS



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

REGIONAL

As global travel becomes increasingly restricted for Haitian nationals, Grenada and Montserrat now stand out as the only two Caribbean Community, (CARICOM) countries that do not require visas for Haitian passport holders.

The update comes from the 2025 Henley Passport Index,

which ranks global passport strength based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). According to the latest rankings, Haitian citizens can only travel visa-free to 15 countries - five fewer than in 2024. Shockingly, no other CARICOM nation beyond Grenada and Montserrat appears on that list.

While the Haitian passport grants access to 43 destinations in total (15 visa-free and 28 visa-on-arrival), most of the world - including nearly all of the Caribbean - requires a visa in advance. The tightening of access reflects growing challenges for Haitian nationals navigating global mobility amid ongoing political and

humanitarian crises at home.

Meanwhile, Barbados, The Bahamas, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines hold the region's most powerful passports, granting visa-free access to over 150 countries. The contrast highlights both growing Caribbean inequality in mobility and the shrinking space for Haitians within the region - even among their CARICOM peers.

involved. While the motive is still under investigation, officials suspect inter- or intra-gang conflict, linked to Haitian criminal groups.

Premier Charles Washington Misick issued a direct appeal to the Haitian community, urging them to help stop the violence: "You know who these criminals are. You know how the guns are coming in."

The government has declared the shooting a national security event and promised increased resources for law enforcement. A \$10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to arrests. So far this year, 22 people have been murdered in Turks and Caicos.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago has declared its second state of emergency this year, citing intelligence that gang leaders - both inside and outside prisons - have formed a criminal syndicate plotting kidnappings, robberies, and assassinations.

Police Commissioner Allister Guevarro announced the move, confirming gang leaders are being relocated to more secure facilities to sever communication lines. No curfew is in place, but law enforcement now holds expanded powers, including warrantless entry.

Despite a recent dip in crime, officials say this preemptive action is critical to disrupting an evolving threat from organized gangs. Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar said that the proclamation took effect as of midnight on July 17th, and the police had to extract people from the Maximum-Security prison and put into another location "where they could be on lockdown."

Meanwhile, newly appointed Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT), Larry Howai, says resolving the country's foreign exchange challenges remains a top priority. However, he cautioned that a long-term fix will require balancing foreign exchange supply and demand - a goal he admits is "still some way off."

A statement from the CBTT highlighted the Governor's call for strong collaboration between the Central Bank and the banking sector to steer the country through the current economic climate.

Discussions at the meeting also touched on overall economic performance, financial system liquidity, and the persistent pressure on foreign exchange access.

TURKS & CAICOS

Authorities in Turks and Caicos have confirmed that Haitian gang violence is suspected in the territory's first recorded mass shooting, which left three dead and 10 injured at Island Hookah Lounge on July 27th.

Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey called the attack "deeply disturbing," noting that at least four gunmen armed with high-powered weapons were

BAHAMAS

A tragic incident aboard a Royal Caribbean cruise ship last week was driven by a case of unrequited love, according to senior Bahamas police officials.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Anton Rahming confirmed Monday that a 35-year-old South African crew member fatally jumped overboard after stabbing a 28-year-old female colleague, also from South Africa, when she rejected his advances.

"Our reports indicated that he attempted a relationship with the female, and after being denied, he inflicted injuries," Rahming said at the Royal Bahamas Police Force's mid-year briefing.

The attack took place while the ship was near San Salvador. The man jumped from the vessel despite efforts to stop him and later died from his injuries.

The injured woman received treatment on board and was later transferred with the crew.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne has confirmed that the INTERPOL-related alert that triggered additional immigration checks on former Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley did not originate from his country.

Speaking on the sidelines of the AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum, Browne told CMC that Rowley was never detained but was subject to routine follow-up after a foreign-sourced alert appeared in the immigration system.

"He was treated with full respect," Browne said, emphasizing the alert has now been removed. Rowley has since called the incident state-sponsored slander.

- *Rewritten from CMC & UK Guardian*



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NEWS



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Caribbean Immigrants Among Hundreds Held in Controversial Florida Detention Center

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Dozens of Caribbean immigrants are among the more than 700 people detained at Florida's controversial "Alligator Alcatraz" facility in the Everglades - despite many

having no criminal record. Hailing from nations including Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and St. Lucia, these individuals are being held at the hastily constructed detention center set up by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on Native American

land. While the site was promoted as a holding center for violent offenders, alarming reports indicate that over 250 detainees have no criminal history, sparking outrage among families and immigrant advocates. Caribbean nationals make

up a significant portion of those detained: 11.6% from Cuba, 5.1% from the Dominican Republic, 2.3% from Haiti, and 2% from Jamaica, according to data on the facility's current population.

A woman from St. Lucia shared on social media that her husband, who had an expired visa but no criminal history, was transferred to Alligator Alcatraz: "I don't understand why they took him there," she said. "He is not a dangerous person."

Cuban American Sonia Vichara said her husband, Rafael Collado, detained since July, had a criminal past but no violent record: "This place is a cage... they're human," she said. She said she hadn't heard from him since July 11 and fears he was among the group of immigrants on the first flight for deportation.

Yaneisy Fernandez's son, Michael Borrego, also Cuban, is being held following a parole violation. He's reportedly been



Cages with bunk beds are shown as the US President toured "Alligator Alcatraz," located at the site of the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport in Ochopee, Florida on July 1, 2025. (Andrew Caballero-Reynolds, AFP Via Getty Images)

denied medical care despite recent surgery.

Another mother, Mariam Moschella, whose son was detained after a traffic stop, said he wants to be deported to Mexico to escape the conditions. "He is miserable... this deportation thing is getting out of control," she told Caribbean Today.

Even a 15-year-old boy from Cuba, with no charges, was held alongside violent criminals before being released. His family still demands answers: "He could've been hurt," his aunt told

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Don Wehby Remembered As A Nation-Builder

As tributes poured in following the passing of former Group CEO of GraceKennedy and former Jamaican Senator and Cabinet Minister, Don Wehby, what emerged was not just the portrait of a corporate titan - but a rare figure who navigated business and nation-building with equal devotion.

Wehby, who passed away on July 26th at the age of 62, after a battle, reportedly with cancer, is best known for doubling GraceKennedy's revenue and modernizing its global footprint. His deeper legacy may be his seamless fusion of corporate leadership with public service.

In an era when business and politics often exist in tension, Wehby proved that both could work in tandem to advance Jamaica's development. Jamaica's Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, hailed him as a "deeply principled" leader who mentored others while Opposition Leader Mark Golding called him a "personal friend" whose impact shaped both policy and enterprise.

Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and Leader of Government Business in the Senate, described Wehby as, "a distinguished and principled business leader, legislator and philanthropist with whom it was a privilege to serve in the Senate, as Legacy Partner and as Chair of our Diaspora Conference Committee on more than one



Former Group CEO of GraceKennedy and former Jamaican Senator and Cabinet Minister, Don Wehby, passed away on July 26, 2025.

occasion." "He demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to Jamaica's growth and development and an unwavering belief in the capacity of every Jamaican, including those in the Diaspora, to contribute to social and economic transformation at the national level," she said in a statement.

Wehby's rare blend of private sector acumen and public duty - serving as Minister Without Portfolio in Finance and twice appointed to the Senate - marked him as a quiet but powerful force in shaping modern Jamaica.

His legacy, leaders agreed, lives on not only in GDP growth but in the values he embodied: integrity, humility, and unwavering patriotism. Wehby is survived by his wife Hilary and three children. May his soul rest in peace.



To obtain this information in an accessible format, please call 305-375-5060.

Tensions Rise As Sanctioned Businessman Shakes Up Guyana's Election

With just weeks to go before Guyana's pivotal September 1st General and Regional Elections, a political firestorm is brewing around the candidacy of Azruddin Mohamed, a U.S.-sanctioned gold trader and acclaimed billionaire, and leader of the We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) party.

Mohamed's ability to draw a multi-ethnic following in a country dogged for decades by racial politics, particularly in key battlegrounds like Essequibo and Berbice, has set off alarms within both the ruling People's Progressive Party (PPP) and the United States government. U.S. Ambassador Nicole Theriot voiced "deep concern" this week, warning that Mohamed's potential election to Parliament could disrupt U.S. investment interest in Guyana and complicate bilateral relations.

"If a sanctioned individual becomes a member of government, it could send shockwaves through our private sector partners," Theriot said, pointing to past examples in

other countries where such developments led to economic disengagement.

Mohamed and his father were sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in 2024 for allegedly evading taxes on gold exports totaling more than 10,000 kilograms. Despite this, the WIN party has quickly gained traction, and Mohamed's visibility on the campaign trail has forced the PPP to intensify its outreach and messaging.

In response, President Irfaan Ali and Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo have mounted an aggressive campaign, warning voters that electing WIN candidates - especially Mohamed - would pose a threat to Guyana's stability and international standing, particularly amid ongoing tensions with Venezuela over the Essequibo region.

"Essequibo is not for sale," Ali told a rally in Anna Regina. "We cannot hand this country over to people with questionable records and uncertain motives."

To help ensure transparency



Azruddin Mohamed, the US sanctioned businessman and founder of the WIN party, is contesting the Guyana elections and making waves.

and legitimacy, two major international electoral watchdogs have stepped in. The Carter Center, which has observed every Guyanese election since 1992, has launched an election observation mission, deploying a team of experts from the U.S., UK, and Georgia. The Center pledged an impartial and thorough assessment, noting that it would engage political parties and civil society throughout the process.

"We are honored to support the Guyanese people in assessing

the credibility of the election," said David Carroll, Director of the Carter Center's Democracy Program.

The Organization of American States (OAS) has also signed an agreement with the government to deploy its Electoral Observation Mission (EOM), with former Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding once again serving as Chief of Mission. This marks the seventh OAS observation mission in Guyana.

OAS Secretary General Albert Ramdin stressed that their goal is not to criticize, but to offer "constructive and actionable recommendations that build public trust and institutional strength."

While six political parties have been approved to contest the general elections, only four - the PPP/C, WIN, the main opposition, A Partnership for National Unity, APNU, and the Alliance For Change, AFC - will compete across all ten regional districts. The Elections Commission (GECOM) has

confirmed that candidate lists have been vetted and finalized.

Despite increasing scrutiny, WIN remains defiant. In a statement, the party reaffirmed its commitment to free and fair elections, thanking international observers for promoting transparency.

Still, the stakes are high. The PPP is offering its most ambitious package of development promises to date, from agricultural subsidies and new roads to ports, schools, and sports infrastructure - all aimed at retaining its dominance, especially in regions where WIN is gaining ground.

As the campaign enters its final month, Guyana finds itself at a political crossroads: a familiar incumbent facing an unlikely challenger whose candidacy carries both grassroots momentum and geopolitical risk.

All eyes - domestic and international - will be watching the returns on Sept. 1st.

- NewsAmericasNow



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LOCAL NEWS



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Trump Reaffirms Security And Trade Commitment To Jamaica During White House Credential Ceremony

In a rare Oval Office moment amid heightened U.S. election-year diplomacy, President Donald Trump warmly welcomed Jamaica's new Ambassador, Major General (Ret'd) Antony Anderson, on July 24 as the diplomat formally presented his Letters of Credence. The occasion marked a symbolic renewal of Jamaica-U.S. relations and came with a strong reaffirmation of Washington's pledge to deepen regional partnerships.

During the exchange,



Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Major General (Ret'd) Antony Anderson and President of the United States, Donald Trump display the Letter of Credence signifying the official appointment of Jamaica's 14th Ambassador to the United States after a ceremony held in the oval office at the White House on July 24th 2025. (Contributed image)

President Trump praised the "more than 60 years of friendship" between the two nations and emphasized continued cooperation through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) and U.S.-Jamaica trade channels. Trump also expressed intent to expand U.S. investment in Jamaican energy and tourism sectors.

The credentialing ceremony marked Ambassador Anderson's first official engagement in Washington and the start of a new era in bilateral relations. Anderson,

Jamaica's 14th Ambassador to the U.S., echoed the commitment to security cooperation and economic collaboration. He also noted the historic March visit of Secretary of State Marco Rubio to Kingston as a milestone moment underscoring mutual priorities.

The meeting reflected Trump's foreign policy focus on security partnerships and hemispheric stability, signaling a strategic interest in Jamaica as a key ally in the Caribbean.



Jamaicans In U.S. Capital Region Celebrate Independence And Emancipation

Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica across the Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, (DMV) region came together on July 27th, for a spirited Thanksgiving Service celebrating 63 years of Jamaica's Independence and 187 years since Emancipation from slavery.

The event, held at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland, began at 10:45 a.m. under the theme "Be Proud, Be Bold: God Is Doing a New Thing."

His Excellency Major General (ret'd) Antony Anderson, Jamaica's newly appointed Ambassador to the United States, delivered his first major address to the diaspora. Messages from Prime Minister Andrew Holness and other officials were also shared. Local clergy, including Rev. Sylvia McDonald Kaufman, Dr. Bertram L. Melbourne, and Rev. Eron Henry, led the congregation in prayer, reflection, and celebration.

The DMV Jamaica Diaspora



A section of the large congregation of Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica lift their voices in song, at last year's Jamaica Independence Thanksgiving Service, held at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Takoma Park, Maryland. (Contributed image)

Awards were presented to four honorees for outstanding contributions to the Jamaican community, including Professor Emeritus Dr. Franklyn W. Knight and Elda Devarie of EMD Sales.

Organized in partnership with the Embassy of Jamaica, the event blended worship, cultural pride, and community recognition. Offerings collected were dedicated to support the Hanover Infirmary in Jamaica, continuing the diaspora's commitment to giving back.



Caribbean Immigrants Among Hundreds Held in Controversial Florida Detention Center

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

reporters.

Cuban reggaeton artist Leamsy La Figura, facing assault charges, is also detained. He told CBS News: "There's no water to take a bath."

Jamaican nationals are not exempt. Jasmine Kaymanson said her boyfriend, who served time for fraud but has since reformed, faces deportation: "They are going to deport him... even though he changed his life around," she said.

Some detainees like Cuban resident Gonzalo Almanza have green cards but were still swept up. His wife said he was picked up due to a decade-old racketeering charge. "The injustice... is really insane," Almanza said.

A Dominican immigrant arrested in Puerto Rico is also detained at "Alligator Alcatraz."

Governor Ron DeSantis admitted some immigrants may have been wrongly deported, stating: "Some individuals who were deported had a legal right to remain in the U.S."

A federal lawsuit is challenging the legality of the center, including restricted legal access, canceled court hearings, and poor conditions. Advocates claim detainees are denied due process. Federal Judge Rodolfo

Ruiz has set Aug. 18th as the date for a hearing related to a lawsuit that, among several things, takes issue with the inability of attorneys to access one-on-one time with detainees at the controversial detention center located in the middle of the Everglades.

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, after visiting the site, condemned it: "Bottom line: this place needs to be shut down." She said up to 32 detainees were placed in each cage, with little to no privacy for showering or using the restroom, and poor food quality.

Wasserman Schultz, who with fellow U.S. Reps Jared Moskowitz, Darren Soto and Maxwell Frost, toured the facility on July 12 wants Congressional right to inspect any facility holding federal immigrants regardless of whether it is owned or operated by the federal government, a state, or a private contractor.

Still, DHS denies mistreatment claims, insisting detainees have legal access and proper care. For many families, however, the trauma is already unfolding—inside a facility critics say should never have existed in the first place.



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FEATURE



Erica Appleby - Giving Back Through Fashion

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

At the tender age of eight, Erica Appleby started drawing designs inspired by her fashion forward Jamaican mother, who taught her to sew at age four. Today, she is the owner and creative behind the Hollywood, Florida-based ETA Luxe Bridal Boutique, Luxe Art Tech Studio, as well as a Mentorship & Youth Development - all centered around fashion and education.

"I would say pretty early on I had an interest in creating things," Appleby told Caribbean Today in a recent interview. "I think I've always had a creative spark for putting things together, for tinkering with things and that's what really tied everything together for me. My first inspiration was my mom. I wanted to be able to create pieces for her that I thought that she would look beautiful in. She was very interested in fashion."

The designer's Luxe Art Tech Studio is a space offering sewing, illustration and creative design classes. The tech-forward studio also provides studio rentals for emerging designers.

Her bridal boutique is a special place where she creates bespoke bridal and formalwear, blending exceptional craftsmanship and affordability.

"Luxe Art Tech started off as a creative idea. It was sparked during COVID when everything was locked down," Appleby explained. "So, people started asking me questions about design because they had nothing to do and wanted to learn. It started off as an educational podcast for me to be able to bring different designers on and people from all scopes of life to learn, to teach."

This online learning environment eventually evolved into a physical space, a studio for creatives to be able to cultivate their ideas, to be able to get the instruction and education that they needed but also have a space for them to be able to create, she added.

Underserved Communities

Creating a balance, Appleby designed an initiative to give back to the community through her mentorship program, which provides year-round workshops and fashion camps nurturing tal-



Jamaican American Designer Erica Appleby (Contributed images)

ent and entrepreneurship within underserved communities.

"I've been a designer now for over 20 years. I've made the connections that I needed to make and built very successful relationships," said Appleby. "Now I feel like I'm in the position where I can actually nurture a budding designer, or nurture a budding creative, to be able to take them through the full cycle for them to be able to also achieve some of the success that I have... One of the reasons why I started the mentorship program

was to be able to give them the skill sets that they need in order for them to be outside in the world."

Poignantly the designer added: "I get very emotional when I look at the world. I'm like, this looks like chaos. But a part of me feels like, if I can do what I can do within arm's reach, with people who are next to me, with the people who find me online, with people who I'm able to touch, if I could do what I can do within that scope, then I'm doing the work."

It is from that place where her designs start - with empathy, with collaboration, with passion.

"I ask them a series of questions - their likes, their dislikes, especially about their bodies," she explained of her design process. "Understanding their perspective about their bodies helps me to shift the paradigm a little bit. I look at their personal style when they walk into the room, and I also listen to some of the things they say. And then from there I start to draw and cultivate ideas based upon what I believe they're going to love. Because doing couture bespoke

pieces, it really has to speak to them as well."

Appleby's fashion aesthetic has an artistic edge. As a traditional fine artist/painter, she is inspired by the art in nature and the built environment. Her structural designs are based on architectural elements and cues she takes from cultural spaces and experiences such as the flow and fluid lines from ancient Egypt. She incorporates unique textures, textiles, and fabrications such as Mikado for its luxurious structural pliability to lift and inspire her designs, at the same time thinking about affordability and suitability for her clients.

So, what's next for this Jamaican American fashion forward creative?

"I don't know what's next. Every day I say, God, just show me, show me the best of what can happen," she said. "And what's funny about that is, I really and truly think that I haven't even started to scratch the surface. So, I'm open to the universe. I think that the best thing that we can all do every day is show up for the vision."



A Riveting Generational Tale - 'I Am Cuba'

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

The Cuban revolution led by the charismatic Fidel Castro comes alive in Lynda R. Edwards' new book, *I Am Cuba*. Following the life of this young upstart who was a staunch advocate for equality amongst the classes, readers experience the unfolding

of a new Cuba through the eyes of Castro's close friends, family, compatriots, and combatants.

Although a work of fiction, this historical novel weaves in factual events that shaped the lives of its protagonists making for a captivatingly authentic read.

Full of intrigue, *I Am Cuba*

is a reflection of the cold war era when the two superpowers - United States of America and Russia - were in a race for space exploration and arms superiority. It's also a story of passion, power, and sacrifice fueled by the familial generations that collide in the advent of the Cuban revolution led by Fidel

Castro, a hero to many and a villain to others because of his socialism.

We are introduced to young José Vasquez, a curious and intelligent boy who grew up on his father's modest cocoa farm in Baracoa deep in Guantánamo province. José makes a discovery on the farm that would change the island's trajectory forever. He stumbles upon Orichalcum, a mysterious mineral mined and used by the ancient inhabitants of the lost city of Atlantis. He would share this secret with his childhood friend Fidel Castro, who would later exploit this knowledge in the name of the revolution, fueling international espionage involving the USA, Russia, and Cuba.

Well Researched Not only is this book a riveting tale, but it is also well researched. Curiosity about Atlantis led me to search for any ties to Cuba and this lost city. Back in 2001 a marine engineer found what seemed to be unusual geometric rock formations of a sunken city in Cuban waters using advanced sonar equipment. The find was further investigated by other experts but was eventually deemed unverifiable and vanished from the news.

Book: I Am Cuba - A Story of Passion, Power, and Sacrifice
Author: Lynda R. Edwards
Publisher: TL Edwards & Company
Publication Date: June 2025
Get it on Amazon and Barnes & Nobles.



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Twice Displaced: The Tragedy Of Alligator Alcatraz And Florida's Native Lands

Native Americans in Florida's Everglades are being displaced again - this time not by colonizers with muskets and treaties, but by Florida's governor and the razor-wired detention camp now known as "Alligator Alcatraz."

Long before Europeans arrived - before trailers and guard towers popped up on the Dade-Collier airstrip - this land was home to the Calusa, Tequesta, and Glades peoples: thriving cultures that lived as stewards of the environment as far back as 4,500 years ago. Later, the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes resisted white colonization and made the swamp their sanctuary.

But in 2025, history repeated itself. A new immigrant detention facility was fast-tracked on that very land - built without tribal consultation or archaeological review - in what many view as a modern act of erasure.

That's why on July 14, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida filed a motion to join a lawsuit alongside environmental groups against multiple government entities, including the Department of Homeland Security, ICE, Miami-Dade County, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

The lawsuit argues that the facility's construction threatens Miccosukee villages, sacred and ceremonial sites, and traditional hunting grounds. Tribal members, who reside within the Big Cypress National Preserve, have lived on and cared for this land "since time immemorial," according to the filing.

The site in question - the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport, (TNT), was originally developed in the 1970s as part of a now-defunct plan for a supersonic "Everglades Jetport." That \$1 billion dream was ultimately shut down by scientists, environmentalists, and tribal advocates who successfully fought to preserve the ecosystem.

But that historic victory has now been bulldozed - literally and figuratively - in a matter of days.

In June 2025, Governor Ron DeSantis invoked a 2023 executive emergency order to erect the detention camp at lightning speed. Using emergency funds originally reserved for natural disasters, the state awarded no-bid contracts to private firms with ties to the

Republican Party, which quickly slapped together tents, bunk beds, chain-link fencing, and guard towers - right in the middle of sacred Indigenous ground.

All of it was done without:

- An environmental impact statement.
- A Section 106 review under the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Any tribal consultation or community input.

Public records confirm that no input was requested from the Seminole or Miccosukee tribes - both federally recognized with long-standing cultural and legal claims to this land.

Today, the detention site sits inside Big Cypress National Preserve, part of one of the most fragile ecosystems in North America. The Everglades is a slow-moving river of grass teeming with wildlife - alligators, pythons, panthers, manatees, rare birds and hawks, and orchids.

Scientists have raised serious alarms:

- Razor wire, floodlights, and construction disrupt key wildlife corridors.
- Fuel and human waste runoff could pollute the water table.
- The facility is in a high-risk hurricane and flood zone.
- Extreme heat threatens the safety of both detainees and guards.

Yet, despite all this, Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier proudly coined the name "Alligator Alcatraz" in a promotional video for the site. The name stuck.

Former President Donald Trump, during a July 1st visit, praised the facility and joked that it might be "better than the real Alcatraz." The irony is chilling: that infamous penitentiary in San Francisco was occupied by Native Americans in 1969 in a historic protest for tribal land rights and civil justice.

To add insult to injury, the Department of Homeland Security posted a mocking image of alligators wearing ICE hats, as if laughing at the outrage - and the sacredness of the land they're now



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

desecrating.

It's more than a cruel joke. It's a xenophobic branding campaign, designed to dehumanize migrants, glorify punishment, and mask the deeper injustice with political theater. The optics are intentional. So is the erasure.

And that's where the tragedy deepens.

Many of the migrants detained at this site are themselves descendants of the K'iche', Ixil, and Garifuna peoples of Central and South America - fleeing persecution, violence, poverty, and climate disaster. Now, in 2025,

they are being detained indefinitely on land stolen from another Indigenous people - in a swamp, behind razor wire.

It's a haunting symmetry. Displacement on top of displacement. Centuries apart, yet eerily alike.

Already, more than 43,000 people have signed a MoveOn petition demanding that DeSantis shut down the camp.

We are watching history repeat itself - again - as one group of Indigenous people is locked up on the ancestral land of another, while political leaders mock the

consequences and corporations' profit from the pain.

We are watching history repeat itself - again - as one group of Indigenous people is locked up on the ancestral land of another, while political leaders mock the consequences and corporations' profit from the pain.

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



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Exploring Relief

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Men Cry Too

The first thing that we do when we are born is cry, as that signifies that we are alive and breathing. Girls are conditioned to cry at the drop of a hat, especially when dealing with the opposite sex. But boys dare not shed a tear, even when subjected to the most severe and excruciating physical



TONY ROBINSON

or emotional pain.

Even if that little boy falls down and bloodies his knee, he's told not to cry, but take it like a man. They say that mankind is the only species that cries due to emotion. Crocodiles have been purported to shed tears just before they eat, but that's as a lubricant for their eyes.

Perhaps it's tears of joy as they're so happy to be eating, hence the term 'crocodile tears,' crying without any real emotion. "Her abusive husband died and she's crying, but that's just (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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VIEWPOINT



Rising Waters Will Not Drown The American Spirit

BY BEN JEALOUS

On the Fourth of July, Donald Trump signed his “mega bill.” The law boosts the dying fossil fuel industry with tens of billions of taxpayer dollars. It invites an additional 470 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year by 2035 – that’s the equivalent annual emissions of more than 100 million gas-powered cars. And it aims to stop dead in its tracks the clean energy transition and the green manufacturing jobs boom the Inflation Reduction Act was already starting to create.

Just hours later, a climate-fueled storm settled over and dumped four months worth of rain on Texas Hill Country. The Guadalupe River rose 26 feet within 45 minutes. The resulting flash floods killed at least 104 people – at the time of this writing, although that number will go up – mostly in Kerr County. That death toll includes dozens of young girls attending the Camp Mystic youth camp.

This disaster was not a random event. It was a crisis written by the climate crisis and made far worse by the types of policies being pushed by this administration every day.

Before the absurdly named One Big Beautiful Bill Act landed on Trump’s desk, his administration had already begun gutting America’s frontline defenses against climate disasters – like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s climate labs, the National Weather Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As questions about why parts of the flood-impacted region did not receive adequate warning about the floods, Trump insisted that “nobody expected it” and it was a “once in 100 years” event.

But storms like this, as well as increased flooding from the Guadalupe River, were expected – and predicted. The US Geological Survey – another vital body Trump is trying to eviscerate – issued a report to that effect in 2019. Science is clear: warmer air holds more moisture, intensifying storms and accelerating flood risk. We’re now witnessing the violent proof of these predictions.

According to UCLA climate scientist Daniel Swain, “this kind of record-shattering rain (caused by slow-moving torrential thunderstorms) event is precisely that which is increasing the fastest in [a] warming climate.”

As for the “one in 100 years”

claim, those once-in-a-century extreme weather events are now happening far more often thanks to the climate crisis! Between just 2015-2019, one St. Louis suburb had three major floods and at least two of them were considered “1-in-100-year events.”

It is not hard to see how the climate crisis became a political debate. Decades of anti-science propaganda from the coal, oil, and gas industries. Politicians bought and paid for by fossil fuel oligarchs. A current administration with a cabinet full of industry skills.

Big Oil alone spent a whopping \$445 million through the 2024 election cycle to influence Trump and Congress. A staggering figure to be sure, that does not

include donations funneled through dark money groups (likely tens of millions of dollars more – at least). And it still falls short of the \$1 billion Donald Trump asked the country’s oil executives to kick in to his campaign -- an amount Trump insisted would be a “deal” for the industry because of what he was willing to give them.

But it is high time that our leaders, at every level and of every party, stop kowtowing to a toxic and unnecessary industry built on death, illness, and poisoning our communities. It is time they treat this crisis as a struggle for survival – a fight for the future our children deserve.

As the people of Texas grieve and the country grieves with them, their pain is our warning.

We are at a crossroads: We can double down on denial and let superstorms, heatwaves, droughts, floods, and fires determine our fate. Or we can lead – with science, resilience, courage, and a recommitment to our values.

If we harness our outrage and come together to fight like hell for our collective future, we will win. Because when people stand up and demand a safe planet, nothing – not even rising water – can drown the American spirit.

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



Men Cry Too

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)
crocodile tears, deep down she’s glad.”

Some women cry for various reasons, while some men find it extremely difficult. In the case of women, some have mastered the art of crying in order to get what they want. In fact, even boys at a certain age will cry to get what they want from their mothers. They dare not take that stunt to their fathers as they’ll be admonished and told to desist. “Stop the bawling, you want something to really cry about?!” And thus ended the period of males being allowed to cry.

But society frowns on men crying, which is unfortunate, for all that bottled up emotion can only lead to an explosion. Even in the Bible, the shortest verse is “Jesus wept” - John 11:35. So if Jesus could weep, why aren’t mortal men not allowed to? It’s the



macho, it’s the machismo, it’s the manliness that restricts men from crying. But guess what? Men do cry.

One example is illness, for when a man sees that his woman is extremely ill and he feels powerless to alleviate her suffering, he may break down in tears. A man may also break down and cry when it comes to his children, for if his young child gets sick and is suffering, the biggest strongest man will break down and bawl like a baby.

A man will bawl his eyes out if he discovers that his woman is leaving him because of his cheating. The irony is, womanizing men will cry rivers of tears if their woman confesses to having an affair. “He just broke down and wept when I told him that I cheated.”

Men do get emotional during some movies, and I must confess that heart rending movies have brought tears to my eyes. Even now I remember how this movie, ‘Bryan’s Song,’ brought me to tears many years ago. It was the true story of these two football players, teammates and lifelong friends - one white the other black, and one got stricken with a terminal disease. It was heartbreaking to watch.

But tears can be used as a weapon too, and also as a tool for manipulation. Remember when as

toddlers the girls would cry to get their own way and get what they wanted, but the boys couldn’t?

Well, the girls kept that ability and mastered it to perfection as they use it to get what they want. “When I saw her crying, my heart melted and I gave in.”

“After I tried everything else and it didn’t work, I just turned on the tears.” They have to be careful though, for after a while it becomes tedious and loses its effectiveness.

But women also cry for different reasons, and if they cry out of pity, then that’s demeaning to the man. That means that she’s sorry for the man, pities him, and no self-respecting man wants that.

*‘So take a good look at my face
You see my smile looks out of
place*

*If you look closer, it’s easy to see
The tracks of my tears.’*

- Smokey Robinson and the Miracles.

So, from birth we cry, and at times during our lifetime. And yes, men cry too.

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.



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From Billboard Charts To Courtrooms: Sean Kingston's Family Empire Collapses Under Fraud Convictions



Sean Kingston's mother, Janice Turner. (Photo Credit: WPLG Local 10 YouTube Screenshot)

Once hailed as a breakout Caribbean-American pop star with platinum hits and high-profile collaborations, Sean Kingston now finds himself at the center of a legal and financial spiral that's unraveling not just his career - but his family, too.

Last month, the singer's mother, Janice Turner, was sentenced to five years in federal prison after being convicted in a sweeping \$1 million fraud case that also implicated her son. The 63-year-old matriarch had long been seen as the force behind Kingston's rise, managing aspects of his career and lifestyle. Now, she is headed back to prison - her second federal conviction for fraud.

"My intention was to keep my son afloat in this difficult industry," Turner pleaded before the court. "They used him and abused him. I am begging for mercy."

The judge showed limited leniency. Turner will also serve three years of probation and pay

restitution for her role in the scheme, which targeted vendors of luxury vehicles, jewelry, and custom furniture - none of which were ever fully paid for.

Sean Kingston: The Price Of A Lavish Image

While Kingston awaits his own federal sentencing on August 28, the 35-year-old artist - who once topped the charts with Beautiful Girls and performed with Justin Bieber - is battling fresh problems closer to home. In Broward County court, he faces nine additional state charges, including grand theft and operating an organized scheme to defraud.

Worse still: Kingston appears to be out of money. His lawyer, Robert Rosenblatt, recently filed a motion to withdraw from the case, citing the singer's failure to pay legal fees. Court documents now suggest the entertainer "may be indigent" - and could soon rely on a public defender.

Behind The Headlines: A Family Hustle Gone Wrong

According to prosecutors, the mother-son duo pulled off a high-level con between October 2023 and March 2024, posing as wealthy clients who claimed to have sent wire transfers for goods they never intended to pay for.

- Among the victims were:
- A luxury SUV dealer (\$160,000)
 - A custom jeweler (\$500,000)
 - A boutique furniture company (\$86,000)
 - Major banks, including Bank of America and First Republic (\$300,000+ combined)

Their scam unraveled in

May 2024, when Kingston was arrested on a U.S. Army base in California and Turner was detained during a SWAT raid at a rented South Florida mansion.

The collapse marks a dramatic fall for both - particularly Turner, who served 18 months for a prior bank fraud conviction in 2006.

Fame, Pressure, And The

Facade Of Wealth

For some in the industry, the Kingston saga is a cautionary tale of what happens when the demands of celebrity outweigh the means to maintain it. "Too many artists are trying to keep up appearances when the checks stop coming," one former music exec commented anonymously. "Behind the scenes, it's debt, fake flexing, and

sometimes crime."

As Kingston's sentencing nears, one question looms: can the star who once captured the world's attention reinvent himself - or is this the final chapter in a story that began with Beautiful Girls and ended in betrayal?

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Bounty Killer Set For Explosive Toronto Return After 20 Years

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Jamaican reggae star Bounty Killer returns to Toronto, Canada for the first time in 20 years this month, for the Oasis Music Festival after regaining his Canadian visa as well.

The event, set for August 23rd, is a joint production between Chystar Promotions and BMW Promo. It will take place at the Markham Fairgrounds in Markham with Cham, Dexta Daps and Mr. Killa as supporting acts.

Known for songs like 'Fed Up,' 'Living Dangerously,' (with Barrington Levy), 'Look,' and 'Sufferer,' Bounty Killer's United States visa was reinstated in March. It was revoked 15 years ago for unspecified reasons along with several dancehall personalities.

The 53-year-old artist, born Rodney Basil Price OD, made a triumphant return to the US stage in July at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York with a sold-out show which also featured Dexta Daps, Richie Stephens, Elephant Man, Mavado and Junior Reid. Tickets range from CAD \$80.

Bounty Killer will be the latest dancehall act to perform in Toronto, following Buju Banton, Skillibeng and Masicka.

Carrie Mullings, host of the Rebel Vibe radio show, is an integral player in Canadian reggae. She believes dancehall music is enjoying a resurgence in Toronto.

"With dancehall events multiplying, it brings the culture to the forefront once again with its evolution," she said. "Bounty Killer has and will always be a favorite here in Canada. His rich catalogue of music has pleased generations."

Mullings added that several factors contributed to dancehall's decline in Toronto, which has a substantial Jamaican and West Indian population.

Last October, Buju Banton started a possible resurgence with a sold-out show at Scotiabank Arena. It was part of the Grammy winner's 'The Overcomer Tour,' and also marked his return to Canada after serving eight years in Federal prison in the United States.



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Baby Cham Drops Explosive New Album

Grammy-nominated Dancehall icon Baby Cham is back in a big way with the release of his long-anticipated fourth studio album, 'Sherlock,' - out now on all major platforms via his Lawless Army Music imprint.

A blazing collection of eight hard-hitting tracks, Sherlock showcases Cham's signature mix of grit, swagger, and storytelling finesse. The project opens with a bold title track and climaxes with "Starlight," a melodic closer that blends reflective tones with Cham's signature lyrical command.

The album's lead single,



Baby Cham is back with a new album.

"Hustling In My Blood," featuring Stephen Marley and Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley, is already making waves, racking

up over 250,000 views on YouTube in just two weeks. The official video is a gritty visual ode to street survival and resilience, echoing the themes that have defined Cham's career.

From "Maddest Life" to "Lamborghini Boy," Cham delivers high-energy anthems for dance floors and headphones alike, while tracks like "Miss Seductress" and "Hall of Fame" flex his flair for seductive storytelling and emotional range.

"The cover is inspired by the community I grew up in - Duhaney Park, Kingston 20," Cham shared on social media.

"Some call it 'The Ghetto,' some 'Inner City,' but I call it 'Home.' I want youth to know I walked those streets too. They can make it also."

With hits like "Ghetto Story," "Vitamin S," and "Lockdown" (with Usain Bolt), Cham continues to evolve while staying rooted in Dancehall tradition. Sherlock is a reminder of Cham's lyrical depth, cultural storytelling, and undeniable star power.

TOUR DATES:

• Aug. 9 – Carifest, Rochester, NY

- Aug. 16–17 – Beres Hammond & Friends, NJ + Coney Island
- Aug. 23 – Oasis Festival, Toronto
- Aug. 31 – 90s Rewind, FL
- Oct. 28 – Welcome to Jamrock Cruise

Whether you're a Dancehall day-one or a new-school fan, Sherlock proves Baby Cham is still at the top of his game - sharp, fearless, and unapologetically authentic.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



New Caribbean Music You Should Know

Whether you're vibing to reggae, grooving to soca, or in the mood for genre-bending innovation, this month's new music releases are a celebration of Caribbean sound and soul.

Reggae Meets Africa: Selector A & VP Records Drop 'Reggae Loves Africa, Vol. 2'

Out now via VP Records, this 10-track compilation is a soulful homage to Nelson Mandela's legacy, curated by Japanese-born reggae producer Selector A. Featuring legends like Buju Banton, Sizzla, Luciano, and Culture, the album bridges reggae and African consciousness. It's conscious music with a global

message - and a beat you can feel.

Soca Universe 2025 Has Landed - And It's Massive

Machel Montano's Monk Music delivers again with the release of Soca Universe 2025, the definitive soundtrack to this year's Carnival season. From "The Greatest Bend Over" by Yung Bredda & Full Blown to the Afro-Soca anthem "Fling It Up" featuring Davido, this 30+ track compilation is jam-packed with anthems from Patrice Roberts, Voice, Kes, Fay-Ann Lyons, Lyrikal, and more.

Jimmy October Returns With "BAM BAM"

Trinidad's genre-fusing

wordsmith Jimmy October is back with his latest single "BAM BAM"—a percussive, sun-soaked fusion of soca, dancehall, reggae, and afrobeats. Produced by Brooklyn Decent and released via Ineffable Records, it's a feel-good groove perfect for your weekend vibes.

Yeza & Rorystonlove Shake the Roots with 'Star Of The East'

Conscious reggae gets a fiery new chapter with Yeza's debut album Star Of The East, produced by dub legend Rorystonlove. From viral hit "Organic" to gritty bangers like "Preacher Man", this is a no-skips record redefining what rebel music sounds like

today.

Mr. Easy Drops 'Caribbean Ting'

Dancehall veteran Mr. Easy switches lanes and embraces his soca side with the release of "Caribbean Ting," part of the Soca Jam EP. The result? A vibrant fusion of island energy and classic grooves that pays homage to calypso legends.

Da'ville Makes Emotional Comeback with "Sunshine Days"

After a 13-year hiatus, reggae-pop sensation Da'ville is back with "Sunshine Days"—a personal anthem of healing, love, and gratitude. Distributed by AMP

Music and featuring a feel-good visual by BlingBlang, it marks a soulful new chapter for the artist behind hits like "Always On My Mind."

Rayvon & Sugar Bear Keep It Light with "She Just Wanna Party"

Need a party jam? Rayvon and Sugar Bear team up for "She Just Wanna Party," a breezy summer banger that lives up to its name. Produced by DJ Mac and released via GTC Entertainment, it's made for the beach, the club – or wherever you're turning up.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Black Brilliance Illuminates Miami

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau celebrates the important impact of Miami's Black-owned businesses on our community year-round. From restaurants, attractions, hotels, and more, they are essential in enriching the culture of our destination. This August, join us in celebrating how this range enhances tourist experiences, fuels economic growth, and fosters diversity and inclusion. We're proud supporters of these businesses that make our destination unique and contribute to its vibrance.

Learn more about how you can get involved this Black Business Month at MiamiBlackBusiness.com

Caribbean Roots Top Chef Winner Taking Afro-Caribbean Fine Dining Vision Home To Houston

From roots in the islands of Trinidad & Tobago to global acclaim, Chef Tristen Epps is redefining modern Caribbean cuisine - one dish at a time.

The newly crowned winner of Top Chef Season 22, Epps is no stranger to challenge. A self-proclaimed "military brat" raised by a single mother, Epps spent his childhood across Guam, Japan, and the Philippines, often watching the cooking channel alone and experimenting with flavours from home - especially his mom's West Indian cooking.

Now, with a Michelin Bib Gourmand, a James Beard semi-finalist nod, and reality TV victory under his belt,

Epps is turning his attention to his roots. His new culinary concept, Buboy, named after his grandfather, is a bold, traveling Afro-Caribbean fine dining experience. He's showcasing dishes like ricotta dumplings with truffle, foie gras pâté, and Texas Wagyu steak frites - through the lens of diasporic flavour and storytelling.

Epps' career took off under mentorship from celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson, followed by stints at Red Rooster Miami and Eden Roc. But Houston - where Epps "became an adult" - has always called him back. There, he's building a culinary community with fellow chefs



Caribbean Roots Top Chef Winner Tristen Epps. (Top Chef image)

while planning a permanent space for Buboy.

In an interview with Eater Houston, Epps explained that

the Buboy pop-ups provide an opportunity to educate diners about the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its enduring social, cultural, and economic impacts. "I want to make sure that this story behind this cuisine is told," he says. "Black history is American food. Black history is American history, and I want that to be really shown and in ways as best as I can."

With pop-ups in the works and an unwavering vision for Afro-Caribbean excellence, Chef Tristen Epps is not just elevating island cuisine - he's changing the culinary game.



Recreate The Taco Truck Experience At Home

There's no better treat than Mexican street fare, thanks to the complexity of its flavours and the freshness of its ingredients. And this summer, it's easier than ever to recreate the taco truck experience at home.

While the rich, slow-cooked flavours of Mexican cuisine can sometimes take hours to prepare, a new line of cooking and simmer sauces from Cholula can help you recreate these complex flavours without the time-consuming process. Bringing its signature balanced heat to 11 new products crafted with authentic Mexican flavour, convenience and versatility in mind, Cholula can help you go way beyond Taco Tuesdays to whip up a broader spectrum of Mexican cuisine in your own kitchen.

To get you started, Cholula is sharing this mouth-watering recipe for Quesabirria Tacos, a crave-worthy spin on classic birria. These cheesy, crispy tacos are filled with tender shredded beef made with Cholula Birria Cooking & Simmer Sauce, then fried until golden. Serve with warm consommé on the side for dipping for the ultimate flavour experience.

Quesabirria Tacos



Ingredients:

- 3 pounds beef chuck roast, cut into 2-inch chunks
- 1 bottle Cholula Birria Cooking & Simmer Sauce
- 16 corn tortillas, warmed
- 4 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- Chopped fresh cilantro
- Fresh lime wedges

Instructions:

1. Place beef and Cooking Sauce in electric multi-function cooker. Close lid. Set valve to seal.
2. Cook on high pressure for 45 minutes. When done, quick release the pressure. Open lid once pressure inside pot is completely released. (Follow manufacturer's safe operating instructions.)
3. Skim fat from surface of cooking liquid and reserve, transferring to shallow dish or pie plate. Transfer beef to large bowl and coarsely shred using two forks. Mix shredded beef with reserved cooking liquid as directed.
4. To assemble tacos, heat large non-stick skillet on medium heat. Dip one side of a 6-inch corn tortilla into pie plate with reserved fat to coat lightly. Place fat-side down in skillet. Sprinkle tortilla with 1/4 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese and layer with about 1/4 cup of shredded beef. Cook just until cheese is melted. Sprinkle with cilantro, drizzle lightly with lime juice and fold tortilla in half to enclose filling. Cook just until browned on both sides. Repeat with remaining filling.

5. Serve with additional lime wedges and remaining sauce for dipping.

Craving a spicy, yet refreshing beverage to wash these delicious tacos down? Follow this Magonadas recipe from Cholula. From the icy, sweet mango, to the fresh lime juice and uniquely salty, sweet, tangy and spicy flavours of Cholula Chamoy Sauce, it's easy to see why this Mexican dessert is so popular.

Magonadas Ingredients:

- 16 ounces frozen mango chunks
- 2 cups mango nectar
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1 cup ice cubes
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar or agave nectar
- 1/2 cup Cholula Sweet & Spicy Chamoy Sauce, plus more to rim glasses
- Finely chopped fresh mango
- Lime wedges or wheels
- Tamarindo candy straws

Chili Lime Seasoning Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons McCormick Chili Powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar

Instructions:

1. Place frozen mango, mango nectar, lime juice, ice and sugar in blender. Cover and blend on medium until smooth.
2. Mix all Chili Lime Seasoning ingredients in small bowl. Spoon about 2 tablespoons Chamoy on small shallow plate. Place seasoning mixture on another small plate. Dip rims of 2 large

beverage glasses into Chamoy, then into seasoning mixture to coat.

3. Fill glasses 1/3 of the way with Magonada mixture. Drizzle with some of the Chamoy. Repeat layers until glasses are full. To serve, top with chopped mango and garnish with lime wedges and Tamarindo candy straws.

Helping you achieve restaurant-level authentic Mexican flavour at home, the offerings from Cholula include simmer sauces like Fajita Cooking and Simmer Sauce, drizzling sauces like Cilantro Lime Cremosa Sauce, fan-favourite toppings like Chili Crisp

Sauce and seasoning mixes based on popular Latin dishes. For recipes and cooking inspiration, visit cholula.com.

"Americans are craving adventurous taste experiences, and Mexican cuisine is leading the way," says Valda Coryat, North America vice president of Marketing for McCormick & Company. "Now, home cooks have the ingredients they need to authentically explore the distinctiveness of Mexican cooking in their everyday lives."

- StatePoint



Culinary Star Chef Jose Francois Joins Margaritaville Nassau To Redefine Island Dining

Margaritaville Beach Resort Nassau is turning up the heat in 2025 with the appointment of renowned culinary talent Chef Jose Francois as Executive Chef. With more than 40 years of global experience - from the French Alps to the Caribbean - Chef Francois is ready to transform the resort's dining landscape with a bold mix of Bahamian flavours, sustainability, and fine technique.

Known for his leadership at resorts like Sandals, Hilton, and most recently Margaritaville Cap Cana, Francois brings a signature style rooted in fresh, local ingredients and culturally inspired menus. Guests can expect major upgrades across the resort's dining spots - from

the upscale JWB Prime Steak & Seafood to the breezy Vacation Cafe and Wasabi Joe's Sushi Bar.

But the culinary innovation won't stop there. Francois will also oversee food trucks, banquets, and room service - ensuring every bite at Margaritaville delivers on taste and island soul.

Chef Francois says it best: "Passion creates the best food." His commitment to community-driven sourcing and environmental responsibility promises to make Margaritaville Nassau not just a place to stay - but a destination to savour.

The future of Bahamian resort dining has arrived - and it's delicious.



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...

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HEALTH NEWS



Broward Health Orthopedic Surgeon Gives Patient A Second Chance At Mobility

For five years, 56-year-old Lorne Walker struggled to walk comfortably after injuring his leg at work. Despite being in otherwise excellent health, complications following a previous knee replacement had left him in constant pain and dangerously close to losing his leg due to an infection.

"I couldn't walk a block without leaning on a fence or a car," Walker said. "I was on painkillers, I was frustrated, and I was losing hope. Some nights I would wake up in agony."

Walker's turning point came during an appointment with his primary care physician Archie McLean, M.D., with the Broward Health Physician Group. Dr. McLean referred him to Jason Walters, M.D., an orthopedic surgeon at Broward Health. After an initial evaluation, Dr. Walters quickly connected him with Ryan Wertz, D.O., also a Broward Health orthopedic surgeon, who is renowned for tackling complex cases with technical expertise and compassionate care.

When Walker first met with Dr. Wertz at Broward Health Medical Center in August 2024, the diagnosis was worrisome. The original knee implant was loosened, an infection had set in, and the surrounding tissue was severely damaged.

"Dr. Wertz had a very thoughtful and detailed approach," Walker said. "He focused on my full health picture and laid out a plan that gave me hope. I finally felt like I had a path forward."

Dr. Wertz developed a multi-step plan to eliminate the infection and rebuild Walker's knee. The treatment included weeks of intravenous antibiotics, followed by the surgical placement of implants to stimulate and repair damaged cartilage in preparation for a new knee implant.

"Orthopedic care is not just about repairing joints, it's about restoring quality of life," Dr. Wertz said. "For patients like Lorne, who have dealt with prolonged pain and complications, our focus is on restoring both movement and peace of mind. Seeing someone return to the life they enjoy is what makes what we do so meaningful."

Six months later, once the infection had finally cleared, Dr. Wertz performed a complex robotic-assisted revision knee replacement surgery. Using advanced imaging and real-time precision tools, Dr. Wertz was able to safely reconstruct



Lorne Walker, r. and Dr. Ryan Wertz, D.O., a Broward Health orthopedic surgeon. (Contributed image)

the joint and ensure long-term stability of the knee. "Robotic technology allows us to make adjustments in real-time, which is critical for cases where

anatomy has been altered by prior surgeries or disease," Dr. Wertz explained. "It improves accuracy and gives us the best chance of achieving a successful outcome."

Just over a month after surgery, Walker was back on his feet and ready to start physical therapy without pain or a cane and he has no need for prescription pain medication. "I can feel my leg healing. I have sensation, strength and balance that I haven't had in years," Walker added. "Dr. Wertz gave me hope again."

"It felt like everyone was in sync. Every person involved made me feel like I mattered,"

Walker said.

With a renewed outlook and a healthier stride, Walker is focusing on recovery and grateful to finally be able to move forward. The experience has taught him the true value of comprehensive care and second opinions. He encourages others to listen to their bodies and seek help when something doesn't feel right.

"If you know something's not right, speak up and seek help," he said. "There are people out there, like Dr. Wertz, who will fight for you."



Trump's Drug Pricing Order Could Cost Cancer Patients The Cures They Need

BY ANDREW SPIEGEL AND MARCIA K. HORN

As long-time patient advocates who have guided thousands of cancer patients through treatment decisions, clinical trials and insurance battles, we've witnessed the life-changing power of medical innovation and the devastating consequences when treatments arrive too late.

Today, we're sounding the alarm about a policy that threatens the future of that innovation. President Trump's recent executive order calling for a "Most Favored Nation," (MFN) pricing model for prescription drugs may

appear, on its surface, to address affordability concerns. In reality, it risks undermining the system that delivers breakthrough treatments to Americans with cancer and other life-threatening conditions.

An MFN approach would peg U.S. drug prices to those paid in other developed countries, effectively mandating that Americans pay no more than the lowest price offered abroad.

This might sound like a common-sense reform. Yet, it ignores critical reality. Many of the countries that would be used as price benchmarks under MFN keep costs down by delaying - or denying - access to therapies

through government pricing boards.

We can and must pursue affordability and access without sacrificing the scientific progress that improves and saves lives.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Andrew Spiegel Esq., is the chief executive officer of the Global Colon Cancer Association. Marcia K. Horn, JD, is the president and CEO of the International Cancer Advocacy Network. This piece originally appeared in the DC Journal.



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TRAVEL NEWS



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Pirates To Return To Port Royal

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Ahoy! Pirates are returning to Port Royal, Jamaica, once dubbed the wickedest place in the world.

Instead of carousing in bars and hiding their ill-gotten booty, they will attract tourists to the sea-faring town, located in east Kingston for events like Port Royal Street Dance, Pirates & Wenches 4D Edition and Pirates Ride, Pirates Run and the Port Royal Pirates & Seafood Festival. Kingston Pirates Week is scheduled for October 30th-November 2nd. Its executive producer, Peter Shoucair, is looking for big things in the inaugural year.

“At their event in Cayman, they have 25,000 people every single year in November, so if we can tap into some of that, I think that in a few years we will be having thousands of people coming,” he said. “Hopefully, we can have cruise ships coming in, maybe not this year but next year for this event.”

Kingston Pirates Week was launched days before Port Royal was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is the second Jamaican landmark to earn that recognition, the Blue and John Crow Mountains being the first.

Given its infamous history as a haunt for pirates like Sir Henry Morgan and Blackbeard, Jamaica’s tourism minister



Among the many activities will be the Port Royal Street Dance on Oct. 31st.

Edmund Bartlett also has high expectations for Kingston Pirates Week.

“Port Royal stands as one of Jamaica’s most extraordinary cultural assets, rich in history and unmatched in character. Its designation as our second UNESCO World Heritage Site is not just an honor, but a powerful affirmation of its global value,” he said. “We are deeply proud that the legacy of 17th-century Port Royal, once the most significant English settlement in the region and the only authentic sunken city in the Western Hemisphere, will now be safeguarded and

celebrated for generations to come.”

Before most of it was destroyed by an earthquake in 1692, Port Royal was a haven for privateers and buccaneers from England. Historians estimate that 5,000 people died as a result of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

Today, Port Royal is a quiet community dotted by historic buildings and quaint restaurants. It is a popular spot for lovers of seafood and dancehall shows.



Anguilla Named Best Island In The Caribbean

At first glance, Anguilla can feel like a mirage: a sliver of coral and limestone barely 16 miles long, where flaming sunsets melt into turquoise seas and time seems to pause. But ask anyone who’s spent a quiet afternoon beneath a thatched roof on Shoal Bay or dining barefoot on grilled crayfish at a beach shack with linen-level service, and they’ll tell you: Anguilla is not just an island. It’s a mood.

This July, that mood was once again recognized on the world stage. For the fifth time, Anguilla has been named the Best Island in the Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Bahamas by Travel + Leisure readers in the magazine’s 2025 World’s Best Awards - a coveted honour driven by the votes of discerning global travellers.

It’s a familiar accolade for this unassuming paradise, but no less sweet.

The survey, conducted annually, invites globe-trotters to rate their favourite destinations around the world on criteria including natural beauty, hospitality, food, and overall experience. Anguilla’s allure, it seems, lies not in opulence but in something far rarer—understated luxury paired with authentic Caribbean charm.

Indeed, Anguilla’s success story is stitched together by both public and private threads - government support, community-led hospitality, and the stewardship of tourism leaders past and present.

A Future Rooted in Preservation

Beyond beauty, Anguilla is investing in the future. From enhanced air access via Miami, Puerto Rico, and nearby St. Maarten, to a growing emphasis on sustainable tourism and cultural preservation, the island is managing its acclaim with care. It continues to build slowly and intentionally holding firm to the delicate balance between visibility and authenticity. It’s this mindful approach that keeps Anguilla from becoming just another resort playground. Instead, it remains what travellers most crave in an age of overtourism: a place to unplug, reconnect, and simply be.

If You Go

Getting There: Direct flights available via Miami (MIA), Puerto Rico (SJU), and St. Maarten (SXM), with private air access and ferry options.

When to Visit: High season runs December through April, but July–September offers warm waters, fewer crowds, and excellent local festivals.

Where to Stay: Try Cap Juluca for barefoot luxury, Frangipani for boutique charm, or a private villa for longer stays.

What to Bring: Sunhat, sandals, and a willingness to slow down. Anguilla may not flaunt itself. But in a region filled with louder destinations, that may be the secret to its enduring reign.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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South Florida School Districts Earn A Grades

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Students in South Florida will be greeted with some good news when they head back to class this month to kick off the 2025-2026 school year.

The school districts in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties are once again "A" schools. For the third consecutive year, the three school districts in South Florida are "A" schools after the Florida Department of Education released individual schools and district grades from the 2024-2025 school year. Schools and districts receive a yearly grade based on student performance.

Students in the state take standardized tests three times throughout the year, known as progress monitoring. Education officials say this testing helps teachers intervene if a student is struggling.

According to the Florida Department of Education, no school districts in the state received a "D" or "F" grade,

seeing improvement from the previous school year when 117 schools received a failing grade.

The United States Department of Education has decided to lift the funding freeze for critical schools programs for low income students and after school care.

The Donald Trump administration abruptly paused roughly \$6.6 billion ahead of the start of the new school year pending review. His decision placed the programs in peril and left school districts scrambling for funds to keep the programs running.

The funding usually rolls around on July 1st, but Education Secretary Linda McMahon sent a letter to state education departments and school districts across the nation about the funding pause without an explanation.

More than 20 states filed a lawsuit challenging the funding freeze, including money for English language instruction, teacher development and adult

literacy that remains on hold, according to the Associated Press.

The argued withholding the money would impact low-income families that would lose access to crucial after-school care.

In addition, 10 Republican U.S. senators implored the U.S. Department of Education to allow the frozen education money to be sent to states, saying the school districts were not giving advance notice.

The freeze most likely was tied to Trump's attempt to dismantle the department after the Supreme Court gave him the greenlight to start laying off roughly 1,400 employees and turn over power to the states.

Despite the department reversing its decision to release the funds, Miami-Dade Schools Superintendent Dr. Jose L. Dotres said the school district's \$40 million is still under review.

The funding supports migrant education, teacher development, English-language

instruction, and other services for high-need populations.

However, Dotres said he remains optimistic that the school district, the third largest in the nation, will receive the federal grants, whether it's \$40 million or less.

Shortly after the funding freeze last month, school officials warned that losing federal grants would be detrimental to students as the programs empower impoverished kids who otherwise would struggle in the classrooms if funds are not released.

For Broward County Public Schools, the sixth largest district in the nation, roughly \$30 million was being withheld pending a review.

School officials said the grants are critical for the school district to help maintain its "A" grade.

"In our district, 14,000 teachers depend on these funds to become better teachers," Broward County School Board member Dr. Allen Zeman told

reporters. "This is after school programs and before school programs where kids learn more, this is a student whose first language isn't English getting an extra hour a day of English work so they can learn in their other subjects, this is why it's crippling."

The Palm Beach County school district said \$9.8 million for its 21st Century Community Learning Centers has been restored, however, \$32 million is still pending.

The money is used to support after-school programs but the remaining portion funded migrant education, professional development, professional development and English-Learner services.

"The ongoing delay in releasing these funds poses significant challenges and could necessitate the elimination of essential services for our students and educators," the school district said in a statement.



How To Borrow For College Without The Stress

A student loan can be a valuable tool to help you earn your degree – and with the right plan, it doesn't have to be stressful.

"Smart borrowing starts with knowing the basics. The more you understand, the more confident you'll feel," says Dan Kennedy, chief marketing officer, College Ave. "Our research finds that while a majority of students are focused on money management, they could use a little more information about how borrowing works."

To help ensure your student loan helps pave the way for your future success, not a future headache, Kennedy recommends avoiding these common borrowing mistakes:

Skipping Federal Student Loans: Before taking out a private student loan, exhaust your other options first. Free money you don't have to pay back is always preferable to a loan, so look into scholarships. You should also fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



to unlock federal student aid, including grants, scholarships and federal student loans. Getting your Federal Direct student loans from the government will often beat private loans in terms of interest rates and repayment options. Plus, if you go into a qualifying field, the government may even grant you student loan forgiveness.

Borrowing Too Much: Borrow only what you need to pay for schooling and basic living expenses. This will help

eliminate the temptation to use the money on items that are not an investment in your future. You should also avoid borrowing more than you can comfortably repay based on your expected future income. A College Ave March 2025 student survey found that 67% of those who expected to have student loan debt post-graduation didn't know or were unsure of how much their monthly payments would be. Before taking out a loan, use CollegeAve.

com's student loan calculator to get a sense of its overall cost and monthly loan payments.

Not Shopping Around: If you do end up taking out a private student loan, it's important to pay attention to lenders' interest rates and repayment options. Unlike federal loans, which have fixed interest rates for all borrowers, private student loan interest rates vary from lender to lender. And because your repayment plan can impact your monthly payment and overall cost, it's key to choose one that fits your budget. Whatever loan you do go with, understand its terms, so there are no surprises down the line.

Not Having A Cosigner, If Needed: As a college student, you likely don't have an established credit history or sufficient income and may not get approved for a private loan on your own. Consider improving your chances of getting approved and securing a lower interest rate by adding a cosigner, like a parent, to your loan application.

Not Having A Repayment Strategy: The College Ave survey found that 76% of students say that they confidently pay their bills on time each month and 63% are working toward personal financial goals. Carry these healthy financial habits with you to the repayment stage of your loan. Having a plan for repayment can make a big difference down the road. Think about when you'll start making payments and how much you can afford each month. The more prepared you are, the less stressful it'll be when it's time to pay it back.

College is a big investment, and having a smart approach to paying for it is essential. After applying for financial aid and scholarships, and maximizing your income and savings, do some groundwork to ensure that if you have to borrow, you are borrowing smart.

- StatePoint



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BACK TO SCHOOL



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Florida Governor Launches Month-Long Back-To-School Sales Tax Holiday



Florida families can look forward to a full month of savings this August, thanks to the return of the state's Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday. Governor Ron DeSantis officially announced that the tax break will run from Friday, August 1st through Sunday, August 31st, providing much-needed financial relief as students gear up for the new school year.

"Proud to deliver additional sales tax holidays, including the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday that begins on August 1," said Governor DeSantis.

"With the new school year just around the corner, Florida families can save on back-to-school shopping during the tax holiday for the entire month of August. By cutting taxes, empowering parents, and growing our economy, we're making it easier for people to live, work, and thrive in the Free State of Florida."

The tax holiday is part of a broader \$2 billion tax relief package included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget, which also features the permanent repeal of the state's Business Rent Tax and several targeted

sales tax holidays. The 2025 tax package specifically allocates \$450 million in savings through tax breaks like this one, aimed at easing financial pressures on working families.

What Qualifies For The Tax Break?

During the month of August, shoppers can purchase a wide range of back-to-school essentials tax-free, including: School Supplies (priced at \$50 or less):

- Binders
- Notebooks
- Pens and pencils
- Lunch boxes

Apparel and Footwear (priced at \$100 or less):

- Shirts
- Pants
- Shoes
- Sweaters
- Backpacks

Learning Aids (priced at \$30 or less):

- Interactive books
- Puzzles
- Flashcards

Personal Computers and Accessories (priced at \$1,500 or less, for noncommercial use):

- Laptops
- Printers
- Headphones
- Flash drives

Florida continues to boast a AAA credit rating from all major agencies and maintains

one of the lowest per-capita tax burdens in the U.S., according to the governor's office. The state's consistent low unemployment rate further contributes to a strong economic outlook, making policies like these possible.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to take full advantage of the savings opportunities, especially with inflation and rising costs impacting households across the country.

For more information and to view a full list of qualifying items, visit: FloridaRevenue.com/BackToSchool.

Back To School In Florida: Start Dates, Cell Phone Rules, And Class Time Changes In 2025

The summer break is winding down, and for Florida families, it's time to gear up for the 2025-2026 school year. According to the Florida Department of Education, 56 out of 67 counties will kick off classes on Monday, August 11, while the remaining counties will start between August 12 and August 14. When Does School Start in Your County?

Here's a quick look at start dates by county:

- August 11: Most counties including Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Orange, Duval, Hillsborough, and others.
- August 12: Bradford, Calhoun, Hardee, Liberty, Wakulla.
- August 13: Holmes, Jackson, Monroe, Sumter.
- August 14: Miami-Dade (latest start date in the state).

To view the full list of all 67 counties and their specific start dates, visit FloridaDOE.org.

Although a 2023 state law mandated that high schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and middle schools no earlier than 8:00 a.m. beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, changes are slow to take effect.

A new 2025 amendment gives districts more flexibility - allowing them to delay implementing the change if they provide detailed reports showing the cost of adjusting bus routes, hiring drivers, and other unintended consequences. So, while some schools may pilot later start times this year, most districts are continuing with existing bell schedules - at least for now.

New Cell Phone Rules for 2025-2026

A new Florida law, in effect as of July 1, introduces strict guidelines for student phone use in public schools:

- High School Students: Phones are banned during instructional time unless permitted by

a teacher—and only in designated areas.

- Middle & Elementary Students: Complete ban on using any wireless devices (phones, tablets, smartwatches) from bell to bell during the entire school day.
- Students can carry phones, but cannot use them. Some districts may enforce stricter rules, so parents are encouraged to check with their local school board.

Other Education Changes for Florida in 2025

- Charter school expansion continues under recent state legislation.
- School safety upgrades remain a budget priority.
- Curriculum transparency laws now require public disclosure of instructional materials and reading lists.

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Countdown Begins: 2025 Caribbean Premier League Set to Ignite From August 14th

Cricket fans, get ready! The countdown is officially on for the 13th edition of the Caribbean Premier League, (CPL) - set to light up stadiums across the region from August 14 to September 21, 2025.

In a joint announcement recently, Cricket West Indies (CWI) and CPL organizers confirmed the tournament dates, with a key highlight: no scheduling conflict with West Indies international matches—ensuring that the best of the best from across the region will be on full display.

“We are pleased to have once again worked with Cricket West Indies to find a window that allows the very best players from across the region to take part,” said CPL CEO Pete Russell. “The 2024 season was our most successful to date, and we’re ready to raise the bar in 2025.”

Six Franchises. One Trophy. Let the Battle Begin

As in previous years, the tournament will feature 30 action-packed league matches, followed by four intense playoff games: the Eliminator, two Qualifiers, and the Grand Final.

St. Lucia Kings will return as defending champions, but they’ll face stiff competition from:

- Guyana Amazon Warriors (2024 finalists)
- Barbados Royals
- Trinbago Knight Riders
- St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots
- Antigua and Barbuda Falcons — who made waves in their debut year after replacing the Jamaica Tallawahs in 2024.

More Than Cricket - It's a Cultural Carnival

CWI's acting CEO Lynford Inverary emphasized the CPL's importance to regional cricket: “The CPL remains a key part of our cricketing ecosystem. It's a critical platform for growing and showcasing West Indian talent, and it energizes fans across the Caribbean and beyond.”

2025 CPL MATCH SCHEDULE

- Match 1**
Date: Aug 14, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Warner Park
Teams: St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons
- Match 2**
Date: Aug 15, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Warner Park
Teams: St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Guyana Amazon Warriors
- Match 3**
Date: Aug 16, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Teams: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs Barbados Royals
- Match 4**
Date: Aug 17, 2025 – 11:00 AM
Venue: Warner Park
Teams: St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Trinbago Knight Riders
- Match 5**
Date: Aug 17, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Teams: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs St Lucia Kings
- Match 6**
Date: Aug 19, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Warner Park
Teams: St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs St Lucia Kings
- Match 7**
Date: Aug 20, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Teams: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs Trinbago Knight Riders
- Match 8**
Date: Aug 21, 2025 – 7:00 PM

- Venue: Warner Park
Teams: St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Barbados Royals
- Match 9**
Date: Aug 22, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Teams: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs Guyana Amazon Warriors
- Match 10**
Date: Aug 23, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Darren Sammy Cricket Ground
Teams: St Lucia Kings vs Trinbago Knight Riders
- Match 11**
Date: Aug 24, 2025 – 11:00 AM
Venue: Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Teams: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots
- Match 12**
Date: Aug 24, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Darren Sammy Cricket Ground
Teams: St Lucia Kings vs Barbados Royals
- Match 13**
Date: Aug 26, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Darren Sammy Cricket Ground
Teams: St Lucia Kings vs Guyana Amazon Warriors
- Match 14**
Date: Aug 27, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Brian Lara Cricket Academy
Teams: Trinbago Knight Riders vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons
- Match 15**
Date: Aug 28, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Darren Sammy Cricket Ground
Teams: St Lucia Kings vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots
- Match 16**
Date: Aug 29, 2025 – 8:00 PM
Venue: Brian Lara Cricket Academy
Teams: Trinbago Knight Riders vs Barbados Royals
- Match 17**
Date: Aug 30, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Brian Lara Cricket Academy
Teams: Trinbago Knight Riders vs Guyana Amazon Warriors
- Match 18**
Date: Aug 31, 2025 – 11:00 AM
Venue: Darren Sammy Cricket Ground
Teams: St Lucia Kings vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons
- Match 19**
Date: Sep 1, 2025 – 11:00 AM
Venue: Brian Lara Cricket Academy
Teams: Trinbago Knight Riders vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots
- Match 20**
Date: Sep 3, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Brian Lara Cricket Academy
Teams: Trinbago Knight Riders vs St Lucia Kings
- Match 21**
Date: Sep 4, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Kensington Oval
Teams: Barbados Royals vs Guyana Amazon Warriors
- Match 22**
Date: Sep 5, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Kensington Oval
Teams: Barbados Royals vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons
- Match 23**
Date: Sep 6, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Providence Stadium
Teams: Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Trinbago Knight Riders
- Match 24**
Date: Sep 7, 2025 – 11:00 AM
Venue: Kensington Oval
Teams: Barbados Royals vs St Lucia Kings
- Match 25**
Date: Sep 7, 2025 – 8:00 PM
Venue: Providence Stadium
Teams: Guyana Amazon Warriors vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots
- Match 26**
Date: Sep 10, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Providence Stadium


- Teams: Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons
- Match 27**
Date: Sep 11, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Kensington Oval
Teams: Barbados Royals vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots
- Match 28**
Date: Sep 12, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Kensington Oval
Teams: Barbados Royals vs Trinbago Knight Riders
- Match 29**
Date: Sep 13, 2025 – 11:00 AM

- Venue: Providence Stadium
Teams: Guyana Amazon Warriors vs St Lucia Kings
- Match 30**
Date: Sep 14, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Venue: Providence Stadium
Teams: Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Barbados Royals
- Match 31 – Elimination Final**
Date: Sep 16, 2025 – 8:00 PM
Venue: TBD
Teams: 3rd Place vs 4th Place
- Match 32 – Qualifier 1**
Date: Sep 17, 2025 – 8:00 PM

- Venue: TBD
Teams: 1st Place vs 2nd Place
- Match 33 – Qualifier 2**
Date: Sep 19, 2025 – 8:00 PM
Venue: TBD
Teams: Winner of Elimination Final vs Loser of Qualifier 1
- Match 34 – Final**
Date: Sep 21, 2025 – 8:00 PM
Venue: TBD
Teams: Finalist 1 vs Finalist 2




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