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

SHOCKER

Black, Latino, Asian Voters Help Trump Win

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US rapper Forgiato Blow and a man known as 'The Black Donald Trump' rally for Trump in Las Vegas. (AFP via Getty Images)



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REGIONAL NEWS



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

REGIONAL

The University of the West Indies, (UWI), have unveiled a newly redesigned collection of academic regalia at its 2024 graduation ceremonies, marking the first significant update in over 75 years. Inspired by the colors and culture of the Caribbean, the regalia reflect UWI's decolonization journey and embrace of regional identity.

Conceptualized by UWI's Dr. Rajeev Venugopal and Dara Jordan-Brown, with designs by Jamaican fashion designer Tonycia Jarrett, the gowns incorporate sustainable, tropical-friendly fabrics and local manufacturing by Rednarim. Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles describes this update as "symbolic and significant," highlighting UWI's evolving independence from colonial influence.

The gowns debuted across UWI's campuses from October 12th, celebrating a new era as Principal Officers lead the graduation procession in regalia that proudly embodies Caribbean heritage and resilience.

Meanwhile, three CARICOM countries - Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Grenada recently joined 80 developing nations at the United Nations in calling for respect for China's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity amid international human rights debates.

The statement, issued during the UN General Assembly's Third Committee session on human rights, urged against the politicization of human rights issues and interference in nations' internal

affairs. Developing nations voiced opposition to what they view as selective criticism, referencing statements from the U.S., U.K., and other Western countries over alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang and Tibet.

GUYANA

The Guyana government has announced plans to distribute a one-time cash grant of USD \$500 (GYD \$100,000) to all eligible Guyanese, including those living overseas who are present in Guyana at the time of the distribution and have proper identification. Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo confirmed that the residency requirement has been removed, allowing non-resident Guyanese with a valid passport or national ID to qualify.

Eligible recipients must register through a new mobile application developed by the Finance Ministry, which is currently being tested. The app will require personal details and will use geo-location to ensure transparency. Distribution of the grant is set to start in early 2025, with those 18 years or older by January 2025 qualifying.

Remote areas without bank access will receive cash distributions. The initiative, monitored by the Auditor General's Office, aims for a transparent five-month rollout, distinct from any public sector bonuses.

MARTINIQUE

Protests over soaring living costs have continued on the French Caribbean island of Martinique, with demonstrators setting cars ablaze



Protests have led to burnt cars and violence in Martinique. (Getty image)

and attacking police with stones and Molotov cocktails. The violence recently led to the arrest of four youths.

The demonstrations, ongoing since September despite curfews, highlight grievances over living standards in French overseas territories like Martinique, Guadeloupe, and New Caledonia, where residents argue that their living conditions fall significantly below those in mainland France. On October 25th, Guadeloupe also experienced an island-wide power outage amid the ongoing unrest.

BAHAMAS

The murder count in The Bahamas has surpassed 100 following a triple homicide outside a Nassau garage on October 29th. The incident involved three masked gunmen with automatic rifles who opened fire on a group of men gathered at the garage, leaving three dead. Fernander indicated that retaliation among individuals on bail for serious crimes is a significant

concern, with 178 young men currently on bail for murder.

Police Commissioner Clayton Fernander expressed confidence that law enforcement will track down the killers, revealing that the intended target - who escaped the attack - is on bail for murder and currently under police monitoring.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Former Antigua legislator and independent MP Asot Michael has been found dead under suspicious circumstances, with Antigua's Police Commissioner Atlee Patrick Rodney indicating that international assistance may be sought in the investigation.

Michael, 54, was discovered in a pool of blood by his maid at his Dry Hill residence near the capital on Tuesday morning, Nov. 5th, showing signs of a fatal stab wound to the chest. In a news conference, Commissioner Rodney confirmed the grim discovery and emphasized that the investigation is in its early stages. "It is one of those

sad occasions we have to address as investigators," he stated, adding that police responded swiftly to the call about Michael being found unresponsive.

Rodney described Michael's injuries as "heinous," suggesting a possible homicide and underscoring the gravity of the crime. "We are going to use all resources we have locally, regionally, and internationally," Rodney said, stressing his intent to collaborate with foreign partners to pursue all leads in the investigation.

The commissioner urged any witnesses or individuals with relevant information to come forward, also asking the public to respect the privacy of Michael's family. "This is a national event, and we look forward to every citizen playing their part in solving this matter," Rodney stated, noting that Michael had made significant contributions to the people of Antigua during his political career.

The discovery has shocked the Antigua community, with Michael remembered as a seasoned legislator, former government minister, and MP for St. Peter, where he had served since 2004. He initially rose to prominence in the mid-1990s as a Special Administrative Assistant to then-Prime Minister Lester Bird, later holding multiple ministerial roles, including Public Works and Tourism.

- Compiled from CMC News & NewsAmericasNow.com



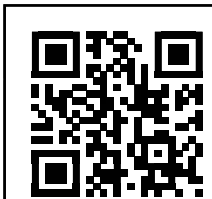
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SHOCKER - Black, Hispanic, Asian Voters Help Donald Trump Return To Power



Blacks for Trump rally in Detroit. (Reuters image)



A Black supporter of Donald Trump hugs him at a Chick-Fil-A in Atlanta. (Fox News Screenshot)

BY CT STAFF WRITER

While many are still reeling over the fact that the convicted felon and former President who tried to steal the 2020 election is now set to return to power, the additional shocker is that Black, Latino and Asian voters joined with 55 percent white men, aged 45-64, many without college degrees and identifying as Evangelical Christians, to help him win 277 electoral college votes to return as the 47th President of the United States.

Exit polls indicate Trump received 12 percent of the Black vote, 45 percent of the Latino vote, and 39 percent of the Asian vote. Additionally, 55 percent of voters identifying as "other" races reportedly voted for him, an outcome that surprised many observers.

This rise in diverse support for Trump occurred also despite the presence of Vice President Kamala Harris, a Black and South Asian woman with roots in Jamaica in the Caribbean, on the opposing ticket.

It also comes despite the fact that throughout his campaign, Trump continued his pattern of racially charged comments, calling immigrants "animals" and "vermin" and suggesting they were "poisoning the blood" of America. He even made unfounded claims that recent Haitian refugees in Ohio were eating pets. At a Madison Square Garden rally, likened by some to historical

nationalist rallies, a comedian also mocked Puerto Ricans, Latinos, Black Americans, Jews, and Palestinians, while another speaker vowed to "restore America to the true Americans."

Trump has also often implied that America's civil rights advancements harm white Americans, recently stating that "anti-white sentiment" is a growing problem.

Trump's rhetoric frequently reflects a nostalgic view of the 1940s and 1950s, a period marked by racial segregation and restricted rights for people of color. His "Make America Great Again" slogan calls back to a time when laws defined anyone with "one drop" of Black ancestry as Black, emphasizing a period of strong white, male dominance in society.

A notable figure in this circle, former adviser Stephen Miller, has said, "America is for Americans and Americans only," while Trump ally Tucker Carlson has mocked VP Harris, falsely labelled her background and questioned her intelligence. Businessman Grant Cardone also directed misogynistic and racist remarks at Harris, alleging baselessly that she had ties to "pimp handlers."

Meanwhile, data shows that the Biden administration has delivered gains for Black Americans in areas Trump's policies during his 2016-2020 term fell short. Black unemployment under Biden averaged lower than during

Trump's presidency, while Black homeownership and labor participation rates rose. Black workers' inflation-adjusted take-home pay also grew faster under Biden, and the uninsured rate for Black Americans

reached a record low under his administration.

Despite these statistics, some evangelical Black voters and congregations endorsed Trump, believing he was the preferable candidate. This

unexpected shift highlights complex and evolving voter dynamics, even amid policies and rhetoric that have been widely perceived as divisive.



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CARICOM and Canada Voice Deep Concerns Over Haiti

CARICOM has expressed “deep concern” over the public discord between Haiti’s Transitional Presidential Council, (TPC), President Leslie Voltaire and Prime Minister Garry Conille, warning that the rift jeopardizes the progress and unity outlined in the Political Agreement of March 2024 and the April Political Accord.

“This divisive conflict undermines the transition’s spirit of compromise and inclusivity, especially as Haiti faces worsening insecurity and humanitarian crises,” CARICOM stated. The lack of cohesion, it warned, also erodes the confidence of Haiti’s partners and the international community, hindering the essential aid the country needs.

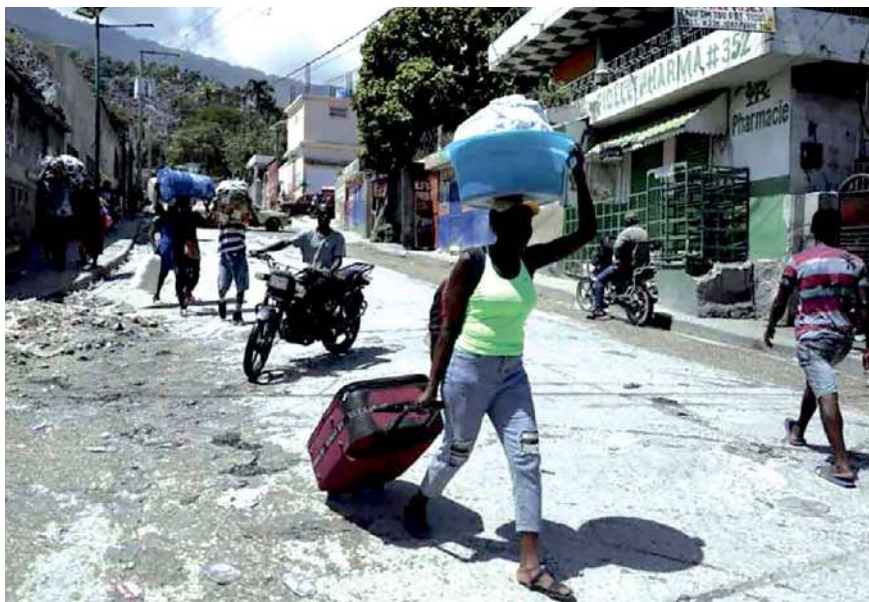
Voltaire’s recent public address reviewed key progress areas but highlighted tension with Conille over cabinet

appointments. Reports indicate that Conille rejected Voltaire’s request for a major cabinet reshuffle.

CARICOM’s Eminent Persons Group, (EPG), led by former St. Lucia Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony, is closely monitoring developments and working to mediate the situation to keep the transition on track for February 2026 elections.

CANADA

Meanwhile, Canada has issued a strong condemnation of the escalating gang violence in Haiti, which Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly described as causing “immense suffering” and deep insecurity



More Haitians are fleeing as violence continues despite the presence of police from Kenya and CARICOM nations.

across the nation. Joly pointed to “unchecked violence and corruption” as factors that have endangered civilians and left children facing starvation.

Recently, the United Nations Security Council heard from Haiti’s Ambassador Antonio Rodrigue, who reported ongoing joint security

operations against gangs, supported by the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) and the Haitian National Police. However, the operations have shown limited progress due to shortages in personnel and resources. Rodrigue emphasized the need for expanded support to ensure security, stability, and a pathway to safe elections.

Joly warned that the violence is aimed at undermining Haiti’s political transition and called for solidarity in backing Haitian-led solutions. Canada, she said, remains committed to supporting Haitian security efforts and fostering conditions for a stable, democratically-elected government.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Barbados PM Mottley Urges Citizens To Join In Revitalizing Nation

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Barbados, a 166-square mile island country located in the eastern Caribbean, with a population of 284,589, is facing widespread challenges from the economy and poverty to climate change, and recovering from Hurricane Beryle, a Category 4 storm that ripped through the Caribbean islands in July.

The country is plagued by challenges due to its small size, heavy reliance on tourism, import dependency and vulnerability to external shock. Hurricane Beryl recently destroyed homes and businesses, and caused a storm

surge and an estimated BB \$100 million in damages.

With the current state of the Caribbean island, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley has a message for Barbadians: do their part to help turn around the struggling nation. Mottley spoke in October at the 85th annual Conference of the Barbados Labour Party at Christ Church Foundation School, where she urged citizens to get involved in the island’s affairs to help bring stability, among other issues, back to the nation.

She outlined a resiliency plan which tackles the current socio-economic landscape, poverty and reuniting the disparate areas that apparently



Barbados PM Mia Mottley addressing the UN General Assembly in September in New York. (UN image)

drifted apart due to economic pressure.

“I want all Barbadians to remember that if they see anything, to speak up. Creating a society of silence is dangerous,” Mottley said. “Speaking truth should be a civic duty for every citizen of this country,” noting accountability was needed across the country.

The prime minister also encouraged the country to have more dialogue. “Let us talk with each other and not at each other,” she said.

Mottley said she grew tired of Barbadians complaining about the problems facing the country but are not willing to lift a finger to help resolve some of the issues. “We have to be creators of solutions” she said. “We have to focus on actions and solutions and creating positive change. Come with solutions. Don’t just come to me with problems.

Criticize if you want, but bring solutions. Solutions are not for the government alone. We must all play our part.”

The prime minister also said cleanliness around the island should be among the priorities for citizens. She said the government is doing its part to make the island as immaculate as possible but it doesn’t help when Barbadians are trashing it. Mottley also warned citizens they will be penalized under new legislation to hold them more accountable if they violate the law.

The road to economic stability for Barbados might be long and bumpy for a country that’s vulnerable to import inflation pressures and has limited capacity to respond due to its exchange rate peg regime, high levels of public debt worsened by the recent economic downturn, according to World Bank Finances.

However, the government

led by Mottley is committed to implementing a plan which is designed to reduce public debt by 60 percent of GDP by the year 2036, promote the transition to green energy, diversify the economy and enhance competitiveness.

The plan also includes a commitment to social cohesion with investment in education and health, affordable housing programs and enhanced social safety nets.

According to official poverty estimates, about 17.2 percent of the population live below Barbados’ basic needs threshold and 3.4 percent of the population couldn’t even afford a minimum food basket.

The poverty rate was higher among female head of the household as 55.3 percent of the population was covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2019, but as of 2023, the National Assistance Program, (NAP), the Barbados Welfare Department’s man social assistance program, reached just 6,500 households with cash assistance. The NAP, which provides social insurance, faces long-term challenges linked to increasing expenditures on old aged pensions because of the aging population.

Mottley said finding solutions to Barbados’ challenges won’t be a simple task but can be accomplished if everyone works together in the long term.

“Nothing can stop us once we decide to work with each other,” she said.



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

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

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

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

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

If this flyer aids in your investigation in any way, please advise Deborah Simons, I.A., of the South Florida Homicide Clearinghouse at 305-471-2400.

Norway Crown Prince For Jamaica Visit

Crown Prince Haakon of Norway will visit Jamaica from November 18-20th as the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP), global Goodwill Ambassador.

Since taking on this role in 2003, the Crown Prince has championed the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly focusing on poverty eradication and ocean conservation.

According to the UNDP, the Crown Prince will explore Jamaica's initiatives to protect marine resources and strengthen vulnerable coastal communities. His visit will highlight efforts like the Blue Resilience Programme, which combats illegal fishing



Crown Prince Haakon of Norway will visit Jamaica from November 18-20th. (CMC image)

and supports the sustainable management of marine resources.

While in Jamaica, Crown Prince Haakon will meet with local officials, youth, and community representatives to discuss climate resilience

and sustainable development. He will visit Rocky Point to observe the impact of the Blue Resilience Programme and Mount Airy, where water systems have been improved for climate adaptation. Additionally, he will engage with young leaders at The University of the West Indies to discuss youth-led climate action and poverty reduction initiatives.

UNDP has partnered with Jamaica since 1976, focusing on poverty reduction, gender equality, citizen safety, and climate resilience, and works across other Caribbean nations including The Bahamas, Bermuda, and the Cayman Islands, advancing sustainable development in these regions.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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Here's What The World Bank Is Urging The Caribbean To Do

The World Bank has urged Caribbean nations to capitalize on key opportunities and implement structural reforms to drive sustainable economic growth. In its latest report, "Taxing Wealth for Equity and Growth," released on Oct. 9th, the World Bank emphasized that the region must

focus on fiscal reforms, increase investments, and harness the potential of near shoring to break out of its low-growth cycle.

William Maloney, the World Bank's Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean, stressed that the Caribbean must improve its fiscal space,

reduce tax burdens on productive sectors, and attract investments by enhancing government efficacy. He also emphasized the importance of wealth taxes as a tool to create fiscal space and promote equity.

Between 2024 and 2026, economic growth across selected

Caribbean nations varies significantly.

- Barbados is projected to grow by 3.9% in 2024, 2.8% in 2025, and 2.3% in 2026.

- Belize will see a 4.3% growth in 2024, but a sharp decline to 1.2% in 2025 and 0.5% in 2026.

- Dominica is expected to maintain steady growth, with rates of 4.6% in 2024, 4.2% in 2025, and 3.2% in 2026.

- Grenada's growth is forecasted at 3.2% in 2024, increasing to 4.7% in 2025 and 4.4% in 2026.

- Guyana stands out with extraordinary growth of 43% in 2024, followed by 12.3% in 2025, and a projection of 15.7% in 2028.

- Haiti is expected to recover from a contraction of -4.2% in 2024, with modest growth of 0.5% in 2025 and 1.5% in 2026.

- Jamaica's growth is projected to be relatively mild, at 0.8% in 2024, 2.2% in 2025, and 1.6% in 2026.

- St. Lucia is forecasted to grow by 3.4% in 2024, 2.6% in 2025, and 2.3% in 2026.

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines will see growth of 5% in 2024, 3.5% in 2025, and 2.9% in 2026.

- Suriname is expected to experience moderate growth of 2.9% in 2024, 3% in 2025, and 3.1% in 2026.

- Trinidad and Tobago is projected to grow by 2.2% in 2024, 2.3% in 2025, and slow to 0.9% in 2026.

Key Recommendations From The World Bank Report

Wealth Taxes and Fiscal Space: The World Bank suggests that Caribbean nations should reconsider how tax systems can generate revenue while stimulating growth. Wealth taxes could be used to address income inequality and create fiscal space for investments.

Nearshoring Opportunities: Despite having competitive wages, the region has not fully capitalized on near shoring opportunities due to high capital costs, weak education systems, and inadequate infrastructure.

Foreign Direct Investment: LAC has seen a decline in foreign direct investment levels, and the World Bank report notes that addressing infrastructure and social instability issues could help attract more investment.

With U.S. interest rates expected to decrease, the World Bank sees an opportunity for Caribbean economies to seize momentum and accelerate their development. However, this will require a concerted effort in governance and public investment reforms across the region.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Caribbean-Born Man Among 50 Accused In Shocking French Rape Case

A Caribbean-born man is among 50 men accused in a disturbing case in France, where a woman was allegedly drugged and raped by dozens of men over nearly a decade.

Joan Kwai, 26, originally from French Guiana, is on trial as part of a group of men charged with sexually assaulting Gisele Pelicot, 71, after being invited to her home by her husband, Dominique Pelicot.

The case has captivated global attention due to the horrific nature of the crimes. According to court testimony, Dominique Pelicot, a retired electrician, drugged his unsuspecting wife between 2011 and 2020, allowing other men to rape her while she was unconscious. Kwai, who moved to France at the age of 16, first visited the home on the day his daughter

was born in 2019. He admitted to visiting a second time and admitted to planning a third visit, which was canceled.

Prosecutors revealed that Kwai initially claimed he did not question whether Mrs. Pelicot had consented but later admitted that she was unconscious and that it was rape. Kwai, described as having depressive tendencies, is the first of the accused to give testimony in the trial.

Mrs. Pelicot has waived her anonymity to become a symbol of strength for rape survivors in France. She has bravely faced the courtroom proceedings in Avignon, where she is often met with applause from supporters.

The trial involves a total of 50 men, divided into smaller groups to manage court proceedings. Fourteen of the accused have

admitted their involvement, while the rest, including men from various professions, deny the charges and claim they were deceived by Dominique Pelicot.

Dominique Pelicot was arrested in September 2020 after being caught filming women without their consent in a supermarket. A search of his home revealed thousands of incriminating photos and videos. In addition to this case, Pelicot faces charges for the rape and murder of a 23-year-old estate agent in Paris in 1991.

The trial is expected to run until December, with heightened security due to public outrage and tensions surrounding the case.

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Jamaica Has Its First Female Finance Minister

Fayval Williams has made history as Jamaica's first female Minister of Finance and Public Service. The former Minister of Education and Youth steps into her new role following the departure of Dr. Nigel Clarke, who resigned on October 30 to assume the position of Deputy Managing Director at the International Monetary Fund, (IMF).

Announcing the appointment, Prime Minister Andrew Holness emphasized the government's commitment to driving economic growth. "The government is engineering a pivot towards accelerated growth," Holness stated. "It's a pivot towards an aggressive pursuit of growth. We have conquered the fiscal issues; now it's time to conquer the growth issues."

Williams' appointment is part of a broader Cabinet reshuffle aimed at advancing economic and human capital development. Alongside her appointment, Matthew Samuda, the newly elected Member of Parliament for St. Ann Northeast, will resume his previous Cabinet role as Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, with a focus on water resources.



Jamaica's first female Minister of Finance and Public Service, Fayval Williams. (JIS image)

Senator Dr. Dana Morris Dixon takes over as the Minister of Education, Skills, Youth, and Information.

Holness noted that the changes aim to maintain stability within the government while fostering a growth-oriented economic policy and prioritizing human capital development.

To support Williams in her new role, the prime minister has appointed senior financial advisor Alok Jain, recognized for his expertise, to work closely with her and private sector stakeholders in advancing Jamaica's economic objectives.



Report Exposes Low Wages, Safety Risks In South Florida's Growing Construction Industry

A new report highlights growing concerns about South Florida's construction industry, a key pillar of the region's booming real estate market. Low wages, safety risks, and lack of benefits for workers are among the top issues identified.

The report, titled Behind the Skylines: Labor Conditions in South Florida's Commercial Construction Industry, was released by WeCount!, a nonprofit based in Homestead. It reveals that more than 80% of surveyed construction workers struggled to pay rent or a mortgage, while over half faced difficulties affording basic necessities like groceries, utilities, and healthcare.

Only 25% of workers had employer-provided health insurance, and less than a quarter had access to paid sick leave, vacation time, or life insurance. The average hourly wage was \$19, with many laborers earning

under \$15, just above Florida's \$13 minimum wage.

The report argues that these wages are inadequate for the region, which is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. Despite a labor shortage, wages and working conditions have not improved as expected. The study also found widespread wage theft, with nearly a third of workers not receiving overtime pay.

Additionally, the report cites a grim statistic: one construction worker dies every four days in Florida, often due to falls. The report calls for unionization as a potential solution, noting that unionized construction workers typically earn 46% more and have better access to benefits. However, only 7% of South Florida's construction workforce is currently unionized, though 62% expressed interest in joining a union.



Weed, Abortion Amendments Fail As Palm Beach Gets First Black Female State Attorney

BY DAVID L. SNELLING
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Florida voters defeated a measure to legalize recreational marijuana and add abortion rights to the Florida state constitution in Tuesday's elections as Amendment 3 and 4 failed to collect at least 60 percent of the vote to pass. Some 56 percent voted yes for marijuana legalization while 44 percent said no. Fifty-seven percent voted yes for legalization of abortion while 43 percent said no.

The result was a political win for Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis that will keep in place only marijuana for medical purposes if a doctor deems it necessary during the course of treatment for illnesses such as glaucoma, cancer and epilepsy. rs against approving the measure. They also place the state's ban on most abortions after the first six weeks of pregnancy.

Interestingly, Donald Trump had signaled his support in September for legal marijuana, with the caveat that the nascent industry must have "smart regulations."

"As a Floridian, I will be voting YES on Amendment 3 this November," the former president wrote in a post on his social media site Truth Social at the time.

Local Races – Miami-Dade

Meanwhile, there's a new sheriff in town for Miami-Dade County. Miami-Dade assistant Police Director Rosanna Cordero-Stutz, a Republican, was elected the new Miami-Dade County Sheriff for the first time in 60 years.

Cordero-Stutz defeated

Miami-Dade Public Safety Director James Reyes, a Democrat, by capturing 55.70 percent of the vote to his 44.30 percent.

The two won a 13-way race in the August Primary seeking to run the eighth largest police department in the U.S. with over 4,700 sworn officers without interference from Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, who was acting as sheriff, and county commissioners.

Cordero-Stutz's victory was also a defeat for Levine Cava, who handpicked Reyes, a former Broward County Sheriff deputy, to run for the position which was reinstated after six decades when it was abolished by voters due to corruption.

US Senate/House Races

For the U.S. Senate, Republican incumbent Rick Scott defeated former U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, capturing 54 percent of the vote while the Democrat won 44 percent.

For U.S. House of Representatives District 24, incumbent Fredrica Wilson, a Democrat, held on to her seat by winning 66 percent of the vote, while her Republican opponent Jesus Gabriel Navarro captured 32 percent.

For U.S. House of Representatives District 21, incumbent Brian Mast, a Republican, defeated Democratic challenger Thomas Witkop with 61 percent of the vote to his 38 percent.

For U.S. House District 22, Democratic incumbent Lois Frankel defeated Republican Dan Franzese with 54 percent of the

Gen-X Carnival shone at the 40th anniversary of Miami Carnival, winning the prestigious Band of the Year title with their electrifying portrayal, Miami Carnival-Ravenous. The portrayal's intricate designs, vibrant colors, and dynamic presentation dazzled both the audience and judges, showcasing the team's dedication to Caribbean culture and creativity. Gen-X Carnival's victory was a highlight in a weekend that brought together thousands to celebrate the spirit and vibrancy of the Caribbean.

In addition to Gen-X Carnival's top honor, Ramajay Mas International earned second place with their portrayal, Free Spirit, which captivated with its expressive designs and strong thematic presentation. Big and Strong/One Island took third place with their inspired portrayal, A Night at the Louvre, bringing the art and allure of a famous museum to life through elaborate costumes, while Pleasure Mas rounded out the top spots in fourth with their creative presentation, Romancing the Stone.



Some of the members of Gen-X Carnival which won the prestigious Band of the Year title with their electrifying portrayal, Miami Carnival Ravenous. (Contributed image)

Miami Carnival's individual awards also saw fierce competition. Reisha Maynard of Ramajay Mas International claimed the title of Queen of Carnival for her portrayal of The Phoenix Warrior, a powerful and intricate costume. Percival Maynard, also of Ramajay Mas International, won King of Carnival with Roar: Spirit of the King, capturing the regal

essence and strength of Caribbean heritage.

The 40th Miami Carnival was a true showcase of Caribbean pride, artistry, and community spirit, with Gen-X Carnival's win standing as a testament to the enduring legacy and excitement that this beloved festival brings to South Florida year after year.



Chief prosecutor Alexcia Cox has become the first woman and first Black person to become Palm Beach State Attorney.

Sheriff. Sharief won 56 percent of the vote while Parlature captured 43 percent. Sharief replaces Senator Lauren Book, a Democrat, who is term-limited and defeated Sharief in 2022.

Broward County Sheriff

For Broward County Sheriff, incumbent Sheriff Gregory Tony, who won the Democratic Primary over three challengers, defeated Charles Edward Whatley, a former United States Marine Corps veteran and law enforcement professional. Tony collected 66 percent of the vote to Whatley's 33 percent.

Judgeship

For Broward County Court Judge Group 10, assistant city attorney Woody Clermont defeated family attorney Samuel Ford with 54 percent of the vote to Ford's 45 percent.

Sunrise Mayor

For Sunrise mayor, incumbent Mike Ryan won another term in political office by defeating Commissioner Mark A. Douglas, a Jamaican American, and Niccole Pazos. Ryan won 43 percent of

the vote, Douglas collected 36 and Pazos got 19 percent.

Palm Beach County For Palm Beach State Attorney, chief prosecutor Alexcia Cox becomes the first woman and first Black to hold the position after edging out attorney San Stern. Cox, a Democrat, picked up 49 percent of the vote to Republican Stern's 48 percent.

For Palm Beach County Sheriff, incumbent Ric Bradshaw, a Democrat, defeated his former second in command Michael Gauger, a Republican with 58 percent of the vote to Gauger's 42 percent.

For Palm Beach County Commissioner, former state Senator Bobby Powell Jr., defeated Leonard Serrator with 69 percent of the vote to his 30 percent.

For Palm Beach County School Board District 1, attorney Matthew Jay Lane defeated Page Lewis, executive director of a Christian youth ministry that serves children living in poverty, with 54 percent of the vote to Lewis' 45 percent.

For Palm Beach County School Board District 5, teacher Gloria Branch defeated Mindy Koch, a former Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee chairwoman, with 53 percent of the vote to Koch's 46 percent.

And Palm Beach County Judge Group 2, defense attorney and former prosecutor Lourdes Casanova defeated trial lawyer Jean Marie Middleton with 56 percent of the vote to Middleton's 43 percent.



Marva Bernard - Creating A Netball Movement

Netball is the number one female sport in Jamaica. It is played in schools across the country and has spawned a number of independent clubs and teams. The national netball team, the Sunshine Girls, has earned the island the number 4 ranking in the world out of the 100-plus countries that play the sport.

But, it's not just because of the players' skills. Netball in Jamaica, headed by lovers of the sport beginning with the first president of the Jamaica Netball Association, Margaret Beckford in 1958, has become a movement in its own right.

One of the architects of this movement is Marva Bernard, OD, who served as president of the Association from 2005-2015. Still seen as the face of Netball, Bernard's passion for the sport has never waned, as was evident in a recent conversation with Caribbean Today.

Involved in netball from her days at Excelsior High School, Bernard was not necessarily a good player on the field, as she freely admitted. But, she felt connected to this fascinating game nonetheless.

WHISTLE

"I fell in love with the umpiring aspect of the game and that love has stayed with me to this day," said an excited Bernard. "I just wanted to be a part of this fantastic game, so I used to blow the whistle at school."

According to World Netball, the internationally recognized governing body for netball, an umpire's whistle notifies the players of critical time restrictions, restarts, infringements, or out-of-court penalties. Bernard's passion for netball continued when she joined Air Jamaica as an accountant in the 1970s and got involved with the company's netball team.

"I worked for Air Jamaica with a group of netball-loving people," she reminisced. "There was a Business House competition and they wanted us to enter a team. But, I honestly have no talent for playing the game and I became less and less useful to the team on the field of play. So I took a job that nobody else wanted - manager of the team that involved things like transport, uniforms, and all the administrative aspects of managing the team."

Then the universe lined up, for it was at Air Jamaica where her association with the Jamaica Netball Association, (JNA), began. One of her colleagues and fellow netball team member at Air Jamaica, Molly Rhone, OJ, became president of the Jamaica Netball

Association in 1993. Bernard, who by then had taken on the role of treasurer for the Business House Association, was asked to join the JNA as its treasurer. And that she did, relinquishing Business House for JNA. But, it didn't stop there for the highly respected certified public accountant.

WORLD NETBALL

In 1999 Rhone was elected vice president of International Netball Federation, (now World Netball), the first Caribbean woman in that post and who is credited with taking Jamaica netball to the global stage.

Once again Rhone asked Bernard to join her at the International Netball Federation and was duly elected treasurer. The rest is history as they say. Bernard would go on to become president in 2005 of the Jamaica Netball Association, now known as Netball Jamaica, serving full 10-year tenure.

Under her leadership, and those before her, Jamaica's national team became one of the top teams in the world. "It



Marva Bernard, I., and Sunshine Girls defender Shamera Sterling were named World Netball Ambassadors in 2021. (Contributed image)



Marva Bernard, I., with former president of Netball Australia at the 2023 Netball World Cup in Cape Town, South Africa. (Contributed image)

didn't begin with me," Bernard emphasized. "I stood on the shoulders of the presidents who went before, and this is not a cliché. I never played netball at any level. I never represented the country at the sport. I came in and sat at the feet of Molly Rhone and Vilma McDonald.

Our first president, Margaret Beckford, took me under her wings... I cannot credit anything that I have done as a pioneer. Margaret Beckford is the pioneer for netball in Jamaica. But I'm just one of those who have built on what was already there."

are driving their own cars, they own their own homes. Those things mean a lot to me. We are a family."

Her energy now is focused on refurbishing Netball House, affectionately called the Sunshine Chalet, an official home gifted to the national team by the government of Jamaica in 2010. A labor love for Bernard, she wants to bring it back to its former glory for her netball family.

"I couldn't be where I am today without the people and the players. Our current crop of players, half of them grew up with me. I'm going to name them: Jhaniele Fowler, Romelda Aiken, Shamera Sterling, Kadie-Ann Dehaney, Khadijah Williams, Shanice Beckford, Adean Thomas... I have no biological children of my own, but the players are God's gift to me... and I am unashamed to say that I love them unconditionally," added Bernard.



Among the many sports honors and awards conferred on the charismatic Bernard is the World Netball Service Award in 2013. And, in 2021 she along with Sunshine Girls defender Shamera Sterling became World Netball's official Ambassadors.

AMERICAS NETBALL

Bernard's focus has always been to grow netball throughout the region, and recognized for that passion and resolve, in 2018, she became president of the Americas Federation of Netball Association, now Americas Netball, the governing body for netball in the Americas region - including North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean.

Bernard's priority for the region was training, particularly the training of new umpires. She recognized that many across the region were aging, so replenishing the pool was critical.

Among the actions she took was training young players who did not make the team to become umpires. However, the training program did not survive. But Bernard is hopeful that the mantle will again be taken up.

Asked about her greatest accomplishment in Jamaica's netball, Bernard noted: "My greatest accomplishment is falling in love with the people that make the sport, which is the players at all levels. My greatest accomplishment is when I see them, they have graduated from university, they

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Mass Deportation Will Impact All Americans

With inflation and economic stability at the forefront of concerns for most American voters, it's ironic that Donald Trumpeto and his right-wing band of dummies see mass deportation as America's fix-it-all plan but fail to realize it will ultimately impact their own wallets.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

As the recent American Immigration Council's report, 'Mass Deportation: Devastating Costs to America, Its Budget, and Economy' shows, mass deportations would not only diminish the American workforce for essential services we take for granted, but would also slash tax revenues, cripple key industries, and disrupt communities nationwide.

The report underscores that every taxpayer would feel the cost of mass deportation. The reason is simple: by reducing the tax base and removing a significant percentage of the workforce, mass deportations would increase the country's fiscal burden on all American citizens – blue, red and purple leaning. And yes, undocumented workers do pay taxes despite the lies and fake news.

Consider this: undocumented immigrants are disproportionately of working age, with nearly 90 percent between ages 16 and 64, compared to just over 60 percent of U.S.-born citizens. This age group plays an essential role in sectors like construction, agriculture, and hospitality, which are already facing labor shortages nationally. Just ask any farmer, including in so-called red states, trying to hire for simple chores like milking cows daily or picking fruit and vegetables.

With an unemployment rate consistently under 4 percent, there are simply not enough U.S.-born workers to fill the gap that would be left by mass deportation regardless of the lies that these immigrants are taking American jobs. It's no wonder industries as varied as meatpacking, agriculture, construction, and hospitality rely heavily on undocumented workers to keep their businesses afloat.

If mass deportation were enforced, the report found that nearly 1.5 million workers in construction and over 224,000 in agriculture would be lost, alongside hundreds of thousands in hospitality, manufacturing, and transportation. This would create severe labor shortages in areas crucial to America's economy and to consumer access to affordable goods and services.

Undocumented immigrants are essential to the American workforce in specialized roles, making up over a third of roofers, plasterers, and drywall installers, as well as a quarter of agricultural laborers and housekeeping cleaners.

If this workforce is taken away, labor shortages will force businesses to raise wages, which sounds positive at first, but this ultimately means higher costs for all consumers, not just Democrats. The economic contributions of undocumented immigrants extend far beyond labor, AILA said. In 2022, they paid nearly \$47 billion in federal taxes and over \$29 billion in state and local taxes, helping fund essential services from education to infrastructure. They contributed another \$22.6 billion to Social Security and \$5.7 billion to Medicare - funds that help sustain these programs as the U.S. population ages. The loss of these contributions would strain the U.S. social safety net, leaving it in a more precarious position for future generations.

The report also highlights that approximately one million undocumented entrepreneurs generated \$27 billion in business income in 2022. Many operate small neighborhood businesses that drive local economies and provide jobs for American citizens. Imagine the impact on communities if these businesses were forced to close - lost jobs, shuttered storefronts, and reduced spending power.

Perhaps the most startling takeaway is the potential effect on the nation's Gross Domestic Product, (GDP). Mass deportation would reduce GDP by an estimated 4.2 to 6.8 percent - a hit comparable to the Great Recession of 2007-2009, the report found. For context, this would mean a loss of up to \$1.7 trillion annually. As the GDP contracts, the impact on consumers would be devastating,

as businesses downsize, wages stall, and inflation rises, all of which would further erode Americans' purchasing power.

In short, the pursuit of mass deportation could fundamentally reshape the American economy and weaken consumer stability while increasing inflation and costs. Rather than embracing solutions that target immigrants, the nation and its lawmakers would

be wise to pursue policies that integrate, rather than expel those who are already contributing to its prosperity.

It's time to recognize that undocumented immigrants are more than a statistic - they are an essential part of the American economic engine, supporting industries and bolstering our social safety net. To ignore this is to jeopardize America and all

Americans.

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.



HIV/AIDS AND MARIJUANA USE

LEARN THE BENEFITS AND SIDE EFFECTS

Watch a Conversations on Cannabis virtual forum to hear healthcare professionals discuss the potential benefits and challenges of using medical cannabis for individuals living with HIV and AIDS.

Watch Now

Touch Starvation

Touch starvation is the desire for physical human contact. One expert posits that being deprived of meaningful human contact can lead to serious complications. People who are affection



TONY ROBINSON

deprived are more likely to experience depression and stress, and in general worse health, says the study. But it doesn't take a psychologist to tell us that lack

of affection can have a profound effect on people, and even animals.

Yes, even animals have a need for affection, and if you own a cat, you'll be aware of how affectionate it can be as it rubs up on you, curl up against you, loves to make contact and purrs when satisfied.

From when a baby is born, it snuggles in the mother's breast and is comforted by her touch, feeling, soothing voice and caressing. She too gains from the experience, a sort of symbiotic sensory sensation, as her heart, mind, body and emotions feed off the experience. A child who grows up

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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The Implications Of The US Election On The Caribbean's Future

BY DR. ISAAC NEWTON

The outcome of the U.S. general elections carries profound consequences for Caribbean people, both in the US Diaspora and in the Caribbean region. As campaigns are laden with legal drama, divisive rhetoric, and charged racial sentiments, the issues that directly impact Caribbean interests range from immigration to global economics, climate change, reparations, and geopolitical realignment. Let's break down these core issues and explore their implications for the Caribbean region regardless of who wins:

1) Immigration Policy And Student Visas – Implications for Caribbean People:

Immigration reform is a pivotal issue in U.S. politics, and Caribbean nationals, particularly students and professionals are deeply affected by these shifts. Depending on the election outcome, the U.S. could either move toward more restrictive policies – including mass deportations and reduced visa access; or adopt a more balanced approach that provides pathways to citizenship and secured but open borders.

Student Visas:

Caribbean students benefit significantly from U.S. education opportunities. A restrictive immigration policy could limit the issuance of student visas, making it more difficult for Caribbean nationals to study in the U.S. This could hurt the Caribbean's intellectual and professional development, as U.S.-educated individuals often return with critical skills and knowledge that benefit their home countries. Conversely, a more open immigration policy could streamline access to educational and professional opportunities for Caribbean nationals, supporting academic exchange and regional skill-building.

2) Global Economy, Wars, and Trade – Impact Of Wars On Caribbean Economies:

The U.S. election will likely influence the country's involvement in ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Africa. The resolution or escalation of these wars has wide-ranging effects on global energy prices, inflation, and supply chains, all of which are critical to small island economies in the Caribbean. Implications for Small Island States:

Caribbean nations are heavily dependent on imports, including energy. An unstable global economy, exacerbated by war, would drive up fuel prices and disrupt trade routes, worsening inflation in small economies that already struggle with high debt burdens.

Should the U.S. pursue policies that ease tensions or create energy alternatives, the Caribbean could see more stable trade and potentially lower energy prices. However, if instability



persists, Caribbean economies may face prolonged financial crises, characterized by increased cost of living and limited access to international markets.

3) Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness – Vulnerability of the Caribbean:

The Caribbean is particularly susceptible to climate change, as the region experiences frequent hurricanes, rising sea levels, and environmental degradation. The U.S. is a key global player in climate action, and the election winner will likely shape the country's stance on environmental policies, either prioritizing climate action or downplaying it.

Policy Impact on Quality of Life:

If the next U.S. administration prioritizes climate change and disaster mitigation, the Caribbean could benefit from increased funding and cooperation on sustainable development, adaptation strategies, and emergency relief. This could improve resilience in the region, reducing the economic and social toll of natural disasters. On the other hand, a U.S. withdrawal from climate agreements or a reduction in funding for disaster relief could exacerbate vulnerabilities, pushing Caribbean nations into deeper financial crises due to higher costs of disaster recovery and mitigation.

4) Reparations and Historical Justice – The Pursuit of Reparations:

Caribbean nations have been steadfast in their call for reparations for slavery and colonialism, a central aspect of their historical justice agenda. The U.S., as a former colonizer with historical ties to the transatlantic slave trade, plays a key role in this global conversation. Impact of U.S. Election:

The outcome of the election could influence the momentum behind the reparations movement. A more progressive U.S. administration might lend support, either through policy endorsements or by creating spaces for diplomatic dialogue. However, a government that dismisses historical justice movements could undermine the push for reparations, stalling progress at critical junctures. This would affect not only Caribbean governments but also grassroots movements seeking redress for historical wrongs.

5) U.S. Global Leadership vs. BRICS Influence – Shifting Global Dynamics:

The global landscape is increasingly shifting toward a multilateral world order, with

BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa; challenging U.S. dominance. Caribbean countries, many of which rely on foreign financing for development projects, find themselves at a crossroads, navigating between traditional U.S. influence and new opportunities presented by BRICS.

Caribbean Strategic Choices:

The U.S. election could either expand U.S. engagement with the Caribbean or prompt isolationist policies, further pushing small island states toward BRICS countries for financing and partnerships. An administration that prioritizes economic diplomacy and expands U.S. influence could ensure the region remains within the U.S. sphere, offering economic aid and security partnerships. However, if U.S. isolationism prevails, Caribbean countries may increasingly

look to China and BRICS for infrastructure investments and financing, further diminishing U.S. influence in the region.

Implications for Development:

Aligning with BRICS may provide Caribbean nations with new opportunities for economic development, but it comes with risks, including debt dependency and political alignment with authoritarian regimes. The U.S., historically a stable partner, could offer more transparent development aid, but if the election ushers in a less engaged U.S., Caribbean nations may have no choice but to seek alternative partnerships.

The U.S. general election will have far-reaching implications for the Caribbean, touching on immigration, the global economy, climate change, reparations, and geopolitical shifts.

Each of these areas presents both risks and opportunities for the region. Caribbean governments and people must remain vigilant and adaptive, leveraging diplomatic and economic ties

with the U.S. while preparing to diversify their partnerships with emerging global powers like BRICS.

The election will shape not only the Caribbean's economic and social future but also its role within an increasingly complex global order.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Isaac Newton is an International Leadership and Change Management Consultant and Political Adviser. He specializes in Government and Business Relations, and Sustainable Development Projects. Dr. Newton works extensively, in West Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America and is a graduate of Oakwood College, Harvard, Princeton and Columbia. He has published several books on personal development and written many articles on economics, education, leadership, political, social, and faith based issues.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Touch Starvation

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

with lots of affection is generally more emotionally balanced than a child who is deprived.

"What a cold man he is, never got any affection as a child."

*'Skin to skin, skin to skin,
No cold wind blow on me
Skin to skin
Skin to skin
The light it shine on me
Skin to skin
She touches soft.'*

...Harry Belafonte

But 'even the softest skin becomes like leather to a man who's touched it too often.' All hunger is bad, and if sustained can lead to serious illness and even death. It's the same for touch starvation, or skin hunger - it has to be satisfied.

The thing is though, women will admit to this, but most men won't. A woman will say, "My man is overseas and I just want to touch him and feel him."

When couples are apart for a long period of time, touch starvation sets in - a need to look at each other, touch, caress, kiss. Many couples have expressed that what's extremely important is the need to satisfy that feeling.

If your man or woman goes away for a long period of time, you can be assured that touch starvation will set in. But conditions apply. There's the old saying: love and sea water don't mix.

That vast span of ocean that separates couples can lead to the demise of the relationship if that hunger is not satisfied. So, if that man or woman goes away for any lengthy period of time, and there is no satisfying that skin hunger, you can bet your last dollar that he or she is eating from a different restaurant. It was the Isley Brothers who sang: 'If you can't be with the one you love, then love



the one you're with.'

And don't tell me about Internet Facetime either; that's like someone saying that they're hungry and you say: "Here, Google KFC and look at the video menu."

"Where's your woman?" "Oh she's away for two years now."

"And you haven't seen her all this time? Boss man, touch starvation must be taking her."

But apart from the deprivation of affection, what are the other effects? One is loneliness, and believe it or not, lots of people are extremely lonely.

Because of this, many of them pour their time and effort into the workplace as that's the only space where they'll have any meaningful contact with anyone else. Some men may misread the feelings from female co-workers and read it as an invitation. But many times, all that the woman wants is some interpersonal contact to satisfy that touch starvation.

But so many women go home alone every evening to an empty apartment with nothing but the TV for company, and not having the

experience of sharing anything of importance with someone.

This can lead to depression and even anger, as that pervasive hunger takes its toll on the human psyche. Even a hug can have a positive effect on people.

A study on the lack of affection pointed out that just as lack of food, water and rest have their detrimental effects, so does the lack of affection. People with high levels of touch starvation are disadvantaged in multiple ways, compared to those with moderate or low levels.

They are less happy, more lonely, more likely to experience depression and stress and in general worse health. Fortunately, it doesn't have to be a permanent condition, but like all hunger, can be satisfied.

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.

Debate Rekindles Over Bob Marley's Status As Jamaica's First National Icon

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL
Edited by Felicia J. Persaud

Whenever talk about Bob Marley being made a National Hero comes up in Jamaica, things are bound to get heated. It has been no different since Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness declared his government's intention to make the reggae king the country's first National Icon.

Holness made the announcement on October 21st, celebrated in Jamaica as National Heroes Day. In a televised broadcast, he disclosed that Marley and legendary folklorist Louise "Miss Lou" Bennett-Coverley will become the first Jamaicans to be invested in the new Order of National Icon.

The prime minister added that his administration had done the preliminary work and would move forward with the legal process to introduce the new national honour. Conferment will take place once that legal process is completed.

Miss Lou, who died in 2006; and Bob Marley, who died in



In a televised broadcast, Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness disclosed that Bob Marley, r., and legendary folklorist Louise "Miss Lou" Bennett-Coverley, will become the first Jamaicans to be invested in the new Order of National Icon.

who died in 1981 at age 36, are already the recipients the Order of Merit, Jamaica's fourth-highest honour.

"This will be a most well-deserved and long-overdue recognition of their legendary contributions to Jamaican culture and music. Both Miss Lou and Bob Marley stand as towering figures in the preservation and global elevation of Jamaica's cultural heritage," Holness stated.

In January, Holness said

the government was "actively considering" making Marley, Jamaica's eighth National Hero.

"There has been, for a long time, a petition for Bob Marley to become a National Hero of Jamaica, and it continues to be something that many Jamaicans would warm to. We did put together a committee to look at it," Holness said at the time. "There were commissions before that established the criteria for a National Hero. The conversation has so far evolved to have a

category that identifies iconic personalities - people who have added great value to our country - so there may be a designation." Sangie Davis, Marley's close friend, is bemused by Holness' announcement.

"I'm trying to diagnose di whole thing," Davis, who co-wrote Wake Up And Live, Marley's hit song said. "What's di difference between National Hero an' National Icon? Is Bob put Jamaica on di map, him deserve to be a National Hero."

Meanwhile, popular storyteller lecturer in Reggae Studies at the University of the West Indies, Dr. Dennis Howard, called the new national honour "absolutely ridiculous." And Professor Emerita in History and Gender Studies Verene Shepherd, who also chairs the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, was terse in her commentary: "Why not National Hero status for both Ms. Lou and Bob Marley? Why National Icons? Are there not other forms of decolonization apart from fighting for freedom

from chattel enslavement and for independence? What more should they have done?," she questioned on X, formerly Twitter.

Pan African giant Marcus Garvey, Sir Alexander Bustamante, Jamaica's first prime minister, Norman Manley, the country's first premier; and anti-slavery figures Nanny, Sam Sharpe, George William Gordon and Paul Bogle are Jamaica's National Heroes.

Under the National Heroes and Awards Act, the Order of National Hero is presented by Jamaica's Governor General on the advice of the prime minister. An advisory committee is also required for the Order of National Hero. That committee determines whether persons - living or dead - should get the title.

The Act describes a National Hero as someone who was born in Jamaica or a citizen who has rendered to the country service of the most distinguished nature.



British Author Revisits 1970s Jamaican Music Scene In Pressure Drop

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

For music fans who wanted to hear songs with an edge during the 1970s, Kingston, Jamaica was one of the places to visit. Roots-reggae and Rastafari were an intriguing mix, and foreigners could not get enough of it.

British author, John Masouri, revisits that heady decade in 'Pressure Drop: Reggae in The Seventies.' His book, which was released in October by Omnibus Press, covers a lot of ground in 617 pages, but it is an engrossing read. Aware that many books have been written on Jamaican music from the 1970s, Masouri took a fresh approach to his latest project.

"The most obvious example of my different approach is in the way in which the book's actually structured," said Masouri. "It's written diary fashion and goes through the years in chronological order whilst introducing readers to each new artist, record, event or evolutionary change as they happened. As far as I know, this hasn't been done before in reggae literature.

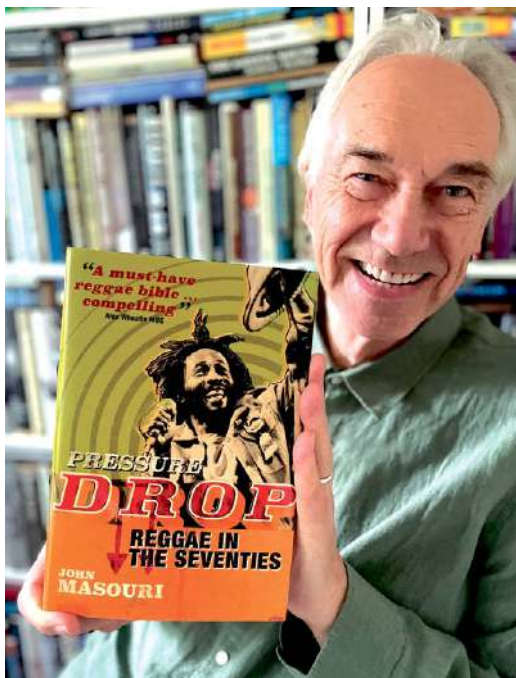
He added that he "wanted to keep readers in the moment."

"If you notice, there's never any mention of what happens in the future - only of the present, and what may have led up to that," explained Masouri. "That's because being a reggae fan in that era was like riding a rollercoaster. It was an exciting time - one full of thrills and spills, and that's what I was eager to get across. I

wanted to keep my readers entertained as well as informed, and also regarding developments here in the UK, as well as Jamaica."

The reader is taken through the evolution of reggae, through chapters looking at the characters who helped make the genre appealing to stars like The Rolling Stones, Paul Simon and Stevie Wonder. While Masouri made a big effort to offer something different, 'Pressure Drop' is heavy on anecdotes about legendary artists such as Bob Marley, Bunny Wailer, Peter Tosh, Toots Hibbert, Dennis Brown and Burning Spear as well as Lee "Scratch" Perry, the visionary producer whose eccentric touches made some of the 1970s' most creative songs.

Masouri, 71, was born and raised in Nottingham, a city in the British Midlands that has strong ties to the UK's Caribbean community. It was the site of race riots in 1958, and has hosted the world-famous Notting Hill Carnival since 1966. He discovered Jamaican culture during the mid-1960s through ska, the horn-hooked sound that originated in Kingston's clubs and struck a nerve with white British youth, thanks to songs



British author, John Masouri, revisits that heady decade in 'Pressure Drop: Reggae in The Seventies.' (Contributed image)

like My Boy Lollipop by Millie Small.

Later, Masouri warmed to Desmond Dekker, Toots and Jimmy Cliff, all of whom developed strong followings in the UK in the 1960s. The 1970s, however, is a whole different ball game for him.

"During the 1970s, a kaleidoscope of different forms, sounds and innovations emerged starting with the rise of deejays - artists who pioneered the art of chanting rhyming verses on records and sparked a global love of rapping, since there was no hip hop when the likes of Count Machouki and Sir Lord Comic first strutted their stuff on local sound systems," he said.

And he added: "Jamaican superstars like Desmond Dekker and Jimmy Cliff built on the success of gate-crashers Millie and Prince Buster and a cultural revolution began when Count Ossie took the sounds of nyahbinghi drumming from the shanty towns and Rasta camps to the lawns of Jamaica House and into the consciousness of young rebels such as Bob

Marley and The Wailers. It was the decade when proud African descendants fulfilled the dreams of Rastafarian elders who'd suffered persecution and discrimination for so long, and the sufferers stepped out of the shadows to make their voices heard throughout the world."



OD For Dancehall Icons



Bounty Killer receives his Order of Distinction (Officer Class) from Governor-General Sir Patrick Allen at the National Indoor Sports Centre in Kingston, Jamaica. (JIS image)

Jamaica's 2024 Heroes Day celebration on October 2st, honoured four reggae and dancehall legends for their profound contributions to Jamaican music and culture. Bounty Killer, (Rodney Pryce), Beenie Man, (Moses Davis), Nadine Sutherland, and Admiral Bailey, (Glendon Orville Bailey), were each awarded the Order of Distinction (Officer Class) for their influence in bringing Jamaican music to the world stage.

The honours were presented by Governor-General Sir Patrick Allen at the National Indoor Sports Centre in Kingston, during the annual National Honours and Awards ceremony, which celebrated 232 Jamaicans for contributions across various fields. The recognition of these music icons highlighted their pivotal role in shaping and promoting reggae and dancehall, cementing Jamaica's global cultural presence.



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Dancehall Queen Spice Celebrates First Canadian Platinum Plaque

Jamaican dancehall star Spice has officially received her first platinum plaque from Canada for the hit single "Go Down Deh," featuring reggae legends Shaggy and Sean Paul.

The song, part of Spice's Grammy-nominated album 10, was certified platinum by Music Canada earlier this year, achieving over 80,000 units in sales and streaming. Produced by Shaggy and Constantin "Costi" Ioniță, the track has amassed more than 280 million views on YouTube and 240 million streams on Spotify, becoming one of the decade's biggest dancehall hits.

Spice expressed her gratitude on Instagram, shouting out her collaborators, "Big up my hero @drealshaggy @duttypaul," and thanking VP Records for their support.



Directed by Jay Will, the music video for "Go Down Deh" continues to resonate globally. This milestone adds to Spice's impact as a global ambassador for dancehall. Celebrating her 25 years in music, Spice also recently released "Sitt'n Fi Chat" from her new album Mirror 25.



Derrick Scott Gears Up For Another Gospel Mission Concert

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

When Derrick Scott first staged the Gospel Mission concert in Lauderdale Lakes nine years ago, his main objective was to win souls for God. But in 2022 when his wife died, the annual event took on even more meaning.

Scott is again the headliner with his daughter Kishna, fellow singer Clifford Clarke and saxophonist Michael Woodstock in supporting roles. They will be backed by the 10-piece Mission Band.

Scott's wife Nadine, who died in February, 2022, played a major role organizing 'Gospel Mission.' While it has been difficult promoting the show since her passing, he says he knows that she wanted him to carry on and that inspires him.

"I wasn't going to do it (the show), but it's something she cared deeply about. Plus, the people want me to carry on because the message is what's important," he told Caribbean Today.

Scott recalls he and Nadine hitting it off when they first met in 2018. He pointed to their shared similarities from that instant connection - they are from the market town of Linstead in St. Catherine parish,



Derek Scott and his daughter Kishna stand before a banner in memory of his wife Nadine. (Contributed image)

Jamaica; they lived in the Cayman Islands before moving to South Florida and both had a passion for the Word of God.

Prior to becoming a Christian during the 1990s, Scott was a sound system artist in Jamaica. He is the younger brother of singer Freddie McKay, a popular reggae act best known for songs like 'Picture On The Wall,' and 'Dance Dis Ya Festival.'

Although he has been a practicing Christian for 30 years, Scott has not turned his back on his roots. He has released four

gospel albums and a number of songs, including, 'God Answers Prayers,' and 'False Preacher,' which are recorded to reggae rhythms. He co-produced his latest song, Hello Jesus, with Willie Lindo, whose credits include hit songs by Dennis Brown, Beres Hammond and JC Lodge.

Gospel Mission takes place November 16th at Unity New Testament Church of God at 4541 NW 36th St, Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319.



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Organized by the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, Art Of Black Miami showcases the rich artistic diversity of Miami and Miami Beach through its art program and acts as a destination driver creating a thriving business ecosystem for our arts community. Join us in celebrating this initiative's 10th anniversary of fostering economic growth, cultural exchange, and appreciation among visitors and residents alike.



For up-to-date art events, promotions and more information, visit ArtOfBlackMiami.com

Caribbean Flavours And Culture Take Center Stage At 22nd Annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival

The vibrant flavours of Caribbean cuisine will once again shine at the 22nd annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival, returning to Miramar on Sunday, November 10th. This beloved celebration of food, music, and culture will feature a wide range of activities, including culinary competitions, cooking demonstrations, and live performances by some of the biggest names in reggae and dancehall.

The festival will offer a feast for food lovers with food trucks and booths serving authentic island dishes, including the famous jerk cuisine. A highlight of the event will be the celebrity cook-off, where WPLG Local 10 anchor Alexis Frazier will face off against WTVJ NBC-6 anchor Kris Anderson. Additionally, regional chefs Alain Lemaire and



Winston Williams will compete in the much-anticipated Chef Clash.

On the Publix Culinary Stage, Chef Irie Spice will host live cooking demonstrations featuring Boston-based chef Darian Bryan and Travis Reece,

the culinary talent behind Davie's Chef Reece Kitchen. Attendees will have the chance to learn Caribbean-inspired cooking techniques from these top chefs.

"This year, we're elevating the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival

to new heights," said C. "Eddy" Edwards, cofounder and CEO of Jamaican Jerk Festival USA. "Our guests can expect an even more exciting experience, with thrilling culinary demonstrations and contests as well as vibrant cultural presentations. With a wider variety of mouth-watering food offerings and more fun activities for the whole family, we're crafting a unique celebration of Caribbean culture, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy."

Festival Details:

Date: Sunday, November 10, 2024

Time: 1:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Location: Miramar Regional Park, 16801 Miramar Parkway

Tickets: \$40 in advance online, \$50 at the gate; VIP

tickets \$175 in advance, \$225 at the gate (VIP tickets typically sell out). Tickets available at jerkfestival.com.

The entertainment lineup will feature dancehall and reggae stars such as Elephant Man, Shuga, Nigy Boy, The Fantells, and Chalice, with performances hosted by comedian Chris "Johnny" Daley and media personality Jody-Ann Gray. The festival will also showcase top DJs, including Richie D, DJ Radcliffe, Extatic Sound, and DJ Worm.

Whether you're a fan of Caribbean food, live music, or cultural activities, the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival promises a day of family-friendly fun and flavorful experiences.



Thanksgiving Dinner Menu With A Caribbean Twist

What's on the menu for Thanksgiving dinner this year? Whether the turkey is being roasted, fried, jerked, or stewed, it's essential to ensure it's thoroughly cooked. Always read and closely follow the cooking instructions that come with the bird.

For those who don't eat turkey, alternatives are plentiful. You can celebrate with any preferred meat or even a vegetarian dish for those who opt not to eat meat.

Here's a suggested Thanksgiving dinner menu with a Caribbean twist:

Appetizers:

- Escoveitched King Fish cubes
- Steamed Callaloo
- Mofongo-mini balls

Salad:

- Tropical Fresh Salad

Main Course:

- Rice and peas
- Roasted Turkey with a Caribbean Twist
- Jamaican hard-dough Italian sausage stuffing
- Honey Glazed Ham
- Corn casserole
- Creamy Rum and Raisin sweet potatoes
- Buttered string beans

Dessert:

- Pumpkin Pie
- No-churn guava ice cream

Cocktail:

- Homemade Coconut Rum Cocktail

Here is the recipe for a **Thanksgiving Turkey with a Caribbean twist:**

INGREDIENTS:

- 12 to 14 lbs Turkey
- 3 sour oranges
- 4 lemons
- 2 cups cider vinegar
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- Water (room temperature)
- Seasonings:
- 3 large onions
- 2 stalks leeks
- 1 bunch scallion
- 1/2 tsp anise
- 1 head garlic (minced)
- 6 sprigs thyme
- 8 pimento seeds
- 1 tbsp black pepper
- 1 tbsp dry Jamaican jerk seasoning
- 1/2 tsp scotch bonnet pepper (minced)

METHOD:

Two days before Thanksgiving, defrost and thoroughly wash the turkey.

Mix all ingredients (except turkey) in a large pot.

Add water until the mixture is 3/4 full, and taste for salt.

Submerge the turkey,



headfirst, in the mixture.

Keep the turkey in the brine for 4 to 6 hours, then discard the brine.

Pat the turkey dry with thick paper towels.

Season with freshly chopped onions, scallion, pimento, garlic, thyme, anise, black pepper, scotch bonnet pepper, and leeks.

Place the seasoned turkey in a roasting pan, cover with foil, and refrigerate.

On Thanksgiving Day, preheat the oven to 350°F by 8 AM.

Once the oven is ready, roast the turkey according to the cooking instructions or until fully cooked.

Let the turkey rest before carving.

Use the drippings from the turkey to make a rich gravy.

Bon Appetite

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Guyanese Roots UK Rapper Donates £15K To Struggling Restaurant

UK rapper Central Cee, who has Guyanese roots, has made a generous donation of £15,000 to help Umana Yana, a struggling Guyanese restaurant in Southeast London. Central Cee, born Oakley Neil Caesar-Su to a Guyanese father and Scottish mother, was moved to support the business after learning of its challenges through a viral TikTok video.

Umana Yana, located at 294 Croxted Rd, SE24 9DA, has faced difficulties for over a decade, particularly after the installation of five large telecom boxes directly outside the restaurant, which significantly hindered business. The plight of the restaurant's owners, Debbie Monfries and her husband Junior, gained attention after a journalist shared their story on TikTok, sparking widespread community support.

Upon seeing the viral video, Central Cee visited the restaurant, spending the day learning to cook traditional Guyanese dishes like roti, callaloo, and curry alongside Monfries and her staff. After enjoying a meal of roti and curry, the rapper expressed his admiration for the food, giving it a thumbs-up.

Later, Monfries received a



UK rapper Central Cee cooking with Umana Yana owner Debbie Monfries. (YouTube screen grab)

surprise text from Central Cee, announcing his donation of £15,000—£10,000 to help the restaurant install solar panels and an additional £5,000 to support the local community.

Central Cee rose to fame in 2020 with his singles "Day in the Life" and "Loading," and his career has since soared. His mixtapes Wild West and 23 both debuted in the top two of the UK Albums Chart. In 2022, his single "Doja" became the most streamed UK rap song on Spotify, and in 2023, his collaboration with Dave on "Sprinter" achieved his first UK number-one hit.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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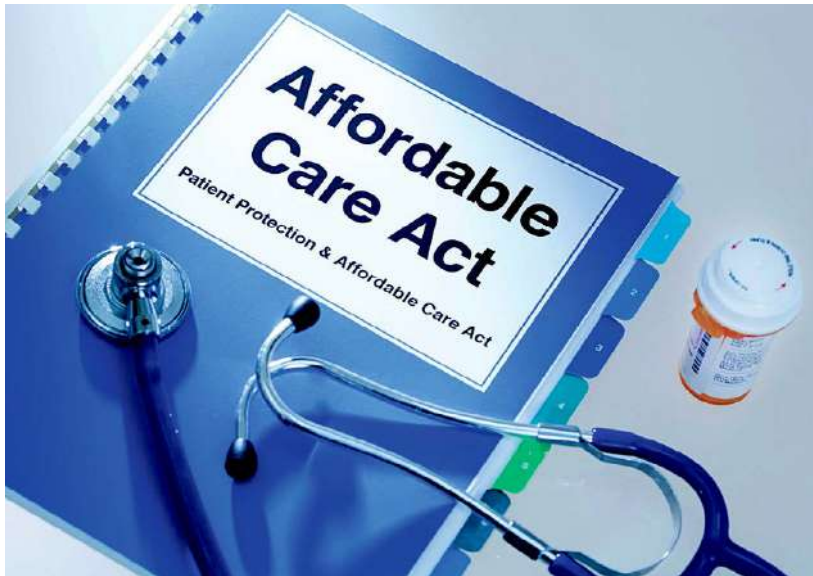
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HEALTH NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

'Obama Care' Open Enrollment Is Here



Do you have health insurance? The open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), aka Obama Care, is here. As of November 1, 2024, the annual open enrollment period for the ACA health insurance began, allowing anyone eligible to enroll in a new plan. The period runs until January 15, 2025.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, over 45 million people had ACA coverage by early 2024, with half of Americans still receiving insurance through their employers. This year marks the highest ACA enrollment on record.

Who Can Enroll?

To qualify for ACA health insurance, you must reside in the U.S., be a U.S. citizen or a lawfully present noncitizen, and not be incarcerated. Individuals with Medicare cannot enroll in Marketplace plans at healthcare.gov.

How to Enroll

Once the open enrollment period begins, visit Healthcare.gov or your state's Marketplace site to create an account and start the process. Some states have their own Marketplaces, while others direct you to Healthcare.gov.

Changes in 2024 Health Insurance

This year brings several updates:

Special enrollment for those losing Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

Options to avoid gaps in coverage when transitioning plans.

Automatic upgrades from Bronze to Silver plans for qualifying enrollees with extra cost-sharing reductions.

Assistance for re-enrollment if your current plan is unavailable.

Help with Enrollment

Free help from trained professionals called Navigators and Assistants is available to

guide you through enrollment. Enter your ZIP code on Healthcare.gov to find local assistance.

Is Health Insurance Required?

While there's no federal penalty for not having health insurance in 2024, some states may have their own mandates.

If you miss the enrollment deadline, you can still get coverage if you qualify for special enrollment due to life changes like getting married or losing other insurance. Programs like Medicaid and CHIP are available year-round for low-income individuals.



Doctors' Tips For A Healthy And Safe Holiday Season



has a history of type 2 diabetes or cardiovascular disease, and whether other family members have been told they have pre-diabetes.

With this information, you can better understand your risk and take charge of your health.

5. Prioritize your mental health

Factors like holiday spending and navigating time with extended family can bring on extra seasonal stress. You can help manage stress by getting sufficient sleep, exercising and seeking help from a mental health professional when you need it.

6. Make smart choices and plan ahead if you're driving

In December 2021 alone, 1,013 Americans died in alcohol impaired-driving crashes. Do not drive under any circumstances if you intend to drink. And if you are the designated driver, make a 100% commitment to sobriety.

7. Be prepared when travelling

Whether you're flying or taking a road trip, you might be tempted to grab convenient, unhealthy food for the journey. Consider packing your own snacks, such as fresh fruits and vegetables or small portions of dried fruits and nuts.

8. Get New Year's resolutions started early

Speak with your doctor or health care professional about quitting tobacco and nicotine use, and declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate second-hand smoke exposure.

"The holiday season is a wonderful time to reconnect with family and friends – it's also a chance to reconnect with your physical and mental health," says Dr. Scott.

- StatePoint



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The holiday season is a joyous time of year, but it can also throw your wellness routines out of alignment. Doctors advise prioritizing healthy choices during this period, so you can start 2025 on the right foot.

"Everyone's holiday wish is to be happy, health and safe, but the season is often a time for overindulgence in food and drink, increased stress and exposure to respiratory illness," says Bruce A. Scott, M.D., president of the American Medical Association (AMA). The AMA recommends taking these steps during the holidays:

1: Vaccines are a safe and remarkably effective defence from a number of serious respiratory viruses that circulate in the fall and winter

To protect yourself and your family, get up to date on your vaccines, including the annual flu shot, as well as the updated COVID-19 vaccine for everyone 6 months and older. Vaccines are also available to protect older adults from severe RSV. Tools to protect infants during RSV season include maternal vaccination as well as the monoclonal

antibody immunization. If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including getvaccineanswers.org.

2. Watch what you eat

Pay particular attention to labels and avoid processed foods as much as you can, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Consider having a healthy snack before the big meal or offer to bring a healthier dish for the holiday spread. Drink water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages, and eat nutritious, whole foods like fresh fruits and vegetables alongside richer holiday fare.

3. Stick to your exercise schedule and prioritize physical activity during this busy time of year

A good rule of thumb for adults is at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity. Brisk walks, bike rides, hikes and even family-friendly sports like basketball and touch football are good for heart health.

4. Use time with relatives to find out whether your family

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New Caribbean Flights To Know This Fall And Beyond

As winter approaches, several airlines are enhancing their Caribbean routes, making it easier to escape the cold and enjoy an island getaway. JetBlue, United, Delta, American Airlines, interCaribbean Airways, and Caribbean Airlines are all introducing new flights that promise to boost connectivity and cater to rising demand for travel to the region.

JetBlue's New Routes to St. Vincent and Bonaire

JetBlue is set to offer direct flights to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from New York's JFK Airport for the first time this fall, along with new service to Bonaire in the Netherlands, starting in November. David Jehn, vice president of network planning at JetBlue, highlighted the airline's focus on "serving underserved routes" and enhancing access to top leisure destinations. On Wednesdays and Sundays, there is a round-trip service to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. With this new route, JetBlue becomes the first American airline to operate from JFK to St. Vincent. Starting on Nov. 5, there will be Tuesday and Saturday flights to Bonaire.

American Airlines Expands Service to Martinique

American Airlines has

increased its service to Martinique, flying three times a week between Miami and the French Caribbean island. Known for its rich culture, rum production, and eco-tourism attractions, Martinique is gaining popularity as one of the Caribbean's hidden gems. Flights now operate between New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and Martinique on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, making it more convenient for travellers to explore the island.

Additionally, American Airlines is expanding its Caribbean network with several other new routes set to launch this fall and winter, enhancing access to popular and emerging Caribbean destinations.

The new routes are scheduled to begin as follows:

- **Charlotte (CLT) to St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVD):** New Saturday-only flights starting December 7, serviced by a Boeing 737.
- **Miami (MIA) to La Romana, Dominican Republic (LRM):** New daily flights beginning December 5, on an Airbus A319.
- **New York (JFK) to Bridgetown, Barbados (BGI):** Launching daily service on November 5, with a Boeing 737.
- **JFK to St. Lucia (UVF) and St. Maarten (SXM):** Both new Saturday-only routes starting



December 7, with Boeing 737 and Airbus A319, respectively.

• **Philadelphia (PHL) to Barbados (BGI):** New Saturday-only service starting November 9, on an Airbus A321.

In addition, American Airlines is increasing the frequency of its existing Caribbean routes. Notably, Miami to Ocho Rios, Jamaica (OCJ) and Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands (GCM) will see daily flights from December 5, while Miami to Tortola, British Virgin Islands (EIS) will expand to five peak-day flights starting December 7.

United Direct To Dominica

Complementing American Airlines' expansion, United Airlines will introduce a direct flight from Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) to Dominica beginning February 15, 2025, marking it as the

only direct connection from the U.S. Northeast to Dominica. The weekly flight, operated on Saturdays by a Boeing 737-700, reflects United's commitment to offering access to unique destinations.

Delta Reinstates Flights to Barbados

Delta Air Lines is reinstating its seasonal service to Bridgetown, Barbados. Starting November 23, Delta will offer daily flights from Atlanta, followed by weekly flights from New York's JFK Airport on December 21. These routes, operating through April 2025, will cater to the winter vacation crowd and boost tourism to Barbados, a destination celebrated for its stunning beaches and vibrant culture.

interCaribbean Airways Connects Grenada and Guyana

interCaribbean Airways is launching a new non-stop flight between Grenada and Georgetown, Guyana, beginning December 1, 2024. Operating twice weekly on Thursdays and Sundays, this service will significantly improve regional connectivity between the Eastern Caribbean and South America. "We're bridging cultures, fostering trade, and opening new possibilities for tourism and business," said interCaribbean CEO Trevor Sadler.

Caribbean Airlines Links Suriname and Guyana

Starting November 3, 2024, Caribbean Airlines will introduce a twice-weekly service between Suriname and Guyana. The route, operating on Fridays and Sundays, will use ATR 72-600 aircraft and focus on improving regional connectivity. "This new service is an important step in our continued growth and dedication to serving the region," said Caribbean Airlines CEO Garvin Medera.

These new flights will offer more travel options for those seeking to explore the Caribbean's natural beauty, culture, and thriving tourism scene.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



New Online Entry Requirements For Travelers To Saint Martin And Dominica

Travelers arriving on the dual-nation island of Saint Martin through Sint Maarten's Princess Juliana Airport (SXM) must now complete a new Embarkation/Disembarkation, (ED) Entry Form. This requirement, initiated by the St. Martin Tourist Office, took effect on October 18th and applies to all travellers, including residents, cruise passengers, and business visitors.

The ED form can be filled out online up to seven days before travel. A separate form is required for each traveller, including children. A single individual can complete multiple forms for family members if necessary. After submitting, travellers will receive a confirmation email, which must be presented to Immigration upon arrival.

Similarly, Dominica also streamlined its travel experience with the introduction of an online immigration form for embarkation and disembarkation, effective the same day, October 18. Travelers to Dominica can access the form at <https://edcard.dominica.gov.dm> and will receive a confirmation and QR code upon submission, which must be presented alongside their passport upon arrival.

For further details or assistance, travellers can reach the Dominica Tourism Concierge at (767) 275-7298 or (767) 275-7293, or via email at daconcierge1@dominica.gov.dm or daconcierge2@dominica.gov.dm.



British Virgin Islands Lifts Visa Requirement For Guyanese Travelers

The British Virgin Islands, (BVI) has announced it will lift visa restrictions for Guyanese travelers, joining a growing number of nations easing entry requirements for Guyana nationals. BVI Premier Natalio Wheatley made the announcement on Monday, adding that discussions are underway to formalize a Memorandum of Understanding

with Guyana.

Premier Wheatley commended Guyana's active role on the international stage, particularly its work on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and its commitment to sustainable growth, noting that these efforts have amplified the Caribbean's presence globally.



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Caribbean Roots Authors For Revered Miami Book Fair

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Eight Caribbean heritage, critically acclaimed authors will share the same stage with prominent writers including journalists like former CBS News anchor Connie Chung and Israeli journalist Amir Tibon during the 41st annual Miami Book Fair this month.

The eight-day event is slated for November 17-24th at Miami-Dade College's Wolfson campus in Downtown Miami, 300 N.E. 2nd Avenue. The event also includes a street fair from November 22nd-24th.

On deck to share their literary works are Caribbean American writers Diannely Antigua, Berwick Augustin, Saray Estelle Bulle, Isabelle Camille, Myriam Chancy, Juliana Lamy, Bito David and Nadine Pinede. The authors will also be part of a panel conducting writing workshops and navigating the Caribbean Diaspora.

Diannely Antigua



Diannely Antigua

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Antigua is a Dominican American poet and educator as well as the author of two poetry collections, including 'Ugly Music,' which was the winner of the Pamet River Prize and a 2020 Whiting Award recipient.

Antigua earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where she won the Jack Kerouac Creative Writing Scholarship and earned her MFA at NYU, where she was awarded a Global Research Initiative Fellowship to Florence, Italy.

In 2023, she was awarded an Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship to launch The Bread and Poetry Project, and in 2024, she was awarded an Excellence in Artistry Award from Black Lives Matter. She currently teaches in the MFA Writing Program at the University of New Hampshire as the inaugural Nossrat Yassini Poet in Residence.

Berwick Augustin

Berwick Augustin is a Haitian immigrant and the founder of Evoke180, a publishing company which



Berwick Augustin

also specializes in Haitian-Creole translations. He is also an educational consultant and keynote speaker and has over 16 years of education experience as a teacher and assistant principal. Augustin is the author of several books including the 'Education Formula,' 'Days, Months, and Seasons in Haitian-Creole,' and '1803-The Haitian Flag: Drapo Ayisyen.'

Saray Estelle Bulle

Saray Estelle Bulle is an award-winning author who lives



Saray Estelle Bulle

in France. Bulle's first novel, 'Where Dogs Bark with Their Tails,' is a story of one family and the larger-than-many-lives, Antoine. The novel is based on a young woman born in the suburbs of Paris, whose skin colour and memories of occasional childhood visits alone connect her to her father's native Guadeloupe. She yearns to understand her lineage and her métis identity. Upon her request, her old aunt Antoine, the eccentric and indomitable family matriarch, who unveils the history of the Ezechiel clan, and with it, that of the island over the course of the twentieth century.

Isabelle Camille

Camille's work as an educator and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights was recognized in Marquis' Who's Who. She is fluent in French and Haitian Creole and has over 34 years of experience at Miami-Dade County Public Schools and as an adjunct professor at Miami-Dade College.

Her personal journey with her transgender child has transformed her into a passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ rights,

actively participating in support groups and working closely with organizations like the YES Institute to promote awareness and empathy for transgender



Isabelle Camille

individuals and their families. It led to the publication this July of 'Sole's Mom: A Transgender Journey of Love, Loss, and Letting Go.' In Sole's Mom, Camille chronicles her journey from the hopes and dreams she held for her daughter Sole to the profound acceptance of her son Sky. The book captures the heart-wrenching challenges and the ultimate triumph of love over societal expectations and personal fears.

Myriam Chancy

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Chancy is a writer and



Myriam Chancy

a member of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Her literary works focus on Haitian culture, gender, class, sexuality and Caribbean women's studies. Chancy's novels have won several awards.

During her childhood, her family moved to Canada where she attended the University of Manitoba and earned a bachelor's degree in English and Philosophy. Chancy earned her Ph.D at the University of Iowa.

'Spirit of Haiti,' Chancy's debut novel, was a Commonwealth Prize finalist, followed by The Scorpion's Claw. Her third novel, The Loneliness of Angels, won the 2011 Guyana Prize for Literature Caribbean Award for Best Fiction.

Chancy's 1997 academic work, Searching for Safe Spaces: Afro-Caribbean Women Writers in Exile, was among the first to explore exile in Afro-Caribbean

women's lives. Her other 1997 work, Framing Silence, was the first in-depth study of Haitian women's literature, covering writers like Edwidge Danticat and Marie Vieux-Chauvet. These publications earned her early tenure. In 2012, she published From Sugar to Revolution: Women's Visions of Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, and in 2014 received a Guggenheim Fellowship for Literary Criticism. Her 2021 novel What Storm, What Thunder, centered on Haiti's 2010 earthquake, was shortlisted for the Caliba Golden Poppy Award and the Aspen Words Literary Prize.

Juliana Lamy



Juliana Lamy

Lamy is a Haitian fiction writer based in South Florida. She earned her bachelor's degree in history and literature from Harvard University and was also the recipient of the university's Le Baron Russell Brigg's Prize for undergraduate fiction. Her book 'You Were Watching from the Sand,' was the winner of the 2024 CLMP Firecracker Literary award in fiction.

Bito David

Haitian immigrant David wears many hats. He's an agricultural economist, educator,



Bito David

cultural competency trainer, Haitian Creole curriculum writer, writer, poet, and essayist. David is also the multicultural communications and engagement specialist for the School District of Palm Beach County in Florida.

Born in Haiti, he has been living in the United States since 1991 and holds a bachelor's degree from the State University of Haiti, a bachelor's degree in

business administration from Florida Atlantic University, and a master's degree in cultural foundations of education from Florida Atlantic University.

David advocates for integrating Haitian culture into the multicultural education curriculum in the United States. He has published several books on Haiti's socioeconomic, social, and political situation; Haitian culture; the Haitian Creole language; and other subjects. His main focus is the recognition of the contributions of Haiti and its people to the history of the world, and the promotion of the Haitian people's cultural, historical, and social identity.

Nadine Pinede

Nadine Pinede was also born in Haiti. She will share her debut novel-in-verse, 'When the Mapou Sings,' which will be available to the public on December 3, 2024.

She said the novel was



Nadine Pinede

inspired by Zora Neale Hurston's fieldwork in 1930s Haiti where she wrote 'Their Eyes Were Watching God.' Pinede said she started publishing essays and journalism until the 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti and turned to poetry to depict the devastation and how long Haitians have suffered trying to pick up the pieces of their lives. Pinede's poetry was anthologized and featured on NPR.

Miami Book Fair

The Caribbean writers are among the authors headlining the Miami Book Fair which also includes Chung engaging in a conversation with her husband former TV talk show host Maury Povich; Tibon, an Israeli journalist who survived the October 7, 2023 attack; journalist Clarissa Ward who has reported from the front lines of some of the most dangerous places in the world; and TV personality Don Lemon on his book, 'I Once Was Lost: My Search for God in America.'

For more log on to miamibookfair.com/



2026 FIFA World Cup Kicks-Off In Miami

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

The countdown is definitely on to FIFA World Cup 2026 and the matches to be played at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

But about 24 miles away, on October 1st, on the barrier island of Miami Beach, the celebration commenced as the FIFA World Cup 2026 Miami Host Committee hosted a kick-off reception at New World Center to mark the beginning of a two-year journey for one of the world's most celebrated sporting events.

Hundreds of local dignitaries, business executives, sports figures and sponsors gathered for cocktails, appetizers and mingled, while enjoying the cool sounds of jazz music from the two-man band.

Brazilian football legend Ronaldinho Gaucho stole the show. Gaucho, who agreed to be an ambassador for the FIFA World Cup 2026, walked into a room to applause that reached a crescendo, and people lined up to pose for pictures with the soccer icon.

Gaucho is a two-time FIFA World Player of the Year and won a World Cup, among other accolades, in a career that spanned 15 years. Gaucho also led the Brazil Olympic team to the Bronze medal in men's football at the 2008 Summer Olympics. To top off the evening,



L. – r: Miami Gardens Mayor Rodney Harris, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Chair Oliver Gilbert III, Miami City Commission Chair Christine King, Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade Commissioner Marleine Bastien, soccer icon Ronaldinho Gaucho, Miami-Dade Commissioner Mickey Steinberg and Miami Beach Mayor Steven Meiner at the kick-off of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Miami Host Committee reception on Oct. 1, 2024. (Contributed image)

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava presented Gaucho, 44, with the Key to Miami-Dade County. Through a translator, Gaucho said he's excited to be an ambassador for FIFA World Cup 2026 and the "event will be bigger and better than the previous ones."

Mayor Levine Cava mentioned his accolades as a prolific player, saying there's no better person to be an ambassador for the World Cup 2026. She said the event will bring in billions

of dollars in revenues, especially from the tourist industry, and create jobs.

"It's more than a soccer tourney," said the Miami-Dade County mayor. "It's actually going to transform our community, which is already the capital of football in this country. Make no mistake about it, it will catapult us even more on a world stage."

Other local dignitaries on hand for the kick off reception included state Rep. Ana Marie Rodriguez, Miami Beach Mayor

Steven Meiner, Miami-Dade County Commission Chair Oliver Gilbert III, Miami-Dade County Commissioners Marleine Bastien, Mickey Steinberg and Kevin Cabrera, Miami Commission Chairwoman Christine King, City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and Miami



Soccer star Ronaldinho Gaucho with a key to Miami-Dade County. (Contributed image)

Gardens Mayor Rodney Harris. Mayor Harris said Miami Gardens is no stranger to hosting major sporting events with the FIFA World Cup 2026 coming to town.

"We in the City of Miami Gardens ... know something about handling and holding major events," he said. "But we are so proud and blessed to have the opportunity to stand here with all of you and to know the

ramifications of how important this event is going to be for the entire South Florida area."

Mayor Meiner said Miami Beach is proud to be part of FIFA World Cup 2026, a sport that has an impact on different continents.

"Football is a global phenomenon," Meiner said. "It transcends languages, cultures.... it's a universal language all over the world like South America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. No matter what's going on in the world, football unites people."

Miami Stadium will host seven games at the biggest-ever World Cup, including the bronze final match. The 104-game tournament will feature 48 teams across 16 host cities in three countries – Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Four group-stage fixtures will be held in Miami as well as a Round of 32 games, a quarter-final tie and the bronze final match.

Miami Stadium serves as home to the Miami Dolphins, Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix, Miami Open tennis tournament, University of Miami, Orange Blossom Classic and Orange Bowl college football games, Jazz in the Gardens and other concerts and festivals.

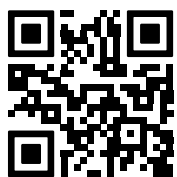


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SPORTS NEWS



Honorary Doctorate For Grenadian Kirani James



Grenadian Olympian Kirani James will be honoured with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree this month.

The University of the West Indies, (UWI) Global Campus will honour Grenadian Olympian and sprinter Kirani James with an Honorary Doctor of Laws, (LLD), degree during its Virtual Graduation Ceremony on November 9th.

The celebration, themed "Celebrating Caribbean Legacy: A Kaleidoscope of Resilience," acknowledges UWI's legacy across the region.

James, an extraordinary 400m athlete, rose from the fishing village of Gouyave, St. John, to claim global titles, including Olympic gold (2012), World Championship gold (2011), and Commonwealth gold (2014). His achievements span multiple records, beginning with

CARIFTA Games victories and extending to NCAA, Diamond League, and Olympic successes, including his historic three consecutive Olympic medals in the 400-m.

Beyond athletics, James holds a Bachelor's in General Business and serves on the WINDREF Board, advocating for athlete health. UWI Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Francis O. Severin hailed James's contributions, noting: "This honour affirms our collective strength and celebrates the incredible impact of Caribbean talent."

- *Rewritten from Loop Caribbean*



St. Lucian Olympian Named Best Female Athlete At ANOC Awards

St. Lucian born Olympic champion and world's fastest woman, Julien Alfred, has added yet another accolade to her remarkable 2024 season. In a historic feat at the Paris Olympics, Alfred won gold in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.72 seconds, becoming the first athlete from St. Lucia to win an Olympic medal. She followed this victory with a silver medal in the 200-meter dash, establishing herself as the fastest woman in the world this season.

The Association of National Olympic Committees, (ANOC) Awards in Cascais, Portugal, has now named Alfred, Best Female Athlete Award. Presented by Panam Sports President Neven Ilic, this honour recognized Alfred's groundbreaking achievements on the Olympic stage and her dedication to the sport.

In her acceptance speech, Alfred expressed gratitude and pride in representing St. Lucia. "This award means a lot to me. It shows that all the heart and

sacrifice I put into this challenge was for a reason. I hope it can inspire an entire nation and the youth of my country to see that sacrifice is necessary to reach your dreams," said Alfred. "This year showed me what you can accomplish if you believe in yourself, your coach, and in God. I dedicate this award to my entire country."

Alfred's victory in Paris surprised many, especially as the reigning world champion and pre-race favorite, Sha'Carri Richardson of the United States, was expected to claim the title. But Alfred's sprinting prowess and resilience propelled her to Olympic gold, writing a new chapter for St. Lucia in athletics history.

"This is a very well-deserved



St. Lucian born Olympic champion and world's fastest woman, Julien Alfred, has won the 2024 Association of National Olympic Committees, (ANOC), Best Female Athlete Award. (ANOC image)

award for an athlete who had an incredible season and captivated us all at the Paris Olympics," said Panam Sports President Neven Ilic. "I congratulate Julien, her entire team, and, of course, the St. Lucia Olympic Committee."

Alfred was the only athlete from the Americas to be recognized at this year's ANOC Awards, marking a proud moment for St. Lucia and Caribbean sports on the global stage.



Dominica Awards Highest Honour To Olympic Champion Thea Lafond-Gadson

Dominica celebrated one of its brightest sports stars, Paris Olympic gold medallist Thea Lafond-Gadson, by conferring upon her the Dominica Honour Award, the nation's highest accolade, on Nov. 3rd. The triple jump champion made history earlier this year, becoming Dominica's first Olympic medallist with her gold in Paris, following her victory in the triple jump at the World Indoor Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, in March. Each of these triumphs marked unprecedented achievements for Dominica, solidifying LaFond-Gadson's legacy as one of the island's most celebrated athletes.

The award was presented during the country's

Independence Day Rally at the National Parade, where Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerritt acknowledged LaFond-Gadson's significant contributions to Dominica. Announcing her award in advance, Prime Minister Skerritt praised LaFond-Gadson for the immense pride and global recognition she has brought to her country through her athletic achievements.

During the formal ceremony, Dominica's President, Her Excellency Sylvaniae Burton, presented the Dominica Honour Award to LaFond-Gadson, one of 18 Dominicans and international honourees recognized this year for their contributions to the nation. Speaking afterward,

LaFond-Gadson expressed her gratitude, describing the award as her "greatest achievement ever" and encouraging young Dominicans to follow their dreams with determination.

The accolades for LaFond-Gadson's accomplishments extend beyond the national ceremony. A private sector-hosted luncheon was held in her honor on Monday, further celebrating her dedication and achievements. This latest honor comes just two months after LaFond-Gadson was appointed a Sports Ambassador and awarded a \$400,000 gift along with a land grant from the government, underscoring her role as a source of national inspiration.





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Antiguan Bodybuilders Shine With Gold And Silver Medals



Melissa Seaforth won the Bikini Fitness category at the IFBB Pro Pepa in the Czech Republic. (CMC image)

Antiguan bodybuilders Melissa Seaforth and Kimberly Percival delivered stellar performances recently, earning gold and

silver medals in international competitions held in the Czech Republic and England, respectively.

IFBB Elite Pro Melissa Seaforth continued her winning streak by taking gold in the Bikini Fitness category at the IFBB Pro Pepa event in the Czech Republic. This achievement adds to her remarkable season, which includes top-five finishes at both Italy's IFBB Pro Grand Gala last week and the Arnold Classic World Championships two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, in London, reigning Sportswoman of the Year and World Champion Kimberly Percival claimed silver in the Bikini Fitness category at IFBB's Night of Champions 2024. Percival has been on a winning streak herself, with recent victories at both the IFBB Pro Grand Gala and the Arnold Classic World Championships.

Adding to Antigua's impressive showings, Tony 'Tiger' Jacobs placed fourth in the Men's Physique category at the Night of Champions in London. Jacobs, who earned his Pro Card at the Roger Boyce Classic in Barbados in June 2023, continues to secure top rankings internationally.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Jamaican Olympian Engaged To Noah Lyles



Jamaican Olympian Junelle-Bromfield, l with Lyles and r, Lyles popping the question on Oct. 12, 2024. (Instagram image)

Jamaican Olympian Junelle Bromfield is officially engaged to U.S. sprinter Noah Lyles. The couple shared the happy news on social media, with Bromfield posting a video of her celebrating with friends and showing off her engagement ring.

"ENGAGED," Bromfield wrote on Instagram, capturing the joy of the moment last month.

Lyles, 27, also took to Instagram to announce the engagement, sharing a romantic video of the proposal, which took place on Saturday, Oct. 12. The U.S. sprinter, who won gold at the Paris Olympics, set the video to a cover of Bobby Caldwell's classic song, "What You Won't Do for Love."

In the video, Lyles and Bromfield, 26, walk hand-in-hand through a candlelit house adorned with flowers, leading to a backyard where a heart made of pink roses and a neon sign reading "Will you marry me?" awaited. The touching moment concluded with Bromfield saying

yes.

The pair first met on social media in 2017, but their initial date didn't spark romance, leading them to remain friends. However, in 2022, they rekindled their relationship, and since then, they have been inseparable.

Lyles shared on a podcast earlier this year that he envisions a lifetime together with Bromfield.

The couple made their relationship Instagram-official in December 2022 after attending the USATF Night of Legends event, where Lyles was named Male Athlete of the Year.

Bromfield, a bronze medalist at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics for Jamaica, celebrated their first anniversary in August 2023 with a heartfelt message on Instagram.

Despite the joy, Bromfield has faced criticism from some Jamaicans for her relationship with the U.S. athlete, but the couple remain committed to each other and their future together.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



Call Him 'Dr. Sir Curtly'

Legendary West Indies fast bowler Sir Curtly Elconn Lynwall Ambrose has added yet another accolade to his illustrious career, receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus over the weekend.

The 61-year-old Antiguan cricket icon was honoured for his significant contributions not only to West Indies cricket but to the wider sporting and cultural landscape of the Caribbean. Renowned for his towering height, discipline, and exceptional skill, Sir Curtly claimed 630 wickets for the West Indies between 1988 and 2000, cementing his place as one of the greatest fast bowlers in cricket history. His impact, both on and off the field, has left an enduring legacy in Caribbean sports.

Cricket West Indies President Dr. Kishore Shallow congratulated Sir Curtly on the achievement, calling it a "fitting tribute" to his extraordinary career and influence.

Dr. Shallow also emphasized Sir Curtly's lasting influence, noting, "He continues to inspire not only aspiring cricketers but all of us across the Caribbean. We celebrate this well-deserved honour and remain forever grateful for his indelible contributions to West



Sir Curtly Ambrose was conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus. (Photo courtesy CWI Media)

Indies cricket and our region's rich heritage."

This latest honour further solidifies Sir Curtly Ambrose's legacy as both a sporting legend and a cultural icon throughout the Caribbean.

Standing at 6 feet 7 inches, Ambrose's height, combined with his pace and accuracy, made him a formidable force in cricket. He played 98 Test matches for the West Indies and was often ranked as the world's best bowler during his career.

Initially more interested in basketball, Ambrose took up cricket later in life but quickly made an impact, debuting for the West Indies in 1988. Known for

his devastating bowling spells, including taking 7 wickets for 1 run against Australia in 1993 and 6 for 24 against England in 1994, he became a match-winner for the team. Despite injuries in his later years, he continued to perform consistently until his retirement in 2000.

Ambrose was named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1992 and later inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. Post-retirement, he has pursued a career in music as a bass guitarist in a reggae band.

- *NewsAmericasNow.com*



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CITY OF MIRAMAR, FLORIDA NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the City of Miramar, Florida, on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, for the following seats:

- Commission Seat #1
- Commission Seat #2
- Commission Seat #3
- Commission Seat #4 (Remainder of Term)

Any qualified Broward County elector whose principal place of residence is in the City of Miramar and who has resided continuously in the City for at least one year immediately preceding the first day of the qualifying period shall be eligible to qualify as a candidate and hold office.

The qualifying period for candidates in the City of Miramar will begin at noon, Thursday, January 2, 2025, and end at noon, Thursday, January 9, 2025, at the Miramar Town Center, Office of the City Clerk, 2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar, FL 33025.

Miramar Town Center is open 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and is closed on Fridays. For additional information, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (954) 602-3014.

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