

# BEACHES ON HOLIDAYS; CLASSROOMS RETURNING!



*Special Ruby Anniversary artwork displayed on south wall of Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG) has been done by students of 5 secondary schools who produced our country's 40th Independence Mural; unveiled on Wednesday by the Festivals Commission with support from the Department of Culture and the Ministry of Education. This one photo could say it all, but FULL STORY ON PAGE 9*



- INSIDE:**
- British warship returns for Independence celebrations!
  - Mandatory vaccination for private businesses with more than 5 workers
  - Haiti in shambles from fuel shortages and lawlessness

# Six factors that influence international shipping costs

## – *useful information to help our understanding of how the world really works*

If you're an international company and, more specifically, a cross-border e-commerce business, you obviously need to ship across international borders and might be wondering why the price seems to change on a dime.

As you might imagine, there are many variables involved in getting goods and shipments from one country to the next. From economic conditions to the price of fuel and dicey international disputes, it might take a while for your packages to arrive at their destination. You can better prepare for chang-

ing shipping costs by learning about the factors that influence them.

### ***Cost of Fuel***

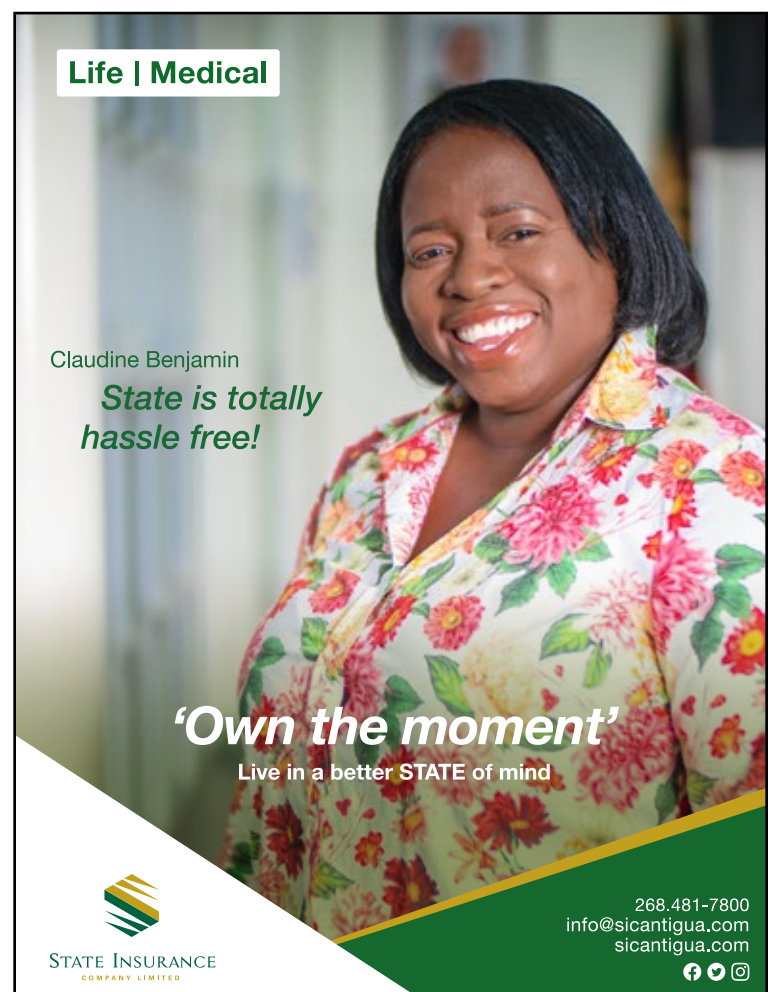
Regardless of how you're shipping packages, you're going to need some type of fuel. Fuel costs always seem to be in flux, which means the prices to ship your goods will change as well. When fuel prices go up, shipping companies will need to pass along these extra costs to their customers.

All sorts of events can set off a change in the price of fuel. If an oil producer is sitting on a large supply of oil, it will flood the market and drive down

the price of fuel. Nasty international disputes can also cut off a country's oil supply, driving up the price of fuel dramatically.

Due to the unpre-

dictability of fuel prices, many shipping companies are investing in energy-efficient technology as a way of curbing their dependency on fossil fuels.



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This can help lessen the negative effects of rising fuel prices on the cost of international shipping, but shipping companies will still have to raise their prices on their customers.

### Trade Tariffs and Customs

Cross-border e-commerce equals shipping to another country, which also means the potential for trade tariffs or taxes on goods imported from another country. When a con-

sumer or company orders goods from another country with trade tariffs in place, they will need to pay a tax on this purchase, driving up the cost of international shipping.

A country may decide to impose trade tariffs as a way of giving a leg-up to domestic production and manufacturing, or they may be used as a way of punishing a country that's engaged in unlawful behavior. When a country

imposes trade tariffs on another country, the country on the receiving end is likely to implement trade tariffs of its own, limiting trade between the two countries.

Trade tariffs are a direct result of international relations. Countries may dispute human rights abuses, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, or issues of sovereignty. Companies may be forced to find suppliers in other countries as a way of avoiding

these costly tariffs. Some tariffs may be permanent, while others may go into effect temporarily until the two countries can reach an agreement.

### Security

Some countries may also impose stiff security measures at shipping ports. This is usually common in countries with authoritarian rule or those that are undergoing a state of emergency. These countries may be skeptical of all incoming packag-

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es and may put them through rigorous screening processes before they're allowed to enter the country. These added security measures may delay a shipment or impact overall shipping costs if the port issues a security surcharge. Shipping companies should have a keen sense of which ports levy these kinds of charges, so they can charge their customers an additional fee.

### ***Port Congestion***

The busiest ports in the world can create bottlenecks in the supply chain, which can increase fuel costs and delay package deliveries. These ports tend to be in Asia – including Singapore and Hong Kong – as China and other Asian countries ramp up domestic production and exports.

If you're trying to ship to one of the busiest ports in the world, there's always a chance that your shipping could cost more and take longer than expected. As these countries and ports get used to the increased flow of traffic, hopefully some of these disruptions and delays can be avoided in the future. But until then, shipping companies know how difficult getting in and out of these ports can be and will charge their customers accordingly.

### ***Size and Weight***

Just like domestic shipping, the size and weight of your shipping containers will also affect the cost of international shipping. But unlike domestic shipping, your transportation methods will be limited if you're trying to get your packages across the ocean. This leaves you with air and ocean freight shipping as your only two options. If you're trying to get your package overseas as fast as possible, you'll want to go with air freight, but a few extra pounds in cargo can cost you a fortune when using air freight shipping.

### ***Transportation Method***

The transportation method you choose will also have an impact on your international shipping rates. If you're shipping overseas, you'll have a choice between air and ocean freight shipping. The cost of international shipping can vary greatly between the two. Air freight shipping will be more expensive than ocean freight shipping, sometimes costing five times as much as ocean shipping.

There are many advantages that come with air freight shipping to make it worth the extra money. Air freight shipping is faster and more reliable than ocean freight shipping. It may take several hours for your

package to arrive in another country, while ocean freight shipping can take up to a week or more in some cases. Sailing on the open seas can also be unpredictable as vessels are bound to encounter all kinds of weather delays. Air freight shipping also comes with strict size and weight limitations, so if you have heavy cargo you might be forced to ship your package using ocean freight.

### ***Final Thoughts***

You're bound to encounter all kinds of variables when shipping packages to another country. Shipping to another country that's on the same continent gives you more transportation options, including truck and rail freight shipping, which can help you avoid some of these cost variables.

International shipping is certainly a big part of your cross-border e-commerce business, so remember to keep your eyes on the factors mentioned above, including the changing price of fuel, international relations as they relate to your trading partners, security changes and port congestion. The more you know about international shipping, the more informed your decisions will be. *(Written by Steffy Zameo; Reprinted from Textmaster. Com online blog)*

# Cabinet highlights

All schools in Antigua and Barbuda “should return to face-to-face instruction from Tuesday 2nd November 2021”.

The green light for that additional step of reversion to normalcy was given on Wednesday by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas, following what have been described as robust discussions with senior education ministry officials and the Cabinet of Ministers – which had invited the top technocrats to its weekly meeting for advice on how to proceed.

CMO Sealy-Thomas’s advice to reopen schools in physical classroom interaction was said to be “based on the present epidemiological situation in the country” which “is improving and the

number of recoveries continues to be much higher than the number of new cases”.

However, this return to the classroom comes with the condition that “all students who are eligible to be vaccinated are required to do so within 14 days.”

A shortage of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (which had considerably slowed the public inoculation drive due its simultaneous popularity with many adults and its exclusive approval for use in school-aged minors) is being addressed with a 5,000-dose supply from St. Lucia that arrived on Tuesday, and a further 21,000 doses that are due to arrive in Antigua next week Wednesday as a second tranche donation from the United States.



*Information Minister Melford Nicholas.*

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Said the post-Cabinet briefing notes: “These vaccines will be immediately deployed with a strong focus on secondary school students. It is the intention of the Government to have all [eligible] students vaccinated so that schools can [resume] face-to-face learning.”

The Education Act was recently amended to make the vaccination of students in the eligible 12-17 year age group a mandatory requirement for school attendance. However, during the previous two weeks in which supplies of the Pfizer vaccine had run out, secondary school students of Forms 4 and 5 were permitted to attend face-to-face classes despite being unvaccinated – but in strict observation of all other safety protocols – owing to the imperative of them having to prepare for crucial examinations.

During the live press conference on Thursday morning, Information Minister Melford Nicholas noted that no concerns about shortages of teachers had been raised by Director of Education Clare Browne. He however did not rule out the possibility that the scheduling of classes may have to be staggered in order to accommodate all levels throughout the school day without unsafe

clustering or overcrowding.

For the first time in several months, beaches will be open on public holidays, beginning with the next one – Independence Day on Monday 1st November. However the rules pertaining to prohibition of parties and picnics – especially those featuring music; and/or that exceed the numerical limit on persons gathering in public – will remain in force. Meanwhile, the Government is moving to extend the field of mandatory vaccination so that it will now include “all private sector employers who employ more than five (5) employees will be required to have all staff vaccinated in order for them to continue working.” The Public Health Regulations are to be amended to give legal effect to this, Cabinet has determined.

Bars will continue to remain shuttered for the time being, pending a meeting with bar owners next week to determine if conditions permit reopening. “It was cautioned that the country should not make any hasty decisions where the reopening of bars is concerned,” say the Cabinet notes.

Persons who intend to patronize bars, nightclubs and similar places of entertainment, must not only be fully vaccinated, but must be in

possession of authentic vaccination photo IDs which are being issued by the authorities. Minister Nicholas indicated that about 10,000 fully vaccinated persons have applied for and been issued these cards, which means that another 36,000 are yet to avail themselves of this free verification instrument and access pass. The Youth Education & Empowerment Program (YEEP) received special notice and mention by Cabinet, which points out that its enrolment “is growing at an exponential rate and ... the time is right for it to be moved to a larger facility. To this end, the Cabinet agreed that the Public Works Department is to renovate the old Ottos School to accommodate the YEEP Programme ... as one of the Government’s flagship social and empowerment programmes.”

Iconic palms could again be a dominant feature of our postcard-friendly-and-favorite tropical landscape. This is because, “The Ministry of Agriculture is now in possession of 50,000 coconut trees and another 50,000 will be ordered soon. These will be used to replenish trees that were casualties of the Lethal Yellowing disease that decimated palm trees in the country ...”



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# Antigua and Barbuda prepares to make an impact at COP26

*(Statement by the Department of Environment, Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment)*

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda – led by the Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment – is preparing to actively participate in the 26th United Nations' climate change conference (known as COP26) scheduled for 31st October to 12th November in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to the premier international climate change conference will be led by Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne.

Accompanying the Hon. Prime Minister will be Hon. Sir Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health, Wellness & the Environment; and Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, Chief Environment Officer and Climate Ambassador for Antigua and Barbuda.

Ambassador Aubrey Webson (Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations) will lead the section of the delegation that forms the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Chair's team. Hon. Dean Jonas, Minister for the Blue Economy, will also attend COP26, along with a delegation from The University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus.

This will be the first COP with Antigua and Barbuda as Chair of AOSIS, a coalition that represents the interests of the 39 small island developing states (SIDS), such as Antigua and Barbuda, in international climate change negotiations. The twin-island Caribbean



**Minister of Health, Wellness & the Environment Sir Molwyn Joseph.**

state has been working hard to prepare all members of AOSIS for this important event.

That said, the national needs and priorities of Antigua and Barbuda will also be addressed by the national delegation consisting of staff from the Department of Environment, the Ministry of Finance, and the Office of the Attorney General.

As Minister with responsibility for the Environment and focal Minister for Climate Change, Hon. Sir Molwyn Joseph, has reported that – further to Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to youth and gender-balanced representation at international climate change conferences such as the COPs – the national delegation consists of over 60% individ-

uals under the age of 30, and over 70% of the delegates are women. The Environment Ministry is also working hard to ensure greater gender balance between male and female participation in its national and international work. One of the first steps to meet these commitments includes the Apprenticeship Programme which is currently being run by the Department of the Environment. The Minister of Environment is therefore confident that the team will make the country proud, and looks forward to a positive outcome at COP26 that will strengthen the global response to climate change for the benefit of both the people of AOSIS, as well as Antigua and Barbuda.

# Picturesque mural painted at ARG for Independence '40



The south wall of the historic Antigua Recreation Grounds has been transformed into a depiction of patriotism and national pride by the students of five secondary schools. On Wednesday 27th October, the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) – with support from the Department of Culture and the Ministry of Education – unveiled the 40th Independence Mural.

Over a two-week period, students and art teachers from the Sir Novelle Richards Academy, the All Saints Secondary School, the Glanvilles Secondary School, the

Trinity Academy and the St. Mary's Secondary School, expressed their uniqueness and creativity by painting some of Antigua and Barbuda's national symbols to commemorate our nation's 40th Anniversary of Independence.

Ms. Dornalyn Beazer, Assistant Manager of PR & Marketing at State Insurance Company Ltd., applauded the students for their hard work and expressed optimism that similar projects around the island will follow suit.

In his remarks, the Minister for Education, Sports & the Creative

Industries, Honourable Daryll Matthew, thanked the two main corporate sponsors – State Insurance Company Ltd. and Paint Plus – for generously supporting the project and the students at a time when most private entities were not in a position to do so, due to their respective financial limitations.

The project was spearheaded, and supervised by well-known Antiguan artiste Mr. Kallan Greene, and Mr. Melville Richardson, Education Officer, Visual Arts, within the Ministry of Education.

# National Park embarks on year-long celebration of 60th anniversary of Dockyard reopening

Another major milestone is approaching for the National Parks Authority and it will be using an entire year to celebrate the occasion highlighted by the recognition of key figures in the English Harbour community.

Sixty years ago, the gates of the Nelson's Dockyard reopened as the centre of Caribbean yachting in a stunning historical setting.

Between 1725 and 1899, the Dockyard served a valuable and strategic British military base, leaving behind a legacy carved in stone and brick.

Despite briefly being used during World Wars I and II to train the defence forces and recruits, the Dockyard slowly fell into decay.

However, starting in 1949, the Dockyard received new life, thanks to the new and rapidly expanding charter yacht industry started by Commander V.E.B. Nicholson and family. With the new industry came the first stabilization and restoration works of the old buildings. Led by the Friends of English Harbour and through donor and grant support, the Dockyard received new life as the heart of Caribbean yachting.

With such an historic setting, the Friends of English Harbour decided to formally open the Dockyard as a yachting and tourism site on 14th November 1961. The Dockyard has since undergone several transformations while maintain-



*A souvenir vendor at the Dockyard.*

ing the historic fabric of the site. These milestones include becoming a National Park in 1984, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016.

To celebrate this long history, the National Parks Authority (NPA) will pay tribute to the Antiguan and Barbudans who played a pivotal role in bringing the Dockyard to international prominence as the premier yachting destination in the Caribbean.

Activities to observe the occasion will be held under the theme Carved into History, Anchored by Community, and will begin on Sunday 14th November with a service of thanksgiving at the Baxter Memorial Methodist Church in English Harbour.

It's in this connection that the events will represent a conscious effort to tell the stories of the talents and efforts of community

members in all spheres of contribution to the development of the Dockyard.

The NPA will be using the next several months to shine a light on the work of some of the influential members of English Harbour as well as bring special attention to the unique skills of bead workers whose souvenir pieces are celebrated and sought after up to today. The yachting industry also created opportunity for many members of the community to learn trades such as joinery, varnishing, and sail-making, which they honed into meaningful professions to provide for their livelihoods. Their stories will also be shared as a means of recognising their invaluable contributions to the history and preservation of the Dockyard and the National Park.

The activities will be released in full via social media and in the press shortly.



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# Kiwanis clubs combine to give Victory Center a facelift

Three Kiwanis clubs in Antigua came together last weekend to enhance the premises of the Victory Center located on Nugent Avenue as part of the Kiwanis One Day initiative. As early as 6:00 a.m., with tools in hand, Kiwanians from The Kiwanis Club of St. John's Antigua, Wadadli Young Professionals and Antigua Three-Two-One (TTO) commenced work on the grounds of the school. Kiwanians painted the slide, varnished the swing, cut the grass, painted tyres, restored artwork on the concrete, and pruned the trees. Kiwanis One Day is a day set aside by Kiwanis International, and the intention is for clubs worldwide to participate in a project. The principal of the Victory Center, Kelly Hedges, expressed her appreciation for the work done. "I really want to thank the three Kiwanis clubs that came together today and chose us as their one-day project, so we are really thankful. I will be so excited to see the looks on the children's faces when they come through the gates." Lieutenant Governor (LG) Hollis Francis was pleased with the enhancement of the Victory Center and reminded that Kiwanis International encourages clubs to come together.



"It was heartwarming to see the camaraderie and efforts of members of the clubs," LG Hollis expressed. President of the Kiwanis Club of St. John's Antigua, Anna-Maria Charles said the club's goal was to enhance the environment for the children to play. "We came out in our numbers; we worked together and it showed that we can be united," Charles stated, adding that the clubs will be adopting the Victory Center. Every other month, one club will assist with the upkeep of the environment.

Chair of the Community Services Committee, Kiwanis Club St. John's Antigua, K Alethea Byers, spearheaded the day's activities. K Alethea left no stone unturned. Before choosing a location, assessments and meetings were done with other agencies which assist children. "After some deliberations, we would

have come up with the Victory Center," K Alethea stated. "The Victory Center had much to be done in terms of their focus and what they were working on." President of Wadadli Young Professionals Noel Whyte also shared his sentiments. He said embarking on such an activity as a team is something his club will love to do going forward, not just for "One Day".

"I think it was good spirit and camaraderie. I think we had more people today than the previous years. I think the project was a success," Noel stated. Cloyette Grant, president of Antigua TTO, said TTO's aim is to improve the world, one child and community at a time, beginning with "our nation Antigua and Barbuda".

"This is done by making positive changes in our communities by impacting future genera-

tions," Cloyette said.

The club is grateful for the opportunity presented to them by the Victory Center. "This is the beginning of many such projects to come," Cloyette added.

Members of Circle K Club within The University of The West Indies Five Islands and the Antigua State College also supported the initiative.

Kiwanis Club of St. John's Antigua and Wadadli Young Professionals have supported the Victory Centre in a previous One Day project held on October 26th 2018.

Together, Kiwanians work to fulfil the mandate of Kiwanis International through various initiatives, partnerships and activities. To learn more about Kiwanis International and the clubs in Antigua, visit [Kiwanis.org](http://Kiwanis.org).

# Medway arrives in Antigua and Barbuda for Independence celebrations



*HMS Medway*

HMS Medway has returned to Antigua and Barbuda for a five-day visit as a mark of respect for the country's 40th Anniversary of Independence and to take part in the celebrations.

Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Ms. Lindsay Thompson said: "I'm delighted the commanding officer, Commander Chris Hollingworth, and the commander of the UK's Caribbean Task Group, Commander Brian Trim, are able to join the nation's festivities on 1st November. We are also particularly touched that Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin has graciously invited sailors from HMS Medway to take part in the parade."

Governor-General Sir Rodney Williams along with Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin and other senior members of Antigua and Barbuda's legal, defence and policing departments have also been invited to attend a luncheon onboard the ship to celebrate the Anniversary. Commander Brian Trim said: "We are honoured

to have been invited to celebrate with you, as Antigua and Barbuda marks 40 years of Independence. This will be Medway's fourth visit in recent months and I'm grateful for the warm welcome the ship always receives. Our partnership with Antigua and Barbuda is important to us and I look forward to more cooperation in the future."

Since the ship's last visit in September, HMS Medway has been busy patrolling at sea. Last weekend, the ship completed a rewarding visit to the Virgin Islands where a series of events took place, focused on improving shared knowledge of disaster relief responses.

The UK's Caribbean Task Group has helped the UK increase its understanding of the vulnerability and challenges of small island developing states (SIDS). This includes facilitating COP president-designate, UK Minister Alok Sharma's visit to Antigua and Barbuda in July. On the latter island, Minister Sharma saw some of the devastation caused to Barbuda by Hurricane Irma and how the island's communities are recovering and building resilience to natural disasters.

Medway provides a permanent presence in the Caribbean and during the hurricane season is joined by another ship to form the UK's Caribbean Task Group, which is ready and prepared to provide immediate support in the event of a natural disaster in the region.

The Task Group consists of the patrol ship HMS Medway, the tanker Wave Knight and its embarked Wildcat HMA2 helicopter,

along with the Crisis Response Troop drawn from 24 Commando Royal Engineers. It carries specialist equipment and emergency supplies for use in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

HMS Medway is a River Class Offshore Patrol Vessel built on the Clyde and launched in 2017. It is permanently deployed to the Caribbean to support disaster relief and conduct counter-trafficking operations. Its flight deck can operate medium sized helicopters or embark up to eight shipping containers.

RFA Wave Knight is a fast tanker designed to replenish naval ships with fuel, food, fresh water, and ammunition, while at sea. RFA Wave Knight can carry up to 2,000 disaster relief packages, 150 tonnes of fresh food, and provide up to 380,000 litres of fresh water. Her maximum speed of 21 knots and embarked helicopter increase the ship's reach to a large operating area.

Crisis Response Troop, 24 Commando Royal Engineers is a multi-disciplinary team who specialise in disaster relief. They are highly trained commando sappers who provide military engineering and construction skills.

210 Flight, 815 Naval Air Squadron is embarked in RFA Wave Knight. They crew and pilot the Wildcat HMA2 helicopter, which is the Royal Navy's latest generation of multi-role helicopter. With state of the art sensors and equipment, it provides reconnaissance flights and transports stores from ship to shore.

# Sandals Foundation donates books, supplies to local primary school

As part of its continued effort to ensure the country's youth are supported in their educational development, the Sandals Foundation recently handed over much-needed learning supplies to the principal of the Sunny Dale Primary School. The school received a wide variety of school supplies including pens, pencils exercise books; art and craft supplies, including crayons, construction paper and glue sticks; story books that will be added to the school's library, wall charts for visual learning, and toys such as frisbees and skipping ropes – among other items that will benefit learning and development both within and outside of classroom settings for this academic school year. Principal Judith Peets, who received the donation from

the Sandals Foundation team, said: "I am really appreciative for the timely donation. It will assist us in helping to meet the needs of students who aren't able to purchase these things at this time.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us and we are extremely grateful for these items that will go a very long way." This latest handover, which will benefit students in pre-school and kindergarten classes, forms part of the Foundation's effort to meet the needs of those students affected indirectly by job losses and low incomes of their parents and guardians due to the economic fall out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sandals Foundation ambassador and public relations

manager at Sandals Grande Antigua, Leon Norville said: "As a past student of Sunny Dale Primary School, I am extremely proud to be here some 20 years later to make this donation on behalf of Sandals Foundation to the next generation of leaders.

It is important that we support our schools, especially in these precarious times when our students may be confused as to what is happening or going on around them. It is my hope that the items donated will benefit each child that needs it, so it can truly enhance their learning experience at the institution." Hotel manager Leighton Josephs who was also present at the handover, said: "It is an honor to be here to hand over these supplies. The wide range of resources is reflec-

tive of the holistic approach which we take to educational development – developing literacy and analysis through reading, imagination through art, and team work through play."

Sandals team members and Foundation volunteers Niecer Suffren from the Butler Department, Earla Nicholson-Blair from Weddings, Hospitality Program trainee Kevon Dowe and Social Media & Intranet coordinator Danielle Forde, who were also present, expressed satisfaction at being able to play a part in organizing and getting the items – contributed through the Foundation's Pack for a Purpose initiative – to the school for the students."

This is what makes our heart smile, knowing that we are able to make a differ-



***L-R) Leon Norville, public relations manager, Sandals Grande Antigua; Judith Peets, principal, Sunny Dale Primary School; Leighton Josephs, hotel manager, Sandals Grande Antigua.***

ence in our communities by inspiring hope,” Forde said.

Just last month, Sandals Foundation gifted 40 school bags to children in need as part of the annual Pack for a Purpose initiative. Sandals Foundation joined forces with Pack for a Purpose®, a non-profit organization, in 2012.

The organization provides supply lists to travelers by destination, based on local-community

projects and needs, paving the way for charitable involvement of vacationers around the globe via their website at [www.packforapurpose.org](http://www.packforapurpose.org). The organization encourages travelers to pack up to five pounds of needed materials in their suitcases, such as school supplies, medical supplies, sports equipment, etc., to meet the needs of people in the regions they visit.

## Dashboard Update for October 28, 2021

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment from the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre revealed four (4) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Fifty-eight (58) samples were processed at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Fourteen (14) recovered cases were recorded increasing the total to 3,659.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 4,040; which is inclusive of 279 active cases.

There are 20 hospitalized cases: 15 mild; two (2) moderate; and three (3) severe.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda has fully vaccinated 49,823 individuals; while 6,291 have only received their first dose.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.

# Reflections on the leadership of the Honourable Gaston Browne

by Garfield Joseph

Back in 2013, after deep reflections on the performance of our political leaders prior to and after our independence in 1981, I penned an article entitled: *Gaston Browne, Antigua and Barbuda's Best Hope*.

It was an article that reflected not only on the political past, but with an eye towards the future. It emerged, also, out of a desire to answer the question, "which political figure was best suited to lead Antigua and Barbuda to a more competitive and prosperous position as a small developing country with limited resources."

At the time of writing that recalled piece in 2013, the Honourable Gaston Browne had just been elected leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labor Party (ABLP).

Then in 2014, the Honorable Gaston Alphonso Browne – born on February 09, 1967 and whose creed is to serve and to empower – led the ABLP to victory with a 14-3 majority after having been in opposition for 10 years.

Now, in his second term as Prime Minister – as we approach our 40th Independence celebra-

tions – this is an opportune time to reflect on the impact of his leadership as we look towards the future.

Regardless of one's political persuasion, by all objective measures, the impact of the Honorable Gaston Browne's leadership has been transformative in so many areas.

The overall management of the economy is one of his most important accomplishments. Inheriting an economy that continued to show decline year after year, he was able to turn this around, with year-over-year growth from 2014 to 2019, a pattern only interrupted by COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 thus far.

The life of presidents and prime ministers rise and fall on how well they can manage the economy. On this measure, Honourable Gaston Browne has outperformed many – if not all – of the prime Ministers and presidents in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Apart from the management of the economy, other significant result areas include the successful opening of the Fourth Land-Ed Campus of The University of the West Indies (UWI) in Antigua,

creating greater access to higher education for the peoples of the OECS.

Add to this the successful negotiation with the Bank of Nova Scotia to sell its operations to local and regional entities, thereby ensuring greater access to development capital and retention of profits back into the local economy.

Neither can one forget his successful intervention in giving LIAT, the bankrupt regional airline, a lifeline when others felt it should be liquidated.

But Gaston Browne's most significant accomplishment may well be the opening of a pathway to allow for sustainable economic development in Barbuda, our smaller twin island with immense developmental potential that has not yet materialized.

Barbuda's potential, to my mind, is equal to that of Bermuda, an island of only 21 square miles in the northern Atlantic and the fifth smallest country in the world. With a population of over 60,000, Bermuda has an enviable per capita income of over US\$100,000 to which Tourism is a significant contributor.

Barbuda, on the other hand, with a far greater land mass of 62 square miles (three times that of Bermuda!) and a population of about 1,200 people with a per capita income of less than US\$15,000, dwindles in comparison.

This means, therefore, that if we are able to realize even half of Bermuda's per capita income in Barbuda by smartly utilizing its natural resources, akin to Bermuda, it would mean a per capita income of US\$50,000 or more – an amount greater than many other countries in the world with even more natural resources!

This explains the Prime Minister's three-fold articulated vision and mission for the sister isle, which include the following: The economic empowerment of its people; the sustainable use of our natural resources; and reducing Barbuda's over-dependence on Central Government to meet its monthly financial obligations.

Barbuda's continued development, therefore, is a moral and business imperative; for on what other basis can small developing

countries compete with the rest of the world, if not with the sustainable use of their limited natural resources?

With the Peace Love & Happiness (PLH) project as a prototype, it may well serve as the catalyst that ignites similar investments in the future. This project, and others that may naturally follow, may well turn out to be Gaston Browne's most significant contribution to the development of our twin island state.

Apart from the management of the economy and his leadership on key regional and international issues – as well as the heavy workload and demands of the Office of Prime Minister – the Honourable Gaston Browne still finds the time to engage and educate the public on matters of public interest in a way rarely seen before. He knows how to engage friend and foe, blue and red, old and young, supporters and detractors, all and sundry. Let's just say he knows how to keep his brand top-of-mind.

Yet despite his many accomplishments, some have yet to ap-

preciate the significance of Gaston Browne's contribution to this country's development. Only time will tell if they will be persuaded otherwise.

However, as we reflect on the leadership of this country during our Independence celebrations, our hearts should be filled with deep appreciation for the leaders that we have had – including the Honourable Sir Vere Cornwall Bird, the Honourable Sir Lester Bird and the Honourable Baldwin Spencer – and now our sitting Prime Minister, the Honourable Gaston Browne, who may well emerge not only as one of the greatest political figures in Antigua and Barbuda, but one of the greatest political figures in the entire Caribbean.

May his leadership of our twin island state and all that he has been able to accomplish against all odds – including the management of the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic – serve as the potion that inspires our next generation of leaders.

# Barbados-based firm develops Africa's first digital currency

## *Barbados Today* -

The Barbados-based financial technology firm Bitt has developed the central bank digital currency for Nigeria, making that country the first on the African continent to use a legal tender digital currency for their daily financial transactions.

Bitt made the announcement of the roll out of the new digital currency known as the eNaira, in a statement on Monday.

Bitt said it was very excited to be entering the African central bank digital currency market as a technology partner of the central bank of Nigeria, noting that Bitt's digital currency management system fulfilled the Nigeria Central Bank criteria for technological competence, efficiency, platform security, inter-operability, and implementation experience.

The company's digital currency management system is currently licensed by national financial institutions in six countries across Central America and the Caribbean. Chief Executive Officer of



*Chief Executive Officer of Bitt, Brian Popelka.*

Bitt, Brian Popelka said: "We are elated to have developed, tested and deployed the eNaira monetary infrastructure in record time.

"Today's launch is an exceptional achievement for both the central bank of Nigeria and Bitt teams. We look forward to continued partnership on this central bank digital currency deployment journey and to provide additional features to expand eNaira's value to all Nigerians."

He said Bitt was driven by the empowerment of people through providing accessible,

low-cost and real-time payments; and supporting the digitisation of economies. He added that Bitt's digital currency management system could lower infrastructure cost and improve the access and user experience of receiving and sending money, thereby promoting financial inclusion throughout Nigeria.

"Furthermore, the eNaira has been designed to promote local innovation, leveraging Nigeria's world-class FinTech talent," said the release. Bitt's digital currency manage-

ment system is a production-ready digital currency infrastructure that enables central banks and financial institutions to efficiently deploy their own digital currency.

Bitt plugs into the underlying transaction network of choice, such as Hyperledger Fabric (used in the implementations of DCash in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union and the eNaira in Nigeria), Stellar Network (to be presented at the 2021 Singapore Fintech Festival) and others to come in 2022, the company said.

# Fuel shortages paralyze Haiti, disrupting everything

## *The Haitian Times* -

Activities across Haiti have been halted as a result of the ongoing fuel shortage crisis, reported Le Nouvelliste and local radio station Radio Métropole.

The majority of gas stations in Port-au-Prince and in other departments were closed Oct. 26. Gangs with the G9 & Family Allies coalition have blocked access to the Varreux port terminal where the majority of Haiti's fuel products are stored.

Telephone company Digicel said 433 of its sites are not currently functioning due to fuel shortages and transportation issues.

The technical operating center of the National Direction of Drinking Water (DINEPA) of the metropolitan region of Port-au-Prince may no longer be able to supply drinking water to the municipalities of Delmas, Tabarre and Cité Soleil. DINEPA's director, Paul Libenson Théodate, said it is in dire need of 15,000 gallons of diesel per week to continue operating, calling the situation "critical."

Other sectors are experiencing similar difficulties. The National Ambulance Center (CAN), which normally operates six to eight ambulances, is down to two. Its direc-



*Varreux port terminal where the majority of Haiti's fuel products are stored*

tor general, Hérold Louïs, said the center may stop operating entirely in coming days if fuel does not become available. Employees are not even able to find any means of transportation to come to work, Louis said.

Jimmy "Barbecue" Cherizier, leader of the "G9" coalition of gangs in the metropolitan area of the capital, Port-au-Prince, said in a radio interview on Monday night that he would ensure safe passage of fuel trucks if

Henry leaves office.

"The areas under the control of the G9 are blocked for one reason only – we demand the resignation of Ariel Henry," Cherizier said in an interview on Haiti's Radio Mega.

# Church leader urges Gov't to regulate 'cultist' organisations

*Jamaica Gleaner* -

The Reverend Alvin Bailey, senior pastor of the Portmore Holiness Christian Church, has called for the Government to establish a regulatory body in efforts to combat the rise of other "cultist organisations" such as the Pathways International Kingdom Restoration Ministries church in St. James, which was headed by the late controversial religious leader Kevin O. Smith.

Bailey said such organisations must no longer remain undetected or evade the radar of the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

Two members were killed at the church in a sacrificial ritual on October 17 and a third shot dead by the police as they stormed the compound to prevent further killing.

Andre Ruddock, a member of the church, has been charged with murder and wounding.

Smith, too, was due to be charged with



*Reverend Alvin Bailey*

murder, but died from crash-related injuries while being transferred from Montego Bay to Kingston on Monday.

Bailey told *The Gleaner* on Tuesday that the authentic Christian faith does not condone the kinds of actions that such organisations promote. Human sacrifices and other ritualistic procedures akin to those reportedly performed in St. James are condemned by Christians and the Bible.

"This particular incident has caused us to take a new look at religious centres in Jamaica," he added.

He is proposing that a national leadership regulatory board be established where matters can be brought under investigation, and where other churches that have information on such incidents can report to.

"Some of them come from our churches, and some of the reasons why they come out from among us,

or we put them out, is because of practices [and] utterances that cause concern," Bailey declared, as he referenced the "charismatic leaders" who have formed their own churches. When this happens, he said, (Christian) churches begin to deliberately disassociate themselves from such persons.

"So sometimes when story comes out with them, like as it is now, it's nothing new to us. Some of us did know seh it a gwaan."

***Practices will continue to thrive***

With this inclination, the reverend has also suspected that many more organisations of this calibre are operating in Jamaica that have not yet been discovered. He anticipates that the practices of Smith will continue to thrive, if not stemmed by the authorities. He added that with the high level of contending for

the souls of men and women, persons are making themselves available to carry out evil, satanic worship and devious acts while compromising the lives of vulnerable citizens.

Bailey charged that occultist organisations involved in unorthodox practices uncommon to Jamaican ideologies, often attempt to disguise themselves within the Christian religion.

With this facade, the most vulnerable are lured and often taken advantage of, due to their vulnerability and desperation, said Bailey.

“Normally, if a man gets up and says, ‘I am a worshipper of the devil’, everybody would separate themselves from him,” Bailey added, giving justification for why the Christian faith is used. “People don’t naturally gravitate towards, and are not as influenced by, other groups,” he said, noting that Christianity was a “convenient vehicle for them to camouflage”.

There have been comparisons between Smith and the founder of Bedwardism, Alexander Bedward, who was widely celebrated in the wider August Town area in St Andrew more than a century ago. But some modern Revivalists have insisted that the native Baptist preacher was nothing like the flamboyant Smith.

## Chastanet says UWP turned down his resignation letter



*Former Prime Minister Allen Chastanet*

**St. Lucia Times** - Former Prime Minister Allen Chastanet, who led the United Workers Party (UWP) to a massive election defeat in the July 26th 2021 elections, has disclosed that he offered his letter of resignation to the party, but it was turned down.

The UWP, which was voted out of office, managed to hold on to only two of the 11 seats it held in the 17 seat parliament – Chastanet (Miccoud South) and Bradley Felix (Choiseul-Saltibus).

“I continue to perform because I believe I have the passion to do so, and also I continue to have the confidence of the people in my party,” the former Prime Minister, who is currently overseas, told a news conference virtually on Thursday.

The UWP leader suggested that former Tourism Minister Dominic Fedee, who attended the news conference, was probably better positioned to respond to the question raised about the resignation issue, as Fedee was ‘in the room’.

“I can attest to it. We had a meeting about three or four days following the general elections and the political leader did offer his resignation, but the party overwhelmingly rejected his resignation and asked him to stay on as political leader,” Fedee stated.

The former Tourism Minister and former MP for Anse La Raye-Canaries said the national executive’s decision was unanimous.

# Amazon to pay billions to prevent Christmas shortages

**BBC** - Amazon has said it will spend several billion dollars to manage labour shortages and supply chain issues in the run up to Christmas.

The online retail giant said it was doing "whatever it takes to minimise the impact" on customers and sellers.

The warning came as it revealed its net income had dropped to \$3.2bn (£2.3bn) in the third quarter, compared to £6.3bn in 2020.

However, the company said net sales increased 15% to \$110.8 billion.

Andy Jassy, chief executive, said Amazon expected to "incur several billion dollars of additional costs" as it managed through "labour supply shortages, increased wage costs, global supply chain issues, and increased freight and shipping costs".

"It'll be expensive for us in the short term, but it's the right prioritisation for our customers and partners," he added.

"We've always said that when confronted with the choice between optimising for



short-term profits versus what's best for customers over the long term, we will choose the latter - and you can see that during every phase of this pandemic."

Businesses across the world have been grappling with shortages and issues with supply chains as economies have rebooted following coronavirus lockdowns.

A global chip shortage is causing delays on the production lines of many products - including cars, washing machines, and smartphones - due to supply not keeping up with demand.

Surging demand for goods, including those sold by Amazon, has led to increased conges-

tion at ports in many countries, with retailers sounding the alarm bell that deliveries for the holiday season could be delayed.

In California in the US, there have been record-breaking queues of container ships outside major ports.

Amazon's staffing issues has led to the retailer offering one-off payments of up to £3,000 in a bid to attract staff in UK regions where there is high demand for labour.

The firm is hiring for 20,000 positions across its UK network during the festive season amid fears over worker shortages. It also began offering a £1,000 signing-on bonus to recruit permanent staff in some

regions in August.

Pay for the temporary roles starts at a minimum of £10 per hour, rising to £11.10 in some parts of the UK.

In the past Amazon has faced accusations of poor working conditions both in the UK and the US, where it is the country's second largest employer.

Reuters reported Amazon Chief Financial Officer Brian Ol-savsky had said worker shortages contributed to inconsistent staffing levels at the company.

He said staff became its primary capacity constraint in the third quarter, which he added was having an impact on other areas of the business.

# Facebook changes its company name to Meta

(CNN Business) - Facebook is changing its company name as it shifts its focus to the “metaverse” and confronts wide-ranging scrutiny of the real-world harms from its various platforms after a whistleblower leaked hundreds of internal documents.

Founder Mark Zuckerberg said Thursday that Facebook will change its corporate name to Meta, effectively demoting Facebook’s namesake service to being just one of the company’s subsidiaries, alongside Instagram and WhatsApp, rather than the overarching brand.

The company formerly known as Facebook also said in a press release that it plans to begin trading under the stock ticker “MVR” on December 1.

A rebranding could be part of an effort to overhaul Facebook’s reputation and turn the page following a series of PR nightmares, including misinformation on its platforms, content moderation failures, and revelations about the nega-

tive effect its products have on some users’ mental health.

The name change, which was announced by Zuckerberg during the company’s virtual reality and augmented reality conference, Facebook Connect, aligns with its growing focus on the metaverse, which refers to efforts to combine virtual and augmented reality technologies in a new online realm.

“I’ve been thinking a lot about our identity as we begin this next chapter. Facebook is one of the most used products in the history of the world,” Zuckerberg said on Thursday. “It is an iconic social media brand, but increasingly it just doesn’t encompass everything that we do.

“Today we’re seen as a social media company,” he added, “but in our DNA we are a company that builds technology to connect people. And the metaverse is the next frontier just like social networking was when we got started.”

Zuckerberg, who said he loved study-



ing classics in school, said the name was inspired by the Greek word meta, which means “beyond”. “For me, it symbolizes that there is always more to build.”

The company also replaced its corporate sign, which featured a picture of a “thumbs up” outside its California headquarters, with one touting its new logo: a blue infinity sign.

Zuckerberg kicked off the big product event by teasing a series of new social, gaming and workplace concepts for the metaverse – and

by acknowledging the optics of focusing on such products amid renewed scrutiny of the company.

Facebook showed a series of concept videos that highlighted its vision for metaverse, such as sending a holographic image of yourself to a concert with a friend attending in real life, sitting around virtual meeting tables with remote colleagues or playing immersive games with friends. Facebook recently said it would hire 10,000 people in Europe to build out the concept.

# US reaches \$88m settlement for Black victims of white supremacist

**Al Jazeera** - The Department of Justice announced an \$88m settlement on Thursday with victims of a white supremacist who shot dead nine Black churchgoers in South Carolina in 2015.

The settlement stems from allegations that the FBI was negligent when it failed to prohibit the sale of a gun by a licensed firearms dealer to the attacker, Dylan Roof, the Department of Justice said.

Roof, 27, a self-proclaimed white supremacist who wanted to start a "race war", has been sentenced to death for the massacre at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. He was convicted in December 2016 on 33 federal counts, including hate crimes resulting in death. He later pleaded guilty to nine state charges of murder in order to avoid the death penalty in those cases.

On the evening of the killings, Roof, then 21, had joined a Wednesday bible study group at the church before gunning down those praying.

He was later found to have a website with photos of himself posing with neo-Nazi and white supremacy symbols.

"The mass shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church was a horrific hate crime that caused immeasurable suffering for the families of the victims and the survivors," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in announcing the settlement.

"Since the day of the shooting, the Justice Department has sought to bring justice to the communi-



*Photos of the victims of the shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston are held during a vigil at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington.*

ty, first by a successful hate crime prosecution and today by settling civil claims."

Bakari Sellers, a lawyer who helped broker the agreement, told The Associated Press the "88" figure was purposeful. It is a number typically associated with white supremacy and the number of bullets Roof said he had taken with him to the attack.

Months before the June 17th 2015 church shooting, Roof was arrested on February 28th 2015 by Columbia, South Carolina police on a drug possession charge. But a series of clerical errors and missteps allowed Roof to buy the handgun he later used in the massacre.

The litigation began in 2016 and continued through district court and the federal court of appeals, the department said.

The lawsuit, for a time, was thrown out, with a judge writing that an examiner followed procedures, but also blasting the federal government for what he called its "abysmally poor policy choices" in how it runs the national database

for firearm background checks. The suit was subsequently reinstated by a federal appeals court.

The Department of Justice said the settlement resolved claims from the families of the nine victims of the shooting and from the five survivors who were inside the church at the time of the shooting.

It said the settlements range from \$6m to \$7.5m for relatives of the nine victims and \$5m each for the five survivors.

The families of the "Emanuel Nine" and the survivors sued the government for wrongful death and physical injuries.

They claimed the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Checks System failed to discover in a timely manner that Roof was prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm.

"The department hopes that these settlements, combined with its prosecution of the shooter, will bring some modicum of justice to the victims of this heinous act of hate," said Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta.

# EU suspends funding to WHO programmes in Congo after sex scandal

**Reuters** - The European Commission has suspended funding for a World Health Organization (WHO) program in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) due to concerns over the UN agency's handling of the sexual harassment scandal.

The 7 October letter from the Commission, marked "SENSITIVE", seen by Reuters, notified WHO of the immediate suspension of financing for five WHO programmes, including Ebola and COVID-19 operations.

The total amount of funds is more than 20.7 million euros, equivalent to 24.02 million United States dollars or around Rp. 343,536,571,134.

The Commission, in an emailed statement to Reuters in Brussels, confirmed the move, saying it expected partners to have "strong safeguards in place to prevent such unacceptable incidents, as well as to act decisively in such situations".

"The Commission has temporarily suspended payments and will refrain from granting new funding in relation to humanitarian activities carried out by WHO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This move does not affect EU funding for WHO operations elsewhere," he explained, citing Reuters on October 29.

WHO officials contacted separately for comment did not immediately respond.



The suspension of EU funding increases diplomatic pressure on the WHO and its director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to take further action on documented abuses and management negligence, and to prevent them from happening again anywhere.

About 83 aid workers, a quarter of whom are employed by the WHO, engaged in coercion and sexual harassment during Congo's 10th Ebola epidemic, an independent commission said last month. The report cited nine counts of rape.

Tedros, who is widely believed to be seeking a second five-year term in May, has directed the global response to COVID-19, the worst public health crisis in a century. But major donors led by the United States and Germany have demanded fundamental reforms to its ability to deal with the outbreak and scandal.

A copy of the EU letter was sent to the Code Blue Campaign, part

of the Aids-free World, a watchdog group that aims to end impunity for sexual abuses by UN civilian and military personnel.

The European Commission letter, addressed to Tedros, voiced "extreme concern" at the "magnitude of the findings".

The letter seeks assurances that the victims have been protected and compensated; details of the WHO recruitment process in Congo including background checks; WHO actions to ensure suspected perpetrators are not rehired by the United Nations or aid groups; and an independent review of "individual responsibility within WHO for negligence in handling allegations and evidence".

"In light of the gravity of the reported situation, the Commission hereby suspends all payments relevant to activities carried out by your organization in the Democratic Republic of the Congo," it read.

# **AVAILABLE VACANCIES at OSEC (effective October 21, 2021)**

## **ASIAN SOUS CHEF**

Minimum 3 years' experience at a luxury establishment with excellent knowledge of Asian Food production & HACCP systems | Second language would be an asset  
Must have a genuine passion for food and able to work within a busy environment & thrive under pressure

## **ASSISTANT BAR MANAGER**

Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar position within a hotel environment  
Tertiary qualification in Hotel or Bar Management or its equivalent from a recognized university  
Must be HACCP Certified | Must have current food & beverage handling licenses/permits  
Complete working knowledge of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages  
Must have a passion for teamwork and very strong leadership skills

## **ASSISTANT FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER**

Minimum 4 years' experience as a Food & Beverage Manager at a five star hotel  
Diploma/Degree in Hotel Management required | Second language would be an asset  
Must have a genuine passion for food and able to work within a busy environment & thrive under pressure  
Must be a team-player | Must be service-oriented  
Effective communication skills | Leadership/People Management skills

## **ASSISTANT HAIR BRAIDER**

Minimum 5 years' experience

## **AUTO MECHANICS INSTRUCTOR**

Minimum 3-5 years' experience working in the Auto mechanic industry  
5 CXC Passes (including English & Mathematics) or Tertiary Level Completion  
Knowledge of career and technology skills and competencies in Auto Mechanics  
Experience in teaching in a classroom setting with diverse students is a plus

## **AUDIOVISUAL TECH/ IT SUPPORT**

Associate degree in instructional media and technology or related field in addition to a minimum of two years' professional audio-visual experience | InfoComm CTS certification highly desirable  
Advanced knowledge of circuitry, electricity, electronics, and the ability to read and follow schemata and technical manuals | Experienced with video recording, editing and production  
Strong working knowledge of AV switching control systems (e.g. Extron, Crestron)  
Superior interpersonal skills with demonstrated ability to work well with people.

Excellent verbal and written communication skills | Must be available to work evening and weekend hours  
Must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds on a regular basis

### **BABYSITTER/NANNY**

Minimum 1 year experience in a similar role | Must be FULLY VACCINATED  
Early Childhood Certification required | Must have experience working with babies  
High School Diploma | Must have a valid Driver's license

### **BARTENDERS (ON-CALL)**

Minimum 2-5 years' experience in a similar role  
On the job training preferred or High School Completion  
Hotel Training School Completion preferred

### **CASHIER (PART-TIME)**

Minimum 2 years' experience | Must be FULLY VACCINATED

### **CHEF/COOK**

Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role  
On the job training preferred or High School Completion  
Hotel Training School Completion preferred

### **CHIEF ENGINEER**

Minimum of five (5) years' experience in the hospitality industry or related field  
A minimum of a first degree in Electrical/Mechanical/Civil Engineering from a recognized college or university  
Working knowledge of ASHRAE, JS21, NFPA & NEC life safety codes and standards.  
CEM/CFM certification preferred  
Experience with Chill Water Systems, waste water treatment and reverse osmosis water plants necessary

### **COLOUR MATCHING TECHNICIAN**

Minimum 2 years' experience in mixing paints | MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED  
Valid Driver's license & own vehicle is a plus

### **COMMIS CHEF**

Minimum 2-3 years' experience | High School Leaving Certificate | Great communication skills  
Good understanding of food, health and safety regulations | Must be flexible

### **COOK 2**

Minimum 3 years' experience in a similar role | MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED  
Flexible and reliable individual you has good customer service skills and  
is able to work along with a team or individually

Must possess strong oral and written communication skills | Must be a strong team-player  
Must be honest & trustworthy | Must be able to work all shifts | Must own a valid Driver's license

**DISHWASHER**

Minimum 1 year experience as a Dishwasher

**DECKHAND/SNORKEL GUIDE**

Basic Boating experience required; Must not be prone to motion sickness | High School Completion  
Must be a competent swimmer | Boatmaster 3 license desirable but not required

**DISHWASHER (BAR & GRILL)**

No experience required | High School Completion

**DRIVER**

Minimum 5 years' experience | High School Completion | Must be computer literate  
Good customer service skills required

**EXECUTIVE CHEF**

A minimum of five years' experience as Executive Chef in an international first-class hotel/resort  
Graduate of an internationally recognized culinary institution or technical/vocational training school  
Knowledge of volume production and ability to maintain the highest quality standards  
Working knowledge of Food Safety and International Health Regulations |  
International experience would be an asset

**FARM ATTENDANT**

No experience required | Secondary School Completion

**FOOD & DRINKS MANAGER (RESTAURANT)**

Minimum 5 years' experience in a similar role  
Must be certified in Food & Beverage | Must be able to multi-task

**FLORIST**

Minimum 2-5 years' experience | Secondary School Completion  
Must be computer literate & social media savvy | Floral Designing skills a plus

**FLOWER SHOP ASSISTANT**

Minimum 1-3 years' experience in a similar role | High School Completion  
Must be computer literate and computer savvy | Good customer service skills

## **GENERAL MANAGER**

Minimum 5 years' proven experience as a General Manager or similar executive role  
 University/Higher Education Degree required | Experience in planning and budgeting  
 Knowledge of business process and functions (Finance, HR, procurement, operations etc.)  
 Strong analytical ability | Excellent communication skills | Outstanding organizational and leadership skills

## **HANDYMAN**

Minimum 2 years' experience in the construction field | Secondary School Completion  
 Knowledge of different areas in the construction field | Must be able to work independently

## **JR. MAINTENANCE MANAGER**

3 years' maintenance experience with 2 years' maintenance management experience preferred  
 Bachelors' Degree in a technical discipline from an accredited university  
 Experience in project management  
 Experience with Automated Conveyor systems and controls, Electrical & Electronic principles  
 Ability to work independently or as part of a team | Good oral & written communication skills  
 Time-management, prioritization and organization skills

## **INDIAN COOK**

Minimum 10 years' experience

## **INSTALLATION & SERVICE TECHNICIAN**

Minimum 1 year working experience as a Laborer or Carpenter  
 Must be able to use a measuring tape, various handheld power tools and equipment

## **JUNIOR SUSHI CHEF**

Minimum 2 years' experience as a Speciality Chef (Sushi) in a luxury or boutique resort/hotel or independent restaurant  
 Graduate of Hotel Training School with academic or professional qualifications in Culinary Arts  
 Food Safety & Hygiene qualifications (e.g. HACCP or OSHA etc.)  
 Good communication skills | Good organization and execution skills

## **KITCHEN HELPER**

Minimum 1 year experience | Secondary School Completion | Must be customer service-oriented

## **LABOURER**

Minimum 3 years' experience in a similar role | Secondary School Completion | Must be physically fit

## **LEAD TOUR SPECIALIST**

Minimum 1 year experience of working in a customer service environment

Previous sales and supervisory experience is an asset

Good command of written and spoken English | Minimum of High or Secondary School Diploma

Must be computer literate with knowledge of Microsoft Office Software: Access, Excel, Outlook etc.

### **LINE SERVER/GRILL ATTENDANT**

Minimum 2 years' experience within the Food industry

Food Handling Certificate required | Good communication skills

### **MARINE TECHNICIAN**

Minimum 12 years' experience | Boatmaster 1 Qualification required

High school Diploma | Strong communications skills required;

Must be able to drive and operate Boats | At least a little navigational knowledge

Practice experience with tools and equipment used in marine maintenance

Ability to read and underage technical manuals | Good verbal and written communication skills

### **MASONRY INSTRUCTOR**

Minimum 3-5 years' experience as a Mason

Technical Diploma and/or Certification in Construction trade

| 5 CXC Passes (including English & Mathematics) or Tertiary Level Completion

Experience in teaching in a classroom setting with diverse students is a plus

### **MICROSOFT MAGIC ART SOFTWARE OPERATOR**

Minimum 1 year experience | Knowledge of using the Magic Art Software required

### **ONCOLOGY NURSE**

Degree in Nursing required | Oncology Nursing Certification preferred

Experience in Oncology Nursing & Chemotherapy IV Infusion

Must be knowledgeable and competent in care and access of central lines and in-dwelling catheter

Ability to work independently and as a member of a multidisciplinary team

Well-developed communication and interpersonal skills

### **ORIENTAL CUISINE COOK**

Minimum 5 years' experience

Must have completed a vocational course in Commercial Cooking with

speciality on Asian Cooking or completed at least 2 years in a Culinary Arts study program

Must be positively spirited and passionate about food

Professional kitchen apprenticeship or related training course and previous

experiences in the Oriental specialty cuisine along with good culinary skills

A proven track of food preparation and preservation knowledge is essential

### **PASTRY CHEF DE CUISINE**

Minimum 4 years' experience at a luxury establishment | Second language would be an asset  
Food production qualifications, HAACP and Intermediate Food Safety & Hygiene qualifications  
Must have a genuine passion for food and able to work within a busy environment & thrive under pressure

### **PADI OPEN WATER SCUBA INSTRUCTOR**

Minimum 1 year working experience as a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor  
Must have issued at least 50 certifications & logged at least 1000 dives  
Boatmaster 3 License required | Higher Level Boating & TEC Diving Qualifications is an asset

### **PLUMBING INSTRUCTOR**

Minimum 3-5 years' experience working in the Plumbing industry  
5 CXC Passes (including English & Mathematics) or Tertiary Level Completion  
Technical Diploma and/or Certification in Construction trade

### **RESIDENTIAL SERVICES MANAGER**

Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Management, Business Administration  
or other related field, plus at least three years' experience in property or guest relations management  
Experience in the supervision of staff  
Proficient computer skills and in-depth knowledge of relevant software such as  
MS Office. Data Base Management would be an asset  
Knowledge of standard office administrative practices and procedures  
Experience in administration in an academic institution of higher learning will be an asset

### **RESTAURANT HOST/HOSTESS**

Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role or as a Team Leader  
Minimum 5 CXCs including English & Mathematics | Hospitality Management Diploma or equivalent

### **RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR**

Minimum 5 years' experience in a similar role  
Must be certified in Food & Beverage | Must be able to multi-task

### **ROOM ATTENDANT/HOUSEMAN**

Minimum 1-2 years' experience | High School Leaving Certificate  
Good attention to detail | Great time management skills | Must be flexible

### **SALES ATTENDANT**

Minimum 1 year experience

**SALES CLERK**

Minimum 2 years' experience | Secondary School Completion | Excellent customer-service skills

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE**

Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role

High School Diploma | Able to adopt in a fast-paced environment

Must be customer-friendly with good time-management skills

**SENIOR BROKER (COMMISSION-BASED)**

Minimum 5 years' experience in international residential or commercial property sales or management

Excellent oral and verbal communication skills | Punctuality and exemplary time management

Client care and vendor management | Must be professional and courteous

**SENIOR TRAINING SPECIALIST**

Minimum of 2 years' experience in delivering and/or developing training

Leadership or de-escalation experience is a strong asset

Proficient in Microsoft Office, including excellent knowledge of PowerPoint

Capable of operating in a high-trust, high-accountability environment: able to stay motivated while working independently, and also collaborating well with peers

Exceptional speaking skills: must be comfortable speaking in front of a group, and capable of conveying information effectively

A high level of professional maturity, with a strong understanding of the appropriate balance between informal and formal communication | Able to accept and provide feedback.

Organized, detail oriented and able to easily understand and interpret data.

**SERVICE BARISTA/ CREPE MAKER**

Minimum 1 year experience in any Food & Beverage establishment

High School Completion | Fluency in French is a plus | Baking or Cooking skills is a plus

Ability to communicate effectively | Must be able to work under pressure

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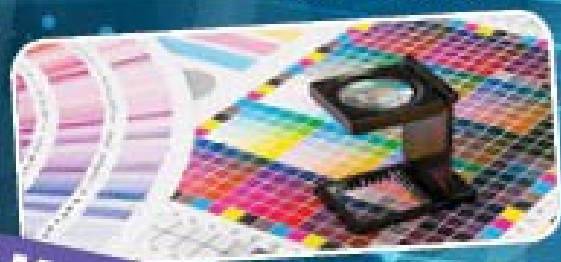
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# YOU THINK IT WE PRINT IT

# NBA: Russell Westbrook ejected as LA Lakers blow big lead in defeat by Oklahoma City Thunder



***Russell Westbrook (centre) had 20 points, 14 rebounds and 13 assists, but also 10 turnovers***

Russell Westbrook was ejected as the Los Angeles Lakers blew a 26-point lead to lose 123-115 against his former side the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The Lakers led 56-30 during the second quarter, but the Thunder hit back to take a 97-95 lead at the third quarter buzzer before staying clear.

Westbrook recorded his first triple-double for the Lakers since joining in August, but also had 10 turnovers.

He was ejected late on for a second technical foul.

It was the 32-year-old guard's first appearance for the Lakers in Oklahoma City, where he spent the first 11 seasons of his NBA career.

LeBron James missed his second straight game because of an ankle injury.

Fellow star Anthony Davis scored 30 points but could not prevent the 2020 champions from losing a third game in their first five matches.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 27 points to help them secure their first win of the season. Elsewhere, reigning champions the Milwaukee Bucks were beaten 113-108 by the Minnesota Timberwolves, despite Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo hitting 40 points.

The Brooklyn Nets, another pre-season favourite for the title, suffered their third defeat of the season as they were beaten 106-93

by the Miami Heat. Last year's beaten finalists the Phoenix Suns lost for the second game in a row as the Sacramento Kings secured a 110-107 win.

***Wednesday's NBA results:*** Orlando Magic 111-120 Charlotte Hornets; Brooklyn Nets 93-106 Miami Heat; New Orleans Pelicans 99-102 Atlanta Hawks; Toronto Raptors 118-100 Indiana Pacers; Boston Celtics 107-116 Washington Wizards; Milwaukee Bucks 108-113 Minnesota Timberwolves; Oklahoma City Thunder 123-115 Los Angeles Lakers; Portland Trail Blazers 116-96 Memphis Grizzlies; Phoenix Suns 107-110 Sacramento Kings; Los Angeles Clippers 79-92 Cleveland Cavaliers.

# 'All over the place' – Lloyd, Roberts knock WI tactics

West Indies cricket icons Sir Clive Lloyd and Sir Andy Roberts have been left less than impressed by the West Indies' displays so far at the T20 World Cup, with former skipper Lloyd saying the side looked like an associate team.

"Their planning seems to be all over the place and I think that if you look at what has happened ... 55 runs (against England), we are much better than that," Sir Clive said on the Mason and Guest cricket radio show in Barbados on Tuesday.

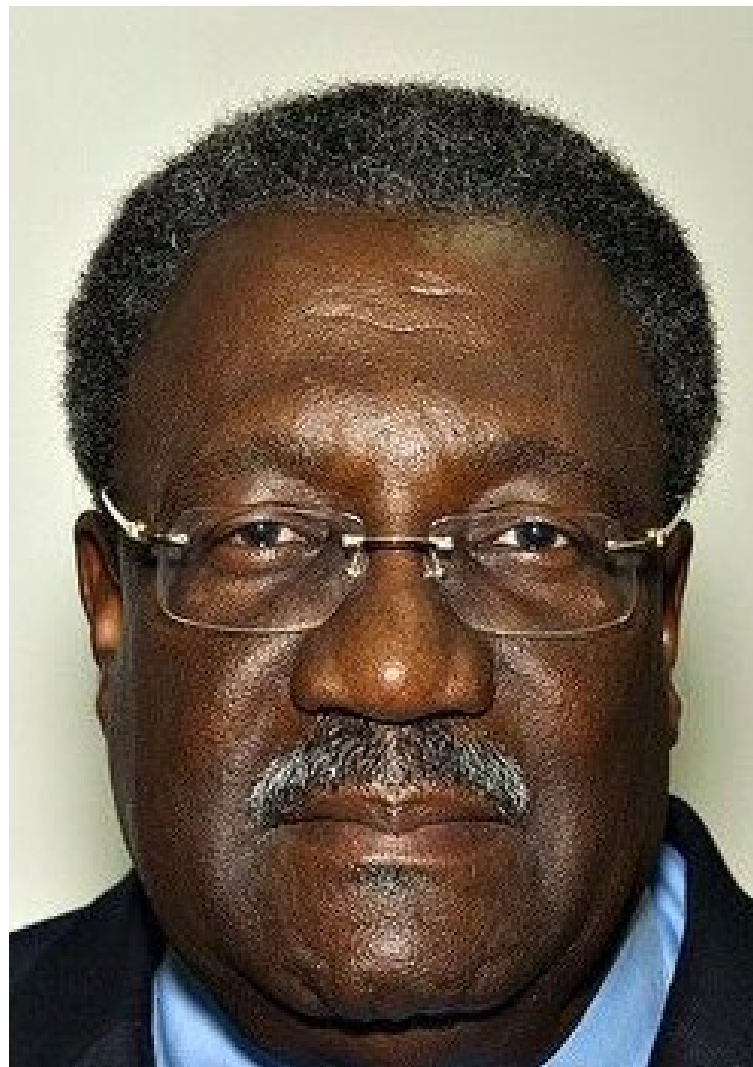
"The point is that our planning seems to be terrible," he said.

The Kieron Pollard-led team has lost both its matches in the tournament so far. Using the six-wicket loss against South Africa on Tuesday as an example, Sir Clive, who is doing commentary on the tournament, said: "We had a wonderful start and we didn't promote people in the proper order. You expect the captain to come up when you are going at nine an over to continue. You send (Nicholas) Pooran who has not been playing well and you have (Shimron) Hetmyer who's batting quite well and making some very good scores (coming at number seven), so the planning seems to be all over the place."

In that same match, opener Even Lewis top-scored with 56, but Lloyd said: "In the PowerPlay, if you get to 50 runs and you haven't lost a lot of wickets, you've done very well, you're looking for a large score ... but somewhere along the line we felt this game was about hitting sixes; we getting caught on the boundary. This is a big ground. If I'm on 58, I'm looking to get 80-90 and I'm looking to get runs if I'm an opener that can take the game away from the opposition. We were 30 runs short today (Tuesday) ... so our planning has been bad and I think somebody's got to take hold of the situation."

And, Sir Clive stressed, "It's not all slogging. This game is about working things out. We did not look like defending champions. We [were] playing like an associate country."

Former fast bowler Sir Andy also felt the batting tactics have been bad. "I believe the changing up of the batting order caused problems because, of all the batsmen, Hetmyer probably looked the best in the warm-up games ... and you moved him (to number seven) and Pooran, who batted at five or six, up to number three. I think if Chris (Gayle) is going to bat below number three, then he has no



**Former West Indies cricket captain Sir Clive Lloyd.**

right to be in the team.

"What is he going to do when you need to rotate the strike? Chris' strong point is at the top of the order where he can set the pace by playing his natural game which is hitting straight."

And Sir Andy, himself a former WI coach, said the performances so far were not surprising, "because if you fail to prepare you must be prepared to fail and that is what is happening to our cricket today. We are not preparing ourselves for competition;

we just go about using the same old strategy that we have used in the past and expect it to work today."

Lloyd added: "If you have a World Cup to play, have players congregate a week before that game and have a camp. You cannot have your players all over the place. These guys are earning good money, and fine. But there comes a time when ... you must come and play cricket for your country ... We have to try and make it important to come and play for us."

# West Indies name women's squad for Pakistan tour

Cricket West Indies (CWI) women's selection panel has named a 15-member squad and three reserves for the three-match One Day International (ODI) series against the Pakistan women's squad and the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2021 in Zimbabwe.

The touring squad sees a return for Shemaine Campbelle who missed the home series against Pakistan and South Africa due to injury.

Campbelle impressed the selectors and coaches in the lone practice match before departure, by striking a century in 107 deliveries, which included 12 fours and a six.

Also returning to the squad is captain Stafanie Taylor who missed the recent series against South Africa in Antigua.

Lead Selector Ann Browne-John said: "The upcoming Pakistan series and World Cup qualifiers are crucial as the team works towards participation in the Cricket World Cup in 2022." "It is important to note that Shemaine Campbelle is once again fit and available after being away through injury. She is one of the senior players and has shown herself to be one of the premier wicket-keepers in the world. She scored runs in the practice match since her return," Browne-John added. The selector said that the captain, Stafanie Taylor, who missed the South Africa series is also back which also serves to strengthen both the batting and bowling.

"The squad has a mix of senior and developing players and particular mention must be made of



two young players, Qiana Joseph and Rashada Williams, who had very encouraging series against South Africa and, hopefully, they will go from strength to strength," she said. The West Indies women are due to arrive in Pakistan on November 1 for three ODIs from November 8-14, scheduled to be played at the National Stadium in Karachi. The squad will travel directly to Zimbabwe after the ODI Series for the ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier 2021 from November 21 to December 5. They will be one of 10 teams, along with Pakistan, aiming to secure one of three qualifying places for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand in February 2022. The West Indies women last toured Pakistan in January 2019 for three T20 Internationals in Karachi.

**Full squad:** Stafanie Taylor (captain); Anisa Mohammed (vice-captain); Aaliyah Alleyne; Shemaine Campbelle; Shamilia Connell; Deandra Dottin; Sheneta Grimmond; Chinelle Henry; Qiana Joseph; Kyrcia Knight; Kyshona Knight; Hayley Matthews; Chedean Nation; Shakera Selman; Rashada Williams.

**Travelling Reserves:** Cherry Ann Fraser; Shabika Gajabi; Karishma Ramharack

**Full match schedule:** 1st ODI – 8 November at National Stadium, Karachi; 2nd ODI – 11 November at National Stadium, Karachi; 3rd ODI – 14 November at National Stadium, Karachi.

**ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifiers:** 21 November to 5 December in Zimbabwe.



*Barbados tennis players (from left), Hannah Chambers, Serena Bryan and Gabrielle Leslie are joined by team captain Andrew Thornton.*

## BARBADOS TO BATTLE IN BILLIE JEAN CUP

Barbados finally has the dream team for the Billie Jean King Tennis Cup.

However, the conditions will play a major factor on the team's performance in the tournament which started on Thursday in Bolivia.

The island's best junior female players – Hannah Chambers, Serena Bryan and Gabrielle Leslie – have been drawn in Group 2 and will take on the likes of Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

“We have the team that we have been trying to put together for years. With scheduling and availability, the three girls have never been available at the same time and these are our top girls. It is going to be a learning experience and I am ex-

cited to see how the team will do,” team captain Andrew Thornton told Midweek Sport during a telephone interview on Monday.

**DEWS**