



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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MP MARSHALL DEMANDS “SERPENT” TURN OVER UNUSED FARMLAND

Story on Page 2



Team Wadadli Island Girls are rallying support for their next big voyage in June 2023, the Pacific Rowing Challenge, under the hashtag #BackOnTheRowAgain. Next year, the women will travel 2800 miles across the Pacific Ocean from California to Hawaii. [Photo credit: Team Wadadli Island Girls]

MP Marshall: Serpent is a shame to the farming community

Armed with photographs of overgrown, litter strewn and, most conspicuously, agriculturally bare farm land, Minister of Agriculture, Samantha Marshall slammed UPP St. George's hopeful, Algernon "Serpent" Watts, describing him as a "shame" to the farming community.

Minister Marshall said she personally visited the 26 acres of farm land allocated to Watts and was dismayed by the mounds of garbage on the wild, unused expanse.

The 26 acres under Watts' control are divided among 4 lots: 6 acres at Pares, 5 acres at Diamond's Estate, 10 acres at Potworks and 5 acres at

Sanderson's.

Marshall described one lot of trash-filled land as a "Ratta Condominium" while another was described as a "forest". She called yet another a "land fill" as she showed slide after slide of farm land devoid of agricultural produce or livestock.

The minister said on her visit to the four lots she saw only one papaya tree as any signal of agricultural activity.

An incensed Marshall noted that each of the properties were equipped with water storage facilities or had access to water which makes the uncultivated state of the lands more egregious.



Minister of Agriculture, Samantha Marshall

"He is a shame to the farming community!" said a visibly upset Marshall

during her contribution to the 2022 Budget.

"You see, [farming] takes commitment! You know that this (the state of the lands) is embarrassing! You have to have commitment as a farmer to get up, go out, do what you have to do. If you're busy like me, leave it alone.

"And you say you're the shadow [agriculture] minister?! What farming you can talk 'bout when you are one who abandoned 26 acres of land that have access to water, or you can store water.

"Mr. Algernon Watts, as the Minister of Agriculture, do the right thing; just turn back in the lands and let's move on and give somebody who can produce," said Marshall.



More than 100 hospitality scholarships to become available

Ministry of Tourism, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI), will make more than 100 scholarships available this year to Antiguan and Barbudans who wish to pursue careers in the hospitality industry.

This was the word from Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez last Thursday as he explained his ministry's thrust to develop the country's human resource capacity as part of the government's move to expand and revitalise the tourism industry.

"We have agreed to fund 100 scholarships for persons in short courses annually starting with persons on the job programme who are desirous of moving on to work," Fernandez said during his contribution to the 2022 Budget debate.

"We went to Cabinet last year to arrange for money to come from the Marketing Fund and this is one such area where we will be given

Antiguan and Barbudans an opportunity to earn while they learn. It will not be a willy-nilly thing," he continued.

These certificate programmes will last for six weeks.

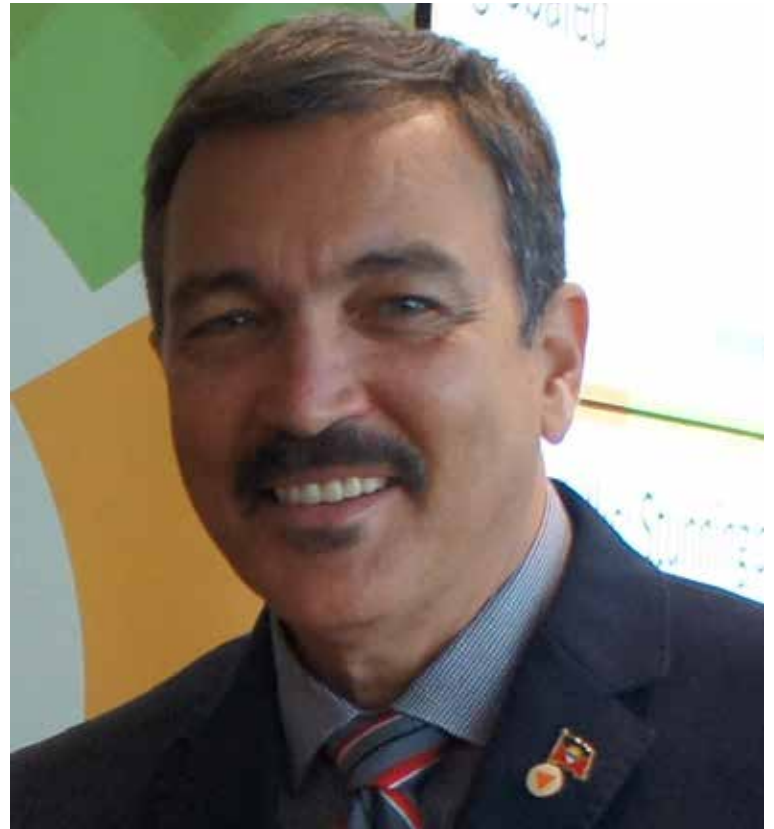
An additional 25 scholarships will go to those desirous of pursuing tourism related fields at the tertiary level.

In his report to the Parliament on his ministry's activities, he also addressed the challenges faced by ABHTI in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These included the suspension of in person classes. This, however, was overcome by a transition to online tutoring.

"ABHTI forged new collaborations with the Mill Reef Club and the Rotary Club of Antigua to secure 180 laptops for the students when laptops became a scarce commodity, and training was provided for the lecturers to ensure the optimal use of the Google Classroom.

"Students were challenged to become creative



Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez

and innovative with their studies as they experienced first-hand the challenges presented to the tourism sector," Minister Fernandez reported.

He added that this year, as the world returns to a degree of normalcy, efforts will be made to provide the ABHTI's students with opportunities for real world training

experiences.

These internship opportunities, he reported, have proven very successful as approximately 50 percent of participants move on to find employment upon completion of their ABHTI programme with a participating hotel, resort or other industry players.

My bank keeps me **ahead.**

Plans unveiled for Golden Grove Primary School's expansion

More school expansions are in the works as officials announce a "revolution in education".

Minister of Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew, has unveiled plans for the expansion of Golden Grove Primary School.

Contributing to the budget debate in the House of Representatives on Friday, Matthew highlighted the issue of overcrowding in the public school system and said government is working towards creating adequate space to allow for an effective teaching and learning process.

One school where the need is urgent is Golden Grove Primary, where students and teachers operate in clustered and claustrophobic conditions.

"The most overcrowded public school in Antigua and Barbuda is the Golden Grove Primary School. The Golden Grove Primary School currently has in excess of 420 persons occupying a tiny, tiny footprint."

Understanding the need for adequate space, Matthew said he went about seeking solutions to the problem and negotiations have commenced in acquiring the land adjacent to the school that will allow for expansion, with the construction of a new wing.

Unveiling an architect's rendering of the proposed new wing, the education minister told parliament of the plan to redevelop the Golden Grove School plant.

"These aren't pie in the sky conceptual drawings. These are drawings that were done by our in-house team of architects...and this project has been designed, has been spec'd out to ensure that it meets the needs of the students for the expanding



Minister of Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew with students of the Golden Grove Primary School.

school and budgeted," he noted.

While a date was not announced when construction work is expected to begin, Mr. Matthew did reveal the cost for the expansion is estimated at US \$ 1.5 million and intends to lobby Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Gaston Browne for donations to aid in the work that will be undertaken.

"I know the prime minister, rightfully so, wants to see Sir Novel-le Richards [Academy] built out, and we had the commitment to build out Saint Mary's Secondary.

"But I'm putting the prime minister on notice that I'm going to be coming knocking on his door very

hard, because the people of Golden Grove and Nut Grove and Ottos and Browne's Avenue we need a school," Matthew stated.

He believes as a result of overcrowding at Golden Grove Primary, the students are at a disadvantage in preparing for the "challenges and needs that are required for developing Antigua and Barbuda".

Minister Matthew denied claims made in a recent letter published in a section of the media that government is moving to forcibly acquire the land earmarked for the expansion of the school.

He read from a letter written to

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Carnival stakeholders' engagement begins this week

The decision on what will be included in the carnival line up for 2022 will come at the end of a series of consultations, the first of which will be held later this week.

At last week's Cabinet briefing, Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst made clear that major events to include Tee-Shirt Mas, J'ouvert and last lap will not form part of the line-up, out of concern they can become super spreaders.

But a statement released by the Ministry of Creative Industries, Innovation and the Orange Economy seems to have suggested that at least one major event; Tee-

Shirt Mas will be on the calendar.

In announcing the first consultation with carnival stakeholders for 11th February, the statement read:

"Carnival 2022 will be held from July 27th to August 2nd with Festival Commission organized pre-carnival events to include T-Shirt Mas, a formal gala celebrating the 80th birthday of Sir McLean "King Short Shirt" Emanuel and a Teen Rave and Car Show competition."

At Friday's consultation, scheduled for 5pm at the Multi-Purpose Centre, fete promoters will be engaged in discussions. Similar meetings are expected to



Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst

be held in the coming days on Tee-Shirt Mas, Carnival Monday and Tuesday Mas, Soca and Calypso Monarch and Panorama competitions.

Minister Michael Browne who has portfolio responsibilities for carni-

val presented a proposal to Cabinet for Carnival 2022 which will be discussed during the consultations, following which a decision will be made regarding the annual summer festival and what activities will make up the 2022 event.

Assurances have been given that all activities once approved will be held with the health and safety of patrons in mind.

Carnival 2022 will be held under the theme, "Experience Greatness - Again!"

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the private owner's attorney in 2019 and said he received a favourable response of their willingness to sell the property for more than \$ 800,000 and that they will be allowed to retain a part of the said land for personal use.

If the government agrees, Minister

Matthew noted the owners expressed a willingness to consider a reduction in cost associated with the sale.

Giving an update on discussions, the minister of education revealed negotiations on purchasing the land are being finalized between the government's authorizing officer and the vendor's attor-

My bank keeps
me **ahead.**

- ✓ Ahead of my money
- ✓ Ahead of my financial goals
- ✓ Ahead of the game

The Pinocchio effect

By Anthony Deyal

Researchers have found that when you lie your nose actually heats up. This is called the “Pinocchio Effect”. According to “Science Daily” (December 3, 2012), the University of Granada, using thermography to study heat distribution in different people, found that when people lie there is an increase in the temperature around their noses and the corners of their eyes.

While there is supposedly a limit to the Pinocchio Effect in that if your nose grows more than twelve inches long it wouldn’t be a nose any longer, it will be a foot, there is the story of Snow White who sat on Pinocchio’s nose and screamed, “Lie to me! Lie to me!”

When it comes to lying, some of us are truly snow white. One research project found that sixty-percent of the people surveyed reported telling no lies during a typical day, with another 25 percent telling between one or two lies.

However, despite the fact that 85 percent appear to be either totally or relatively honest, about one percent admitted telling more than 20 lies per day. Actually, a study funded by British Vodka Maker WKD, a company known for its slogan ‘Have you

got a WKD (for “wicked”) side?’, shows that men are much more WKD than women since we tell over 109,000 lies in a lifetime while women average only about 65,000.

A University of Amsterdam study of more than 1,000 people between 6 and 77 years old found that teenagers are the group most likely to lie successfully.

Unfortunately, the researchers did not include politicians in the survey. Dr Philip Seargeant of the Open University, commenting on the “affectionate relationship between lying and politics” in the U.S., pointed out that “over these last few years we’ve witnessed this relationship grew ever more intimate until today it’s reached a stage where it’s often completely shameless.

Lying - and doing so in a wanton and blatant way – is now such a part of everyday politics that it’s barely newsworthy anymore. We’re at the point where, as an article on CNN reported a few weeks ago, the Government of the United States are ‘now lying about lying’ and seemingly to do so with impunity.”

British journalist, Andrew Brown, writing in the online paper FP (Foreign Policy) quips, “In Britain’s hierarchical culture, the crime for upper classes



Tony Deyal

isn’t telling lies- it’s getting caught.” He sees lies in politics as an exercise of power. Some like those in Putin’s Russia (or Caribbean countries where Prime Ministers are treated like gods), are not meant to be believed. They are intended to make it plain that the liar has power and those lied to can do nothing about it. Mr. Brown believes that there are two audiences in British politics – one comprising the elite who understand the truth and who deserve to do so, and the other is everyone else. In that context, for lies to do their necessary work of holding society together it must never be admitted in public that they are in fact lies.

Interestingly, no political leader has yet entered the World’s Biggest Liar Competition in Cumbria, England, most likely because it was postponed in 2020 and 2021 while the 2022 date is yet to be announced. If, however, we could set up our own politicians or enter some of those we know or read about, who would we bet on?

Very high on the list is Boris Johnson, the British Prime Minister. Almost a year ago, in April 2021, the British “Guardian” headlined, “Accusations of lying pile up against Boris Johnson. Does it matter?” and added, “Analysis: MPs and broadcasters are losing

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cont'd from pg 6

their reluctance to openly call out the PM's deceit." The paper described a "jaw-dropping" moment when the SNP (Scottish National Party) leader, Ian Blackford, asked Johnson a question that "was unsurprising and yet somehow extraordinary". It was, "I can't possibly call the PM a liar in this house but are you a liar Prime Minister?"

The full list of accusations against PM Johnson has more gates, terminals and "hangers" than Heathrow- "Christmas partygate" about a big party he held in his official residence when the country was subject to strict COVID measures; "Wallpapergate" or who paid for the renovation of the PM's Downing Street flat; the Hillsborough disaster; an extra-marital affair; and his failure to keep his promise to build 40 hospitals by 2030.

In the US, Donald Trump was accused of making tens of thousands of false or misleading claims estimated at about 21 per day. Wikipedia says, "Characterised as the 'firehouse of falsehood' propaganda technique, commentators and fact checkers have described it as 'unprecedented in American politics...As part of attempts to overturn the 2020 United States presidential election, Trump and his allies repeated and falsely claimed there had been massive election fraud and that Trump had

really won the election. Their effort was characterised by some as an implementation of 'the big lie'." CNN added, "Trying to pick the most notable lies from Donald Trump's presidency is like trying to pick the most notable pieces of junk from the town dump."

CNN is convinced that Trump's most dangerous lie was his boast that "the coronavirus was under control"; the most ridiculous subject of a lie was Trump's boast that the head of the Boy Scouts had called him to say that his address, considered by many to be "bizarrely political", was the "greatest speech that was ever made to them"; the most traditional big lie was that "Trump didn't know about the payment to Stormy Daniels"; and the most depressing lie was that "Trump won the election".

Even Pinocchio and his buddies Snow White and Superman got into the act. They were out for a little stroll in Disneyworld one afternoon and came across a sign: "Beauty contest for the most beautiful woman in the world." Snow White decided to enter and returned extremely elated. She had won First Place. Then they saw an ad for a contest to decide who was the strongest man in the world. Superman flew off and returned boasting, "I won first prize by miles." Then they saw a third sign. "Contest - Who is the greatest liar in the world?" Pinocchio was sure he,

too, would win a first prize. After half an hour he returned with tears in his eyes. His friends ask him, "What happened?" Pinocchio replied angrily, "Who the hell is Donald Trump?"

Fortunately for all of us here in Trinidad and Tobago, we don't have a problem like that with our leader. No siree! Less than a week ago, the **NEWSDAY** newspaper ran this headline, "PM responds to OWTU (Oilfield Workers Trade Union) head's claims over meeting invite: I am not a liar." However, it seems that "I am not a liar" was not a direct statement from the Prime Minister in a Facebook (FB) post in which he sought to "defend his character".

The Prime Minister's response to being called a liar was, "I am accustomed to this." Incredibly, several other media outlets also added the "I am not a liar" reference although it was not in the FB post. To me, it makes clear the extremely high regard in which our PM is held by the local journalism organisations. They were so certain that he is not a liar that they added the quote on their own accord. All I can say to this is, "Pinocchio, Donald Trump and Boris Johnson, eat your hearts out!"

* Tony Deyal was last seen saying that to be superb at lying you have to lie until you convince yourself and other people, especially the media, that you're not a liar- that's the real secret of lying.

My life is online
and so is **my bank.**



Autopsy conducted on Golden Grove fire victim, body remains unidentified

An autopsy conducted on the body found inside one of the houses that burned to the ground in Golden Grove last month has determined that the victim died as a result of extensive burns to the body.

The report indicated that 100 percent of the body was severely burned.

Initial reports after the discovery of the body suggested it was burnt beyond recognition.



There was no indication of whether the pathologist had been able to determine if smoke inhalation played a role in the person's death.

It is suspected that the body is that of 16-year-old Dequan Cummings, the son of the owner of one of the homes.

The family owned properties were occupied by five individuals who were all accounted for following the fire, however, Dequan had been staying alone in one of the properties before it went up in flames in the wee hours of 10th January.

Police indicated that DNA samples had been collected to conclusively determine whether the remains were those of the missing teen.

Ministry of Tourism, ABTA join on as Wadadli Island Girls' Platinum Sponsor

As Team Wadadli Island Girls prepare for the Pacific Rowing Challenge in June 2023, they have received much needed financial support from the Ministry of Tourism and The Antigua Barbuda Tourism Association (ABTA).

Late last week it was announced that the Ministry of Tourism and ABTA are now the Platinum Sponsors of the national, all female rowing team. Both entities will provide cash backing to the tune of \$100,000 which will be used, in part, for the purchase of a practice vessel, a new competition vessel.

The Pacific Rowing Campaign will depart Monterey, California in June 2023 when the 20 teams registered so far will travel 2800 miles across the Pacific ending in Nawiliwili Bay, Kauai, Hawaii.

The fastest female team to row this route was Ocean Sheroes who completed the row in 35 days, 17 hours and 32 minutes in 2021. This feat also secured the Ocean Sheroes, who competed in the Great Pacific Race, a Guinness World Record for the fastest all-fe-



Team Wadadli Island Girls

male four to row 2,400 nautical miles.

The average crossing time for all crew sizes is 62 days.

When Team Wadadli Island Girls complete the challenge next year, they will make history as the first black female team to do so.

According to Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez, the sponsorship forms part of his ministry's goal to invest in the development of local talent

in different forms which in turn will promote Antigua and Barbuda through its participation in international events.

The minister indicated he will also be making a contribution to the team in his personal capacity and is encouraging other members of the public and corporate citizens to do likewise.

Contributions can be made by emailing teamantiguaislandgirls@gmail.com.

BARBUDA OCEAN Club

Job Fair

March 8, 2022

Police Recreation Grounds

Gates Open-8:30am

Gates Close-12:00noon

Job Opportunities In

- Construction
- Utilities
- Hospitality Services
- Turf Maintenance
- Greenskeeping

And More!

Proof of vaccination required prior to entry



Cancer organisations benefit from substantial donations

Despite restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, CIBC FirstCaribbean's Annual Walk for the Cure last year, has still been able to make substantial donations in the fight against cancer.

The pandemic forced the organisers to function in a completely different way for the tenth year of cancer awareness and fundraising events.

Speaking during the presentation of the funds raised, one of the bank's Walk Managers, Natasha Charles, explained that the committee had optimistically made plans for a Drive for the Cure as was done in 2020.

"We had held a fundraising hike in July and were planning to host a Drive for the Cure. Unfortunately, as the pandemic caused more restrictions, it became apparent that the drive would not be possi-



Left to right: Walk Manager Natasha Charles, Salma Crump, Ladesa James-Williams, Walk Managers Khadijah James and Lornette Bell James-Knight, and Eunetta Bird.

ble, so we continued with our in-branch fundraisers and then planned a Go Pink Week of Activities."

She said that the week of activities from 1st to 8th October, culminated with an ABS TV

programme called Music for the Cure which featured music by the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra and an inspirational interview with Mrs. Lornette Bell James Knight, who is both a cancer survivor and a member of the bank's staff.

Country Head, Mrs. Ladesa James-Williams presented the cheque in the amount of EC\$49,000 to the Breast Friends Organisation and the Oncology Department of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, to be divided equally.

President of Breast Friends, Mrs. Eunetta Bird thanked the bank for answering the call to support

the fight against cancer and for all the funds donated over the past 10 years. She then presented a Plaque of Appreciation to the bank.

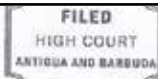
Ms. Salma Crump, Head of Marketing and Communications at the SLBMC also thanked the bank for its continuing support and commitment.

In closing Ms. Charles thanked the sponsors, customers, staff and the general public for their support.

"We have great plans for this year's Walk for the Cure and hopefully, a greater degree of normalcy will return to our lives so that we will once again be able to either Walk or Drive for the Cure," she said.



Breast Friend presentation: L to r: Eunetta Bird, President of Breast Friends and CIBC FirstCaribbean Country Head, Ladesa James-Williams.



THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Claim No. ANUHCV2021/0380
BETWEEN:

Submitted Date: 05/10/2021

Filed Date: 06/10/2021 08:30

Fees Paid: \$2.00

WILLIAM THIBOU
Administrator of the Estate of Mildred Thibou, Deceased

Claimant

And

DERRICK WARNER
Personal Representative of Clifton Warner, Deceased

Defendant

FIXED DATE CLAIM FORM

The Claimant WILLIAM THIBOU of Upper Gambles in the Parish of Saint John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda is seeking an Order for possession of a parcel of land in the possession of the Defendant as Personal Representative and sole beneficiary of the Estate of Clifton Warner, Deceased, such land having been let to Clifton Warner by the Claimant. The Claimant further seeks payment of rent arrears and such further or other relief as this Honourable Court deems fit.

Dated the 5th day of October, 2021

CORT & CORT
Solicitors for the Claimant

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT -

The First Hearing of this Claim will take place at High Court of Justice on the 16th day of March, 2022 at 9:00 am/pm.

If you do not attend at that hearing, judgement may be entered against you in accordance with the Claim.

If you attend, the judge may -
(a) deal with the claim; or
(b) give directions for the preparation of the case for a further hearing

A Statement of Claim of an affidavit giving full details of the Claimants' claim should be served on you with this Claim Form. If not and there is no order permitting the Claimant not to serve the Statement of Claim of Affidavit you should consent the court office immediately.

You should complete the form of acknowledgment of service served on you with this Claim Form and deliver or send it to the court office (address below) so that they receive it within FOURTEEN/TWENTY-EIGHT days of service of this Claim Form on you. The form of acknowledgment of service may be complete by you or a solicitor acting for you.

You should consider obtaining legal advice with regard to this claim. See the notes on the back of this form or on the next page.

This Claim Form has no validity if it is not served within six months of the date below unless it is accompanied by an order extending that time. [Seal]

The Court office is at Parliament Drive, St. John's Antigua Telephone number 462-3744, Fax No. 462-0609. The office is open between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday to Friday except public holidays and court holidays.

Dated the 5th day of October, 2021

The Claimant's address for service is:
Cort & Cort
Attorneys-at-Law
44 Church Street
St John's
Antigua

NOTES FOR DEFENDANTS (FIXED DATE CLAIM)

The Claimant is seeking an order from the Court as set out in the Claim Form on the basis of the facts or evidence set out in the Statement of Claim or Affidavit served with it. The Claimant will not be entitled to enter judgment against you without a hearing.

You may:

A. Admit the Claim

If so, you should complete and return the form of acknowledgement of service to the court office within FOURTEEN/TWENTY-EIGHT days stating this. You may attend the first hearing if you wish to do so.

B. Dispute the Claim

If so, you should complete and return the form of acknowledgment of service as under A. You should also file at the court office and serve on the Claimant's solicitor (or the Claimant if he has no solicitor):

- A defence if the Claim Form has accompanied by the Claimant's Statement of Claim, OR
 - An Affidavit in answer if the Claim Form is accompanied by an Affidavit sworn by or on behalf of the Claimant;
- within TWENTY-EIGHT/FORTY-TWO days of the day on which the Claim Form was served on you. Your defence or affidavit must set out briefly ALL the facts on which you will rely to dispute the claim made against you.

You should also attend the first hearing. If you do not the judge may deal with the claim in your absence.

C. Make a Claim against the Claimant

If so, you should complete and return the form of acknowledgment of service as under A. You must file a statement of claim (a counterclaim) setting out full details of what you claim against the Claimant and the facts on which you will rely, this must be done within TWENTY-EIGHT/FORTY-TWO days of the date on which the Claim Form was served on you. The statement of claim should set out ALL the facts on which you rely in disputing any part of the Claimant's claim against you.

You should also attend the first hearing. If you do not the judge may deal with the claim in your absence.

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

- The Claimant is and was at all material times the lawful Administrator of the Estate of Mildred Thibou, deceased, the registered proprietor of that parcel of land located at Swetes village, Antigua and more particularly described as Registration Section: South Central; Block No.: 15-2185E, Parcel No. 163 (hereinafter called "the Land").
- The Defendant is the personal representative and sole beneficiary of the estate of Clifton Warner, deceased who died in or around December 2010.
- In or around January, 2010 the Claimant entered into an oral agreement with Clifton Warner of Swetes Village, now deceased, to rent the Land to the said Clifton Warner at an annual rent of EC\$1,200.00. The said Clifton Warner made payment of the agreed rent for the period 1st January, 2010 to 31st December, 2010.
- Prior to his death, the said Clifton Warner remained in possession of the Land, and in control of a chattel house on the Land which was let to a tenant. The chattel house remains on the Land to date with the Defendant being the sole beneficiary of the said chattel house.
- The Claimant made demand for payment of outstanding rent of the Land via letters to the Defendant dated 27th May, 2011 and 5th December, 2011.
- Despite demands of the Claimant for payment of the outstanding rent due in respect of the Land, the Defendant has failed, refused or neglected to make payment thereof and to remove the said chattel house from the Land and remains in occupation of the Land.
- By letter dated 10th January, 2013 together with a Notice to Quit of the same date, the Claimant's Solicitors again wrote to the Defendant on the Claimant's instructions demanding payment of the aforementioned rent arrears and requiring vacant possession of the Land on or before 28th February, 2013.
- The Defendant has failed to make payment as requested or at all, and the Defendant has also failed to give possession of the Land to the Claimant.
- By virtue of the foregoing, the Claimant has suffered loss and damage.

PARTICULARS OF LOSS & DAMAGE

Rent for the years 2011 to present @ EC\$1,200 per annum
(\$1,200 x 10) EC\$12,000.00

AND THE PLAINTIFF CLAIMS:

- An order that the Defendant give up possession of the said Land to the Claimant;
- The sum of EC\$12,000.00;
- All mesne profits accruing to the Claimant in respect of the Land until possession is restored to the Claimant;
- Further of other relief;
- Costs.

Dated the 16 day of August, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF TRUTH

I, William Thibou, certify that I believe that the facts stated in this Statement of Claim are true.

Signed:

Dated: 16.8.2021

Sharon Cort-Thibou
Legal Practitioner for the Claimant

Cort & Cort
Fitzgerald House
44 Church Street
St John's
Antigua
Tel: (268)462-5232/3
Email: legal@corandcort.com

New collective agreement for Signature Flight Support workers

Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union and Signature Flight Support have agreed to a new collective agreement following months of negotiations.

The agreement was signed last Wednesday and Industrial Relations Officer at the ABWU, Fernando Samuel, said the union is pleased to have arrived at an agreement.

"While there was only a 6.5% salary increase over the three-year period, the Union was able to reduce the off season for the company from six months to three months, in addition to an increase in the shift allowance and transportation allowance," Samuel said.

"The Company is also actively pursuing the development of a comprehensive retirement plan for all team members."

HR Partner at Signature Flight Support, Mrs. Kerry-Ann Mc Collin, said the signing of the Collec-



(Left – Right) Fernando Samuel, Sylvester Warner, Mrs. Kerry-Ann Mc Collin, Kenyatta Thomas, Shawn Maile

tive Agreement was a significant occasion for the Company. Mc Collin described the negotiations as cordial and productive.

"I was especially delighted to have been able to foster such professional relations and good rapport with the ABWU. We definitely hope that in the fu-

ture when we meet at the 'table' again we can replicate such peaceful negotiations but at a faster pace. As you can appreciate, we know such 'talks' can take time, but I am pleased that we have reached an agreement that is certainly beneficial to our team members and the company altogether," Mc Collin concluded.

er," Mc Collin concluded.

General Manager of Signature Flight Support Antigua, St. Kitts & Nevis, Kenyatta Thomas, re-affirmed Signature's commitment to facilitating dialogue with workers and their bargaining agents.

"Like most companies, we are very strong advocates of the Union. We think that the Union plays a pivotal part in ensuring that employees are well taken care of based on the labour laws of the land, and we want to ensure that we continue to do our part with that," Thomas said.

The new Collective Agreement will cover the period May 01 2021 – April 30 2024.

| Mon 14 Day | | Mon 14 Night | |
|---|-------------------|--|------------------|
| 81° | ☀️ | 74° | ☁️ |
| 23% | ENE 12 mph | 17% | E 12 mph |
| Partly cloudy. High 81F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph. | | Partly cloudy skies. Low 74F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph. | |
| Humidity 68% | UV Index 10 of 10 | Humidity 78% | UV Index 0 of 10 |
| Sunrise 6:33 am | Sunset 6:08 pm | Moonrise 4:30 pm | Moonset 5:09 am |
| | | ○ Waxing Gibbous | |

The dark origins of Valentine's Day

By Arnie Seipel

Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate romance and love and kissy-face fealty. But the origins of this festival of candy and cupids are actually dark, bloody — and a bit muddled.

Though no one has pinpointed the exact origin of the holiday, one good place to start is ancient Rome, where men hit on women by, well, hitting them.

Those Wild And Crazy Romans

From Feb. 13 to 15, the Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia. The men sacrificed a goat and a dog, then whipped women with the hides of the animals they had just slain.

The Roman romantics “were drunk. They were naked,” says Noel Lenski, a historian at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Young women would actually line up for the men to hit them, Lenski says. They believed this would make them fertile.

The brutal fete included a matchmaking lottery, in which young men drew the names of women from a jar. The couple would then be, um, coupled up for the duration of the festival — or longer, if the match was right.

The ancient Romans may also be responsible for the name of our modern day of love. Emperor Claudius II executed two men — both named Valentine — on Feb. 14 of different years in

the 3rd century A.D. Their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day.

Later, Pope Gelasius I muddled things in the 5th century by combining St. Valentine's Day with Lupercalia to expel the pagan rituals.

But the festival was more of a theatrical interpretation of what it had once been. Lenski adds, “It was a little more of a drunken revel, but the Christians put clothes back on it. That didn't stop it from being a day of fertility and love.”

Around the same time, the Normans celebrated Galatin's Day. Galatin meant “lover of women.” That was likely confused with St. Valentine's Day at some point, in part because they sound alike.

Shakespeare In Love

As the years went on, the holiday grew sweeter. Chaucer and Shakespeare romanticized it in their work, and it gained popularity throughout Britain and the rest of Europe. Handmade paper cards became the tokens-du-jour in the Middle Ages.

Eventually, the tradition made its way to the New World. The industrial revolution ushered in factory-made cards in the 19th century. And in 1913, Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, Mo., began mass producing valentines. February has not been the same since.



A drawing depicts the death of St. Valentine — one of them, anyway. The Romans executed two men by that name on Feb. 14 of different years in the 3rd century A.D. [Photo caption: Getty Images]

Today, the holiday is big business: According to market research firm IBIS World, Valentine's Day sales reached \$17.6 billion last year; this year's sales are expected to total \$18.6 billion.

But that commercialization has spoiled the day for many. Helen Fisher, a sociologist at Rutgers University, says we have only ourselves to blame.

“This isn't a command performance,” she says. “If people didn't want to buy

Hallmark cards, they would not be bought, and Hallmark would go out of business.”

And so the celebration of Valentine's Day goes on, in varied ways. Many will break the bank buying jewelry and flowers for their beloveds. Others will celebrate in a SAD (that's Single Awareness Day) way, dining alone and binging on self-gifted chocolates. A few may even be spending this day the same way the early Romans did. But let's not go there.

Marcus Garvey - (1887-1940)

Who Was Marcus Garvey?

Marcus Garvey was an orator for the Black Nationalism and Pan-Africanism movements, to which end he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League. Garvey advanced a Pan-African philosophy which inspired a global mass movement, known as Garveyism. Garveyism would eventually inspire others, from the Nation of Islam to the Rastafari movement.

Early Life

Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jr. was born on August 17, 1887, in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica. Self-educated, Garvey founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association, dedicated to promoting African Americans and resettlement in Africa. In the United States, he launched several businesses to promote a separate Black nation. After he was convicted of mail fraud and deported back to Jamaica, he continued his work for Black repatriation to Africa.

Garvey was the last of 11 children born to Marcus Garvey, Sr. and Sarah Jane Richards. His father was a stonemason, and his mother a domestic worker and farmer. Marcus Sr. was a great influence on Garvey, who once described him as "severe, firm, determined, bold, and strong, refusing to yield even to superior forces if he believed he was right." His father was known to have a large library, where young



Marcus Garvey [Photo credit: Getty Images]

Garvey learned to read.

At age 14, Garvey became a printer's apprentice. In 1903, he traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, and soon became involved in union activities. In 1907, he took part in an unsuccessful printer's strike and the experience kindled in him a passion for political activism. Three years later, he traveled throughout Central America working as a newspaper editor and writing about the exploitation of migrant workers in the plantations. He later traveled to London where he attended Birkbeck College (University of London) and worked for the *African Times and Orient Review*, which advocated Pan-African nationalism.

Founding the United Ne-

gro Improvement Association (U.N.I.A.)

Garvey's Philosophy and Beliefs

Garvey returned to Jamaica in 1912 and founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (U.N.I.A.) with the goal of uniting all of African diaspora to "establish a country and absolute government of their own." After corresponding with Booker T. Washington, the American educator who founded Tuskegee Institute, Garvey traveled to the United States in 1916 to raise funds for a similar venture in Jamaica. He settled in New York City and formed a U.N.I.A. chapter in Harlem to promote a separatist philosophy of social, political, and economic freedom

for Black people. In 1918, Garvey began publishing the widely distributed newspaper *Negro World* to convey his message.

Black Star Line

By 1919, Garvey and U.N.I.A. had launched the Black Star Line, a shipping company that would establish trade and commerce between Africans in America, the Caribbean, South and Central America, Canada and Africa. At the same time, Garvey started the Negroes Factories Association, a series of companies that would manufacture marketable commodities in every big industrial center in the Western hemisphere and Africa.

In August 1920, U.N.I.A. claimed 4 million members and held its first International Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Before a crowd of 25,000 people from all over the world, Marcus Garvey spoke of having pride in African history and culture. Many found his words inspiring, but not all. Some established Black leaders found his separatist philosophy ill-conceived. W.E.B. Du Bois, a prominent Black leader and officer of the N.A.A.C.P. called Garvey, «the most dangerous enemy of the Negro race in America.» Garvey felt Du Bois was an agent of the white elite.

Under Surveillance

By J. Edgar Hoover

But Du Bois wasn't the
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Black History Month Spotlight

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worst adversary of Garvey; history would soon reveal F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover's fixation on ruining Garvey for his radical ideas. Hoover felt threatened by the Black leader, fearing he was inciting Black people across the country to stand up in militant defiance.

Hoover referred to Garvey as a "notorious negro agitator" and for several years, desperately sought ways to find damning personal information on him, even going so far as to hire the first Black F.B.I. agent in 1919 in order to infiltrate Garvey's ranks and spy on him.

"They placed spies in the U.N.I.A.," said historian Winston James. "They sabotaged the Black Star Line. The engines... of the ships were actually damaged by foreign matter being thrown into the fuel."

Hoover would use the same methods decades later to obtain information on Black leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

Charged and Deported to Jamaica

In 1922, Garvey and three other

U.N.I.A. officials were charged with mail fraud involving the Black Star Line. The trial records indicate several improprieties occurred in the prosecution of the case. It didn't help that the shipping line's books contained many accounting irregularities. On June 23, 1923, Garvey was convicted and sentenced to prison for five years. Claiming to be a victim of a politically motivated miscarriage of justice, Garvey appealed his conviction, but was denied. In 1927 he was released from prison and deported to Jamaica.

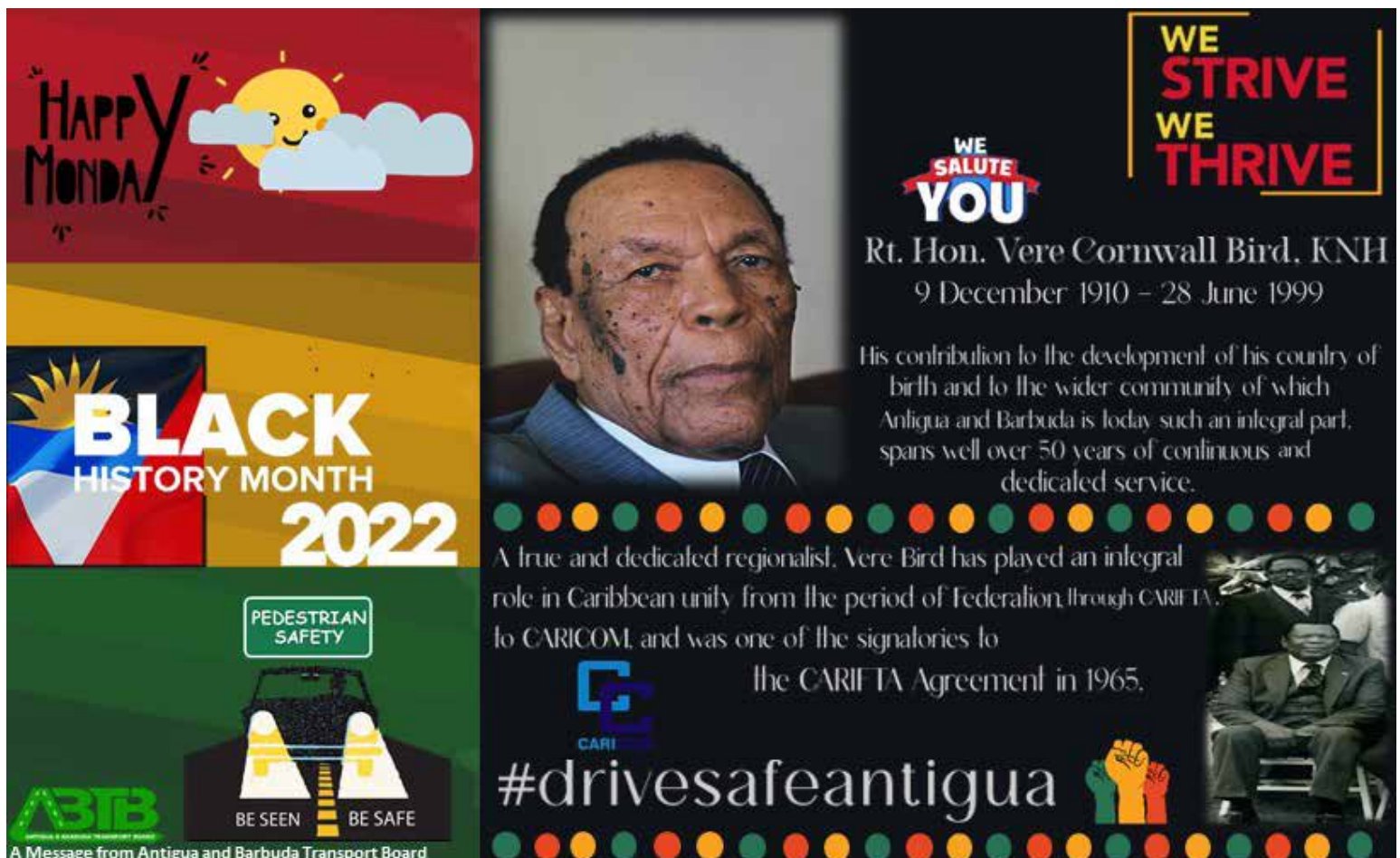
Garvey continued his political activism and the work of U.N.I.A. in Jamaica, and then moved to London in 1935. But he did not command the same influence he had earlier. Perhaps in desperation or maybe in delusion, Garvey collaborated with outspoken segregationist and white supremacist Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi to promote a reparations scheme. The Greater Liberia Act of 1939 would deport 12 million African Americans to Liberia

at federal expense to relieve unemployment. The act failed in Congress, and Garvey lost even more support among the Black population.

Death and Accomplishments

Garvey died in London in 1940 after several strokes. Due to travel restrictions during World War II, his body was interred in London. In 1964, his remains were exhumed and taken to Jamaica, where the government proclaimed him Jamaica's first national hero and re-interred him at a shrine in the National Heroes Park. But his memory and influence remain.

His message of pride and dignity inspired many in the early days of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. In tribute to his many contributions, Garvey's bust has been displayed in the Organization of American States' Hall of Heroes in Washington, D.C. The country of Ghana has named its shipping line the Black Star Line and its national soccer team the Black Stars, in honor of Garvey.



HAPPY MONDAY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD

BE SEEN BE SAFE

WE STRIVE WE THRIVE

WE SALUTE YOU

Rt. Hon. Vere Cornwall Bird, KNH
9 December 1910 – 28 June 1999

His contribution to the development of his country of birth and to the wider community of which Antigua and Barbuda is today such an integral part, spans well over 50 years of continuous and dedicated service.

A true and dedicated regionalist, Vere Bird has played an integral role in Caribbean unity from the period of Federation, through CARIFTA, to CARICOM, and was one of the signatories to the CARIFTA Agreement in 1965.

#drivesafeantigua

Are you being tracked by an AirTag? Here's how to check

Useful advice for anyone worried that one of Apple's trackers is following them without consent.

When the Airtag launched in 2021, Apple's Bluetooth tracker with ultra-wideband was lauded as a step toward the future of augmented reality and a great way to find everyday objects, like your lost TV remote. Cybersecurity experts expressed concern that the tracking device would be exploited by stalkers. As we get closer to AirTag's one-year anniversary, those warnings appear prescient.

Model Brooks Nader says an AirTag was secretly slipped into her coat during a night out in New York City. In Connecticut, a man was arrested and charged with stalking after police found an AirTag in the victim's car. Police in multiple states have issued warnings about the potential criminal uses of AirTags.

Newer AirPods have tracking abilities similar to AirTags, but the higher cost of Apple's earbuds limits their disposability as a tracking device.

On February 10, Apple updated its support page for AirTags with additional information and a firm denouncement of using the device to track people. Reporting from



AirTag

9to5Mac suggests further AirTag updates will be rolled out this year.

Even though Tile and other competitors to the AirTag exist, the vastness of Apple's ecosystem sets the device apart. If you are concerned that a secret AirTag may be recording your location, these signs may help detect the tracker.

Signs an AirTag Is Tracking You

The type of smartphone you own affects how easily you can discover hidden AirTags. Owners of iPhones running iOS 14.5 or newer should receive a push alert whenever an unknown AirTag is nearby for an extended period of time

and away from its owner. Apple's website does not provide an exact time frame for when this alert is triggered.

When you click on the iPhone alert, you may be given the option to play a sound on the AirTag to help locate the device.

Check that you will receive these alerts by going into the Find My app, choose the Me tab in the bottom-right corner, and make sure Item Safety Alerts is green and toggled to the right under Notifications.

Months after the release of the AirTag, Apple launched the Tracker Detect app for Android

phones. Unlike the security features available for the iPhone, the Android app does not automatically look for unknown AirTags. Users must initiate the scan.

According to Eva Galperin, director of cybersecurity at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the reason for the app's limited functionality is complicated.

"This is actually a limitation of how the Android ecosystem works and how Android apps can work," she says.

"I have called on Apple and Android to work together to incorporate the level of mitigations that Apple provides in iOS into the Android operating system, but this requires a lot of cooperation between two groups who are normally rivals."

While some guides to finding AirTags recommend using Bluetooth scanners, Galperin does not consider this method to be reliable for tracker searching.

"I have tried using various Bluetooth scanners in order to detect AirTags, and they do not work all the time," she says.

Millions of Americans still do not own a smartphone. Without a device on hand, you must rely on visual and audible clues to

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find any hidden AirTags. The circular white disc is slightly larger than a quarter.

As reported by The New York Times, Ashley Estrada discovered an AirTag lodged under her license plate, and her video documenting the incident was viewed over 20 million times on TikTok.

When the AirTag was first released, the tracker would emit a beeping noise if away from the owner for longer than three days. Apple has since shortened the time to 24 hours or less.

Despite the update, you might not want to rely only on sound to detect AirTags. Numerous videos on YouTube offer DIY instructions to disable the speaker, and noiseless versions of the trackers were even listed for a short time on Etsy.

What if I Find One?

The best way to disable an AirTag is to remove the battery. To do this, flip the AirTag so the metallic side with an Apple logo is facing you. Press down on the

logo and turn counterclockwise. Now you will be able to remove the cover and pop out that battery.

Apple's support page for the AirTag suggests reaching out to the police if you believe you are in a dangerous situation.

"If you feel your safety is at risk, contact your local law enforcement, who can work with Apple to request information related to the item. You might need to provide the AirTag, AirPods, Find My network accessory, and the device's serial number."

One way to figure out the serial number is to hold the top of an iPhone or other near-field-communication-enabled smartphone to the white side of an AirTag. A website with the serial number will pop up. If you feel hesitant about scanning the AirTag or do not have the ability, a serial number is printed on the device beneath the battery.

Who Does This Affect?

In the viral stories shared online and in po-

lice reports, women are often the victims of AirTag stalking, but Galperin cautions against framing unwanted tracking as solely an issue for women.

"I have been working with victims of tech-enabled abuse for many years," she says, "and I would say that about two-thirds of the survivors that come to me are women. But a third of them are men. I suspect that number would

be higher if there wasn't such a stigma around being an abuse victim or survivor."

She emphasized how men, women, and nonbinary people can all be victims of abuse, as well as perpetrators.

"When we paint it all with this really broad brush, we make it really hard for victims who don't fit that mold to come forward," says Galperin.

Weekend Puzzle Solution

CYCLE THROUGH By Jerry Berns

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 17 | L | A | N | D | I | N | G | G | E | A | R | | 19 | T | A | X | | | |
| 20 | E | L | S | E | | 21 | O | A | S | I | S | | 22 | S | E | R | A | | |
| | | | | | 23 | A | D | O | | | | 25 | N | E | S | T | L | E | D |
| 27 | L | A | W | R | E | N | C | E | | 30 | S | P | E | C | | | | | |
| 33 | A | L | A | | 34 | V | E | E | R | S | | 36 | A | R | H | A | T | | |
| 39 | D | O | G | G | O | | 40 | D | O | N | | 42 | T | E | A | C | H | | |
| 43 | S | E | O | U | L | | 44 | E | D | I | C | T | | 46 | I | R | A | | |
| | | | | | 47 | N | A | V | E | | 49 | E | T | H | E | R | N | E | T |
| 51 | R | A | W | N | E | S | | 53 | | | 54 | E | R | A | | | | | |
| 55 | E | C | H | O | | | 56 | T | I | T | L | E | | 59 | I | S | M | S | |
| 63 | A | C | E | | | 64 | C | A | T | B | I | R | | 65 | D | S | E | A | T |
| 66 | P | R | E | | | 67 | A | T | E | A | M | | 68 | E | E | R | I | E | |
| 69 | S | A | L | | | 70 | P | E | D | R | O | | 71 | B | R | E | N | T | |



APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

| Monday, 14th February 2022 | Tuesday, 15th February 2022 | Wednesday, 16th February 2022 | Thursday, 17th February 2022 | Friday, 18th February 2022 |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Section of Coolidge near Henderson, Barnes Service Station and ECAB 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Fort James 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Section of Red Hill 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Upper Gambles east of Abbott's Plumbing and Cortsland Hotel 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Section of Cedar Valley near the Supermarket 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM |
| Section of Urlings, Johnson's Point and Crab Hill 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | | | | Section of Cedar Valley near Ambrose Property 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM |

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

OECS leaders support efforts to exonerate Marcus Garvey

CMC - Leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have agreed to co-sign a letter being sent to United States President Joe Biden as they announced their support to the continued advocacy efforts for the posthumous exoneration of Marcus Garvey, the Jamaican-born Black nationalist and leader of the Pan-Africanism movement.

Garvey was known as the founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). Formed in Jamaica in July 1914, the UNIA aimed to achieve Black nationalism through the celebration of African history and culture.

Garvey was born in St Ann's Bay, Jamaica on August, 17, 1887, the youngest of 11 children. To facilitate the return to Africa that he advocated, in 1919 Garvey founded the Black Star Line, to provide transportation to Africa.

But in 1922, Garvey was arrested in the United States for mail fraud in connection with the sale of stock in the Black Star Line.

He was sent to prison and later deported to Jamaica. In 1935, he moved permanently to London where he died on 10 June 1940. In 1964, his body was returned to Jamaica where he was declared the country's first national hero.

A statement issued by the St Lucia-based OECS Commission, said that the leaders of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat as well as Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands discussed the Garvey issue at their recently held summit.

It said that the request was made by former Jamaica Prime Minister P J Patterson of the P J Patterson Centre



Marcus Garvey

for Africa-Caribbean Advocacy at the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, as the Centre prepared to launch an appeal to US President Joe Biden for the posthumous exoneration of Garvey.

"The efforts are being supported by the Marcus Garvey Institute, which launched a petition making the request of President Biden.

"The petition to posthumously exonerate the late Marcus Garvey is seeking 100,000 signatures in the month of February (Black History Month), a milestone which will trigger a response from the US President Joe Biden.

"As part of their contribution towards this effort, the OECS Heads of Government agreed to co-sign a letter addressed to President Biden calling for the posthumous exoneration of Marcus Garvey.

"The heads also agreed to lead a National Appeal for signatories to the petition in their respective countries," the OECS Commission said.

Grenada's Prime Minister Dr Keith Mitchell, who is also the OECS chair-

man, has pledged his full support towards the efforts and has encouraged citizens and organizations to get behind the campaign.

In St Vincent and the Grenadines, Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves has launched a Memorandum addressed to the people of his country, the Caribbean, Africa, the United States and the wider global community, calling for support for the campaign.

"Garvey, by his thoughts, ideas and deeds, is in the top drawer of the pantheon of heroic personalities in our hemisphere and globally. We must honour and revere him and his main body of work. We must support his exoneration," Gonsalves wrote in the Memo.

OECS Director-General, Dr Didacus Jules has added his voice to the campaign, making a special appeal to the US President in support of Garvey's exoneration.

"Mr President, I am respectfully urging your consideration for the posthumous exoneration of the Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey a National Hero of

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Opposition wants gov't to urgently evacuate Jamaicans from Ukraine



Hanna- Undoubtedly, with the commencement of the war, the skies will be closed to commercial traffic.

The Gleaner - The Opposition is urging the Government to urgently evacuate Jamaicans including students in Ukraine, now at the centre of geopolitical tension with Russia.

The Opposition says it is gravely concerned about a possible imminent invasion by Russia as diplomatic efforts towards a peaceful settlement by the United States, Germany, France, and others wane.

“Undoubtedly, with the commencement of the war, the skies will be closed to commercial traffic. The

chaos with such an event will see hundreds of thousands of people internally displaced within conflict zones, potentially engulfing the entire country,” said Lisa Hanna, the Opposition Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

The government has been encouraging Jamaicans in Ukraine to prepare to evacuate if necessary.

She said the Opposition is paying close attention to the situation and is expecting that the Government will prioritise the safety of Jamaicans in Ukraine.

Bermuda to end mass COVID-19 vaccination next month

Loop - The mass vaccination program against coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bermuda will come to an end on March 31.

“Starting today, Monday, February 14, Pier 6 hours of operation are 2 pm to 6 pm on weekdays and 10 am – 2 pm on Saturdays.

After March 31, the COVID19 vaccine will be available through physicians’ offices, as well as participating pharmacies. However, there will likely be a charge for this service,” Health Minister Kim Wilson said during last evening’s COVID-19 update.

Approximately 71.9 percent of the population is fully immunised and 69.4 per cent have received their booster.

Meanwhile, the island recorded its 120th death as a result of COVID-19. This was the second death recorded this week.

Wilson did not reveal any further information on the deceased in her condolence message to family and friends.

Another 88 infections have been recorded to push active cases to 272.

According to data released by Wilson, 32 are imported while the remaining infections were either transmitted locally or are under investigation.



Bermuda ends mass vaccination. [Photo credit: istock]

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Jamaica and an outstanding Caribbean Leader who in the early twentieth century built the largest ever mass political movement of black people globally – the United Negro Improvement Association.

Honourable Garvey was unjustly convicted for “mail fraud” in the United States, served nearly three years of a five year sentence before being deported to Jamaica. In my per-

sonal capacity as well as in my official capacity as Director-General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), I respectfully appeal for his posthumous exoneration,” Jules wrote.

The OECS Commission said it is urging all citizens, organizations, civil society and residents in the diaspora to join the efforts to exonerate “one of the all-time great leaders in the Caribbean and globally”.

Biden warns Putin US will react 'decisively and impose swift and severe costs' if Russia invades Ukraine

(CNN)-President Joe Biden warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that the US and its allies will respond "decisively and impose swift and severe costs" on Russia should Putin decide to invade Ukraine.

In a roughly hour-long phone call, the White House said Biden made clear to Putin what he would be risking with an invasion.

A senior administration official told reporters following the call that the discussion was substantive but the US fears Russia may still launch a military attack anyway.

"President Biden was clear that, if Russia undertakes a further invasion of Ukraine, the United States together with our Allies and partners will respond decisively and impose swift and severe costs on Russia. President Biden reiterated that a further Russian invasion of Ukraine would produce widespread human suffering and diminish Russia's standing," the White House said in a statement, adding Biden "was clear with President Putin that while the United States remains prepared to engage in diplomacy, in full coordination with our Allies and partners, we are equally prepared for other scenarios."

The call between the two leaders comes hours af-



Armoured vehicles move at the Gozhsky training ground during the Union Courage-2022 Russia-Belarus military drills in Belarus. [Photo credit: AP]

ter the US moved some of its forces out of Ukraine and ordered the evacuation of most of its embassy staff on Saturday as fears mount that a Russian invasion of the country could take place in the next few days.

The moves were yet another sign that the US fears Putin could order an invasion at any time, just one day after Biden's national security adviser warned Americans in Ukraine to leave and that military action could begin with an aerial bombardment that could kill civilians.

A senior administration official told reporters Saturday afternoon that the call between the two presidents was "professional and substantive," but "there was

no fundamental change in the dynamic that has been unfolding now for several weeks."

"The two Presidents agreed that our teams will stay engaged in the days ahead," the official told reporters after the call. "Russia may decide to proceed with military action anyway. Indeed, that is a distinct possibility."

The official said that Biden reiterated the US' ideas on how to enhance European security while also addressing some of Russia's security concerns, but noted that it "remains unclear whether Russia is interested in pursuing its goals diplomatically."

Asked whether Russia has made a decision to in-

vade, the official said, "I think the honest answer to that question is we don't have full visibility into President Putin's decision making."

"But you know, we are not basing our assessment of this on what the Russians say publicly," the official continued. "We are basing his assessment on what we are seeing on the ground ... which is a continued Russian buildup on the border with Ukraine, and no meaningful evidence of de-escalation, or really of any interest in de-escalation."

Russian presidential aide Yury Ushakov described the call Saturday as "balanced and businesslike," but said the US and NATO had failed

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Philippine poll shows Marcos Jr's lead widening in presidential race

The son and namesake of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos strengthened his lead over his closest rival ahead of the presidential election in May, results of a new poll released on Sunday (Feb 13) showed.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr garnered a 44-point lead over Philippine Vice President Leni Robredo in the Jan 19 to 24 survey by independent pollster Pulse Asia, an 11-point increase compared with the previous poll in early December.

A total of 2,400 respondents were asked to pick their first choice for president and vice president if the election were held during the survey period, with 60 per cent expressing preference for Marcos, while 16 per cent chose Robredo.

In the December poll with the same sample size, Marcos was on top with 53 per cent compared to Robredo's 20 per cent.

Boxing superstar Man-



Former senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr and son of late former dictator Ferdinand Marcos is greeted by his supporters upon his arrival at the Supreme Court in metro Manila, Philippines April 17, 2017. [Photo credit: Reuters]

ny Pacquiao and Manila city mayor Francisco Domagoso trailed, each getting 8 per cent, while Senator Panfilo Lacson took 4 per cent.

In the Philippines, the president and vice president are elected separately.

Marcos' running mate, Sara Duterte-Carpio, the daughter of incumbent President Rodrigo Duterte, remained the top choice for vice president, taking a

21-point lead over her closest rival, Senate President Vicente Sotto.

The latest Pulse Asia survey was conducted before the Philippines' Commission on Elections last week dismissed a series of complaints seeking to disqualify Marcos, removing a major hurdle for him in the May 9 contest.

The complaint's petitioners have vowed to

challenge the decision and can appeal to the Supreme Court.

The election body also rejected a complaint seeking the cancellation of Marcos' certificate of candidacy.

As frontrunner, Marcos appears poised to complete a remarkable rebranding of the family name 36 years after a "people power" uprising ended his father's autocratic rule.

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to address Russia's main security concerns.

Ushakov said the conversation "took place in an atmosphere of hysteria about the supposedly imminent Russian invasion of Ukraine by American officials, everyone knows this."

Ushakov added: "The pressure around the topic of the invasion was carried out in a coordinated manner and the hysteria has reached its climax."

According to Ushakov, Biden told

Putin he was "committed to the diplomatic path and had laid out a range of considerations that he sees as addressing many of Russia's concerns." Putin said the US and its allies had been "pumping up" Ukraine with new weaponry and encouraging provocations by Ukrainian forces in the Donbas region and in Crimea, Ushakov said.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had on Friday accused Western countries and the press of spreading a "large-scale disinformation campaign"

about an allegedly impending Russian invasion of Ukraine "in order to divert attention from their own aggressive actions."

"At the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022, the global information space faced a media campaign unprecedented in its scale and sophistication, the purpose of which is to convince the world community that the Russian Federation is preparing an invasion of the territory of Ukraine," the Ministry said in a statement published on its website.

Tunisia: President issues decree to create new judicial watchdog

Al Jazeera -Tunisia's president has issued a decree establishing a new provisional Supreme Judiciary Council, effectively replacing the body he abolished and granting himself additional powers to control the country's top judicial organisation.

The decree, published on the official gazette on Sunday, says the president controls the selection, appointment, promotion, and transfer of judges and can act in certain circumstances as a disciplinary body in charge of removals. Contrary to international law, none of the judges appointed in the new council will be elected.

It also forbids judges from going on strike, a form of dissent used to protest President Kais Saied's February 6 announcement that the council would become "a thing of the past".

Later on Sunday, protesters took to the streets of the capital Tunis as part of a march organised by the country's biggest political party Ennahda and a separate civil society organisation that had been scheduled prior to the decree being made public.

Waving Tunisian flags, some chanted "Shut down the coup... take your hands off the judiciary".

Nadia Salem, one of the protesters, told Reuters news agency that "what has happened is the completion of the coup... Tunisia has become a nascent dictatorship after being a nascent democracy".

On Thursday, Saied had appeared to be backpedaling when Justice Minister Leila Jaffel told national television the judicial body would be reformed rather than abolished.

But Anas Hamadi, president of the Association of Tunisian Judges, told Al Jazeera that Sunday's presiden-



Demonstrators are protesting what they say is Tunisian President Kais Saied's seizure of governing powers. [Photo credit: Reuters]

tial decree meant Saied abolished the "legitimate council" and "installed a new council obedient to the executive power" despite the absence of legal grounds in doing so.

"The work of this council is subject to the will of the president, there are no elected members," Hamadi said. "The president has the right to veto over the work of this body and to overturn its decisions."

"This is a blatant and clear overtaking of the judiciary power that goes against democratic principles."

Sunday's protests follow a two-day strike launched on Wednesday by the Association of Tunisian Judges that was widely observed nationwide.

Hamadi said a "crisis cell" has been created within the association to discuss the actions going forward, after the president "prohibited the right to strike" enshrined in article 36 of the constitution.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) said on Twitter the decree "con-

solidates power in the hands of the President," effectively ending "any semblance of judicial independence in the country."

"It brings Tunisia back to its darkest days, when judges were transferred and dismissed on the basis of executive whim," the ICJ said, calling the decree "unconstitutional and illegal."

Tunisia, often lauded as the only democracy to emerge from the 2011 Arab Spring revolts, has seen some of its gains reversed since Saied was elected president with almost 73 percent of the vote in a runoff election in October 2019.

Saied, who has put fighting corruption at the heart of his programme, said that removing the judicial council was necessary as Tunisians wanted the country "cleansed".

He has said his actions were temporary but has not specified a fixed term for the newly formed provisional council.



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Valieva's entourage under investigation by World Anti-Doping Agency

Reuters - The world's top anti-doping authority will investigate the entourage of 15-year-old Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva who tested positive for a banned drug, plunging her into a doping scandal at the Beijing Winter Olympics.

Valieva, whose Olympic future will be decided after a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) hearing that started at 8:30 p.m. Beijing time (1230 GMT), effortlessly completed a clean run-through of her short programme in practice on Sunday.

Watching from the sidelines were her three coaches, Eteri Tutberidze, Sergei Dudakov and Daniil Gleikhengauz, as well as the team doctor Filipp Shvetsky and a physiotherapist.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said in a statement to Reuters on Sunday that it would ask its independent Intelligence and Investigations Department to investigate the coaches, doctors and other adults surrounding the athlete.

Earlier, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said it had formally asked WADA to launch an investigation.

WADA also said that the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) has indicated it had already

started investigating the entourage because Valieva is a minor.

From the hotel where the athlete's fate was being decided, CAS Director General Matthieu Reeb told reporters that he expected Valieva to testify via video link and that the hearing could go on all night.

"We don't know how long it will take," Reeb *cont'd on pg 25*



2022 Beijing Olympics - Figure Skating - Training Rink Capital Indoor Stadium, Beijing, China - February 10, 2022. Kamila Valieva of the Russian Olympic Committee and Russian Olympic Committee coaches Daniil Gleikhengauz, Sergei Dudakov and Eteri Tutberidze during training. [Photo credit: Reuters]



Benjamin Alexander

Jamaican finishes 46th in Men's Giant Slalom at Winter Olympics

The land of Reggae, Dancehall and sprinters first ever entrant in Alpine skiing, Benjamin Alexander, finished 46 in the Men's Giant Slalom on Sunday.

In the event won by Switzerland's Marco Odermatt a total of 89 athletes started the event.

Slovenia's Zan Kranjec collected silver and France Mathieu Faivre bronze. In an interview with BBC Sport the Jamaican said

he was proud of his performance as he performed better than some of the best in the world, they crashed, and that's a fact.

According to the BBC article, Alexander finished 46th out of the 46 skiers to complete both runs of the course after blustery snow made conditions tricky at the Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre.

Forty-one other names on the start list were unable to finish.

Haitian rides 'Magic Powder' to Winter Olympics

Call it love at first snowflake.

Long before he became Haiti's first Winter Olympian, at the Beijing Games on Sunday, Richardson Viano was a scared orphan who'd just arrived in France from the poor Caribbean nation.

His new adoptive parents were driving him to their home in the French Alps.

Their route that day in 2005 — from the airport where he had just disembarked, so nervous about his unfamiliar surroundings that he clung to his new dad's leg — took them over a high Alpine pass.

It was resplendent with fresh snow and bathed in sunshine, so Andrea and Silvia Viano decided to stop to let 3-year-old Richardson take in the view.

"I said, 'Look Richie, this is where you are going to live,'" his mother recalled. "'See the snow and everything?'"

He'd later coin his own phrase for it: "The magic



Richardson Viano of Haiti reacts after finishing the first run of the men's giant slalom at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Feb. 13, 2022, in the Yanqing district of Beijing. [Photo credit: AP]

powder."

It magically lifted his mood that day, when a snowflake landed on his nose.

"It melted with the warmth," his mother remembers. "He started laughing."

And so was planted the first seed of what became a passion for skiing that, at the Yanqing Alpine Skiing Center in the mountains northwest of downtown Beijing, turned Viano into

an Olympic history-maker for the island of his birth.

"It's a great honor," the 19-year-old said. And, he hopes, an inspiration for others in Haiti.

"If other Haitians can ski, that would be incredible," he said. "I want to give them a message of hope, of strength, no matter the sport. What's important is to never give up, to fight. Anything can happen if you believe."

Well, yes, and no.

With his mother on hand

to watch him race, he tumbled a few gates into the men's giant slalom course that was hard to see in falling snow and fog.

He was far from alone in being caught in treacherous conditions. Of 87 starters, 33 didn't complete the first of two runs — Viano among them.

"'The magic powder' was treacherous today," his mother said. "It would have been nice if that snowflake could have brought him a bit more luck."

Viano hopes to do better in the men's slalom on Wednesday. And the big picture of his life so far is still impressive.

"It's an amazing adventure when I think about it: leaving Haiti, arriving in the mountains, starting to ski a bit by chance.

"My dad was a mountain guide and he put me on skis as soon as I arrived, in 2005, and I've skied pretty much all the time ever since," he said.

"It really is a passion."

cont'd from pg 24

said. "It could be a long night. We have many parties involved. All are represented by lawyers."

The athletes and all parties involved would testify via video link.

"All the lawyers, all the parties will be on video. The athlete will be on-line and will testify on-line," Reeb said. "We suppose she will

speak in Russian and we will have an interpreter.

"We can expect it will be a long night. After the meeting we will tell the media when we will announce the final decision. It will be tomorrow afternoon but at what time we don't exactly know yet," he said.

Valieva tested positive for a banned heart drug at her national

championships last December, but it took more than six weeks for her to be notified, allowing her to compete in Beijing.

Her future at the Games, and a gold for the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) in the team event that she dominated on Monday, now hang in the balance amid a global outcry over Moscow's doping history.

Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana in the winning circle

Johnathan Carter struck an unbeaten 71 to lead Barbados Pride to a four wicket victory over the Leeward Islands Hurricanes on day-four of the West Indies Championship fixture at the Kensington Oval on Saturday.

The Hurricanes entered day-four leading the Pride by 142 runs on 294-7 in their second innings. They eventually reached 346 all-out batting sensibly. Veteran Devon Thomas led the fightback with a magnificent 112 off 140 balls, including 17 fours.

Support came from Keacy Carty 52 and captain Jamar Hamilton 47. For the Pride debutant Ramon Simmonds took 4-64 off 21 overs. Set 195 for victory,

Barbados anchored by Carter got home fairly comfortably. Jeremiah Louis was the pick of the Hurricanes bowlers bagging 4-50 off 14 overs. Scores: Leeward Islands



Devon "Booby Thomas" hit a century against Barbados.

Hurricanes 172-9 declared and 346, Barbados 324 and 195-6.

Over in Trinidad and Tobago the Red Force survived a second innings collapse to secure a three-wicket victory over Jamaica Scorpions on day-four at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy. Scores Jamaica Scorpions 141 and

212, Trinidad and Tobago Red Force 273 and 81-7. Visshual Singh fell short of his 9th first-class 100 but led a brilliant Guyana Harpy Eagles fightback.

At the Queens Park Oval Guyana led over the line by 32 year-old Veerasammy Permaul, who remained on 20, clawed their way to a thrilling last wicket victory

against the Windwards Volcanoes on the final day of their opening round match on Saturday.

It was the tenth time in the last 12 matches that Guyana has beaten the Windward Islands, while the other games ended in a tie. Scores (Volcanoes 338 and 190, Harpy Eagles 327 and 203-9.)

Baksh: Heartfelt thanks to the unsung heroes



Fawwaz Baksh

Tournament Director, Fawwaz Baksh, is sending a "loud thanks" to all the unsung heroes of the recent ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022.

While stating he "takes great pride in what the West Indies has achieved in successfully hosting this challenging tournament", he stressed "the real spotlight should be on the vast network of hard-working ordinary citizens across the four

host countries who played a part in ensuring the world saw the best of the West Indies".

"There are people who were never seen on camera, whose names will never be known nor light up a scoreboard, but they washed endless laundry, or cleaned and sanitised hotel rooms daily; they administered COVID-19 tests or produced the test results in labs; they expedited

cont'd on pg 27

West Indies cricket coach frustrated with batsmen

Despite showing a little improvement West Indies coach Phil Simmons articulated to the media his frustration with the Caribbean team struggles with the bat.

The bowling performances have been commendable but the Windies batting line-up continued their struggle as they were dispatched 3-0 by India on Thursday. In South Asia the team looked lacking the technical ability needed to put partnerships together at critical times or spend prolonged periods at the crease.

West Indies who lost the ODI series to Ireland last month for the first time because of their poor performance with the bat, perhaps more than ever looked susceptible to losing wickets in huge clusters making it impossible to chase moderate targets.

Simmons told the media Thursday, "This is difficult, the last six games have been difficult in this format. We started putting things together last year when we played Sri Lanka, it was difficult against Aus-



West Indies coach Phil Simmons

tralia, but we started putting things together. For this type of performance to come now, it's hard to take from the batsmen.

"It's not outwardly showing, but it's hurtful and the players know that. We have to make sure that we do the right things moving forward to get this batting line-up or whoever

the batting line-up is to function as a batting line-up, to have big partnerships and assess the thing properly."

Simmons accused the batters of not assessing the situations properly noting the mode of dismissals is the biggest issue.

"We can't keep going like this," he noted.

cont'd from pg 26

visa requests; they cooked and served meals; they arranged air and bus transportation schedules for teams, officials, and staff; they provided protection and security services; they ensured the venues were match-ready; and they prepared excellent pitches and outfielders for the 16 teams to compete on. I could go on and on.

"These are the people whom I want to salute.

Many worked above and beyond – and then some. Many gave up off-days and time with their families, working overtime and overnight to get the job done. They quietly and efficiently carried out their respective duties, and they deserve a lot of praise."

Baksh said that, though his voice isn't the loudest, he wants "to send a loud and heartfelt 'Thank You' to all the men and women who made this event

happen, and I hope they hear me wherever they are", including personnel in neighbouring countries through which some teams transited and played pre-tournament matches.

"I would like to dedicate this awesome accomplishment to you. This tournament was a giant tapestry woven together by countless people and it's been my honour to be part of such an incredible journey."

Once again, he also

lauded the crucial support of host governments "in coming forward and saying, 'Yes, we will deliver this event'. It was a massive step at a time when all their countries have been grappling with COVID-19".

"If we can do this in a pandemic, imagine what we can do at other times if we just believe in ourselves, and in each other. This has been a priceless advertisement about the spirit of West Indian people."

Antiguan pacer Alzarri Joseph drafted in the IPL auction

Antigua and Barbuda fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, who is presently in India, has been drafted in the recent Indian Premier League mega auction.

Joseph, who plays locally for All Saints, was sold for \$320,000 USD (Rs 2.4 crore) to Gujarat Titans on Sunday.

The West Indies pacer made his debut in the IPL in 2019 playing three matches in which he took six wickets for 15 runs.

Joseph holds the IPL record for best figures in an innings with 6-12 against Hyderabad at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in India.

Pointe Xpress Sports caught up with Joseph's father, Alva Joseph - a former Antigua and Barbuda player - who said he is very happy for his son. He added that it was unfortunate that his son was not selected in previous years.

Alva also expressed disappointment that his son has not been selected to participate in the regional T20 team, but noted that things never happen before their time.

Other regional players sold in the auction were



Alzarri Joseph

Nicolas Pooran US\$1.4 million SRH, Shimron Hetmyer US\$1.2 million Royals, and Jason Holder US\$1.1 million LSG.

Romario Shepherd,

Odean Smith, Dwayne Bravo, Rovman Powell, D. Drakes, Rutherford and McCoy were also sold in the auction.

West Indians Russell,

Pollard and Narine were retained by their franchises.

Caribbean players Sheldon Cottrell, Evin Lewis and Roston Chase went unsold.