

MONDAY 25TH APRIL 2022

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 80

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# BROWNE: UPP RENT-TO-OWN SCHEME FRAUGHT WITH ISSUES

*Story on Page 2*



*On Thursday 22nd April, 2022, Prime Minister Gaston Browne received the prestigious American Foundation of the University of the West Indies Legacy Award in recognition of his outstanding and visionary leadership. The award was bestowed during the AFUWI's 25th Legacy Awards Gala in New York.*

# Local News



## PM Browne challenges Lovell to disclose details of UPP's "rent-to-own" housing scheme

After condemning the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party administration's proposed housing plan to offer low-income earners the opportunity to buy a two-bedroom concrete home for as little as \$120,000, the United Progressive Party announced its own plan for a rent-to-own housing scheme.

The UPP chastised the Gaston Browne-led ABLP for offering their proposed "naked" homes – properties which are sold unpainted and do not include finishings such as plastered walls or tiled floors, in order to keep the construction and final cost to the purchaser as low as possible.

This is a successful model used in many other countries to make homeownership accessible to individuals who may otherwise have difficulty purchasing a house.

A week ago, Prime Minister Browne, a former banker, explained that his administration's plan would allow persons earning about \$3,000, in some cases less, to purchase

a home with projected mortgage payments of as low as \$750 - \$800 monthly, less than the cost of renting a similarly constructed home.

The UPP countered with their solution; move-in ready homes under a rent-to-own arrangement.

But one thing was conspicuously absent from the announcement made by party leader, Harold Lovell: clear details about how their proposed housing solution will work.

Apart from indicating a proposed payment of between \$900 - \$1,000 monthly, Mr. Lovell hinted that instead of single-family homes, he envisioned that their plan would involve condominium style multi-family units as a means of reducing cost to buyers.

"We believe we have a duty to offer choice," said Lovell, "so that persons can say, 'If I pay \$250,000 for a single storey bungalow, I may be able to pay \$100,000 if it is a three-storey block and I get the same size, it's just that I



Under the ABLP's proposed housing plan, pictured here, low-income families will be able to purchase a "naked" two-bedroom home for as little as \$110,000 with mortgage payments as low as \$750 monthly.

may be one storey up, or two storeys up."

The initial reception by some quarters to the UPP proposal was warm, as they contend they will be able to see their rent go to homeownership at the end of a specified period of time.

However, Prime Minister Browne says not so fast and has challenged the UPP's leader to be specific about how their proposed plan will work, as there are many cons associated with a rent-to-own system.

"Mr Lovell this is a pub-

lic request for the details of your UPP rent to own proposal," said PM Browne over the weekend.

"Kindly provide the following information: the size, and cost of the dwelling, how the cost of the property plus interest (cost of money) will be recovered?

"Also, the monthly rental payment, the term of the rental agreement and at what stage the conversion from rental to ownership will be effected? If they default on the payments, would they lose

*cont'd on pg 3*



### 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.

| Tuesday, 26th<br>April 2022   | Wednesday, 27th<br>April 2022                             | Thursday, 28th<br>April 2022                         | Friday, 29th<br>April 2022  |
|---|---|--|---|
| Section of Bendals Road<br>west of the Moravian<br>Retreat Centre<br>8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Section of Jennings<br>and Dunnings<br>8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Wallings and<br>Fig Tree Drive<br>8:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Section of Scotts Hill<br>south of the Potter's<br>Cemetery<br>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.



*cont'd from pg 2*

the tents paid and/or the right to ownership? What penalty clauses will be included to ensure that the government is paid? And in the event of default, would your government evict them from the property?

“How many of these homes would your administration build and the source of funding?” Browne asked.

To date, the UPP’s proposal has not addressed any of these pertinent questions, nor has Mr. Lovell offered a response to the prime minis-

ter’s queries.

While a rent-to-own arrangement sounds attractive on the surface, it should be noted that under such an arrangement, it is typical for only a portion of the monthly rental payment to go toward the ownership of the property.

Additionally, unlike a traditional rental arrangement where the owner of the property is responsible for maintenance and repairs, this is often the responsibility of the tenant in a rent-to-own arrangement.



And in order to exercise the option to buy, normally a hefty, non-refundable deposit is generally required by the person entering the agreement. Typically, this can range from 1 – 5 percent of the agreed purchase price.

A rent-to-own option also does not eliminate the need for a mortgage in most cases, and this is where many people get into trouble. If at the end of the rental term the person is unable to obtain a

mortgage to finance the balance on the agreement, they may find themselves in legal trouble.

In this case, or if there is any other difficulty which may cause the tenant to be unable to meet the terms of the agreement, they will also normally lose all the money they would have already spent on a deposit, maintenance and other expenses incurred over their occupancy of the property.





**STATE INSURANCE**  
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind



St. John's



Big Creek



Gas Station

## SATELLITE BRANCH EBENEZER

**DO BUSINESS IN A  
BETTER STATE OF MIND**



FULL  
SERVICE



EASY  
PARKING



HASSLE-FREE  
PAYMENTS



GREAT CUSTOMER  
SERVICE

(268) 481-7800/04 | [info@sicantigua.com](mailto:info@sicantigua.com) | [www.sicantigua.com](http://www.sicantigua.com) |   

## Reparations Commission in scathing letter to Prince Edward: “We are not simpletons!”

In its open letter to Prince Edward and his wife Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, ahead of their visit to Antigua and Barbuda which begins today, the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) has called on the royals to refrain from further apologetic rhetoric regarding the “genocide” of enslaved Africans and their descendants.

In recent years, while Britain’s royal family has stopped short of offering an outright apology for slavery and their role in the enslavement of millions of people of African descent, they have softened their stance considerably.

The heir to the throne of England, Prince Charles and his son Prince William have both described slavery as an “abhorrent” and “appalling atrocity” that “should not have happened”.

However, the ABRSC said the royals’ “phony sanctimony” on the issue is inadequate as “the British Crown – both as royal family and as institution, is historically documented as an active participant in the largest crimes against humanity of all time” and called on Prince Edward and his wife Sophie, the Countess of Wessex to “respect us by not repeating the mantra” as the people of Antigua and Barbuda “are not simpletons”.

The firmly worded ABRSC letter continued, “We know that during the

seventeenth century your family ancestors were owners and investors in the Royal African Company (and associated companies the Royal Gambia Company and the Royal Adventurers Company) set up under Charles II and his cousin King James II.

“We know that these companies, all dubbed ‘Royal’, engaged in the kidnap and transportation of hundreds of thousands of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to the Caribbean.

“We know that the Crown ‘owned’ enslaved Africans as late as 1831, three years before the passage of the Emancipation Act. Those enslaved included our ancestors. We ask that you respect that.

“We also know that no one today in your family was alive when the crimes against humanity were committed. So please do not tell us that again either - as others before you have done.

“We know however that everyone in your family continues to live in the splendour, pomp and wealth attained through the proceeds of the crimes.”

Prince William and his wife the Duchess of Cambridge’s recently concluded visit to the region was punctuated by protests and open calls for reparations for the atrocities of Britain against enslaved Africans and their descendants.

The ABRSC put Queen Elizabeth II’s youngest son on notice that the calls on



*More than one hundred years later, this photograph of the furrowed and scarred back of Gordon, a slave who escaped from his master in 1863, remains one of the most confronting images of the horrors of slavery.*

this leg of the royals’ global tour of the Commonwealth to mark the occasion of Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee would be no different.

“We alert you that throughout your visit to the region, you will hear the call of Caribbean people to the British crown and Government for reparations for slavery,” said the commission, which is chaired by Dorbrene O’Marde.

The confronting letter to the royals concluded, “Why is it so hard for you to sin-

cerely apologise for your nation’s role in slavery, like decent human beings do when they offend?”

“We know that ‘acknowledging and accounting for wrongs is deeply enshrined within both British law and society’. Then, why is it that you cannot apologise for your nation’s documented historical wrong? Do you think like members of your family before you seemed to think that we are a sub-human species and therefore not worthy of an apology?”



## UWI FIC hosts CIP and investment migration event

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus will explore citizenship by investment and investment migration in the next edition of its Public Advocacy Series.

In a statement, UWI Five Islands said the virtual event, which takes place this evening, will feature a distinguished panel of experts including Professor Andres Solimano and Mr. Bruno of The Investment Migration Council (IMC), as well as Chief Executive Officer of the Citizenship by Investment Unit, Antigua and Barbuda, Mrs. Charmaine Quin-

land-Donovan.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, Professor Densil A. Williams, explained that this topic is one of importance not only to Antigua and Barbuda but several Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries, adding "This iteration of the Public Advocacy Series looking at the critical and important topic of Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) and Residence by Investment Programme (RIP) is timely, as the global debate rages on the future of these programmes. A panel

of the world's leading experts will join us at the FIC to bring textured research and analyses to bear on the discourse around the subject," he stated.

The principal also noted that it is expected to be a rich discussion, filled with empirical evidence to assist policymakers in focusing their debate on the future of these programmes in the OECS region, which uses them heavily to provide fiscal support and also, economic transformational opportunities for the countries involved.

Themed, "Citizenship by Investment: How Investment



# UWI

Migration helps develop our region and world", the event begins at 6:30 p.m. (Eastern Caribbean time). Persons can register online at the Campus' website: <https://fiveislands.uwi.edu/publicadvocacy-series/>.

## SIRF Fund applications placed on hold

The Department of the Environment has announced a temporary pause on the processing of new applications for the Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund.

A statement from the SIRF Fund Administrator, Carol Mason, detailed the pause is to ensure funding can be made in a timely manner to future appli-

cants. Mason has assured that the pause will not affect those who were already approved for funding.

According to the Department of the Environment, they have seen an influx of applications for climate financing through the SIRF Fund.

To date, the fund has approved \$ 16 million to



DEPARTMENT of  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
Antigua and Barbuda

almost 200 people, including residents of the Cashew Hill, Mc.Kinnons, Gambles and Fort Road

communities. Among the beneficiaries are civil servants, including teachers and firefighters.

The Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund has led to a significant difference in the lives of many persons within the communities, and has provided a lifeline to protect the most vulnerable from the increasing threats of climate change, such as droughts, hurricanes and flash floods.

| Mon 25   Day  |                            | Mon 25   Night                                  |                            |
|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>81°</b>  | 18%<br>ENE 12 mph          | <b>74°</b>                                      | 13%<br>NE 8 mph            |
| Mostly cloudy. High 81F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph. |                            | Cloudy skies. Low 74F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. |                            |
| Humidity<br><b>66%</b>                              | UV Index<br><b>9 of 10</b> | Humidity<br><b>75%</b>                          | UV Index<br><b>0 of 10</b> |
| Sunrise<br><b>5:45 am</b>                           | Sunset<br><b>6:25 pm</b>   | Moonrise<br><b>2:23 am</b>                      | Moonset<br><b>2:06 pm</b>  |
|   |                            | Waning Crescent                                 |                            |

# Local News



# Antigua Sailing Week is back!

After a two-year absence, the more than half century old Antigua Sailing

Week is back.

With races set to begin on 30th April, the official

launch of ASW, one of the world's premier sailing regattas, was launched offici-

cially on 22nd April.

During the virtual launch on Friday, it was revealed that so far, more than 90 vessels have registered to participate, news that was welcomed by Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin James.

"Ninety-two boats so far have been registered, which remarkably, is the same count that we had in 2019, and we have yachtsmen here from twenty countries around the world," James said last Friday.

Meanwhile, Jaimee Torres, ASW Race Manager, said some features have been added to the event, which began in 1967 and include both cruising and race boats.

The new categories to debut include the highly anticipated Sport and Speed Boat groups.

Another exciting revelation was the return of Reggae In The Park. Organizers say further details on the much-anticipated event will be revealed later this week.

Favourite landside events including Lay Day and Dockyard Day maintain their place on the schedule this year.

The 53rd edition of ASW 2022, ends on 6th May.



## ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK 2022

# SCHEDULE

SCAN ME



ALL ACTIVITIES AT THE ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB UNLESS INDICATED.  
We invite you to visit our BAR & RESTAURANT partners after the daily prizegivings.

**THURSDAY APRIL 28**

9:00 AM Committee Desk Open

**FRIDAY APRIL 29**

9:00 AM Registration & Committee Desk Open

3:00 PM Racing Rules of Sailing Seminar

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

**SATURDAY APRIL 30**

8:00 AM Peters & May Round Antigua Race

9:00 AM Registration & Committee Desk Open

3:00 PM Bareboat Skipper Briefing @ Nelson's Dockyard

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

5:00 PM Steelpan recital from Original Steel Orchestra. Impressions are everything, so represent your crew in your best team outfits

7:00 PM 53rd Antigua Sailing Week Welcome and Peters & May Round Antigua Race Prize Giving

**SUNDAY MAY 1**

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open

8:00 AM Shirley Heights Lookout Breakfast @ Shirley Heights Lookout

9:00 AM Chase the Race with Wadadli Cats @ Falmouth Harbour Marina

10:00 AM English Harbour Rum Race Day 1 Starts

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

4:00 PM English Harbour Rum Cocktail Bartender Competition

Enter teams at Committee Desk or [www.info@sailingweek.com](http://www.info@sailingweek.com)

5:00 PM English Harbour Rum Race Day 1 Prize Giving

6:00 PM DJ Nez

**MONDAY MAY 2**

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open

10:00 AM ASW Race Day 2 Starts

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

5:00 PM ASW Race Day 2 Prize Giving

**TUESDAY MAY 3**

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open @ Antigua Yacht Club

9:00 AM Chase the Race with Wadadli Cats @ Falmouth Harbour Marina

10:00 AM Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day 3 Starts

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

5:00 PM Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day 3 Prize Giving

6:00 PM 11th Edition Reggae in the Park (Gates open at 5:00PM)  
Tickets available on Ticketing APP

**WEDNESDAY MAY 4**

10:00 AM Committee Desk Open

12:00 PM Lay Day @ Pigeon Point - Dinghy Racing, Team & Individual Beach Game Competitions including Tug of War!

**THURSDAY MAY 5**

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open

9:00 AM Chase the Race with Wadadli Cats @ Falmouth Harbour Marina

10:00 AM Locman Italy Women's Race Day 4 Starts

3:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

5:00 PM Prize Giving Locman Italy Women's Race Day 4 Prize Giving

7:00 PM Seafood Thursday @ Nelson's Dockyard

**FRIDAY MAY 6**

8:00 AM Committee Desk Open

9:00 AM Chase the Race with Wadadli Cats @ Falmouth Harbour Marina

10:00 AM Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Race Day 5 Starts

2:00 PM **LAWN BARS OPEN**

4:00 PM Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Race Day 5 Prize Giving

6:00 PM Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Final Awards & After-party @ Nelson's Dockyard. LIVE MUSIC!

**SATURDAY MAY 7**

12:00 PM Dockyard Day - Harper's Office Depot School Art Competition Awards @ Nelson's Dockyard



## Expanded tree planting mission further strengthens regional sustainability

Gearing up to celebrate the fulfillment of its 10,000-tree planting commitment, the Sandals Foundation is expanding its conservation goal by adding another 10,000 trees to strengthen the Caribbean's climate resilience and food security.

The massive conservation effort is in keeping with this year's global Earth Day theme, 'Invest in Our Planet', and builds on the foundation's larger Caribbean Tree Planting Project commitment, which is being coordinated by the Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance in collaboration with the Trees That Feed Foundation, the Clinton Global Initiative, and other partners.

Last April, the teams together announced plans to plant one million trees across 14 Caribbean countries by June this year. Now, with over 9,600 ornamental and food bearing trees already planted by the Sandals Foundation and its partners, the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts International is increasing the stakes.

"The environment around us is not only our home, but everything that keeps us alive," said Heidi Clarke, executive director of Sandals Foundation. "Investing in the long-term viability of these natural environments will help to strengthen the many ecosystems that are critical for providing food, water, and protecting our communities



*Team members from Sandals Resorts International along with other representatives stand ready to strengthen terrestrial conservation efforts.*

and livelihoods, improving the way of life in the region for locals and tourists alike to enjoy."

In Antigua, the charitable arm is collaborating with entities such as the Environmental Awareness Group to promote and increase environmental education.

"Environmental education is an important part of our conservation efforts," said Georgia Lumley, environmental coordinator at Sandals Foundation. "By collaborating with organisations such as the Environmental Awareness Group in Antigua, students are learning about the importance of protecting the environment and endangered species, while participating in activity execution through eco-camps and field trips."

In Barbados, the Foundation's conservation efforts will see to the enhancement and improving of the eco-offering and experience at the historic Andromeda Botanic

Gardens by adding an ethnobotanical garden with an outdoor classroom, creative signage, and the planting of 30 trees. Sandals Foundation, in collaboration with the park's managers, Passiflora Limited, is creating a haven for native and regional plants, their cultural uses, the associated biodiversity, and a resource for the Barbadian community.

While in Grenada, the planting of some 4,000 mangroves by the Grenada Fund for Conservation and the upcoming infrastructural improvements and training of community guides at Woburn Interpretive Centre in that island will strengthen the island's coastline and build on their efforts to encourage eco-tourism respectively.

In Jamaica, over 2,000 timber trees have been planted as part of reforestation and conservation efforts at the biodiversity hotspot of the UNESCO World Heritage Site—the Blue and John Crow Mountains National

Park. The area which contains 50 percent of the island's endemic plants, is managed by the Jamaica Conservation Development Trust, with whom the foundation partners to activate its initiatives.

Team members from Sandals and Beaches Resorts have also rolled up their sleeves and, together with representatives from the Forestry Department in that country have planted almost 200 food-bearing trees in communities, with plans to plant 600 more by June.

The careful management of invasive species is also a key area of focus for the Sandals Foundation and its partners.

"We are also educating both students and communities throughout the region on the importance of removing invasive species as we enter spaces they occupy and plant native species," said Georgia Lumley, environmental coordinator at Sandals Foundation. "We have supplemented these removals with reforestation activities that include the planting of food-bearing trees, such as what we continue to support at Signal Hill in Antigua."

The construction of a shade house at Wallings Nature Reserve in the twin island territory will also contribute to the charitable arm's conservation efforts, which began last year with the planting of 1,008 food-bearing trees.

*cont'd on pg 8*

# Local News



*cont'd from pg 7*

In the northern Caribbean islands of The Bahamas, Sandals Foundation ambassadors along with the Bahamas National Trust are set to remove invasive species and plant some 1,000 trees in the Lucayan National Park. Through the engagement of student volunteers, the islands will continue its rich tradition of promoting environmental education among its young people, thereby fostering the next generation of environment stewards.

Outside of its tree planting mission, the Foundation also plans to establish community compost training in the Turks and Caicos Islands in an effort to strengthen food security, increase solid

waste management, and adopt climate smart agricultural practices. The island of Providenciales is known for having far less fertile soil with limited farmers or localized sources of produce. Now, through its Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort, team members will lead the composting efforts, providing an opportunity for students and farmers from surrounding communities to learn, participate, and share the acquired knowledge and practices with their communities.

Over the past 13 years, the Sandals Foundation has planted over 17,000 fruit and ornamental trees throughout the Caribbean - increasing the region's forest coverage one tree at a time by galvanizing the support of Sandals and Beach-

es Resorts team members, community groups, partners, travel agents, guests, students, and volunteers.

This year, the entity remains committed to increasing forest coverage, protecting wildlife, enhancing biodiversity, creating eco-tours, educating children and empowering communities to take part in conservation.

Persons wishing to support the tree planting efforts can visit the Sandals Foundation website at [www.sandalsfoundation.org](http://www.sandalsfoundation.org) and donate to the 'Caribbean Tree Planting Project'. One hundred percent of all funds donated will be directed towards purchasing seedlings and maintaining the plant sites to ensure tree survival.

**STATE INSURANCE**  
COMPANY LIMITED

**GET GYM  
FIT WITH  
STATE  
INSURANCE**

**Life | Medical**

**OUR POLICY HOLDERS RECEIVE  
PREFERRED GYM RATES**

Buff up Gym  
Stay Fit Gym  
National Fitness Centre  
Iron Basics Gym  
Keep Fit Gym  
Twist Fitness Gym



## Back in operation!

Employees of the Works Department were seen on Sunday afternoon replacing the traffic light on Newgate Street that was destroyed when a car crashed into it on 27th February, 2022.

The driver, who was later charged with dangerous driving, escaped serious injuries when the white Chevrolet Camaro burst into

flames upon impact.

Since then, drivers have had to use their discretion and sound judgement navigating right and left turns from Market Street unto Newgate Street.

But following work by employees seen in the bucket of the truck, the traffic lights were back in operation yesterday afternoon.





FRIDAY 29  
APRIL



2 SOUND  
SYSTEMS



VIP call at  
4602701

# THE HEINEKEN EXPERIENCE

HEINEKEN BEERS @ EC\$5 UNTIL MIDNIGHT  
HEINEKEN BUCKET SPECIALS ALL NIGHT  
GATE FEE US\$10 / EC\$25 LADIES FREE

ABRACADABRA-ANTIGUA.COM | INSTAGRAM.COM/ABRACADABRA\_ANTIGUA  
FACEBOOK.COM/ABRACADABRA.ANTIGUA



# Opinion



# Phoney baloney

By **Tony Deyal**

To my friend, Dr. Johnny Coomansingh, whose call I missed and made the excuse, "My phone responds only some of the time. It is like a worker in Trinidad."

George Bernard Shaw, the Irish playwright, satirist and Nobel Prize winner, quipped, "England and America are two countries separated by a common language."

For example, in the UK, a "jumper" is a woolen pull-over worn mostly in winter. In the US, a "jumper" is someone who commits suicide by leaping from a building or bridge. There are many, many more.

When I went to Elementary school, a "rubber" was an eraser for a pencil and we all had rubbers in our book-bags. In the US a "rubber" is a condom and a book-bag is a "back-pack".

"Blinkers" in the UK are flaps that are used to restrict the vision of race horses, and in the US are what we call "indicators" on a car; a "casket" is a jewelry box in the UK and another word for "coffin" in the US; and, if you go to either country and ask for a "shag", you will probably get a slap in England unless you have the charm or wherewithal for proceeding further, and may even use the American "shag" to fulfil your request.

In the UK "shag" is a colloquial term for having

sex and in the US it is a type of carpet.

I've never found the different meanings of the same words to be as bad as the different spellings. When I went to University in Canada, my first Journalism assignment was to cover a political meeting and write an article on it.

I got an "F" that made me extremely angry and upset. The professor explained that I was in Canada and had to use his country's spelling and not British. I had "spelled" (not the British "spelt") more than three words wrong, hence the "F".

If I had a choice, I would have got the "F" out of Canada very quickly and head for England, but that was impossible since I was on a scholarship. This is how I ended up using "aluminum" instead of "aluminium", and spelt "realise" as "realize" and "recognise" as "recognize".

I had to use "hood" instead of "bonnet", "free-way" and not "motorway", "curb" to mean "kerb", "tire" for "tyre" and "truck" instead of "lorry". The one that depended on the lecturer collecting my work was "phony" or "phoney". The Americans and many Canadians use "phony" but the British have stuck to "phoney".

However you spell it, "phony" or "phoney", the meaning is the same- bogus,



*Tony Deyal*

sham, false, fake, fraudulent, forged, feigned and even simulated.

The word originated from the percentage of my Irish ancestry that considered the British an easy prey and so came up with a con known as the "fawnery" (or "finger") rig (trick or swindle). This later became known to the British as a "phoney" and the Americans as a "phony".

There are a lot of these around. For instance, one comedian asked, "What's the difference between a woman and a volcano?" Volcanos never fake an eruption.

When one of my Canadian friends talked about the fake news going around the nation's media, I commiserated, "Especially about your

Prime Minister. Some of it is Trudeau!" Then when my mother sent me to the Catholic Church to be baptised (not baptized), the priest wore a fake nose, moustache and glasses. It was a blessing in disguise.

I suppose this is why I call the fake oranges that the Americans have created "Pulp Fiction" and I argued with one of my friends on Good Friday last week that the Holy Land is not a fake place. Israel!

I suppose I got into "phony", "phoney" and "phone" when I was researching my article last week about "Pegasus", the world's most prominent cyberweapon which was acquired from the Israeli company, NSO Group, by the Trinidad and

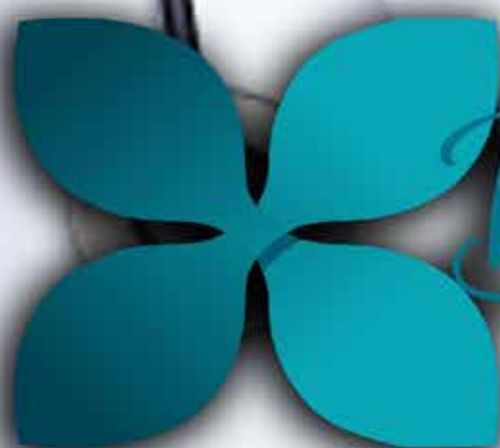
*cont'd on pg 12*





# **LET'S TALK HEALTH**

**4:00pm - 6:00pm  
EVERY MONDAY**



**BLUE Haven**  
Medical Center

**DR. HANYBAL YAZIGI**  
CONSULTANT ONCOLOGIST

**DR. ALBERT ROLLE.**  
GENERAL PRACTITIONER WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN MENTAL HEALTH.

**DR. DAMIAN GORDON**  
AESTHETIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND FAMILY  
PHYSICIAN WITH POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN GENERAL AND SURGICAL  
DERMATOLOGY.

**SYDNEY RETEMYER**  
MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGISTS, CERTIFIED ADDICTION SPECIALIST AND THEOLOGIAN  
AREAS OF THERAPY INCLUDE PSYCHOTHERAPY, PSYCHOEDUCATION,  
LOGOTHERAPY, RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING, SPIRITUAL COUNSELING,  
ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY.

# Opinion



*cont'd from pg 11*

Tobago (T&T) Government, the only one in the region to do so.

One of my friends from the UK who read my column called me with a warning. "Tony," he insisted, "It is not Pegasus you have to worry about. It is not cell phones or even your microwave spying on you. These are not the appliances you should worry about at all. It is your Vacuum Cleaner that should concern you. It has been collecting dirt on you for years!"

I must say that I got the Shark of my life and figured that because of some Brute, Hoovering over me, I might Dyson, nipped in the Budd so to speak. However, I came up with the Perfect response. Simplicity itself, really. I bought one that was more Reliable.

What got to me though was not my vacuum cleaner but an allegation that "spying was being conducted by a constable appointed by the Minister of National Security."

I grew up with many of them and I know what they get up to and what they are capable of. I did an online search with "Trinidad Police Constable charged..." and got a substantial number starting with "Police officer charged with corruption", "Another Police Officer Charged in Extra Duty Racket", "Police constable charged with stealing over \$400,000", one charged with a murder in 2018, and another with "sexual penetration of a minor."

Even when I was writing the article and thinking about the time when my lawyer could not access my phone to get information from me on a matter involving the Government, I thought about one of my friends, an ex-police-man.

Before joining the "force", he used to hang out with us and was always most present when we acquired mangoes, chickens, blue dasheen, oranges and other fruits from our "neighbours", or indulged in the occasional throwing

of missiles. When he returned to Trinidad for a short holiday, he met my mother in the market and asked her about me. She told him that I was not living there any more but if he wanted to contact me, she would give him my cell number. He responded, "Miss Deyal. I always know that boy would make a jail!"

What I made instead was a mountain out of molehills of humour. I eventually settled down. My wife and I got married under a cell phone tower in Siparia. The ceremony was nothing to phone home about but the reception was perfect. Unlike the Cell-Phone who proposed to his girlfriend by giving her a ring, I got a new and extremely costly cell phone for my wife. It was the best trade I ever made.

*\*Tony Deyal was last seen wondering why the majority of car firms like Porsche, Ferrari, Mc Laren, Mercedes, Motorola, TAG Heuer and Hummer make cell-phones but Dodge only makes Chargers.*

## Weekend Puzzle Solution

**CLOSE THE DOOR!**

By Tim Burr



TAKE ME HOME



Coco, a chihuahua mix spayed female, is 2 years old and weighs less than 10 lbs. but she is a real character and is as bold as can be. We believe she must think she is a Doberman or even a Pit Bull 😊 She is available for adoption at the Humane Society's Animal Shelter in Bethesda. The \$100 adoption fee includes vaccination and treating for parasites. We are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. For further details call 461-4957.



## WHO says at least one child has died after increase of acute hepatitis cases in children

By **Sabahatjahan Contractor**

The World Health Organization said on Saturday that at least one child death had been reported following an increase of acute hepatitis of unknown origin in children, and that at least 169 cases had been reported in children in 12 countries.

The WHO issued the figures as health authorities around the world investigate a mysterious increase in severe cases of hepatitis - inflammation of the liver - in young children.

The WHO said that as of April 21 acute cases of hepatitis of unknown origin had

been reported in the United Kingdom, the United States, Spain, Israel, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Italy, Norway, France, Romania and Belgium. It said 114 of the 169 cases were in the United Kingdom alone.

The cases reported were in children aged from one month to 16 years, and 17 had required liver transplantation, it said. It gave no details of the death that it said had been reported and did not say where it occurred.

The WHO said a common cold virus known as an adenovirus had been detected in at least 74 cases. COVID-19 infection was



identified in 20 of those tested and 19 cases were detected with a COVID-19 and adenovirus co-infection, it said.

The WHO said it was closely monitoring the situation and working with British health authorities, other member states and partners.

U.S. health officials have sent out a nationwide alert warning doctors to be on the lookout for symptoms of paediatric hepatitis, possibly linked with a cold virus, as part of a wider probe into unexplained cases of severe liver inflammation in young children.



**PLATINUM** Fm  
We Entertain You **97.9**

**STEELPAN MELEE**

WITH **KHAN KC CORDICE**

**5PM-6PM**

**TUESDAYS**

**LIVE**

**WV**



# Business

## Caribbean countries against one size fit all de-risking and corresponding banking rules

By Santana Salmon

Caribbean leaders met with a delegation from the United States House Committee on Financial Service aimed at reversing the damage caused by decades of loss of corresponding banking, de-risking and deteriorating financial access.

Congresswoman, Maxine Waters, who chairs the Committee, said that, “what we cultivate in the Caribbean could become a model for other regions around the world facing similar obstacles to financial access.

“I welcome a robust discussion on the cause of de-risking as well as the negative effects to the financial access to the people and the region. These are the reasons that we cannot choose talk over action,” she told the opening ceremony.

Waters, who together with Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, is co-chairing the “The



Congresswoman Maxine Waters with Barbados' Prime Minister and Avinash Persaud speak during the Caribbean Financial Access Roundtable.

Roundtable Discussion on De-Risking and Correspondent Banking” said that over the years there have been improvements in the situation “especially as many of the Caribbean nations have been active with significant financial crimes compliance measures yet despite these efforts...to reform many Caribbean nations continue to face

considerable challenges in accessing financial services.”

She said instead of accepting financial exclusion “we must work together to find ways to increase financial connections including correspondent banking services to and from the Caribbean”.

She said she would continue to focus on what

can be done to improve the situation in Washington to support Caribbean banking including bringing together key stakeholders to find solutions to the issue of financial access.

“I am pleased to report I have made progress in raising the issue profile in Washington and highlighting its urgency,” the Con-

*cont'd on pg 15*

**MONDAYS | 5pm-6pm**  
**FOCUS ON**  
**AGRICULTURE**  
**WITH BRADBURY BROWNE**

**PLATINUM FM**  
 We Entertain You **97.9**



*cont'd from pg 14*

gresswoman said, noting her role in the passage of legislation “that is moving the US government to a tangible solution”.

Earlier, Prime Minister Mottley warned the developed countries of adopting a one size fit all approach towards the situation.

“Because to do so would be to put on small states prohibitive burdens and that the appropriate measure should be that regulation should be appropriate to the risk. That whatever the nature of the risk we need to assess it and we need to ensure that our regulation meets that risk”.

Mottley said it is against this backdrop that she is re-stating the region’s position and “we are unflinching in our support for efforts internationally to stop terrorism, to stop crime, to stop the financing of both of them.

“And that has made us unpopular among those who believe that money laundering and know your customer rules are backward and repressive. It has, but the current regime, we believe of anti-money laundering and countering financing of terrorism is so transparently flawed that it is likely to end up being counter-productive, inadvertently supporting crime and the sponsorship of financing for crime”.

Mottley said that the countries routinely on the anti-money laundering list

have relatively very little international finance of any sort and that the countries that have never been listed “and will never be listed are where most international financing regrettably takes place.

“The rich countries develop and drive the list. Those countries do not appear on the list and criminals can see and follow who do not appear on the list and it doesn’t take a Solomon to know which and where is the path of easiest resistance”.

She said that the truth is from the bursting of money laundering, everyone knows that transactions are routed through

major European countries as well as Canada and the United States and “we do not hear any of these centres being sanctioned, nor do they face the spectacle of enhanced due diligence.

She said the sanctioned countries including those in the Caribbean do not have the capacity to distort the global system.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley said existing regulations were such that even a reputable attorney had found it difficult to open a banking account.

Rowley said that the region’s call is one not only of fairness “but one of survival.

“Decisions taken away from us, outside of our region, saw us losing the production of bananas for a livelihood, sugar for a livelihood and we are encouraged every day to diversify our economies,” Rowley said, noting that one area of success for the region has been in the international financial services”.

He made reference to the success of the Trinidad-based banks, Republic Bank and First Citizens Bank “which has shown that indigenous banking could grow and provides the people of our region and area of economic activity which could be safe and productive for us.



**UPDATED SCHEDULE**

**SCHEDULE UPDATE**

**TYPHOON EXPRESS**

**MONDAY**  
(FROM ST. JOHN'S)

**AB 3:45 PM**

**OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA**

**TUESDAY**

**BA 6:00AM**

**WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY**  
(CRABBS DEPARTURE)

**AB 10:00AM**  
**BA 3:00PM**

CONTACT US FOR RESERVATIONS +1 268 764-2291

# Lifestyle

## Dietitians are using TikTok to urge you to stop dieting

By Madeline Holcombe

Many dietitians are making a plea you might have always wanted but never thought you would hear: Stop dieting.

Now, you can find some of them on social media platforms such as TikTok, using the latest dances, trends and science-backed information to reach younger generations. These anti-diet dietitians want to steer people away from what they call “diet culture,” which they say prioritizes smaller sizes over health and drastic restriction over lifestyle changes.

“Fitness people, they’re the ones demonizing the food,” said Sarah Williams, a registered dietitian and TikTok creator who goes by Nutritionalsarah on the app. Instead of glamorous photo shoots and descriptions of impossibly low-calorie diets, she said she wanted to provide content that showed an accessible, welcoming version of health.

Where once professionals may have stressed maximizing “good” foods and cutting out the “bad,” this generation of dietitians is preaching maximizing balanced, sustainable changes and ending food-based shame for a life that is healthy in multiple ways, they said.

“If we are experiencing guilt and shame with food, we could have the most nutrient-dense meal plan in the world, and it’s not going to be beneficial because of that guilt and shame ... and the psychological effects of dieting and restricting,” said Sam Previte, registered dietitian and founder of Find Food Freedom.

The message is being spread more broadly via social media now, but it has a longer history. For more than 20 years, some dietitians have been encouraging intuitive eating, which breaks down



eating “rules” and focuses on listening to your body’s cues.

Being kinder to yourself and enjoying the food you eat is not only more fun – it also works better than the traditional approach to nutrition, the dietitians said.

“That’s why the diet industry is so successful. It’s a multibillion-dollar industry because so many people do it, they fail and then they go back on that diet,” said Steph Grasso, dietitian and TikTok creator. “I am an anti-diet dietitian. I am against these fad diets, these quick fixes, because in the long run, they don’t work.”

Grasso, Previte and Williams are registered dietitians and make money through TikTok’s creator fund and paid partnerships on the site.

### Diets don’t work

The research agrees that this kind of dieting doesn’t lead to long-term success when it comes to weight goals.

Dropping weight drastically is likely to be followed by it rising again, and

slow, sustained changes are often more successful, according to a 2017 study.

“My best recommendation for patients, based on this research, is to try to keep their eating pretty similar day to day,” said Emily Feig, lead author of the study and a postdoctoral fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital. “Building a habit of healthy, consistent eating can help patients reduce weight variability and lose weight more consistently, even if it’s at a slow pace.”

Dieting can mess with your mind and body, too.

As you drastically lose weight, your metabolism changes to require even fewer calories to continue losing weight. And neurological changes can make you restrict yourself from “indulgent foods,” making you crave them more.

When you cave to the food you’ve been resisting, it often goes downhill from there, said Brooke Alpert, a registered dietitian and author of “The Diet

*cont’d on pg 17*



*cont'd from pg 16*

**Detox: Why Your Diet Is Making You Fat and What to Do About It.**

Feeling guilty about your food choices causes you to make more poor choices, and so it becomes a cyclical pattern, according to Alpert. "There is a time and a place for French fries and pizza and a piece of cake."

### **Defining a healthy relationship with food**

What works better is developing a healthy relationship with food, experts said, and they are looking to help people redefine what that means.

"There are many definitions of a healthy relationship with food. For me, it's really just appreciating the food you eat," Grasso said. That means appreciating the function and nutrients it provides, but also the pleasure and social aspects and "definitely not being afraid to eat dessert or going out to eat," Grasso said.

Part of appreciating food is removing the morality from food decisions, experts said.

"You are not a better or a worse person if you happen to eat a Snickers bar over an apple," Williams said. And losing weight does not have to come at the cost of your healthy relationship with food, she added.

"You can lose weight, and it not be a game of obsession," Williams said. "You can still enjoy the foods that you like, and you don't have to cancel plans with friends. You can still live a full life

and still be on a weight-loss journey."

### **Adding instead of restricting**

Whatever your health goals are – around nutrition or weight – going on a mission to cut out food deemed "bad" doesn't work anyway, dietitians said.

"OK, you lost those 5, 10 pounds. What's your lifestyle going to look like when you reach that goal? Are you going to continue on this restrictive path, or are you going to implement a more inclusive lifestyle?" Williams asked.

Dietitians such as Williams and Grasso advocate adding to foods instead of restricting them and making

small, gradual changes rather than big, dramatic ones.

"They can actually do more harm than good," Grasso said. "You might lose a lot of weight, but eventually that weight is going to come back, and then you might even gain more because you restricted yourself so much."

Their content on TikTok does not focus on what to cut out of a diet, which restaurants are blacklisted or how to cut down on calories. Instead, they preach adding nutrients to meals to strive toward balance.

That can look like having pizza for breakfast, then making sure you add lots of vegetables to pasta for lunch. It can mean eating the piece

of chocolate you have been eyeing, enjoying it and moving on with your day. Or it can mean ordering Taco Bell in a way that gets you a good balance of carbohydrates, protein, healthy fats and vegetables.

"A lot of people when they are dieting or just trying to have a healthier lifestyle, they like to restrict themselves from food," Grasso said.

I would like to change that mindset to what can you add to your life."

"Instead of what can I take away, what can I add to my plate that's going to nourish my body to the best of my ability?" Williams added.



## **Twist Fitness's Opening Hours**

**Monday- Friday**  
**5:30AM-8:30PM**

**Saturday**  
**9:00AM-5:00PM**  
**5:00PM-7:00PM (WOMENS ONLY HOURS)**

**Sunday**  
**10:00AM-3:00PM**

# Regional News

## Haiti assassination suspect to be extradited to Miami from Jamaica

CMC – A Jamaican court has cleared the way for the extradition of Joseph Joel John, the former Haitian senator linked to the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse

John Joël Joseph, was arrested in Jamaica earlier this year after months of hiding in Haiti. He was being held on an immigration violation charge after illegally entering the country with his wife and children. After multiple postponements and court appearances, the one-time politician's case was finally resolved Thursday when the chief prosecutor decided not to move forward with the case.

John had consented to be extradited to the US from Jamaica on March 21st but was awaiting word from the Director of Public Prosecution on the immigration offense. He will most likely be charged in connection with the still unsolved assassination of the president. He would be the third suspect charged in Miami, Florida

The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to comment on Joseph's expected extradition to Miami. A criminal complaint is expected to charge him with conspiring to provide "material support" in a plot to kill a foreign



*A man holds a photo of the late Haitian President Jovenel Moïse during his memorial ceremony at the National Pantheon Museum in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, July 20, 2021. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)*

leader. He is accused of renting four vehicles that were used by the Colombian assassins on the night of the deadly attack. His charge would be similar to that of the Colombian commando accused of supplying weapons for the deadly attack.

Both the U.S. and Haiti had made requests for Joseph to be handed over. The U.S. request first came up last month as Joseph appeared in court for

the fifth time. There was no mention of Haiti's request, despite confirmation from two senior Haitian government officials that a letter was sent to Kingston requesting that Joseph be turned over to them.

The ex-Haitian official was arrested in Warminster, St Elizabeth in January with his wife, Edume, 38, and their sons — Schopenhauer, 17, and a nine-year-old boy.

## Jamaica records significant decline in unemployment rate



CMC - Jamaica's unemployment rate fell to a record low of 6.2 percent in January this year, a 0.9 percentage point lower than the figure recorded in October 2021, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) has reported.

In its Labour Force Survey for the month, STATIN said

that the January figure is also 2.6 percentage points below the out-turn for the January 2021 Survey.'

STATIN director-general, Carol Coy said that the male unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent to 4.8 percent, while the female equivalent de-

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Grenada to hold final public consultation on decriminalization of marijuana

CMC - The Grenada government said it would hold its final public consultation on the decriminalization of marijuana on Friday as it moves ahead with plans to amend the existing Drug Act as part of the initiative.

"After this Friday we are going to go back to the Cabinet to indicate to the Cabinet what the response was," Agriculture Minister Peter David told reporters at the weekly post Cabinet news conference.

"I think...there are different views to the legislation, I must say though we have not received any negative responses on it and this points in a particular direction," David said as he updated reporters on the bill which was laid in the House of Representatives for first reading in November 2021.

"So, I am going to go to the Cabinet next and indicate to the Cabinet the results of these consultations. We did have a round table with some



of the stakeholders, so we have a pretty good picture now as to where our society is on this.

"So I think the next step is for Parliament to have the second reading, where we will deal with the matter there, finalize it there and then move it on to the senate and then all of the stakeholders in it put their mechanism in place," said the Agriculture Minister.

The ruling New National Party (NNP) of Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell controls all 15 seats in the Parliament and prior to the legislation being tabled, the government had appointed

a three-member committee whose task was to identify the best way Grenada can enforce aspects of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Marijuana Commission Report.

The committee comprised of the Health Minister, Nickolas Steele; David and the Attorney General, Dia Forrester.

When he tabled the legislation last November, David said Grenada will not be focusing on the cultivation of cannabis as part of its initial approach but instead will adopt a strategy where the first step will be decriminalization for personal and religious use.

gious use.

"The first step is not going to be for mass production, the first step is going to deal with the criminal justice issue. Meaning there are many young people who have been criminalized or have received criminal records because of possession of small quantities. We are going to have a national discussion on small quantities."

However, during the various consultations following the tabling of the Bill, several participants felt that Grenada needs to legalize marijuana for industrial and commercial use and not decriminalize it only for religious and personal use.

In December 2020, Prime Minister Mitchell in a public meeting said Grenada will develop its own model for cultivating, distribution, supplying and use of marijuana as it moves forward to enforce an aspect of the CARICOM Marijuana Commission's report.

### *cont'd from pg 18*

clined by 2.5 percentage points to 7.9 percent.

The youth unemployment rate fell by 5.1 percentage points to 17.7 percent for the review period, relative to January 2021 and Coy pointed out that the male and female out-turns decreased by approximately five percent, with the latter recording the larger decline.

"Male youth unemployment was 14.5 percent, while for the females, it was 21.8 percent," she said.

STATIN also reported that the overall number of individuals employed in January 2022 rose by 4.8 percent or 57,800 persons to 1,257,100, compared to the corresponding period last year.

Females recorded the larger increase – 5.5 percent – compared to 4.3 percent for their male counterparts and STATIN said that the overall labour force climbed by 24,800 persons, or 1.9 percent, to 1,340,600 in January.

"There was a larger increase of females in the labour force. While the

male labour force increased by 9,200 persons to 721,400, the female labour force increased by 15,600 persons to 619,200. The increase in females represented 62.9 percent of the total increase," Coy said, adding that the number of persons classified as being outside the labour force (neither employed nor unemployed) stood at 755,600 in January, which is still a significant figure.

"Males outside the labour force declined by 8,000, while females declined by 14,400," Coy told reporters.

## To Europe's relief, France's Macron wins but far-right gains

(AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron comfortably won a second term Sunday, triggering relief among allies that the nuclear-armed power won't abruptly shift course in the midst of the war in Ukraine from European Union and NATO efforts to punish and contain Russia's military expansionism.

The second five-year term for the 44-year-old centrist spared France and Europe from the seismic upheaval of having firebrand populist Marine Le Pen at the helm, Macron's presidential runoff challenger who quickly conceded defeat but still scored her best-ever electoral showing.

Acknowledging that "numerous" voters cast ballots for him simply to keep out the fiercely nationalist far-right Le Pen, Macron pledged to reunite the country that is "filled with so many doubts, so many divisions" and work to assuage the anger of French voters that fed Le Pen's campaign.

"No one will be left by the side of the road," Ma-



*French President Emmanuel Macron celebrates with supporters in front of the Eiffel Tower Paris, France, Sunday, April 24, 2022. Polling agencies projected that French President Emmanuel Macron comfortably won reelection Sunday in the presidential runoff, offering French voters and the European Union the reassurance of leadership stability in the bloc's only nuclear-armed power as the continent grapples with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. (AP Photo/Rafael Yaghobzadeh)*

Macron said in a victory speech against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower and a projection of the blue-white-and-red tricolor French flag. He was cheered by several hundred supporters who happily waved French and EU flags.

"We have a lot to do and the war in Ukraine reminds us that we are going through tragic times where France must make its voice heard," Macron said.

During her campaign,

Le Pen pledged to dilute French ties with the 27-nation EU, NATO and Germany, moves that would have shaken Europe's security architecture as the continent deals with its worst conflict since World War II.

Le Pen also spoke against EU sanctions on Russian energy supplies and faced scrutiny during the campaign over her previous friendliness with the Kremlin.

A chorus of European leaders hailed Macron's victory, since France has played a leading role in international efforts to punish Russia with sanctions and is supplying weapons to Ukraine.

"Democracy wins, Europe wins," said Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez.

"Together we will make France and Europe advance," tweeted European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Italian Premier Mario Draghi called Macron's victory "splendid news for all of Europe" and a boost to the EU "being a protagonist in the greatest challenges of our times, starting with the war in Ukraine."

Macron won with 58.5% of the vote to Le Pen's 41.5% — significantly closer than when they first faced off in 2017.

Macron is the first French president in 20 years to win reelection, since incumbent Jacques Chirac trounced Le Pen's father in 2002.

## Four miners dead, six trapped after tremor in Polish coal mine

Reuters — Four miners were killed after a tremor at a coal mine in southern Poland on Saturday and rescuers were still trying to reach six others trapped underground, the mine's owner JSW said.

"The doctor confirmed the death of two more miners... The tragic balance sheet of yesterday's high-energy tremor at the mine increased to four people," JSW said in a statement on Sunday.

The company had earlier announced

the deaths of two of the miners.

The tremor shook JSW's Borynia-Zofiowka mine on Saturday morning. There were 52 workers in the area, 42 got out on their own, and 10

*cont'd on pg 21*



## Manhunt on for suspects as 100 die in Nigeria refinery blast

AP – At least 100 people may have died in an explosion at an illegal oil refinery in southeast Nigeria, a local oil official said Sunday as the search intensified for bodies at the site and for two people suspected of being involved in the blast.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, in a statement, called the explosion a “catastrophe and a national disaster.”

The explosion Friday night at the facility in Ohaji-Egbema local government area in Imo state was triggered by a fire at two fuel storage areas where more than 100 people worked, state officials told The Associated Press.

Dozens of workers were caught up in the explosion while many others attempted to escape the blaze by running into wooded areas.

Those who died in the disaster are estimated to be within “the range of 100,” said Goodluck Opiah, the Imo commissioner for pe-



troleum resources. “A lot of them ran into the bush with the burns and they died there.”

Buhari has directed the nation’s security forces “to intensify the clampdown” on such facilities being operated illegally in many parts of southern Nigeria, a spokesperson said in a statement.

Although Nigeria is Africa’s largest producer of crude oil, for many years its oil production capacity has been limited by a chronic challenge of oil storage and the operation of illegal refineries.

Nigeria lost at least \$3

billion worth of crude oil to theft between January 2021 and February 2022, with shady business operators often avoiding regulators by setting up refineries in remote areas such as the one that exploded in Imo, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) said in March.

“There are no arrests yet but the two culprits are on the run with the police now looking for them,” said Declan Emelumba, the Imo State commissioner for information. Officials did not reveal the identities of the suspects.

A mass burial is being planned for those killed in the explosion, many of who “were burnt beyond recognition,” said Emelumba. Environmental officials have started to fumigate the area.

Such disasters are a regular occurrence in Africa’s most populous country, where poverty and unemployment – at 33% according to the latest government estimates – have forced millions of young people into criminal activities.

Operating illegal refineries is not as popular in Imo state as it is in the oil-rich Niger Delta region, where militants have gained notoriety for blowing up oil pipelines and kidnapping workers from petroleum companies.

As many as 30 illegal oil refineries were busted in the Niger Delta region in just two weeks, Nigeria’s Defence Department said earlier this month when it announced a task force to curb crude oil theft.

*cont’d from pg 20*

remained underground.

After many hours, rescuers reached four miners late on Saturday but they did not show any signs of life, JSW said earlier.

“The conditions allow us to continue the search for our six colleagues,” JSW Chief Executive Tomasz Cudny told reporters on Sunday.

This is the second accident in a

week at a coal mine owned by JSW. Last Wednesday, five people died and seven were trapped in the Pniówek coal mine in southern Poland after an explosion.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, who visited the Borynia-Zofiowka mine on Saturday, said that all procedures in both mines will be “thoroughly checked” by a special commission.



A general view of the Borynia-Zofiowka coal mine in Jastrzebie-Zdroj, Poland. April 23, 2022. Dominik Gajda/Agencja Wyborcza.pl via REUTERS



# MATCH SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 25 - SATURDAY, MAY 7

COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUNDS

## GROUP 1

1. LIBERTA BLACKHAWKS
2. NEW WINTHORPES LIONS
3. BETHESDA GOLDEN EAGLES
4. PIGOTTS CRUSHERS

## GROUP 2

1. EMPIRE NATION
2. RISING SUN SPARTANS
3. ALL SAINTS PYTHONS
4. JENNINGS TIGERS

## MONDAY, APRIL 25

- 4 PM** BETHESDA GOLDEN EAGLES  
VS. PIGOTTS CRUSHERS
- 7 PM** LIBERTA BLACKHAWK  
VS. NEW WINTHORPES LIONS

## TUESDAY, APRIL 26

- 4 PM** ALL SAINTS PYTHONS  
VS. JENNINGS TIGERS
- 7 PM** EMPIRE NATION  
VS. RISING SUN SPARTANS

## THURSDAY, APRIL 28

- 4 PM** NEW WINTHORPES LIONS  
VS. BETHESDA GOLDEN EAGLES
- 7 PM** PIGOTTS CRUSHERS  
VS. LIBERTA BLACKHAWKS

## FRIDAY, APRIL 29

- 4 PM** RISING SUN SPARTANS  
VS. ALL SAINTS PYTHONS
- 7 PM** JENNINGS TIGERS  
VS. EMPIRE NATION

## TUESDAY, MAY 3

- 4 PM** NEW WINTHORPES LIONS  
VS. PIGOTTS CRUSHERS
- 7 PM** LIBERTA BLACKHAWKS  
VS. BETHESDA GOLDEN EAGLES

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

- 4 PM** RISING SUN SPARTANS  
VS. JENNINGS TIGERS
- 7 PM** EMPIRE NATION  
VS. ALL SAINTS PYTHONS

## FRIDAY, MAY 6

- 4 PM** SEMI-FINAL 1
- 7 PM** SEMI-FINAL 2

## SATURDAY, MAY 7

- 4 PM** THIRD PLACE MATCH
- 7 PM** FINALS



## Pulisic comes on as sub to score winner for Chelsea in EPL

AP – U.S. forward Christian Pulisic came off the bench to score in the 90th minute and earn Chelsea a 1-0 win over West Ham that consolidated third place in the Premier League on Sunday.

Pulisic, who entered as part of a triple substitution by Chelsea in the 76th minute, converted a cross from Marcos Alonso with a first-time finish off his left foot into the bottom corner at Stamford Bridge.

The goal was just the second Premier League winner by an American in the 90th minute or later, the first since Fulham's Carlos Bocanegra against Tottenham on Jan. 31, 2006. It spared the blushes of Jorginho, who struck a tame penalty at West Ham goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski in the 87th minute after his trademark hop-and-skip run-up. Craig Dawson brought down Romelu Lukaku for the penalty and was shown a red card after VAR looked at the incident to check there was contact in the area.



*Chelsea's Christian Pulisic celebrates after scoring the only goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and West Ham United at Stamford Bridge in London, Sunday, April 24, 2022. Chelsea won the match 1-0. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)*

Chelsea moved five points clear of

fourth-place Arsenal, which won 4-2 at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday to intensify the fight for Champions League qualification. Chelsea has played one game more, though.

West Ham rested key players like Declan Rice and Michail Antonio ahead of its appearance in the Europa League semi-finals on Thursday.

Pulisic has struggled to get starts in Chelsea's team in recent weeks, with Thomas Tuchel preferring a front three of Timo Werner and Mason Mount either side of Kai Havertz.

Tuchel said on Friday that his players are "fragile," tired and running short of ideas on how to fix their ailing home form. A dismal first half devoid of any invention or quality backed that up.

Chelsea was without injured defenders Antonio Rudiger and Reece James.



**PLATINUM** Fm  
 We Entertain You **97.9** ON AIR

**7:00pm - 9:00pm**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**SPORTS OVERFLOW**  
**VERNON A. SPRINGER**  
**CO-HOST: ELWIN FRANCIS**

Powered By       

# Sports News



## John Hughes win in village netball league

John Hughes Female Flyers were among the winners in the latest round of matches in the Female Division of the Kess Imports Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Community/Village League at the YMCA Sports Complex over the weekend.

Shawntia Smith scored 10 of her 20 tries to lead John Hughes to a 17-9 victory against Spencer's All Saints United 1 on Saturday night.

Wadadli Events Old Road crushed Spencer's All Saints United 36-3 in the same division.

Zenita Browne scored 17 of her 25 attempts and Tassia Luke converted 12 of her 25 shots for the victors.

Spencer's All Saints United 2 prevailed 27-15 against Ovals Flyballers Up-

rising in another women's affair. Aniyah Simon sank 12 of her 26 shots for All Saints while Danica Carlton scored 10 of her 16 tries for Ovals.

John Hughes Flyers defeated Ovals Flyballers Black Eagles 21-12 in their mixed-division affair. Calvin Carr converted 14 of his 20 attempts for the winners.

In matches played last Thursday night, Spencer's All Saints United prevailed 8-7 against Ovals Flyballers Uprising in the Female Division.

Curtain Bluff Old Road trounced Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets 29-13, with Amey Lake scoring 27 of her 34 attempts for the victors.

There were wins as well for Drazh Eastsiders and Grays Green Tigers in the Female Division.



*The John Hughes team during a break in the Female Division encounter against Spencer's All Saints United 1 at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, 23rd April, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)*

Eastsiders beat John Hughes Flyers 20-13, with Esther Emmanuel netting 15 of her 29 attempts for the winners.

Tigers defeated Willikies Rangers 31-20, with Adina Andre scoring 28 from her 26 tries for Grays Green, while Jamilla Braithwaite

converted 11 of her 22 shots for Willikies.

Ovals Flyballers Red Rockets prevailed 22-19 against All Saints All Stars in the mixed division. Akiel Hazelwood scored 16 of his 26 attempts for Ovals and Anjis Anthony converted 18 of his 27 shots for All Saints.

## Grand Prix: Max Verstappen wins as Charles Leclerc makes costly error

BBC – Red Bull's Max Verstappen dominated a wet-dry Emilia Romagna Grand Prix to revive his title hopes as rival Charles Leclerc threw away third place with a costly error.

The Ferrari driver was pushing to try to pass Verstappen's team-mate Sergio Perez after a late pit stop when he lost control at the Variante Alta chicane at Imola.

Leclerc had to pit for a new front wing and fresh tyres and dropped to ninth, and could recover only to sixth.

The error enabled Verstappen to slash his deficit to Leclerc from 45 points to 27, moving the Dutchman up from fifth in the championship to



*Max Verstappen second.*

Until Leclerc's mistake, the Ferrari driver appeared to be heading for a frustrating but acceptable third place. But in an instant he threw away a significant part of the advantage he had gained thanks to Red Bull's poor early-season reliability.

The fact the error happened at Ferrari's home race, in front of a packed crowd of their passionate Italian tifosi, will have made it feel even worse, especially as Leclerc had emphasised before the weekend the need "to not overdo things" with expectations so high at Imola.

It made for a nightmare race for Ferrari, who had lost Leclerc's team-mate Carlos Sainz on the first lap when the Spaniard was tipped into the gravel by McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo.

The error cost Leclerc seven points - the difference between third

*cont'd on pg 25*



## Paragons lose opening game in defence of title

North Coast Hardware Starz 1 Nova pulled off a hard fought 3-1 victory over cup-holders Paragons in the Female Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association's (ABVA) Local League over the weekend.

But it was Paragons who made a bright start to the encounter and took the opening set 25-16 in front of an appreciative crowd at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday night.

Starz 1 Nova hit back to level the match at 1-1, by snatching a keenly contested second set 28-26.

The effort exerted by Paragons in the opening two sets seemed to take its toll on the defending champions, who played the game with only one substitute, and Starz 1 Nova wrapped up the match by winning the next two sets 25-22, 25-17.

Michael Freeland Enforcers made a successful start to their campaign in the Men's Division, by claiming a narrow 3-2 victory over High Flyerz in Saturday's second encounter.

Enforcers took the opening set 25-22 before Flyerz claimed the second 25-18 to level the match at 1-1. Flyerz took a 2-1 advantage by taking the third



North Coast Hardware Starz 1 Nova won their opening match in the Female Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association's Local League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, 23rd April, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)

set 25-15.

Enforcers prevailed 25-12 in the fourth to send the match into the deciding fifth set, which they won 15-13.

Da Squad beat North Coast Hardware Starz 2 North 3-0 in their opening Female Division encounter on Thursday night. In a lopsided affair, Da Squad won the match 25-22, 25-12, 25-04.

Renegades also made a successful

start to their campaign in the Men's Division by beating Sharks 25-12, 25-09, 25-14 in another one-sided encounter.

The competitions will continue with two matches at the volleyball facility at YMCA on Wednesday. Stoneville will take on North Coast Hardware Starz 1 Nova in the Female Division, while High Flyerz will take on Sharks in the men's category.

*cont'd from pg 24*

and sixth places - and he said afterwards he was "disappointed in myself".

He added: "I tried too much. On that lap, I obviously wanted to give it all but I gave too much and finished into the wall.

"Instead of the third place we lose seven potential points which will be important at the end of

the season and today it is my full responsibility. I will look what I have done wrong. The car jumped in a strange way but this is no excuse because I tried to put too much speed and lost the car. Disappointing.

"Red Bull are very strong and they were stronger than us throughout the weekend so we need to understand that, we need to

react. Third was the best we could do but we should have been third and I haven't been."

McLaren's Lando Norris took third after an impressive drive, ahead of Mercedes' George Russell, who held off the Alfa Romeo of Valtteri Bottas in the closing stages.

Russell's team-mate Lewis Hamilton had a dire

afternoon, stuck behind slower cars throughout and unable to pass and finished in 13th place. He was also lapped by Verstappen.

At the end of the race, Mercedes boss Toto Wolff came on the team radio and apologised to Hamilton, saying: "Sorry for what you had to drive today. I know it was undriveable. This was a terrible race."

# Sports News



## 'Unbeatable' Fury determined to stick to retirement pledge

AP – Sitting in nothing but some tight-fitting shorts, Tyson Fury grabbed the flabby part of his belly and started shaking it.

"I'm a normal-looking man," he said, "an average Joe."

No one quite mixes self-deprecation with self-promotion quite like this world heavyweight champion.

After all, moments earlier, Fury had reeled off all the titles he had won in a turbulent and headline-making boxing career that he might just have brought to an end with a brutal sixth-round stoppage of fellow Briton Dillian Whyte in front of 94,000 fans at London's Wembley Stadium.

"I'm very proud I've



Britain's Tyson Fury celebrates after beating Britain's Dillian Whyte to win their WBC heavyweight title boxing fight at Wembley Stadium in London, Saturday, April 23, 2022. (Nick Potts/PA via AP)

won two English titles, two British titles, two Commonwealth titles, the Irish title, the European title, WBO intercontinental, WBO super, WBA super, IBF, IBO, Ring Magazine, lineal, WBC — I've won every belt there is

to win. There isn't more to do," he said in the bowels of England's national soccer stadium.

"If this was a computer game, it definitely would be completed."

Not quite, though. There is one final level that might, in the coming days, start to nag away at the man who says he is retiring as "the best heavyweight there has ever been."

Could Fury really turn down the chance of holding all the heavyweight titles and becoming undisputed champion of the world? He has held each of the belts at some stage of his 14-year pro career — either side of a 3½-year break when he dealt with issues of mental health, drug use and depression during which he tried to kill himself — but never at the same time.

Beating the winner of

the rematch between Oleksandr Usyk, the reigning WBA, IBF and WBO title-holder, and Anthony Joshua in a highly lucrative, legacy-defining fight would surely be the ultimate way to bow out.

Not according to Fury.

"I've fulfilled everything I've ever wanted to fulfil," he said. "I'm going to retire as only the second heavyweight in history, after Rocky Marciano, to retire undefeated."

"I was unbeatable at this game."

The 33-year-old Fury said he gave his word to his wife, Paris, that he would quit after completing his sensational trilogy of fights with Deontay Wilder with a victory in Las Vegas in October. He wanted to go out unhurt, unbeaten and on his own terms, and spend more time with his six kids.



## ABFA to elect new executive at tonight's Extra Ordinary Congress

Incumbent president Everton "Batow" Gonsalves will be seeking a fourth consecutive term in office when the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) holds the election of officers during its Extra Ordinary Congress at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre on Factory Road this evening.

Gonsalves will lead a nine-member slate, that includes three incumbent executive members, into today's election.

Incumbent ABFA vice-presidents Gwen Salmon, President of the Hoppers Football Club (FC); Akeilah Hillhouse, President of SAP FC, and Daryl Michael, President of Rangers FC, will all be seeking re-election to their current posts.

This will also be the fourth consecutive occasion in which Salmon and Michael will seek to serve on the ABFA executive with Gonsalves at the helm.

The other five members on Gonsalves' slate vying for positions as ABFA executive floor members are President of Swetes FC, Jason "Shadow" Knight; President of Old Road FC Delta Browne; President of Willikies FC Darise James; Chairman of the Referees Committee, Rolston James, and General Secretary of Fort Road FC, Cliff Williams.

Gonsalves, a former

senior national men's team captain, is expected to face a stiff challenge for the ABFA presidency from incumbent floor member Barbara Coates, who is chairperson of the football unit of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club.

Incumbent floor members Arlene Josiah of Empire and Curtis Charles of Liberta Blackhawks, will try to retain their posts as part of the nine-member slate of candidates being put forward by Coates.

Coates, Josiah and Charles were elected as floor members on 22nd May, 2017, the last time the election of officers was held.

Althea Joseph, Ken Gregory and Randy Baltimore have not been chosen for re-election by either of the presidential candidates.

Anna Lynch of Hilltop FC, Pat "Ipa" Spencer of John Hughes FC and Michael Douglas of North Coast FC are hoping to become floor members on Coates' slate.

As members of Coates' slate, President of Pigotts Sports Club Bakesha Francis-James, ex-national defender Ivor "Ninja" Luke of Lion Hill FC, and former national head coach and striker Derrick "Pretty Boy" Edwards of Jennings Grenades FC, will be in contention for vice-president positions.

Independent candidates



Everton "Batow" Gonsalves, left, and Barbara Coates engage in discussions on the side-lines of the CPTSA Wings Youth Football Festival at the ABFA's Technical Training Centre on 26th March, 2022. (Photo: CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

Harry Elvin and Keithroy Black are also contesting the posts of vice-president and floor member respectively.

The elections will be managed by a three-member committee, comprising magistrates Conliffe Clarke and Craig Christopher and accountant Peter Quinn.

Once elected, the new executive will serve a four-year term.

The president's report and the financial report by treasurer Daryl Michael are

also expected to be presented at tonight's Extra Ordinary Congress.

The ABFA's election of officers was slated to take place at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was constitutionally due to be held by May last year. However, the ABFA was unable to hold its AGM due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. This has resulted in the ABFA being forced to hold its elections as part of tonight's Extra Ordinary Congress.

## Greene retains presidency of ABNOC

E. P. Chet Greene has been returned, unopposed, as President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC).

Greene was elected to serve a fourth consecutive four-year term at the helm of the ABNOC, during the organisation's Annual General Meeting at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre on 21st April, 2022.

Neil Cochrane was retained as first vice-president, while Thomas Greenaway, who served as third vice-president on the outgoing executive was elected to serve as second vice president on the new executive.

Phillip Isaacs, who had occupied the second vice-president post in the outgoing executive, attained the age of retirement and was therefore ineligible for re-election.

Dr. Philmore Benjamin was elected third vice president.

Yolanda Samuel, who was commended for her management of the financial concerns of the ABNOC, was re-elected as treasurer.

Charles Bellot, Karen Joseph, Franklyn Brathwaithe, Fitzroy Quinland and Leonard Mussington were all re-elected as ordinary members on the executive.

Bernadette Roberts and Dionne Isaacs were also elected to serve as ordinary members. They replace Daryll Matthew and Jo-Ann Small.

President Greene's recommendation to retain Cliff Williams and Joel



ABNOC President E. P. Chet Greene, left, expresses thanks to outgoing executive member Daryll Matthew during the organisation's AGM at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre on 21st April, 2022. (Photo: ABNOC)

Rayne to head the ABNOC Secretariat was approved by the new executive minutes after his re-election.

Williams will continue to function as secretary-general while Rayne will serve as assistant secretary-general.

President Greene challenged the ABNOC membership, and its 18-member federation, to embrace opportunities created by the pandemic, as he cautioned of a challenging period ahead.

The ABNOC's boss signalled the need to strengthen the administrative framework across associations as a prerequisite for a stronger fraternity, capable of delivering more for athletes and the country.

Meanwhile, ABNOC extended heartfelt thanks to one of its longest-serving executive members, Phil-

lip Isaacs. Isaacs, a former athlete, gave yeoman service to swimming, basketball and martial arts over the years.

Thanks was also extended to outgoing member, Daryll Matthew, Minister of Sports, who did not seek re-election.

Minister Matthew, who has given many years of dedicated service to the ABNOC, pledged his continued support to the organisation.

Thanks was also expressed to Jo-Ann Lewis-Small, who was unsuccessful in her bid for re-election.

Small served in many capacities over the years, most recently as the Covid Liaison Officer (CLO) for the Tokyo Olympic Games and the 2021 Junior Pan American Games in Cali, Columbia.