

JOLLY BEACH SALE HITS ROADBLOCK

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Nationals of Antigua and Barbuda have been urged to apply for scholarships that are currently being offered by the Romanian government. The announcement of the scholarship came from the newly appointed Ambassador to St. John's, Theodora Magdalena Mincea, left, during a courtesy call on Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, on Thursday. *Story on page 4.*

Local News



Efforts to sell Jolly Beach Hotel hit a snag

The latest efforts by the government to sell the Jolly Beach Hotel have hit a snag. Government sources are reporting that a buyer has been identified who is willing to pay in full, the price for the property. The substantive owner of the hotel is the Antigua and Barbuda government.

“A new wrinkle, however, has been introduced by the former owners of the Jolly Beach Property and AOB Bank. It appears that a charge of \$15,000,000.00 was placed on the Jolly Beach property, unbeknownst to the other creditors owed by the Jolly Beach Property,” the sources say.

It has made the sale of the hotel un-



likely until such time as a court has determined the validity of the claim now being made against the property.

The Jolly Beach hotel, at one time perhaps the largest resort on the island, has been closed for several years. At the height of its operations, the ho-

tel employed over four hundred local staff. Parts of the hotel were recently reopened to accommodate people quarantining during the critical period of the pandemic. Government has entertained several offers from would-be investors, but nothing has materialized so far.

Start date for low-cost houses less than a month away

The much-anticipated low-cost housing programme that the government announced recently will likely start in less than a month.

Reports coming out of Wednesday's Cabinet meeting indicate that the start date for the project is likely to be June 1st, 2022. “The Cabinet is very pleased

with the response of those demonstrating an interest in acquiring the starter homes that are to be sold for about \$120,000.00. Both National Housing and CHAPA have agreed to build the houses on plots of lands that are theirs and lands held privately,” this week's Cabinet Notes stated.

Accordingly, the Notes said these are to be two-bedroom homes with bathroom, kitchen, living and dining rooms. The houses will be resilient and will be built to withstand category 5 hurricanes. The Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank will provide the mortgages and the Government will de-

posit \$40,000,000.00 in the ABDB to finance the construction of these highly desirable homes.

The Notes also revealed that the Cabinet was informed of the heightened interest in the E.C \$25,000.00 home improvement loan. All the necessary plans for distribution of the resources are virtually in place and the start date will soon be announced.

This new housing programme will be especially geared towards persons whose salaries are less than \$3,000.00 per month and who would not normally qualify for mortgages under current housing programmes.

Fri 06 Day		Fri 06 Night	
83°	☀️	76°	☁️
14%	ENE 14 mph	21%	ENE 12 mph
Partly cloudy skies. High 83F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy. Low 76F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 70%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 79%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:39 am	Sunset 6:28 pm	Moonrise 10:00 am	Moonset 11:36 pm
		☾ Waxing Crescent	

OCS student stabbed during school hours

An Ottos Comprehensive School student escaped serious injuries yesterday morning after he was stabbed several times by another pupil on the school's compound.

The 16-year-old was wounded following a confrontation with an 18-year-old.

While the details surrounding the incident are unclear, unconfirmed reports are the older student was defending a friend, who was allegedly being bullied by the 16-year-old.

A pair of scissors was used to inflict at least seven stab wounds, reports

indicate. The incident caused mayhem at the school and both the police and Emergency Medical Services (EMT) were summoned to Ottos Comprehensive. The wounded boy was taken to hospital, where he received treatment and was discharged, while the 18-year-old was detained by the police and will likely face wounding charges.

There were no reports of major disruption to classes at the institution, one of the largest public secondary schools on the island.

There have been several incidents at the school in recent years, involv-

ing students attacking each other with weapons.

In 2019, two male students were involved in a fight and one stabbed the other multiple times. The injuries that were inflicted were not life threatening and the student was treated at hospital and sent home.

Back then, Principal Foster Roberts, said the type of security on school compounds was an issue.

He added that students were getting on to the school's premises outside of normal hours and were concealing weapons.



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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY



AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
OTTOS NEWTOWN	610 1791B	21

Instructed by **The Antigua & Barbuda Social Security Board of Control**, Long Street, St. John's, Antigua, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on **Thursday the 19th day of May, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.** the above described property located at Ottos New Town, Antigua. The development in which the property is located is zoned as middle income residential. The area has all the infrastructures in place such as, Electricity service, Water, Telephone and paved road.

The property is registered under the absolute proprietorship under the ownership of **Christian Faith Academy Limited**. There are two single storey wooden constructed buildings. The roof covering of the buildings are constructed from galvanize sheeting; the ceiling is T1-11 plywood ceiling on 2" x 6" timber rafters. The interior walls are finish with cement plaster and paint. The land has an area of parcel 6,534 sq.ft.

The layout of the room is satisfactory.

Building No. 1 approximately 1,100 SF has the following rooms: Administration Office, toilet facility and class room.

Building No. 2 approximately 2,000 SF has the following rooms: Class room and toilet facilities.

The windows and doors – Metal entrance doors and wooden doors on the interior. Wooden shutter windows.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Additional details of the Auction and Property may be obtained from the **Mr. Trevor "Teddy" Santos, Public Auctioneer, Tel: 562-7653 / 464-7653. Website: <http://www.go-going-gone.com/> "v" "blank" www.go-going-gone.com / Instagram: [tts_auction_antigua](#) / Facebook: [Auction Antigua](#)**

Dated the 21st April, 2022

Local News



Cabinet congratulates CARIFTA athletes

The young athletes who represented Antigua and Barbuda at the recently concluded CARIFTA Games have been congratulated for their winning performances.

On Wednesday this week, the athletes were invited to Cabinet, where Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Minister of Sports, Daryll Matthew and others commended the youngsters for their outstanding performances.

Greeting the athletes, Prime Minister Browne said, "Many Congratulations to our amazing young athletic medallists who recently participated in the CARIFTA games in Jamaica and Barbados."



Antigua and Barbuda's Dwayne Flemming (U17 Boys' 100M/200M, Gold Medallist in 100M) and Ethan Stubbs-Green (Boys' 400M freestyle Silver Medallist, 200 Freestyle Bronze Medallist, 100M Butterfly Gold Medallist, and 200M Butterfly Gold Medallist) were among the top performers for the country in the games.

They were joined by teammates Geolyn Dowdy (U17 Girls' 100M/200M), Osei Gardener (U17 Boys' 200M/400M Finalist), Alyssa Dyett (U20 Girls' Triple Jump Bronze Medallist), Ajani Daley (U20 Boys' 100M/200M) and Mia McIntosh (U20 Hep-tathlon).

Craig Pendergast (U20 400M Hurdles, Bronze

Medallist) and Ellie Shaw (Girls' 13-14 Breaststroke Bronze Medallist) were unable to attend the Cabinet meeting but were also recognised for their stellar contributions.

The teens were accompanied by their coaches.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Browne committed that his government will improve the country's sports infrastructure to foster the athletic development of the nation's youth.

To this end, it was agreed that an Olympic size swimming pool will be constructed, so that more adequate practice sessions can be conducted by those interested in expanding their aquatic skills.

Nationals urged to seek scholarships in Romania

Nationals of Antigua and Barbuda have been urged to apply for scholarships that are currently being offered by the Romanian government.

The announcement of the scholarship came from the newly appointed Ambassador to St. John's, Theodora Magdalena Mincea, during a courtesy call on Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, on Thursday.

"I want to encourage students of Antigua and Barbuda to apply for scholarships that are being offered by Romania.

"Last year, we offered 46 scholarships and right now the ministry of tourism is offering scholarships to students and want them to apply," Ambassador Mincea disclosed.

She said studying in Romania

would be an enriching experience for Antigua and Barbuda students, adding Romania is a beautiful country, only that it has a much cooler climate than that of the Caribbean region.

"It's very important to take experiences from other countries and to return to your home country and to implement new knowledge and the experience gained.

"It would be very good to have more people from Antigua and Barbuda in Romania," the ambassador stated.

Additionally, she said her country's diplomatic institute will also be offering training for young diplomats.

"We are going to inform you in

cont'd on pg 6



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, right, shakes hands with the newly appointed Romanian Ambassador to St. John's, Theodora Magdalena Mincea.

HAMMOCK COVE

A N T I G U A

We are currently seeking to fill the position of

SOMMELIER

Primary Responsibilities:-

- To create and update the wine list in coordination with the Resort's Culinary Director.
- To recommend food and wine pairings.
- Advise guests on wines based on their personal tastes and food choices.
- Ensure wines are served at the right temperature and within the proper glassware.
- Manage wine cellar and ensure it is fully stocked.
- Train wait staff on available wines.
- To be able to explain and describe wines according to regions, vineyards and wineries.
- To design, promote and sell wine tasting packages.
- Assist the Restaurant Manager(s) with the operations of all restaurants, as required.

Qualifications Required:-

Sommelier Diploma or International Sommelier Certification.

Must be able to work a flexible schedule, including weekends and public holidays. All interested applicants are asked to apply via email operations@hammockcove.com with copy of Resume / Curriculum Vitae.

Deadline for applications – May 11th 2022

Local News



A&B to participate in PanoGrama 2022

Antigua and Barbuda will be represented at the third edition of the world's first online steel pan competition, PanoGrama.

Founded by Nevin Roach and first held on 24th April, 2020, the competition this year will run from 6th May to 12th June.

The preliminaries will run from 6th - 8th May, semi-finals on 29th May and the finals on 12th June.

Each pannist will perform their own arrangement of any tune of their choice and will be scored on criteria, including variation, execution and performance.

This year, nine countries will be represented by twenty-four skilled steel pannists, including Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Canada, France, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States.

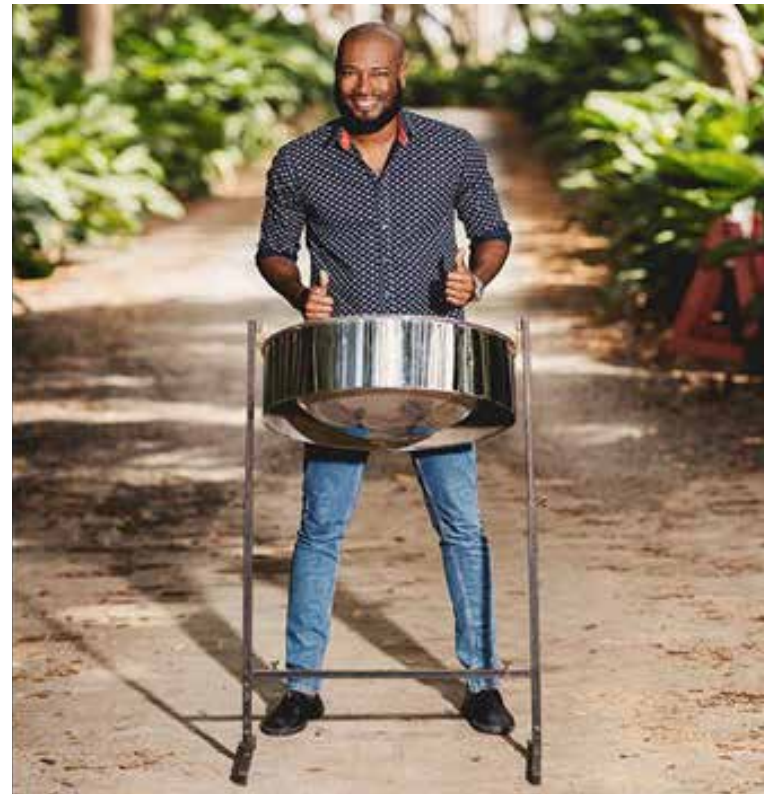
Antigua and Barbuda's Maurisha Potter, performing 'Say Say' by Baron, will perform on 7th May and

Malik Smith, performing 'Best Part' - H.E.R. ft. Daniel Caesar, will perform on 8th May in the preliminary round.

According to Nevin Roach, the winner of this year's PanoGrama will earn a trip to the Bahamas among other prizes.

"The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture – Bahamas is keen on having us conduct some workshops to help develop the artform over there, and so, the winner will travel in that capacity. This year's winner will also receive a brand-new tenor pan from Perfect Steel, \$1,000 USD cash and a private session with a world-renowned steel pannist.

"While PanoGrama grows from strength to strength, and for that, I could not be prouder of my team's accomplishments, I am most pleased that we are able to help pannists through the development workshops we host and provide quality



Founder of PanoGrama, Nevin Roach

training to our student interns throughout the competition. I look forward to all pan enthusiasts tuning in to enjoy all the amazing talent." Roach said.

Prior to the competition, each participant had the opportunity to attend a series of development workshops organised by PanoGrama Entertainment (PE) from 19th March to 2nd April, 2022.

They were able to engage Professor Liam Teague for professional assistance and advice on a variety of themes and Natasha Joseph presented a full musical session, covering various tools and techniques used in mu-

sic arranging.

The workshops culminated with personal and professional development delivered by Dr. Steffon Campbell.

The competition will be adjudicated by Dr. Mia Gormandy-Benjamin, Professor Liam Teague and Adjunct Professor, Victor Provost. Ojay Richards and Andy Chichester will serve as substitute judges.

PanoGrama 2022, will be streamed on YouTube. Those interested in watching the shows can join the PanoGrama mailing list at www.pano-grama.com to receive the show links via email.

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due time so that civil servants from Antigua and Barbuda can participate," she advised.

Minister Greene noted that the ambassador had indicated that education was one of her platform areas of interest and he

welcomed the commitment from the Romanian official to offer scholarships to nationals. He immediately indicated to the ambassador that he will be making a request for at least five scholarships for officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Career Opportunity

Applications are invited by the Financial Services Regulatory Commission of Antigua and Barbuda (FSRC) for the position of Accounts Officer – Receivables.

The Accounts Officer - Receivables provides financial, clerical, and administrative services to ensure the efficient, timely and accurate receipt of payments from accounts under his or her control. This role provides related accounting support and reports directly to the Financial Controller and/or Accountant.

Pre-requisites: As a pre-requisite the successful employee will be required to have the following: -

Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or any equivalent training,
2. Two (2) years relevant experience in accounts receivable and general accounting or its equivalent.
3. Working knowledge of QuickBooks, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Generate and dispatch invoices and customer statements.
2. Process and allocate payments received following established internal control policies, and procedures.
3. Monitor customer accounts for non-payment, delayed payments, and other irregularities. Research and resolve payment discrepancies.
4. Communicate with customers to follow up on and collect payments, investigate, and resolve customer queries.
5. Generate accounts receivable aging reports, and review to ensure compliance.
6. Maintain up to date accounts receivable customer files and records.
7. Reconcile accounts receivable.
8. Prepare bank deposits.
9. Ensure that all transactions are entered by the end of each month and prepare reports according to specific deadlines.
10. Perform other assigned tasks.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies:

1. Working knowledge of the provisions of applicable laws and regulations governing accounting for statutory bodies in Antigua & Barbuda.
2. Working knowledge of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
3. Be aware of, and apply appropriate internal control policies, procedures, and practices.
4. Good interpersonal and communication skills.
5. Commitment to ongoing personal self-development.
6. Strong time management, organizational, and customer service skills.
7. Excellent verbal, and written communication skills, problem solving, analytical and information management skills.
8. Should be attentive to detail and accuracy, possess a sense of urgency, tenacious and a team player.

- **The completed application along with supporting documents must be sent no later than 27th May 2022 to The Human Resources Manager, P.O. Box 2674, St. John's, Antigua OR Via email to Janice.Thomas@fsrc.gov.ag**

- **Only candidates who are shortlisted for the selection process will be contacted.**
- **Shortlisted candidates will be required to undertake a written assessment.**

Local News



Police deny request to continue sound clash



Patrons enjoying the sound clash moments before the police ended the event.

The organisers of last weekend's sound clash have told their patrons it is unlikely that the event will continue, after a request to resume the show was denied by the police.

'Saint John's Rumble' drew hundreds of people to Millers by the Sea on Saturday evening, but the excitement of sound systems seeking to outdo each other ended abruptly, after gunshots were discharged from several weapons, including a suspected assault rifle.

Scores of people in atten-

dance heard and recognised the sounds and ran for cover.

Assault rifles in particular are used mainly by the military and are considered extremely dangerous, since they are notoriously difficult to handle and can switch between semi-automatic and fully-automatic fire.

The large crowd left Fort James disappointed after police moved in to the end the event.

Patrons who were calling for the sound clash, which was still only in the first round to be continued at a later date, were left disappointed when the organisers, Stonewall Sound Antigua, indicated on social media that this will not materialise.

"Regrettably, through no fault of ours, the clash had to come to an abrupt end.

"Efforts have been made for the clash to be rescheduled, but unfortunately, permission is not being granted by the authorities," the statement read.

It continued, "As such, we have decided that the winnings will be divided among the participating sounds. A poll will be posted for you the fans to vote for the winner of the trophy. We look forward to seeing you at future events."

It is likely that the firearms discharged were illegally obtained, and with the large crowd present at the sound clash, the task of finding the persons responsible would have been an almost impossible task for the police.



Twist Fitness's Opening Hours

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

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

Sunday
10:00AM-3:00PM



Career Opportunity

Regulatory Team Leader – IT Risk

The Financial Services Regulatory Commission invites applications from experienced individuals with a specialty in the area of Information Technology to fill an immediate opening in its regulatory department. The successful candidate will provide support to the Commission's cross-sector supervision of several bank and non-bank financial institutions in evaluating of these entities' risk management practices. The individual will report to the Chief Regulatory Officer.

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in computer science or related field is required.
- Relevant certifications such as CISA, CRISC, CISM, and CISSP.
- Commensurate industry experience with auditing or risk management and controls required.
- Must be willing and able to travel; position requires approximately 50% travel but may vary depending on circumstances.

Experience

- Minimum five years of experience and advanced knowledge in areas such as IT, risk management, information security business resiliency, network management/architecture, vendor risk management, vulnerability management, patch management systems, and data center operations and management. Advanced knowledge of common frameworks such as COBIT, NIST, and ISO.
- Ability to evaluate an institution's cyber/information security program and provide an assessment of its ability to identify, protect, respond, and recover from business disruptions.
- Demonstrated thought leader with strong critical and analytical thinking skills to navigate complex issues and reach well supported conclusions.
- Excellent written and verbal communication ability, articulating a range of complex issues clearly and persuasively as appropriate to audience.
- Ability to complete complex assignments independently, successfully manage multiple assignments, and prioritize and delegate effectively to meet goals.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a team environment and build collaborative relationships across teams.

Responsibilities

Lead or participate on examinations and conduct ongoing monitoring to understand the supervised entity's IT environment, determine the effectiveness of the IT risk management program, and assess emerging IT-related risks. Support conclusions and communicate results with stakeholders through supervisory reports and meetings with key members.

- Monitor and document remediation of supervisory issues and elevate issues as appropriate.
- Contribute to preparation of supervisory plans for relevant and effective risk-based supervision factoring in size and complexity of the entity.
- Proactively coordinate and collaborate with colleagues across the regulatory departments to incorporate their views into supervisory results and deliverables, including peer perspective. Build relationships with key stakeholders including the regulatory heads of departments and regulatory counterparts.
- Communicate regularly with supervised financial institutions, and brief executive management on appropriate issues.
- Contribute to the Commission's and the ECCU's effort to develop effective IT supervisory policy and guidance, supervisory activities, and IT analysis.
- Contribute to and periodically lead the Commission's or joint-authorities' workgroups; proactively initiate change by seeking opportunities to participate in priority projects.
- Support joint supervision of financial institutions periodically if schedule permits.
- Extended work hours may be required at times.

- **The completed application along with supporting documents must be sent no later than 27th May 2022 to The Human Resources Manager, P.O. Box 2674, St. John's, Antigua OR Via email [tJanice.Thomas@fsrc.gov.ag](mailto:Janice.Thomas@fsrc.gov.ag).**
- **Only candidates who are shortlisted for the selection process will be contacted.**
- **Shortlisted candidates will be required to undertake a written assessment.**

Opinion

Abortion is a woman's right - legalize it

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto)

The right of women in the United States to have an abortion, which has existed for 49 years, has now become a matter of contention.

This right, which was accorded by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1973 and essentially upheld again in 1992 and 2016, has come to be known as *Roe v. Wade*.

The short-hand name is derived from the original case before the Court in which "Jane Roe"—a fictional name used to protect the identity of Norma McCorvey—brought the federal action against Henry Wade, the district attorney of Dallas County, Texas.

It is important to understand the background to the action by McCorvey. Abortions were legal in Texas at the time, but only for the purpose of saving a woman's life.

Therefore, women who wanted an abortion for any reason other than saving their lives, including rape and economic circumstances, were compelled to have the child. However, women with the financial means

could obtain abortions by traveling to other countries where the procedure was safe and legal or pay a large fee to a doctor willing to secretly perform an abortion.

These options were beyond the means of poorer women such as McCorvey.

Consequently, many women resorted to illegal, dangerous, "back-alley" abortions or self-induced abortions.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the estimated number of illegal abortions in the U.S. ranged from 200,000 to 1.2 million per year.

It was only after trying unsuccessfully to get an illegal abortion that, with the help of willing lawyers, McCorvey challenged the Texas law in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court by a 7-2 decision, struck down the Texas law banning abortion, effectively legalizing the procedure across the U.S. The Court also declared that a woman's right to an abortion was implicit in the right to privacy protected by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

This right is now threatened by an opinion, allegedly drafted by Supreme Court Judge, Justice Samuel Alito, who is said to be one of the most conservative members of the court. The opinion was leaked on May 2, and he has not denied authorship.

As President Joe Biden



Sir Ronald Sanders

has pointed out, "we do not know whether this draft is genuine, or whether it reflects the final decision of the Court", but there is strong anecdotal evidence that the draft is genuine.

Therefore, it has ignited protests across the major cities in the U.S. It has also brought a sharp response from President Biden and his Vice President Kamala Harris, both of whom, within 24 hours, issued statements defending "a woman's right to choose to have an abortion", and declaring that "basic fairness and the stability of our law demand that it not be overturned".

The Black Caucus of the U.S. Congress also reacted strongly, pointing out that, overturning the existing law "will have disproportionately devastating impacts on communities of colour, marginalized groups already facing discrimina-

tory obstacles to health care and, will resonate globally".

Maxine Waters, the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, summed up the view of the black members of the U.S. Congress when she declared, "women must fight with every breath of life, to resist, resist, resist".

The fear that now permeates the U.S. is that the Supreme Court, which comprises a majority of right-wing judges appointed by Republican Presidents, including Donald Trump, will overturn the 1973 abortion law, making it impossible for poorer women, especially black and low-income women, to get safe and legal abortions.

Fundamentally, women would also lose the right to govern their bodies.

This matter is now a
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raging political issue in the U.S. It will escalate as the nation proceeds to mid-term elections for the U.S. Congress in November. President Biden has appealed to voters to protect abortion rights by backing candidates who support them in November's mid-term elections.

The discussion will inevitably migrate to the Caribbean where women are today far better educated than in the past and where they have climbed the ladder of decision-making in government and in the private sector. Caribbean women, too, rightly want the right to make a choice about abortions.

They do not accept that any Court or legislature should make that choice for them. Anti-abortion laws have also worsened the economic condition for poorer women whose circumstances force them to become single

mothers, trapping them in a life of struggle and deprivation.

In many CARICOM countries, abortion is not an option available to women, except to "save a woman's life" as in Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica, or to "preserve health" which applies in the Bahamas, Grenada, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname prohibit abortion altogether.

Only three countries have a more progressive stance on this issue: Guyana allows abortions on request up to a gestational limit of 8 weeks, and Barbados and St Vincent and the Grenadines allow abortions for "broad social or economic grounds, rape, incest and foetal impairment".

But it is an open secret that abortions are performed, as a matter of practice, throughout the Caribbean. By maintaining the existing laws, women are being criminalized, and

so, too, are the doctors who perform abortions.

Undoubtedly, apart from women deeply inculcated with religious dogma that oppose abortions, the time cannot be far off when women, throughout the Caribbean, like the women of the U.S., will use their voting power to demand their right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.

Men who share the responsibility for unwanted pregnancies, in and out of wedlock, should also join the fight to safeguard women's right to choose.

Caribbean governments and legislators should open their ears to the position of women on this issue. It is their bodies, their health and their future that are at stake. They should be heard.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



Caribbean Union Bank

VACANCY

BANKING SOFTWARE TECHNICIAN ICT AND INNOVATIONS

THE ROLE

Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) is seeking to fill the position of Banking Software Technician in its ICT and Innovations Department. The Banking Software Technician will provide first line support in a Microsoft Windows domain environment as well as for desktop and application support and troubleshooting.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- › Associate's degree in an IT related field.
- › At least two years working experience with working knowledge of:
 - Applications within a Bank's IT infrastructure
 - Network devices, printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, telephones, Wi-Fi, mobile devices.
 - Windows Desktops, laptops and thin client operating system configuration
- › General understanding of networking
- › Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- › Working knowledge of computer programming
- › Microsoft Office applications (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.).
- › Strong problem-solving and analytical skills
- › A track record of meeting performance targets and objectives with minimum direction.
- › Strong organizational and interpersonal skills.
- › Flexible with the ability to function well in a fast-paced environment.

APPLICATIONS

Applications can be submitted via regular mail or emailed to human.resource@cub.ag. The deadline for application is 13th May, 2022.

Opinion

Strengthening solidarity and cooperation to build a better future

**By Her Excellency Madame Zhang Yanling,
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and nine Caribbean countries. In celebration of this milestone, H.E. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China, Hon. Reginald Austrie, Acting Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. E.P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade of Antigua and Barbuda, as well as Foreign Ministers from the other seven Caribbean countries which have diplomatic ties with China participated in a virtual meeting on April 28 (local time).

In retrospect, for the past half century, the comprehensive cooperative partnership between China and Caribbean countries kept deepening with increasingly productive cooperation in various sectors, setting up an exemplary model of countries pursuing common development on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.

China and Caribbean countries respect each other's national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, understand and sup-

port each other on issues related to respective core interests and major concerns, and also support each other in pursuing successful development paths suited to their national conditions.

China and Caribbean countries have deepened cooperation in developing economy and improve people's livelihood. The two sides have strengthened the synergy between development strategies, jointly advanced Belt and Road cooperation, rendered each other support and assistance through thick and thin. Whether there is a natural disaster or COVID-19, the two sides have always been the first to help each other. Both sides have also carried out various forms of cooperation in culture, sports, tourism and education.

China and Caribbean countries have worked closely in the international organizations, jointly safeguarding the overall interests of developing countries and upholding non-interference in internal affairs, as a basic norm governing international relations. The two sides have also maintained communication on issues such as the United Nations reform and climate change response.

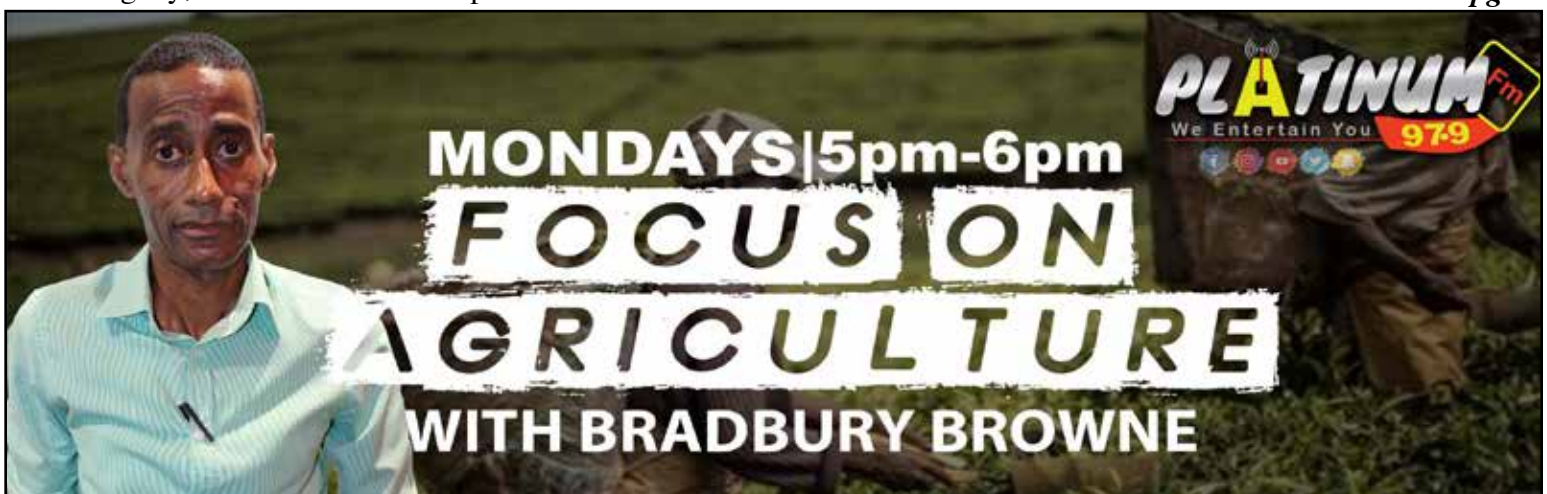
Hon. Minister Greene emphasized in his remarks that in order to



*Her Excellency Madame Zhang Yanling,
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda*

create a fairer and more equitable international community in an interconnected world, values such as cooperation, solidarity, mutual respect and justice are essential. As dedicated friends and reliable partners to each other, Antigua and Barbuda and China will continue to maintain resolute solidarity and deliver mutually

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MONDAYS | 5pm-6pm
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PLATINUM 97.9 FM
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beneficial developmental outcome.

As State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi pointed out, the global economic and social development and security situations are facing complex and severe challenges, and the future of all countries is connected more than ever before. Now more than ever, China and Caribbean countries need to strengthen solidarity, overcome difficulties together, deepen cooperation and create a better future.

With inputs from all the participating countries, consensus was reached on making joint efforts in the following aspects:

--- Enhance political mutual trust, continue to support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests, and advocate and practice true multilateralism.

---Work together to promote post-COVID economic recovery, pursue deeper and more substantive progress in Belt and Road cooperation, and jointly implement the Global Development Initiative.

---Strengthen cooperation against the pandemic and on medical treatment, improve public health governance, build a pattern of diversified and interactive people-to-people exchanges, and actively consider the orderly post-pandemic resumption of people-to-people exchanges,

jointly address the challenge of climate change, and keep closer policy communication.

China stands ready to further enhance practical cooperation with Caribbean countries in economy and trade, investment and financing, infrastructure construction, transportation and communications, agriculture and fisheries, disaster prevention and mitigation, digital economy and other areas.

China will continue to provide economic and technical assistance to Caribbean countries without setting any political conditions. China will also donate medical materials for the fight against the coronavirus pandemic to Carib-

bean countries who have diplomatic ties with China as well as to the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community. A disaster prevention and relief fund will be set up. The number of government scholarships to Caribbean countries will also be increased.

On the issue of the climate change to which the Caribbean countries attach great importance, China supports the legitimate and reasonable concerns of the small island countries, and is willing to jointly promote the building of a fair and rational global climate governance system for win-win results.

1st January 2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomat-

ic relations between China and Antigua and Barbuda. China will continue to be a good partner, brother and friend of Antigua and Barbuda. We are ready to make joint efforts with our Antiguan and Barbudan friends to further enhance mutual political trust, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and continue to promote friendship between the two peoples. Let us together strive to promote post-pandemic economic recovery, address climate change and other global challenges, speed up the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and jointly build a closer community with a shared future.

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ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE

SUNDAY
AB 12:00 PM
BA 3:45 PM

MONDAY
AB 6:00 AM
BA 8:00 AM

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
AB 7:00 AM
BA 3:45 PM

SATURDAY
AB 8:00 AM
BA 3:45 PM

TYPHOON EXPRESS

MONDAY
ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE
AB 3:45 PM
(OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA)

TUESDAY
BA 6:00 AM TO ST. JOHN'S

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
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AB 10:00AM
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WHO: Nearly 15 million deaths associated with COVID-19

By Maria Cheng

The World Health Organization estimates that nearly 15 million people were killed either by coronavirus or by its impact on overwhelmed health systems during the first two years of the pandemic, more than double the current official death toll of over 6 million.

Most of the deaths occurred in Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas, according to a WHO report issued Thursday.

The U.N. health agency's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, described the newly calculated figure as "sobering," saying it should prompt countries to invest more in their capacities to quell future health emergencies.

WHO tasked scientists with determining the actual number of COVID-19 deaths between January 2020 and the end of last year. They estimated that between 13.3 million and 16.6 million people died either due to the coronavirus directly or because of factors somehow attributed to the pandemic's impact on health systems, such as cancer patients who were unable to seek treatment when hospitals were full of COVID patients.

Based on that range, the scientists came up with an approximated total of 14.9 million.



Health workers and relatives carry the body of a COVID-19 victim for cremation in Jammu, India, Sunday, April 25, 2021. (AP Photo/Channi Anand, File)

The estimate was based on country-reported data and statistical modelling, but only about half of countries provided information. WHO said it wasn't yet able to break down the data to distinguish between direct deaths from COVID-19 and those related to effects of the pandemic, but the agency plans a future project examining death certificates.

"This may seem like just a bean-counting exercise, but having these WHO numbers is so critical to understanding how we should combat future pandemics and continue to respond to this one," said Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious diseases specialist at the Yale School

of Public Health who was not linked to the WHO research.

For example, Ko said, South Korea's decision to invest heavily in public health after it suffered a severe outbreak of MERS allowed it to escape COVID-19 with a per-capita death rate around a 20th of the one in the United States.

Accurately counting COVID-19 deaths has been problematic throughout the pandemic, as reports of confirmed cases represent only a fraction of the devastation wrought by the virus, largely because of limited testing. Government figures reported to WHO and a separate tally kept by Johns Hopkins

University show more than 6.2 million reported virus deaths to date.

Scientists at the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington calculated for a recent study published in the journal *Lancet* that there were more than 18 million COVID deaths from January 2020 to December 2021.

A team led by Canadian researchers estimated there were more than 3 million uncounted coronavirus deaths in India alone. WHO's new analysis estimated that missed deaths in India alone ranged between 3.3 million to 6.5 million.

In a statement following
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the release of WHO's data, India disputed the U.N. agency's methodology. India's Health and Family Welfare Ministry called the analysis and data collection methods "questionable" and complained that the new death estimates were released "without adequately addressing India's concerns."

Samira Asma, a senior WHO director, acknowledged that "numbers are sometimes controversial" and that all estimates are only an approximation of the virus' catastrophic effects.

"It has become very obvious during the entire course of the pandemic, there have been data that is missing," Asma told reporters during a press briefing on Thursday. "Basically, all of us were caught unprepared."

Ko said the new figures from WHO might also explain some lingering mysteries about the pandemic, like why Africa appears to have been one

of the least affected by the virus, despite its fragile health systems and low vaccination rates.

"Were the mortality rates so low because we couldn't count the deaths, or was there some other factor to explain that?" he asked, citing the far higher mortality rates in the U.S. and Europe.

Dr. Bharat Pankhania, a public health specialist at Britain's University of Exeter, said the world may never get close to measuring the true toll of COVID-19, particularly in poor countries.

"When you have a massive outbreak where people are dying in the streets because of a lack of oxygen, bodies were abandoned or people had to be cremated quickly because of cultural beliefs, we end up never knowing just how many people died," he explained.

Pankhania said that while the esti-

mated COVID-19 death toll still pales in comparison to the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, which experts estimate caused up to 100 million deaths, the fact that so many people died despite the advances of modern medicine, including vaccines, is shameful.

He also warned that the cost of COVID-19 could be far more damaging in the long term, given the increasing burden of caring for people with long COVID.

"With the Spanish flu, there was the flu and then there were some (lung) illnesses people suffered, but that was it," he said. "There was not an enduring immunological condition that we're seeing right now with COVID."

"We do not know the extent to which people with long COVID will have their lives cut short and if they will have repeated infections that will cause them even more problems," Pankhania said.



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Press Release



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ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY.

Calypso Rose teams up with Carlos Santana for new single

By **Nekisha "Neicy" Cyrus**

The Calypso Queen of the world, 'Calypso Rose' is set to release a brand new single featuring Grammy-award-winning musician Carlos Santana. The new single 'Watina' alongside the Mexican-born, American musician will be released on May 20, 2022, and will also be the first official single off her brand new album titled 'Forever'.

Linda McCartha Sandy-Lewis, popularly known as 'Calypso Rose' recently celebrated her 82nd birthday on April 27th, 2022. Sharing with her fans via Facebook, she made the following announcement:

"I miss you my fans all over the world and I think a lot about you, all the time. But don't worry next month you'll get a taste of me with 'Watina' my first song of my new album Forever."

According to her manager Jean Michel Gibert, Calypso Rose enjoyed her birthday resting comfortably in her Queens, New York home where she celebrated with a little gathering with people around her. During the day she received many phone calls from all over the world and even five bouquets of flowers coming from countries such as France.

Calypso Rose's new album will be



Calypso Rose

officially released at the end of August and will feature possibly (14) tracks. And fans will also be happy to hear that the King of Soca, Machel Montano, and Jamaica's Dancehall artiste Mr. Vegas are amongst some of the artistes that will be featured on it.

Fans have been super excited about the new album since Calypso Rose announced the news. The Calypso Queen who is well known for constantly touring, unfortunately, has been unable to do so since the pandemic. On February 23, she then posted that she had to cancel her summer tour dates due to the Covid19 virus and her health situation did not allow her to come to France but promised that she would be back this spring with new songs. And indeed we can consider this promise kept!

According to her manager, Rose shared that if she could not be with her fans physically she'd do so through

music and that was how the album release came about. He said she had been working on the album for the past four to five years and recorded it in different countries such as New York, Paris, Belize, and Trinidad and Tobago. The single was done in honour of the Garifuna people (a mixed African and indigenous people and Garifuna people reside in St Vincent, Belize, and other parts of the region).

"Watina which was a big anthem song for the Garifuna. Rose did a rendition with her own talent. On this song it will be Rose and also with Carlos Santana."

In addition to a new release, a really nice and cool historical music video which tells the story of the Garifuna people and which was shot in Belize will be released shortly after.

As Calypso Rose continues to make music and history, some of her most recent achievements includes receiving the 'Womex Artist of the Year Award (2016), and receiving T&T's highest honour- 'The Order of the Republic of TT (ORTT- 2017)'. In addition to her recent hits 'Leave Me Alone' featuring Manu Chao, along with the remixed version featuring Machel Montano affectionately introducing her to a new generation of listeners.

Comedians afraid after Dave Chappelle attack

By **Lisa Respers France**

Howie Mandel and other comics are sounding the alarm after Dave Chappelle was attacked on stage following a performance.

An audience member attacked Chappelle Tuesday night right after the comedian wrapped up a set during "Netflix is a Joke: The Festival" at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles.

The man who tackled Chappelle had a knife blade and was arrested for felony assault with a deadly weapon and taken to a hospital for medical treatment, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

Talking to "Extra's" Billy Bush on Wednesday, Mandel expressed concern.

"Watching what happened to Dave last night

confirmed my fear," Mandel said. "I was watching it kind of live on Twitter and I turned to my wife and I said, 'I don't want to. I don't want to go on stage. I'm just really afraid.'"

Other comedians who were present during the incident, including Chris Rock, rushed to Chappelle's side after it happened.

Rock joked about whether the suspect was Will Smith,

referring to Smith's incident at the Oscars in which he walked on stage and slapped Rock after the comedian made a joke about Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith.

Comedian and Washington Times columnist Tim Young tweeted, "We can all thank Will Smith for setting the example that led to Dave Chappelle getting assaulted

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on stage last night.”

“Here we go again. As I mentioned before, Will Smith did it, so now people think that if a big celebrity did it they can now do it,” comedian Jordan Garrett told WPTV.

Mandel made the connection as well.

“This is one step that kind of opens a door and triggers somebody if they don’t like what you’re saying or they’re offended by what you’re saying... It’s kind of okay because it’s been done, to be violent, and that’s what my fear was,” he told “Extra” about Smith hitting Rock.

Mandel said he plans on touring less as a result.

“My biggest fear 40 years ago was not getting a laugh, and then cancel culture came along and then it was like, ‘Oh, my God if somebody doesn’t like



your joke or you overstepped your line, you could lose your career,’ and then after the Academy Awards... I said... ‘Violence triggers violence,’” Mandel explained.

As the investigation into the Chapelle attack continues, Netflix mean-

time, also expressed concern for safety around comedy shows.

“We care deeply about the safety of creators and we strongly defend the right of stand-up comedians to perform on stage without fear of violence,” a Netflix spokesperson said in a statement.

Tabanca for Antigua

By Johnny C.

Dreaming on mih backstep in Delaware,
Ah sit dong as though I eh have ah care,
Ah dunno if ah geh rel hypnotize,
Ah dunno if ah geh rel mesmerize,
No need to rearrange,
Please Antigua, ah doh want yuh tuh change.

Come drive with mih along the coast,
Antigua yuh see, could really boast,
Ocean so fresh, so pure, so clean,
Mountains so lush, so verdant, oh so green,
Prettiest I have ever seen,
No place like this I’ve ever been.

Land of mountains, dales, and hills,
Land of people nice and old sugar mills,
Land of raw beauty without the frills,
Land that surely gives me the thrills,

Ah see ah donkey with some load,
Some ah dem wild just walking in the road.

Yes, the sweet mango festival,
And the calypso bacchanal,
Ah dunno if it is the *ducoona*,
Or all dem rel pretty dahter,
Dat have mih dotish, yes *tootoolbay*,
From Antigua ah just cyar stay away.

From up by Des ah went tuh buy,
Dumpling and saltfish...no *mamaguy*,
She also had ah cook-up with peas and rice,
Ah geh so *bazodee*, the food so nice,
The sweet *tambran* juice,
Please,,Just let mih loose.

Over the road ah see some ripe mango,

Ah knock on she door tuh say hello,
Ah beg she fuh some mango please,
And then ah went and climb the tree,
But that was not all,
The people say dey ‘fraid ah fall.

Antigua is ah joy, the best beauty haven,
Ah will go dey without any reason,
Antigua as “A Small Place” is ah total treat,
Ah will go dey in one heartbeat,
Ah dunno if ah geh *fufurize*,
Buh all ah studying is dat paradise.

Ah dreaming ‘bout the water,
Ah dreaming ‘bout dem daughters,
Ah dreaming ‘bout the sea sand,
Ah dreaming ‘bout the mountains,
O Lord...help mih understand...
Such beauty in Antigua land!

**Dr. Johnny Coomansingh, a specialist in Human Geography, recently visited Antigua and Barbuda. Enthralled by the country’s pristine beauty, he was inspired to pen this beautiful poem.*

'Doctor Strange 2' gets weirder, scarier, messier

By Lindsey Bahr

Once a superhero franchise goes multiverse, it's hard to go back.

No work of fiction ever needs permission to break the rules or push the boundaries of traditional storytelling, but the multiverse, at least as it's been served up in recent Marvel movies, practically demands it. And for the moment that means a lot of cameo opportunities. "Spider-Man: No Way Home" opened the door to the concept, to mostly charming results, but now Benedict Cumberbatch's master of the mystic arts is flying through the interdimensional portal with the concept in "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness."

This film is technically the sequel to "Doctor Strange," a movie that came out six years ago. But so much has happened in Marvel land that involves Stephen Strange and his goatee — "Infinity War," "Endgame" and, yes, the most recent "Spider-Man" — that where it falls in the "Doctor Strange" standalone film continuity is entirely beside the point. One could not simply watch "Doctor Strange" and then "Doctor Strange 2" and expect it to make sense.

Not only that, understanding, or at least being invested in "Doctor Strange 2," also requires some passing knowledge of "WandaVision," the nine-episode Disney+ series that runs almost six hours total.

This is not a surprise or a burden to Marvel fans, but it does seem like quite a lot to ask of the average moviegoer (though perhaps at this point they're one and the same).

So it's especially interesting that Sam Raimi agreed to jump into this messy corporate multiverse at this point. His "Spider-Man" movies are still among the top of the crop of modern superhero franchises, after all.

Raimi was able to put his own stamp on this endeavour, including but not limited to a Bruce Campbell cameo. There are horror elements, too, some so intense



This image released by Marvel Studios shows Benedict Cumberbatch as Dr. Stephen Strange in a scene from "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness." (Marvel Studios via AP)

that families might think twice before bringing everyone to the multiplex, some interesting visuals not entirely dissimilar to the city-bending of "Inception" and some humour. But Raimi doesn't take "Doctor Strange" to an entirely new tonal place, like, say Taika Waititi did with Thor. He mostly sticks to the framework established by Scott Derrickson.

The main issue is that it's a bit of a kitchen sink movie centered on an entirely new and underdeveloped character, America Chavez (Xochitl Gomez), a teen who has the power to travel the multiverse but doesn't quite know how to control it. She's being hunted by someone who wants her powers and Strange decides to help, possibly out of genuine altruism and possibly because it was a good excuse to literally jump off a balcony to get out of his old flame Christine's (Rachel McAdams) wedding early.

Unfortunately, he asks the wrong Avenger for help: Elizabeth Olsen's Wanda Maximoff is the one after the power to go multiverse jumping and has been dabbling in some dark arts to make it happen. She's motivated by the idea that she has children out there in an idyllic suburban multiverse in which she wears yoga pants and loose cotton tops and tucks her boys in at night after ice cream and movies. Soon she and Strange are having a standoff in mid-air.

The script is inventive in the way it

plays around with a jumble of big sci-fi concepts, which makes sense considering screenwriter Michael Waldron is a veteran of "Rick & Morty." But it also underwhelms when it comes to the mishmash structure and the women. Olsen still sells Wanda's pain like the best of them, even though she's been reduced to a stereotype of female hysteria. Christine is merely there to make Strange realize things about himself. And America, well, she never really earns our emotional investment.

After "Infinity War" and "Endgame," "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" feels a little bit like wheel spinning. Cumberbatch has fun with his character, but his limitless ego seems to have been a little muted here as he grapples with his own happiness. And that invites more questions, like do we ultimately care about whether or not Doctor Strange is happy? Does he? Could everyone just use some post blip therapy instead of these interdimensional bottle episodes?

Perhaps the Marvel universe is finally starting to feel like a long running comic book series. Or maybe Phase 4 just hasn't kicked into gear just yet.

"Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," a Disney release in theatres Thursday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for, "intense sequences of violence and action, frightening images and some language."

Ms. Pac-Man clears path to World Video Game Hall of Fame

More than 40 years after blazing a trail for female video game characters, Ms. Pac-Man was inducted Thursday into the World Video Game Hall of Fame, along with Dance Dance Revolution, The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time and Sid Meier's Civilization.

The Hall of Fame considers electronic games of all types each year — arcade, console, computer, handheld and mobile. Inductees are recognized for their popularity and influence on the video game industry or pop culture over time.

The Ms. Pac-Man arcade game was released in 1981 as Midway's follow-up to Pac-Man, which entered the hall as part of the inaugural class in 2015.

The Pac-Man sequel reimagined the main character to acknowledge the original game's female fans, according to the hall. After selling 125,000 cabinets within the first five years, it became one of the best-selling arcade games of all time.

There was nothing inherently gendered about early video games, said Julia Novakovic, senior archivist at the hall.

But "by offering the first widely recognized female video game character," she said, "Ms. Pac-Man represented a turn in the cultural conversation about women's place in the arcade, as well as in society at large."



This photo provided by World Video Game Hall of Fame shows Ms. Pac-Man, Dance Dance Revolution, Sid Meier's Civilization and The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time. More than 40 years after blazing a trail for female video game characters, Ms. Pac-Man was inducted Thursday, May 5, 2022, into the World Video Game Hall of Fame, alongside Dance Dance Revolution, The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time and Sid Meier's Civilization. (World Video Game Hall of Fame via AP)

The Class of 2022 was chosen from a field of finalists that also included Assassin's Creed, Candy Crush Saga, Minesweeper, NBA Jam, PaRappa the Rapper, Resident Evil, Rogue, and Words with Friends.

It is the eighth class to be inducted since the World Video Game Hall of Fame was established at The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York.

Konami's Dance Dance Revolution, first seen in arcades in Japan in 1998, was recognized for helping to pave the way for other music-centred games like Guitar Hero and Rock Band.

The fast-paced game put players on a dance floor with a screen in front to direct their moves.

"Music has been an integral part of human life since prehistoric times, so it comes as no surprise that

DDR enjoyed a unique popularity that spanned ages, genders, and regions," said video game curator Lindsey Kurano.

A home version of the game followed on the Sony PlayStation in 1999.

The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time, also first released in 1998, came out for the Nintendo 64 gaming console and defined what a 3D action video game could be, Hall of Fame officials said.

The award-winning game sold more than 7.6 million copies worldwide and continues to be recognized by some players and critics as one of the best video games ever made.

"Even today, developers throughout the world credit The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time as influencing the way they create games," digital games curator Andrew Borman said. "The

game's sprawling 3D world, fluid combat, complex puzzles and time-shifting story combined to inspire a wonder in players that they have never forgotten."

Sid Meier's Civilization, released in 1991, was recognized as an influential simulation and strategy game. The game, which invited players to develop their own empires, launched a series of successor games, including the most recent Civilization: Beyond Earth and Civilization VI.

"The addictive nature of the game, which creator Sid Meier himself called the 'one more turn' quality, and its nearly unlimited choices that prevented repetitive gameplay, earned Civilization recognition from Computer Gaming World as the best video game of all time in 1996," said Jon-Paul Dyson, director of The Strong's International Center for the History of Electronic games.

"Altogether — and given the extraordinarily long periods of play the game afforded — players have engaged with the Civilization series for more than a billion hours."

Anyone can nominate a game for the World Video Game Hall of Fame. Final selections are made on the advice of journalists, scholars and others with knowledge of the history of video games and their role in society. (AP)

Regional News



Dozens killed in Haiti in two weeks of gun battles, thousands flee homes

Reuters – Gun battles between rival gangs in Port-au-Prince have killed dozens in the past two weeks and forced thousands to flee their homes, Haiti's civil protection authority and a U.N. agency said.

The Chen Mechan and 400 Mawozo gangs, the latter of which kidnapped a group of U.S. and Canadian missionaries last year, have been waging turf wars since April 24, killing at least 39 people and creating havoc in and around the capital.



Residents raise their arms as they flee their homes due to ongoing gun battles between rival gangs, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti May 2, 2022. REUTERS/Ralph Tedy Erol

“At least 23 houses were burned down, and 48 schools, five medical centres and eight markets had to close,” the authority and the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humani-

tarian Affairs said in a report sent to Reuters on Thursday.

It describes the situation up until Wednesday afternoon. The clashes have also wounded 68 and has crippled operations of the country's largest fuel terminal, leading to fuel shortages, with the gangs hijacking 10 tanker trucks. About 9,000 people have had to move to other homes, the report added.

Gangs have steadily boosted their power since the July assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

Guyana President assures no spying on local media or citizens in general

CMC - Guyana President Irfaan Ali on Tuesday sought to assure media operatives and citizens that the Government has no intention of using modern technology such as spyware to monitor their activities.

He gave the promise as he addressed members of the media fraternity at the start of the two-day National Conference and Symposium hosted in observance of World Press Freedom Day.

President Ali's statement came after President of the Guyana Press Association (GPA) Nazima Raghubir called on the administration to assure journalists and media houses that it will not utilize spyware like Pegasus, against the background of allegations made in Trinidad that the government there had been using that Israeli-manufactured program.

“This government has no intention, whatsoever; it has not even contemplated my mind to move in any direction to have any spyware. I have

not even imagined something like that, it will never happen, at least under this government,” Ali said.

He added that under the democratic construct of a free society, no government should be spying on its population, noting that, “wherever it exists, it should be rooted”.

The President emphasized that his PPP/C administration believes in freedom of the press and his government will remain accessible to the media.

“There has never been any time I am called upon, anywhere, and not make myself available, not only to the media but to the people of this country because there is where I belong, there is where I feel comfortable. I would not run away from that,” he said.

This year's World Press Freedom Day theme “Journalism under digital siege,” spotlights the multiple ways in which journalism is endangered by surveillance and digitally-mediated attacks on journalists, and the consequences of all this on public trust in



President Irfaan Ali digital communications.

The latest UNESCO World Trends Report Insights discussion paper “Threats that Silence: Trends in the Safety of Journalists,” highlights how surveillance and hacking are compromising journalism.

Legislation coming to control tobacco marketing and sales in Jamaica

CMC – Comprehensive legislation is slated to be tabled in the House of Representatives shortly to address the devastating effects of tobacco consumption in Jamaica, Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton has disclosed.

The Tobacco Control 2020 Bill will, among other things, impose restrictions on the marketing of tobacco products as well as prohibit the sale to children.

Dr. Tufton said the legislation is now at the committee stage “and I am happy to report that we are well advanced in that process”.

“I expect over the next month, six weeks maybe, to table the comprehensive Bill, and I urge my colleagues to quickly pass this bill for the protection of the Jamaican people and to reduce the cost of treatment,” he said.

Outlining some of the provisions of the Bill, Dr. Tufton informed that in addition to curtailing the marketing of tobacco products and prohibiting sales to children, it will also prohibit the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems such as e-cigarettes in public spaces.

“I am particularly keen about that because in our school system we have observed a trend that our students are now using these electronic cigars, looking like a pen and a pencil, and it is corrupting them in more ways than one. So, I look forward to the legislation being very strong on that and support for reducing dependence,” he said.

Dr. Tufton said that the legislation will significantly manage the risk of tobacco consumption both directly and indirectly.

He noted that tobacco consump-

tion, whether first- or second-hand smoke, kills eight million persons worldwide each year, costing the public health system billions of dollars for treatment.

“In fact, tobacco is second only to hypertension as a cause of mortality worldwide. This cost is borne by all of us, not to mention the pain and suffering,” the Health Minister said.



Jamaica's Health Minister, Dr. Christopher Tufton.

Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

ACROSS

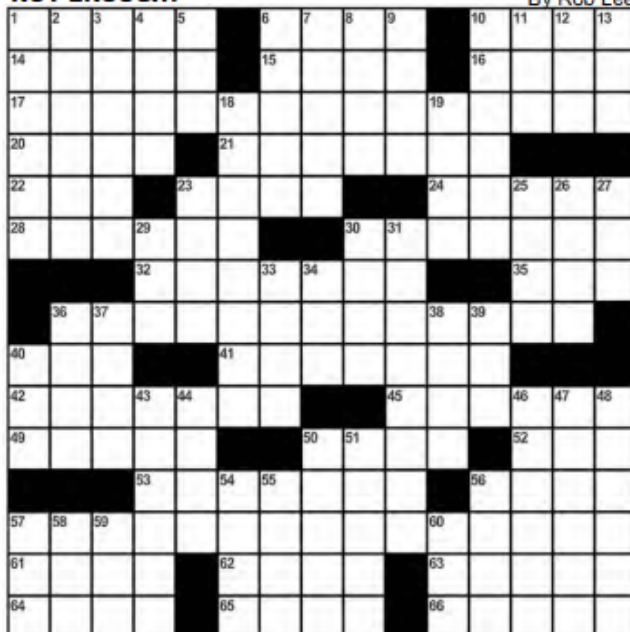
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Inclination | 40) Suffers from |
| 6) Middle Eastern monarchy | 41) Cough drop flavor |
| 10) Iranian currency | 42) Like a glutton |
| 14) Some soft drinks | 45) Calculator of a sort |
| 15) Tree trunk | 49) Leisurely walk |
| 16) Land o' the shamrock | 50) Blanched |
| 17) How some lay it on? | 52) Anti-apartheid party, for short |
| 20) Tear apart | 53) Certain singer |
| 21) Property recipient, in law | 56) Certainly not often |
| 22) Satisfied one's hunger | 57) What a hint is |
| 23) "A likely story!" | 61) Like a tie score |
| 24) Apogee's antithesis | 62) Bookie's quote |
| 28) Common volcanic rock | 63) Ration out |
| 30) Six-stanza verse form | 64) Lightbulb unit |
| 32) Is generous | 65) Not messy at all |
| 35) Mighty high peak | 66) Dabbling ducks |
| 36) Almost certifiable | |

DOWN

- 1) Sacred beetle of ancient Egypt
- 2) Controversial Nabokov novel
- 3) Bartender's supply
- 4) High-priced spread
- 5) "To the max" indicator
- 6) Daggers, in printing
- 7) Recurring theme
- 8) Common skin cream ingredient
- 9) Attention-getting light
- 10) Warm, as leftovers
- 11) Three, on old clocks
- 12) Not quite a circle
- 13) Albanian dollar
- 18) It may follow Tom, Dick or Harry
- 19) Easy math column
- 23) Much
- 25) Cameron of Hollywood
- 26) In a thorough manner
- 27) Music category
- 29) Commercials
- 30) Paving stone
- 31) Type of onion (Var.)
- 33) Tucked in for the night
- 34) Plating material
- 36) Coffee, slangily
- 37) Functions
- 38) It prevents exposure
- 39) In the way of
- 40) Emulate a rabbit
- 43) Forwarded
- 44) Plowable snowfall
- 46) Kind of oil
- 47) Not hip
- 48) Perfumes
- 50) Type of "bear"
- 51) Anxiety
- 54) Unit measuring loudness
- 55) Kings Dominion attraction
- 56) Eye up and down
- 57) Make a cuff
- 58) Eggs, to biologists
- 59) Big Apple athlete
- 60) Meal source?

NOT ENOUGH?

By Rob Lee



Death toll rises to 26 in central China building collapse

AP – The death toll jumped Thursday to 26 from the collapse last week of a residential and commercial building in central China, state media reported. Ten other people have been rescued from the wreckage in the city of Changsha, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The 10th survivor, an unidentified woman, was pulled out shortly after midnight on Thursday, nearly six days after the building suddenly caved in on April 29, Xinhua said. Rescue teams with search dogs have been searching through the rubble since then.

The woman was conscious and advised rescuers on how to pull her out without causing further injury, Xinhua said. Teams also used hand tools as well as drones and electronic life detectors in the search.

At least nine people have been arrested in connection with the collapse of what Xinhua has described as a



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, rescue workers evacuate the 10th survivor pulled alive after being trapped 132 hours from the debris of a self-built residential structure that collapsed in Changsha in central China's Hunan Province on Thursday May 5, 2022. (Shen Hong/Xinhua via AP)

“self-built building” on suspicion of ignoring building codes or committing other violations. Varying reports have said the building was either six or eight stories tall.

All of the survivors were reportedly in good condition after being treated in a hospital. Intermittent rain showers in recent days may have increased their chances of survival without food or water.

In an account of Monday's rescue of the eighth

survivor pulled out, state media said rescuers faced an unstable pile of rubble that they had to work around rather than demolish. Prior to the rescue, they were able to feed in video equipment to communicate with the girl and establish that one of her legs was trapped.

Before retreating to draw up a strategy, they fed in saline solution for her to drink, to which she responded, “Don't worry big brother, I

know you'll be back for me right away,” the reports said.

No other details about the girl or her condition were given.

The arrested include the building owner, three people in charge of design and construction and five others who allegedly gave a false safety assessment for a guest house on the building's fourth to sixth floors. The building also housed residences, a café and a restaurant.

An increase in the number of collapses of self-built buildings in recent years prompted Chinese President Xi Jinping to call last month for additional checks to uncover structural weaknesses.

Poor adherence to safety standards, including the illegal addition of extra floors and failure to use reinforcing iron bars, is often blamed for such disasters. China also suffers from decaying infrastructure such as gas pipes that has led to explosions and collapses.

Israel says Putin apologised for foreign minister's Hitler remarks



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett attends a cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem April 10, 2022. REUTERS/Ronen Zvulun

Reuters – Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Thursday that Russian President Vladimir Putin had apologised for his foreign minister's comments claiming Adolf Hitler had Jewish origins.

Putin also told Bennett in a phone call that Russia would allow civilian passage from the besieged Azovstal steel works in the Ukrainian port of Mariupol via a humanitarian corridor handled by the United Nations and Red Cross.

Bennett's office said Israel's prime minister had requested civilian passage from the steel works after an earlier conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Israel lambasted Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov this week for saying Adolf Hitler had Jewish roots, describing the remarks as an “unforgivable” falsehood that debased the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust.

Lavrov made the comment on Sunday
cont'd on pg 25

Colombia extradites feared head of Gulf Clan to US

AP — Colombia extradited the alleged head of the feared Gulf Clan, who had been the country's most wanted drug lord before his capture, to the United States Wednesday where he faces indictments in three federal courts.

Colombian President Iván Duque said Dairo Antonio Úsuga David is "comparable only to Pablo Escobar," referring to the late former head of the Medellín drug cartel.

"He is not only the most dangerous drug trafficker in the world, but he is murderer of social leaders, abuser of boys, girls and adolescents, a murderer of policemen," Duque said accompanied by Colombia's military leaders whom he congratulated for guarding Úsuga David and capturing him in October 2021.

The former rural warlord, better known by his alias Otoniel, had stayed on the run for more than a decade by corrupting state officials and aligning himself with combatants on the left and right.

He was transferred Wednesday in handcuffs and

wearing a helmet and a bulletproof vest from a prison in Bogotá to a heavily guarded military transport air field.

He's long been a fixture on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's most-wanted list. He was first indicted in 2009, in Manhattan federal court, on narcotics charges and for allegedly providing assistance to a far-right paramilitary group designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. government.

Later indictments in Brooklyn and Miami federal courts accused him of importing into the U.S. at least 73 metric tons of cocaine between 2003 and 2014 through countries including Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Honduras.

Úsuga David's also cycled through the ranks of several guerrilla groups, most recently claiming to lead the Gaitanist Self Defence Forces of Colombia, after a mid-20th century Colombian leftist firebrand.

The Colombian government began the capo's extradition after the State Council lifted a provisional suspen-



In this photo released by the Colombian Presidential Press Office, police escort Dairo Antonio Usuga, centre, also known as "Otoniel," leader of the violent Clan del Golfo cartel prior to his extradition to the U.S., at a military airport in Bogota, Colombia, Wednesday, May 4, 2022. (Colombian presidential press office via AP)

sion of an order by Duque endorsing the move. The high court dismissed a petition from a group of Úsuga David's victims who argued that his extradition would violate their rights to justice and reparation. They wanted him to first face the more than 128 proceedings against him in Colombia.

Duque said that from the United States, Úsuga would continue collaborating with the Colombian authorities in the investigations against him and once he completes his sentences for drug traf-

ficking, he will return to "Colombia to pay for the crimes he committed."

The Gulf Clan's army of assassins terrorized much of northern Colombia to gain control of major cocaine smuggling routes through thick jungles north to Central America and onto the U.S.

As he defied authorities for years, his legend as a bandit grew alongside the horror stories told by Colombian authorities of the many underage women he and his cohorts allegedly abused sexually.

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day when asked why Russia said it needed to "denazify" Ukraine if Zelenskiy was himself Jewish.

"When they say 'What sort of nazification is this if we are Jews', well I think that Hitler also had Jewish origins, so it means nothing," Lavrov told Italy's Rete

4 channel, speaking through an Italian interpreter.

After the call with Putin, Bennett said he had accepted the apology and thanked the Russian leader for "clarifying his regard for the Jewish people and the memory of the Holocaust."

Israel, which has sought to keep

good ties with Kyiv and Moscow, has acted as an intermediary, although an Israeli official said Bennett had suspended those efforts in late March to deal with a spate of Arab street attacks in Israel.

The latest phone calls with Putin and Zelenskiy suggested Israel may be resuming mediation efforts.

Five pressing issues for Nicholas Pooran to ponder

ESPN – Nicholas Pooran has been appointed West Indies' white-ball captain, succeeding Kieron Pollard who announced his international retirement last month. With a busy international schedule coming up, including a T20 World Cup at the end of it, these are some of the most pressing issues in Pooran's in-box.

Replacing Pollard, on and off the pitch

The first task facing Pooran will be to build on the team unity created by Pollard, who galvanised the side in a series victory against England in January. But especially in T20Is, this is a largely inexperienced side that will need a captain who can continue to provide vision and clarity.

Pooran excelled with the bat in his last international assignment, in India earlier this year, averaging 61.33 with a strike rate of 140.45 across three T20Is. He will hold the team to the same high standards Pollard did.

Pooran will also need to decide who takes over from Pollard in the T20I squad as the designated finisher; the powerful Rovman Powell could be moved down the order to fulfil such a role.

In ODIs, Pollard tended to move up the order when the innings needed impetus, so with an abundance of allrounders already in the side, rather than a finisher, he could be replaced by a specialist batter like Nkrumah Bonner, who was recalled for the ODI series against India.

Pollard also had the support of senior players such as Chris Gayle, Andre Russell, Lendl Simmons and Dwayne Bravo during the majority of his captaincy, which Pooran will miss. Former captain Jason Holder will be vital in providing assistance, while Shai Hope will serve as vice-captain in ODIs.

Managing his own workload

Days after the conclusion of the IPL, West Indies will travel to play ODI series in Netherlands and then Pakistan. Although they are now unlikely to di-



Nicholas Pooran will have to plunge into full-time leadership without the experience of Dwayne Bravo and Chris Gayle to lean on [ICC via Getty]

rectly qualify for the 2023 World Cup, the series are worth Super League points and Pooran will want to make an immediate impact as leader. Having seen how Pollard was treated by some sections of the media in the Caribbean, he will be fully aware of the pressure he will face if early results do not go his way.

West Indies will then go on to face Bangladesh, India and New Zealand in white-ball series as part of their home summer. This unrelenting fixture list continues with the Caribbean Premier League, where Pooran will turn out for the Trinbago Knight Riders, followed soon after by the T20 World Cup in Australia, where West Indies play in the first round.

As well as captaining and leading the middle order through these games, Pooran will also be keeping wicket in T20Is, a fair responsibility. All signs so far suggest he excels under such responsibility - both his average and strike rate are significantly higher in the T20Is he's captained in - though he may well relinquish the gloves for some matches in order to balance that workload.

West Indies' bowling woes

A clear problem with the side in both white-ball formats is the inability to take

wickets. The struggles have seen veteran bowlers such as Fidel Edwards, Kemar Roach and Ravi Rampaul recalled to white-ball cricket since the turn of 2021. One advantage that Pooran has is that Obed McCoy is now fit and available to play for the first time since last year's T20 World Cup. As a strike bowler who is effective in the Powerplay, he will be a massive asset.

Alzarri Joseph has built a reputation for big-name wickets in ODI cricket, but he has lacked consistency in the format. It will be up to Pooran to try and get the best out of him. Some good performances for the Gujarat Titans in this season's IPL indicate that Joseph could also be handed a T20I debut in the coming months.

Also intriguing will be whether Pooran has any influence in handing the talented Jayden Seales a white-ball debut to partner McCoy. Seales was included in white-ball squads earlier this year but not chosen for the starting XI. With squads set to be rotated in order to manage the schedule, it would be surprising if we did not see Seales play under Pooran sooner rather than later.

Middle-order consistency

cont'd on pg 27

Lay Day fun on and off the water

Racing crews and fun lovers joined forces on Pigeon Point beach for a day of water and land-based challenges on Lay Day, the traditional rest day during Antigua Sailing Week (ASW). This year's activities were extra special as Carib Beer hosted activities that tested the participants' skill, strategy, and strength.

Jaime Torres, Antigua Sailing Week Race Manager explained the importance of Lay Day.

"It is an opportunity for the crews to fix their boats, bodies, and souls after three days of hard racing. It also

allows them to make connections outside of the racing bubble as they compete in more fun-filled events that test their mental as well as physical abilities.

"There is a great atmosphere, and we want to express thanks to Carib for being a part of our key social event, providing giveaways during the tug of war, beer drinking and the "giant Jenga" challenges."

The Fun-A-Thon began with Kayak racing and 100 meter swimming relay – ten crews participated. In addition to traditional relay Sack Race, new games



Photo: Ted Martin/ASW

included a fill the bucket team challenge a keenly fought contest between the young sailors from the National Sailing Academy and a German team, racing on Polygala which cheekily renamed themselves with a Fun-A-Thon alias "Male Escort Service".

The latter are members of the Wurttembergischer yacht club on Lake Constance and were the recipients of a delayed prize trip to race in ASW for 2020, courtesy Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), ASW, National

Parks Authority and Dream Yacht Charter.

Although they lost the first challenge, they were victorious in the highly competitive Tug of War event.

The fun day ended with a "giant Jenga" contest won by the youngest player.

All the winners received Carib goodie bag.

Today is the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Race Day, the final day of racing followed by the Awards ceremony and closing party with live performances by Irie Fire & DJ Purist.



cont'd from pg 26

Evin Lewis returning should aid the side's top-order issues, but the middle is the real problem, with players such as Darren Bravo and Roston Chase consistently unable to build innings in white-ball formats. Pooran will need to improve his own batting form in ODIs, having only scored one half century in his last ten innings.

While there is an abundance of lower-order allrounders who can accelerate an innings, the inability of the side to run singles and rotate strike has been a massive hindrance, particularly in 50-overs

cricket where the side has lost their past two series, to Ireland and India.

It will be up to Pooran to lead by example by scoring runs and guiding players by building partnerships. Pooran has improved his batting in this year's IPL, working closely with Brian Lara at Sunrisers Hyderabad. Could we see Lara integrated into the West Indies set-up in some capacity?

Missing stars

Pollard, Bravo and Gayle had a combined 271 T20I caps between them and a staggering 588 ODI caps. Losing the core of the golden generation in the

space of six months has created a massive void in the side. The likes of Dominic Drakes, Odean Smith and Romario Shepherd have debuted but they have not had too many experienced heads to turn to for advice.

West Indies do still have experienced players who are flourishing, just not in maroon. Sunil Narine, Russell and Shimron Hetmyer, for various reasons, are not currently playing international cricket. Pooran will be aware of how valuable they are to the side, but will he decide to start conversations with them about a path back in?

Windward Islands Windwards Volcanoes recognise Sir Andy Roberts

Sir Andy Roberts received recognition from the Windward Islands Cricket Board (WICB) for his continued contribution to cricket development in the West Indies.

WICB President Dr. Kishore Shallow presented a plaque to Sir Andy following a fruitful engagement with fast bowlers at the Windward Islands franchise. The West Indian cricket legend travelled to Grenada, home of the Volcanoes franchise, from April 27 – 30, 2022.

The franchise hosted Sir Andy to observe and help the fast bowlers as they prepare for the resumption of the West Indies regional 4-day tournament. The exchanges included discussions on the theory and art of fast bowling. International players

Shermon Lewis and Preston McSween participated in the sessions.

WICB Technical Director, Miles Bascombe said, “As we continue the efforts to zoom in on specific components of the game, this fast bowling engagement was timely and productive. The experience and knowledge that Sir Andy has shared with these cricketers are invaluable and will eventually bear fruits.”

WICB Vice President Dwain Gill said, “Hosting Sir Andy aligns with the New Windwards policy of advancing our cricketers on all fronts. While this was primarily about developing our fast bowlers’ skills, another critical element of this activity was to allow these young players to identify with a



West Indian legend and be inspired.”

The Volcanoes travel on May 15 to Trinidad and Tobago for the final three rounds of the regional 4-day tournament.

Former West Indian fast bowler, Sir Andy played Test and ODI for West Indies from 1974 to 1983. He was the first Antiguan and Barbudan to play Test cricket for

the West Indies, paving the way for other greats like Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Richie Richardson, and Sir Curtly Ambrose.

In the West Indies, he played for Leeward Islands and Combined Islands. Roberts also played extensive county cricket for Hampshire County Cricket Club and Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

Frankfurt, West Ham fans clash before Europa League game

AP - More than 30 arrests were made after supporters of English club West Ham and local team Eintracht Frankfurt clashed before their Europa League game, police said Thursday.

Frankfurt police said in a statement that they had to intervene “at several locations” the previous night because of fights between rival fans or because supporters “wanted to fight.” The police said they stopped major altercation around the main train station.

Police say up to 1,000



visiting supporters “including fans considered to be a risk” were registered before the game.

“The rival fan groups kept looking for violent

clashes, which the police prevented by quickly intervening, especially in the station area. Despite that, there were physical attacks elsewhere,” the statement said,

referring to an attack carried out by Frankfurt fans that left two visiting supporters unconscious. Both men had to be hospitalized due to their injuries.

Other altercations included an attack by a larger group of Frankfurt fans on West Ham supporters in a pub, in which baseball bats were used.

Frankfurt was hosting West Ham for the second leg of their Europa League semi-final on Thursday. Frankfurt was leading 2-1 from the first leg.

Enforcers return to winning ways in volleyball league

Michael Freeland Enforcers returned to winning ways in the men's division of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

Enforcers rebounded from a 3-2 loss against defending champions Stoneville on 30th April, to beat Sharks 3-1 to claim their second win in three outings.

But the Sharks had a better start in the encounter, winning the opening set 25-17.

The Sharks were unable to sustain their early momentum, however, as Enforcers got into stride, winning the

next three sets and the match 25-11, 25-09, 25-15.

Enforcers made a successful start to their campaign with a 3-2 victory over High Flyers on 23rd April.

Meanwhile, defending female division champions Paragons recorded their first win in this year's competition by coasting to a comfortable 3-0 victory over North Coast Hardware Starz 2 in the other encounter on Wednesday.

Paragons prevailed 25-20, 25-10, 25-10 to secure their first win in three outings, after losing their first two encounters by 3-1 margins against North Coast Hardware Starz1 on 23rd April and Cool & Smooth Da



Michael Freeland Enforcers claimed their second win in three outings in the men's division of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Local League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday, 4th May, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABAVA)

Squad on 28th April.

The competitions will continue with two matches at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday evening. Cool & Smooth Da Squad will

face Stoneville in the female division at 6:30pm and that encounter will be followed by a men's division affair between High Flyers and Cool & Smooth Storming Lions.

Three million ticket requests for World Cup final; 1.4m for England-US

AP – FIFA has received 3 million ticket requests for the World Cup final in Qatar and high demand to attend some of its biggest group-stage games, even as issues linger about the tiny Persian Gulf nation's ability to accommodate fans.

The data revealed to The Associated Press by FIFA shows there have been 2.5 million ticket requests to see Argentina play Mexico on Nov. 26 at the 80,000-capacity Lusail Stadium, and 1.4 million fans hope to see England face the United States the previous day at the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium.

Overall for the Nov. 21-Dec. 18 tournament, there



People gather around the official countdown clock showing remaining time until the kick-off of the World Cup 2022, in Doha, Qatar, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021. FIFA has received 3 million ticket requests for the World Cup final in Qatar and high demand to attend some of its biggest group-stage games. (AP Photo/Darko Bandic, File)

have been more than 2 million ticket requests from the U.S., England and Qatar after the second phase of sales. A random draw will be used to allocate tickets for matches where the demand exceeds

capacity.

The significant number of ticket requests could reflect the desire to watch more than one match a day with fans looking to fill time between watching their own country

by attending other games in a country where all stadiums are within an hour's travel by public transport from the heart of Doha.

With all stadiums built around the capital, the tournament lacks the variety of tourist attractions compared to recent World Cups in Brazil and Russia. More than 23 million ticket requests have been received overall by FIFA.

There have been 3 million ticket requests for the final despite prices rising up to 46% from the cost for international fans to attend the 2018 final won by France in Moscow, with the most expensive tickets at 5,850 Qatari riyals (\$1,607).

Sports News



Golden Grove to meet Five Islands in Primary School Cup final

Golden Grove will seek to dethrone Five Islands when they clash in the final of the Primary School Cup football competition at the Golden Grove playing field today.

Both teams booked their spots into the final of the primary school competition by winning their semi-final matches on penalties at the Golden Grove playing field on Wednesday afternoon.

Golden Grove defeated Villa Primary 4-3 on penalties after both teams battled to a 2-2 draw at the end of regulation time in the second semi-final.

Robert Jeffery gave Golden Grove a 1-0 lead by scoring a brilliant free-kick in the 8th minute of the contest.

But Villa drew level in the 20th minute, when Shumba Thomas converted a penalty, which was awarded by the referee after a Golden Grove player handled the ball in the 18-yard box.

With the scores leveled at 1-1 at halftime, Junior Lewis gave Villa a 2-1 lead, two minutes after the break, when his free kick, which was taken a few feet away from the half line, somehow eluded the grasp of the Golden Grove goalkeeper and landed in the back of the net.

But Villa's advantage was short-lived because



Parliamentary representative for St John's Rural South, the constituency in which the Golden Grove Primary School is located, Daryll Matthew, back row in white shirt, joined the football team and coach Karen Warner, back row in black top, for a photo after their semi-final encounter at the Golden Grove playing field on Wednesday, 4th May, 2022. (Photo: Elwin Francis)

one minute later, Jeffrey snatched Golden Grove's equaliser when he scored with a free kick for the second time in that encounter.

Although Jeffrey's dead ball strike connected with less power than his first half goal, his tame effort was deflected by a Villa player past his own goalkeeper into the back of the net.

Both teams continued to battle each other in their quest to score the all-important winner in regulation time.

However, they were unable to break the deadlock, which eventually forced the match to be decided on penalty kicks from which Golden Grove came out victorious.

Coach Karen Warner was understandably elated that the Golden Grove team were able to secure the semi-finals victory.

"I am very happy with the result. Going into the week, the players were really happy, they were ready and they really wanted the game. I had a lot of faith in the players that they could bring home the victory and they promised that they would and they have delivered the win today," Warner said.

Warner said she and her team are also looking forward to achieving the ultimate success when they take on cup holders Five Islands in the final today.

"Due to the fact that

Five Islands have the trophy, they are going to try and retain that trophy. However, I have confidence in my team that we will be going for the trophy 100 percent and take it back to Golden Grove Primary School," Warner said.

Five Islands ensured they will have the chance to retain their title by overcoming Jennings Primary 2-1 on penalties after their first semi-final encounter had finished 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

Shamar Walters' first half conversion gave Jennings a 1-0 halftime advantage, but Allister Nibbs snatched Five Islands' equaliser when he scored in the second half to send the match into penalty kicks.

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tans in the first match at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on Wednesday night.

Rising Sun were restricted to 122 for 7 off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Malinga Bruneu top scored with an unbeaten 32 off 41 balls, Shequan Hewlett contributed 31 off 25 balls, opener Gian Benjamin chipped in with 21 from 15 balls and Dean Williams made a run-a-ball 18. Kenroy Browne captured 3 for 21 in his 4 overs.

Opener and overseas guest player George Munsey slammed a half century as Jennings Tigers achieved victory with 124 for 3 in 17.2 overs.

Munsey, who was named player of the match, hammered 57 off 39 balls with 9 fours and a six, while fellow opener Kyle Cabey contributed 23 off 29 balls.

Rising Sun Spartans will take on cup-holders and Group 1 winners Liberta Black Hawks at 4 pm and Jennings



Jennings Tigers' overseas guest player George Munsey with his man of the match award after hitting a half century against Rising Sun Spartans in the T20 Explosion at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on 4th May, 2022. (Photos: Vaughn Joseph)

Tigers will face runners-up in Group 1 day's semi-final at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds. Bethesda Golden Eagles at 8 pm in to-



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Organisers expel All Saints from T20 Explosion semi-finals

The organisers of the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion expelled All Saints Pythons from further participation in the competition after the team was deemed to have violated the competition rules.

All Saints were found guilty of breaching the T20 Explosion rule that they field no more than a maximum of three overseas guest players in any of their matches.

The decision against the Pythons was handed down, after Empire Nation filed a protest against the All Saints team, who had earlier beaten them by 48 runs to clinch a place in the semi-finals, when the two sides met in the final Group2 preliminary round match at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on Wednesday night.

A media release from the organisers stated, "Due to the illegal fielding of four overseas players in Match #12, the All Saints Pythons have forfeited their game against Empire Nation on Wednesday, 4th May, 2022.

"This decision was made after careful investigation and consultation with the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA)."

The organisers' deci-



All Saints Pythons celebrate the dismissal of an Empire Nation batsman during their last Group 2 preliminary round encounter in the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion competition at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on 4th May, 2022.

sion means that Rising Sun Spartans will replace the Pythons in the semi-final as the runners-up in Group 2, which was won by Jennings Tigers.

In Wednesday's encounter, set 178 to win, Empire Nation could only muster 129 for 8 off their allotted 20 overs, with Nathan Edwards hitting an unbeaten 34 off 37 balls and guest overseas player Kieran Powell getting 31 off 20 balls at the top of the batting order.

Martin Ceaser Jr.

bagged 2 for 14, Kacy Carty claimed 2 for 17 and captain Kerry Mentore picked up 2 for 22.

Earlier, All Saints made 177 for 8 off their 20 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Carty, who was named man of the match, slammed 66 off 51 balls with 6 fours and a six and Mentore contributed 42 off 38 balls with 8 boundaries.

Nathan Edwards claimed the first five wicket haul of this year's compe-

tition by grabbing 5 for 35 in his 4 overs and Damian Lowenfield captured 2 for 13 in his 3 overs.

Jennings Tigers joined defending champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks and Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles in the semi-finals on Wednesday night.

Jennings Tigers qualified as Group 2 winners by romping to a seven-wicket win over Rising Sun Spar-

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