

POLICE ALERT HEIGHTENED, PUBLIC VIGILANCE ADVISED

Story on Page 2



Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez (centre) met with Sandals Grande Antigua executives on Thursday at the resort's Dickenson Bay location.

Local News



Police assures population of heightened crime fighting measures

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda says it is stepping up its crime fighting measures and is appealing to citizens and residents to increase their security awareness.

The assurance came 24 hours after the bodies of

husband and wife, Tyrone and Pia Baptiste, were discovered in their Golden Grove home with gunshot wounds about their bodies.

According to police, stop and search exercises have been conducted in target areas and search war-

rants have been executed at places where it is believed criminal activities are taking place.

In a statement, STRATCOM, the Strategic Communications Department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda noted

that in an effort to control incidences or crime, patrols have increased with specific focus being placed on large gatherings.

The RPFAB is guaranteeing the general public that the measures will continue during and after the carnival season to ensure everyone's safety.

The police are advising residents to exercise caution by knowing their surroundings, securing valuables and securing properties when leaving home.

Street vendors are being encouraged to have adequate security measures in

cont'd on pg 3

Fri 22 Day 85°		Fri 22 Night 77°	
13% ENE 15 mph	35% ENE 13 mph	Abundant sunshine. High near 85F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.	
Humidity 67%		UV Index Extreme	
Sunrise 5:44 am		Sunset 6:43 pm	
Humidity 78%		UV Index 0 of 10	
Moonrise 12:48 am		Moonset 1:57 pm	
Waning Crescent			

Curry House

ANTIGUA

A whole new dining experience awaits you.

Call us at 562-5724 | Whatsapp 736-7165

Government confident in its ability to handle COVID-19 during Carnival

One of the most anticipated events for Carnival 2022 – T-Shirt Mas – is taking place on Saturday with thousands expected to participate as thousands more spectate in St. John's.

Despite the huge crowds that are expected to converge on the capital however, the government says it is confident that the measures it has put in place will be adequate to handle any uptick in COVID-19 infections.

Agriculture Minister, Samantha Marshall, who presided over Thursday's Cabinet press briefing, said the executive body has been keeping a keen eye out for outbreaks in the period before Carnival.

"There have been several events held leading up to Carnival and they have all been monitored closely by the Ministries of Creative Industry and Health to see what has been happening.

"That is why we opened a bit earlier to allow for larger events so that we could see what would happen," she noted.

Marshall said based on the available information, and with the several fetes held so far, it is unlikely that



Agriculture Minister, Samantha Marshall

there will be a major outbreak of the disease that is beyond the government's ability to contain.

She credited much of the success in handling COVID-19 to the ministries of Creative Industry and Innovation and Health & Wellness and their effective job in keeping the spread of the virus to a minimum.

"So far we have been able to manage quite well, although you would note that throughout the region and across the world many countries are still trying to get back to some sense of normality. We are at a point where we don't want people to live in fear, but instead to get back to a sense of normality," she declared.

Looking ahead to a successful Carnival 2022, Mar-

shall reminded revelers and onlookers to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols that re-

main to avoid infection. She also assured that the government has systems in place to handle any breakthrough infections.

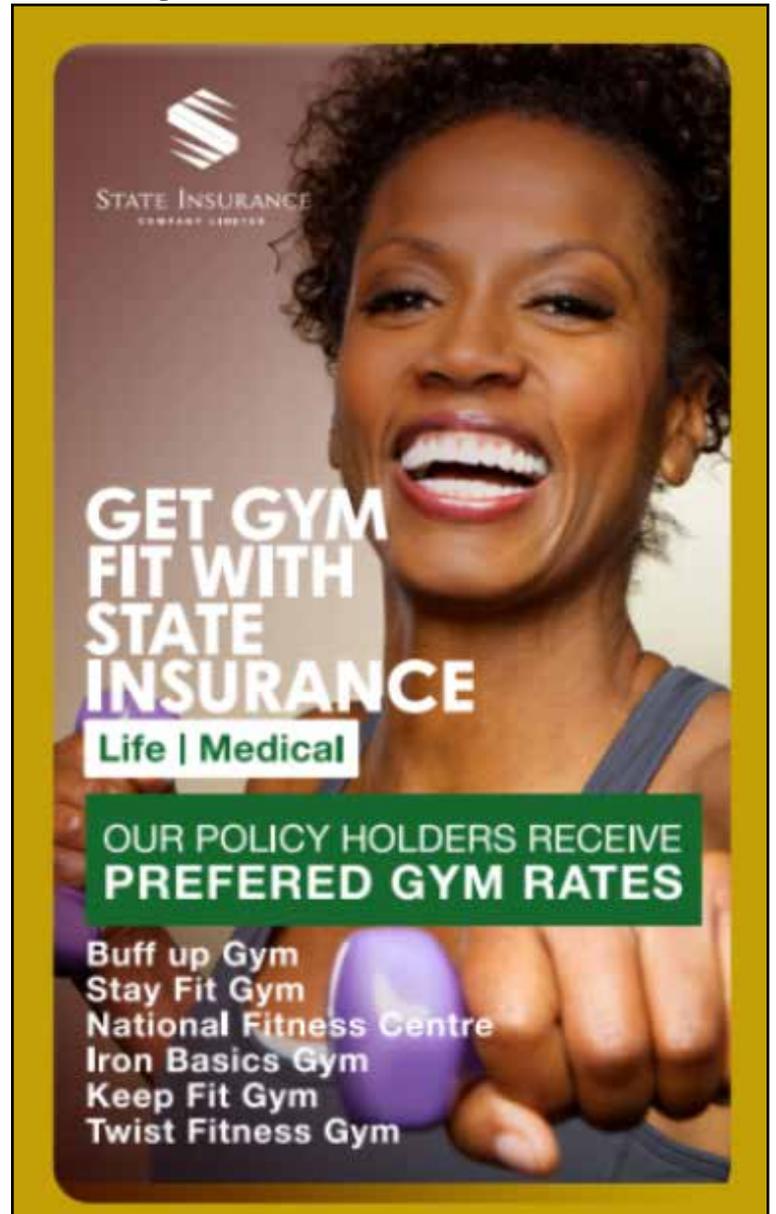
Meanwhile, the T-Shirt Mas and all other Carnival 2022 events will take place in St. John's. Other major events taking place over the weekend include a show at Carnival City on Sunday night honouring musical legend, Sir McClean 'King Short Shirt' Emanuel.

cont'd from pg 2

place, including lighting and to properly secure their cash.

Anyone with information concerning any suspicious transaction can contact the nearest police station, or call the Crimestoppers Hotline at 800-Tips (8477).

The cooperation of the general public is expected as the police continue to work towards providing the best possible service to everyone.



STATE INSURANCE
CORPORATE LIMITED

GET GYM FIT WITH STATE INSURANCE
Life | Medical

OUR POLICY HOLDERS RECEIVE PREFERRED GYM RATES

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



Life's easy with our E-billers

Online Banking and the Mobile App make it easy to make payments to any of these e-billers.

- Anjo Insurance Agency
- Antigua & Barbuda Social Security Board
- Antigua Mobile Service (PCS)
- Antigua State College
- Antigua State Insurance
- APUA Electricity
- APUA PCS
- APUA TELEPHONE
- APUA WATER
- APUA-INET
- Brysons Shipping & Insurance
- Cable & Wireless Antigua
- Caribbean Alliance Insurance
- Finance and Development
- Inland Revenue - ABST
- Inland Revenue - Property Tax
- Nagico Insurance
- Pan American Life Co. Antigua
- Sagicor Life (EC) Antigua
- West Indies Oil Company

Don't see the biller you're looking for? Remember, you can pay anyone using Electronic Funds Transfer even if they aren't listed as an E-biller.

Want to sign up as an e-biller? It's easy. Speak with your Relationship Manager or call 484-5139 for more information.



FirstCaribbean
International Bank



#mybankdoesthat

The CIBC logo is a trademark of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, used by FirstCaribbean International Bank under license.



Jury expected to begin deliberations in murder trial

The eleven-member jury in the murder trial of Nathaniel Simons is expected to begin deliberations today when they begin considering the evidence.

Simons is charged with the murder of his cousin Phillip Lugg on 7th June, 2020, in Potters.

Reports from the High Court state that the evidentiary aspect of the case concluded on Tuesday, followed by closing arguments by the prosecution and defence.

A total of nineteen witnesses gave evidence in the case being presided over by Mr. Justice Colin Williams.

One witness claimed that the deceased, Lugg, and Nathaniel had an altercation in the moments leading up to the fatal incident.

Nathaniel was reportedly armed with a knife. Evidence was also given that the deceased threw several teacups at the accused, one of which struck him on the forehead resulting in cuts to his face for which he received several stitches.

The court heard that the deceased sustained two major wounds; one to his chest and the other to his back.

Both were deep wounds which caused his lungs to collapse.

Despite reports that both men had been wrestling for the knife on the floor in the Potters house for 15 to 20 minutes, no one reported witnessing when the alleged stabbing took place.

Director of Public Prosecutions, Anthony Armstrong, who is presenting the case on behalf of the Crown, argued in his summation that there was no comparison between a teacup and a knife, adding that the evidence could only support a verdict supporting murder or manslaughter.

He argued strongly against self-defence but conceded there were issues of provocation that could be considered.

For his part, Robinson argued that his client acted in self-defence. Defence attorney Saska Diamond who assisted Robinson, joined in asking that the jury consider that Lugg's death was the result of an unfortunate accident, self-defence, or provocation.

Justice Williams is expected to deliver instructions to the jury this morning.

ABTA takes local culture to golf tournament in Canada

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's Canadian Office partnered with the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies (ACTA) on last Thursday's much-anticipated return of the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies (ACTA) Ontario Golf Tournament.

The 2022 incarnation of this travel industry tradition is the first since the pandemic began.

As the Premier Destination Sponsor of the event, tourism executives created an Antigua and Barbuda vacation atmosphere and introduced audiences to the twin-island's music and carnival festivities during the event.

"We were delighted to bring a little bit of Antigua and Barbuda to the course as destination sponsors, highlighting our partners the luxurious 5-star Blue Waters Resort & Spa and our 18-hole championship golf course Cedar Valley in Antigua.

"My greatest delight was welcoming our many Canadian industry friends and partners in attendance as they enjoyed themselves; dancing their way over to us to the sweet sounds of our local music and sampling our authentic sweets during their breaks," said Tameka Wharton, Canada Director of Tourism (Ag) at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. "This was a great opportunity to genuinely reconnect in person after two years apart."

The tournament, which took place at the Royal Ontario Golf Club in Milton had over 72 golfers for 18 holes of casual competition, and over 200 for the dinner event from all sectors of the Canadian travel industry.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority delighted those in attendance with sponsored attractions like a live DJ at the check-in table and



photo opportunities with two performers in colourful carnival masquerade costumes both at check-in and later at their sponsored hole. Golfers were able to sample Antiguan specialties like saltfish fritters, local lemonade and ginger beer.

After dinner, prizes were awarded with multiple winners of complimentary rounds of golf at the Cedar Valley Golf Course in Antigua & Barbuda.

A Grand Prize was awarded which included a wonderful, complimentary 3 night stay at the 5-star Blue Water Resort & Spa, 2 rounds of golf at Antigua's Cedar Valley Golf Course, 2

Executive Lounge passes, Port Health Clearance, 7-day Valet parking at Park N' Fly, and 2 Air Canada economy class flights to Antigua.

A yearly tradition since 1988, the ACTA Ontario Golf Tournament unites Canadian travel industry representatives, suppliers, and agents drawn from ACTA'S 12,000 members for a day of lighthearted fun. Beyond the joy of competition, the tournament is also one of the foremost networking and fundraising events within the Canadian travel industry. Air Canada and Manulife joined the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority in sponsoring this year's event.

Local News



WIOC announces dividend payment

The Board of Directors of The West Indies Oil Company Limited (WIOC) on July 13th adopted a resolution to pay shareholders of record as of July 20th, 2022, a dividend of EC\$2.09 per share.

The dividend payment is the first since the company's successful IPO which closed in May 2021 and an important milestone marking the first dividend payments to new shareholders who participated in the IPO.

Dividend payments will be processed by the Eastern Caribbean Central Securities Depository (ECCSD), commencing on July 22nd, 2022.

WIOC issued a statement encouraging shareholders who have opted for direct deposit to allow about three working days for payments to be credited to their account via electronic funds transfer.

For payments via cheque, the timing will depend on the postal authorities' delivery schedule.



Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

ACROSS

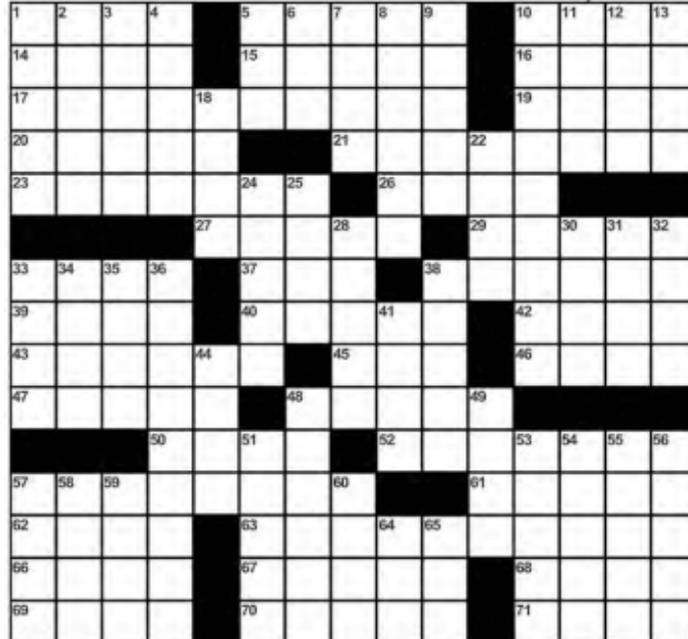
- 1) Cuisine creator
- 5) Big-headed stars
- 10) Put an edge on
- 14) Long-ago days
- 15) Baby berths?
- 16) Infinitesimal amount
- 17) They're often innocent
- 19) Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
- 20) Send to city hall
- 21) A bona fide quality
- 23) Film a second time
- 26) ___ gin fizz
- 27) Accordion fold
- 29) One of a biblical 150
- 33) Fodder holder
- 37) Fond du ___, Wisc.
- 38) Coast Guard operation
- 39) Anytime now, old-style
- 40) Make laugh
- 42) At one time, at one time
- 43) Skull caps?
- 45) Highlands hat
- 46) ___ new world's record
- 47) Asian hub
- 48) Launch
- 50) First word of "The Raven"
- 52) Cork, e.g.
- 57) Maidenhair trees
- 61) Brink
- 62) Certain woodwind
- 63) Grandstand group
- 66) Ethiopian money
- 67) Metronome settings
- 68) Act as lookout, e.g.
- 69) Distinctive doctrines
- 70) Opera solos
- 71) Permits

DOWN

- 1) Internet prefix
- 2) "According to" rules guy
- 3) Gaelic dialects
- 4) Game played with Fido
- 5) Exact payment from
- 6) "___ be an honor"
- 7) Swerve
- 8) Slap the cuffs on
- 9) Strong rope fiber
- 10) They may be called in court
- 11) Firefighter's accessory
- 12) JFK times
- 13) Repairs a road
- 18) Above
- 22) Bound
- 24) Clay pots
- 25) Sports unit
- 28) Type of angle
- 30) Land measure
- 31) A deadly sin
- 32) "I ___ man with seven wives"
- 33) Miss Universe's wrap
- 34) Andean civilization
- 35) Certain bank transaction
- 36) They want to see the action
- 38) Send, as payment
- 41) Droops
- 44) Engine knock
- 48) Obsolescent summoner
- 49) Extra-bright star
- 51) ___ del Sol
- 53) Flower component
- 54) Surgical instrument
- 55) "Snowy" bird
- 56) Takes a time-out
- 57) Arid Asian area
- 58) Leggy wader
- 59) George on "Cheers"
- 60) 18-wheeler
- 64) Bean counter, for short
- 65) "___ the season ..."

SO WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE

By Alex Cole





Press Release

NOTICE OF DIVIDEND PAYMENT TO WIOC SHAREHOLDERS

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda – July 21, 2022

The Board of Directors of The West Indies Oil Company Limited on July 13TH adopted a resolution to pay shareholders of record as of July 20TH, 2022, a dividend of EC\$2.09 per share.

The dividend payment is the first since the Company's successful IPO which closed in May 2021 and an important milestone marking the first dividend payments to new shareholders who participated in the IPO.

Dividend payments will be processed by the Eastern Caribbean Central Securities Depository (ECCSD), commencing on July 22ND, 2022.

We encourage shareholders who have opted for direct deposit to allow about three (3) working days for payments to be credited to their account via electronic funds transfer. For payments via cheque, the timing will depend on the postal authorities' delivery schedule.

You may contact the ECCSD with enquiries via email at info@ecseonline.com or ecse-operations@ecseonline.com and at phone number 1 (869) 466-7192 or 1-800-744-9238.

-END-

CWC unveils 'JUMP' at CANTO

C&W Communications has unveiled its strategy to help bridge the digital divide across the Caribbean.

An initiative entitled 'JUMP' has been introduced by the operators of the Flow, Flow Business, C&W Business and BTC brands in a bid to foster greater digital inclusion in a region that today still enjoys less than 50% broadband penetration.

"Low broadband penetration in the Caribbean contributes to diminished opportunities for individuals, communities, and local economies, but with the support of funding partners, we aim to significantly close this gap within three to five years through a comprehensive programme that focuses on providing access, devices, and digital skills," said Rosario Veras, Senior Director, Marketing and Operations, C&W Communications.

Veras was speaking to an audience of regional heads of state and heads of government, along with regulators, telecom operators, and industry stakeholders at CANTO's 37th Annual Con-



ference & Trade Exhibition in Miami.

"Digital inclusion is about ensuring the benefits of digital technologies are available to everyone, and we must have intentional digital inclusion strategies and strive to eliminate institutional and structural barriers to technology accessibility," she added.

Veras said 'JUMP' was a long-term investment aimed at changing lives, unlocking the potential of economies, and truly enabling progress across the Caribbean.

"We are committed to harnessing our resources and capabilities so more students can connect to their virtual classrooms, more people can benefit from telehealth

and job seekers can improve their search for work and application access. Our core social mission is to connect everyone to the internet - irrespective of their income or where they live," she said.

C&W Communications will be partnering with regional governments, along with non-profit organisations and private sector partners to ensure the success of JUMP.

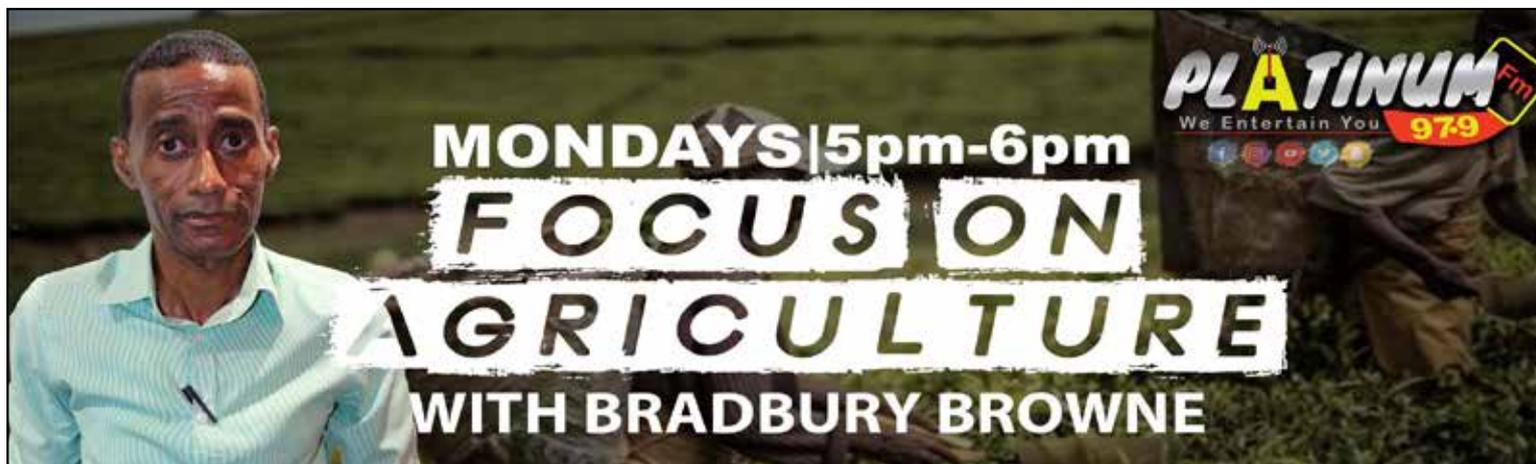
"The digital divide is a large, multifaceted issue that requires holistic solutions, and a successful strategy requires building innovative partnerships, so we must co-create solutions in partnership with the communities we serve to ensure no citizen is left out," she said.

"There is a role for each

business, government, and community, and we are hoping to create an opportunity for all to bring their energy, commitment and collaboration on the mission of uplifting our region."

Aamir Hussain, Chief Technology & Product Officer at Liberty Latin America, the parent company of C&W Communications, also addressed the conference on 'The Future of Broadband in the Caribbean'.

"Broadband is a fundamental right of every citizen, and although there are currently 27 million users in the Caribbean, this only represents 60% of the total population and therefore there is a tremendous opportunity for growth," he said.



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

PLATINUM Fm
 We Entertain You 97.9



Ministry of CREATIVE INDUSTRIES & INNOVATION



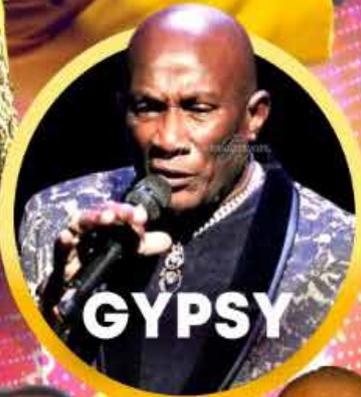
ANTIGUA'S Carnival 2022

Celebrating THE Monarch A Life Story

OF KING SHORT SHIRT



THE BARON



GYPSY



RONNIE MCINTOSH



KING OBSTINATE



KING ZACARI



ONYAN AND 3 CYLINDER BAND



QUEEN THALIA



REDDING



DENNIS MENACE ROBERTS



QUEEN SAMMIE C



JASHAN HUGHES



LYRICS MAN



ARLEN SEATON

SUN. 24 JULY

TIME 8PM

@CARNIVAL CITY (ARG)

TICKETS: \$50 | VIP: \$200 ALL INCLUSIVE

MUSIC BY: DJ MERCHY & EZP

TICKET OUTLETS ANJO, INET, MCII OFFICE



Opinion

Europe and US gripped in lethal heatwave: Will this bring long delayed action on Climate Change?

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)

Over the last few weeks, global warming has caused the deaths of thousands of people in Europe, and it has dislocated communities in the United States.

Suddenly, Climate Change is a big item on major news programmes and talk shows in the international media. It is tempting to say, "thank God for it", and to recall that when worse conditions decimated entire nations in the Caribbean and the Pacific, scarce attention was paid to them.

But suffering is unacceptable, even in circumstances where people, by their own irresponsibility, contributed to the extreme weather conditions that now plague them.

More than 100 million Americans are now being roasted by record temperatures. More than a dozen wildfires are engulfing areas from Texas to California and Alaska. The inhabitants of San Antonio, Texas have endured more than 12 days of temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and they are still rising. Temperatures in Phoenix, Arizona hit 104 Fahrenheit, causing heat-related deaths this year. And, in Fort Worth, Texas, a "red flag" warning has been in place as temperatures soared as high as 109 Fahrenheit.

Today, the situation is so serious that, on July 20, President Joe Biden, in language usually used by leaders of

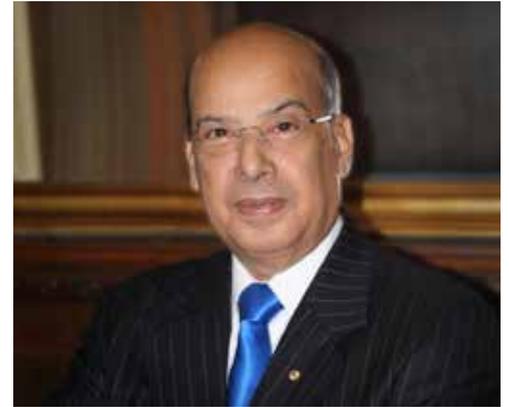
small island states, told the American people, "Climate change is literally an existential threat to our nation and to the world".

Small states must welcome the US to the Club. Climate Change has long been an existential threat for their people for decades. But they received little more than lip service as hurricanes, droughts and flooding hit them year after year.

President Biden announced an investment of \$2.3 billion to help adapt to Climate Change and global warming. That money is for Americans only. It is to help "communities across the country build infrastructure that is designed to withstand the full range of disasters we've been seeing up to today — extreme heat, drought, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes". And, just to help "millions of people suffering from extreme heat at home", the President is working with his team "to deploy \$385 million right now" to pay for air conditioners in homes and to set up "community cooling centres in schools where people can get through these extreme heat crises".

It is good that America has the resources to so instantly respond to the suffering that Climate Change is causing; developing countries, especially small island states, don't have that capacity.

The US is the second largest contributor to the global CO2 emissions that cause Climate Change. In 2020, its CO2 emissions was 14%, second only to China which holds the dubious number one position at 29%. India produces 7%. Therefore, between these three countries, they are responsible for 50% of all CO2 emissions. But the US has been the greatest CO2 emitter



Sir Ronald Sanders

for a century, and so the longest and biggest contributor to the world's current circumstances.

To be fair to President Biden, he came into office determined to change the situation. His job was made tougher by the four years of encouragement given by former President Donald Trump to Corporate America, which made huge profits from activity that emitted 416,738 metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2020 – the highest global figure in that year.

A Climate package that Biden put to the US Congress was thwarted by Republicans. The President complained publicly that, "Not a single Republican in Congress stepped up to support my climate plan. Not one."

Countries in Western Europe, which, over the past three decades, have done more than any other region in the world to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, have suffered greatly in recent weeks.

A blistering heatwave engulfed Spain and Portugal as wildfires destroyed vast stretches of Western European forestland. Temperatures rose to an unaccustomed 104 degrees Fahrenheit. In southwestern France a wildfire raged for days, ripping

cont'd on pg 12



ANTIGUA'S
Carnival
2022



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind



Youth Rave

LIVE PERFORMANCES
INTL GUEST APPEARANCE
BAND SHOWDOWN
DJ COMPETITION

FEATURING

MON. 25 JULY
@CARNIVAL CITY (ARG)

TIME
8PM

\$50



Opinion

cont'd from pg 10

through 1,000 hectares of pine trees, prompting the evacuation of 150 residents from their homes. In Britain, an “amber” alert — the second highest of three levels — was issued, indicating that the extreme heat will have a “high impact” on daily life and people. A British climate official said there was every chance of a new British record, beating the highest recorded temperature of 101.7 Fahrenheit recorded on July 25, 2019.

And, it’s all expected to get worse, according to World Meteorological Organization spokeswoman Clare Nullis.

She said, it has also been “a very bad season for the glaciers”. Last week an avalanche killed 11 people. It was triggered by the collapse of the largest glacier in the Italian Alps, due to unusually warm temperatures. More

than 1,500 persons have already died from the effects of the heat.

Given all this, the Europeans would be right in pointing fingers at the world’s largest polluters who are causing their current grief.

Maybe now, with so many people in Europe and the US feeling the pain of Climate Change, the pressure will build on their governments and legislatures to do what small island states have been urging for decades – save us all by curbing the causes of Climate Change.

There really is no time left. At the 2015 Paris Accord, it was agreed that rising temperatures could not, in any circumstances be allowed to rise beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels. It is now at 1.1 degrees.

As President Biden told his citizens on July 20, “Climate change is an emergency”. He promised that “in

the coming weeks, I’m going to use the power I have as President to turn these words into formal, official government actions through the appropriate proclamations, executive orders, and regulatory power that a President possesses”. The world must wish him well.

The problem, which small states have long warned is threatening their existence, has started to strangle people in the big countries. Like COVID-19 – it knows no boundaries, respects no power, and does not discriminate between rich and poor.

Now perhaps President Biden might get greater success in the US, and then, perhaps, China, India, Japan and Canada will intensify and accelerate their own actions.

Dare we hold our breath?

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



KFC FESTIVE SUMMER
July 15th until...

ba-ca-nal box
\$30⁹⁹
- Chicken Sandwich (Zinger or CCB)
- 2 Pieces (leg and thigh)
- Fries

Festival Feast
\$66⁹⁹
- 10 Pieces (leg and thigh)
- 4 Fries

SCAN TO VIEW MENU
f @kfcanu

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY:
ALLMARTLAC.COM
AllMart

FOR DELIVERY:
736-7845 / 562-9444
or DOWNLOAD THE APP...
Apple Store / Google PlayStore



BAND MEET BAND SHOWDOWN

SIR OUNGKU + RED HOT FLAMES
DADDY BARLO + REVO BAND
TKO BAND FEAT. LAURENA DAVIS & EBONY T
BIKE + ENEGEE BAND
HIGH TEMPA
LSA BAND
ISLAND PRINCE + K9 BAND
KAUTION BAND
HIGH VOLTAGE
NEW GEN BAND

FEATURING

FRI. 22 JULY

@CARNIVAL CITY (ARG)

TIME
9PM

TICKETS: \$50 | VIP: \$200 ALL INCLUSIVE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: ANJO, INET, MCII OFFICE,
MEMBERS OF THE JAM BAND ASSOCIATION

HOST: SUPA DYMOND
MUSIC BY: DJ MERCHY



Demands mount for NRP leader to disclose knowledge about USVI bribery scandal ahead of August SKN elections

The first female leader of a political party in St. Kitts and Nevis, the Nevis Reformation Party's (NRP) Dr. Janice Daniel Hodge, is being called upon by the governing Concerned Citizens Movement to clearly explain her knowledge about several scandals that resulted in the arrest, conviction and imprisonment of numerous US Virgin Islands government officials.

The NRP leader is contesting the upcoming election in the Nevis 11 constituency.

In the early 2000s, Dr. Daniel-Hodge, daughter of National Hero and first Premier of Nevis, Rt. Excellent Sir Simeon Daniel, was head of the USVI's Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) that was created to manage the territory's coastal resources.

The federally funded initiative falls under the Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

In 2003, the former Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Dean Plaskett and former Commissioner of Property and Procurement, Marc Biggs, colluded to concoct an elaborate scam on the government in which they used their positions and influence to solicit bribes and kickbacks in return for awarding contracts under their authority.

A prominent USVI businessman, Leroy Marchena, was also implicated in the US\$1.4 million scam but was later acquitted at trial.

Plaskett also became involved in a shell company – Elite Technical Services – created by Department of Planning and Natural Resources officials, Hollis Griffin, Brent Blayden, Atlanta-based businessman Edmond Modeste and Earl Brewley which



CCM leader, Mark Brantley, left, is demanding that his NRP counterpart, political newcomer, Dr. Janice Daniel-Hodge disclose her knowledge about the 2004 corruption scandal in the USVI that led to the convictions of several persons with whom she worked closely when she served as director of the powerful Coastal Zone Management programme, which was named in the scandal.

was meant to secure various projects which they would then collect on and either fail to complete or sub-contract to smaller contractors at a far lower rate than their winning bid.

Plaskett became aware of the scam and demanded steep bribes in return for allowing the men to continue their fraud. Later when the fraud was at risk of being exposed, Plaskett used his influence to attempt to conceal the evidence of the crimes and corruption.

One significant contract under CZM control was implicated in the scandal as it was awarded to Elite Technical Services, however it was later abruptly cancelled by Plaskett after he became wary that the CZM attorney - whom he fired -, and other members of the programme's staff, had become aware that something was awry with the contract and may alert the media.

While Daniel-Hodge was never implicated in the fraud, nor was she charged or required to testify, questions have been raised about what she knew about the US\$650,000 CZM contract awarded to the sham compa-

ny, Elite Technical Services in January 2003.

This contract was to have produced an inventory of all the submerged or reclaimed land in the USVI.

In his testimony in the 2008 trial, Griffin said that he, along with Plaskett and Biggs identified the CZM contract as "one of the contracts that we could get some money out of".

According to Griffin, Plaskett wanted to include CZM Director Daniel-Hodge in the scheme as she was responsible for subcontracting the project out to other local companies.

Their plan, Griffin testified, would have come off more easily if Daniel-Hodge helped them move things along, but he did not say whether Daniel-Hodge was actually approached.

Due to the unwelcome attention, Plaskett terminated the contract and claimed, under oath, that he had not directly influenced a joint agency committee into awarding the contract to Elite.

Before the scandal broke and charges were filed however, Daniel-Hodge resigned her position as

cont'd on pg 15

cont'd from pg 14

Director of CZM and returned to Nevis in 2003.

On each occasion that the question of her time in the USVI has come up, Dr. Daniel-Hodge has said that she returned home to Nevis at the request of her father to assist in providing care for him in his twilight years.

Her father, Sir Simeon, passed away in 2012.

During her campaign launch in 2021, Daniel-Hodge alluded to the scandal vaguely and without providing details of her knowledge or involvement in what occurred, nor did she respond to Griffin's testimony, under oath, that she was considered by his corrupt cabal for inclusion in the scam.

While she has never addressed or rejected Griffin's allegation that they intended to include her in their fraud, she has said on at least two occasions – most recently in a media appearance on Nevis' VON Radio on 18th July, 2022 - that she was not involved and has denied that any of the staff under her were either.

She claimed that the CCM and public's demands for answers to questions about her tenure at the top of the powerful CZM in the USVI are part of a "smear campaign" orchestrated by the CCM to "tarnish my good name."

Daniel-Hodge returned to the USVI, a few years after the scandal quelled to reassume her former posi-

tion with CZM under a new Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Robert Matthis, in the administration of former Governor John De Jongh Jr. who was elected twice in 2006 and 2010.

"She handled the staffing, she handled the funding and she handled the development activities," De Jongh said.

"She was also my point of contact on many development projects that took place in the US Virgin Islands."

During her campaign

launch, Daniel-Hodge was endorsed by former Governor De Jongh, who was arrested in 2015 in a joint operation between local and federal US Department of Justice authorities.

De Jongh was charged in August 2015 with two counts of embezzlement of public monies and neglecting to pay over monies totalling US\$490,000 between April 2007 and January 2009 while he was governor in violation of the USVI criminal code.

He was accused of using the money he allegedly embezzled from the USVI

Government Highway accounts to finance renovation and improvements to his private home, including the construction of what De Jongh described as an "unwanted guardhouse".

In 2016, the charges against De Jongh were dropped after he reached a settlement agreement with the US Department of Justice in which he would repay \$380,000 to cover the cost of the products of the improvements to his home that would remain in place.

De Jongh claims that he was targeted for political reasons.



LORD
Do it again!

Bishop Prophet
ERNEST AGORTEY
GHANA

Bishop
DR. L.L. SPENCER
TRINIDAD

Apostle
MILTON GORDON
ANTIGUA

JULY 21ST - 23RD, 2022 AT 7PM NIGHTLY
MULTIPURPOSE EXHIBITION CULTURAL CENTER | PERRYBAY, ST. JOHNS, ANTIGUA
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 268.776.5094 OR MESSAGE US ON  

Heal again. prosper again!

Strengthening small businesses is a big deal, say CHTA/OAS

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Organization of American States (OAS) say building the resilience of small tourism enterprises (STEs) in the Caribbean is fundamental to the region's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and future crises. Cabinet ministers and senior tourism officials from more than 50 countries across the Americas will look at ways to forge collaboration among all stakeholders, between public and private entities, and among small and big businesses.

The virtual and in-person

event has also attracted the participation of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO); the University of the West Indies (UWI); the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Sessions will be held in Spanish and English.

CHTA president, Nicola Madden-Greig, speaking ahead of an OAS-sponsored high-level gathering of Caribbean tourism leaders in Montego Bay this week examining business continuity planning to accelerate recov-



ery from disasters, said the viability of STEs is critically important to the region's rebound from COVID-19 and other potential crises.

The July 20-21 event is being hosted by the Ministry of Tourism and delegates will explore how to build the resilience of Caribbean STEs

to disasters and will review and respond to the findings and recommendations from more than 500 enterprises and stakeholders to help accelerate business continuity from future crises.

"The challenges to the post-disaster business conti-

cont'd on pg 17



STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KIT

PREPARE NOW
LEARN HOW

2022 HURRICANE SEASON
JUNE 1ST - NOVEMBER 30TH

PREPARING NOW CAN HELP KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE
START PLANNING NOW WITH STATE

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422 info@sicantigua.com www.sicantigua.com

NYC Mayor wants US federal resources to aid arriving Caribbean asylum seekers

New York City Mayor, Eric Adams, is calling for United States federal resources to assist with arriving asylum seekers in New York City after New York experienced a sharp increase in asylum seekers from Latin America, the Caribbean, and other regions.

Adams said New York City is working with the federal government to ensure the city can provide comprehensive support and resources to these individuals.

“New York has been and will always be a city of immigrants that welcomes newcomers with open arms. This value has made our city a beacon of freedom for people around the world and the economic and cultural powerhouse that it is.

“These very same humanitarian values apply to those who are experiencing homelessness. In New York City, we have both a moral and legal obligation to house anyone who is experiencing homelessness for any reason,” he added.

Adams said New York City is currently experiencing a “marked increase” in the number of asylum seekers who are arriving from Latin America, the Caribbean and other regions.

In some instances, he said families are arriving on buses sent by the Texas and Arizona governments, while in oth-

er cases, it appears that individuals are being sent by the federal government.

In order to both meet the legal mandate as a right-to-shelter city and provide high-quality shelter and services for those who enter the system, the mayor said New York City needs additional federal resources immediately.

“If we do not get these urgently needed resources, we may struggle to provide the proper level of support our clients deserve, while also facing challenges as we serve both a rapidly growing shelter population and new clients who are seeking asylum,” he said.

“We are calling on the federal government to partner with New York City as we help asylum seekers navigate this process, and to provide financial and technical resources.

“By law, asylum seekers have a right to be in the United States while they seek humanitarian protection. In New York City, we are responsible for the provision of services and infrastructure for newly arrived asylum seekers and currently residing populations alike. We’ve been in discussions with our federal partners on this matter and look forward to a quick resolution.”

Earlier this month, Adams, and the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) Commissioner Manuel Castro



New York City Mayor Eric Adams

announced an additional US\$1.65 million in funding for the Fiscal Year 2023 to help newly arrived Haitians access immigration legal assistance and numerous social services.

This funding is an increase from last year, bringing the total investment for New York City’s Haitian Response Initiative to US\$3.15 million.

To mark the importance of this announcement, a Haitian flag-raising ceremony was held near Wall Street, in lower Manhattan.

“I am proud to be the mayor of the largest Haitian population in the United States and pleased to announce the additional US\$1.65 million in funding that’s being provided to help newly-arriving Haitian New Yorkers,” said Mayor Adams.

cont’d from pg 16

nuity of STEs in the Caribbean are many and varied,” said Madden-Greig, adding “STEs can take more than two years to recover financially from a disaster so we must find ways to help them get back on their feet sooner and with healthy working capital and strong business development possibilities”.

Principal Specialist and

chief of the Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change Program of the OAS, Pablo González said the multilateral institution is looking forward to the high-level forum, the overall expected outcome of which is the enhancement of public and institutional policy for building the resilience of STEs with the ultimate goal of reducing business inter-

ruptions.

According to González, research indicates that initiatives such as more targeted STE training, marketing and public relations education, contingency planning and tax incentives are measures that can be taken by both the public and private sectors to help STEs emerge less harmed from disasters and crisis situations.

CHTA said as STEs recover from the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of crisis communication strategies will also be discussed as will the proposed launching of a Model Post-Disaster ‘Open for Business Guide’ developed by the University of the West Indies, an OAS project partner, to help build STE resilience. (CMC)

The good, the bad and Jordan Peele's 'Nope'

By Lindsey Bahr

A great debut in Hollywood can be a blessing and a curse. Once you knock it out of the park like Jordan Peele did with "Get Out," which captured the zeitgeist so perfectly within the framework of a greatly entertaining thriller, home runs become the standard, not the exception.

Now three movies in, Peele is in a bit of conundrum. Audiences want to feel the same way they did with "Get Out." But "Us" didn't quite do it. And now "Nope," which has been shrouded in secrecy, hyped as Peele's most ambitious yet and had more than a few casual filmgoers not so casually calling it their "most anticipated of the year," is arriving under impossible expectations which aren't exactly lessened by the fact that it's also Peele's reunion with Daniel Kaluuya.

This isn't just a Peele problem: Look at where Steven Soderbergh was a few films after "sex, lies and videotape." The terrific debut has been a bane for many filmmakers over the years. With success comes some level of artistic freedom and trust but also pressure from a lot of outsiders who had nothing to do with what made the first film special, from the money people to the studio, to the theatres, to the audience. It can be a scary place for a filmmaker to exist — that is if the filmmaker cares about, or agrees with, the noise.

So it is fitting that Peele, who is living the dream and nightmare, made "Nope" about just that. Kaluuya and Keke Palmer play OJ and Em Haywood, a brother and sister who are descended from the unnamed, unidentified jockey riding the horse in Eadweard Muybridge's "first-ever motion picture." They have had, they say, skin in the game since the dawn of movies.

Drawing on this legacy, their father (Keith David) built a successful business as a Hollywood horse wrangler, which OJ attempts to carry on after his death.



This image released by Universal Pictures shows, from left, Daniel Kaluuya, Keke Palmer, and Brandon Perea in a scene from "Nope." (Universal Pictures via AP)

Em, though the more charismatic offspring, is less invested in the reality of maintaining a ranch full of horses. She's interested when the costumed cowboy Ricky (Steven Yeun), a former child sitcom actor with a theme park dude ranch down the road, offers to buy.

It is part UFO thriller, part commentary on Hollywood and partly about the insanity of filmmaking itself. There are self-conscious nods to "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Signs." Movie and pop culture references are everywhere, from the dialogue to the vintage crew hats and shirts everyone in town wears, like the bright orange "Scorpion King" sweatshirt OJ wears during the climactic showdown.

Peele sets an ominous mood immediately with a thread about a sitcom chimp who goes berserk. But his main set is in the rolling hills of Southern California's inland ranches, which he and cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema ("Dunkirk") rightfully cannot get enough of. It is fitting that the UFO only seems to appear at magic hour.

As in "Us," "Nope" offers an exciting set-up and lots of big, disparate ideas about legacy and perfection, the pursuit

of the impossible shot, mythologies and trauma. But, also as in "Us," those elements don't quite coalesce in satisfying or revelatory ways.

And yet, "Nope" is still an entertaining world to be in for two hours as OJ and Em try to document the wild, unexplainable spectacle in the clouds. They want to get "the Oprah show" — the picture that will have a life outside of the dark corners of the internet. Some others join in the pursuit, like Brandon Perea's Angel, an excitable electronics store employee, and the gravel-voiced Michael Wincott as a bored cinematographer who is tantalised by the idea of getting this once-in-a-lifetime shot using only analog technology.

Kaluuya's OJ is a man of few words, one of which is the title of the film (used judiciously and to comedic relief). At times he seems to move at a glacial pace. His character is a bit of an enigma, but never boring. There is always something going on behind his penetrating eyes. Palmer's Em, meanwhile, is a ball of energy and hustle and is equally compelling, though, again, slightly underdrawn.

"Nope" has also already had some

cont'd on pg 19

Michelle Obama's book 'The Light We Carry' coming this fall

By Hillel Italie

Michelle Obama will have a book out this fall, "The Light We Carry," in which she reflects upon her experiences and shares insights on navigating an increasingly stressful world.

It's the former first lady's first entirely new work since the 2018 release of her acclaimed blockbuster "Becoming," which has sold more than 17 million copies worldwide, surpassing the sales of any memoir by a previous first lady or modern president, including her husband, former President Barack Obama.

"I've learned it's okay to recognize that self-worth comes wrapped in vulnerability, and that what we share as humans on this earth is the impulse to strive for better, always and no matter what," Michelle Obama writes in the book's introduction, included in Thursday's announcement by the Random House Publishing Group and its imprint Crown.

"We become bolder in brightness. If you know your light, you know yourself. You know your own story in an honest way. In my experience, this type of self-knowledge builds confidence, which in turn breeds calmness and an ability to maintain perspective, which leads, finally, to being able to connect meaningfully with others — and this to me is the bedrock of all things."

The new book is not part of the re-

ported eight-figure deal the Obamas reached in 2017, shortly after he left office, with parent company Penguin Random House for their respective memoirs. A spokesperson declined to discuss financial terms for "The Light We Carry."

Crown will publish the 336-page book Nov. 15, almost exactly four years after the release of "Becoming," and has announced a first printing of 2.75 million copies for the U.S. and Canada. "The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times" will come out simultaneously in 14 languages and 27 countries, with additional rights deals expected.

"In 'The Light We Carry,' Mrs. Obama offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us, discovering deeper truths and new pathways for progress," the publisher's announcement reads in part.

"Drawing from her experiences as a mother, daughter, spouse, friend, and First Lady, she shares the habits and principles she has developed to successfully adapt to change and overcome various obstacles — the earned wisdom that helps her continue to 'become.'"

On Thursday, Penguin Random House announced it was renaming an annual writing prize in her honour, the

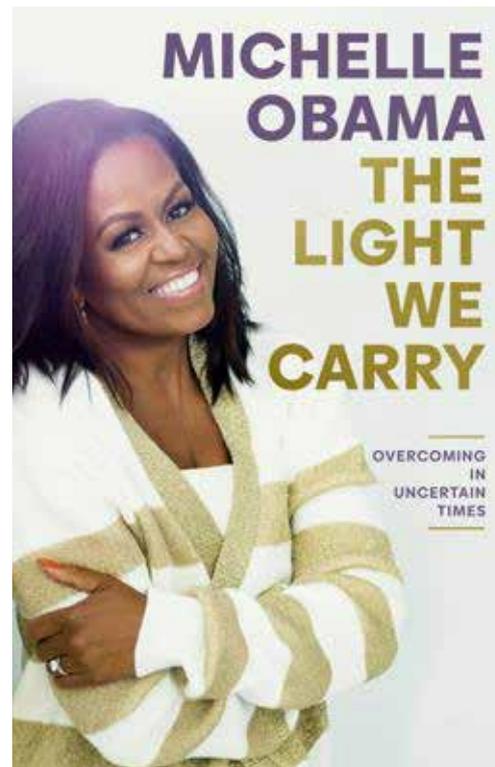
Sunken Place will be a let down. Thankfully, though, Peele isn't afraid of the mess or the screams from the cloud above.

"Nope," a Universal Pictures release in theatres Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "language throughout and some bloody, violent images." Running time: 132 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

cont' d from pg 18

critics throwing out less than favourable M. Night Shyamalan references. But it is full of vibrant life, too. It goes a long way in forgiving the reveal, which I'd even argue is beside the point. This is a film that offers a lot to chew on, which is more than most big summer spectacles can promise.

For some, anything short of The



\$10,000 Michelle Obama Award for Memoir, part of an awards program for public high school students the company launched in 1993.

Since completing "Becoming," Michelle Obama has written an edition for younger readers and launched a podcast. With Barack Obama and their production company Higher Ground she has worked on such projects as the Oscar-winning documentary "American Factory" and a documentary about her tour for "Becoming," when she appeared at arenas nationwide with such guest interviewers as Oprah Winfrey and Sarah Jessica Parker. Promotional plans for "The Light We Carry" will be announced later.

Crown is also the longtime publisher of Barack Obama, himself a million-selling author.

"A Promised Land," the first of two planned memoirs about his presidency, came out in 2020. A spokesperson declined to comment on when the next book will be released.

Regional News



Suriname Finance Minister says results of internal investigation in fraud could be known by Friday

CMC - Suriname's Finance Minister Armand Achaibersing says the result of an internal investigation into an alleged multi-million-dollar fraud at the Ministry of Finance and Planning will not be known until Friday.

The government had earlier confirmed the withdrawal of the funds from the account in April and June with the perpetrators presenting false documents to the Central Bank of Suriname (CBvS) for cashing

The matter was brought to public attention when opposition legislator, Melvin Bouva of the National Democratic Party (NDP) headed by former president, Desi Bouterse, raised the issue in Parliament last week.

On Tuesday, Achaibersing told the National Assembly how the scam took place, in which, according to the provisional investigations, SR\$46.9 million (One SR\$=US\$0.04 cent) was stolen from the ministry.



Ministry of Finance, Suriname

Police on Monday detained several people, and the authorities said the preliminary investigation shows that the stolen funds were transferred to a bank account at the Finabank and that the forged payment orders were presented to the Central Bank of Suriname for payment.

Achaibersing said the investigation has so far revealed that the payment orders did not come from the system of the ministry.

“What happened is that the perpetrators scanned real payment documents and then changed the amounts, as well as the name of the recipient and his bank account number”

The false papers were then presented to the CBvS between authentic payment documents, where the irregularities were only discovered on the fourth occasion. On the three previous occasions, the perpetrators managed to receive SR\$46,909,602.42, the minister said.

He said on April 25 and June 14, a total of more than SR\$40.9 million was transferred to the bank account of one of the persons being questioned.

“Unfortunately, the procedures at the Central Bank have not been able to distinguish the false orders from the good ones,” Achaibersing said, adding that during

the investigation, however, it was revealed that a transfer of SR\$5,944,005 had taken place on January 25 and credited to the account of a messenger at the ministry.

The minister does not rule out the possibility of more cases. He expects that as the investigation progresses.

The minister said the scam came to light because of agreements between the CBvS and Finance regarding the implementation of the International Monetary Fund program that the perpetrators were not aware of, namely the so-called Primary Balance Target, whereby the difference between operating income and operating expenditure, had to be kept at a certain level.

“In connection with achieving the target, it was agreed with the Central Bank before the last week of June that no more major expenditure would be made, except for salaries and some urgent matters.

IDB, EAA to provide support for thousands of out of school children in Haiti

CMC – The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Qatar-based Education Above All (EAA) have signed an agreement to formalise joint efforts to support and improve access to quality basic education in Haiti.

The partners, working through the Educate a Child (EAC) program, are specifically targeting out-of-school children and at-risk students.

“This project represents a remark-

able milestone in our partnership with Education Above All, an important platform for empowering children and families in Haiti.

“It is reflective of our commitment to protecting the right of children to access quality basic education, as well as forging collaborations that tap the expertise, resources and innovation of critical partners like EEA,” said IDB President, Mauricio-Claver Carone.

The IDB said a contribution of US\$2.95 million from EAC will finance tuition waivers that expand access to primary school and will help retain and newly enroll 12,000 out-of-school children over the next two years. The partners are placing special emphasis on reaching the southern part of Haiti, which was most heavily affected by the August 2021 earthquake.

cont'd on pg 21

Guyana to table legislation to decriminalize attempted suicide

CMC - The Guyana government is to table legislation on Thursday as part of efforts to prevent cases of suicide in the country.

The government will present a bill to the National Assembly to address preventive measures to combat suicide and mental health awareness.

“This is a bill that we have been working on for some time and it encompasses things that we can do to prevent suicides from happening,” said Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony.

“And the bill also provides for the repeal of the section of the law that criminalizes persons who attempt suicide. This has been something that people have been advocating for a long time



to remove that section of the law and this bill, once we pass it, will repeal that section,” he added.

Guyana has one of the highest rates of suicide worldwide. The World Health Organization figures claim 44.2 in every 100,000 Guyanese take their own lives, compared to a global average of 16.

The health minister ad-

mitted that suicide remains a haunting issue in Guyana despite the many efforts to address the issue over the years. He said the efforts are ongoing to deal with the problem.

“Suicide has been a problem for Guyana for a number of years and we are considered to be one of the countries with a high suicide rate and we have been working to

reduce the numbers and the numbers have come down.

“But it is still a problem, so we need to ensure we bring down these numbers even further, understand the root causes of suicide and to take action based on those findings. And we are approaching it in different ways.”

The Ministry of Health is expected to soon release additional policies and initiatives that seek to reduce the number of suicide cases.

During a public forum last year, a visiting Colombia University professor who was conducting a study on Guyana’s suicide problem said there is an urgent need for solutions to be found to Guyana’s mental health situation.

cont'd from pg 20

The project will be executed by the Ministry of Education and Professional Development of Haiti, through the Unité de Coordination de Projet.

The collaboration also features a climate resilience education initiative to promote civism through practice, involving schools and communities in environmental protection activities that are particularly crucial for Haiti considering its propensity to extreme weather events.

The contribution will also complement a US\$50 million IDB loan targeting the northern part of the country.

The IDB said this partnership is made possible through a framework agreement that was previously signed by IDB and EEA, in which both organisations confirmed their commitment to



accelerate the enrollment and retention of out-of-school children and at-risk students in quality primary education in Latin America and the Caribbean.

These joint efforts are also framed

within the priorities established by Vision 2025: Reinvest in the Americas, the IDB’s blueprint for driving recovery, economic growth, and social progress in the region.

Italy heads to early election after Draghi's coalition fails

AP – Italy is headed for an early election after its president accepted Premier Mario Draghi's resignation Thursday and decided there was no possibility of cobbling together another government following the rapid collapse of the ruling coalition.

The demise of Draghi's coalition in the eurozone's third-largest economy and the uncertainty of what Italian voters will decide at the polls have dealt a destabilising blow to the country and Europe amid rising inflation and Russia's war in Ukraine.

Dissolving Parliament "is always the last choice to make, especially if, as in this moment, there are important tasks to carry to completion," President Sergio Mattarella said in a brief speech at the presidential Quirinal Palace, where Draghi had tendered his resignation hours earlier.

Mattarella's office said the election will be held Sept. 25.

He appealed to political parties in their campaigning to keep in mind "the superior interests" of the nation. Citing soaring food and energy prices, he noted that those suffering the most are always the weakest in society.

"The period we are going through doesn't allow for any pause in determining interventions to contrast



Italian Premier Mario Draghi waves to lawmakers at the end of his address at the Parliament in Rome, Thursday, July 21, 2022. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

the economic and social crisis, and in particular the increase in inflation, which brings heavy consequences for families and businesses," he said.

Draghi was staying on at Mattarella's request in a caretaker role, ensuring the government can carry out basic measures in the months before a new coalition is in place.

But with Italy's often-squabbling political parties, it could be weeks beyond that before a new government is in place. After the 2018 elections for Parliament, it took 90 days before a new government was sworn in.

Parliament's five-year term would have expired in March 2023, so effectively the election would be held barely six months ahead of time.

Mattarella noted the bad timing for the nation

and the continent. But he said he had no choice after Wednesday evening, when three key parties in Draghi's "unity" coalition refused to renew support in a confidence vote.

"The debate, the vote and the ways in which this vote was expressed yesterday in the Senate made evident the parliamentary support for the government had gone lacking and the absence of a prospective to give life to a new majority" in Parliament, the president said.

Mattarella had rejected a similar resignation offer from Draghi a week earlier.

Instability in Italy could ripple through Europe, also facing economic problems. Draghi had taken on statesman status as the European Union struggled to keep a united front against Russia, whose natural gas is heavily imported by Italy and other

countries.

The former European Central Bank president was tapped by Mattarella 17 months earlier to guide Italy's recovery after its economy was pummeled by COVID-19.

But this week, his coalition was sabotaged by the centre-right Forza Italia of former Premier Silvio Berlusconi and two larger parties, the right-wing League of Matteo Salvini and the populist 5-Star Movement led by Draghi's predecessor in the premiership, Giuseppe Conte.

In a brief speech to the lower Chamber of Deputies on Thursday before renewing his resignation offer, Draghi appeared moved by the applause from lawmakers there, quipping that even central bank chiefs have hearts.

Dubbed "Super Mario" for helping to lead the eurozone out of its debt crisis when he led the ECB, Draghi played a similar calming role in Italy in recent months.

His presence helped reassure financial markets about the debt-laden nation's public finances, and he managed to keep the country on track with economic reforms that the EU had made a condition of its 200 billion-euro (-dollar) pandemic recovery package.

WHO again considers declaring monkeypox a global emergency

AP – As the World Health Organization’s emergency committee convened Thursday to consider for the second time within weeks whether to declare monkeypox a global crisis, some scientists said the striking differences between the outbreaks in Africa and in developed countries will complicate any coordinated response.

African officials say they are already treating the continent’s epidemic as an emergency. But experts elsewhere say the mild version of monkeypox in Europe, North America and beyond makes an emergency declaration unnecessary even if the virus can’t be stopped. British officials recently downgraded their assessment of the disease, given its lack of severity.

“I remain concerned about the number of cases, in an increasing number of countries, that have been reported,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the emergency committee as its meeting got underway.

He said it was “pleasing” to note falling numbers of monkeypox cases in some countries but that the virus is still increasing elsewhere and that six countries reported their first infections last week.

Monkeypox has been entrenched for decades in parts of central and western Africa, where diseased wild animals occasionally infect people in rural areas in relatively contained epidemics. The disease in Europe, North America and beyond has circulated since at least May among gay and bisexual men. The epidemic in rich countries was likely triggered by sex at two raves in Spain and Belgium.

Some experts worry these and other differences could possibly deepen existing medical inequities between



This 1997 image provided by the CDC during an investigation into an outbreak of monkeypox, which took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), formerly Zaire, and depicts the dorsal surfaces of the hands of a monkeypox case patient, who was displaying the appearance of the characteristic rash during its recuperative stage. (CDC via AP, File)

poor and wealthy nations.

There are now more than 15,000 monkeypox cases worldwide. While the United States, Britain, Canada and other countries have bought millions of vaccines, none have gone to Africa, where a more severe version of monkeypox has already killed more than 70 people. Rich countries haven’t yet reported any monkeypox deaths.

“What’s happening in Africa is almost entirely separate from the outbreak in Europe and North America,” said Dr. Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at Britain’s University of East Anglia who previously advised WHO on infectious diseases.

The U.N. health agency said this week that outside of Africa, 99% of all reported monkeypox cases are in men and of those, 98% are in men who have sex with other men. Still, the disease can infect anyone in close, physi-

cal contact with a monkeypox patient, regardless of their sexual orientation.

“In these very active gay sexual networks, you have men who really, really don’t want people to know what they’re doing and may not themselves always know who they are having sex with,” Hunter said.

Some of those men may be married to women or have families unaware of their sexual activity, which “makes contact tracing extremely difficult and even things like asking people to come forward for testing,” Hunter said, explaining why vaccination may be the most effective way to shut down the outbreak.

That’s probably not the case in Africa, where limited data suggests monkeypox is mainly jumping into people from infected animals. Although African experts acknowledge they could

cont’d on pg 24

Vatican says they're gifts; Indigenous groups want them back

AP—The Vatican Museums are home to some of the most magnificent artworks in the world, from Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel to ancient Egyptian antiquities and a pavilion full of papal chariots. But one of the museum's least-visited collections is becoming its most contested before Pope Francis' trip to Canada.

The Vatican's Anima Mundi Ethnological Museum, located near the food court and right before the main exit, houses tens of

thousands of artifacts and art made by Indigenous peoples from around the world, much of it sent to Rome by Catholic missionaries for a 1925 exhibition in the Vatican gardens.

The Vatican says the feathered headdresses, carved walrus tusks, masks and embroidered animal skins were gifts to Pope Pius XI, who wanted to celebrate the Church's global reach, its missionaries and the lives of the Indigenous peoples they evangelised.

But Indigenous groups from Canada, who were shown a few items in the collection when they travelled to the Vatican last spring to meet with Francis, question how some of the works were actually acquired and wonder what else may be in storage after decades of not being on public display.

Some say they want them back.

"These pieces that belong to us should come home," said Cassidy Caron,

president of the Metis National Council, who headed the Metis delegation that asked Francis to return the items.

Restitution of Indigenous and colonial-era artifacts, a pressing debate for museums and national collections across Europe, is one of the many agenda items awaiting Francis on his trip to Canada, which begins Sunday.

The trip is aimed primarily at allowing the pope *cont'd on pg 25*

cont'd from pg 23

be missing cases among gay and bisexual men, given limited surveillance and stigmatization against LGBTQ people, authorities have relied on standard measures like isolation and education to control the disease.

Dr. Placide Mbala, a virologist who directs the global health department at Congo's Institute of National Biomedical Research, said there are also noticeable differences between patients in Africa and the West.

"We see here (in Congo) very quickly, after three to four days, visible lesions in people exposed to monkeypox," Mbala said, adding that someone with so many visible lesions is unlikely to go out in public, thus preventing further transmission.

But in countries including Britain and the U.S., doctors have observed some infected people with only one or two lesions, often in their genitals.

"You wouldn't notice that if you're just with that person in a taxi or a bar," Mbala said. "So in the West, people without these visible lesions may be

silently spreading the disease."

He said different approaches in different countries will likely be needed to stop the global outbreak, making it challenging to adopt a single response strategy worldwide, like those for Ebola and COVID-19.

Dr. Dimie Ogoina, a professor of medicine at Nigeria's Niger Delta University, said he feared the world's limited vaccine supplies would result in a repeat of the problems that arose in the coronavirus pandemic, when poorer countries were left empty-handed after rich countries hoarded most of the doses.

"It does not make sense to just control the outbreak in Europe and America, because you will then still have the (animal) source of the outbreak in Africa," said Ogoina, who sits on WHO's monkeypox emergency committee.

This week, U.S. officials said more than 100,000 monkeypox vaccine doses were being sent to states in the next few days, with several million more on order for the months ahead. The U.S. has reported more than 2,000 cases so

far, with hundreds more added every day.

Some U.S. public health experts have begun to wonder if the outbreak is becoming widespread enough that monkeypox will become a new sexually transmitted disease.

Declaring monkeypox to be a global emergency could also inadvertently worsen the rush for vaccines, despite the mildness of the disease being seen in most countries.

Dr. Hugh Adler, who treats monkeypox patients in Britain, said there aren't many serious cases or infections beyond gay and bisexual men. Still, he said it was frustrating that more vaccines weren't available, since the outbreak was doubling about every two weeks in the U.K..

"If reclassifying monkeypox as a global emergency will make (vaccines available), then maybe that's what needs to be done," he said.

"But in an ideal world, we should be able to make the necessary interventions without the emergency declaration."

cont'd from pg 24

to apologise in person, on Canadian soil, for abuses Indigenous people and their ancestors suffered at the hands of Catholic missionaries in notorious residential schools.

Caron said returning the missionary collection items would help heal the intergenerational trauma and enable Indigenous peoples to tell their own story.

“For so long we had to hide who we were. We had to hide our culture and hide our traditions to keep our people safe,” she said. “Right now, in this time when we can publicly be proud to be Metis, we are reclaiming who we are. And these pieces, these historic pieces, they tell stories of who we were.”

More than 150,000 Native children in Canada were forced to attend state-funded Christian schools from the 19th century until the 1970s in an effort to isolate them from the influence of their homes and culture. The aim was to Christianize and assimilate them into mainstream society, which previous Canadian governments considered superior.

Official Canadian policy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries also aimed to suppress Indigenous spiritual and cultural traditions at home, including the 1885 Potlatch Ban that prohibited the integral First Nations ceremony.

Government agents confiscated items used in the ceremony and other rit-



President of the Metis community, Cassidy Caron, speaks to the media in St. Peter's Square after their meeting with Pope Francis at The Vatican, Monday, March 28, 2022. The restitution of Indigenous and colonial-era artifacts, a pressing debate for museums and national collections across Europe, is one of the many agenda items awaiting Francis on his trip to Canada, which begins Sunday. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia, File)

uals, and some of them ended up in museums in Canada, the U.S. and Europe, as well as private collections. The Vatican's catalogue of its Americas collection, for example, features a wooden painted mask from the Haida Gwaii islands of British Columbia that “is related to the Potlatch ceremony.”

During the spring visit, Natan Obed, who headed the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami delegation, raised the issue of an Inuit kayak in the collection that was featured in a 2021 report in *The Globe and Mail* newspaper. Obed was quoted by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. as saying the museum head,

the Rev. Nicola Mapelli, was open to discussing its return.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni didn't rule out that Francis might repatriate some items during the coming trip, telling reporters: “We'll see what happens in the coming days.”

There are international standards guiding the issue of returning Indigenous cultural property, as well as individual museum policies.

The 2007 U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, for example, asserts that nations should provide redress, including through restitution, of cultural, religious and spiritu-

al property taken “without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.”

It is possible Indigenous peoples gave their handiworks to Catholic missionaries for the 1925 expo or that the missionaries bought them.

But historians question whether the items could have been offered freely given the power imbalances at play in Catholic missions and the government's policy of eliminating Indigenous traditions, which Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has called “cultural genocide.”

Stay or go? Ronaldo's future uncertain at Manchester United

AP – The weekly social media posts published by Cristiano Ronaldo this offseason typically have shown the soccer superstar half-dressed, muscles bulging, either working out or promoting one of his many brands.

Remaining relevant and highly visible is clearly so important to the player who, along with Lionel Messi, is the greatest of his generation. That also extends to the final years of his career on the field, too.

It's why, for the 37-year-old Ronaldo, playing for Manchester United — still one of the world's most famous sports teams, despite their recent trophy drought — just isn't enough. He wants to be competing on the biggest stage, winning the biggest trophies while he can.

Hence the current stand-off with United, which is becoming more damaging and disruptive as the days go by and the new season looms.

Publicly, Ronaldo has not yet returned to preseason training with the English club because of what has been described as “personal reasons.” The expectation, recently hired United manager Erik ten Hag repeats on an almost-daily basis, is that Ronaldo will be back before the Premier League begins and be a key member of the squad.

The reality, it seems, is different. Ronaldo reportedly wants out after just one season back at Old Trafford, with United no longer in the Champions League or in shape to compete with the best teams in England like Manchester City and Liverpool. United finished sixth last season, 35 points behind first-place City.

So, while the rest of the United squad has been on tour in Thailand and Australia, getting match-sharp and acquainted with ten Hag and his methods, Ronaldo has been back home in Portugal with his family while his agent, Jorge Mendes, shops around seeking a new club for his most famous client.

Currently, there is no buyer.

And the Premier League season starts in about two weeks.

“I don't know what Cristiano said to the club and to the manager,” said United midfielder Bruno Fernandes, who also plays alongside Ronaldo for Portugal. “I don't know what's going on in his head, if he wants to leave. I didn't ask them that.”

“From everything we know,” Fernandes added, “he had some family problems so we have to respect his space, give him some space and that's it. The only thing I asked Cristiano when he didn't turn up was if everything was OK with



On Thursday, July 21, 2022, Cristiano Ronaldo had not yet returned to preseason training with Manchester United because of what has been publicly described as “personal reasons.” Ronaldo reportedly wants out after only one season back at Old Trafford because United is no longer in the Champions League or in shape to compete with the best teams in England. (AP Photo/Jon Super, File)

the family. He told me what was going on, that's it and nothing more.”

On the face of it, United still wants to keep Ronaldo — he was the team's top scorer last season with 24 goals and is back to being the club's poster boy for the marketing department — and ten Hag has called the striker “extremely important” along with being “not for sale.”

But why would other top clubs be cold on a player who is still a guaranteed source of goals, and revenue for that matter?

Goals might be the aim of the game but they are not necessarily enough for

a modern-day coach. A certain level of mobility and an ability to be part of a team pressing game counts for a lot, too, and Ronaldo does not offer that, even if he remains a supremely athletic player with that uncanny knack of coming alive in the penalty area and scoring from anywhere. A team's structure must change to accommodate a player like an ageing Ronaldo, covering for his deficiencies and the need to make him the focal point.

In short, his presence requires compromises to be made. He is a problem and a solution.

cont'd on pg 27

Harden, 76ers agree on 2-year, \$68 million deal

AP — James Harden has agreed to terms on a two-year contract to stay with the Philadelphia 76ers and will make about \$14.5 million less this coming season than he could have earned under his previous deal, a person with knowledge of the negotiations said Wednesday.

Harden will sign a deal worth slightly over \$68 million, paying him about \$33 million this season and with a \$35 million player option for the 2023-24 season, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the deal.

ESPN first reported the agreement being finalised between the 76ers and the 10-time All-Star guard.

Harden had a \$47.4 million option for this coming



NBA 10-time All-Star James Harden discusses his upcoming J. Harden x J Shed wine collaboration that debuts in September at his home in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday, July 17, 2022. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

season that he declined last month, saying he wanted to give the 76ers flexibility to improve their roster and compete for a championship. Giving back that much money — Harden basically gave himself a 30% pay cut for this coming season — allowed the 76ers to make moves such

as signing power forward P.J. Tucker and small forward Danuel House earlier this month.

“We got some really good pieces this summer, so now it’s time for us to go do the hard work,” Harden said in an interview with AP earlier this week to promote the upcoming launch

of a new wine label bearing his name. Harden’s plans have been clear since Philadelphia’s season ended: He was committed to staying with the 76ers and committed to help them get better.

“I’ll be here,” Harden said on May 12, when Philadelphia’s season ended with a playoff loss to Miami. “Yeah, I’ll be here. Whatever makes this team, whatever allows this team to continue to grow and get better and do the things necessary to win and compete at the highest level.”

Harden is a three-time scoring champion and averaged 22.0 points and 10.3 assists during his time with Brooklyn and Philadelphia last season. The seven-time All-NBA player was the 2018 NBA MVP and is a member of the league’s 75th anniversary team.

cont’d from pg 26

Maybe, if he ends up staying at United, ten Hag can come up with a system in which Ronaldo thrives and the players around him can cover for him and make the team operate in an efficient way. That’s easier said than done.

Thomas Tuchel — the sort of coach who values a team over the individual — clearly thought that wasn’t possible, given his Chelsea team was one of the clubs Mendes apparently spoke to. There was a glaring hole in Chelsea’s forward line, too, with Romelu Lukaku returning to Inter Milan.

Bayern Munich is another team to have reportedly turned down the chance to sign Ronaldo. There has been no desire from Real Madrid or Juventus to go back in for him, either.

Ronaldo’s wage demands are likely ruling out most of the other clubs competing in this season’s Champions League, a competition in which he is the record scorer with 141 goals — 16 more than Messi — and for which he lives. It leaves Ronaldo in an awkward spot. Still one of the greatest scorers in soccer but a player unwanted by the best teams.

So what comes next? An uneasy

truce with United and a sheepish return to a team playing in the Europa League and unlikely to be involved in the Premier League title race? Or can Mendes pull a blockbuster move out of the bag, like he did last year when Ronaldo sealed a sensational return to England?

For his brand and his legacy, Ronaldo will want the latter, ending what has turned out to be a nostalgia project without a happy ending.

And deep down, that might suit ten Hag, too, enabling him to start the rebuilding job at United with a clean slate.

Bridges impressed with young Antiguan and Barbudan cyclist

United States based national cyclist Jyme Bridges is impressed by young Antiguan and Barbudan cyclist Tahje Browne. Bridges, who is currently based in Miami, Florida, returned home recently to recapture the national road cycling champion title.

He did so by winning the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) Top Ranking Nationals Individual Road Race on Sunday, 26th June.

During last month's Top Ranking Nationals Individual Road Race, Bridges was able to observe Browne in action as the 16-year-old Wadadli Cycling Academy cyclist produced another dominant display to win the Cadets 14 to 17 category of the same event.

Bridges said Browne rode outstandingly and he is happy to provide whatever support he can towards the development of the nation's young cyclists.

"For me, I am happy to see the younger guys coming along. That kid Tahje, he rode pretty well, he actually rode like a grown-up in the nationals road race, which I was very happy to see," Bridges stated.

"I did have a few words with him during the race, just to try and encourage him. For me personally, coming up through the sport, I started at the junior age and the younger guys, they are some people that I am very passionate about and I am willing to do my part to see them excel.

"It is always a good feeling for me to be in the mix with them, racing with them and just being a part of them and their development. So it's really good to see that we have a group of youngsters that are now starting to get back on track and really be in a position



Sixteen-year-old Antiguan cyclist Tahje Browne, centre, on the winners' podium after winning the Cadets Class of the John T Memorial Cycling Road Race in Antigua on Sunday, 10 July. Browne is flanked by runner-up Anguillan Hector Rogers, left, and third place finisher Alex Richardson-Batchelor of Anguilla. (Photo courtesy Anguilla Cycling Association)

where they can represent the country and do something great for the sport."

Browne and other young cyclists such as Emmanuel Gayral in the men's elite class, Newell Mack in the Sports Class and Arusa Murray Watkins in the Cadets 11 to 13 class, have been consistently winning or finishing in the top three of their respective divisions in this year's ABCF domestic season.

Browne and another young cyclist Ghery Coates, produced some commendable performances during an engagement in Aruba earlier this year, while Gayral recently represented Antigua and Barbuda at the just con-

cluded inaugural Caribbean Games in Guadeloupe.

Browne also captured the Cadets Class, while Gayral finished third and Bridges claimed fifth place in the Men's Elite Class at the John T. Memorial Road Race in Anguilla on 10th July.

Browne, a member of the Wadadli Cycling Academy, edged out Hector Rogers of Anguilla by 0.002 of a second in a sprint finish to capture the Cadet Class that covered 38 miles in the John T. Memorial Road Race.

Bridges said coming up through

cont'd on pg 29

Moscow says US must respect Russian law in Griner case

AP – Griner has been jailed since she was arrested in mid-February at a Moscow airport after vape canisters containing cannabis oil were found in her luggage. The Phoenix Mercury standout and two-time Olympic gold medalist acknowledged in court this month that she had the canisters, but said she had no intent to break the law.

She faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted. Her trial is scheduled to resume Tuesday.

The State Department in May designated Griner as wrongfully detained, moving her case under the supervision of its special presidential envoy for hostage affairs - effectively, the government's chief hostage negotiator.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Thursday that the legalisation of cannabis for medical and rec-



A visitor walks down an alley past a mural depicting WNBA star Brittney Griner, top left, and other American hostages and wrongful detainees who are being held abroad, Wednesday, July 20, 2022, in the Georgetown neighbourhood of Washington. The spokesperson for Russia's Foreign Ministry lashed out Thursday at the United States characterising basketball star Brittney Griner's jailing on drug charges as "wrongful detention," saying it shows disrespect for Russian law. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

reational use in parts of the U.S. has no bearing on what happens in Russia.

"If a U.S. citizen was taken in connection with the fact that she was smuggling drugs, and she does not deny this, then this should

be commensurate with our Russian, local laws, and not with those adopted in San Francisco, New York and Washington," Zakharova said.

"You understand, if drugs are legalised in the

United States, in a number of states, and this is done for a long time, and now the whole country will become drug-addicted, this does not mean that all other countries are following the same path," she added.

Russian media have persistently speculated that Griner could be exchanged for prominent Russian arms trader Viktor Bout, who is imprisoned in the United States, and that Paul Whelan, an American imprisoned in Russia for espionage, may also figure in an exchange.

U.S. officials have not commented on the prospects for such a trade. Russian officials have said no exchange could be discussed until the conclusion of the legal proceedings against Griner. It is unclear how long the trial will last, but a court has authorised Griner's detention until Dec. 20.

cont'd from pg 28

the ranks from the junior level will allow the young cyclists to develop their skills in a proper and consistent manner, which should give them the platform to grow from strength to strength.

"Entering cycling at a young age, you are now able to develop properly and you don't have to, as we say, be forced ripe," Bridges stated.

"So guys that come into the sport late, they need to be at a certain fitness level, at a certain strength because they need to get going as soon as possible or right away.

"But with the younger guys, you are able to put a map together and work their systems properly which would help them to develop the correct way.

"So using myself as an example, because I started young, I was able to go through my first, second and third year progressively developing to the point that I was racing with the elite class as a junior.

"But I was able to do that because of the type of preparations I was doing and the stepping stones I took. Again, there was no rush, but it hap-

pened gradually over the course of a few years.

"So I was able to build my experience and get stronger through the entire process. So by the time I got to the top, I was already a well-rounded cyclist and I was able to maintain that and really take it through the years.

However, if you start late, you don't really have the leisure to go through to that magnitude in terms of how many years you could be developing. So starting cycling at a young age does give you an advantage to develop properly."

Daley said PSE is available to work with any athlete

Co-founder of Power Speed and Endurance (PSE) Athletic Club, Coach Ted Daley, said his non-profit organization is available to work with any athlete who is willing to be a part of it.

In dispelling a perception in some quarters that PSE is a club created to work with athletes and graduates of the Princess Margaret School (PMS), Daley said his club, which he established with co-founder and wife, coach Heather Samuel-Daley, approximately eight years ago, is available to anyone who is interested.

“I started working with a couple of athletes from the Princess Margaret School because that’s my alma mater. That is where I went to secondary school and I guess when some of the athletes see the success of those who are training with us, they just want to gravitate and come over and see if they can get similar success,” Daley said.

“So it is not necessarily we [who] set out to coach people from the Princess Margaret School. We actually coach students from many different schools.

“In our club we have people from Antigua Grammar, Ottos Comprehensive, Clare Hall, All Saints, Princess Margaret and even people from far away as Glanvilles Secondary School.

“So we don’t select from

any particular school. If you come and you want to train and want to improve and you exercise discipline, you are willing to do the work, we will work with you.

“It doesn’t matter to us which school you attend because at the end of the day, our aim is to get you to a level where you can get scholarships, where you can represent Antigua and where you can even become a professional.”

Daley and his wife have been involved in coaching athletes many years before starting their own organization and he said they have already achieved some success in producing some of the top athletes in Antigua and Barbuda over the years.

“So together, we feel like we are a winning combination. Although we primarily focus on sprinters, we have worked with middle and long distance runners that were the best in Antigua and Barbuda,” Daley stated.

“A couple of them went on to get athletic scholarships overseas. We had George Hyppolite and he got a scholarship, but primarily we coach sprinters.

“Some of the past athletes that we would have produced include Casheen Colbourne, Jared Jarvis, Cezhae Greene, SherezWeste and Ariel Titus.

“These are all athletes



Co-founder of Power Speed and Endurance (PSE) Athletic Club, Coach Ted Daley. (File photo)

that would have gotten athletics scholarships and graduated in the United States and some of them have migrated there. Several of them are actually working for the universities that they went to and those are the things that make us feel proud.

“Currently, we have people like Dwayne Flemming, Ajarni Daley, Ka-deem Campbell, LaNica Locker and Kasiya Daley. So we continue to produce people that would go out and make Antigua and Barbuda proud.”

Daley said PSE’s overall objective is to continue producing to top quality individuals who are able to

develop as professionals in track and field or in other career paths.

“We are planning to take this to a level where we produce professional athletes, that we coach professional athletes and have them go out there and make it a livelihood where they can make serious money,” Daley stated.

“At the same time, whatever benefits that we derive from this, we will pass it on to younger athletes so that we can keep producing more and more athletes and making Antigua and Barbuda proud.

“We also want to get
cont’d on pg 31

Simon working to create online site to teach Warri game

International Warri Grand Master Trevor “Simple” Simon is currently in the process of creating his own website to help spread his teaching to those interested in learning to play the board game.

Simon, who is a member of the International Oware Players Association (IOPA), said he will be using his website to conduct online training utilizing the Play Okay platform.

“Well I am working on creating a website for me personally. On that website I am going to be doing online training through a platform we call Play Okay,” Simon said, while speaking as a guest on the Sports Overflow programme on Platinum 97.9 FM Radio.

“You can go online to Play Okay and play with other Warri players from across the globe. You have players in Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Holland, Czech Republic and just about anywhere all over the globe using Play Okay to play Warri on a daily basis.

“So at any given time you can log into Play Okay and hook up and play against

other players.”

However, Simon said it requires strong internet connectivity to utilize the Play Okay platform, which can be accessed online via a cellphone or a computer.

“But as you know, the challenge for us here in Antigua and Barbuda is internet cost. Let’s say you have some data on your cellphone and sign in to Play Okay to play a series of games, your data will last only so long.

“So it is a challenge for the ordinary person on the street to sign up for these programmes because to use Play Okay, it requires a lot of data so it takes up a lot of your data space,” Simon stated.

“However, if you have access to a wifi at home or anywhere, it is much easier to utilize the Play Okay platform on your computer. You can actually log onto the Play Okay platform either on a cell phone or a computer.”

Although Simon officially announced his retirement from international competition in April 2021, the Antigua and Barbuda



Antigua and Barbuda's International Warri Grand Master Trevor 'Simple' Simon competes at an international competition in October, 2019. (File photo)

Warri -grandmaster has continued to pass on his knowledge of the game via workshops he conducts at the Antigua and Barbuda Warri Academy.

However, Simon said the Antigua and Barbuda Warri Academy workshops, which are held at the National Public Library, had been put on hold since the onset of the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Simon, who is widely regarded as one of the best players to ever play the game of Warri, said he is yet to hold discussions with

the manager of the national public library before resuming the workshops.

“In the Warri Academy, we have more boys than girls and I am getting a lot of interest being shown by a number of persons who want to come into the academy as soon as we are back up and running, so it augurs well for the future,” Simon said.

“The national public library is where we normally play and I would have to have some discussion with Mrs (Ryliss) Mannix, the manager for the public library, to know exactly when the facility will be available to us because since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have been on a hiatus.

“But I am getting calls every day from my students because they are anxious to restart.”

cont'd from pg 30

them off to universities so those who may not choose the route of becoming professional athletes, will at least get a good education that they can go on and develop other professional career paths in their life. Those are some of the goals we have in mind and we will be working towards it.

“In fact, we currently have several of our athletes signed up for the Ministry of Education SAT class, so that when they get to a level of running the times that universities start looking at them, they would have had the necessary SAT scores so that they wouldn't have any hindrance in getting into a university.”

Goldmedal to be “powered by” partner for West Indies vs India CG United ODI Series

Goldmedal Electricals, one of India’s leading electrical manufacturing companies, today announced that it has signed a sponsorship agreement for India’s upcoming CG United One Day International (ODI) series against the West Indies. Goldmedal will be associated as the “Powered By” sponsor for the three-match series to be titled the “CG United ODI Series, Powered by Goldmedal”. The series will be played in West Indies between July 22 and 27 at Trinidad’s Queen’s Park Oval.

Through this sponsorship, the Goldmedal brand will have a prominent presence on the ground during all the ODI matches. As part of the partnership, the Goldmedal logo will be promoted on the pitch mat, perimeter boards, on the integrated logo of the series, and the presentation boards. This will be Goldmedal’s second foray into sponsoring a cricket event this year. Goldmedal was also the official Power Partner of the recent India-Ireland T20 series held in June end.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Mr. Kishan Jain, Director, Goldmedal, said, “As a cricket-loving nation, we are thrilled to be associated with this ODI series. The Goldmedal brand is about providing amazing experiences – and the way India and West Indies play the game – there’s a lot of amazing moments in store for the audience. We are looking forward to an electrifying series between the two teams and



we hope that this is just the beginning of our long association with cricket India.”

Speaking on the association, CWI CEO Mr. Johnny Grave, said, “We’re pleased to welcome Goldmedal as the “Powered by” partner for the CG United ODI Series as they increase their partnerships in cricket, and become one of several new sponsors for the West Indies vs India Series. The West Indies vs India Series is always exciting and highly anticipated around the world featuring two of the world’s most charismatic teams and two incredibly passionate sets of fans in cricket.

“We’re pleased to welcome Goldmedal as the “Powered by” partner

for the CG United ODI Series as they increase their partnerships in cricket, and become one of several new sponsors for the West Indies vs India Series. The West Indies vs India Series is always exciting and highly anticipated around the world featuring two of the world’s most charismatic teams and two incredibly passionate sets of fans in cricket.”

The Indian team is led by Shikhar Dhawan while Nicholas Pooran will captain the West Indies during the CG United ODI series. The matches will begin at 09:30am Trinidad time/ 7:00 pm IST and will be telecast live on FanCode and Doordarshan in India, and ESPN Caribbean in the West Indies.