

WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 176 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

SDA PRESIDENT RESPONDS TO DREADLOCKS BACKLASH

Story on Page 2



Antiguan and Barbudan star sprinter, Dwayne Fleming (centre left), received a generous financial contribution from the government which he plans to use to assist his training. The presentation was made by Minister of Sports, Daryll Matthew (far left) and MP for St. George's, Dean Jonas (far right). Also present was Fleming's mother, Sheena Nelson. *Story on page 7*

Local News



SDA church leader strikes defiant tone in response to hairstyle fallout

The president of the South Leeward Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists has responded to the firestorm of criticism one of their church's schools faced when a new student was turned away because of her hair which is dreadlocked.

It is the first time Dr. Carson Greene has addressed the issue which many have considered an act of discrimination.

The matter drew comment at all levels, including from the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda which has threatened to pass legislation that would forbid schools from refusing to educate children or discriminate against them because of their hair.

While registration for the child went smoothly at New Bethel Seventh-Day Adventist School, it was at orientation on the first day of the new school year that the mother of the 5-year-old was told that her child could not return to the private institution with dreadlocks.

In a two-page statement yesterday afternoon, Dr. Greene denied that the school discriminated against the child by barring her from attending over her hair. He also expressed disfavour with the government's position.

"What is most concerning is the suggestion of legislation on the part of government to govern the policies



Dr. Carson Greene

and standards of private Christian institutions. As a faith-based community, we believe in giving honour and recognition to the government. We are a law-abiding people. We, however, strongly disagree that Government should seek to dictate our standards.

"We therefore strongly condemn the various statements and view such as an attempt for secular authority to control or unduly influence the Christian Community on its values and principles.

"The lines between church and state should forever remain clear and while we have utmost respect for government, we remain a Christian institution," Greene said.

The president acknowledged that there are varying opinions on hairstyles worn by students, and while respecting the positions advanced, he stated that the operations of their schools are based on Christian val-

ues and discipline.

"Children do not have the right to do everything that adults do, and uniforms and standards in school are designed to assist with the process of development of discipline. It is for this reason why our handbook addresses matters of discipline in several areas and not just hairstyles.

"It should not be strange to think that a private institution has standards involving hairstyles that are contrary to another religious group. The reality is, the Seventh-day Adventist school is not the only institution that enforces such a rule. Further, there are public institutions, such as the police department, that have strict guidelines and policies regarding deportment and hairstyles," Dr. Greene maintained.

He has dismissed claims of discrimination, asserting that the Christians have championed the cause of religious freedom, but main-

tained that his organisation will not compromise on their standards.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates the largest network of academic institutions in protestant Christianity. We have over 7,500 schools in nearly 150 countries worldwide.

"We take seriously the business of moulding young minds for this life and the life hereafter. We are a Christian institution and while we advocate for freedom of religion, it is important to understand that freedom is never without limits. It would be unthinkable for one religious body to attend another religious institution and demand that they change their standards to accommodate them.

"Yet, this is what is being promoted by the various pronouncements. Religious freedom must be reciprocated equally. We support the Rastafarians and any other group in their quest for religious freedom and equity, but not at the risk of giving up our own," Dr. Greene declared.

He has called for open dialogue on tolerance, rather than accusations and indifference based on differing views.

Meanwhile, he noted that the matter regarding the child has been "amicably resolved and both parent and school are reasonably satisfied with the outcome".

Antigua/Barbuda 'not ashamed' of its CBI programme

Antigua and Barbuda says it is "not ashamed" of its citizenship by investment programme (CBI), adding that it helped the country to take care of its nationals during the worst of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Antigua and Barbuda is among several Caribbean countries with a CBI programme that provides citizenship to foreign investors in return for making a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of the island.

The CBI has come under criticism from the European Union and the United States that deem the initiative as a tax haven.

"We continue in the programme because we think it's good for us," Colin James, Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority told the Caribbean Tourism Organisation's (CTO) "Destination Media Briefing" as he fielded questions from journalists.

"We realise that over the years, we've had people who will tell us what's good for us," James said, noting that CIB programmes have several models.

"You can actually buy real estate and develop that in Antigua and Barbuda or you can choose to be a citizen. And incidentally for our country, you actually



Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin James

have to be on island and be resident for a couple of days, at least, a year to ensure that you qualify for that citizenship," he said.

James said that what is important is "the due diligence that goes into making sure that the people who apply for citizenship are actually thoroughly vetted by the United States, thoroughly vetted by Interpol so when the citizenship applications are approved, they've already been pre-approved by other folks".

He said that Antigua and Barbuda citizenship is popular because "there's a host of countries — I don't have the exact figure of hand — that give us visa-free access, namely the Schengen countries in Europe.

"A lot of the people who acquire our citizenship are wealthy people and they use this as a second opportuni-

ty and it's nothing new," he said, adding that Malta has been operating a CBI programme for years.

"The US, if you come to the US and you have money and you invest and you have

cont'd on pg 4

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
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To: The Commissioner of Police
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Dear Sir/ Madame,

Re: Notice- Application for Tavern Licence

I, Lenroy Christmas of Grey Hill and Yenys Jasmin Febles Constanzo of Grey Hill, with registered business situated at Grey Hill St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 6th October, 2022 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "La Esquina Enterprise & Bar" situated at Grey Hill in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

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Local News



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cont'd from pg 3

a million bucks, you can get Uncle Sam citizenship. So, it's just us doing it and everybody's 'Oh, they're selling passports.'

"We are using a mechanism that I think works for us. If we did not have that citizenship by investment programme and you can ask Dominica, you can ask St Kitts-Nevis, during the lockdown our people would have been hungry, but because we had a mechanism to fall back on, it really provided the funding to keep our economy sustainable.

"And so, it's something that we're not ashamed of because we don't think we're doing anything illegal or anything that as independent nations we shouldn't have an opportunity to do."

James said that "wealthy countries" have been operating CBI programmes "all along".

"They just call it a different name. So, I think it's proven to be very, very successful. Even the digital nomad programme we've been offering people the opportunity to have long-term stays where you can live in Antigua, for six months.

"Barbados has proven to be very successful, Antigua, and a lot of destinations have done that, particularly during COVID so that we can use what we have to our benefit and for our advantage and it's just a great part of the world to live," he said.

In the tourism sector, James said that as of Au-

gust 29 all COVID-19 testing and entry requirements have been lifted for all visitors regardless of vaccination status. There is another quarantine requirement, but visitors are asked to continue to observe all on-island protocols, as some establishments still require a facemask.

Stay-over tourism arrivals for July 2022 were seven per cent higher than July 2019, representing 24,673 in 2022, compared to 23,031 in 2019. Further, stay-over tourism arrivals for August 2022 increased by seven per cent over the August 2019 figure, or 20,125 in 2022 and 18,0792 in 2019.

He said that American Airlines has increased daily flights to Antigua from New York and Miami and Frontier Airlines will restart year-round service from Orlando in November. Air Canada is to resume service from Toronto on October 8 and begin service from Montreal in December, while Sunwing adds two weekly flights from Toronto with Montreal service in November.

Westjet will increase its flight to twice weekly and Virgin Atlantic is increasing its service from three to five times weekly flights for Winter 2023.

British Airways celebrated 60 years of flying to Antigua in July and continues to offer daily flights.

He said regional service is back with smaller carriers such as LIAT, InterCaribbean, and Caribbean Airways. (CMC)

Gov't considering public holiday on day of Queen Elizabeth's funeral

By Shahein Fitzpatrick

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says his government is considering calls for 19th September, the day of Queen Elizabeth's funeral, to be made a public holiday.

Over the weekend, the prime minister said while he has no issue with this request, before a decision can be made, he intends to hold consultations with stakeholders.

"I have no issues, but the government and I will first have to consult with other regional leaders," he said.

He emphasised that his decision will consider whether other Commonwealth nations in the region will observe a public holiday on Monday.

King Charles III has proclaimed 19th September a public holiday in the UK to honour his mother, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The last day of the period of national mourning will be marked by the holiday, according to King Charles, which "will allow



King Charles led his brothers, Princes Andrew and Edward, and sister, Anne, the Princess Royal, in the 20-minute Vigil of the Princes on Monday. It was the first time in the history of the British Monarchy that a woman, Princess Anne, the Queen's only daughter, participated in the ceremonial vigil which was last held in 2002 on the death of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. [Photo: Jane Barlow [Credit: AP]]

people, businesses, and other organisations to pay their tribute to her majesty and commemorate her reign."

At 1100 BST, the Queen's last rites will be administered at Westminster Abbey.

Prior to this, the Queen

will lie in state at Westminster Hall for four days before the funeral to allow the public to pay respect.

The Queen's coffin was transported from Edinburgh to the Palace of Holyroodhouse on Sunday, where it lay in the Throne Room un-

til Monday.

On the forecourt of the palace court that afternoon, a procession was held to transport the coffin to St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh. The royal family, including the King, participated in the procession and vigil when the coffin was received.

Queen Elizabeth II's death is being mourned in other Caribbean nations where she was Head of State. Flags are being flown at half-mast across the Commonwealth, including in Antigua and Barbuda until the period of official mourning ends next Monday with her funeral.

| Wed 14 Day | | Wed 14 Night | |
|--|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 88° | ☀️ | 79° | ☁️ |
| 20% ENE 15 mph | | 40% ENE 12 mph | |
| Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 88F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph. | | Partly cloudy in the evening. Increasing clouds with periods of showers after midnight. Low 79F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%. | |
| Humidity 70% | UV Index Extreme | Humidity 82% | UV Index 0 of 10 |
| Sunrise 5:55 am | Sunset 6:10 pm | Moonrise 9:19 pm | Moonset 9:39 am |
| | | ○ Waning Gibbous | |

Local News



UWI FIC launches social outreach targeting Grays-Green, prisoners

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) has announced that it has established a social outreach programme that will target the Grays-Green community and inmates within the penal system.

The university says this move forms part of its plan to have a greater impact on the communities neighbouring the campus.

Principal of UWI FIC, Professor Densil Williams, said the committee who will administer the initiative will aim to help the Grays-Green Community address some of its social issues.

“The committee is on the cusp of engaging in some social issues in Antigua and Barbuda, and the Grays Farm area will serve as a sort of laboratory for us



Principal of UWI FIC, Professor Densil Williams

to carry out some of these activities.

“We are now finalising details to partner with the government on how we can assist in dealing with the issue of ‘street people’ in a more sustainable way,” he remarked.

As a first step, the university’s team will collect information to determine the cause of the “street people” problem, where these

homeless or inadequately sheltered people come from and what led them to take to wandering the streets.

UWI FIC will use this data to design intervention programmes that will address the issue, in partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Institute for Continuing Education (ABICE) to help this vulnerable section of society to become more self-sufficient.

Additionally, the UWI FIC has announced a programme which will target inmates in the prison system that will equip them with the skills needed to reintegrate into society as productive members of the community once they have served their time.

“We have also developed at Five Islands what we call the Life-long Learning Unit. These are short courses that may be pursued on a short-term basis in subjects such as accounting, services management or financial management.

“Interestingly, we are also entering into a partnership with the prison where we are training inmates in entrepreneurship so that when they leave, they can start a business et cetera,” Professor Williams noted.

Change of title for senior lawyers

With King Charles III recent accession to the throne, major changes will be made to reflect the reign of the new sovereign.

Royal warrants, bank notes, coins and proclamations will all be adjusted overtime to bear the name and image of King Charles III.

In the legal community however, one of the most significant changes will affect the titles held by senior legal practitioners.

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, through Acting Chief Justice Kelvin Baptiste, has served notice that the title Queen’s Counsel (QC) has been changed to King’s Counsel (KC)

with immediate effect.

This extends to member states and territories of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, including Antigua and Barbuda.

“As the change is automatic, new Letters of Patent will not be issued. This is in accordance with the recent guidance from the UK Crown Office,” the head of the ECSC advised in a communiqué on 9th September, 2022.

Among the notable lawyers in Antigua and Barbuda who will now use the post-nominal initials KC are Sir Gerald Watt, Justin Simon, E. Ann Henry and Dane Hamilton.

This is the first time in seventy



years that the title King’s Counsel will be used. It was last used during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II’s father, King George VI.

Gold medallist Dwayne Fleming receives cash award from Gov't

In a brief ceremony at the Ministry of Social Transformation's headquarters on Friars Hill Road, a cash award of \$10,000.00 was presented to the 2022 CARIFTA Games gold and silver medalist, Dwayne Fleming of New Winthorpes.

Dwayne, a 16-year-old student of the Princess Margaret School, has added his name to the list of high-performance athletes to hail from New Winthorpes which has produced world-class golfers and cricketers.

On hand for the presentation were the Minister of



2022 CARIFTA Games gold and silver medalist, Dwayne Fleming

Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew and the Parliamentary Representative for St. George's, Dean Jonas,

Minister for Social Trans-

formation, Human Resource Development, and the Blue Economy.

Both ministers commended Dwayne for his

stellar performance in the 100 and 200 metre events against a field of outstanding athletes in Jamaica and expressed their confidence that he will move on to greater achievements.

The ministers also pledged the government's continued support to the youngster's development.

Dwayne and his mother, Sheena Nelson, both expressed their gratitude to Minister Jonas for the award and shared that it will assist greatly in offsetting the expenses associated with training for upcoming events.



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Workplace



Criticality of addressing competency and skills gaps

As human resource (HR) professionals we have seen how ongoing disruptions have forced organizations to rapidly adapt their operations to meet the changing needs of their customers.

However, many employers have found that their current workforce lacks the skills needed to meet these new demands and it is critical at this juncture, to address competency and skills gaps.

Whether it is through job rotation or creating rewards for our team members to enlist in learning and development courses, we must make our people see reskilling or upskilling as an imperative.

A recent McKinsey study revealed that an alarming eighty-seven percent (87%) of companies are experiencing a skills gap or will have one within the next few years. McKinsey highlights technological advancements as the main reason for the widespread skills shortage.

Technology has changed daily operations and requirements, and the upskilling programs in many organizations are yet to catch up.

It is estimated that eighty percent (80%) of current jobs are at risk of being automated and we must prepare our people for this reality.

How do we do this? Start by identifying the future roles that are needed for your company, then determine

which of these roles have the smallest skill and knowledge gap to the current roles and then design a training plan to tackle the identified gap.

In an International Development Bank (IDB) survey taken in 2019 by senior managers in Latin America and the Caribbean, forty-one percent (41%) reported that they had been unable to address the skill gaps in their teams because of archaic HR processes that did not allow them to recruit the skills that they needed.

These protracted hiring processes make it exceptionally difficult to keep the interest of top professionals and streamlining the hiring process is particularly important when seeking to attract and retain highly skilled talent.

Now more than ever, HR professionals need to continuously assess their organizations' skill requirements and be proactive in confronting them.

As HR practitioners we have a major role to play in ensuring that our organizations stay ahead of or at least keep pace with developments.

When looking for new talent, it is better to focus on hiring individuals who have the potential to learn new skills quickly rather than those who possess their experience in dated practices.

Many employees are



willing to learn new skills if given the opportunity. Organizations can provide training and development opportunities to help employees stay ahead of the curve.

Although there are many online offerings for retooling and relearning, HR professionals should explore local options for learning and development and ensure that their team members are aware of what is available. Organisations can partner with local educational institutions to design programs that meet their specific needs.

Our best and brightest talent must be shown the need to stay relevant and updated.

Whether it's learning a totally different skill within their current role or learning a new skill to prepare for a different role, we all have to be prepared.

Companies can successfully fill their skills gaps in different ways.

However, the essential part of any programme is support for team members

and providing opportunities for them to practice and grow in their new area. Bear in mind that with this new skill, an employee's performance will need to be reviewed fairly to encourage development.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organisations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.

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Feature

Statement by British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, His Excellency Scott Furssedonn-Wood on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

13th September, 2022

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is a moment of profound significance for the United Kingdom.

It is a time of great sadness, as we mourn the loss of our Queen and a figure who has been in our lives for as long as almost anyone can remember.

It's also a time for us to reflect on her extraordinary life. We reflect on her reign of 70 years, the longest in British history; her lifetime of dedication

to the United Kingdom, to the other countries where she was Head of State and to the Commonwealth.

As we say our final farewells to The Queen, the United Kingdom also begins a new era – a new reign with our new King, King Charles The III.

A man whom I worked for four years when he was The Prince of Wales.

It was the greatest privilege of my life to serve him as his Deputy Private Secretary.

I know something of



His Excellency Scott Furssedonn-Wood his commitment to duty, tradition that his mother to service and I'm sure he embodied for so many years. will continue in the proud years.



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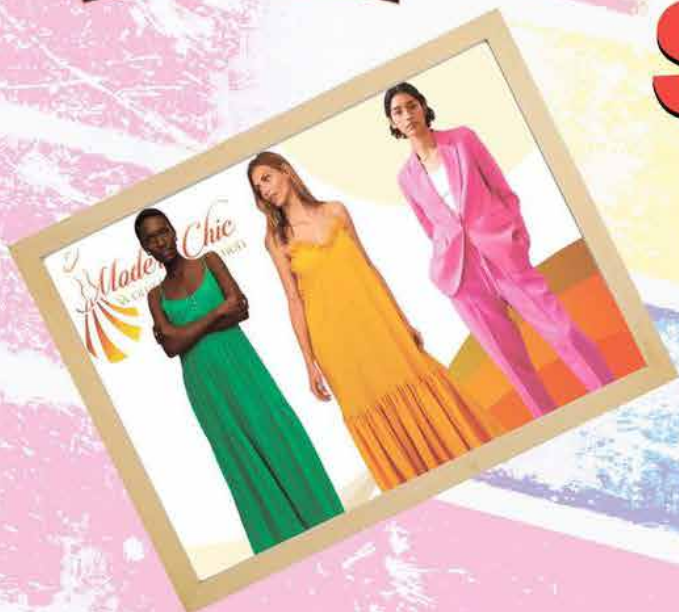
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UN sums up climate science: world heading in wrong direction

With weather disasters costing \$200 million a day and irreversible climate catastrophe looming, the world is “heading in the wrong direction,” the United Nations says in a new report that pulls together the latest science on climate change.

The World Meteorological Organization, in the latest stark warning about global warming, said

weather-related disasters have increased fivefold over the last 50 years and are killing 115 per day on average – and the fallout is poised to worsen.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cited the floods in Pakistan, heat waves in Europe, droughts in places such as China, the Horn of Africa, and the United States – and pointed the finger at fossil fuels.



Victims of heavy flooding from monsoon rains crowd carry relief aid through flood water in the Qambar Shahdadkot district of Sindh Province, Pakistan, Sept. 9, 2022. The United Nations says weather disasters costing \$200 million a day and irreversible climate catastrophe looming show the world is “heading in the wrong direction.” (AP Photo/Fareed Khan, File)

“There is nothing natural about the new scale of these disasters. They are the price of humanity’s fossil fuel addiction,” he said. “This year’s United in Science report shows climate impacts heading into uncharted territories of destruction.”

“Yet each year we double-down on this fossil fuel addiction, even as the symptoms get rapidly worse,” he added.

The report, drawn from data compiled by several U.N. agencies and partners, cited a 48% chance that global temperature rise compared to pre-industrial times will reach 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) in the next five years. There’s a 93% percent chance that one year in the next five will see record heat.

It comes amid fresh warnings from scientists last week that four climate “tipping points” will like-

ly be triggered if that temperature threshold — set in the 2015 Paris climate accord — is passed.

Many governments are already trying to address the threat of more severe weather due to climate change, and data show that deaths from natural disasters are down in recent years. Yet the economic cost of climate-induced catastrophes is projected to rise sharply.

The U.N. report says such “losses and damages” can be limited by timely action to prevent further warming and adapt to the temperature increases that are now inevitable.

Questions around compensation for the damage that poor nations suffer as a result of emissions produced by rich countries will play a major role at the upcoming U.N. climate talks in Egypt this fall. (AP)



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PM hints at referendum to decide future political status of Bahamas

CMC - Prime Minister Phillip Davis says Bahamians will have to decide whether the country should become a republic.

Davis, speaking to reporters after signing the book of condolences at the Senate, following the death last Thursday of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, said that the decision on the country's future with the monarchy ultimately lies with the Bahamian public.

The Bahamas gained its political independence from Britain on July 10, 1973, and the debate as to whether or not the country transits to a republican status was re-ignited with the death of the Queen.

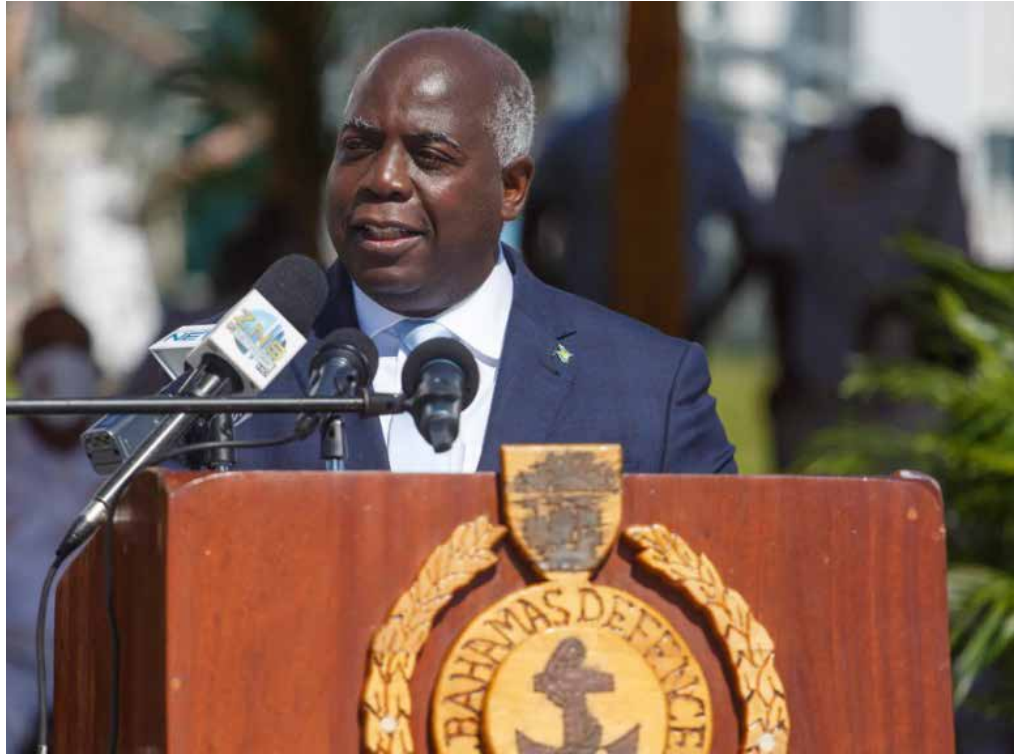
"The only challenge with us moving to a republic is that I can't, as much as I would wish to do it, I cannot do it without your consent," he said, adding "I will have a referendum and the Bahamian people will have to say to me, 'yes'."

He confirmed that having a referendum was on the table, telling reporters, "For me, it always is but again it is our people who will have to decide".

Social Services Minister Obie Wilchcombe told reporters he didn't find it surprising that people here were now debating the issue, especially when considering how much the country has grown.

"There will be some discussions I am sure in our country about moving on. I have heard some of my colleagues express for a long time and that is a debate that will happen. The truth is The Bahamas has grown and we're going to be 50 years old next year and we have come a long way from a fishing village to a colony and we're now independent.

"We pretty much fight for ourselves and we struggle on our own and we have partners and friends which



Bahamian Prime Minister Phillip Davis. [Photo: Office of the Prime Minister]

will not go away and as other countries have done, they have remained members of the Commonwealth so there are stages and I think that we're near that stage and I expect more debate to continue."

Former Prime Minister Perry Christie, who formed a constitutional commission in 2012 to review the Constitution of The Bahamas and other matters like whether The Bahamas should evolve into a republic, said Commonwealth countries are now making decisions about their future with the monarch and that King Charles' performance as monarch will play a large role in helping countries determine their next steps.

"The question and challenge now is that the new king, King Charles, will have the role to play that his mother played magnificently and the question will be how effective that will be to keep everything going in the way it has in the past," he said, noting that he was not prepared to pre-empt

the government as regards holding a referendum.

"We have a new government and it's for them to continue to look closely at governance in our country and make a determination, hopefully with the support of our people as to which steps we take in our maturation process and that's what it's all about."

Former prime minister Hubert Ingraham said he was not an advocate "for any changes," telling reporters: "I have no comment to make about what The Bahamas might do in the future.

"I am quite comfortable as I am now and if the government of The Bahamas choose to do something else, it's entirely up to them but I am not an advocate for any changes. I like it as it is now."

Opposition Leader, Michael Pindard said he would support national conversation on the matter and believes the country should develop a white paper on what the move could mean for us.

Regional News



Sint Maarten: Government maintains majority support in Parliament

Loop – The Silveria Jacobs-led coalition government in Sint Maarten has gained the support of two new Members of Parliament.

In a joint statement issued by the leadership of the National Alliance (NA) and United People's (UP) Party, success was confirmed of a proactive measure to ensure stability within the governing coalition.

This was mentioned many weeks ago when they began exploring options to broaden the coalition.

“After many discussions regarding support for the sit-



Prime Minister and Minister of General Affairs Silveria Jacobs, also leader of the National Alliance party

ting government, we hereby inform the public that the government, coalition, and by extension its governing accord in its present form, despite the announcements of independence by sitting

coalition members, has the support of two extra members of Parliament, namely MPs A. Arrindell and C. Brownbil,” said Member of Parliament and Leader of the UP Party, Rolando Brison.

The decision was confirmed to Governor Eugene Holiday, who is aware of the government's majority support in Parliament which allows it to continue to govern.

“The public can rest assured that we will continue to work in the best interest of St Maarten and her people. We ask that you not be deterred by those who seek to create further confusion in the minds of the population for political gain,” said Prime Minister and Minister of General Affairs Silveria Jacobs, in her capacity as the leader of the NA Party.

President Ali dismisses criticism of racial discrimination

CMC - President Dr Mohammed Irfaan Ali has sought to dismiss accusations that his administration is practising racial discrimination and challenged critics to provide proof.

Speaking on Sunday, the President said the accusation is a “sensational and stupid narrative of marginalisation”.

Ali's challenge was delivered against the background of persistent accusations by the main opposition, A Partnership for National Unity+Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC).

The APNU has stated that the mostly Indo-Guy-

anese People's Progressive Party Civic (PPPC) administration was discriminating against Afro-Guyanese in the provision of land, jobs, contracts and other opportunities.

“I'm not here to tell you to vote for the PPP but I'm here to tell you to benefit from the PPP,” said the president who was speaking at the Mocha-Arcadia primary school.

The President also urged the citizens to ignore those in the society who are playing on the psychological and mental and that will get us nowhere.”

Meanwhile, the President has been asked to



President Irfaan Ali

provide sufficient textbooks, take steps to restore much-needed Internet access, improve ventilation for the usually hot school and extend that building.

The President was speaking at the school as he was asked to address long-outstanding house-lot applications and the provision of land titles.

From humble past, William Ruto sworn in as Kenya's president

AP – William Ruto was sworn in as Kenya's president on Tuesday after narrowly winning the Aug. 9 election in East Africa's most stable democracy, and quickly signalled that his leadership will be a strongly Christian one.

The Supreme Court last week rejected a challenge by losing candidate and long-time opposition figure Raila Odinga of the official results, completing a markedly peaceful election in a country with a history of troubled ones.

The 55-year-old Ruto had been the deputy to outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta but had a bitter split that left the two not speaking for months at a time. On Tuesday, the audience cheered as the two shook hands, and again as Kenyatta handed over the instruments of power.

Ruto, who had dropped to his knees in tears and prayer when the court upheld his win, knelt on the stage minutes after his swearing-in during an extended sermon.

"A chicken seller to a president," intoned the pastor, highlighting Ruto's humble youth. "A village boy has become the president of Kenya," Ruto said in his speech.

In his first tweet as president, the evangelical Christian quoted Psalms: "This is



Kenya's new president William Ruto holds up a ceremonial sword as he is sworn into office at a ceremony held at Kasarani stadium in Nairobi, Kenya Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022. William Ruto was sworn in as Kenya's president on Tuesday after narrowly winning the Aug. 9 election and after the Supreme Court last week rejected a challenge to the official results by losing candidate Raila Odinga. (AP Photo/Brian Inganga)

the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." His speech praised both the church and Islamic leadership, and he vowed that "we will enhance our partnership, build on our collaboration and enhance our support to them."

The event began with some chaos. Scores of people were crushed and injured as they forced their way into the packed stadium. Medic Peter Muiruri said a fence fell as people pushed it and about 60 were injured, though the number may rise.

People tried to dodge baton-wielding security forces. Some failed. "I was beaten by the police after trying to get inside," said a witness, Benson Kimutai.

Ruto takes power in a country heavily burdened by debt that will challenge his efforts to fulfil sweeping campaign promises made to Kenya's poor, whom he has described as getting by on "stubborn hope." In his speech, he acknowledged that "clearly, we are living beyond our means."

He promised cheaper fertiliser as food prices rise

and more affordable credit. He also vowed more money for the judiciary, financial independence for the national police from the presidency and efforts to fight a drought in Kenya's north that brings the threat of famine.

Ruto also asked Kenyatta to continue "chairing discussions" on the regional crises in neighbouring Ethiopia, where the government is fighting Tigray forces, and in eastern Congo, where tensions exist with Rwanda. Kenyatta has accepted, the new president said.

Arrests of UK anti-royal protesters spur free-speech debate

AP — In a country famed for irreverence, some worry a new code of silence has taken hold.

Since the death of Queen Elizabeth II, a handful of people in Britain have been detained by police for expressing — often bluntly — anti-monarchy views.

A woman in Edinburgh holding a sign reading “F— imperialism, abolish the monarchy” was charged with a breach of the peace. A man faced the same charge after he heckled Prince Andrew as the queen’s hearse travelled through the Scottish capital.

In Oxford, peace activist Symon Hill was put in handcuffs after he shouted his opposition during a ceremonial proclamation of the new king.

Hill said he spontaneously called out “Who elected him?” because he objects to a head of state being imposed on the country.

“I doubt most of the people in the crowd even heard me,” he wrote on his blog. “Two or three people near me told me to shut up.”

Hill said he was put into a police van by officers who told him he was being detained for alleged behaviour that could cause “harassment, alarm or distress.” He was later released but could still face questioning.

“The police abused their powers to arrest someone who voiced some mild op-



People protest ahead of the Accession Proclamation Ceremony at Cardiff Castle, Wales, publicly proclaiming King Charles III as the new monarch, Sunday Sept. 11, 2022. (Ben Birchall/PA via AP)

position to a head of state being appointed undemocratically,” he said.

In London, a woman was moved from the gates of Parliament while carrying a “Not my king” sign. Police said she was removed from the spot, where a police officer was stabbed to death by an Islamist attacker in 2017, to allow vehicles in and was not asked to leave the wider area.

Lawyer Paul Powlesland said he was questioned by police outside Parliament on Monday while carrying a blank piece of paper on which he, too, planned to write “Not my king.”

In footage shot by Powlesland, an officer is heard saying “it may offend someone” if he wrote the words.

Powlesland called the police behaviour “outrageous.”

The civil rights group Liberty said it was “very worrying to see the police enforcing their broad powers in such a heavy-handed and punitive way to clamp down on free speech and expression.”

Republic, a group that campaigns for the abolition of the monarchy, said it would be complaining to police “in the strongest pos-

sible terms,” and would organise protests at the king’s coronation in the coming months.

“Free speech is fundamental to any democracy,” said spokesman Graham Smith. “At a time when the media is saturated with fawning over a king appointed without discussion or consent, it is even more important.”

The arrests come after the government passed a contentious law-and-order bill that toughens police powers to limit disruptive protests. It’s not clear whether any of the arrests involved the new law.

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Australian man killed by kangaroo in rare fatal attack

AP – A man who may have been keeping a wild kangaroo as a pet was killed by the animal in southwest Australia, police said Tuesday. It was reportedly the first fatal attack by a kangaroo in Australia since 1936.

A relative found the 77-year-old man with “serious injuries” on his property Sunday in semirural Redmond, 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of the Western Australia state capital Perth.

It was believed he had been attacked earlier in the day by the kangaroo, which police shot dead because it was preventing paramedics from reaching the injured man, police said.

“The kangaroo was posing an ongoing threat to emergency responders,” the statement said.

The man died at the scene. Police are preparing a report for a coroner who will record an official cause of death.

Police believe the victim had been keeping the

wild kangaroo as a pet.

There are legal restrictions on keeping Australian native fauna as pets, but the police media office said Tuesday they had no information to make public regarding whether the victim had a permit.

Tanya Irwin, who cares for macropods at the Native Animal Rescue service in Perth, said authorities rarely issue permits to keep kangaroos in Western Australia.

“This looks like it was an adult male and they become quite aggressive and they don’t do well in captivity,” Irwin said.

“We don’t know what the situation was; If he was in pain or why he was being kept in captivity and unfortunately ... they’re not a cute animal, they’re a wild animal,” Irwin added.

Irwin said her rescue centre always rehabilitates native animals with the aim of returning them to the wild, particularly kangaroos.

“You do need a special



Male kangaroos can grow to become as tall as 7 feet and weigh in excess of 200 pounds

permit to be able to do that. I don’t believe they really give them out very often unless you’re a wildlife centre with trained people who know what they’re doing,” she said.

Western grey kangaroos are common in Australia’s southwest. They can weigh up to 54 kilograms (119 pounds) and stand 1.3 metres (4 feet 3 inches) tall.

The males can be aggressive and fight people with the same techniques as they use with each other. They use their short upper limbs to grapple with their opponent, use their muscular tails to take their body weight, then lash out with both their powerful clawed hind legs.

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Prime Minister Liz Truss’s spokesman, Max Blain, said that while “this is a period of national mourning, and indeed grief, for the vast majority of the United Kingdom ... the right to protest does remain a fundamental principle.”

But he said it is “for the police to decide what is appropriate in individual circumstances.”

The queen’s death has triggered one of the biggest security operations in British history. Some 500 royals, heads of state and heads of government from around the world are expected at the late monarch’s state funeral on Monday. Before that, hundreds of thousands are expected to line up in a queue snaking through central London to see the queen lying in state at Parliament’s Westminster Hall.

Sports News



Suns owner Sarver suspended 1 year, fined \$10M after probe



The NBA has suspended Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury owner Robert Sarver for one year, plus fined him \$10 million, after an investigation found that he had engaged in what the league called "workplace misconduct and organisational deficiencies." (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin, File)

AP – The NBA has suspended Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury owner Robert Sarver for one year, plus fined him \$10 million, after an investigation found that he had engaged in what the league called "workplace misconduct and organisational deficiencies."

The findings of the league's report, published Tuesday, came nearly a year after the NBA asked a law firm to investigate allegations that Sarver had a history of racist, misogynistic and hostile incidents

over his nearly two-decade tenure overseeing the franchise.

The report said Sarver "repeated or purported to repeat the N-word on at least five occasions spanning his tenure with the Suns," though added that the investigation "makes no finding that Sarver used this racially insensitive language with the intent to demean or denigrate."

The study also concluded that Sarver used demeaning language toward female employees, including telling a pregnant employee that she would not be able to do her job after becoming a mother; made off-colour comments and jokes about sex and anatomy; and yelled and cursed at employees in ways that would be considered bullying "under workplace standards."

The Suns had no immediate comment on the report, and Sarver did not immediately respond to a text message seeking comment.

Sarver, the league said, cannot be present at any NBA or WNBA team facility, including any office, arena, or practice facility; attend or participate in any NBA or WNBA event or activity, including games, practices or business partner activity; represent the Suns or Mercury in any public or private capacity;

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Joshua accepts terms for heavyweight fight with Fury

AP — A long-anticipated all-British heavyweight fight between Tyson Fury and Anthony Joshua appears closer than ever.

Joshua's management group said in a post on Twitter on Tuesday that its fighter has accepted the terms presented by Fury for a bout on Dec. 3.

That was made known to Fury's team on Friday, the 258MGT group said, before both parties agreed to halt communication following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday.

"We are awaiting a response," posted the management team, which said it was speaking on behalf of Joshua along with the fighter's promoter, Matchroom.

The response was pretty much immediate from Fury's British promoter, Frank Warren.

"Contract will be with you very soon," Warren said on Twitter.

In a video on social media last week, Fury — the WBC champion — said he was willing to offer Joshua 40% of the purse for a title fight before the end of the year.

"He doesn't have any excuses now not to take it," Fury said. "He can't say I've low-balled him and offered him 20 or 30%. I've offered (his) people 40% — take it or leave it."

Joshua's promoter, Eddie Hearn, said he would be interested in making the fight if Fury's offer was serious.

It has been reported in the British media that the purse for any rematch — if Fury was to lose — would be a 50-50 split.

The unbeaten Fury appears to have gone back on his decision to retire in the wake of beating another British fighter, Dillian Whyte, in front of around 90,000 spectators at Wembley Stadium in April.



Britain's Anthony Joshua, right, launches a blow at Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk during their world heavyweight title fight at King Abdullah Sports City in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Fury's hopes of landing a fight with Oleksandr Usyk, who retained the WBA, WBO and IBF belts by beating Joshua in Saudi Arabia last month, were dashed when the Ukrainian said he did not intend to fight again this year.

Fury turned his sights on

Joshua, who said after the Usyk fight that he intended to work his way back up to being a three-time champion — potentially facing opponents in the second tier of the heavyweight division — after losing three of his last five bouts.

What would have been a fight to be undisputed champion between Joshua and Fury was close to being arranged last year, only for an arbitrator in the United States to rule that Fury was contractually bound to fulfil a third fight with Deontay Wilder.

Joshua, who was heavyweight champion at the time, then decided to fight Usyk and lost to the Ukrainian in London.

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or have any involvement with the business or basketball operations of the Suns or Mercury.

The league said it would donate the \$10 million "to organisations that are committed to addressing race and gender-based issues in and outside the workplace."

"The statements and conduct described in the findings of the independent investigation are troubling and disappointing," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "We believe the outcome is the

right one, taking into account all the facts, circumstances and context brought to light by the comprehensive investigation of this 18-year period and our commitment to upholding proper standards in NBA workplaces."

The allegations were reported by ESPN last year, which said it talked to dozens of current and former team employees for its story, including some who detailed inappropriate behaviour by Sarver. He originally denied or disputed most of the allegations through his legal team.

Sports News



No. 1 Alcaraz already back in Spain for Davis Cup Finals

AP – It was a quick turnaround for tennis' new No. 1.

Hours after celebrating his first Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open, Carlos Alcaraz arrived back home to try to help Spain in the Davis Cup Finals.

"I'm very proud to arrive as No. 1 and do my bit for the team," Alcaraz said Tuesday.

"Playing the Davis Cup is always special. It's a unique atmosphere and I'm looking forward to being with the team."

Alcaraz made it to Va-

lencia the day before Spain was to debut against Serbia in the group stage on Wednesday.

It wasn't yet clear in which condition Alcaraz arrived after having to play a gruelling series of matches on his way to the title in New York.

"Hopefully he can recover as soon as possible," Spain captain Sergi Bruguera said.

"We don't know yet if he will be able to play on Wednesday."

Many expected Alcaraz to skip the Davis Cup after



U.S. Open men's singles tennis champion Carlos Alcaraz poses in Times Square, Monday, Sept. 12, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura)

defeating Casper Ruud in Sunday's U.S. Open final, which allowed him to become the youngest man to lead the ATP computerised rankings since they began in 1973.

The 19-year-old Alcaraz said following Monday's traditional Times Squad photo shoot that he "woke up dead" after the four-set final against Ruud.

"We will see how he is feeling, we will discuss it with him," Bruguera said. "The sooner he can play, the better."

Before the final, Alcaraz had three consecutive five-set victories, including a 5-hour, 15-minute quarterfinal match against Jannik Sinner.

"We all knew it was going to happen sooner or later," Bruguera said.

"But the way he won three matches in five sets is an incredible effort mentally as well as physically. Being the youngest No. 1 in the world, there aren't any words."

After facing Serbia, which is without Novak Djokovic, Spain takes on Canada on Friday and South Korea on Sunday in Group B. The top two teams in each of the four groups will advance to the quarterfinals, which will be played in November in the southern Spanish city of Málaga.

Alcaraz made it to Spain's Davis Cup team for the first time last year, but had to withdraw from the tournament after testing positive for the coronavirus just before the competition was to start.



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Cyclones and Wings join forces for tournament in Dominica

The Cyclones Sports Club and the CPTSA Wings Sports Club are combining their efforts to create a women's team to compete in the Dominica Creole Basketball Tournament in Roseau later this year.

Under the guidance of Cyclones coach, former national forward Oslin "Pigeon" Gregory, and Wings coach Guy Yearwood, basketball players from the two clubs started training last week at the YMCA Sports Complex in preparation for the 2nd to 6th November female tournament in the Nature Isle of the Caribbean.

Teams from Guadeloupe, St. Lucia, Martinique and host Dominica are also expected to participate in the tournament.

Gregory said Cyclones were invited to join forces with Wings in an effort to create the strongest possible team to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the tournament.

"Wings got the invitation to the tournament, but Wings do not have enough strong players to take to that tournament. So Mr. (Lucaso) Brumant (President of Wings Sports Club) reached out to me and we decided to combine the best six players from the two clubs to form a combined team and take them to that tournament in Dominica,"



Coach Oslin 'Pigeon' Gregory, third from left, conducting a basketball training session with the Cyclones and Wings combined female squad at the YMCA Sports Complex on Friday, 9th September, 2022. (Photo courtesy CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

said Gregory, during an interview on the Sports Overflow programme on Platinum Radio 97.9 FM.

"Preparation is the most important thing for us at this time. I think we will likely be the youngest team at this upcoming tournament.

"Most of our players are Under-15s and the smallest and the youngest so we have to get them mentally and physically prepared to meet that task.

"It's an open tournament, which means players of any age can participate. So we have a lot of work to cover within a seven-week span in preparation for this tournament."

Gregory, who started

the Cyclones Sports Club in 2018, said starting from this week, some of the training sessions will also be conducted at the basketball court at Mack Pond in All Saints.

"The Cyclones players are from All Saints and the other players on the combined team are from Wings so we decided to split the practice. So, two days of practice will be held at Mack Pond in All Saints and the other two days will be held at the YMCA," Gregory said.

"Practice on Mondays and Tuesdays will be held at Mack Pond. We will have a rest day on the Wednesdays and practice on the Thurs-

days and the Fridays will take place at the YMCA.

"The practice sessions at the YMCA will likely be moved to the basketball court at Radio Range because the schools' basketball programme will be starting soon and some teams such as Princess Margaret School and the Antigua Girls' High School will be using the YMCA to prepare for that competition."

The combined group is looking forward to the support of the general public, including the business sector, in facilitating the participation of the girls' team at the Dominica Creole Basketball Tournament.

Sandals surge to emphatic win in business basketball league

Sandals achieved the largest margin of victory in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday night.

Inspired by Lincoln Weeks' game-high 21 points, Sandals romped to a commanding 83-35 victory over Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in the second game of a triple-header.

Keroi "The Dragon" Lee gave good support with a contribution of 18 points and Devaughn Benjamin chipped in with 14 points for the victors. Jamar Bird had 13 points for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

Fledge O'Ballers also secured a comfortable 62-30 victory over Fitzroy Rewinding in the last game on Monday.

Sharife Sargeant scored

20 points and Steadroy Graham converted 13 points for the winners, while Eric Joseph sank 12 points for Fitzroy Rewinding.

However, the first game of the night was a lot closer affair as Vendors prevailed 44-34 against Galley Bay Resort.

Craige Messiah shot a game-high 22 points for Vendors, while two female players, Arian Whyte and Tyear Ladoo, each scored

eight points for Galley Bay.

The business basketball league will continue with another triple header at the JSC Sports Complex tomorrow evening.

The Board of Education will face Sandals at 6:30pm, Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care will take on Galley Bay Resort at 7:30pm and Anjo Wholesale will clash with Sir Lester Bird Medical Center at 8:30pm.

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by a vehicle on Friars Hill Road on Sunday, 4th September.

Reports are that Barton, 85, was suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and she was walking on the Friars Hill Road at about 3:20 am on 4th September when she was struck by a vehicle traveling from south to north.

Private Rayaundre "Ray" Carbon of Gray's Farm died at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center on Wednesday, 17th August, two days after he was critically injured in a crash at the intersection of Sir Sydney Walling Highway and American Road. Carbon became the 7th road fatality in Antigua and Barbuda this year.

Twenty-eight-year-old Jamoya Browne, who fell off a truck, died on Friday, 12th August, after being in a coma for a few days following a vehicle accident on Friday, 5th August.

According to eye-witnesses, Browne lost his balance and fell off a truck that was traveling through Fig Tree Drive at the time. He became the nation's 6th road fatality of 2022.

Twenty-two-year-old Ti-Jon James of English Harbour was pronounced

dead at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, following a traffic collision on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway around 11 pm on Tuesday, 9th August.

The allegations are that James was the driver of a white Honda Integra motor car that was traveling from West to East on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway at a fast speed, when he apparently lost control of the vehicle in the vicinity of the dog farm.

The vehicle reportedly flipped several times before it collided with a concrete wall. He was the 5th road fatality of the year.

On 20th March, a 32-year-old man from Golden Grove was killed when he allegedly lost control of the motorcycle he was riding and slammed into a light pole in Bethesda village. He was Antigua and Barbuda's fourth road fatality this year.

A 25-year-old man succumbed to injuries sustained in a vehicular accident on the night of 15th February to become the country's third road fatality for 2022.

Reports are that the young man was driving a Toyota Vitz, from north to south on the Sir George Walter

Highway, when he lost control of the car and ran off the road. He is reported to have collided with a utility pole and sustained very serious injuries.

This incident follows a major accident on the morning of 14th February, on the Valley Road, that left a toddler in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital and the mother and another sibling nursing injuries.

A 15-year-old boy was killed after he was knocked off his bike by a vehicle close to the Bargain Centre in Liberta on 26th January. He became the second road fatality for the year.

On 20th January, a 29-year-old woman, residing in Yorks village, was recorded as the country's first road fatality in 2022.

According to police reports, the woman was walking from east to west on Friars hill road in the vicinity of Village walk when she was struck by a car travelling in the opposite direction.

Several other vehicular accidents have resulted in persons getting major injuries and causing significant damage to not only the vehicles they were driving, but also to other people's properties.

ABDRA issues another appeal to drivers to use race track

The Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association (ABDRA) is once again appealing to drivers who are engaging in excessive speeding on the country's roads to desist and utilize the North Sound International Raceway.

Public Relations Officer Brandon Matthew is echoing similar sentiments already expressed by President of ABDRA Jerome Jerry Roberts in calling on all drivers who are racing illegally and using the streets of the twin-islands state as a race track to desist from such activities.

"I would like to extend condolences to all the families that lost loved ones due to accidents on the roads of Antigua and Barbuda. The drag racing association is big on safety and we encourage it both on the track and off the track.

"You don't need to be speeding excessively while driving on the roads in Antigua and Barbuda," Matthew stated.

"You can come to the race track and drive speedily on the track because that is a safe environment to test the speed of your cars, and we encourage people to come



there on a Tuesday night because that's what Tension Tuesdays are for.

"Yousef Michael, the former president of the association, started Tension Tuesdays to help reduce speeding on our roads. It is to allow young people that drive sports cars to come and test them out on the track.

"It is EC\$10 to get in and EC\$25 if you want to utilize the track. So for EC\$25, you can drive your car up and down the track. We just encourage people,

depending on how fast your car is, to adhere to the minimum requirement of wearing a helmet and a seatbelt.

"There are other things that we check for on a vehicle before it actually enters the track, but come to the track with your helmet and we will take it from there."

His call comes as several accidents involving vehicles on the roads of Antigua and Barbuda have already caused several road fatalities for the year.

In April, Roberts, who was elected unopposed as

president of ABDRA on 14th March, extended an invitation to all persons who want to race to do so at the North Sound International Raceway, the track that is available to drivers to legally engage in car racing in Antigua and Barbuda.

Almost six months after Roberts issued the appeal, Matthew is repeating the call after another resident of Yorks Village, Greta "Dolly" Barton, became the country's 8th road fatality of 2022 when she was struck

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