

BRAVE BOLANS WOMAN FIGHTS OFF MASKED KIDNAPPER

Story on Page 3



A 63-year-old man died on Thursday morning after the concrete mixer truck he was driving collided with an excavator and another smaller vehicle on a construction site. Another man who was employed on the site was critically injured during the collision.
Story on page 2.

Construction site crash leaves elderly man dead

The man who died in an accident on a construction site in the south of the island has been identified as Victor Medina.

Reports indicate that Medina, who was delivering concrete to the construction site near Bolans, was informed that the product he arrived with at around mid-morning was the wrong grade.

As Medina attempted to leave, the truck, which was on an incline, barreled down hitting an excavator and pickup truck before

coming to a stop on its side.

The truck is owned by Roberts Construction and Engineering Company Limited.

The 63-year-old driver was pulled from the cab of the cement mixing truck and rushed to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where he died.

Another man, believed to be a construction worker, was also injured. He too was transported to the hospital where he is listed in critical, but stable, con-



dition. It is unclear whether mechanical failure or driver error resulted in the

deadly accident on Thursday morning. Police are investigating the accident.

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Ministry of Tourism security guard mugged while on duty

A security guard attached to the Ministry of Tourism is recovering at home after she was ambushed at work on Wednesday evening in what is being described as a foiled kidnapping.

Charmaine Harrigan sustained a broken leg, a cut on her face and other injuries as she fought off her attacker.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that the Bolans resident noticed a bus entered the Government Office Complex where the Ministry of Tourism is headquartered. An individual exited the vehicle which then drove off.

With several ministries and the High Court located on the compound, Harrigan initially paid no mind to the vehicle, as the occupants could have been heading to any of the buildings.



While seated outside of the building which houses the Ministries of Education and Tourism, Harrigan then observed a man approaching her. Paying him no mind, she continued reading a book. Before Harrigan knew what was happening, the masked man pounced on her, detained her at knifepoint and led her to her car which was parked nearby.

While seated in the backseat of her vehicle, the unidentified man ordered her to drive to her bank's ATM.

After operating the vehicle several yards away from where it was parked, Harrigan jumped out and a struggle began between her and the man who was still holding the blade of his knife against her side.

Harrigan was saved from more serious injuries, and even possible death, when the driver of a government-owned vehicle entered the office complex, saw what was taking place and rushed to her rescue.

Another woman who was walking in the area also rendered assistance. During the commotion, Harrigan's attacker fled the scene. Harrigan, who was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre for treatment after the attack, was discharged from hospital yesterday.

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Nicholas condemns bomb threats, believes they are “politically motivated”

Information Minister Melford Nicholas has condemned the two separate bomb threats made against statutory offices in as many weeks.

Nicholas addressed the matter on Thursday during the post-Cabinet Press Briefing a day after APUA’s old headquarters in Cassada Gardens was singled out for the latest bomb hoax.

As he denounced the incidents, the Cabinet spokesman said he believes the bomb threats are politically motivated.

“One can really speculate on this, and if they are hoaxes one can only look towards who benefits from that.

“Who would benefit from the community being continually at ill ease? Who would benefit from people having a sense of insecurity and in-



Information Minister Melford Nicholas

crease in misery?” he asked.

“One can only speculate about that,” he continued, “and if you would ask me the direct question, I would say that it turns to a political mischief, and if there is no real threat behind it other than to create a scare, then clearly, that creates a level of unease in the public and I would think those persons who are guilty of perpetrating it should reconsider other

options, in terms of applying some real political options for people rather than to try and scare the population into a sense of insecurity.”

Operations at APUA were temporarily halted as employees were evacuated to the nearby Cassada Gardens Racetrack while police special units swept the building.

According to reports, an unknown individual called the office shortly after 8am

and again just after 9am warning staff to leave the premises as soon as possible.

According to Police Public Relations Officer, Inspector Frankie Thomas, the Disposal Unit of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB) responded to the incident and ultimately gave the “all clear” for all employees to “resume normal functions”.

Sharifa George, APUA’s Public Relations Officer, said that staff were cleared to return to work about an hour-and-a-half later at 10:30am.

Earlier this month, Social Security’s Long Street branch received a similar bomb threat which brought operations to a halt while police searched the building. That too was determined to be a hoax.

Both incidents are under police investigation.



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Healthcare system under review

Recurring problems related to healthcare delivery in the country are now under review and the government has given a commitment that it will begin national dialogue on how to correct the shortfalls.

Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, said the government is unhappy that despite having invested considerably in infrastructure and strengthening the human resources of the healthcare system, persistent problems remain with the service given to the public.

“The three major pillars of focus for the Gaston Browne administration have been education, healthcare and housing.

“There has been no shortage of support for healthcare professionals. When I say that I mean that there are enough healthcare professionals in the country for us to have the very best healthcare services possible,”

Nicholas said on Thursday.

According to the minister, concerns about healthcare took priority during Wednesday’s Cabinet meeting.

One recommendation involved the need for national discourse on the subject.

“What we need to have is an overall discussion, a symposium, about who ought to be making contributions to the national healthcare. If I say to persons that there are over 140 doctors employed directly, or as consultants, at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, it may shock some persons, but that figure is true,” he revealed.

Additionally, Nicholas pointed to the many polyclinics dotted around the country. These include five donated by the government of the United Kingdom in the 1990s, two recently donated by the People’s Republic

of China and the Dr. Cuthwin Lake Medical Centre on Nugent Avenue.


“The government has made significant investments into the healthcare system, as well as the contributions provided by the Medical Benefits Scheme, which have helped many persons with covering the costs of overseas or specialised medical. Yet this final step of how do the service points meet the average person when he/she presents himself for care (remains a challenge),” he lamented.

Nicholas said a recent report from the national medical association lists approximately two hundred practising doctors in Antigua and Barbuda, yet “a disruption” exists in that the system fails the expectations of the citizenry and government.


“There is a need to address it and the Cabinet has started the work. We are going to keep at it until we get it right!” Nicholas promised.

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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



Gov't to strengthen relationship with banking community

The government will institutionalise quarterly meetings with leaders in the banking community, a move which Prime Minister Gaston Browne has said is intended to strengthen communication and monitor the sector's operations.

According to Browne, these meetings will ensure that banks are meeting all the industry's standards.

"We have a situation where some seventy percent of the bank assets are controlled by local banks and we don't want a situation where there's any hint of mismanagement and next thing is we have another bank failure. These banks are so big now, they are too big to fail," he remarked.

He said the government is providing "proactive leadership" and management by engaging banks to ensure that any



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

gaps in their operation can be addressed.

The country's finance minister further reported that in a recent meeting with senior bankers, a number of concerns were raised, including the quality of service that is being offered to customers.

"I asked them to step up and to cease this type of contemptuous service that they have been offering to their customers. They have assured me that this matter will be addressed in due course," he added.

The prime minister added that banks need to be "more assertive" in their lending policies and noted that the current rates of credit are insufficient enough to finance robust growth.

"In some years we have seen contraction in credit rather than an increase and during my recent meeting I reminded the bankers that their role is one of intermediation, to facilitate credit, to be responsive, to offer their customers a good rate of interest and to take more risk," he advised.

cont'd on pg 7



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World Trade Organization representatives conclude St. John's engagements today

A two-member delegation from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will conclude two days of discussions with officials in St. John's today. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the WTO team as the nation conducts its 4th OECS WTO Trade Policy Review.

"This process is expected to culminate with the presentation of two reports, one produced by the WTO Secretariat and another by Antigua and Barbuda to the WTO membership slated for 22nd- 23rd February, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland," Director of International Trade, Joy-Marie King stated.

King said the consultation is a useful exercise that all WTO member states are required to undergo periodically.

"This exercise forms part of our legal obligations under the remit of the WTO, in which member countries' trade and related policies are examined and evaluated. Antigua and Barbuda last engaged in a similar exercise in July 2014."

Head of Region, Americas Trade Policies Review Division of the WTO, Angelo

Silvy said, "The Trade Policy Review Mechanism, is a permanent feature of the World Trade Organization, designed to contribute to improving adherence by all WTO members to rules, disciplines, and commitments made under the multilateral trading framework."

This mission involved engagements with a wide cross section of stakeholders including government ministries and agencies directly involved in the formulation, monitoring and or implementation of trade policy in Antigua and Barbuda.



From left: Joy-Marie King, Director of International Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Angelo Silvy, Head of Region, Americas Trade Policies Review Division, WTO; Cristian Ugarte, Trade Policy Analyst, WTO and Jomica Carbon, Senior Trade Officer, Ministry of Trade

cont'd from pg 6

While he accepts that banks must establish responsible practices, Browne said small and medium size businesses are faced with far too many hurdles when trying to secure loans to fund their operations.



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Eye-See programme begins

Michael Langlais was the first recipient of a pair of prescription glasses under the “Eye-See” programme initiated by the Halo Foundation.

The programme, which has been supplied with a substantial quantity of new and gently used frames by two sponsors, provides prescription lenses for individuals with an exigent requirement.

The Halo Foundation is a non-profit organisation that seeks to support charities under the patronage of

the Governor General, H. E. Sir Rodney Williams and H. E. Lady Williams, as well as citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda with a demonstrated need for assistance.



Michael Langlais wears his new glasses

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Opinion

Support for Juan Guaidó has dwindled

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)

At the height of Donald Trump's presidency of the United States (U.S.) when, on January 23, 2019, he anointed Juan Guaidó as the "Interim President" of Venezuela, as much as 50 countries joined him in a folly that persisted until October 6, 2022.

Juan Guaidó was never the "Interim President" of Venezuela. He never had the power or authority to change anything within Venezuela, and he certainly was not in control of a government in Venezuela that could negotiate with any government in the world. Guaidó's "Interim Presidency" was a fiction from its beginning, largely concocted by President Trump's re-election campaign team whose eyes were tightly focussed on votes of the Cuban-Venezuelan exiled community in Florida.

Emphasis was placed on the Organization of American States (OAS) where, traditionally, the U.S. Government has exerted considerable influence over

the 35-nation membership. Note that the OAS Secretariat continues to count Cuba as one of its members, even though Cuba was effectively suspended in January 1962, and it rejected a June 2009 OAS resolution, which ended Cuba's exclusion from the Organization and invited the Cuban government to request participation after a "process of dialogue".

The background is as follows: On April 27, 2017, the Government of Venezuela denounced the OAS Charter and announced its withdrawal from membership of the Organization with effect two years later on April 27, 2019, as required by the Charter. In August 2017, a Constituent National Assembly was elected in Venezuela to draft a new constitution. The election was disputed within and outside of Venezuela. However, The Democratic Unity Roundtable - the opposition - boycotted the election, claiming that the Constituent Assembly was "a trick to keep the incumbent ruling party in power". Since the opposition did not participate in the election, the incumbent Great Patriotic Pole, dominated by the United Socialist Party of Venezuela, won almost all the seats in the Assembly by default.

On August 8, 2017, eleven member states of the OAS formed "The Lima



Sir Ronald Sanders

Group" whose stated purpose was "to address the critical situation in Venezuela and explore ways to contribute to the restoration of democracy in that country through a peaceful and negotiated solution". They also made their partisanship very clear, by stating, "Their decision not to recognize the National Constituent Assembly, nor the acts emanating from it, due to its illegitimate nature" and "Their full support and solidarity with the National Assembly, democratically elected".

The eleven countries were: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. Their first meeting was also attended by representatives of Guyana and Jamaica. The then

governments of Guyana, Haiti and St. Lucia subsequently joined the group. The Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and El Salvador were also described as "regional observers" to the Group. Today, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Peru, and St. Lucia have all discarded the "Lima Group", and its agenda for regime change in Venezuela.

It was the "Lima Group", together with the U.S. that were active in the OAS throughout the period, August 2017 to January 2019, in initiating various resolutions and declarations on Venezuela.

On January 23, 2019, Juan Guaidó, as head of Venezuela's National Assembly, declared himself "interim president" of the

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

country and was immediately recognised by the then-U.S. President, Donald Trump. Subsequently, the following 16 member states of the OAS similarly declared recognition of Guaidó: Argentina, the Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru. It is this group of states whose representatives in 2019 were active in the OAS, along with Jamaica and St. Lucia, in support of Juan Guaidó as the “interim president” of Venezuela.

Amid protests and objections of 15 member states, on April 19, 2019, by the slimmest majority of 18 votes at a meeting of the Permanent Council, which was convoked contrary to its rules, a Resolution, accepting the Venezuelan National Assembly’s nominee as the designated Permanent Representative, was adopted. Many objections were formally communicated to the Secretariat of the OAS, the United Nations Secretary-General, and all member states of the OAS, in addition to being footnoted to the Resolution.

Subsequently, on June 28, 2019, the OAS General Assembly, again by the slim majority of 18 votes, plus the vote of the disputed Venezuelan representative making it 19, accepted the Permanent Representative to the OAS designated by the “National Assembly” of Venezuela. This resolution was inconsistent with the provisions of the OAS Charter, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic relations, and the methodology in the UN system. It was blatantly wrong.

Several delegations formally protested the decision and recorded that they would not accept any decisions, declarations or resolutions, which that included the vote of Guaidó’s representative to form a required majori-

ty. Among the countries that formally registered their disapproval were: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bolivia, Dominica, Grenada, Mexico, Nicaragua, St Kitts-Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

Throughout the period of the participation of Guaidó’s representative in the Councils of the OAS, he used meetings as a bully pulpit for expounding his political party’s viewpoint. At a meeting of the Permanent Council on December 16, 2020, he falsely and maliciously excoriated the government of Trinidad and Tobago over the circumstances in which a boat sunk between Venezuela and Trinidad, calling for “an investigation into the treatment of Venezuelan migrants in Trinidad and Tobago”. The boat, with no safety equipment on board, was built to carry eight persons but had 41 migrants on board. He was not challenged by the Chair of the Permanent Council - sadly a Representative of a CARICOM nation - for this offensive and false allegation. It was left to the Trinidad and Tobago representative to reject robustly the attack of an outlier in the OAS Council.

The only other body in the entire international system in which Guaidó’s representative illegally sits is the OAS ancillary body the Inter-American Development Bank – a situation that also requires review.

In the event, on October 6, 2022, at the 52nd Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, Antigua and Barbuda, with the co-sponsorship of 10 other countries, proposed a Resolution to overturn the illegal 2018 decision to seat Guaidó’s person as the representative of Venezuela. However, to get the item on the agenda of the meeting, according to the anachronistic and inappropriate rules, a majority of two-thirds of the membership was required.

The U.S. and Canada had vigorously and widely lobbied every government not to support the effort to get the topic on the agenda. Despite their efforts, a majority of member states – 19 of them – voted to do so; only four countries voted against. The latter four countries were the U.S., Canada, Guatemala, and Paraguay. The two big countries managed to stop the transparent dialogue, which they demand should be standard conditions in nations, but they failed to garner support for the continuing illegal presence of Juan Guaidó’s person in the councils of the OAS.

It is significant that the U.S. itself is now bargaining directly with the de facto and de jure government in Venezuela over oil and the swapping of prisoners, recognizing that Guaidó is in charge of nothing and that the fallacy of his “Interim Presidency” is fully exposed, as is the injury done to the OAS.

At the OAS General Assembly, Antigua and Barbuda, in presenting the item to remedy the folly of seating Guaidó’s person, stated: “This is an effort to maintain the credibility, authority and integrity of the OAS”.

It should be recorded that 11 of the 14 CARICOM countries voted in unity. Three governments abstained - Haiti because of its reliance on the U.S. in its current precarious situation; Guyana because of the sensitivity over its present border contention against Venezuela at the International Court of Justice; and Jamaica which has continuously voted favourably to install and maintain Guaidó’s representative.

However, the reality is that support for Guaidó has dwindled in the OAS to four declared member states, and while it was imposed, it was never credible and is now not sustainable.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

Workplace



The workers leaving their dream jobs

By Leo Bear-McGuinness

It's great to have a job you're passionate about. But some workers are walking away from dream roles, in search of stability and security.

At 25, Andrew was soaring up the culinary career ladder as a pastry chef at a Michelin-starred restaurant in Scotland. Every delicious dessert and finely-sculpted pastry in the kitchen was his creation. He was in a role that he had worked towards – and wanted – for years.

Andrew had reached these heights after just six years in the hospitality industry; he'd started at 19 as a kitchen porter in a local hotel in his hometown in west Scotland, and was quickly promoted to junior chef. By 21, he was a commis chef at an award-winning hotel in the Lake District, England, avidly studying patisserie and confectionery in his spare time. He was prepared to commit his life to perfecting his skills, saying: "That was all I cared about."

Instead, at the height of his career, working in his dream job in the revered Scottish eatery, he quit. At 26, he was a student, this time on a four-year software-development degree. He'd walked away, not just



Jobs in creative sectors, like the theatre, tend to pay less than the average salary (Image credit: Getty)

from the job he'd worked so hard for, but from the whole hospitality industry.

For Andrew, the tipping point came when, having finally got the glossy position he'd been aiming for, he realised none of the exhausting work required was worth it. "From 19 to 25, that whole period of my life, I just sort of sacrificed," he says. "Everyone else was out having a great time and I was basically a slave in the kitchen."

Throughout his career, he realised he had felt overworked, underappreciated and underpaid. "I was doing between 65 and 70 hours a week and getting paid [a salary of] £20,000

(\$22,290) a year," he says. "I was running the [pastry] section. I was creating the majority of the desserts... for £5.95 an hour. For that little money, you just think, what am I doing with my life? Like, am I crazy?"

For the most part, workers have always hoped for roles that coincide with their interests and passions; swapping the office grind for that longed-for sourdough bakery, or fun role at a videogame company sounds like a no-brainer. Yet this 'do what you love' narrative comes with drawbacks. Many people find that their dream jobs require more work, under worse conditions. Others

discover that the industries they idolise trade on workers' passions to keep pay low. In the face of these pressures, some workers find themselves asking whether the dream job is really worth it after all.

Passion versus pay

These days, more than ever, the idea that happiness and success are linked to working in a 'cool' job – a role you're passionate about in an interesting, envy-inducing workplace – is omnipresent.

I decided that the money didn't matter, which obviously it does – Andrew

"This kind of thing has been buzzing around
cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

for years now, but it became really transparent in lockdown, about following your passion and your dream job,” says Eleanor Tweddell, career coach and author of *Why Losing Your Job Could be the Best Thing That Ever Happened to You*.

According to a late-2020 poll from US freelance-marketplace Fiverr, 59% of the 2,000 Americans surveyed believed the Covid-19 pandemic had encouraged people to pursue their dream jobs. Most of the respondents, 71%, saw themselves going after their dream job one day, and 45% thought it was possible to do so full-time. But career redirections to get a dream job may not always work out as people hope, particularly if employers take advantage of their workers’ passions.

“Employees who love their job or really value their work are willing to put up with harsher conditions than others, such as non-standard working hours or low pay,” says Laura Giurge, an assistant professor of behavioural science at the London School of Economics and Political Science. “And to some extent, the employers might know this and thus ask those dedicated and passionate employees to take on additional work or abide by dreadful conditions.”

This practice of passion-exploitation is partic-

ularly prominent in creative industries; a 2019 survey showed most creative jobs in the UK – such as journalist, fashion stylist, musician and game designer – fell below the annual average salary. Unpaid labour is common: according to one 2020 survey of UK creative workers, 47% of under-30s said they had done an unpaid internship to secure their dream job. In the same study, 60% of under-30s said they hadn’t been paid for all the hours they’d worked in the past month. One 2019 study goes some way to explaining why this happens; the

research found that people viewed treating workers poorly – such as asking employees to perform additional tasks or work more hours without pay – as more legitimate when workers were presumed to be passionate about their work.

Andrew says he recognised this phenomenon from the start in the hospitality sector. “They’re basically building their whole businesses on the back of exploitation of other people,” he says. Despite this early realisation, the passion he had for his craft kept him from walking

away for years. “When I started back in the pub, my ambition was to get to that Michelin-starred level,” he says. “So, I decided that the money didn’t matter, which obviously it does.”

This initial disregard for financial security is something Tweddell sees often among her clients who are looking for a more fulfilling career. It’s often an attitude she has to coach them out of. “We do actually work for money,” she says. “There’s no shame in that. Most of us work because we need the money.”

So, instead of encouraging
cont'd on pg 14



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Workplace



cont'd from pg 13

ing her clients into a risky career detour to become a sourdough baker, Tweddell asks them what they really want, not from their job, but from their lives. “A lot of people say, ‘I wanted freedom, freedom away from the nine-to-five.’ So, they got the cool job and they realised, ‘Oh my God, there’s no freedom here. I’ve got to work even harder to earn as much as I did before.’”

For some people, she says, moving to more traditional employment and ditching the dream job can be liberating – something

Josh Mansker experienced eight years ago.

Mansker spent four years in US theatres working as a lighting and sound designer, a career he was inspired to pursue after finding a community among the “theatre kids” in high school. But at 23, he became frustrated that he and others like him weren’t getting paid much. “I looked at colleagues that were in their 30s and 40s, and they were all really struggling financially, struggling to afford to have a family, which was something that was important to me,” he says.

Mansker made the difficult decision to leave his dream job behind and retrain. He now works in Toronto as a secondary-school teacher, and gets paid more than he ever earned in the theatres. “I get all the benefits of being a teacher and the great pay,” he says. “Teacher pay is usually pretty terrible, but in Ontario it’s not bad.” The job also syncs his work schedule with his wife’s, who is also a teacher, meaning the couple can spend vacation time during the summer together.


Why protections and structure matter

While it may sound zealous to call a nine-to-five job liberating, for some workers, a ‘normal’ job can provide the structure and support that their ‘cool’ job couldn’t.

This was the case for Adrian. After being laid off as a bank teller at the start of the pandemic, a friend helped her find a job in a cannabis dispensary in her home state of Maine, which has legalised medical and recreational cannabis. It’s an area she was interested in, saying: “I use cannabis myself. A lot of my friends do; it’s very much in our sphere.” And for a while she was happy, talking passionately to customers about cannabis and helping them find the products that, in some cases, were helping to treat a medical condition.

But some customers weren’t so pleasant to be around. “What really drove me away was multiple incidents with a customer sexually harassing me and the other female bud tenderers [dispensary retailers],” she says. “There wasn’t much done about it. They [her employers] wanted his money, so nothing happened to him.” Demoralised by this experience, and tired after two years of working long days and most weekends, Adrian found her way back to the world of retail banking, where she now feels more protected from such incidences and better served as an employee.

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Workplace

cont'd from pg 14

“Now, in banking, I have a very set schedule and better hours. So, I work from 0800 to 1600 and then I have every weekend off,” she says. “And PTO [paid time off] is another big thing. In the dispensaries, there’s no paid time off. If you’re sick, you don’t get paid for that day. There were no benefits, none. The benefit was free weed whenever it came, which wasn’t super often.”

How to let go of the dream

For Adrian, it took two years to leave the industry she was passionate about. For Mansker, it took four. For Andrew, six. Making such a drastic career leap can take time, and the prospect of re-training can be terrifying. And, on a personal level, workers can struggle to dissociate themselves from their jobs. Without a ‘cool’ career, who are they?

“Adults spend the majority of their waking hours at work and so it’s not surprising to me that people can come to equate what they do with who they are,” says Laura Giurge. And it can be particularly hard to discard a professional identity when it is so intertwined with a worker’s interests and passions.

But if a person can recognise themselves as more than just their job title, their new ‘less interesting’ career doesn’t have to be the end of their passion, as Mansker happily

discovered. “I have sort of taken over the theatre tech of the school here,” he says. “There’s some theatre equipment; I’ve got a bunch of cameras ... I get to teach kids the stuff that I love to do.”

While Andrew rarely makes pastries or desserts in his own time – the smell of a bakery still nauseates him – his newfound career

as a software programmer affords him time in the evenings and at weekends to pursue his other passions. “Last year, I started playing football again, and a few months ago I joined an 11-a-side team,” he says. I finally got a job where I can actually do things that I enjoy.”

Now 31, free from hospitality, on a rapidly rising

wage and finally well rested, Andrew’s keen to coach others out of the ‘passion trap’ he found himself in. “If you’ve had enough and you want to change, then you can... If you want to make a change, just do it, because you won’t regret it.”

Andrew and Adrian are using middle names for career-security purposes

Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Start for "lock" or "iron"
- 5) Temple VIP
- 10) Like a useless tire
- 14) Vegas competitor
- 15) Milky gems
- 16) Whip end?
- 17) Opposing
- 18) Cowboy Bill of legend
- 19) Catch a glimpse of
- 20) Spooky residences
- 23) "Bud" or "pal" kin
- 24) Brisk energy
- 25) ___-Wan Kenobi
- 28) Citi Field player
- 29) Jack of Sgt. Friday fame
- 33) Fixed portion
- 35) Fill with enthusiasm
- 37) Aardvark morsels
- 38) Dark, spooky place
- 43) Affirm
- 44) Agreeable
- 45) Composed
- 48) Desperately need a bath
- 49) Khan's title
- 52) Rubble maker, big-time
- 53) Chinese restaurant quaff
- 55) Consume heartily
- 57) Spooky thing on the water
- 62) Ready and willing go-with
- 64) Bus rider's "coin"
- 65) Indication of a voicemail
- 66) One not using his brain
- 67) Made mistakes
- 68) Sign for the superstitious
- 69) Healthy type of bean (var.)
- 70) Little darlings
- 71) Be literate, in a way

DOWN

- 1) Kind of cracker
- 2) File menu option
- 3) Read between the lines
- 4) Executing
- 5) Rodeo tool
- 6) Imitated at a zoo?
- 7) "Goldberg Variations" composer
- 8) Softly hit single
- 9) Producer of magazines or credit cards
- 10) Run away
- 11) Activity performed on a dude ranch
- 12) It could cause a death on the Nile
- 13) "___ will be done"
- 21) Namely
- 22) Place that exists to pamper
- 26) Not just this one or that one
- 27) "Meet Me ___ Louis" (1944 film)
- 30) Before, long before now
- 31) Arctic floating chunk
- 32) What a seller seeks
- 34) Shadow, in a whodunit
- 35) Common houseplant
- 36) French door part
- 38) Boss of a first lieut.
- 39) What one definitely isn't
- 40) Intellectually
- 41) Make it a new game
- 42) Emulating a newborn
- 46) In-flight info, for short
- 47) Not just dinged
- 49) Obeying a curfew
- 50) Kind of pig
- 51) Add supplementary material to
- 54) "O come let us ___ Him"
- 56) Noted fur trader John Jacob
- 58) ___ carotene
- 59) Item of Creole cookery
- 60) "... and ___ the twain shall meet"
- 61) Stopping points
- 62) Showstoppers?
- 63) "I don't like your performance!"

SCORE TACTICS

By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23							24			25	26	27
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52				53					54	55	56	
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62	63						64			65		
66							67			68		
69							70			71		

Alex Jones told to pay \$965m damages to Sandy Hook victims' families

By Gareth Evans

Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones has been ordered to pay \$965m (£869m) in damages after falsely claiming the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting was a hoax.

The families of eight victims, and an FBI agent who responded to the attack, had sought at least \$550m in the defamation trial in Connecticut.

They alleged the right-wing radio host's misinformation led to a decade of harassment and death threats. Twenty children and six adults were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Jones, who founded the conspiracy-laden Infowars website and talk show, argued for years that the massacre was a "staged" government plot to take guns from Americans and that "no-one died".

He called the parents of victims "crisis actors" and argued that some of them never actually existed.

He now acknowledges the attack was "100% real", a concession he made in August at a separate defamation trial in Texas. As the verdict was read out on Wednesday in Waterbury, Connecticut - some 20 miles (32 km) from the site of the 2012 shooting - many of the families were visibly emotional with some in tears.

The three-week trial was marked by emotional testimony from a succession of parents. Some described receiving a deluge of online



Alex Jones now acknowledges that the Sandy Hook shooting was "100% real"

hate and others said they had to move homes repeatedly for their own safety. A father, Mark Barden, recounted hearing that people were desecrating his son Daniel's grave by "urinating on it and threatening to dig it up".

Jurors also heard evidence that Jones and his company, Free Speech Systems, made millions of dollars selling nutritional supplements, survival gear and other products on the Infowars catalogue.

Jones broadcast himself watching Wednesday's verdict and scoffing at the court proceedings. He also appealed to his followers to make urgent donations, and pledged that the funds would not go towards his legal costs.

"The money does not go to these people," he said. "It goes to fight this fraud and it goes to stabilise the company."

His lawyer Norm Pattis told reporters that they will appeal the decision.

"Candidly, from start to finish, the fix was in this case," he said outside the

court.

In closing arguments, plaintiffs' attorney Chris Mattei said: "When every single one of these families were drowning in grief, Alex Jones put his foot right on top of them."

Jones, for his part, had slammed the proceedings as a "show trial" run by a "tyrant" judge and argued he was not to blame for the actions of his followers.

"I've already said I'm sorry hundreds of times, and I'm done saying I'm sorry," he said in dramatic testimony late last month that brought some in the courtroom to tears.

His lawyers urged the six-member jury to ignore political undercurrents in the case and award minimal damages.

His lead defence lawyer, Mr Pattis, also drew a stern rebuke from the judge after he accused the opposing legal team of "inventing anger".

This marks a moment of reckoning when it comes to harmful online conspiracies. Jones has never been handed

damages of this scale before, nor has any other conspiracy theorist - and it sets a huge precedent.

The question everyone is asking now: will this put an end to these kinds of conspiracies and the harm they can cause? That's certainly what the Sandy Hook parents hope.

A former Infowars insider tells me that he thinks this could be the beginning of the end for Jones and put a stop to him pushing theories. But, after the pandemic, there's an increasing group of people vulnerable to the tactics and rhetoric used by a conspiracy theorist like him. Jones is already attempting to claim this verdict is just more proof that people are trying to stop him telling the truth. The bereaved families who were in court can see it's far from that.

Pandora's box is wide open and it's hard to close. At the very least, this shows the tide is starting to turn. People realise the danger online disinformation can pose - and how dismissing it as fringe does nothing to stop harm caused to the victims. Those victims are turning to the courts, rather than social media sites or policy makers, for justice.

The trial follows a similar case in Texas in August that saw Jones ordered to pay \$49.3m in damages to other Sandy Hook parents.

The plaintiffs - who said they had endured harassment

cont'd on pg 17

Emotional Anthony Rapp: I knew I wasn't Spacey's only victim

By **Larry Neumeister and Tom Hays**

Actor Anthony Rapp testified Wednesday that he decided to publicly reveal a 30-year-old encounter with Kevin Spacey because he knew he wasn't the only person Spacey had made inappropriate sexual advances on.

Rapp became emotional and his voice shook as he commented in response to a question about his motivations, posed by one of his own lawyers near the end of his third day of testimony in the civil sex abuse lawsuit he brought against Spacey in Manhattan federal court. Rapp is seeking \$40 million for psychological injuries.

"I came forward because I knew I was not the only one who Kevin Spacey made inappropriate sexual advances to," Rapp said. An objection led Judge Lewis A. Kaplan to quickly announce that the comment would be stricken from the record. The jury has not been permitted to hear most other claims made against the Oscar-winning

Spacey, 63, who was popular on the Netflix series "House of Cards" before a series of sexual claims derailed his career in 2017.

Afterward, Rapp elaborated on his claim that a 26-year-old Spacey lifted him onto a bed after a party at his Manhattan apartment in 1986 and pressed his clothed body against the clothed body of Rapp, then 14, before he squirmed out and ran into a bathroom before leaving the apartment.

"It was something that happened to me that was not ok," Rapp said.

Defence attorney Jennifer Keller finished her cross examination of Rapp by attacking his credibility on the impact he claimed his encounter with Spacey had on the rest of his life. Rapp, 50, is a regular on "Star Trek: Discovery" on television. He was part of the original Broadway cast of "Rent" and has performed in movies including "Adventures in Babysitting."

Keller noted he had told a



Actor Kevin Spacey arrives at Federal court for his civil lawsuit trial, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022, in New York. Spacey is facing a jury in a New York City courtroom during a civil trial accusing him of sexually abusing a 14-year-old actor in the 1980s when he was 26. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

therapist that after the Spacey encounter, he sought out sexual attention.

"Yes," Rapp responded. He said he began to be aware of people's attention toward him in ways he hadn't before. Keller then asked if it was unusual for someone going through puberty to gain an interest in sex. "Don't you think that after boys go through puberty, they develop an intense interest in sex? Come on, Mr. Rapp," she said.

"What is the question?

It's not that simple," Rapp responded.

Later in the day, Lisa Rocchio, a forensic psychologist who examined Rapp, testified he had experienced "a tremendous amount of shame, guilt and confusion" after his encounter with Spacey. Rocchio was expected to return to the witness stand Thursday morning.

The Associated Press does not usually name people alleging sexual assault unless they come forward publicly, as Rapp has done.

cont'd from pg 16

and emotional distress because of the Infowars founder's misinformation - had sought \$150m.

A lawyer in the Connecticut case said families should receive at least \$550m, saying Jones's Sandy Hook content got an estimated 550 million views from 2012 to 2018.

But the jury ultimately made 15 separate awards, ranging from \$28m to

\$120m, totalling \$965m. It said these were to cover emotional distress as well as slander and defamation. It is possible Jones will be separately told to pay punitive damages.

However, it is unclear how much money the families will actually receive, with Jones saying on Wednesday there "ain't no money".

He and his company have filed for bankruptcy protection in Texas, where

a forensic economist has testified that he and his company are worth around \$270m. Jones has disputed that figure.

Jones and his entourage flew to Connecticut from Texas for the trial in a private jet. They stayed in a rented villa with a pool and tennis court, according to the New York Times. Jones still faces a third defamation trial over the Sandy Hook shooting that begins in Texas later this year.

Angela Lansbury, beloved star of 'Murder, She Wrote,' dead at 96

By Brian Lowry

Angela Lansbury, who enjoyed an eclectic, award-winning movie and stage career in addition to becoming America's favorite TV sleuth in "Murder, She Wrote," has died, according to a statement from her family provided to NBC, whose parent company produced the long-running series. She was 96.

"The children of Dame Angela Lansbury are sad to announce that their mother died peacefully in her sleep at home in Los Angeles at 1:30 AM today, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, just five days shy of her 97th birthday," her family said in a statement.

Not yet 20 years old, Lansbury garnered her first Oscar nomination for her movie debut, "Gaslight," in 1944. Her second came the next year for "The Portrait of Dorian Gray," and again in 1962 as the mother who betrays her son and her country in "The Manchurian Candidate." (She received Golden Globes for the latter two films.)

The actress accepted an honorary Oscar in 2013, to go with the five Tony Awards she collected over a 40-plus-year span – beginning with "Mame" in 1966, and finally for a revival of the Noel Coward play "Blithe Spirit" in 2009. Lansbury also amassed 11 Emmy nominations for her



Angela Lansbury, Billy Bevan and Hurd Hatfield in a scene from the movie "The Picture of Dorian Gray."

role as Jessica Fletcher in "Murder, She Wrote," but never won.

Lansbury went from ingenue to playing more middle-aged roles practically overnight. She was just 37, for example, when she portrayed Laurence Harvey's conniving mother in "Manchurian Candidate," even though her co-star was just two years younger than her.

Born in London, her mother, Moyna MacGill, was an actress, and father Edward Lansbury a politician. He died when she was just nine years old, and not long after the onset of World War II the family moved to the US in 1940, settling in New York.

Lansbury studied drama before moving at her mother's urging to Los Angeles, where she briefly worked in a department store until landing her breakthrough role as the young maid in "Gaslight," starring Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boy-

er.

Other films included "National Velvet" (playing Elizabeth Taylor's sister), "The Harvey Girls," "The Three Musketeers," the Danny Kaye comedy "The Court Jester" and the Elvis Presley vehicle "Blue Hawaii." Lansbury made her Broadway debut in 1957, later starring in iconic Tony-winning roles in "Mame," "Gypsy" and "Sweeney Todd."

Generations of children revered Lansbury for her Disney roles, first in the 1971 movie musical "Bedknobs and Broomsticks," and later as the voice of Mrs. Potts in the 1991 Oscar-nominated animated film "Beauty and the Beast." She also played a small role in the 2018 sequel "Mary Poppins Returns."

"Oddly enough, children recognize my voice," she told The Huffington Post in 2012. "They'll hear me and say, 'Mom, that's

Mrs. Potts!'"

After a short-lived marriage to actor Richard Cromwell, Lansbury wed British actor Peter Shaw in 1949. They stayed together until his death in 2003 and had two children, Anthony – who directed many episodes of "Murder, She Wrote" – and Deirdre. Shaw eventually became her manager, and was instrumental in the deal that made them the producers of the series which premiered in 1984.

Lansbury achieved her greatest fame in her 60s for her starring role in "Murder, She Wrote" as a crime-solving mystery writer. Of all her roles, Lansbury said Jessica Fletcher was most like her.

"I had a lot of say in it, and I didn't want the character to be quirky," she told The New York Times in 2009. "I wanted her to be real. I didn't want to have to put on any kind of veneer for 24 hours a day, which is what a television schedule sometimes feels like."

Despite "Murder, She Wrote's" success, the audience skewed older, and CBS irritated Lansbury by moving the series to Thursday night opposite NBC's "Friends" in 1995, in what turned out to be the mystery's final season.

"I'm shattered," Lansbury told the Los Angeles Times, adding, "I really feel

cont'd on pg 19

'Interview with the Vampire' pumps fresh blood into Anne Rice's story on AMC

By **Brian Lowry**

Significantly improving upon the 1994 film, "Anne Rice's Interview With the Vampire" does more than just add the late author's name to the title, ambitiously updating the story, introducing a racial component and serving up plenty of sex and gore. Desperate to replace "The Walking Dead," AMC might have completed an improbable baton pass from zombies to another kind of undead.

Although the outlines mirror Rice's gothic novel, the series manages to simultaneously expand upon them as if this were a sort-of sequel and reinvent certain aspects, all while upping the quota on sexuality and violence into tiers occupied by the edgiest premium-TV fare. In that sense, this seems to have been produced at least as much with AMC+ in mind as the linear network AMC.

Jacob Anderson (getting to say a lot more than he did as Grey Worm in "Game of Thrones," and making the most of it) stars as Louis de Pointe du Lac, telling

his story to a now-older journalist (Eric Bogosian) whose dismissive, sarcastic attitude seems to be flirting with fangs for the memories.

Meeting in a pandemic-ravaged future that brings additional resonance to the story, the red meat still exists in flashbacks to Louis' past with Lestat de Lioncourt (Sam Reid), the suave vampire who made him; and later Claudia (Bailey Bass), a slightly older (again) spin on the child vampire whose perpetual state of adolescence captures the tragedy of her arc in a slightly different manner.

Louis and Lestat hook up in New Orleans during the early 1900s, a time and place where such interactions are possible but the racism of the times is overtly expressed, and a constant component of the narrative.

Adapted by Rolin Jones (HBO's reimagined "Perry Mason") with early episodes directed by Alan Taylor ("The Sopranos"), there's a palpable tension in Anderson and Reid's



Sam Reid as Lestat Du Lioncourt and Jacob Anderson as Louis De Pointe Du Lac in AMC's "Interview with the Vampire."

performances, with the former managing to be wistful and scary in the future and confused, melancholy and occasionally exultant in the past. As constructed, there's also the intriguing issue of what would prompt him to step out of the shadows to share his story.

The action, when it happens, is swift, bloody and brutal. Yet the series format affords this incarnation significant latitude as a character study, including the immortal loneliness that would prompt Lestat to create himself a companion, and Louis' subsequent commitment to Claudia, with all the associated growing pains that go with it. The same goes for fleshing out

supporting players, such as Louis' mother (Rae Dawn Chong) and sister (Kalyne Coleman), as opposed to just trotting smaller roles out for the slaughter.

"Interview with the Vampire" will make its debut after the "The Walking Dead" starts its final season – in TV terms, an old-fashioned baton pass intended to secure extra sampling in launching this seven-episode opening arc.

Unlike its ageless characters, "Vampire" might not be suited for a particularly long run, although AMC has already announced a second season, a well-deserved vote of confidence based on its extremely promising start. That's good news for both viewers and the network, for whom – on the verge of bidding farewell to its biggest hit – the stakes couldn't be higher.

"Anne Rice's Interview with the Vampire" premieres October 2 at 10 p.m. ET on AMC and AMC+.

cont'd from pg 18

angry for all the people who watched us" on Sunday, where the show had consistently delivered big ratings following "60 Minutes."

After the series ended, Lansbury starred in several "Murder, She Wrote" TV movies. She continued to work into her 80s and 90s, including a 2017 miniseries

version of "Little Women" and starring in a 2015 Great Performances production of "Driving Miss Daisy," opposite James Earl Jones.

"I love this industry and I love being in it," Lansbury said in a 1998 interview with the Archives of American Television, adding in regard to the "Murder" audience, "They loved it, and they were loyal."

Dominican Republic cracks down at border amid Haiti chaos

AP - As Haiti rapidly spirals into chaos, its island neighbour, the Dominican Republic, has responded with crackdowns on migrants and a military buildup the government claims will “guarantee border security.” But some fear those moves will only deepen long-existing xenophobia against Haitian migrants and harm both nations’ economies.

On Sunday, Dominican President Luis Abinader announced the country’s biggest purchase of military gear since 1961 – six helicopters, ten aircraft, 21 armoured vehicles and four anti-riot trucks.

If international troops are sent in response to an appeal by Haiti’s government for help against gangs, “We would close and block the border. ... It’s very dangerous for the integrity of the Dominican Republic to receive asylum seekers in the country,” Abinader said in a press conference.

Dominican officials also announced that they would consider even greater migratory controls on the Haitian border in the future. Tensions have long simmered between the two nations, which share a more than 240-mile border on the island of Hispaniola.

Haiti’s crisis has been exacerbated by the 2021 assassination of ex-Haitian President Jovenel Moïse



Haitians wait to cross the border between Dominican Republic and Haiti in Dajabon, Dominican Republic, Friday, Nov. 19, 2021. As Haiti’s crisis, exacerbated by the 2021 assassination of ex-Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, has only deepened and spurred on a massive flight of migrants, the Dominican Republic has gradually grown more hardline with its migratory and border policies. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix, File)

and gangs have gained increasing power in confronting a weak government. That has spurred a massive flight of migrants and the Dominican Republic has gradually grown more hardline with its migratory and border policies.

Among its most drastic actions has been to begin construction of a Trump-style wall along the border.

Migrant aid leaders like William Charpantier Blanco, head of the National Committee for Migrants and Refugees in the capital of Santo Domingo, said anti-migrant groups have grown empowered under the new policies.

“The migratory situation in the Dominican Republic has never been good, but in the past two years, it’s gotten far worse,” he said.

“With the economic and political crisis Haiti is living through, the Dominican government has had massive deportation crackdowns.”

Charpantier Blanco also noted that migrants were mostly working-class Haitians, but now his organisation is seeing a growing wave of middle-class and elite fleeing.

One of Haiti’s most powerful gangs — as well as anti-government protesters — have laid siege to key

fuel supplies in Port-au-Prince, causing shortages not just of fuel, but water and other basic supplies. Abinader previously described Haiti’s turmoil as a “low-intensity civil war.”

As a result, the UN Security Council is considering a request by Haiti’s government to send foreign troops to pacify the gangs, or at least alleviate the blockade. The disorder has amplified fears by many Dominicans like Paterno Valenzuela that gang violence could trickle into their own country. Valenzuela, 56, is a farmer along the border town of Elias Pina, and said while he

cont’d on pg 21

Nevis: Premier Mark Brantley condemns murder-suicide in Nevis

A Guyanese national, identified as Stanford Azore, stabbed his ex-girlfriend to death on Tuesday in Nevis after which he set the house on fire and jumped inside, taking his own life.

Police and Fire investigators are now probing the suspected murder-suicide.

The island of Nevis was left in complete shock, as both community leaders and the public condemned the brutal crime.

The victim, who shared two children with her attacker, has been identified as Shenyl Grosvenor.

Azore also attacked a friend of the deceased before setting the house ablaze.

The friend managed to survive the attack and is presently in hospital receiving medical assistance.

After the fire near the Charlestown Primary School was put out, police confirmed that two dead adult bodies were found in the charred remains of the house.

According to reports, Grosvenor



Nevis: Premier Mark Brantley condemns murder-suicide case of Guyanese couple

ended the relationship with Azore a few months ago, however he allegedly continued to stalk and physically abuse her.

The relationship was marred by violence and there are reports that the victim had filed several complaints with the police concerning threats that were made against her by her abuser.

Following the attack, Premier of Nevis, Mark Brantley, said, “Our island has had some truly tragic news over the past several days. Today highlighted the horrible human capacity for cruelty. My deepest condolences to those who mourn and my sincere hope that we can end violence in all its forms as a society.”

cont'd from pg 20

hasn't seen an uptick in violence in his area, he is “preparing because this crisis in Haiti is really bad.”

The Dominican farmer described seeing large groups of migrants climbing through the mountains fleeing the country and expressed concern about rising contraband like gasoline flowing across the border. He said he would support a foreign intervention if it were to come to that.

Yet the Caribbean country could stand to lose significantly if it were to close

its border.

Officially, some \$750 million is exported each year from the Dominican Republic to Haiti, the country's third largest trading partner.

More than \$400 million more in products is traded informally between the two countries, according to a 2017 study by the Dominican Central Bank. Valenzuela's town is one of many border economies that are intrinsically tied to the neighbouring country, depending on Haitian buyers as a basic source of income.

“All these towns (on the border) depend on the Haitian market,” he said.

Meanwhile, Haitian migrants like Charlie, who declined to give his last name out of fear of retaliation, continue to live in a legal shadowland. He echoed worries by migrant aid leaders like Charpentier Blanco that things could only get worse.

Charlie, 20, has lived in the Dominican Republic most of his life and works in a bakery in Santo Domingo. He has no memory of childhood in Haiti, yet earlier this

year was one of thousands of migrants deported to Haiti amid crackdowns by the government.

Like many, he returned to the Dominican Republic with the help of a friend who smuggled him back in. “I don't know anyone there (in Haiti),” he said. Now he tries to be inconspicuous.

“I leave early in the morning and I come home at night. I stay in the business (the bakery) and there are sometimes when I stay on Sundays,” he said. “It's a clandestine life ... a very difficult life.”

Regional News



LatAm ministers call for finance tools to protect against climate disasters

Reuters - Finance ministers from across Latin America and the Caribbean on Wednesday called on the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to look at new finance tools to mitigate the economic shock of climate disasters.

Ministers also urged the IDB to continue backing projects that protect the environment, with the regional lender having historically invested nearly \$10 billion in this area.

"We need products with

incentives," Uruguay's finance minister Azucena Arbeleche said at a meeting hosted by the IDB in Washington. "An under-developed country is not going to be in debt itself to pursue this path when it has short-term emergencies."

Jamaican finance minister Nigel Clarke called for "risk transfer instruments" that would allow Caribbean countries to protect fiscal sustainability, even after natural disasters.

Among the hardest hit



Inter-American Development Bank

by rising temperatures, Caribbean nations are preparing to seek compensation at the COP27 climate talks, as climate change inflicts increasingly devastating

blows to its tourism industry.

Though Latin America and the Caribbean are relatively minor contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, the IDB estimates that rising temperatures, sea levels and changing rainfall patterns will in 30 years cost the region some 2%-4% of annual GDP. Ten years ago, the bank estimated climate change could cost the region \$100 billion annually by 2050.

Ministers also discussed initiatives their countries were taking to combat economic turmoil and climate disasters. Uruguay's Arbeleche said her government was preparing to issue a sovereign bond with interest rates linked to environmental actions. Colombia's financial minister Jose Antonio Ocampo said he was looking at developing alternative exports and growing the country's eco-tourism sector to diversify from oil income. "Colombia can no longer rely on oil as its main export, that's a top priority for us," he said.

Join us for our Walk for the Cure

Saturday, 15 October, 2022 at 4:00 pm

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Adults \$50.00 & Children \$25.00

For more information please contact
Natasha Charles at 484-5137 or Khadijah James at 484-5064.

Route:
Start from Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, turning left to Paynter's Court on to Piggotts Main Road, turning left to pass the Sunny Side School, on to Factory Road and end at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

All proceeds to be donated to BreastFriends and The Oncology Department at the Sir Lester Bird Medical.







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Russian official warns of World War Three if Ukraine joins NATO

Reuters - If Ukraine is admitted into the U.S.-led NATO military alliance, then the conflict in Ukraine would be guaranteed to escalate into World War Three, a Russian Security Council official was quoted as saying on Thursday.

Just hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin formally proclaimed the annexation of up to 18% of Ukraine on Sept. 30, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy announced a surprise bid for fast-track membership of NATO.

Full NATO membership for Ukraine is far off because all the alliance's 30 members would have to give their consent. "Kyiv is well aware that such a step would mean a guaranteed escalation to World War Three," TASS quoted Alexander Venediktov, the deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council, as saying.

Venediktov, who is dep-



NATO flag flies in front of the Independence Monument during a rally of supporters of the "Democratic Axe" political party to thank all of Ukraine's partners for political support and military aid, at Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine January 30, 2022.

uty to Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev, a powerful Putin ally, said he felt Ukraine's application was propaganda as the West understood the consequences of Ukrainian membership of NATO.

"The suicidal nature of such a step is understood by NATO members themselves," he said.

President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly railed

against the United States for driving NATO's eastward expansion, especially its courting of ex-Soviet republics such as Ukraine and Georgia which Russia regards as part of its own sphere of influence.

Putin on Sept. 21 warned the West he was not bluffing when he said he would be ready to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia against what he said was "nucle-

ar blackmail" from major Western powers.

U.S. President Joe Biden has said the world faces the biggest risk of nuclear Armageddon since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. NATO is due to hold an annual nuclear preparedness exercise dubbed "Steadfast Noon" next week.

Russia and the United States are by far the biggest nuclear powers: they control about 90% of the world's nuclear warheads. Venediktov said Zelenskiy's call for preventive strikes against Russia was dangerous, cautioning that nuclear war would have catastrophic consequences for the world.

"We must remember: a nuclear conflict will affect absolutely the whole world — not only Russia and the collective West, but every country on this planet," Venediktov said. "The consequences would be disastrous for all mankind."

Saudi Arabia pushed other OPEC nations into oil cut, White House claims

Reuters - Saudi Arabia pushed other OPEC+ nations into an output cut last week, the White House claimed on Thursday, part of an escalating war of words between the two former allies.

"More than one" OPEC member disagreed with Saudi Arabia's push to cut production and felt coerced into the vote, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters. He said he was not going to identi-

fy the members to let them speak for themselves.

The United States presented Saudi Arabia with an analysis showing there was no market basis to lower oil production before the OPEC+ decision to cut output, Kirby said in an earlier statement on Thursday, pushing against Riyadh's claims the output cut was "purely economic."

The 13-member Organization of

the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, which include Russia, lowered their production target by 2 million barrels per day last week, even though world supplies are considered tight. Of those cuts, experts expect an actual production cut of about half that level.

The OPEC+ decision was adopted through consensus, took into account

cont'd on pg 24

Europe turns to Africa in bid to replace Russian natural gas

AP - A new liquefied natural gas project off Africa's western coast may only be 80% complete, but already the prospect of a new energy supplier has drawn visits from the leaders of Poland and Germany.

The initial field near Senegal and Mauritania's coastlines is expected to contain about 15 trillion cubic feet (425 billion cubic metres) of gas, five times more than what gas-dependent Germany used in all of 2019. But production isn't expected to start until the end of next year.

That won't help solve Europe's energy crisis triggered by Russia's war in Ukraine. Still, Gordon Birrell, an executive for project co-developer BP, says the development "could not be more timely" as Europe seeks to reduce its reliance on Russian natural gas to power factories, generate electricity and heat homes.

"Current world events are demonstrating the vital role that (liquid gas)

can play in underpinning the energy security of nations and regions," he told an energy industry meeting in West Africa last month.

While Africa's natural gas reserves are vast and North African countries like Algeria have pipelines already linked to Europe, a lack of infrastructure and security challenges have long stymied producers in other parts of the continent from scaling up exports. Established African producers are cutting deals or reducing energy use so they have more to sell to boost their finances, but some leaders warn that hundreds of millions of Africans lack electricity and supplies are needed at home.

Nigeria has Africa's largest natural gas reserves, said Horatius Eguwa, a spokesman for the petroleum minister, though it accounts for only 14% of the European Union's imports of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, that comes by ship. Projects face the risk of energy

thefts and high costs. Other promising countries like Mozambique have discovered large gas reserves only to see projects delayed by violence from Islamic militants.

Europe has been scrambling to secure alternative sources as Moscow has reduced natural gas flows to EU countries, triggering soaring energy prices and growing expectations of a recession. The 27-nation EU, whose energy ministers are meeting this week to discuss a gas price cap, is bracing for the possibility of a complete Russian cutoff but has still managed to fill gas reserves to 90%.

European leaders have flocked to countries like Norway, Qatar, Azerbaijan and especially those in North Africa, where Algeria has a pipeline running to Italy and another to Spain.

Italy signed a \$4 billion gas deal with Algeria in July, a month after Egypt reached an agreement with the

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the balance of supply and demand and was aimed at curbing market volatility, the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

"The Saudi foreign ministry can try to spin or deflect, but the facts are simple," Kirby said in a statement, saying that cutting output would "increase Russian revenues and blunt the effectiveness of sanctions" against Moscow after it invaded Ukraine in February.

Kirby said the United States' analysis also showed the cut could have waited until the next OPEC meeting, after the November U.S. midterm elections that will determine whether President Joe Biden's Democratic party will retain control of Congress.

The production cut is the latest sign of deteriorating U.S.-Saudi relations since Biden took office.



U.S. White House National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby answers questions during a news briefing at the White House in Washington, U.S. August 4, 2022. REUTERS/Jim Bourg/File Photo

cont'd from pg 24

European Union and Israel to boost sales of LNG. Angola also has signed a gas deal with Italy.

While an earlier agreement allowed Italy's biggest energy company to start production at two Algerian gas fields this week, it wasn't clear when flows would start from the July deal because it lacked specifics, analysts said.

African leaders like Senegalese President Macky Sall want their countries to cash in on these projects even as they're dissuaded from pursuing fossil fuels. They don't want to export it all either — an estimated 600 million Africans lack access to electricity.

"It is legitimate, fair and equitable that Africa, the continent that pollutes the least and lags furthest behind in the industrialization process should exploit its available resources to provide basic energy, improve the competitiveness of its economy and achieve universal access to electricity," Sall told the U.N. General Assembly last month.

Algeria is a major supplier — it and Egypt accounted for 60% of the natural gas production in Africa in 2020 — but it can't offset Russian gas to Europe at this stage, said Mahfoud Kaoubi, professor of economics and specialist in energy issues at the University of Algiers.

"Russia has an annual production of 270 billion cubic metres — it's huge,"



A tugboats get into position on the Russian pipe-laying vessel "Fortuna", being used for construction work on the German-Russian Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea, in the port of Wismar, Germany, on Jan 14, 2021. European leaders are turning to Africa for more natural gas as the EU tries to replace Russian exports amid the war in Ukraine. (Jens Buettner/dpa via AP, File)

Kaoubi said. "Algeria is 120 billion cubic metres, of which 70.50% is intended for consumption on the internal market."

This year, Algeria is forecast to have piped exports of 31.8 billion cubic metres, according to Tom Purdie, a Europe, Middle East and Africa gas analyst with S&P Global Commodity Insights. "The key concern here surrounds the level of production step-up that can be achieved, and the impact domestic demand could have" given how much gas Algeria uses at home, Purdie said.

Cash-strapped Egypt also is looking to export more natural gas to Europe, even regulating air conditioning in shopping malls

and lights on streets to save energy and sell it instead.

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly says Egypt hopes to bring in an additional \$450 million a month in foreign currency by rerouting 15% of its domestic gas usage for export, state media reported.

More than 60% of Egypt's natural gas consumption still is used by power stations to keep the country running. Most of its LNG goes to Asian markets.

A new, three-party deal will see Israel send more gas to Europe via Egypt, which has facilities to liquefy it for export by sea. The EU says it will help the two countries increase gas production and exploration. In Nigeria, ambitious plans have yet to

yield results despite years of planning. The country exported less than 1% of its vast natural gas reserves last year.

A proposed 4,400-kilometre-long (2,734-mile-long) pipeline that would take Nigerian gas to Algeria through Niger has been stalled since 2009, mainly because of its estimated cost of \$13 billion. Many fear that even if completed, the Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline would face security risks like Nigeria's oil pipelines, which have come under frequent attacks from militants and vandals.

The same challenges would hinder increased gas exports to Europe, said Olufofa Wusu, a Lagos-based oil and gas expert.

Lawyer: Djokovic has good chance of getting Australian visa

AP - A Melbourne-based immigration lawyer says Novak Djokovic will likely be successful if he applies for a visa to enter Australia for the season-opening tennis major next year despite his high-profile deportation in January.

It could be as simple as writing to the Australian Border Force, explaining his exceptional circumstances and asking for any ban on re-entry to be waived.

The 21-time Grand Slam singles champion wasn't allowed to defend his Australian Open title this year after a tumultuous 10-day legal saga over his COVID-19 vaccination status that culminated with his visa being revoked on the eve of the tournament.

This meant he could face an exclusion period of up to three years, but Australian Border Force officials have said those can be waived in certain circumstances — and that each case would be assessed on its merits.

And Djokovic has a case. He arrived at Melbourne Airport as the world's top-ranked tennis player with a visa he'd obtained online and what he believed to be a valid medical exemption to the country's strict laws for unvaccinated travellers because it was endorsed by Tennis Australia and the government of Victoria state, which hosts the tournament.

Confusion reigned, generating global headlines. As it transpired, that medical exemption allowed him entry to the tournament, which required all players, fans and officials to be vaccinated for the coronavirus, but not necessarily to enter the country. It was rejected by the Australian Border Force.

Australia's Immigration Minister



Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with the trophy after winning the final tennis match of the ATP 500 Astana Open tennis tournament against Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in Astana, Kazakhstan, Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022. (AP Photo/Stas Filippov)

Alex Hawke ultimately used discretionary powers to cancel Djokovic's visa on character grounds, stating he was a "talisman of a community of anti-vaccine sentiment." Immigration lawyer Kon-ming Tsai said that in his opinion, it would "be in Australia's best interests" to allow Djokovic entry for the 2023 tournament.

"There is no risk factor here with allowing him back in," Tsai said in a telephone interview on Thursday with The Associated Press.

"He's not going to create a problem for the community. He is one of the world's best tennis players and will be able to pull in a lot of foreign visitors."

Djokovic has not officially said if he will apply for a visa for Australia, with his media group in Belgrade saying it so far has no information regarding nine-time Australian Open winner's plans regarding the Jan. 16-29 tournament.

Australia has had a change of government and changed its border rules this year and, since July 6, incoming travellers no longer have to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. That removes one major barrier to entry for Djokovic.

The 35-year-old Serbian star, who has won recent tournaments in Kazakhstan and Israel, can now apply to new Immigration Minister Andrew Giles to reconsider his visa status. In his favour, Djokovic left Australia quickly after his visa was revoked, he has not publicly criticised Australian authorities and will only be seeking a temporary visa.

The first step in the process is to make an official visa application, starting a two-stage procedure.

As the Department of Home Affairs website explains, applicants in Djokovic's circumstances must explain in writing to the Australian Border Force why the exclusion

cont'd on pg 27

Ex-NBA player Ben Gordon charged with assaulting son, police

AP - Former NBA player Ben Gordon is facing assault charges for allegedly punching his son at a New York airport.

The alleged assault occurred Monday evening at LaGuardia Airport. According to the Queens district attorney's office, witnesses, including an American Airlines employee, saw Gordon yell at his son and punch him several times in the face after the boy dropped a book on the ground.

Gordon later confirmed to police that it was his son. Gordon also allegedly assaulted officers as they attempted to handcuff him and put him in a patrol car.

At an arraignment Tuesday night, Gordon was charged with offences including assault, resisting



Orlando Magic's Ben Gordon in action during an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers on Nov. 5, 2014, in Philadelphia. The former NBA player is facing assault charges for allegedly punching his son at a New York airport. The alleged assault occurred Monday, Oct. 10, 2022, at LaGuardia Airport. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum, File)

arrest, contempt and child endangerment. He was ordered to return to court Friday, according to the DA's office.

According to a criminal complaint, Gordon's son has an order of protection against his father dating from 2018 that forbids

Gordon from "committing physical abuse, harassment, or the interference with personal liberty," and prohibits Gordon from removing the boy from Illinois. Joshua Kirshner, an attorney representing Gordon, said the son is 10 or 11 years old.

"It is very early in the case," Kirshner said in an email Wednesday. "We are confident that when we complete our investigation my client will be able to demonstrate his innocence."

The 39-year-old, who played collegiately at the University of Connecticut, was drafted by the Chicago Bulls in 2004 and played 11 seasons in the NBA with Chicago, Detroit, Charlotte and Orlando, most recently in the 2014-15 season with the Magic.

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period should be put aside — "you must show us that there are compassionate or compelling circumstances to put aside your re-entry ban and grant you the visa." The ABF does not comment on individual cases as a matter of policy.

A review into Djokovic's visa saga led to Tennis Australia outsourcing visa applications by players and their entourages to a company specialising in immigration matters.

That company, Absolute Immigration, has been asked for comment on Djokovic's status but did not immediately respond.

At the 2023 Australian Open launch at Melbourne Park on

Wednesday, tournament director Craig Tiley said Tennis Australia wants to welcome Djokovic back but can't give him any official support while lobbying the Australian government.

"It is not a matter we can lobby on. It is a matter that definitely stays between the two of them," Tiley said, referring to Djokovic and the Australian government. Tiley was heavily criticised for his role in the confusion which led to Djokovic being detained in an immigration hotel.

After meeting up with him in London last month, Tiley said he believes Djokovic holds no bitterness about the saga.

"He said that he would obvious-

ly love to come back to Australia but he knows it's going to be an ultimate decision for the federal government and he accepts that," Tiley, who is also the Tennis Australia chief executive, said. "If you notice, he is playing a lot of tennis at the end of the year in anticipation and hope there is a successful outcome with his application. But that is up to him."

If Djokovic goes that route, the Malaysian-born Tsai said his decade-long experience of dealing with Australian immigration laws made him think it would likely result in a decision in Djokovic's favour. "Bottom line is that it's in Australia's best interest to lift the ban and have Djokovic return," Tsai said.

FIFA open to compensation fund for migrant workers in Qatar

AP - FIFA wants to help workers in Qatar get compensation for being injured while building projects for the World Cup, one of the soccer body's top officials told European lawmakers on Thursday.

Soccer federations in Europe have supported calls for a fund since Amnesty International said FIFA should contribute \$440 million toward reparations — matching the total prize money FIFA will pay to the 32 national teams playing in Qatar next month.

Qatar has faced intense scrutiny of the physical and contractual conditions for hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who were needed in the tiny emirate since the World Cup hosting rights were won 12 years ago. Compensation is “certainly something that we’re interested in progressing,” FIFA deputy secretary general Alasdair Bell told a Council of Europe session on labour rights in Qatar.

“It’s important to try to see that anyone who suffered injury as a consequence of working in the World Cup, that that is somehow redressed,” Bell told lawmakers from the 46-nation group at their meeting in Strasbourg, France.

FIFA was urged on Thursday to use its leverage with the World Cup host nation by the official who pub-



Workers walk to the Lusail Stadium, one of the 2022 World Cup stadiums, in Lusail, Qatar, Friday, Dec. 20, 2019. Paris has decided not to display the matches of the World Cup on giant screens in fan zones amid concerns over rights violations of migrant workers and the environmental impact of the tournament that have led some other French cities to make the same decision. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar, File)

licly criticised Qatar when global soccer leaders met in Doha this year.

Ensuring compensation is paid should be a key target for FIFA to secure a positive legacy in Qatar after the World Cup, Norwegian soccer federation president Lise Klaveness told lawmakers.

“It is difficult to frame it in but it is necessary, also for historical abuses, injuries and deaths,” she said, adding that a lack of independent investigations of unexplained worker fatalities in Qatar was an “elephant in the room.”

FIFA’s Bell agreed with Klaveness that a reparations fund “is not the simplest thing to put into place” and would need clear rules and

oversight. “But this is certainly something that we’re interested in progressing,” he said.

It was not specified on Thursday if compensation money should come from FIFA, Qatari authorities or the construction firms who employed the workers, many from south Asia and the Philippines.

Qatar has set up a workers’ support fund which, since 2020, has paid \$164 million in compensation to more than 36,000 workers from 17 different countries, Human Rights Watch said in August citing government data. Qatari authorities and World Cup organizers were also praised in Strasbourg for passing labor law re-

forms including a minimum wage.

“It is not just fluff, it’s real, and it is delivering some tangible benefits that have actually improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people,” Bell said. “The risk,” he acknowledged, “is that once the spotlight is turned off after the World Cup it’s really important that these changes remain and are built upon and hopefully even spread wider in the Middle East.”

Bell said it was also important for migrant workers to have access to a “safe haven” in Qatar to learn their legal rights — a project backed by the global soccer players’ union FIFPRO that Klaveness also highlighted.

Commonwealth Games makes mystery esports U-turn

BBC - Competitive gaming will not be a medal event in the 2026 Commonwealth Games, after a surprise U-turn.

Esports was a pilot event at the 2022 Birmingham Games, co-funded by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the Global Esports Federation (GEF). And the CGF called this a success, with its president saying she expected it to be included "going forward". But the organisers of the 2026 Games, in Victoria, Australia, say esports will not feature. Despite numerous requests, the CGF and GEF, the 2026 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee refused to give any specific reasons for the U-turn.

One person close to the discussions said doping in esports may have been a factor with concerns that arranging year-round drugs testing across the various gaming titles could prove problematic.

"Everything was looking great after Birmingham and it seemed like esports would make history in Victoria," another insider said. "We have no idea why the committee rejected it, as they won't say. "Doping could have been a factor but also there was a lot of general resistance to esports from more traditional, older members of the Games nation groups "It's very disappointing."

At the Birmingham event, CGF president Dame Louise Martin said she hoped including esports in the official programme would boost interest from young people less interested in traditional sports.

"There are a lot of young people in that age group who don't play sport per se, in a playing field or something like that, but they are playing sport on a games console," she said.



The women's Dota2 team won bronze for Singapore at the 2022 Commonwealth Games esports pilot event

The live streamed matches pulled in audiences in the low hundreds.

But the CGF and GEF said they were continuing to assess the pilot and potential future events.

A 2026 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee spokeswoman said: "While they weren't successful this time, the Commonwealth Games Federation and Global Esports Federation will keep working on an inclusion pathway for this growing sport."

There have been many high-profile cases of competitive gamers taking substances such as the prescription drug Adderall in the hope of enhancing their concentration and performance. Last year, professional Call of Duty player Cuyler "Huke" Garland admitted using Adderall during his Championship win in 2020.

In 2015, professional Counter-Strike: Global Offensive player Kory "Semphis" Friesen said he and his Cloud9 teammates had used Ad-

derall during a major tournament with \$250,000 in prize money. And in July 2022, the CGF signed a long-term partnership agreement with the World Anti-Doping Agency, which has banned Adderall for use in competition.

None of the 100 gamers from 20 different countries at the 2022 pilot event was drug tested. Professional FIFA gamer Joshua "JMCKing" King, from New Zealand, who came eighth, said: "I'm not currently aware of any doping scandals claims at all in the FIFA scene. "I would assume the potential for issues is there due to the online nature of most competitions but there is nothing that I have ever heard about.

"It would have been a great opportunity to continue to grow esports and a potential opportunity for me to represent my country - but it isn't the end of the road and esports will continue to grow without involvement in the Commonwealth Games."

CG United Super50 Cup 2022 schedule confirmed

Caribbean rivalries resume with Trinidad & Tobago Red Force defending title from 29 October to 19 November West Indies Academy and Combined Campuses and Colleges join 8 team Tournament.

The CG United Super50 Cup returns on 29 October, with the Caribbean's 50-over cricket rivalries competing for the first time since February 2021. The West Indies Academy team and Combined Campuses & Colleges (CCC) will join the six regional franchise teams to contest the 2022 CG United Super50 Cup, to be played in Antigua and Trinidad from 29 October to 19 November.

The 2022 edition of the region's pre-eminent 50-over white ball competition also marks the start of the countdown towards the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup and an opportunity for players across the West Indies to push for consideration and selection for the West Indies ODI team.

Trinidad & Tobago Red Force will defend their title and host Zone A featuring the Windward Islands Volcanoes, Guyana Harpy Eagles and CCC. Zone B will feature hosts the Leeward Islands Hurricanes, Barbados Pride, Jamaica Scorpions and the West Indies Academy. The opening match will be on Saturday 29 October and sees Zone B hosts Leeward Islands Hurricanes facing the West Indies Academy.

For the first time, the West Indies Academy will be featuring in the CG United Super50 Cup and the West Indies Academy players will have the development opportunity to play List A cricket against the best in the Caribbean.

This opportunity is part of the Academy programme's main objec-



tives of bridging the gap between youth and professional cricket in the region. The West Indies Emerging Players side famously won the Super50 Cup in 2019 and six of those players have since gone on to represent the West Indies.

The opening match will be the first of ten (10) Zone B games to be played at the Sir Vivian Richard Stadium (SVRS), all of which will be broadcast live on ESPN Caribbean, the exclusive Caribbean broadcast partner of the CG United Super50 Cup, as well as on ESPN+ in the USA. Two further Zone B games will be played at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG), the home of Cricket West Indies.

All of the Zone A matches in Trinidad will be split equally between the Brian Lara Cricket Academy (BLCA) and Queen's Park Oval (QPO), with the first two games played on Monday 31 October. Every Zone A match will be streamed live on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel in the Caribbean and around the world.

Each team will play six group matches, playing each of their Zone competitors twice. The top two teams from each Zone will qualify for the

semi-finals, which will be played in Antigua at the SVRS on Wednesday 16 November and Thursday 17 November. The CG United Super50 Cup final will be at the same venue on Saturday 19 November.

Johnny Grave, CWI CEO said: "The 2022 CG United Super50 Cup promises to be an action-packed event for our fans to feast on exciting cricket rivalries and for players to push for selection to the West Indies. This year's tournament features some of the region's best and upcoming talent competing to win the CG United Sir Clive Lloyd Trophy."

Grave added: "We are looking forward to seeing the West Indies Academy and CCC play against our professional regional teams and expect the competition to provide them with an excellent development opportunity.

This will help to broaden the pool of players being exposed to the highest levels of competition at the regional level. CWI welcomes and thanks title partners CG United for their continued sponsorship of the CG United Super50 Cup, as their investment has proved invaluable to the development of the game in the region."

Antigua Vision Care stays perfect in Business League

Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care continued their perfect run in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

The leaders extended their perfect or unbeaten run with an 89-50 trouncing of Mill Reef in the first game of Wednesday night's triple-header.

Daryl Goodwin scored 13 points and Tequan Brodie and Tajaron Davis each chipped in with 10 points to lead Antigua Vision Care to their 11th win in as many games.

Ariel Quallis sank 16 points, Jason Phillip produced 15 points and Oliver Tonge converted 12 points for Mill Reef who slipped to their 10th loss in 11 encounters.

Cupholders Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board claimed their seventh win in nine appearances with a hard-fought 61-58 victory over Vendors in Wednesday's feature game.

Veteran guard Marlon "Buju" Charles scored 15 points, Ishan Peets sank 14 points, Russell Daley converted 13 points and Kareem Edwards contributed 10 points for the Anti-

gua and Barbuda Transport Board.

Adrian Carnegie shot a game-high 25 points and Shamar Joseph produced 13 points for the Vendors, who slumped to their eighth loss in 13 outings.

Pointe FM recorded their seventh win in 11 encounters by pulling off a narrow 50-44 victory

against the Board of Education in the second game on Wednesday.

Josue Hernandez scored 19 points and Rolando Hamilton had 14 points for Pointe FM, while Bruce Whyte shot a game-high 21 points for the Board of Education who suffered their fifth loss in 10 outings.

The Business Basketball League will continue with a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex tomorrow (Saturday).

Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care will take on the Board of Education and defending champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, will clash with Anjo Wholesale.



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Sports News



Teams to meet in ABFA's knockout cup semis on Sunday

The four remaining teams will resume their quest for supremacy in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup competition on Sunday, 16th October.

Willikies FC, SAP FC, Pigotts Bullets FC and Grenades FC will be contesting the semi-finals of the

knockout cup at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters.

Willikies FC will face SAP FC in the first semi-final at 5 pm, while Pigotts Bullets will clash with Grenades in their second encounter at 7 pm.

The two winners of the semi-finals will advance to the final, while the two semi-finals' losers will meet in a playoff for third place.

All semi-finalists are already guaranteed to take home at least EC\$5,000 at the end of the competition.

The fourth-place finishers will walk away with EC\$5,000, the third-place winners will get EC\$10,000, the runners-up will claim EC\$20,000 and the champion team will take home the grand cash prize of EC\$50,000.

OCS starts title defense on successful note

Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) made a winning start in defense of their Under-20 Girls' Division Championship in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Wednesday.

Goals by Abisha Henry and Tamyna Lake gave Ottos Comprehensive School a 2-0 victory against the Antigua Girls' High School in their opening encounter at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Antigua State College also kicked off their campaigns in the Under-20 Girls' League with victories in their opening encounters.

National Under-15 Girls' striker Gabrielle De Suza scored four times in leading Princess Margaret School to a 12-0 drubbing of St. Anthony's Second-

ary School at the PMS playing field.

Antigua State College crushed Clare Hall Secondary 7-0 in their opening affair at the King George V Grounds in Gray's Farm.

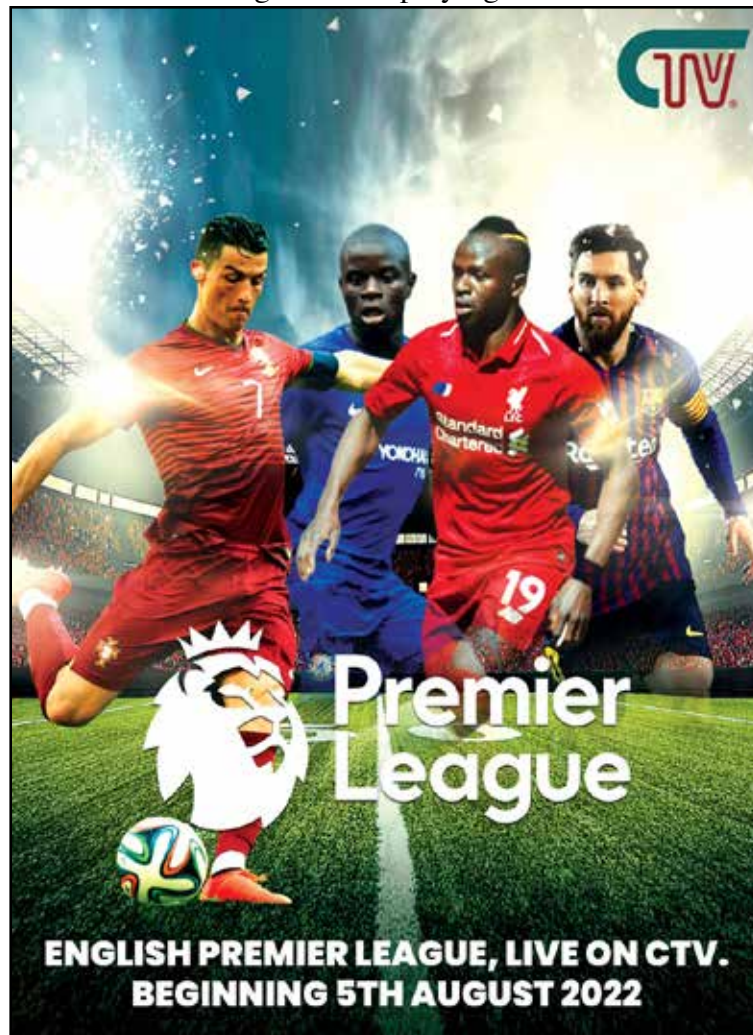
However, All Saints Secondary and Jennings Secondary fought to a 3-3 draw in their affair at the Golden Grove playing field.

The Secondary Schools' Football Championship will continue with matches in the West Zone of the Under-20 Boys' Competition at 3 pm today (Friday).

Cupholders Ottos Comprehensive will meet St. Mary's Secondary School at Radio Range in Ottos.

Antigua State College will face Antigua Grammar School at the Golden Grove playing field and

Princess Margaret School will host Jennings Secondary School at the PMS playing field.



Eagle Eyes to host Goodwill Tournament in Antigua

The Eagle Eyes Domino Club of Antigua and Barbuda will be hosting the Third Annual Eagle Peace and Slammers (EPS) three-team Goodwill Tournament in the twin-island state later this month.

The Eagle Eyes will be hosting the Peace & Love Domino Club of Barbados and the defending champions, Slammers Domino Club of St. Lucia, in the three-team pre-Antiguan and Barbudan Independence competition at the Multi-Purpose and Cultural Centre at Perry Bay from 27th to 30th October.

The three-hand tournament, based on accumulated points, will commence with the opening ceremony at JR Spot on Friars Hill Road on Thursday, 27th October, at 5 pm.

During the following three days, the three teams will then engage each other in three rounds of female contests, three rounds of male encounters and three rounds of mixed matches.



Team members of the Eagle Eyes Domino Club of Antigua and Barbuda. (Photo courtesy the ABNDA)

At the end of the competitions, the team with the most points will be declared winners of the tournament that was last won by Slammers of St. Lucia in 2019 in Barbados.

Public Relations Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) Carol Faye Bynoe, is appealing to the general public to come out and support the upcoming three-team tournament.

“The last tournament was held in 2019 and because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, no tournaments were held in 2020 and 2021. So now they are going to resume the tournament and it is the Antiguans’ time to host it.

“These matches will be three-hand domino matches and so we are asking that the general public come down to the Multi-Purpose Centre and support the event during the three days of competition

from the 28th to 30th October,” Bynoe said.

“There are Antiguans who will be playing in this competition and it is not about who is playing, but more about the game they are playing.

“So all the mind sports people and all the domino players, we are inviting you to come and cheer on your fellow countrymen so that they can be successful in this tournament,” Bynoe urged.

cont’d from pg 34

22-25, 25-21, 25-14 over the Grenadians in the Group A encounter.

Grenada, Anguilla and host St. Maarten are competing in Group A, while St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Eustatius and the British Virgin Islands are contesting Group B.

The winners of the two groups will automatically advance to the semi-finals. The second and third place fin-

ishers in both groups will advance to the quarter-finals. The two quarter-finals winners will advance to the semi-finals.

Meanwhile, Icons and Nate’s Photography recorded wins in the opening matches of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association’s (ABAVA) Business League at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

Icons defeated Zamine Shipping 25-14, 25-19 and Nate’s Photography overcame MEDSO 25-7, 25-21.

The business league will continue with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex tomorrow evening (Saturday).

The Media will face 77 Bus in the first game at 6:30 pm and APUA will take on Treasury Department at 7:30 pm.

Antigua & Barbuda beats St. Eustatius in opener at ECVA tournament

Antigua and Barbuda cruised to a comfortable straight-sets victory over St. Eustatius in their opening encounter to make a winning start to their campaign in the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Women's Championship in St. Maarten on Wednesday.

Antigua and Barbuda coasted to their 25-6, 25-8, 25-23 victory over St. Eustatius (Statia) in the first game of an opening Group B double-header at the LB Scott Sports Auditorium in Phillipsburg.

Antigua Barbuda depended heavily on attacker Sharon Payne, who scored 21 points, while middle blocker Spanner had five points for St. Eustatius.

Antigua and Barbuda led in attacks (25-10), but St. Eustatius had the advantage in Blocks (15-3) and Serves (37- 24).

Both coaches cited early jitters that accounted for the performance.

Antigua and Barbuda's head coach Fitzroy Benjamin wasn't too perturbed by



The Antigua and Barbuda team celebrate after beating St. Eustatius in straight sets in their opening game of the ECVA's Senior Women's Championship in at the LB Scott Sports Auditorium in Phillipsburg, St. Maarten, on Wednesday, 12th October. (Photo courtesy ABAVA)

the close margin of the third set.

"We too started off nervously, but the girls got quickly into their strides and stuck to the game plan. In the third set, we rest all of our key players, hence there isn't much to worry about. The plan is on target," Benjamin stated.

Coach of the St. Eustatius team, Gordon Span-

ner, felt disappointed, but encouraged by his team's overall effort.

"The team started off rather nervous and it showed in the score line in the first two sets. However, we put up a much better effort in the third set and we intend to put up a much better fight in the coming games," Spanner said.

St. Lucia also made

a successful start to their Group B campaign as they prevailed 3-0 in straight sets over the British Virgin Islands, winning 25-18, 25-17, 25-18, in the second game on Wednesday.

Anguilla defeated Grenada 3-1 in the opening game of the tournament on Tuesday, 11th October. The Anguillans prevailed 25-16,

cont'd on pg 33