

TUESDAY 2ND MAY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 84 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

PM BROWNE CALLS FOR A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE

Story on Page 2



21-year-old Mekesha Browne, Miss St. John's Rural North, centre, is the winner of the 2023 instalment of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Queen Pageant. *Story on page 4.*

Local News



PM Browne calls for a spirit of compromise

Prime Minister Gaston Browne wants the trade union's negotiation with the government to adopt a spirit of compromise and to be reasonable in their demands.

Speaking at the Antigua Trades and Labour Union and Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party Labour Day rally at the VC Bird Bust on Lower All Saints Road, PM Browne said his government is willing to grant wage/salary increases to workers, but these must not exceed the government's ability to pay.

"You would note that back in 2018 we gave an increase of five percent and we committed to offering a bigger increase.

"We are about to conclude those negotiations and I am absolutely sure that at the end of the day when we would have resolved the issues over

the coming weeks we would be able to maintain the purchasing-power parity for workers," he stated.

The prime minister noted that the government is committed to raising salaries and wages at a time of 'difficult circumstances'.

"We could have said to public workers that because of the devastating effects of COVID-19 we do not have the capacity to give an increase. There are many countries globally that have taken that position but we are a workers' organization and we recognised that we must go the extra mile to improve the lot of workers in this country. That's why we are giving the increases at this time, even though we lost seventeen percent of GDP in 2020. This is what you call commitment to the people," he declared.

PM Bird also made an appeal to workers to be reasonable in their demands and to engage the government constructively as the government is not taking the position that it is not giving any increases. The issue, he maintained, is how much increase the workers will demand.

"If you make demands that are unreasonable, that are beyond the means of the government then it would be self-defeating as this would force the government to re-trench workers. On the other hand, it could be inflationary.

"In that if wages increase too soon and by too large an amount, it could increase prices and that again would be self-defeating. So let us understand that we must engage constructively. We are not seeking to resist increases," he noted.

PM Browne emphasised his government's willingness to cooperate with workers and he noted that there was 'no value' in fighting with a government that is willing to work along with the various workers' organisations.

Also speaking at the rally was the ABLP's chairman, Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene, who noted that Antigua and Barbuda, like the rest of the world, is facing new challenges since the pandemic, but what is required now are men and women committed to the development of the country.

"The world today is a difficult place; Antigua and Barbuda was not spared. What we have today is a caring government that understands the needs of the people and delivers on those needs," he remarked.

Other addresses came from the President of the AT&LU, Wigley George and General Secretary, Alric Daniel.

DEWS

STEEL & PLYWOOD

SALE

SPECIAL OFFER!
\$3350.00

1/2 STEEL
3/8 STEEL
5/8 STEEL

20% OFF

3/4 FORM PLY
T1-11 5/8
T1-11 3/8
BEADED 3/8

DEWS **dewspro** **info@dewspro.com** **729-3397/729-1210**

PM Browne reaches out to EU to preserve CIP

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is proposing closer cooperation between the OECS countries with Citizens By Investment Programmes and the European Union in a bid to safeguard these programmes that are vital to the economies of the countries where they exist.

His offer came during a courtesy call from the French ambassador designate, Francis Etienne last week.

PM Browne noted that the CIP programmes in Antigua and Barbuda and the other OECS states have caused some anxiety among EU countries to the extent that they are considering to discontinue the Shenzhen agreement that grants visa-free access to the EU countries.

The prime minister noted that such a step would 'undermine our programmes' and he advises that rather than taking such a step the EU ought to consider greater collaboration and sharing of information.



PM Gaston Browne (centre) with Ambassador Anthony Liverpool (left) and visiting French Ambassador Francis Etienne (right)

He added that if there are gaps in the programmes then the EU may work with the OECS states to strengthen the programmes rather than eliminate them altogether.















"These CIP programmes are very important to Antigua and Barbuda and the OECS countries that have these programmes. We con-

tinue to ask the various EU countries to assist us with ongoing dialogue and help us to negotiate an amicable settlement to the issue rather than to have the EU pursue any hostile response," he urged.

He added that the OECS countries and the EU all operate in 'a global space' and the security of the EU is as

important as the security of the OECS. "Your security is our security and we will do nothing to undermine the security of the EU. In addition, we do a robust due diligence for our programmes so I am pretty sure that, unlike the perception, our programmes do not present a threat to the EU. In any case I am hoping that we can settle this issue amicably," he stated.

This issue may be one of the issues that will be discussed between French authorities and the Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerritt, today (Tuesday) where the French will raise concerns about the influx of Haitians from Dominica into Guadeloupe.

Tue 02 Day		Tue 02 Night	
86° 	 20%  E 12 mph	76° 	 15%  E 9 mph
Sunny skies. High 86F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.		A mostly clear sky. Low 76F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	
 Humidity 69%	 UV Index Extreme	 Humidity 78%	 UV Index 0 of 10
 Sunrise 5:41 am	 Sunset 6:27 pm	 Moonrise 3:57 pm	 Moonset 3:37 am
○ Waxing Gibbous			

Local News



Mekesha Browne is the 2023 Labour Queen!

21-year-old Mekesha Browne, Miss St. John's Rural North, is the winner of the 2023 instalment of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Queen Pageant, a fixture of the Labour Week activities organized by the Antigua Trades and Labour Union and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

Mekesha won from a field of seven contestants in a show held at the Dean William Lake Cultural Centre on Sunday night. It was a dominating performance from her as she won three of the five judged categories; Speech, Performing Talent and Interview. She also won one of the two un-judged categories;

Most Photogenic.

She won a top prize of \$4,000 along with a host of other prizes donated by the business community. She will represent the pageant at any activity organized by either the AT&LU or the party over the next twelve months.

Moments after she was crowned by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Mekesha said she was overwhelmed by her victory. "I am beyond excited! I have no words to fully describe how I am feeling at this moment but I must say that I did put my best foot forward and the outcome was definitely amazing!" she remarked.



21-year-old Mekesha Browne, Miss St. John's Rural North, is the winner of the 2023 instalment of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Queen Pageant.



She acknowledged that she felt all along that she had won the Speech segment, but she was taken by surprise when she eventually won the other two segments. She noted that preparing for the show was much hard work but that it paid off in the end.

The first runner-up position went to Teresha Nanton, Miss St. John's City South, who also won the Swim Wear and Eve-

ning Dress Segments.

The second runner-up position went to Cassie Vitalis, Miss St Mary's North.

The show was highly entertaining with the contestants contributing to the overall success by their performances. The 2023 Labour Queen Pageant was produced by the team of Brucella and Shane Marsh of Marsh and Marsh Productions.

Scenes from Labour Day 2023



Young dramatists and dancers awarded for performances

The best performances in this year's National Secondary School Theatre Festival were singled out for special awards at the annual Awards Ceremony held at the Sir John E. St. Luce Conference Centre on Sunday night.

The festival ran from April 25 to 28 with performances in dance taking place on the night of the Tuesday, followed by dramatic presentations on three consecutive nights Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts and Senator Kiz Nathaniel-Johnson participated in the ceremony by presenting awards. Deputy Director of Education, Jonah Greene also presented awards during the ceremony.

In the end, the Jennings Secondary School took the top prizes in drama as well as dominating in the dance segment. It won the award for Outstanding Improvisation and Outstanding Actress, Tarajhe Clarke as well as Outstanding Actor, Tyrell Buckley.

The Princess Margaret School also scored big in the Drama Segment with Outstanding Directing, Princess Margaret School, Skin Deep and for Outstanding Original Script, Skin Deep.



Outstanding actress Tarajhe Clarke

Irene B Williams Secondary School shared the Outstanding Directing Award for its play, Water Woes as well as the prize for Outstanding Teenage Script, for the play, Water Woes.

Ottos Comprehensive scored well when it picked up the award for Outstanding Ensemble for the play, Standpipe Love.

In the Dance Segment, Jennings Secondary won for Best Group performance and Best Duet, Otezzea Luke and Rihanna Teague. Best Improvisation



Outstanding Actor, Tyrell Buckley

tion was Otezz'ea Luke, Jennings Secondary School. Most Promising Female Dancer was Nia Airall, Antigua Girls High School while the Most Promising Male Dancer was Adrian Hazel, Ottos Comprehensive School. Best Choreographer was Shannan Lawes of the Antigua Girls High School.

Best Solo was Gabrielle Hamlet of the Sir Novelle Richards Academy which also picked up the award for Best Costume, the Duet Costume of Sir

cont'd on pg 7



Dance duet winners - Otezzea Luke and Rihanna Teague



Most Promising female dancer, Nia Airall



Most Outstanding male dancer- Adrian Hazel

Long Ping agricultural project begins reaping its first harvest

Just months after the start of the second phase of the China Aid agricultural project in Antigua and Barbuda, the company undertaking the project, Long Ping, is currently harvesting its first crop of vegetables.

Last week, the company made a presentation of lettuce and cucumber to the National School Means programme as well as to staff of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Coordinator of the programme, Chief Extension Officer, Owalabi Elabanjo said the produce represents some of the capabilities of the project.

“This (is) not to show off, but to demonstrate what the project is capable of showing and what we intend to do.

“This first crop is being harvested in less than three months of being here. In a few months we should be harvesting melons, corn and various other produce which will be donated to government-care institutions,” he noted.

According to Elabanjo, the expectation is that the local farming community will adopt new farming techniques through technology



Long Ping Donates to the Ministry of Agriculture

transfer from the Chinese.

“Very soon the Agricultural Extension Division will be starting demonstrations on a number of farms to showcase the different varieties of seeds and the different technologies that the Chinese possess.

“We are therefore looking forward to the many opportunities that China Aid will be offering to us through the China Aid project,” he remarked.



Long Ping donates to national School Meals Programme

cont'd from pg 6

Novelle Richards Academy.

The full list of winners is as follows;

Best Stage Management:

Princess Margaret School, Skin Deep

Outstanding Sound Effects:

Irene B Williams Secondary School, Water Woes

Outstanding Costume Design:

Princess Margaret School, Skin Deep

Most Promising Actor:

Jahkim Augustin, Otto's Comprehensive School

Most Promising Actress:

T'nesia Lewis, Irene B Williams Secondary School

Best Set Design:

Irene B Williams Secondary School, Water Woes

Outstanding Improvisation Female:

T'nesia Lewis, Irene B Williams Secondary School

Outstanding Improvisation Male:

Shawn Alexander, Jennings Secondary School

Best Solo:

Gabrielle Hamlet, Sir Novelle Richards

Academy

Best Duet:

Otezzea Luke and Rihanna Teague, Jennings Secondary School

Best Improvisation:

Oteezz'ea Luke, Jennings Secondary School

Most Promising Female Dancer:

Nia Airall, Antigua Girls High School

Most Promising Male Dancer:

Adrian Hazel, Ottos Comprehensive School

Best Costume:

cont'd on pg 8

Local News



Antiguan butler encourages hospitality workers to aim high

Starting out her hospitality journey in the housekeeping department at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa back in 2006, Butler Karen Wong has shown drive, commitment, resilience and true professionalism as she continues to make her mark not only in Antigua and Barbuda but across the Caribbean region.

On April 16th 2006, Wong was hired as a room attendant and quickly realized that she wasn't going to stop there. As she excelled in her department with aspirations of taking her career further along in hospitality, Wong modeled her behavior and work ethic to match the Sandals values and behaviours. In 2014, she cross-trained in all the departments on resort, with a quest to contribute in a personalized and significant way to the Sandals guest experience. This saw Wong applying for the position of butler shortly

after cross-training in Human Resources. Wong was successful and went on to begin her training with the Guild of Professional English Butlers and has been contributing to the growth and development of the butler department for the last 10 years.

With numerous awards and recognition under her belt such as being the first certified housekeeper to become a certified butler at Sandals Grande Antigua. She has also won Most Environmentally Aware, Team Member of the Month, Prestige & General Manager's Star Award and Butler Elite Excellence Award, making Wong a star in her own right. She has travelled extensively, being the only butler from Sandals Grande Antigua to work at four different resorts within the Sandals chain.

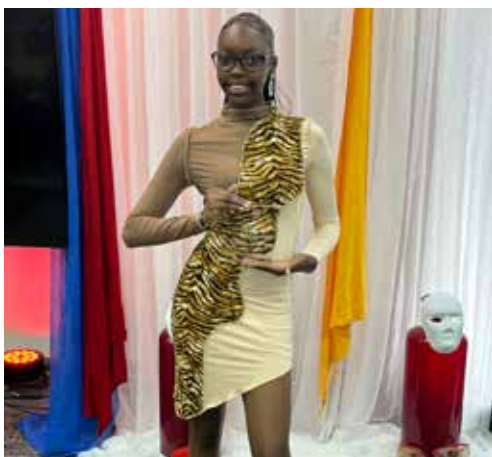
Sharing the formula to her success thus far, Wong said, "being meticulous and



paying attention to detail, I believe has given me a competitive edge. Going above and beyond while focusing on self-development and growth will always have big rewards in the end."

Looking back on her journey with the regional

resort giant, Wong is grateful for all the experiences that have contributed to her success not only at Sandals Grande Antigua but throughout the region where she gets to share best practices for her peers to emulate.



Jamicia Carr - Jennings Secondary Group dance representative

cont'd from pg 7

Duet Costume, Sir Novelle Richards Academy

Best Group Performance:

Jennings Secondary School

Best Choreographer:

Shannan Lawes Antigua Girls High School

Outstanding Original Script:

Princess Margaret School, Skin Deep

Outstanding Teenage Script:

Irene B Williams Secondary School, Water Woes

Outstanding Ensemble Performance:

Otto's Comprehensive School, Standpipe Love

Outstanding Directing:

Princess Margaret School, Skin Deep
Irene B Williams Secondary School, Water Woes

Outstanding Improvisation School:

Jennings Secondary School

Outstanding Actress:

Tarajhe Clarke, Jennings Secondary School

Outstanding Actor:

Tyrell Buckley, Jennings Secondary School



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

SIMULATION LABORATORY COORDINATOR (Salary Range: XCD\$102,021.00-XCD\$109,866.00 per annum) OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Managing and coordinating the activities of the Simulation Laboratory; which is a specialized facility that provides hands-on training and education to nursing students and other healthcare professionals using high-fidelity simulators and other instructional technology.
- Ensuring that students receive high-quality training and education using simulation technology.
- Identifying training needs, developing simulation scenarios, and managing the day-to-day operations of the lab.
- Maintaining communication with program and year coordinators and faculty.

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a Health-related discipline required. Master's degree preferred.
- Current licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) and/or current Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- Minimum of three (3) years of clinical simulation experience

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Experience in nursing simulation education or lab coordination experience working with mannequins, and software including Laerdal
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Knowledge of simulation technology and instructional design principles
- Strong organizational and record-keeping skills

Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), and copies of academic qualifications. **These should be sent by electronic mail to fiveislands.hrapplications@uwi.edu and addressed to The Director of Administration, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.** The final date for applications is **May 5, 2023**. Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above email address without waiting to be contacted. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua on **August 1, 2023**.

The University thanks all applicants; however, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Antigua Sailing Week



Antigua Sailing Week kicks off with Beat the Boats bike chase and opening cultural parade

“Welcome to Antigua, the heart of yachting in the Caribbean, we are all here to Race, Chase and Celebrate and you have come from 16 countries worldwide to participate in this the 54th edition of Antigua Sailing Week” stated Alison Sly-Adams, President of Antigua Sailing Week (ASW) as she welcomed this year’s race crews, sponsors, media, visitors and friends. Sly-Adams added that “I would like to thank many people and organisations who help to make this Regatta one of the best in the world from our sponsors and partners to the Minister and Ministry of Tourism, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, the National Parks Authority and the 100 plus members of the Sailing Week Antigua Team (SWAT) who have been working tirelessly for the last few months and days to ensure that we are ready for the ten days of racing, chasing and celebrating.”

Earlier in the day cyclists from the Little Rascals Cycle Club took on the challenge of the Chase the Race – Beat the Boats Around Antigua Bike Race, during the Peters and May Round An-



ASW Cultural Parade @Nigel Scotland Photo Credits (courtesy of @ASW 2023)

tigua race in a 60-mile road race starting and ending at Nelson’s Dockyard.

“It’s a pretty hilly course but we’re hoping for the best”, said Richard Lam President of the Little Rascal Cycling Club who added that: “Our all-round goal is to get more young people into the sport and ideally get a racer to the Olympics. This is the third edition of this race and the first post COVID. We have racers from juniors to Elite and

Masters taking on this challenge.”

11 cyclists rode through Liberta, Swetes, Old Road, Valley Road onto Whenner road, American Road toward Longfords and then past the old Pan Am base along the Sir George Walter Highway onto Sir Sydney Walling Highway toward Willikies before coming through Collins, into Piccadilly before ending back at Nelson’s Dockyard. The quickest finisher was Emmanuel Gayral in a time of 3 hours, two minutes and 43 seconds. This is the second time that Gayral, an elite rider, has won this event. The cyclists received their trophies and prizes during the Peters & May Prize Giving Ceremony.

The action later in the day switched to the official opening parade for Antigua Sailing Week 2023 (ASW) - a cultural parade of dancers, Moko Jumbies, John Bull and the Point Iron Band danced their way from Nelson’s Dockyard to the Antigua Yacht Club (AYC) adding culture and colour to the pre-race festivities.



Bike Chase the Race @William Simpson



Sealed tenders are invited from registered and reputable companies for the provision of staff transportation services based on the following terms and conditions

REQUIREMENTS

Company Registration

Compliance with statutory contributions – being in good standing

Insurance Coverage

- US\$2 million for any one occurrence inclusive of passenger liability
- EC\$1 million Third Party for property damage any one occurrence or event

Hours of Operation

The bus service shall be provided to ensure transportation of Jumby Bay Island personnel to coincide with the JBI ferry runs in accordance with the schedule.

5am to 11:45pm (standard times; subject to change pending in- season needs and annual closure)

Consideration for ad hoc runs to include rates

Designated Pick-Up/Drop Off Points

Day Time pick-up/drop-off points - West Bus Station, East Bus Station and Rubis Dees Service Station to/from High Point Staff Dock

Transportation is to be provided to/from an employee's home between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am

Daily Bus Runs

19 scheduled runs (subject to change pending in-season needs and annual closure).
Two buses that can do both town and country runs for pick-ups from the 10:30pm and 11:30pm ferry

Bids are to be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly stating on top, the name of the tender and must reach the office at the below address by **22 May 2023 by 4pm.**

Director of Finance
Jumby Bay Island Company Ltd
Box 243, St Johns, ANTIGUA

Once submitted please email abascus@jumbybayisland.com and Dakota.Stoute@oetkercollection.com confirming submission of your sealed bid has been made.

Opinion



Mayday, pan-pan and SOS

By Tony Deyal

Come what may, two days from now will be May Day, the first day of the month of May. While calypsonian, the Mighty Sparrow, sang about making love one day with a girl they calling May May, the month is not just for may-hem or whatever part of her dress or undress that is of immediate interest. It is a name that seems to have been made for children.

Many years ago, my two little and very mischievous ones ganged up on me and asked gleefully, “Daddy, what month can’t make a decision?” After going quickly through the months of the year in my mind, and realising that July might be untruthful but doesn’t fit, I then admitted, “Ok. You win. I give up.” The laughter was loud, ‘boysterous’ and ‘girlsterous’. “Daddy, the month that can’t make a decision is MAYbe.”

All I could do was reply, “I thought that is what they call a bee that is born in May” and got as an immediate response, “Daddy, does February march?” and, before I could reply, they shouted loudly, “Ha! Ha! Ha! April may!” and ran off to find their mother and try it on her.

Monday is May Day, which, in medieval and even modern Europe, is still celebrated. Most people in most of those countries still observe the return of spring.

We in the Caribbean might have a spring in our steps, and May May might spring into our minds and other places, but we never followed the ancient agricultural rituals that were celebrated in ancient Greece and Rome. As far as we youngsters were concerned, roam was something we did but it was not built in a day. It took most of our spare time. Grease was something we put on our bikes and our hair.

Worse, where I grew up, we did not have a spring, we had a ravine which we used for seeing whose piece of stick would win the race to the coconut branch that was reducing the current and flow of water. In fact, all this spring and winter stuff cut no ice with us. Actually, we never bothered with the Caribbean version of wet and dry seasons. We had instead a cricket and a football season which always put our year into full appropriate gear.

MONTH OF VIRGIN MARY

The Catholics, members of one of the religions that was part of my growing up, see May as the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Christ. The British also make a huge and major event of the month, especially the first of May or ‘May Day’. Traditions often include gathering wild flowers and green branches, weaving garlands and



Tony Deyal

crowning a May Queen (sometimes with a male companion), and setting up a Maypole, a May Tree or May Bush to dance around. Coming out of the winter and the cold, feeling the heat and all that follows, and also warmed but not warned by it, that time is best described by the poet Robert Herrick in the first stanza of *To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time*:

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,

Old time is still a-flying;
And this same flower that smiles today

Tomorrow will be dying.

Interestingly, May 1 is National Loyalty Day in the US. It is when Americans reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and the recognition of the heritage of

American freedom. While George Bush, in 2008, urged Americans to “aid our family, friends, and fellow citizens all across this broad and welcoming land”, and Barack Obama, in 2016, called for a “more just and more equal” America, guess what Trump went for?

He preached the gospel of fighting and winning a war against big government that was a bloated monstrosity teeming with waste, fraud and abuse all over the place. He boasted to his supporters that he would cut so much that “your head will spin”.

But then he vowed, in essentially the same breath, to “take care of people”. As his critics rightly said, Trump’s split-screen attitude was evidence that he

cont’d on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12
was running a con.

As we in the Caribbean head into May Day on Monday, and after hearing all the talk about dealing with crime in the region, all I can think about is what I call "prose and cons", Trump and follow suit.

Not so much a case in point, but a case in disappointment. Come what may, and despite the number of people in the region who are killed or have their businesses and lives shot up or shot down by the criminals, our governments and police continue to believe and demand that the way to deal with crime is to mess with the statistics by shutting up

the media and the people who are suffering.

SIGNAL DISTRESS

What we are experiencing now, as we enter into May Day 2023, is real mayhem. Mayday is an internationally recognised word to signal distress. What we all require throughout the Caribbean, especially in Trinidad and Jamaica, is an emergency procedure to help us all survive the criminals and murderers. I still remember the early days of May when I got my cousin to help me make a paper kite with glue and a couple copy-book pages, steal a reel of thread from my mother's sewing machine, and join my friends out in the savan-

nah having a ball or what, in retrospect, because the kite was a 'zing', remembering a time when life was 'ah May-zing'.

Now, if it is not a Mayday, it could be a PAN-PAN, and we are heading into PAN-PAN time. The radio-telephone message PAN-PAN is the international standard urgency signal that someone on the sea needs help and that the situation is urgent. In the old days, we used to 'beat' pan. Now, pan-pan beating us into a frenzy of fear and, for some, flight. However, in thinking about it, while I know it is Mayday and PAN-PAN time for the entire region, I figure what

we have to do is send out an SOS to God Almighty. If, after all, the chief of police in Trinidad and Tobago says that prayer is the answer, and is supported in this by the politician leading Tobago, and since this is the month of Mary, the SOS is worth trying. After all, it is better to have a Morse code than a remorse code.

Tony Deyal was last seen telling his children about the English ship that was going down in German waters and its captain sent out the alarm, "Mayday, mayday, we are sinking". The response that came was, "Zis is za German coast guard. Vat are you sinking about?"



BREATHTAKING VIEWS
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



Adventure on a guided aerial tour or charter to your next destination in style. Proudly operating the state-of-the-art Airbus EC130, CalvinAir's flights combine safety, comfort and the highest calibre of service. So soar around Montserrat's volcano, have lunch in St. Barths, or a picnic in Barbuda. The sky is no longer the limit.

For tours or charters call 268.789.HELIX or visit calvinair.com.

CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

Experience the Ultimate Music Festival Reggae in the Park 2023

The 12th edition of Reggae in the Park is back and bigger than ever, offering four tiers of experience for

music lovers of all kinds. Nelson's Dockyard will be turned into a festival village with food, bars, vendors

village and cultural events starting at 4pm on Tuesday, May 02, 2023. This year's featured artists are Protoje,

Lila Ike and Jesse Royal.

"Every year this show grows in popularity and this year, the show's producers One World have truly raised the bar by creating an event that literally has something for everyone who loves reggae music, art and culture," stated Rana Jamila-Lewis, Events & Marketing Manager, Antigua Sailing Week.

Lewis is encouraging patrons to take advantage of the early start: "The festival village will be a great place to meet and chill with friends before the concert. All patrons are encouraged to head out early to ensure they miss the traffic and for those who do, the incentive is an hour of free drinks at specialty bars in the INET Vendors Village."


From General Admission (GA) to VVIP, there's a ticket for everyone to enjoy.

GA ticket holders will have access to the live cultural art exhibits, vendor village, and more surprises throughout the festival.

GA+ ticket holders will have all these perks plus access to the GA+ Lookout area and a private bar inside the Event Centre including bottle service.

VIP ticket holders will enjoy all the GA+ perks plus a dedicated VIP entrance, front of stage access & unlimited premium drinks in-

cont'd on pg 15



ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK
REGGAE IN THE PARK

RADIANCE PRODUCTIONS **723 ENTERTAINMENT**

PRODUCED BY ONE WORLD TOUR

MAY 2

LILA IKÉ **PROTOJE** **JESSE ROYAL**

TICKETING OUTLETS

ENGLISH HARBOUR	LUCKY EDDI'S CAN WE TALK - ENGLISH HARBOUR GAS STATION ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB- MERCHANDISE TENT SWEET T'S
CENTRAL	COUNTRYSIDE JERK & BBQ CENTRE
WEST COAST	STEPH & VLADA'S STUDIO 268-783-2055 DARKWOOD BEACH BAR
AMERICAN ROAD ALL SAINTS ROAD MARBLE HILL ST. JOHN'S	TOWNHOUSE MEGASTORE XTREME FITNESS
NORTH COAST	EZ GRAB ANTIGUA (NORTHSIDE)
IN TOWN	ROTI KING COOL AND SMOOTH MINT RESTAURANT BAR AND LOUNGE
RACE TRACK	JAI'LILAH'S MENS APPAREL / LINGIES LIGHTS

ENGLISH HARBOUR, ANTIGUA

ChatGPT accessible again in Italy

By Shiona McCallum

Access to the ChatGPT chatbot has been restored in Italy.

It was banned by the Italian data-protection authority at the start of April over privacy concerns.

It's maker, OpenAI, which is backed by Microsoft, said it had successfully "addressed or clarified" the issues raised.

It said its privacy policy was now accessible to people before they registered for ChatGPT and there was a new tool to verify the age of users.

The Italian data-protection authority, also known as Garante, had temporarily restricted the chatbot and launched a probe over the artificial intelligence application's suspected breach.

As Garante had accused OpenAI of failing to check the age of ChatGPT's users who are supposed to be aged 13 or above, OpenAI said it would offer a tool to verify users' ages in Italy upon sign-up.



OpenAI explained that it would also provide a new form for European Union users to exercise their right to object to its use of personal data to train its models.

The Italian regulator told the BBC it "welcomed the measures OpenAI implemented" but called for even more compliance.

In particular, the spokesperson said, around "implementing an age verification

system and planning and conducting an information campaign to inform Italians of what happened as well as of their right to opt-out from the processing of their personal data for training algorithms."

Garante said it would carry on its "fact-finding activities regarding OpenAI also under the umbrella of the ad-hoc task force that was set up by the European Data Protection Board."

An OpenAI spokesperson said it appreciated the Garante for being collaborative, and that it would continue ongoing constructive discussions.

Millions of people have used ChatGPT since it launched in November 2022.

It can answer questions using natural, human like language and it can also mimic other writing styles.

Microsoft has spent billions of dollars on it and it was added to Bing last month.

It has also said that it will embed a version of the technology in its Office apps, including Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Outlook.

Bard, Google's; rival artificial-intelligence chatbot, is now available, but only to specific users over the age of 18.

cont'd from pg 14

cluding Johnnie Walker Black Label and Tanqueray gin. Food will be on sale within the same space.

VVIP includes access to the whole venue along with exclusive access to the Copper Lumber Store, Mainbrace Bar and a Casamigos Tequilla Bar, and the chance to meet and greet artists at their discretion. VVIP ticket holders will have all these perks plus unlimited gourmet food, front stage access, and bottle service.

There are several options available to

purchase tickets:

TickeTing subscribers can buy directly from the app. To buy without downloading the APP head to EventBrite.com. If you prefer to have a paper ticket and or/ pay by cash, head to one of 13 different ticketing locations. Sailors can also benefit from special tickets by emailing admin@sailingweek.com

Don't miss out on the ultimate music festival experience at Reggae in the Park. Get your tickets today as prices go up on the door.

Regional News



Teens drown in separate incidents in Guyana

Loop - A day of fun turned out to be one of tragedy for two families in Guyana when their teenaged sons drowned in separate incidents.

Nathaniel Nelson, a 14-year-old Line Path Secondary School student, allegedly drowned at about 07:30 am on Sunday at Orealla Village on the Corentyne River.

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) said their initial investigation revealed that Nelson, who is from Crabwood Creek in Corentyne, was with a group visiting Orealla when he, along with others, handed over their cellular phones to a relative and left in an unknown direction.

"They went swimming and played (Ready - Ketcha) in the Creek when Nathaniel went into the water, began struggling, and disappeared. As a result, a search party was formed, and subsequently, the body was retrieved at about 10:15 am," police said.

Nelson was taken to the Orealla Health Centre, where he was pronounced dead on arrival by a doctor on duty.

In the second incident, Anthony Gordon, a 13-year-old student of Wismar/Christianburg Secondary School, allegedly drowned at around 1 pm at 'Buck Town' Creek in Wismar, Linden.

Police said Gordon, who resided at Lot 281 One Mile Wismar in Linden, was in the company of two friends, ages 10 and 14 years, and they were all swimming together when tragedy struck.

"Gordon reportedly ran into the water and subsequently submerged underwater for some time. At this point, his two friends noticed Gordon was missing and immediately raised an alarm. Some residents came out and searched the entire area. Gordon's body was later discovered at the



Nathaniel Nelson.

bottom of the Creek in a motionless state," police said.

The teen was taken to the Linden Hospital Complex, where he was pronounced dead.

Guys and Dolls
Simply Classy

268-782-6020

US Coast Guard repatriates 82 Cuban migrants

CMC - The United States Coast Guard recently repatriated 82 people to Cuba following interdictions off Florida's coast.

The US Coast Guard on Friday said a good Samaritan notified Coast Guard District Seven watchstanders of a migrant vessel about 45 miles south of Marathon, Florida.

It also said Coast Guard Cutter Edgar Culbertson's crew notified Coast Guard District Seven watchstanders of a migrant vessel about 23 miles north of Cayo Cruz Del Padre, Cuba.

In addition, the US Coast Guard said a Coast Guard Air Station Miami HC-144 aircrew notified Coast Guard District Seven watchstanders of a migrant vessel about 46 miles south of Key West, Florida.

"Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas announced a change to the Cuban and Haitian Parole Processes, Thursday," said Cap-



tain Benjamin Golightly, Operation Vigilant Sentry incident commander. "Individuals who are interdicted at sea after April 27, 2023, will be ineligible for the aforementioned Parole Processes announced last January," he added.

Since October 1, 2022, the US Coast Guard said its crews interdicted

6,477 Cubans compared to: 6,182 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2022; 838 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2021; 49 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2020; 313 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2019; 259 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2018; 1,468 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2017; and 5,396 Cuban Migrants in Fiscal Year 2016.

Bahamas human rights record to be examined this week

Loop - The UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group will examine The Bahamas' human rights record on Wednesday in Geneva, Switzerland.

This is the fourth time that The Bahamas' record will be examined before a global audience since 2013.

The UN Human Rights Council said the reviews will be based on a national report prepared by The Bahamas and information provided by independent human rights experts, groups and stakeholders.

Bahamian Attorney General and



Minister of Legal Affairs Leo Ryan Pinder will lead the country's delegation.

Several countries have submitted questions in advance to The Bahamas focused on controversial domestic issues.

Germany asked: "How does the Commonwealth of the Bahamas plan to tackle the increase in cases of sexual and gender-based violence?"

The United States asked: "What steps is the government taking to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, particularly domestic and intimate partner violence?"

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom asked: "What steps are the Government of The Bahamas taking to amend the Sexual Offences Act and the definition of rape in Section 3 to include the criminalisation of marital rape?"

More than 20,000 Russian fighters dead in Bakhmut, US says

By George Wright

The White House believes that more than 20,000 Russian combatants have died in the battle for the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut in the last five months.

A further 80,000 have been wounded, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said, citing newly declassified intelligence.

Half of the dead are from the Wagner private mercenary company, the US says.

If accurate, the number of Russian casualties outweighs the eastern city's pre-war population of about 70,000.

Moscow has been trying to take Bakhmut since last year in a grinding war of attrition.

The battle for the small city - where only a few thousand civilians remain - has taken on huge symbolic importance for both sides.

Ukrainian officials have also said they are using the battle to kill as many Russian troops as possible and wear down its reserves. However, Ukraine only now controls a small portion of the city.

"Russia's attempt at an offensive in the Donbas largely through Bakhmut has failed," Mr Kirby told reporters. "Russia has been unable to seize any real strategic and significant ter-



A Ukrainian soldier fires towards Russian positions outside Bakhmut in November.

ritory."

"We estimate that Russia has suffered more than 100,000 casualties, including over 20,000 killed in action," he added.

The toll in Bakhmut accounts for losses since the start of December, according to the US figures.

"The bottom line is that Russia's attempted offensive has backfired after months of fighting and extraordinary losses," Mr Kirby said.

He added he was not giving estimates of Ukrainian casualties because "they are the victims here. Russia is the aggressor".

The BBC is unable to independently verify the figures given and Moscow has not commented.

The capture of the city would bring Russia

slightly closer to its goal of controlling the whole of Donetsk region, one of four regions in eastern and southern Ukraine annexed by Russia last September following referendums widely condemned outside Russia as a sham.

Analysts say Bakhmut has little strategic value, but has become a focal point for Russian commanders who have struggled to deliver any positive news to the Kremlin.

The Wagner mercenary group - which has become notorious for its often inhumane methods - has taken centre stage in the Russian assault on Bakhmut.

Its leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, has staked his reputation, and that of his private army, on seizing the city.

But he recently threatened to pull his troops out of Bakhmut.

In a rare in-depth interview to a prominent Russian war blogger, he vowed to withdraw Wagner fighters if they are not provided with much-needed ammunition by the Russian defence ministry.

Wagner fighters could be redeployed to Mali, he warned.

He has often clashed with Russia's defence ministry during the war, accusing officials of not providing his fighters with enough support.

Prigozhin also called upon the Russian media and military leadership to "stop lying to the Russian population" ahead of an expected Ukrainian spring counteroff-

cont'd on pg 19

France protests: More than 100 police hurt in May Day demonstrations

By Robert Greenall

At least 108 police officers have been injured in clashes across France with protesters angry at pension reforms, the interior minister has said.

Gérald Darmanin said such a large number of police wounded was extremely rare, adding that 291 people had been arrested during the unrest.

Hundreds of thousands have been taking part in May Day demonstrations against President Emmanuel Macron's reforms.

Most were peaceful but radical groups threw petrol bombs and fireworks.

Police responded with tear gas and water cannon.

It is not clear how many protesters have been injured.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne tweeted that the violence was "unacceptable", while also praising the "responsible mobilisation and commitment" of demonstrators in numerous cities.

This is the latest day of mass action against changes that raise the state pension age from 62 to 64. Trade unions want them withdrawn.

The Interior Ministry put the overall number of demonstrators at 782,000, including 112,000 in the capital Paris, but the CGT union say the figure is three times that number.



Most of the protests were peaceful but police clashed with radical groups throwing projectiles and firebombs.

Union leaders were adamant that months-long opposition to the reforms was not waning.

"The page is not going to be turned as long as there is no withdrawal of this pension reform. The determination to win is intact," said CGT leader Sophie Binet, quoted by AFP.

In Paris, one police officer suffered serious burns to his hands and face when struck by a petrol bomb, Mr Darmanin said.

Violence also broke out in Lyons, Toulouse and Nantes, where vehicles were set on fire and businesses attacked.

There were also reports that protesters briefly oc-

cupied a luxury hotel in the southern city of Marseille. Monday was the first time since 2009 that France's top eight trade unions had backed calls for a protest, AFP news agency said.

Mr Darmanin accused far-left groups known as black blocs and numbering a few thousand of being behind the violence and urged that "those who attacked the police and public property be severely punished".

There has been a violent element to the protests ever since March, when the government decided to force the legislation through the lower house of parliament - where it

lacks an absolute majority - without a vote.

Mr Macron says the reform is a necessity.

He signed the reform into law on 15 April, hours after France's Constitutional Council broadly backed the changes, but opinion polls show a large majority of the population opposes the higher pension age.

The reforms are expected to come into force by September.

The government has promised further talks but the unions are determined to get the changes repealed, and it is not clear where a compromise could be found.

Team Weekes and Academy play to a draw

A polished half-century from opener Tagenarine Chanderpaul was the main attraction when the second contest of the Headley Weekes Tri-Series ended in a draw at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua on Saturday.

In between showers that prompted a near two-hour long rain delay, Chanderpaul made 53 and Team Weekes reached 107 for three in their second innings of the four-day, first-class match.

Chanderpaul's knock included six fours from 117 balls in two hours, 40 minutes at the crease after Team Weekes had dismissed the West Indies Academy earlier for 435 to concede a first innings lead of 34.

He shared 70 for the first wicket with Zachary McCaskie on either side of the long rain delay before three wickets – two to left-arm spinner Joshua Bishop – brought the match to a dramatic closed.

McCaskie made 31, Keacy Carty got 21 before Bishop dismissed him



Kirk McKenzie bats during his double century for the West Indies Academy against Team Weekes of the Headley Weekes Tri-Series which ended in a draw at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua on Saturday, 29th April, 2013. (CWI Media)

and Chanderpaul to end with two wickets for two runs from four overs.

Earlier, the Academy lost their last six wickets for 35 in the span of 77 balls after they resumed from their overnight first innings total of 378 for four. Academy opener Kirk McKenzie added only 12 to his overnight score before he fell for 221 in the 10th over of the day.

The left-hander batted for 502 minutes, faced 386 balls, and struck 26 fours and one six, and he shared 259 with overnight partner Kevin Wickham for the fifth wicket. Wickham added 17 to his overnight score and fell for 121, which included nine fours and a six from 270 balls in 317 minutes.

Fast bowler Jair McAllister claimed four for 84, left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul claimed three for 106 and off-spinner Kevin Sinclair took two for 71.

Team Weekes had made 401 in their first innings as all-rounder Kevin Sinclair advertised his batting prowess, but he became the third Team Weekes batsman to fall short of the century mark.

Sinclair was bowled for a career-best 86 to become one of two wickets that left-arm Barbados Pride pacer Ramon Simmonds took off successive balls to bring the Team Weekes first innings to a close.

Sinclair struck 12 fours and three sixes from 125 balls in 2-1/2 hours of batting, and he dominated a ninth wicket stand of 36 with pace bowling Harpy Eagles teammate Niall Smith that carried Team Weekes past 400 before Simmonds ended the fun.

Zachary McCaskie and Brandon King also missed out on hundreds for



Kevin Wickham bats during his century for the West Indies Academy against Team Weekes of the Headley Weekes Tri-Series which ended in a draw at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua on Saturday, 29th April, 2013.

Team Weekes. McCaskie fell for 93, King made 92 and Jahmar Hamilton was dismissed for 57.

Medium pacer Nyeem Young picked up three for 91 and fast bowler McKenny Clarke claimed three for 107. Simmonds, a replacement for Antiguan pacer Kelvin Pitman, who was injured on Wednesday's opening day and ruled out of the remainder of the match, finished with two wickets for four runs.

The Academy gained 15 points from the match, keeping them on top of the standings with 32 while Team Weekes have 10 points, and Team Headley 6.8 points from their first match.

The last match of the tournament will feature Team Headley and Team Weekes at the CCG, starting tomorrow (Wednesday). First ball daily is 10am (9am Jamaica).

Sports News



Back in the Groove – Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day

The second day of racing at Antigua Sailing Week was blessed with fabulous sailing conditions. The trade winds were in, gusting up to 17 knots from the east. With over a metre of ocean swell and an air temperature in the high twenties centigrade, it was a marvellous day to be out racing at the Caribbean's most famous regatta.

Supported by Axxess Marine, today Antigua Sailing Week celebrated the Youth to Keelboat (Y2K) initiative. Since 2018, Y2K has provided over 100 young Antiguan sailors with the opportunity to participate in Antigua Sailing Week, and provide an insight and inspiration into yacht racing and employment in the marine industry.

Multiple races were held for all classes, with the CSA Racing boats off Rendezvous Bay. Racing along the stunning South Coast of Antigua, land effects and local knowledge came into play.

The Bareboat and Club Classes started off Windward Beach, stretching their legs offshore on long windward leeward courses in the ocean swell. On Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day, two new classes were introduced



Enjoying racing on Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day on Sir Hugh Bailey's Farr 45 Rebel © Paul Wyeth/pwpictures.com

to Antigua Sailing Week. The RS Elite Class raced off Windward Beach along with the Wingfoil Class competing in the inaugural Antiguan Wingfoil Championship.

After the first day of racing in the RS Elites, Outdoor World Yamaha is in the lead. The team of three young Antiguan have a bright future: Emily Gaillard, Shannoy Malone, and Alistair Knoblauch are all just 15 years of age. CSA Racing 2 is arguably

the most competitive class at Antigua Sailing Week with proven winners right through the scratch sheet. Chris & Caroline Brody's El Ocaso (GBR) is leading after five red-hot races.

In second place, just two points behind is Pamala Baldwin's Liquid (ANT). Both boats are J/122s and the racing is super-close with less than a minute between them in every race. Running the bow on Liquid are two sailors from the Y2K initiative: Zidane Martin and Malik Charles.

Liquid's Mid-Bow Zidane Charles commented: "We had a lot of sail changes today and we had some mess-ups, but we fixed them. The important thing when it happens is to recover and minimise the loss. We chased El Ocaso down, we didn't let them get away from us."

Liquid's Bowman Malik Charles commented: "It was tight today on the starts, we had three general recalls. The Black Flag was in use, so that is a lot of responsibility to make sure the boat is not over. I have been racing on



Proud young sailors on the stage at the Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day Prize Giving at Antigua Sailing Week © Visual Echo

cont'd on pg 23

Sir Curtly praises Roach as he reaches magical 500th first class wicket

Another huge landmark in his already outstanding career - Kemar Roach on Saturday took his 500th first-class wicket.

The West Indies fast bowling legend reached the magical milestone when he had Will Rhodes trapped leg-before wicket while playing for Surrey against Warwickshire at Edgbaston in the English County Championship Division 1.

Roach ended with the excellent figures of five for 34 off 13 overs – his 22nd five-wicket haul at this level as Surrey won by nine wickets.

Sir Curtly Ambrose, an icon of the game, lauded Roach for his amazing achievement and urged him to keep on going.

“I’m a huge Kemar Roach fan and I enjoy seeing him bowl. I want to congratulate him on his milestone of 500 first-class wickets. That’s a huge achievement for a fast bowler,” Sir



The Surrey players congratulate pacer Kemar Roach, fourth right, during their English County Championship Division 1 match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston on Saturday, 29th April, 2023. (CWI Media)

Curtly said.

“He is one of the stand-out fast bowlers in world cricket and has always been a top-class performer. He should be proud of the accomplishment, and I urge him to stay fit and

look to get more wickets under his belt.”

Roach is ranked in the top wicket takers in West Indies Test history with 261 wickets in 77 matches, which ranks him fifth on the all-time list.

cont'd from pg 22

Liquid for a year. We have a few days racing left to try to win, and we are going to go hard.”

This is the 2nd year that Axxess Marine has generously supported the Y2K program. Their commitment to the development of youth sailing, will hopefully produce future gatekeepers of the local yachting industry. Founder of Axxess Marine Dennis Henri shared his motivation for partnering with the world-renowned Antigua Sailing Week:

“Supporting local yachting events has always been a key focal point for our team, especially those



Three 15-year old sailors are leading the RS Elite Class on Outdoor World Yamaha (Ocean Warrior) - Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day © Visual Echo

events closely associated with Antigua & Barbuda, the home of our main office branch. We are proud to be the 2023 sponsors of the

Y2K Race Day, as well as providers of the Official Antigua Sailing Week Video Boat. Being involved with sailing has inspired many

Antiguan youths. I hope that more young people from this community will get involved in a sport that brings lifetime benefits.”

The Axxess Marine Y2K Race Day Prize Giving was held on the lawn of the Antigua Yacht Club. Simon & Garfunkel, Bruce Springsteen and Johnny Cash were not on the main stage, but the Folk Rock Duo Those Guys Again were playing a live set to get the party going. Racing at Antigua Sailing Week continues on Tuesday 2nd of May with Reggae in the Park Race Day. For more information about Antigua Sailing Week: www.sailingweek.com

Your Future is Here with Guardian Life (OECS) Limited!



Team Kenneth A. Gomez Insurance Agency Ltd.

Transform your financial future with us!

Guardian Group proudly announces the expansion of our product and service offerings in Antigua and Barbuda with the introduction of our Life, Health and Pension insurance arm, **Guardian Life (OECS) Limited**. Being part of the largest insurance group in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, **Guardian Life (OECS) Limited** promises a hassle-free, technology-driven, tailor-made and easily accessible insurance experience.

Ready to Serve You!

To support you in broadening your financial horizons is our Life Insurance partner **Kenneth A. Gomez Insurance Agency Ltd.** who has served the people of Antigua and Barbuda for over 67 years. Consistently delivering best in class service, built on the strong values of trust and integrity, they are able to offer top-class performance in a highly competitive environment.

No stranger to the Guardian Group family, **Kenneth A. Gomez Insurance Agency Ltd.** has been servicing the Group's property and casualty portfolio and continues to demonstrate its strong ability to settle claims promptly and effectively.

With a dedicated team of professionals who possess a wealth of knowledge, experience and the ability to readily adapt to a technologically changing environment, we are poised to deliver innovative solutions that offer customers the financial freedom they desire. With Guardian Group's rich legacy of more than 175 years of financial strength and security, we commit to delivering consistent and reliable service, and building long-term relationships within the communities we serve.

Be ready to transform your financial future and become part of a company with a reputation for global excellence!

Connect with us to make this a reality today!

Guardian Life (OECS) Limited is now open for business at:

Kenneth A. Gomez Insurance Agency Ltd.

#6 Royal Palm Place, Friars Hill Road
St. John's
Antigua

t: + 1 (268) 481-1850

f: + 1 (268) 481-1859

e: insurance@kagomez.com

w: myguardiangroup.com



The Green City Football Team. (File photo)

Green City beat Bendals to go second in first division league

Green City have overtaken John Hughes into second place to secure the one remaining spot to gain automatic promotion to next season's premier division in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

A Zaire Scott's 23rd minute conversion gave Green City a one-nil win against Bendals at the Bendals playing field. The win allows Green City to advance to 38 points with three games remaining.

Bendals' faint hopes of finishing second were extinguished with their 7th loss in 20 matches as they remain in fourth place on 33 points with two games left.

John Hughes slipped from second to third place after suffering a one-

nil loss against first division winners Garden Stars at English Harbour.

Courtney Clarke scored the lone goal of the match in the fourth minute to give Garden Stars, who have already secured the first spot for automatic promotion to next season's premier division, their 18th win in 20 matches.

It allows Garden Stars to extend their lead at the top as they advanced to 55 points with two matches remaining while the result has left John Hughes on 36 points with two games to play.

Lion Hill's slim chance of gaining automatic promotion ended after they were beaten one-nil by Fort Road at the Golden Grove playing field.

Zakeem Michael scored the winner for Fort Road in the 45th minute which sealed Lion Hill's 7th defeat in 20 matches as they remain in fifth place on 32 points with two games left.

Their ninth win in 19 matches allows Fort Road to overtake Young Lions into sixth place by advancing to 28 points with three games remaining.

Police and bottom team JSC Progressors fought to a goalless draw at the St Johnston's Village playing field.

Police will stay in 8th place by advancing to 24 points with three games left, while JSC Progressors will remain in the cellar position on six points with three games to play.

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Ojays and Steelers open season with victories

By Carlena Knight

The 2023 season of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Division one got underway on Sunday at the JSC Sports Complex.

It was a double header evening at JSC with both EMC Total Imports Potters Steelers and defending champions, Cuties Ovals O'jays recording their first wins of their 2023 campaign.

A heavily-stacked Potters Steelers defeated Kennedys Club Ltd. Ottos Full Throttle, 72-65 in the first encounter.

Overseas-based player, Jacob Lloyd returned to the shores of the 268 leading Steelers with 18 points, five rebounds and four assists.

Barbudan Cohen Desouza and high-flyer Coy Quinland contributed both netting 13 points.

Desouza grabbed nine rebounds while Quinland snatched seven.

Full Throttle's Lincoln Weekes had a game high 21 points in a losing effort.

Warren Bogle was the only other player in double figures for Ottos scoring 12 points.

Meanwhile, in the feature match-up, newly promoted Spanish Heat were welcomed to the big leagues by the defending champs, with an 80-57 score line.

Overseas-based player, Joshua Minner led the charge for the victors with a game high 26 points.

Alexis Jackson assisted banking

10 points and grabbing an impressive 15 rebounds.

Darnell Azille also got in on the action snatching 13 rebounds for the O'jays while for Spanish Heat, Steven Matthew had 11 points.

Ismael Palemo also scored 11 off the bench for the Spanish men.

Kelvyn Pimental was the only other player in double figures netting 10.

He topped that off with 11 rebounds as well.

The league was officially opened with a brief ceremony.

Games will continue on Wednesday starting at 6:45 with Potters Steelers versus Spanish Heat while at 8:30, Braves Basketball will battle Stingerz.

All Division one games will be played at JSC.

cont'd from pg 28

two for 28.

Pigotts Crushers had made 159 for five off their 20 overs after they lost the toss and were sent in to bat. Opener Christian Kallicharan hammered 71 off 52 balls with four fours and three sixes and Jewel Andrew cracked 52 off 51 balls with three fours and a six. Leg-spinner Micah McKenzie captured two for 41.

Pigotts Crushers trounced Bolans Blasters by 42 runs in the playoff for third place which preceded Saturday's final.

Pigotts Crushers scored 171 for six off their 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Jewel

Andrew slammed 64 off 52 balls with six fours and two sixes, Leniko Boucher smashed 42 off 26 balls with four fours and two sixes, Demari Benta hit 27 not out off 15 balls and Ka-deem Henry scored 20 off 16 balls.

Martin Caesar picked up two for 23 and captain Taiem Tonge captured two for 44.

In reply, Bolans Blasters were restricted to 129 for six off their allotted 20 overs. Gavin Williams scored 28 off 17 balls with three sixes and a four, Rowan Watkins Jr struck 27 off 32 balls and Derek Mourillon made 26 not out off 27 balls. Vishal Gobin took two for 33.



Empire Nation's Micah McKenzie celebrate after grabbing a four-wicket haul to inspire his team to victory over the Liberta Black Hawks in the final of the 2023 Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday, 29th April, 2023.

Empire Nation capture first T20 Explosion title

Empire Nation upset reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks in the championship decider to capture their first Cool and Smooth T20 Explosion title on Saturday.

Empire Nation pulled off a surprising 46-run victory over the defending champions in the final at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Chasing 146 to win, the Liberta Black Hawks tumbled to 99 all out in 16.1 overs with leg-spinner Micah McKenzie, who was later named player of the final and the tournament's leading wicket-taker, grabbing four wickets for 16 runs.

Damian Lowenfield snapped up three wickets for 16 runs and off-spinner Justin Athanaze took two wickets for seven runs.

Kofi James, who was later named player and leading run scorer of the tournament, hit a top score of 30 off 19 balls with three fours and two sixes. Fellow opener and overseas player Leroy Lugg chipped in with 19 off 16 balls.

Empire Nation had



Empire Nations celebrate with their winners cheque of EC\$23,000 after beating the Liberta Black Hawks in the final to capture the 2023 Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion title at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday, 29th April, 2023. (CST20)

made 145 for eight off their allotted 20 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat. Opener Tyrone Williams Jr cracked 42 off 41 balls, captain Kenrick Scott struck 35 off 36 balls and Matthew Cross made 21 off 13 balls.

Dexter Sween captured two for 18 and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr picked up two for 20.

Both teams advanced to the championship decider after securing victories in the semi-finals on Thursday.

The Black Hawks overpowered Bolans Blasters

by 10 wickets while Empire Nation pulled off a four-wicket win via the Duckworth/Lewis Method against Pigotts Crushers in a rain affected encounter.

The Black Hawks achieved victory at 89 without loss in just 4.2 overs with openers Leroy Lugg slamming 43 off 16 balls with five sixes and two fours and Kofi James hitting 27 off 15 balls with six fours.

Bolans Blasters were bundled out for just 87 in 17 overs after being sent in to bat. Tajeja Tonge top-scored with 21 off 30 balls.

Andre Bailey took two wickets for two runs and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr claimed two for 20.

Empire Nation achieved victory after reaching their revised target of 125 for the loss of six wickets on the last ball of their allotted 15 overs. Opener Mikyle Louis struck 36 off 26 balls, Justin Athanaze cracked 29 not out off 17 balls and opener Tyrone Williams Jr made 22 off 17 balls.

Robert Shadrach Jr captured three for 19 and Pigotts Crushers' skipper Elroy Francis Jr picked up

cont'd on pg 27