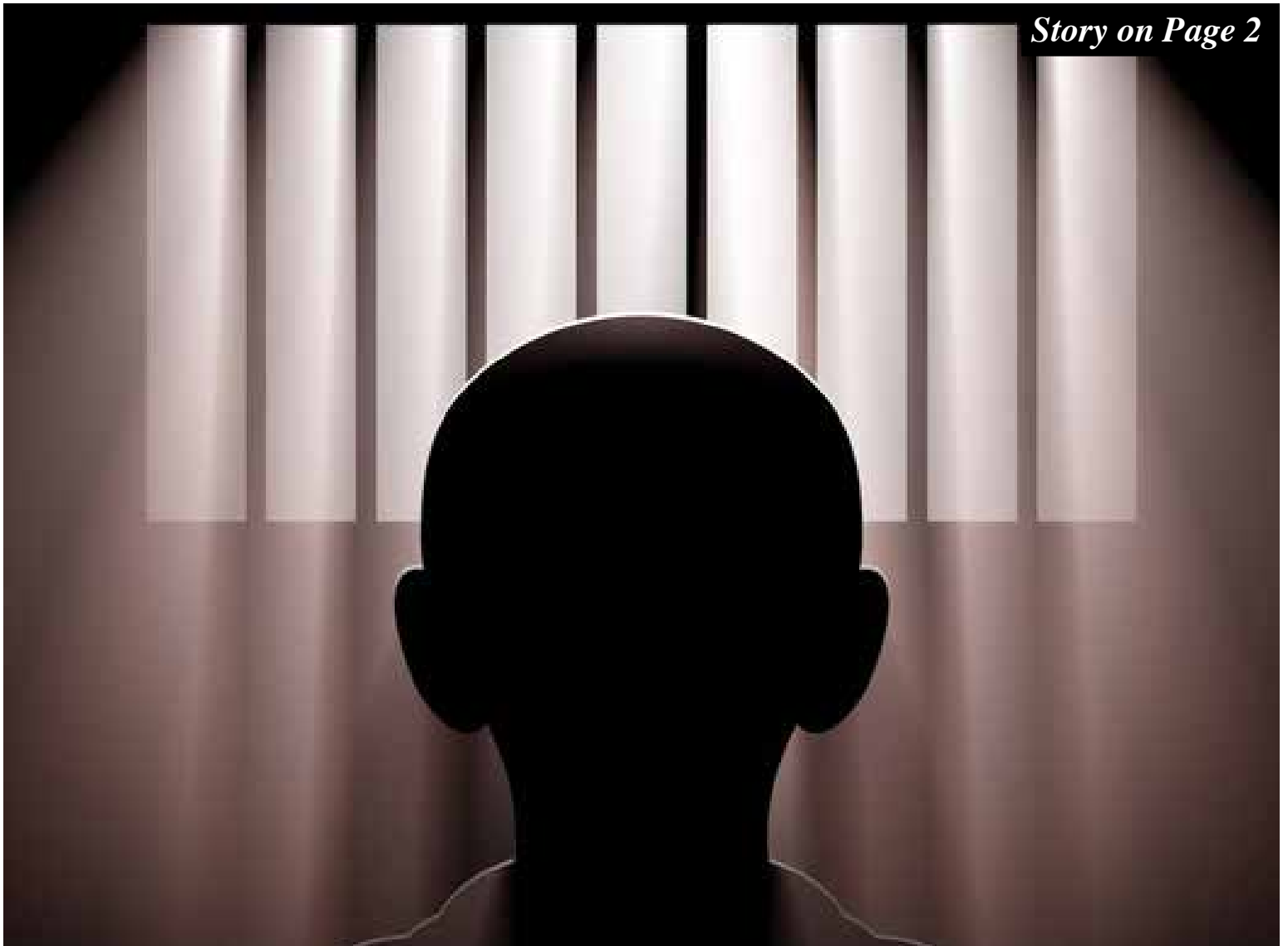


THURSDAY 1ST JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 105 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

CABINET MULLS YOUTH INCARCERATION ISSUE

Story on Page 2



Local News



Cabinet mulls the issue of youth incarceration

Discussions surrounding the incarceration of youth criminal offenders occupied much attention and debate at Wednesday's meeting of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet invited the Head of the Prison Visiting Committee, Bishop Charlesworth Browne, who is also the Pastor of the Christian Ministries—a church that is engaged in outreach, seeking to turn lives around—to address the body on the issues of youth violence, custody of youthful offenders, and proposed solutions to instructions and

training of young offenders in order to rehabilitate them.

The Cabinet listened intently to the presentation before providing specific answers to the issues raised. The Boys Training School located near the Village of Willikies is under repair and will soon be completed. In the meantime, the youthful offenders may be housed at His Majesty's Prison or the former Air Force Base, which has been declared a prison.

The 16-year-old who allegedly shot and killed the business proprietor a week

ago is being held on remand at the Prison.

The Pastor also proposed several specific undertakings and lessons which he believes will assist the youthful offenders in thinking and measuring which would lead to better decision-making that would enhance their life choices. The encounter lasted more than 40 minutes, though the disagreements were many and the rejections were respectfully communicated.

Point Express newspaper has been reliably informed that three youth of-

fenders who are being held on a number of charges, were housed at the Air Force base when they broke through the roof and escaped from the building. They were, however, recaptured prior to escaping from the compound. They were briefly transferred to HM Prison while reinforcement was done to the roof, following the completion of the repairs, they were returned to the facility, when they broke through the roof for a second time.

They are now permanently being held at HM Prison.

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

**STORM
READY**
2023 HURRICANE SEASON
JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

COVERAGE FOR
HOME | BUSINESS | FAMILY | MOTOR

www.slcfinancial.com

IMF publishes report on Antigua and Barbuda's economy

On November 30, 2022, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the Article IV consultation with Antigua and Barbuda and endorsed the staff appraisal without a meeting on a lapse-of-time basis.

Antigua and Barbuda's economy is on a gradual recovery path, following a sharp contraction in real output of 20 percent in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Growth is estimated at 5¼ percent in 2021, driven by a rebound in tourism and construction activity. Despite the surge in international energy prices, inflation was subdued in 2021 due to price controls on utilities, fuels, and public transportation.

The fiscal position improved in 2021 with a narrowing of the primary deficit as pandemic-related spending was wound down and better tax

administration and higher external grants bolstered revenues.

The growth momentum is expected to carry into 2022 and 2023, with real GDP projected to expand by 6 and 5½ percent respectively, supported by strong tourist arrivals, foreign direct investment in the hospitality sector, and public sector projects.

However, output will return to pre-pandemic levels only by 2025 due to the scarring effects of the pandemic. Inflation is forecasted to accelerate to 8½ percent in 2022, reflecting the pass-through from higher global food and fuel prices, before moderating to 4½ percent in 2023.

To cushion the impact of rising living costs on the vulnerable, the government introduced targeted subsidies to the transport and fishing sectors to keep public transportation fares and seafood prices stable and

removed taxes on flour to contain the rise in bread prices.

Continued fiscal consolidation efforts and the growth recovery have helped improve the fiscal position, but outturns underperformed the targets envisaged in the government's medium-term fiscal strategy, while gross financing needs and arrears to domestic and external creditors remain high.

Public debt peaked at 102 percent of GDP and is projected to decline to 91 percent of GDP in 2022.

The financial system remains stable, but bank credit to the private sector is weak.

Risks to the outlook are tilted to the downside, primarily from further commodity price shocks, a global growth slowdown, a resurgence of COVID-19, and tighter global financial conditions.



Local News

Antigua and Barbuda tells regional conference ...“time is running out!”

Delegates attending the inaugural meeting of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean have been reminded that there's an urgent need for them to speed up implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as 'time was running out.'

Antigua and Barbuda's Director of International Trade Joy-Marie King spoke of the urgency when she drew attention that the deadline for implementing the SDGs was a few years away, 2030. She was speaking at the 1st Session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation that convened this week in Santiago, Chile under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting examined the progress and challenges of south-south cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“The 2030 deadline for

the implementation of the sustainable development goals is fast approaching in a reality where the global community continues to face major uncertainties exacerbated by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, reversal of long-term development gains, geo-political conflicts, increased inflationary pressures, growing indebtedness of nations, lackluster growth and the intensified climate crisis (which we are on track globally to exceed the 1.5-degree Celsius warming target, outlined by the Paris Agreement) spelling catastrophic consequences for small vulnerable states like Antigua and Barbuda,” she stated.

King further emphasized the important need to accelerate the implementation of the goals and the mobilization of resources to fund said acceleration as they form the blueprint for solutions.

“Bluntly, we need to get the goals back on track, as there isn't any more room for additional lost decades.



Joy-Marie King at the Regional South to South conference in Santiago, Chile

The immediate and urgent cooperation of all nations through solidarity and the strengthening of international development cooperation is a must,” she explained.

The time has come for the leveraging of South-South and triangular cooperations to empower our nations in addressing many of the challenges faced which have and are impeding development pursuits

is a vision purported by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, where the international community committed to enhancing the quality, impact, and effectiveness of development cooperation.

King, however, cautioned that in pursuit of the above, “recognition and respect of our uniqueness including size, levels of vulnerability and development and sovereignty are critical.”

The Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean was established by resolution 752 (PLEN.36) adopted by the member countries of ECLAC at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee of the Whole, in December 2021. The meeting concluded on 31st May 2023.

Thu 01 Day		Thu 01 Night	
86°	24% ESE 13 mph	79°	24% SE 9 mph
Partly cloudy. High 86F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy in the evening with more clouds for later at night. Low 79F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 75%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 84%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:33 am	Sunset 6:37 pm	Moonrise 4:22 pm	Moonset 3:20 am
		○ Waxing Gibbous	

One man jailed and fined and another fined on drug charges

Two men who were arrested and charged with the possession of drugs following a police operation have been convicted by a magistrate.

The men – Cleveland Telemaque, 59, of Golden Grove, and Elni Jose Bernard, 29, of Nut Grove – appeared before magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards in the All Saints Magistrate's Court.

They were arrested and charged following a police anti-drug operation on May 26 at the Parham Harbour. At approximately 1 a.m., officers, including members of the Crime Management Team, commenced their duty at Parham Wharf.

While on duty, the officers spotted a 20-foot vessel named "Lenci 2" being operated by Telemaque. They intercepted the vessel and conducted a search, which resulted in the discovery of five brick-like substances resembling cocaine, as well as a cooler containing Yoplait drinks.

Telemaque and Bernard were present during the discovery. Both men were subsequently taken to Police Headquarters, and the vessel was towed to the Coast Guard Base. They were jointly charged with possession of cocaine, possession with intent to transfer, being concerned with cocaine, and importation of cocaine.

The substances were later weighed and determined to be

10.9 pounds of cocaine in total. It is reported that the controlled drug has an estimated street value of \$173,047.00.

Search warrants were also executed on their properties and one pound of cannabis was found at the home of Telemaque.

When they appeared before the magistrate, Bernard pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine and being concerned with the supply of cocaine while the other charges were withdrawn. He was sentenced to six months in HM

Prison on one charge and fined \$58,000.00 on the other charge.

All the charges related to cocaine were withdrawn against Telemaque. However, on the possession of cannabis, he was fined \$18,000.00. Both men will serve a 6-month sentence should they fail to pay their respective fines.

Meanwhile, in a separate joint exercise on the same day, officers from the Narcotics Department, supported by members of the Customs

Task Force, commenced their duty at Deep Water Harbour around noon.

During the operation, a dark-blue barrel was searched, revealing multiple vacuum-sealed packages containing marijuana.

A total of 56 packages weighing 56 pounds were counted. The estimated street value of the seized marijuana is \$336,000.00.

The barrel and its contents were transported to Police Headquarters for further investigation.



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

Local News



'Love Lane' returns for couples arriving at VCBIA

Couples traveling to Antigua and Barbuda during the month of June, dubbed Romance Month, are in for a treat from the moment they arrive at the VC Bird International Airport.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, in partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority, has launched the second installment of its 'Love Lane' fast-track service for couples traveling to the destination during Romance Month.

Couples entering the 'Love Lane' on arrival at the award-winning V.C. Bird International Airport from June 1 – June 30, will be fast-tracked through immigration via a special couples-only lane for the month of June celebrations.

The 'Love Lane' experience will be open to couples traveling to Antigua and

Barbuda to get married, celebrate their honeymoon, or enjoy a romantic escape. Couples are encouraged to pre-register before travel, via the registration link.

Couples who pre-register for the complimentary service will receive a confirmation email containing a digital E-Card which they must present upon arrival, to receive the fast-track service.

"Antigua and Barbuda continues to be the top choice for couples, especially after the success of last year's Romance Month 'Love Lane.'" We want all couples visiting Antigua and Barbuda to feel the love, starting from the moment they arrive in the country. We want them to think of enchanting Antigua and Barbuda," says Shermain Jeremy - Special Projects and Events Marketing



During Antigua and Barbuda's Romance Month in June, couples arriving in Antigua for a romantic getaway will be whisked through the 'Love Lane' at the V.C. Bird International Airport. (Photo of couple at Seaforth Beach, Antigua courtesy: The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)

Manager within the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA).

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority Euleta Francis says, "Given the resounding success of last year's exercise, we are happy to partner with the ABTA in showcasing the V.C. Bird International Airport and providing a welcome to couples seeking the romantic allure of our charming destination."

Romance Month is celebrated for the entire month

of June each year and seeks to position Antigua and Barbuda as the premiere romance destination in the world. Last June, the 'Love Lane' serviced over 200 couples to the destination. This year's celebration will see the launch of the return of special promotions such as the global romance webinar for all trade partners across the major source markets, the launch of a couples' journal called "Love in Paradise," and the release of 'The Greatest Love Story' campaign in Barbuda.

The Hospitality Committee
of the
Zion Potters Moravian Church

Invites you to our

FUNDRAISING BARBECUE

Date: Saturday 03rd June 2023

Time: 12 00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Venue: Potters Main Road
Under the Tent
Opposite the Potters Primary School**

Cost: \$20.00

Barbecue Items and Local Drinks will be on Sale



23 YEARS OF EXCELLENT SERVICE AND
SUPERIOR COVERAGE YOU CAN TRUST!

AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU...
OUR CUSTOMERS, OUR STAFF
OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THANK YOU!

ABI
INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.
COVERAGE YOU CAN TRUST

www.abiinsurancecoltd.com | ☎ 268-484-6400

CAF humanitarian work continues

The Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) continues its humanitarian work in the community by coming to the assistance of individuals who need expert medical care not available in Antigua and whose families do not have the means to pay for the care.

The latest benefactor of the CAF's generosity is accident survivor, Chevan Jones, whose mother is breathing a sigh of relief that her son will get an opportunity to have his mobility restored, after being airlifted on Monday, May 29th, to the Dominican Republic (DR) for orthopedic surgery. The US\$39,000 flight was funded by the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF).

Jones is the 21-year-old survivor of the tragic vehicular accident on All Saints

Road, which took the life of an 18-year-old.

Jones was rushed to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, where he was diagnosed with a right acetabular fracture and a nasal bone fracture. He was referred to an orthopedic surgeon in the DR, to perform an open reduction and internal fixation of the right acetabular fracture.

The family's donation request letter to the Foundation stated that the cost of travel via air ambulance, in addition to the cost of surgery and recovery, was too astronomical for Chevan's family.

Media Relations Specialist for CAF, Jamilla Kirwan, said, the Foundation is happy to have played a role in getting Jones to the Dominican Republic in time for his surgery, which was



scheduled for Wednesday, May 31st. For this, she also credits the swift action of Reva Air Ambulance representative on the island, Sandy Bahri, for coordinating the trip in quick time.

She also added that the initial call for assistance was made on behalf of Jones' father, by Senator Samantha Marshall. Kirwan then reached out to his mother, Alverine Bailey who was able to submit a donation request letter, as well as all Chevan's requisite medical documents, which made the process of coordinating the flight even easier.

Meanwhile, Kirwan

said she has been receiving updates on 7-year-old burn victim, T'rique Jeffery, who is also receiving treatment in the Dominican Republic at a burn center, and whose medical airlift was also funded by CAF. According to a medical source on the ground, T'rique has since had five surgeries, however, this is not a one-day fight. There is still some way to go.

Kirwan extends continued prayers to Chevan Jones and T'rique Jeffery and their families during this challenging time, on behalf of the Calvin Ayre Foundation and Ambassador Calvin Ayre.



Media Relations Specialist for CAF, Jamilla Kirwan

TrueLove
PROMOTIONS
PRESENTS

inet



THE *Soul* OF MUSIC

Fri
16
JUN

8
PM

FEATURING LIVE PERFORMANCES BY:

**ALISON HINDS • DUANE STEVENSON • CLAUDETTE PETERS
PROPHECY • PLUTO SHERVINGTON • ASHER OTTO • JASHAN
DJ ILLIST • DJ IRISH • DJ EZP • DJ SHELDON • HOSTED BY: SUPA DYMOND**

📍 **THE LOT (FRIARS HILL ROAD)** NEXT TO BILLY'S FOOD MART

TICKETS: \$75 ADVANCE • \$100 AT THE GATE

TICKET OUTLETS: ALL INET OUTLETS &

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE

BOTTLE SERVICE: \$150 • FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 781-5016 / 464-9201

Local News

2023 Hurricane seasons starts today

The 2023 Atlantic hurricane season officially starts June 1 and extends through November 30.

On May 25, 2023, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center released the hurricane season outlook

for this year. They're predicting a near normal season, with 12 to 17 named storms.

They predicted that five to nine of those will become hurricanes, and that there should be between one to four major hurricanes with winds

111 mph (179 kph) or higher.

Atlantic hurricane names are: Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Don, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harold, Idalia, Jose, Katia, Lee, Margot, Nigel, Ophelia, Philippe, Rina, Sean, Tammy, Vince and Whitney.

Culture Department to hold a 'Summer in Arts and Culture' camp

The Department of Culture (DoC) will host a developmental summer camp entitled 'Summer in Arts and Culture (S.A.C.)' later this month, as part of its mandate to continue preserving, promoting, and enhancing Antigua and Barbuda's culture and heritage.

The camp, which will cater to youths between the ages of 9 and 17, will commence on June 26 and culminate on July 7, 2023, at the Princess Margaret School from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The youths will be introduced to and participate in various creative disciplines, including Music, Drama, Craft, Visual Arts, Dance, Carnival Arts, and Creative Writing.

Director Khan Cordice states, "One of the main goals is to expand our creative and performing arts community by exposing our youth to a myriad of opportunities over two weeks. The introduction of 'new' concepts and some re-imagined ones will bring about a positive change in the cultural arts landscape."

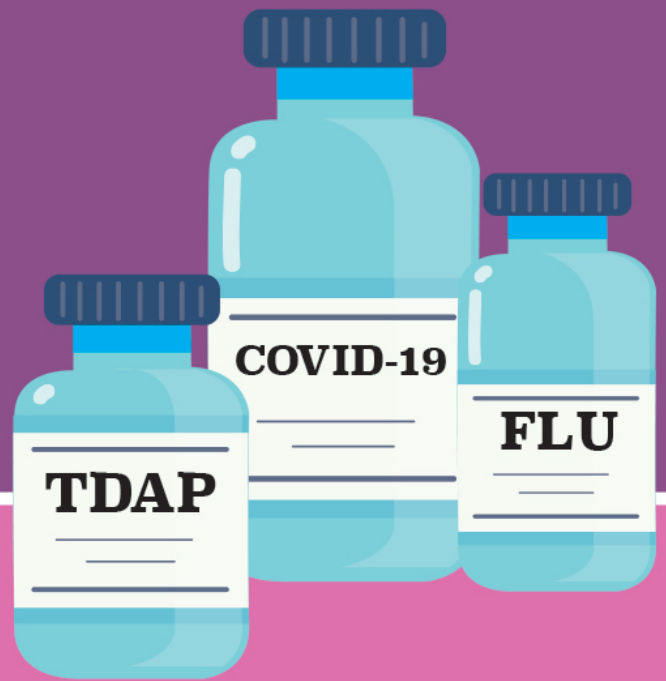
Parents and Guardians can register their young creatives at the Department of Culture on Lower Nevis Street or call (268)562-1724 for further information. The registration fee is \$75.00.



The poster for the 'Summer in Arts & Culture' camp features a vibrant design with a yellow background. At the top, there are illustrations of a yellow pencil and a paintbrush. In the center, the word 'SUMMER' is written in large, dark, brush-stroke letters, with 'IN' inside a circular frame below it. To the right, there is a stylized illustration of a person in traditional Caribbean attire dancing. On the left, a girl is shown painting on an easel. The text 'Arts & Culture' is written in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, the dates 'JUNE 26TH TO JULY 8TH 2023' are displayed in black. A red circular badge on the right indicates 'AGES 9-17 YEARS'. At the bottom, a black location pin icon is next to the text 'PRINCESS MARGARET SCHOOL'. A black circular badge on the left shows 'COST \$75 EC'. The bottom of the poster has a red banner with the text 'REGISTER AND JOIN THE FUN' in white, followed by 'REGISTRATION OPENS: JUNE 5TH TO JUNE 20TH 2023' and 'At the Department of Culture, Lower Nevis Street'.

ASK YOUR MIDWIFE OR DOCTOR ABOUT VACCINES

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR BABY!



Getting the following vaccines while pregnant can help keep you and your little one safe:

The Tdap Vaccine protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (also known as whooping cough). Available for babies at 3 or 6 months respectively.

The Flu Vaccine Pregnant women who get a flu shot are also helping to protect their babies from flu illness for the first several months after their birth, when they are too young to get vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccine protects against the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Your baby cannot get this vaccine until they're 6 months old.

With cold and flu season coming, there's no better time to protect yourself and your baby. You can even get your flu, COVID-19, and Tdap vaccines at the same time!

Make the right choice for your baby. As your trusted partner, support, and ally, ask your midwife or provider about vaccination at your next appointment.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS
& THE ENVIRONMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

For more information
or assistance:
Call (268) 462-5522
or visit us on Lower High Street,
St. Johns, Antigua.

unicef 
for every child

US actor Danny Masterson found guilty on two rape counts

BBC - A jury in Los Angeles has found US actor Danny Masterson guilty on two out of three counts of rape.

The star of *That '70s Show*, a TV series, faces up to 30 years in prison. He was led from court in handcuffs.

Three women, all former members of the Church of Scientology, accused the actor of sexual assault at his Hollywood home from 2001-03.

Prosecutors argued Masterson had relied on his status as a prominent Scientologist to avoid accountability.

The jury of seven women and five men was unable to reach a verdict on a third count after a week of deliberations, ending up deadlocked at 8-4.

One of his victims, who was raped in 2003, said in a statement quoted by the Associated Press: "I am experiencing a complex array of emotions - relief, exhaustion, strength, sadness - knowing that my abuser, Danny Masterson, will face accountability for his criminal behavior."

Another jury in an earlier trial was unable to reach a verdict in December 2022.

Prosecutors chose to retry Masterson and this time the judge allowed attorneys to present new evidence that had been barred from the first trial.

Though the actor was not charged with drugging his victims, the jury heard testimony that the women had been dosed before he raped them.

Masterson was first accused of rape in 2017 during the height of the #MeToo movement. He responded by saying that he had not been charged or convicted of a crime, and that in the climate at the time "it seems as if you are presumed guilty the moment you are accused".

Charges came after a three-year in-



Masterson arrives at the Los Angeles court to learn his fate with his wife, Bijou Phillips.

vestigation by the Los Angeles Police Department. Prosecutors did not file charges in two other cases because of insufficient evidence and the statute of limitations expiring.

Throughout the trial, prosecutors argued that the Church of Scientology had helped cover up the assaults - an allegation the organisation has categorically denied.

At the time of the assaults, Masterson and all three of his accusers were Scientologists. Several of the women said it took them years to come forward because Church of Scientology officials discouraged them from reporting the rape to police.

Instead, they were forced to rely on the Church's "internal justice system", prosecutors said.

Scientology officials told one survivor she would be kicked out of the Church unless she signed a non-disclosure agreement and accepted a payment of \$400,000 (£320,000), according to prosecutors.

Judge Charlaine Olmedo allowed both sides to discuss the dogma and practices of Scientology.

But Deputy District Attorney Ari-

el Anson told jurors during the trial: "The Church taught his victims, 'Rape isn't rape, you caused this, and above all, you are never allowed to go to law enforcement.'"

Throughout the trial, the defence tried to undermine the credibility of the "Jane Does" by focusing on inconsistencies in their testimony and their supposed drive to get "revenge" against their former Church.

During closing arguments, Masterson's defence lawyer said of the survivors: "If you are looking for motives why people are not being truthful... there are motives all over the place."

Although the Church of Scientology was not a defendant in the case, before closing arguments began, a lawyer with ties to the Church emailed the district attorney's office to complain about the way the Church was portrayed during the retrial.

The defence also argued that the prosecution had relied heavily on testimony about drugging because there was an absence of evidence of any force or violence.

Masterson's lawyers tried, unsuccessfully, to have a mistrial declared.

**THURSDAYS
6:30PM - 8:30PM**



**HOSTED BY
CARL CHRISTOPHER**

THE NEXT LEVEL

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Environment



Using pig fat as green jet fuel will hurt planet, experts warn

By Matt McGrath

The fat of dead pigs, cattle and chickens is being used to make greener jet fuel, but a new study warns it will end up being worse for the planet.

Animal fats are considered waste, so aviation fuel made from the material has a much lower carbon footprint.

Demand for fuel made from animal by-products is expected to triple by 2030, with airlines leading the charge.

But experts fear scarcity will force other industries to use more palm oil - a huge generator of carbon emissions.

Airlines are under pressure to rein in their huge carbon emissions, which mainly come from burning fossil-based kerosene in aircraft engines.

But the study by Brussels-based Transport & Environment, a clean transport campaign group, points out there are simply not enough animals slaughtered each year to meet airlines' growing demand for animal fats.

"There's not a never ending supply of animals, or animal fat," said Matt Finch from Transport & Environment.

"So if you put on a massive extra demand source from anywhere from aviation, in this case, the indus-



Palm oil is made from these nuts and the concern is that other manufacturers might use more of this product if animal fats are used in aviation.

tries where fat is currently being used, will have to look for alternatives. And that alternative is palm oil. So aviation indirectly, will be responsible for increasing the amount of palm oil being pulled through the European systems."

The increased use of palm oil is linked to rising emissions as older forests which store vast amounts of carbon are cleared for new plantations.

The fact that animal fats are used as fuel will come as a surprise to many.

For centuries tallow and lard have been used to make candles, soaps and cosmetics.

However, over the last 20 years or so, biodiesel made from these animal wastes or from used cooking oils, has steadily grown in use in the UK and further afield.

Across Europe, fuel made from dead animals has grown fortyfold since

2006, according to the new research.

Much of this material is used in cars and trucks as biodiesel, which is classed as a sustainable fuel, and as such it has a much lower carbon footprint under the rules.

But UK and EU governments are now very keen to increase the use of these types of waste to make aviation greener.

To that end they are putting in place challenging mandates that will require airlines to use a bigger proportion of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in their tanks.

For the UK it's going to be 10% by 2030, for the EU 6% - but according to observers these plans could put pressure on the current market for animal waste.

There are significant differences in approach between the UK and EU. The UK is likely to limit the use of better quality tallow in

fuel - while in Europe the use of this type of material will be incentivised as the greenhouse gas reduction achieved with this fat is higher.

With rising demand, prices will rise and this will likely encourage exports from the UK, which will have consequences.

According to Transport & Environment, a flight from Paris to New York would need fat from 8,800 dead pigs if all the fuel came from animal sources.

With the UK likely to restrict the use of animal products and used cooking oils, flights that refuel across Britain will be likely to have only small amounts of animal-derived material in their engines.

In the EU, airlines will have a 6% sustainable aviation fuel target for 2030 of which 1.2% must come from e-kerosene. Assuming the remaining 4.8% is derived entirely by animal fat, that would require around 400 pigs per transatlantic flight.

Among those industries who might have to source different ingredients if aviation consumes a greater share of animal fat are pet food manufacturers.

They currently utilise a significant amount of the better quality animal by-products to help feed the

cont'd on pg 15

Technology

PAGE 15

Amazon to pay \$30m over Alexa and Ring privacy violations

By George Wright

Amazon is to pay \$25 million (£20 million) to settle allegations that it violated children's privacy rights with its Alexa voice assistant.

The company agreed to pay the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) after it was accused of failing to delete Alexa recordings at the request of parents.

It was found to have kept hold of sensitive data for years.

Amazon's doorbell camera unit Ring will also pay out after giving employees unrestricted access to customers' data.

Ring will pay \$5.8 million (£4.6m) to authorities, according to a filing in federal court in the District of Columbia.

According to the FTC complaint regarding Alexa, Amazon "prominently and repeatedly assured its users, including parents, that they could delete voice re-



cordings collected" by the system.

But the company did not do this, keeping data for years and using it unlawfully to help improve its Alexa algorithm, the complaint said.

In a statement, Samuel Levine, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, accused Amazon of "misleading parents, keeping children's recordings indefinitely, and flouting parents' deletion requests".

The company "sacrificed privacy for profits", he added.

Similarly, the FTC said Ring - which Amazon bought in 2018 - allowed "thousands of employees and contractors" to watch recordings of customers' private spaces.

They were able to view and download customers' sensitive video data for their own purposes, the body said.

Amazon told the BBC in a statement that "Ring promptly addressed the issues at hand on its own years ago, well before the FTC began its inquiry".

But according to the complaint, one employee

viewed thousands of video recordings belonging to female users of Ring cameras that "surveilled intimate spaces in their homes such as their bathrooms or bedrooms".

The employee was only stopped once their actions were spotted by a colleague, it said.

"Ring's disregard for privacy and security exposed consumers to spying and harassment," Mr Levine said.

"The FTC's order makes clear that putting profit over privacy doesn't pay."

In its statement to the BBC, Amazon said: "While we disagree with the FTC's claims regarding both Alexa and Ring, and deny violating the law, these settlements put these matters behind us."

The company added that it will continue to invent more privacy features on behalf of customers.

cont'd from pg 12

UK's 38 million pets.

"These are really valuable ingredients for us and they are hard to replace, and they're put to good use already in a very sustainable way," said Nicole Paley, deputy chief executive of UK Pet Food, the manufacturers' trade association.

"So actually diverting these ingredients to biofuels is actually creating another problem. It would put us in competition with the aviation industry. And when it comes to the purse strings

of the aviation sector, the pet food industry would find it really difficult to compete."

While the EU is further down this road, the UK is currently consulting on limiting the type of animal fats that go into jet fuel.

The government is mulling a ban or a strict limit on both animal fats and used cooking oil in the aviation sector, worried about the unintended consequences.

Many in the biofuel industry are concerned that the proposed changes

might also see animal fats diverted from one form of transport to another.

"If you make a big incentive for use of these lipids, animal fats, and used cooking oils, in aviation, it will inevitably take it away from other things," said Dickon Posnett from Argent Energy, a waste-based biodiesel producer in the UK and Europe.

"So if you want to increase aviation sustainability, at the expense of truck sustainability, then crack on. But that's a decision for the government to make."

Regional News



US man missing at sea after cruise to The Bahamas on Carnival Magic

Loop - The US Coast Guard (USCG) resumed its search today for a missing cruise ship passenger, who fell into the ocean, after the vessel left The Bahamas on Monday.

The USCG said it is using both air and sea assets in its search for Ronnie Lee Peale Jr.

Over 4,044 square miles of open water was searched since the rescue mission began.

According to reports Peale was leaning over the railing of his state-room balcony on the Carnival Magic when he plunged into the ocean, approximately 186 miles east of Jacksonville, Florida around 4 am.

Peale was reported missing to ship officials by his wife, Jennilyn Blosser.

Surveillance footage caught Peale falling into the water.

In a GoFundMe fundraising campaign, Blosser said this was the 35-year-old's first cruise.

"We went on a cruise to celebrate



Ronnie Lee Peale Jr. Photo: GoFundMe/Jennilyn Blosser

my birthday and sadly he went overboard and still has not been recovered. Please keep our family in your prayers and thanks for your support. This was Ronnie's first cruise and thankfully he had a great time and made plenty of friends," she wrote.

"He is our social butterfly that was

always on the move and loved to make friends with everyone. The cruise was definitely a place he enjoyed. I never could have imagined something like this could happen. Devastated, to say the least."

Blosser has raised over US\$1,000 since launching the campaign.

Guyana: NCD Commission wants Tobacco Control Act to be fully adopted



Loop - Guyana's President Commission on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) has called on the government to fully implement the Tobacco Control Act 2017.

In a statement observing World Tobacco Day, Commission Chairman, Dr Leslie Ramsammy, the government has waited too long to fully implement the law, which regulates how tobacco products are used, sold

cont'd on pg 17

Grenada records steady increase in dengue fever cases

The number of dengue fever cases in Grenada have been continuously increasing based on data acquired over the previous three weeks from the Caribbean island.

Grenada's Acting Chief Medical Officer Dr Shawn Charles says in Epidemiological weeks #18 and #19, there were 20 and 39 reported cases respectively, while Epidemiological week #20 recorded a total of 79 new cases and two hospitalisations.

"This represents a 100 per cent increase from the previous week, and it points to what can only be described as a steady increase in the outbreak of cases," he explained.

The CMO added that while there have been intensified public education and vector control measures to assist with the control and prevention of further in-



Aedes Aegypti Mosquito.

creases, citizens must also play their part, taking all the necessary preventative measures.

"We are reminding members of the public that the situation is very, very serious, and as such it is extremely important for them to protect themselves, by

using approved insect repellants, mosquito nets and wearing long-sleeved clothing, etc."

Health officials say it is extremely important that people ensure that their surroundings are kept clean and that they destroy existing and potential mosquito

breeding sites.

The public is reminded that all persons experiencing dengue-fever-like symptoms, such as joint pain, fever, headaches, intense abdominal pain, and bleeding gums, should seek immediate medical attention and get tested.

cont'd from pg 16

and promoted in Guyana.

Ramsammy lamented that smoking continues to be a popular habit in Guyana, particularly among the youth where it is increasing.

"We have a challenge, as in many countries, smoking overall is increasing, with more young people adopting a lifestyle that guarantee disability and sickness and premature death," he stated.

"In addition, Vaping and a proliferation of Hookah Bars present another form of threats to health and well-be-

ing. The global response for more regulations to ensure the tobacco companies do not find another way into the lives of people for profit is urgently required."

He continued: "We are spending millions in the fight against suicide, yet we insist on permitting tobacco to kill people. It is senseless. We even are reluctant to raise taxes on this killer. In our own country, between 2015 and 2020, we introduced new taxes and raised old ones, but we did not increase taxation on tobacco products. The Commission again advocated

for an increase in tobacco taxation in Guyana."

Ramsammy wants countries to make a greater effort to implement Article 17 and 18 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which requires countries support farmers, who are dependent on tobacco cultivation, in their switch other crops.

The chairman noted that repurposing the more than 200,000 hectares of land used for tobacco growing will have benefits on human health, food security and climate change.

Boris Johnson says he has handed over Covid WhatsApps

BBC - Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson says he has given the UK government all the WhatsApp messages and notebooks demanded by the Covid-19 inquiry.

Mr Johnson is urging the government to hand the material to the inquiry in full, without redactions.

The inquiry, which begins public hearings in two weeks, is investigating how ministers handled the pandemic.

The government has so far refused to hand over material it does not consider relevant.

The Covid inquiry has given the Cabinet Office - the department that supports the prime minister in running the government - until 16:00 BST on Thursday to disclose all of the information it has requested.

The Cabinet Office has argued that ministers must have the right to discuss policies in private and says a leading lawyer is in the process of deciding what is relevant to the inquiry.

But the inquiry's chairwoman, crossbench peer Baroness Hallett, said it was her role, not that of the government, to decide what was relevant.

The standoff could lead to a legal battle between the Cabinet Office and the inquiry, with the courts deciding what material is made



Former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

available.

Some senior Conservative MPs have urged the government to back down to avoid a lengthy legal showdown with the inquiry.

William Wragg, the chairman of a parliamentary committee on constitutional affairs, told the BBC: "If the inquiry requests documents and info - then whoever it has asked should comply."

Mr Johnson's spokesman has said the former PM would hand over the material directly to the Covid inquiry if asked.

Cabinet Office sources have stressed that individuals are at liberty to share any information with the inquiry team, so Mr Johnson

could choose to hand things over directly.

The exception, they say, are documents such as government diaries which they argue any government would need to look at for national security reasons.

Mr Johnson's spokesperson has claimed that the Cabinet Office has had access to all these unredacted documents for "months", but has said the former PM handed over more material on Wednesday.

"While Mr Johnson understands the government's position, and does not seek to contradict it, he is perfectly happy for the inquiry to have access to this material in whatever form it requires," the spokesman

said.

The Cabinet Office said it had received the material from Mr Johnson and "officials are looking at it".

The material includes 24 notebooks with contemporaneous notes, as well as his diaries and WhatsApp messages between Mr Johnson and cabinet ministers, advisers and senior civil servants.

The inquiry said on Tuesday it had been told the Cabinet Office did not have access to all the information it had been asked for.

Cabinet Office sources say the reason for this, contrary to what Mr Johnson has claimed, is because the former PM was previously

cont'd on pg 19

Woman who accused Biden of sexual assault seeks Russian citizenship

By Fiona Nimoni

An American woman who accused US President Joe Biden of sexually assaulting her has flown to Moscow and is seeking Russian citizenship.

Speaking to a state-run Russian news outlet, Tara Reade, 59, said she felt safe in the country and wanted to stay.

Ms Reade alleged Mr Biden assaulted her while she was working in his congressional office in 1993.

He strongly denied her allegation. “Unequivocally it never, never happened,” he said.

Ms Reade worked as an assistant to Mr Biden when he was a senator for Delaware. She made headlines in 2020 as his presidential campaign was getting under way, when she claimed that he assaulted her in a Capitol Hill corridor when she was 29.

She accused him of



Tara Reade

forcing her against a wall and putting his hands under her shirt and skirt.

“When I got off the plane in Moscow, for the first time in a very long time I felt safe, and I felt heard and felt respected,” The Guardian newspaper quotes Ms Reade as saying during an interview with Sputnik.

She said she left the US after a Republican pol-

itician told her she was in physical danger.

“[I’d] like to apply for citizenship in Russia, from the president of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin... I do promise to be a good citizen,” Ms Reade said, adding that she hoped to keep her US citizenship.

Ms Reade was one of several women who came forward in 2019 and 2020 to accuse Mr Biden of in-

appropriate touching, hugging or kissing.

She said she had filed a complaint, although no record of this has been found and it is unclear if her claim was formally investigated.

A spokesperson for Mr Biden said he believed women “have a right to be heard” but that the alleged incident “absolutely did not happen”.

cont’d from pg 18

working with lawyers employed by the government who were working through his notebooks, diaries and WhatsApp messages.

But they say when Mr Johnson cut ties with those lawyers, the Cabinet Office lost access to those documents.

The BBC has been told the Cabinet Office legal team visited Mr John-

son’s office to inspect the notebooks.

The Liberal Democrats urged Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to submit the material requested by the inquiry and to stop using Mr Johnson “as an excuse to avoid handing over vital evidence”.

There has been friction between Mr Sunak’s government and Mr Johnson over the Cabinet Office’s decision

to refer him to police over further potential Covid rule breaches during the pandemic.

The Cabinet Office said it made the referral following a review of his official diary by government lawyers as part of the Covid inquiry.

The former PM has dismissed claims of any breaches as a “politically motivated stitch-up”.



The PFLP-GC is estimated to have several hundred members operating in Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

Five members of Palestinian militant group killed in Lebanon blast

By David Gritten

Five members of a Palestinian militant group have been killed and several more wounded by an explosion in Lebanon, close to the border with Syria.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) blamed Israel for the blast, saying it carried out an air strike on a site in the eastern town of Qusaya overnight.

But an Israeli source told the BBC that its military was not involved.

Lebanese security sources said it was caused by munitions being moved around.

It comes amid growing tensions between Israel and militants in Lebanon and Syria, who are armed and backed by Iran.

Photos purportedly from the scene of the explosion showed a building in ruins and a badly damaged vehicle.

A statement from the PFLP-GC accused the Israeli military of bombing a site belonging to the group and vowed to retaliate.

“This crime is not isolated from the recent accelerating events on the Lebanese and Syrian fronts, and within the framework of continuous Zionist threats targeting resistance forces inside and outside Palestine,” it said.

The Israeli military did not comment on the claim, but official sources denied it.

Lebanon’s army also did not comment, but Reuters and AFP news agencies cited Lebanese and Palestinian security sources as saying it was an accidental explosion caused by mines or rockets detonating as they were being moved.

The PFLP-GC is a relatively small militant group formed as an offshoot of the PFLP in 1968. It gained notoriety

in the 1970s and 80s for bombing an airliner and carrying out cross-border attacks into Israel.

According to the United States, which has designated the group as a terrorist organisation, the PFLP-GC has several hundred members operating in Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

It says they receive logistical and military support from Syria’s government, whose forces they have fought alongside during the country’s civil war, as well as financial support from Iran.

In early April, the Israeli military carried out air strikes on what it said were installations belonging to the Palestinian militant group Hamas in southern Lebanon. The strikes were a response to a barrage of 34 rockets fired into northern Israel by militants in Lebanon the previous day.

Double Six take sole lead of Team Three Hand domino contest

Double Six Diamonds have taken sole leadership of the second series of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) League Team Three-Hand Competition.

Double Six Diamonds now have 323 points after scoring 87 points during the fourth round of matches, which is being contested using the accumulated points format at the association's headquarters in Ottos Newtown.

They have opened up a 16-point lead over closest rivals Parham Strikers and Dominatrixx who are now jointly tied in second place with 307 points.

Double Six Diamonds and Parham Strikers had entered the fourth round jointly tied in first place on 236 points. However, Parham Strikers were unable to keep pace with Double Six Diamonds after securing just 71 points in their fourth round match.

Dominatrixx scored 77 points in their latest encounter to move up to joint second place in the standings.

Double Six Ice scored 81 points in their fourth round match to advance into fourth place with an overall total of 305 points.

The A Team of Bravo joined Rising Stars into joint fifth place on 299 points. The Bravo A Team secured 74 points while Rising Stars recorded 70 points in their latest round of matches.

But Unstoppables could only score 65 points to drop from fifth to seventh position on 295 points. They are followed by Moise Eagles with 293 points and Ramplers with 291 points.

Moise Eagles scored 70 points while Ramplers notched up 61 points in their fourth round of matches.

Closely behind are the C Team of



The Parham Strikers team is one of the strong contenders for the Team Three-Hand title in the ABNDA's domino league competition. (Photo courtesy ABNDA)

Bolans Revellers and Legacy with 290 points apiece. The Bolans Revellers C Team gained 64 points while Legacy scored 74 points in their latest matches.

Triple Dynamite recorded 62 points in the fourth round to advance to 286 points, while the A Team of Willikies Super Stars scored 79 points to jump two places up the standings by advancing to 285 points.

Future got 71 points to slip from 13th to 14th place with an overall total of 284 points.

The B Team of Bolans Revellers scored 68 points to slip to third from bottom of the standings on 278 points.

The A Team of Bolans Revellers dropped to second from bottom of the standings after scoring 63 points to ad-

vance to a total of 274 points

But the B Team of Willikies Super Stars could only muster 71 points as they remain rooted in the cellar position by advancing to an overall total of 254 points.

The Willikies Super Stars have maintained their lead in the second Team Four-Hand competition of the ABNDA league.

The Willikies Super Stars notched up their fourth win by scoring 32 points to trounce Double Six, who could only muster just nine points during the fourth round of Team Four Hand matches.

Success as well for Ramplers who prevailed 54-32 against Unstoppables, while Bolans Revellers won by default against Dominatrixx.

Sports News



Gordon among winners during Wings 30th Whit Monday event

Stevon Gordon was among the winners of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club's 30th Whit Monday 4x1.5 Miles Road Relay, 10K and Fitness Walk on 29th May.

Although there was an unsatisfactory turnout of participants at the Whit Monday road event, Gordon was rightly crowned winner of the 10K Run, courtesy of a fair and honest display of sportsmanship by Vernon Lindsay.

In the 10K run, Lindsay reported to the finish line, first in the Male Category in a time of 39 minutes and 56 seconds. But in a spirit of good sportsmanship, Lindsay did not accept his medal since he had missed the correct route.

The Gold medal and trophy were duly presented to Stevon Gordon, who ran the correct route and crossed the finish line in a time of 54 minutes and eight seconds.

Tamika James of Hurricane Power took the Gold medal and trophy in the female category. James finished her

10K Run in one hour, three minutes and five seconds.

Georgetta "Gigi" Lewis of Wings Sports Club claimed second place by clocking one hour, 14 minutes and 16 seconds.

A Mixed team of athletes comprising Stephaun Desuza, Sergio Barnwell, Whitney Friday and Peter Emanuel won the 4x1.5 Miles Road Relay in the male category.

They completed the relay in a time of 31 minutes and 42 seconds. The runners-up position was captured by Power Speed and Endurance (PSE), comprising Jarmiah Casimir, Adrian Hazel, Jaden Sheppard and Jeremiah Joseph. They completed the relay in 47 minutes and 17 seconds.

A three-member Hurricane Power team won the relay in the female category with a time of 52 minutes and 27 seconds.

The Hurricane Power team comprised Tamika James, Annika James and Stephany Hughes with one of ath-



Stevon Gordon won the 10K Run during the CPTSA Wings Sports Club's 30th Whit Monday 4x1.5 Miles Road Relay, 10K and Fitness Walk on 29th May, 2023. (Photos courtesy CPTSA Wings)

letes running two legs of the relay race.

In the Fitness Walk, Jean-Claude Burnette was the first to cross the finish line in the male category with a time of one hour, 23 minutes and 42 seconds, while Jeantesha Joseph was the female overall winner in a time of one hour, 23 minutes and 44 seconds.

The CPTSA Wings Sports Club's 30th Whit Monday event was sponsored by Kenneth A. Gomez Insurance Agency Limited.

The CPTSA Wings Sports Club would like to express sincere thanks and gratitude to the sponsor and all who supported the event, especially the Traffic Department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua & Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force Cadets, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, the Wings Youth Track & Field Unit and all other volunteers.



A Mixed team of athletes comprising Stephaun Desuza, Sergio Barnwell, Whitney Friday and Peter Emanuel won the 4x1.5 Miles Road Relay in the male category.

Six teams to contest Thursday League under new T20 format

Six teams will be contesting this year's Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League.

The Thursday League, which is now in its 41st year, will be contested using a T20 format for the first time this year.

The competition will bowl off with the opening round of matches today (Thursday), starting at 3 pm.

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks will host de-

fending champions Police at Ball Beef in Liberta.

Rising Sun Spartans will entertain Mahico at Rising Sun in St John's while Pigotts Crushers will clash with All Saints Pythons at Pigotts.

Melissa Lawrie and Oliver Benjamin will umpire at Liberta, Nigel Browne and Michael Lawrie will officiate at Rising Sun, while Calvin Thomas and Bertel Baltimore will be the umpires at Pigotts.

Meanwhile, the semi-finals line-up has been de-



cided in the ACB Caribbean Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Competition after the final set of preliminary round matches were all rained out.

Freetown qualified for the semi-finals as the top

seed by ending the preliminaries with 22 points. Mahico claimed the second seed into the semis by finishing their quota of six preliminary matches with 18 points.

Defending champions Police and Masters secured the other two spots into the semi-finals. Police ended the preliminaries in third place with 14 points while Masters finished in fourth place with 12 points.

Missing out or failing to qualify for the semis are Urlings, who ended their campaign with 10 points, Dreams 2 Reality Sea View Farm with six points and Time of Victory Old Road, who finished in the cellar position with a mere two points.

The semi-finals will be contested on Saturday, 3rd June at 1 pm. Mahico will take on Police at Clare Hall while Freetown will clash with Masters at Freetown.

The winners of the semi-finals will clash in the final at a venue to be decided on Sunday, 4th June.



**The National Archives of Antigua and Barbuda
Presents International Archives Day
"Market Place and Cultural Exhibition"**

FRIDAY 9TH JUNE, 2023 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Activities include:

- Entertainment
- Local products and food
- Health Screening
- Exhibition Tour

\$50.00 Vendor registration
For more information call 462-3946/47

Illustrations of stalls include: **BULOY'S BAKERY**, a fruit and vegetable stall, and a stall with various goods.

Dowdye and Joseph win medals at Whitsuntide Games

Sprinters Geolyna Dowdye and Cleon Joseph were part of a four-member team of Antigua and Barbuda athletes who recently returned home with four medals, which they won at the Whitsuntide Games that concluded in Grenada on Sunday, 28th May.

Two of the medals were won by Dowdye of Phoenix Track Club, while the other two medals were captured by Joseph of CPTSA Wings.

Dowdye won gold in the Under-20 Girls 100-meter final, just like she did in the Under-17 category of this event in 2022.

After running 11.72 seconds to win her heat in the preliminaries, Dowdye returned to take the top spot in the Under-20 Girls final by clocking 11.79 seconds.

Dowdye also won gold in the Under-20 Girls 200-meter final. She maintained her fine form from the day before, clocking 25.15 seconds to win her heat in the preliminaries. She then returned to take the gold in the 200-meter final with a time of 24.17 seconds.

Joseph clocked 22.30 seconds to win his heat in the Under-17 Boys 200 meters and the smooth sprinter returned to take bronze in the final by clocking 22.13 seconds.

Joseph also won a silver medal in the Under-17 Boys 100-meter final in a time of 10.99 seconds after clocking 11.08 seconds in the preliminaries.

The 100-meter final was won by CARIFTA Under-17 Boys silver medalist Ethan Sam of Grenada.

But the other two Antiguan ath-



Sprinters Geolyna Dowdye, right, and Cleon Joseph, left, each won two medals at the Whitsuntide Games that concluded in Grenada on Sunday, 28th May, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABAA)

letes, Juda Ashe and Janisha Spencer of Phoenix Track Club failed in their bid to win a medal.

Ashe finished in 5th position in the Under-17 Boys 100-meter final with a time of 11.43 seconds. Ashe failed to advance to the Under-17 Boys 200-meter final after clocking 23.51 seconds in the preliminaries.

Spencer ran a time of 12.74 sec-

onds in the preliminaries to book a spot into the Under-20 Girls 100-meter final but missed out on winning a medal by finishing outside of the top three finishers.

Coach Kesswin Anthony and Parent Susan Foderingham accompanied the athletes to the Whitsuntide Games, which took place on 27th and 28th of May.