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POLICE CONTINUE PROBE INTO GREEN BAY SHOOTING

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DEADLY

SHOOTING

Police continue probe into Green Bay shooting

The police are continuing to probe the circumstances surrounding a shooting incident in Green Bay, that resulted in the death of a 20-year-old female and left a 24-year-old male nursing gunshot wounds.

The alleged incident occurred sometime around 8:45 pm on Monday, 14 August. Both victims were transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center by the Emergency Medical Ser-

vices.

The female was pronounced dead around 11:35 pm, while the male remains hospitalized with multiple gunshot wounds. His condition is said to be stable.

Police spokesman, Inspector Frankie Thomas, said a team of investigators has been combing the crime scene for evidence that will help them to determine what exactly happened.

“The investigators are

also speaking with people in the area who may be able to assist them with the investigation. The circumstances of the crime are yet to be determined and that is why the investigators have returned to the scene of the crime seeking clues,” Insp. Thomas reported.

The spokesman declined to identify the deceased or the victim who is hospitalized, noting that he does not want to jeopardize the in-

vestigation in any way.

The Police Administration is expressing condolences to the family at this time, for their tragic loss. The administration has further condemned this senseless act of violence and is appealing to anyone with information surrounding this incident to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call Crimestoppers at 800-Tips (8477).

MoW statement on accident at Cades Bay Bridge

The Ministry of Works is aware of a vehicular accident that occurred at the construction site of the Cades Bay Bridge on August 13, during a period of increased traffic through the area resulting from the Urlings Seafood Festival.

The Ministry was relieved to know that no one was seriously hurt in the incident. Regrettably, its best efforts to prevent accidents in the area have been severely hampered by the repeated theft of barricades, cones, and detour signage that are helpful to members of the driving public, in navigating the construction area.

Police barricades were initially erected and were proving quite effective. Additionally, detour signs and cones were installed and erected as work on the bridge progressed, but they have been removed in repeated malicious acts of theft and vandalism.

Undaunted, Minister of Works,



Minister of Works, the Honorable Maria Browne

the Honorable Maria Browne, made it her business to ensure that even more effective signage, that was custom-made and securely fastened to the

ground using chains and blocks were installed. Unfortunately, these were stolen and the two additional cones put on site following the string of thefts, were also stolen.

Two bridge walls were constructed on July 28, resulting in the removal of the material used to block access to the site. Backfilling will commence following the 21 days needed to set the aforementioned walls.

Motorists are being urged to proceed with caution in the area. More work will continue later this week and barring any further unforeseen incidents the bridge should be fully restored in an estimated nine weeks.

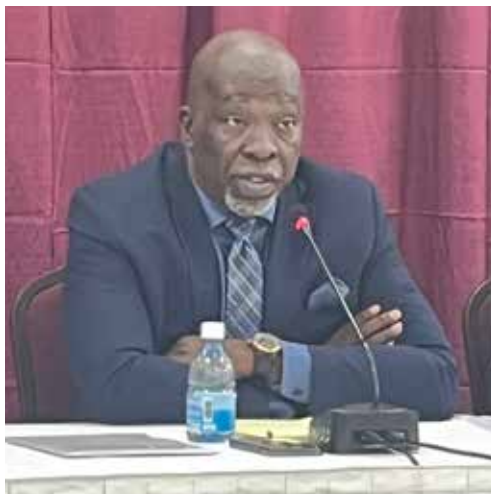
The Ministry is further urging those persons who are making it a practice to remove the caution signs to desist from doing so, since their actions could cause harm to innocent drivers, and is only slowing the pace of the necessary improvement repairs.

Information Minister speaks of the positives and negatives of new technologies

Information and Technology Minister, Honorable Melford Nicholas, says he welcomes the application of new technologies and the positive impact this has had on the media landscape the world over.

He shared with delegates attending the 54th General Assembly of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), that he was at the vanguard of the adoption of new technologies in the Caribbean that made it easier for companies and entities to communicate with each other, regionally and globally.

He noted that new technologies have made it possible for streaming platforms to broadcast events of international interest, here in Antigua and Barbuda, worldwide. He gave an example of the role the general manager of ABS - Erna-Mae Brathwaite played when she used her cell phone to broadcast Prince Harry's visit to Antigua via Facebook. That act catapulted ABS as



Information and Technology Minister, Honorable Melford Nicholas

a major streaming entity across the region.

“Technology has been an enabler and we have seen the emergence of other facets of the media market. Some have been helpful and some have not been so helpful,” he observed.

The minister, however, noted that the technologies also come with seri-

ous downsides. For example, he referenced the coming into being of several online platforms, that pretend that they are purveying news. He added that the operators have not had the benefit of professional training yet seek to attract advertising revenue. He nonetheless questioned their commitment to the ideals and standards of the profession.

“I have seen a number of new media sprout up and they do not commit to search for truth. Many take the opportunity to use their platforms to vilify persons and use their platforms to advance their own political ideologies. We have to be mindful that the technology has allowed this to happen,” Nicholas stated.

According to Minister Nicholas, the technology allowed these entities to operate, and he is asking the delegates to consider these issues when they sit down for their serious deliberations.

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Solid Waste reports improvement in household garbage collection

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is reporting that there have been improvements in the collection of household garbage over the last several months.

Chairman of the NSWMA, Michael A. Joseph, said his team has put in place several measures to improve the frequency by which the garbage is collected weekly.

He acknowledged that

there are challenges that pop up from time to time and the authority is working diligently to have these resolved as soon as possible. “Currently, we have ten contractors with whom we have outsourced the garbage collection. In addition, we have four trucks of our own, also engaged in the exercise. What happens is that several of these contracts have been experiencing issues with their trucks that



Chairman of the NSWMA, Michael A. Joseph

have led to breakdowns, causing a negative ‘domino effect’ in the collection process,” he revealed.

To resolve this ongoing problem, Joseph disclosed that the authority plans to add to its fleet of garbage trucks. “We are in discussion to acquire two additional trucks, which we hope will arrive by yearend. We have also asked the contractors to take measures to reduce the breakdowns by acquiring more reliable trucks themselves,” he noted.

According to Joseph, there are approximately twenty trucks in the system collecting garbage from households, daily. He said the authority wants to have a total of twenty-four trucks so that some of the trucks can be on standby to go into service, should a problem develop in any particular area.

The NSWMA chairman said, with the addition of the two new trucks and a plan to acquire two more at a later date, he believes that the authority will be in a position to have an efficient collection service by the turn of the new year.

On the issue of outstanding payments, Joseph said these are also being addressed. He explained that coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the authority’s revenue stream was severely impacted by the suspension of both cruise ship calls and flights at the airport. He said whilst revenues dropped for the authority, it still had to make payments to contractors causing a backlog in payments to develop.

He gave the assurance that the authority is committed to clearing up these outstanding payments.



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UK High Commissioner visits Antigua and Barbuda

The United Kingdom's High Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Scott Fursessedonn-Wood compliments Antigua and Barbuda's history-making females.

High Commissioner Fursessedonn-Wood who has responsibility for Barbados and the OECS states, paid an official visit to Antigua and Barbuda last week. On Friday the High Commissioner met Prime Minister Browne, accompanied by Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson, where he congratulated the leader of the twin-island state on the recent completion of the World's Toughest Row – Pacific, by Team Antigua Island Girls and the historic Vir-



gin Galactic space flight by mother-daughter duo Keisha Schahaff and Anastatia Meyers.

The High Commissioner assured PM Browne that despite circulating reports, the global implementation of the UK's Electron-



ic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system has not yet started. Its global rollout will start in October, with Antigua and Barbuda's at a yet-to-be-confirmed date in 2024. Resident Commissioner Lindsay Thompson reassured PM Browne, that the British High Commission will give advance notice of the rollout date.

Meanwhile, PM Browne thanked HC Fursessedonn-Wood for the UK's support of Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of

the fourth UN Conference on SIDS slated to take place in May 2024, as the three officials continued discussion of various matters of mutual interest between Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom.

Later that day, HC Fursessedonn-Wood and Ms. Thompson also met with the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle, Senator Shawn Nicholas, and Deputy Chair of the United Progressive Party, Jason Mannix.



National Trade Council moving closer to formation

The formation of the National Trade Council (NTC) is moving closer to reality as letters have been dispatched to several organizations and government entities asking them to nominate a representative to serve on the board of the NTC.

Permanent Secretary in the Min-

istry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, who will serve as the NTC's chairman, said several organizations have responded positively to the invitations to serve.

He said these organizations have until August 21st, to submit their nominees to serve on the NTC. "We have

already planned our first meeting to take place in the second week of September, with a packed agenda waiting for the members to consider," he reported.

Ambassador Pilgrim said one of the tasks that the NTC will seek to imple-

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Indian Diaspora celebrates Independence Day

August 15, 2023, marked the 77th anniversary of India's attainment of political independence from Britain.

To mark the occasion, members of the Indian diaspora here in Antigua and Barbuda joined the Honorary Consul for India to St. John's, Vijay Tewani in celebrating the occasion with what he termed 'much enthusiasm,' at a Flag-raising ceremony held at his residence in Crosbies.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne expressed congratulations to his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, as he recognized the huge strides India has taken in all spheres of human endeavor.

The full text of the prime minister's message reads:

"Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I extend my heartiest congratulations to you, the Government, and people of the Republic of India, on this joyous occasion of the Anniversary of Independence.

Over the years, the Republic of India has made remarkable progress in various fields, including technology, education, and healthcare. It has also emerged as a global leader in many sectors, earning respect and admiration around the world. India has been and continues to be a valuable partner of Antigua and Barbuda and the wider CARICOM region.

Additionally, your nation's efforts in the strengthening of South-South relations are a testament to the global stewardship, required to promote unity and prosperity for all. As you celebrate today, may you all be inspired by those who came before you and work diligently toward the future for the continued development of your nation. Once again, Prime Minister, congratulations, and please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Gaston Browne MP
Prime Minister"

The Honorary Consul noted that the occasion served to highlight the



Indian Honorary Consul to Antigua and Barbuda, Vijay Tewani at India Independence Day Flag-raising ceremony

strong connections between India and Antigua and Barbuda, showcasing the vibrant culture of the Indian diaspora in the Caribbean region.

Consul Tewani expressed gratitude to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for their continued support and longstanding friendship.

The PABRO donates to Parham Clinic

The Parham Alliance Beautification and Revitalization Organization (PABRO) says it remains committed to serving the Parham community as it made a timely donation to the Parham Community Clinic.

A PABRO representative and the donor jointly presented a Digital Medical Scale to Parham Clinic. Nurse April Francis accepted the donation on Tuesday, 15th August, and looks forward to utilizing the piece of equipment in the provision of healthcare at the clinic.

This donation follows a string of donations made possible by ‘Parhamites’ at home and abroad, who are devoted to assisting PABRO in fulfilling its aim and vision for Parham Town. The PABRO thanks everyone for their contributions, thus far.

The Parham Alliance Beautification and Revitalization Organization (PABRO) is a registered non-profit organization under the Friendly Soci-

eties Act, Cap 184 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition.

The aim and vision of the PABRO is to beautify and revitalize Parham Town. To build and sustain community capacity and self-sufficiency by developing, promoting, and advancing economic growth and viability with special emphasis on youth development, education, health, eldercare, sports, and preservation of the heritage, culture, and overall environment of Parham Town.

There is still much to be done to restore the vibrant community spirit within Parham. PABRO invites community members to join us on this journey by becoming active members of the organization.

To sign up, visit parhamtown.org and complete the registration or contact us through our social media platforms. (Instagram - [pabr_o](#), Facebook - PABRO, Email: thepabro1@gmail.com, WhatsApp 771-8566).



From left to right: Nurse April Francis, Ms. Bass, Stallone Gardner (PRO), Evans Gardner (Donor), Ms. Ford

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ment is to look at the country's current trade policies that will help create an enabling environment for local businesses.

“Among our main tasks is to look at a series of strategic plans for the sector; to include short medium and long-term development plans for trade expansion. We will also look about creating several sub-committees who will be asked to look at specific subject areas in detail and to submit a report,” he stated.

A Ministry of Trade statement said the National Trade Council shall be comprised of senior represen-

tatives from the public and private sectors concerned with the management and monitoring of trade-related matters.

The membership is as follows:

- Ministry of Trade
- *Headquarters
- *Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards
- *Prices and Consumer Affairs
- Ministry of Agriculture
- * Headquarters
- *Veterinary and Livestock Division
- *Plant Protection
- *Fisheries Division
- Ministry of Finance

*Headquarters:
*Customs and Excise Division:

*Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority

Ministry of Legal Affairs Headquarters

*Immigration Department

Ministry of Labour
Ministry of Health (Chief Health Inspector)

*Department of Environment

International Trade
Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA)
Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce

Antigua and Barbuda Coalition of Services Industries

Manufacturers Association

“In the coming weeks, official correspondence will be sent to the agencies for confirmation of their representatives and of the first official meeting of the National Trade Council,” the statement noted.

The Ministry of Trade is also extending its appreciation to the stakeholders for their valuable time and input that they will give, as the NTC works toward an excellent, collaborative trade environment in Antigua and Barbuda.

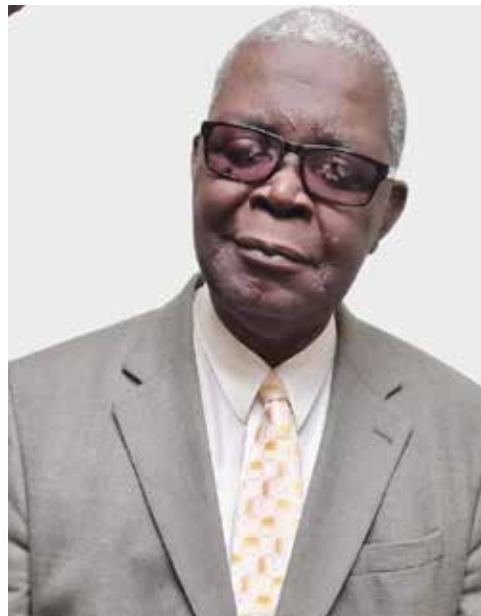
Tribute to Dr. Austin Josiah

School Days are Happy, Happy Days

By Dr. Lois Jeremy-Greene

In life, we come across individuals who leave a profound impact, shaping not only our personal and professional lives but also our entire communities. Today, as we gather to bid a heartfelt farewell to my esteemed past principal, boss, and mentor, I take this opportunity to honor a visionary leader, a compassionate mentor, and a cherished friend. This tribute serves as a reflection of the indelible mark that Dr. Austin Josiah has left behind and a celebration of his legacy as my mentor and friend. I first met Dr. Austin Josiah, the principal of Bethesda School when I began my teaching career as a math and science teacher. Within the first year, I was in awe of his leadership, and I knew that he would have an empowering impact on my professional journey as a teacher.

This tribute is an opportunity for me to acknowledge his exemplary leadership and unwavering vision. Dr. Josiah was committed to the school community. He possessed a unique ability to inspire and motivate everyone he worked with toward achieving excellence. Through his visionary guidance, he instilled a sense of purpose in every student and staff, reminding us to always aim high, embrace challenges, and work collectively towards a common goal. He was passionate about educating every student, ensuring that educating the whole child extended beyond the textbooks.



In addition to doing well in every subject, it was essential that every student know and understand local, regional, and international events. I remember that during the Gulf War (1990-1991) when the USA and 38 other countries waged a military coalition against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Dr. Josiah was relentless in his efforts to ensure that every student took time to know and understand what, where, and why of this historical event. His drive for constant improvement ignited a transformative journey in the school community and impacted countless lives, including students, teachers, and parents.

Dr. Josiah not only prioritized academic excellence but also devoted his entire life to empowering and celebrating students. He recognized the importance of education in shaping

future generations and worked tirelessly to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment. Through different innovative programs and initiatives, he sought to cultivate the potential of every student, encouraging them to explore their passions and talents. In 1990, when I wanted the school to participate in the Mr. And Miss Teenage Pageant, he did not hesitate to support my ambitions. Although he was not a carnival enthusiast, he ensured that I had access to the students for practice and preparation. Kevin Potter and Sharon Grigg were the first two students from Bethesda School to participate in the Mr. And Miss Teenage pageant. Both students represented the school at its highest level. Kevin's talent was a dramatic portrayal of Mr. Josiah as a school leader, entitled, "School Days are Happy, Happy Days". By the end of the show, Kevin was crowned Mr. Teenage 1990 with the best personality and aspirations and best-performing talent. Bethesda school had become the first primary/junior secondary school to win the Mr. Teenage title. Dr. Josiah's dedication to the holistic development of everyone served as a constant reminder of the impact that education can have on celebrating and empowering our students' abilities, talents, and skills.

Dr. Josiah was a disciplinarian who believed in the words of Proverbs 22:15, "Foolishness is bound up in the

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heart of a child, the rod of correction will drive it far from him.” Although he was never afraid to use the rod, he understood the difference between formal and informal discipline and when to use each. He understood the role of values, rules, and consequences in a school system and how to address the underlying causes of discipline problems that occur both in and out of school. He knew how to balance discipline and care, communicating expectations and interacting with students and parents. His disciplinary acts were always with unwavering compassion, support, and love. He believed in the power of empathy and took time to understand the struggles and concerns of both students and staff. He fostered a culture of openness, ensuring that everyone felt heard, valued, and

supported. His innate ability to uplift spirits and offer guidance during difficult times provided comfort and reassurance to all, especially students. His legacy as a compassionate and caring leader will continue to inspire me to extend a helping hand to others.

As I use this tribute to say goodbye to Dr. Austin Josiah, I embrace the profound impact that he had on my life, influencing my desire to learn to the highest level. When the achievement of my doctorate was announced, he was filled with great joy. Within the last week of his life, he took time to speak with me, sharing his excitement and advising me on the next steps of my professional career. His leadership, vision, and dedication to education will forever be etched in my heart. I will continue to carry forward the values and ideals he instilled in

me, striving to make a positive difference in my life and the lives of those around me. Though I mourn his loss today, his memory will forever serve as a guiding light, uplifting and inspiring me as I continue his meaningful work as an educator and an advocate for students and teachers. Today, I celebrate a remarkable life – a life that touched hearts, influenced minds, and left an undeniable legacy behind. I am thankful for his life and all his words of wisdom and inspiration that he shared with me through the years. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his spirit continue to inspire us as we navigate the path ahead with reverence, gratitude, and a deep sense of commitment to his vision as a teacher, principal, educator, and mentor.

Forever in my heart.

Dr. Lois Jeremy-Greene

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER VACANCY



National Solid Waste Management Authority

P.O. Box 2224, St. John's Antigua, Antigua W.I.

Tel: (268) 562-1347/8/9 Fax: (268) 562 1350 Email: nswma@solidwaste.gov.ag

WE ARE HIRING

The National Solid Waste Management Authority is seeking to recruit highly qualified and motivated individual to fit the position of a *Human Resource Manager*

JOB FUNCTION

The Human Resources Manager leads and directs the routine functions of the HR Department including the management of the following HR programmes: recruitment, selection and onboarding, training and development of staff, employee engagement, compensation and benefits, performance management including ensuring legal compliance.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Manages talent acquisition process, including recruitment, selection and onboarding of skilled candidates.
2. Partners with senior leadership to execute the organisation's talent strategy.
3. Oversees the daily operation of the HR Department
4. Provides guidance and counselling to Managers and Staff
5. Oversees and manages a performance management programme
6. Develops and implements HR strategies and initiatives and department's budgets
7. Maintains knowledge of trends, best practices, regulatory changes and new knowledge to communicate changes in policy, practice and resources.
8. Manages and monitors benefit administration
9. Manages HRIS

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS & CRITICAL SKILLS:

1. Bachelor's degree in Human Resources or a related field required; Master's Degree preferred.
2. HR Certification.
3. A Minimum of eight years of human resource experience in a leadership role.
4. Sound knowledge of local Labour laws and regulations, such as the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Code and other relevant legislation.
5. Record keeping and report writing skills.
6. Experience in writing policies.
7. Advanced interpersonal and communication skills.
8. Sound decision making and analytical skills.
9. Exhibits confidentiality, tact, and initiative in dealing with official matters.
10. Proven ability to plan, to organize, execute and manage time and multiple tasks effectively.
11. Experience with digital technology.

Email your resume to the General Manager at: nswma@solidwaste.gov.ag indicating the position that you are applying for by August, 31st 2023. ONLY suitable applicants will be contacted.

LANDFILL MANAGER VACANCY



National Solid Waste Management Authority

P.O. Box 2224, St. John's Antigua, Antigua W.I.

Tel: (268) 562-1347/8/9 Fax: (268) 562 1350 Email: nswma@solidwaste.gov.ag

WE ARE HIRING

The National Solid Waste Management Authority is seeking to recruit highly qualified and motivated individual to fit the position of a *Landfill Manager*

JOB FUNCTION

The Landfill Manager administers the efficient and cost effective operation of the landfill while meeting or exceeding the requirements of environmental laws, rules, regulations and standards governing Antigua and Barbuda. The Manager should be able to provide efficient solutions to address existing or emerging problems covering sound waste management practices and operations at the Cook's Sanitary Landfill and Civic Amenity Site.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Monitors the operation of the landfill and prepares environmental compliance reports for NSWMA.
2. Monitor payment and billing procedures
3. Assign, schedule, and supervise the work and performance of subordinates
4. Administers the Landfill budget, approves purchases and payments related to Landfill operations.
5. Prioritizes and schedules maintenance within the landfill facilities along with equipment.
6. Designs and supervises infrastructure additions and/or improvements.
7. Prepares and administers contracts for site contractors and consultants.
8. Reviews and approves designs prepared by consultants.
9. Reviews and approves environmental and geotechnical monitoring reports prepared by consultants.
10. Performs and/or supervises surveying by staff and/or consultants as needed for site maintenance, environmental or geotechnical monitoring.
11. Prepares reports and summaries for the General Manager and/or Board of Directors.
12. Supports the General Manager and follows through with details as assigned.
13. Reviews and updates the landfill operations plan, storm water pollution prevention plan, environmental monitoring plan and integrated contingency plan.
14. Collects samples and/or performs testing of water, soil and landfill gas as needed.

OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Prepares annual landfill budget based on cost projections, new projects and estimated operating costs.
2. Proposes capital improvements and oversees current projects.
3. Prepares Requests for Proposals, Specifications and Contract Documents, Task Order Memoranda and Change Orders for capital improvements
4. Enforce new and established safety rules and protocols
5. Responsible for interviewing, selecting and ensuring training and development needs are met for staff members, laborers, and vendors associated with project work
6. Provides Annual Performance Evaluation and feedback to team members, utilizes coaching and counseling techniques, as well as progressive discipline for performance deficiencies.
7. Scheduling responsibilities for staff, laborers and vendors related to project work
8. Other duties as assigned, and as needs are determined.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS & CRITICAL SKILLS:

1. Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering and Science or a related field required; Master's Degree preferred
2. Certified as a Landfill Manager or ability to obtain certification within one (1) year is required
3. A Minimum of ten (10) years of experience in a leadership role in a related field.
4. Prior experience in the waste disposal and/or Waste-to-Energy field very desirable
5. Basic surveying experience with Total Station surveying instruments and the ability to train staff in its use.
6. Ability to prepare topographic survey drawings and calculate waste and earthwork volumes using CAD software.
7. Knowledge and experience with Landfill fires, erosion control practices and devices
8. Analytical thinker who can multi-task, is a self-starter and is very organized
9. Proven leader, motivator, clear communicator and team player
10. Solid knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite of products
11. Good verbal and written communication skills

Email your resume to the General Manager at: nswma@solidwaste.gov.ag indicating the position that you are applying for by August, 31st 2023. ONLY suitable applicants will be contacted



UWI's faculties of medical sciences accredited for another five years

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) is pleased to announce that its Faculties of Medical Sciences have been successfully accredited for an additional five-year period, from 2023 to 2028 by the region's accreditation body, The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP).

The decision to renew the accreditation was reached at CAAM-HP's meeting held on July 19 and 20, 2023 following a comprehensive review and evaluation conducted by the Authority during 2022 visits to the three teaching sites at Mona, St Augustine, Cave Hill and the clinical site in The Bahamas.

The CAAM-HP accreditation reaffirms the high quality and standards upheld by The UWI Faculties of Medical Sciences in medical education and healthcare training. This recognition underscores the commitment of The UWI to consistently provide a world-class education to medical students as

well as students studying other health professions.

The rigorous evaluation process undertaken by the CAAM-HP encompassed a thorough assessment of various aspects of the Faculties of Medical Sciences, including curriculum content, faculty expertise, clinical training facilities, research initiatives, and overall adherence to global best practices in medical education. The accreditation is a testament to the dedication and hard work of The UWI community in ensuring that students receive the highest calibre of education and training.

News of this five-year reaccreditation comes as the Caribbean region's only world-ranked University celebrates its 75th anniversary, birthed initially with 33 medical students.

Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, expressed his enthusiasm over the accreditation, stating, "We are very proud of this accomplishment, which reflects the unwavering

commitment of our faculties, staff, and students to the pursuit of excellence in medical education. This reaccreditation not only highlights our dedication to producing skilled and compassionate healthcare professionals who will make meaningful contributions to the well-being of our communities, it also solidifies the UWI's standing as a leading institution in medical education within the Caribbean region and beyond."

Vice-Chancellor Beckles, who often describes the past three years as demonstrative of "The UWI's finest hour in service to the region", spotlighted the contributions of the University's medical faculties to the regional COVID-19 response.

He also underscored the impact as an internationally recognised research university, through the academic and research output of indigenous entities like its George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre and Caribbean Institute for Health Research.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Madonna announces rescheduled dates for her Celebration tour

By Mark Savage

Madonna has announced rescheduled tour dates for her world tour, as she marks her recovery from a bacterial infection that left her in intensive care.

The Celebration tour will now kick off in London on 14 October, three months after it was originally due to begin in Vancouver, Canada.

Most of the US dates have been pushed back to 2024, with some cancellations.

The tour was originally planned to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Madonna's breakout single, *Holiday*.

Dubbed the Celebration Tour, it marks her return to arenas and stadiums after the experimental, theatre-based *Madame X* shows in 2019 and 2020.

Some of those performances were also postponed or cancelled due to the star's knee and hip injuries, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic.

Madonna announced the Celebration tour in January and entered rehearsals in April.

However, just weeks before the opening night, her manager broke the news that she was being treated in hospital for a "serious" bacterial infection.

In a message to fans



last month, the star said she was "lucky to be alive" and thanked her family for their support.

"When the chips were down my children really showed up for me. It made all the difference," she wrote.

"Love from family and friends is the best medicine. One month out of the hospital and I can reflect."

With the star now on the mend, the tour can now begin, with the European leg going ahead as planned.

After four sold out dates at the O2 Arena, the show will travel to France, Italy, Denmark, Portugal and Germany before cir-

cling back to London for two more dates in December.

The tour then hops the Atlantic for a handful of shows in New York and Washington before a Christmas break, after which the rescheduled dates begin in the US, Canada and Mexico.

The logistics of rescheduling the tour have been complicated - with some cities requiring a new venue. A handful of dates in Tulsa, San Francisco, Phoenix and Las Vegas have been cancelled.

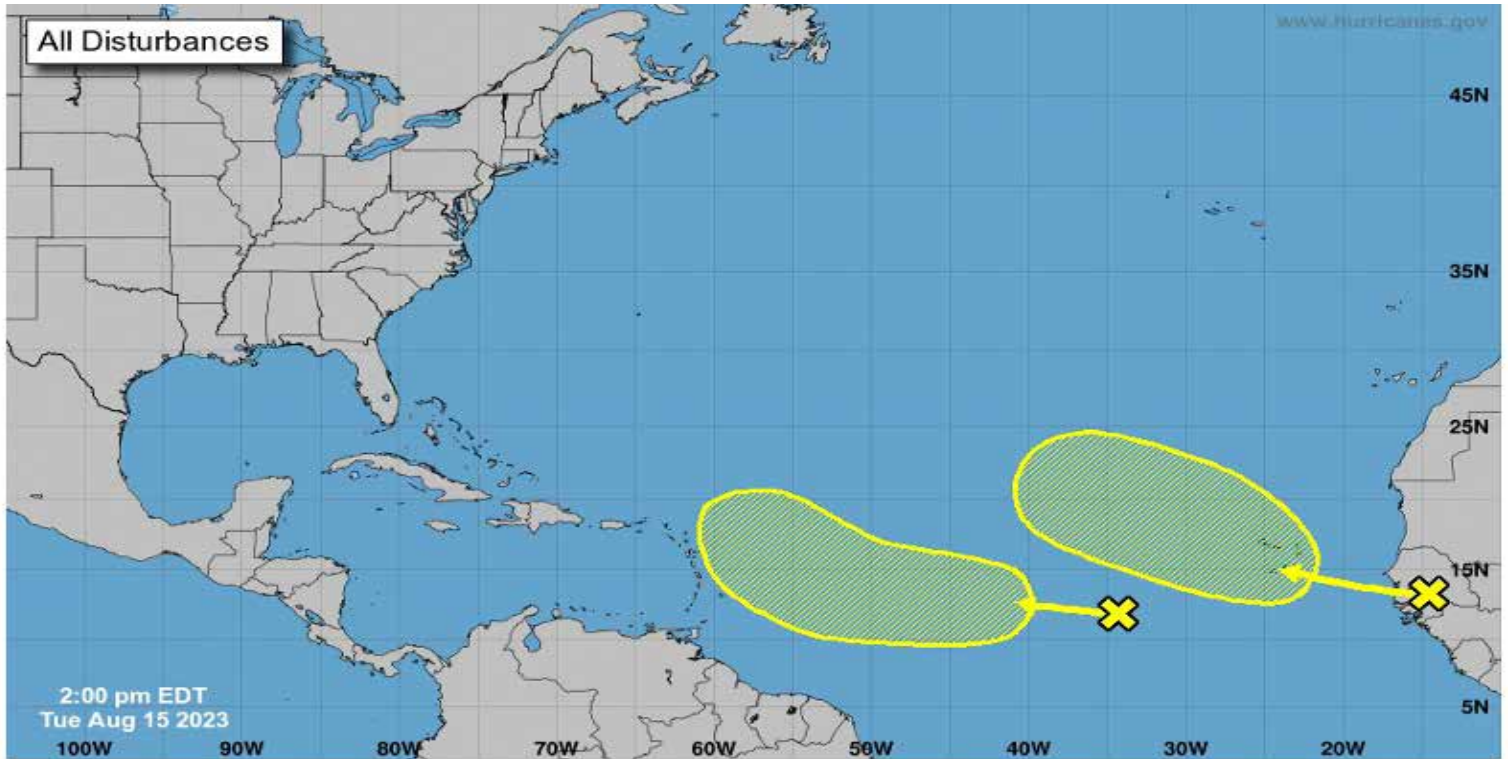
Also scrapped is a Nashville concert on 22 December, which was in-

tended to raise funds for trans rights organisations.

Refunds for the cancelled concerts will be issued at the original point of purchase.

Select shows in New York and Los Angeles will also take place in different venues. Ticketholders for the original dates will be refunded and given priority access to the rescheduled concerts.

The setlist for the show is currently under wraps, but Madonna previously asked fans for their input, posing the question "What song would you like to dance to at my show?" on social media.



Hurricane season heats up as two tropical waves move off Africa

The US National Hurricane Centre (NHC) is monitoring two tropical waves in the Atlantic Ocean.

The first wave is located a few hundred miles west-southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands.

In its forecast this afternoon, NHC said it is producing disorganised showers and thunderstorms and development is slow to occur.

“Development, if any, of this system, should be slow to occur while it moves westward to west-northward at about 15 mph across the tropical Atlantic through the end of the week,” NHC said.

The second wave is forecast to move off the west coast of Africa tonight or early Wednesday.

“Some slow development of this system is possible late this week or over

the weekend while it moves generally west-northwestward or northwestward

across the eastern Atlantic. Environmental conditions are expected to become un-

favourable for development by early next week,” NHC said.

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Fiery explosion in Dominican Republic market area kills three

A powerful explosion rocked a bustling market area near the capital of the Dominican Republic on Monday, killing at least three people and injuring more than 30 others as people tried to flee amid the chaos, authorities said.

The explosion occurred at a bakery in the city of San Cristobal, which lies just west of Santo Domingo, the country's 911 system said in a statement.

Charred cars and debris from several collapsed buildings lined the streets as thick, black smoke rose from the city's centre and enveloped several blocks, prompting businesses to evacuate while crowds gathered to film the aftermath. Some said they thought it was a bomb or an earthquake.

Left in the rubble were shoes, overturned chairs and even a motorcycle helmet.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the afternoon explosion, which officials said sparked a fire that spread from the bakery to a hardware store next door and a nearby furniture store.

The area is known as "Old Market-place," where throngs of people shop daily for goods ranging from fruits to clothes.

The victims were a 4-month-old baby who died from a head injury and two adults whose bodies were 90 per cent burned, according to a statement from Dr Mario Lama, director of the National Health Service. A local bank confirmed one of its female employees died in the explosion.

At least 39 people were reported injured as of late Monday night.

The death toll is expected to increase, with firefighters unable to enter certain buildings while continuing to fight the fire. As health officials announced the death of three people, civil defence authorities could be seen



Firefighters put out a fire after a powerful explosion in San Cristobal, Dominican Republic, Monday, Aug 14, 2023. (Jolivel Brito/Diario Libre via AP)

lifting the bodies of two people who lay on the street hours after the explosion.

"Our main objective here has been to safeguard the greatest number of human lives," Joel Santos, minister of the presidency, said during a news conference.

Dominican President Luis Abinader said he dispatched a government team to San Cristobal, adding that officials have been tending to victims and their families from the start.

Pura Casilla, the governor of San Cristobal province, told Noticias SIN that the explosion occurred in a commercial area and greatly affected businesses near the town centre.

Firefighters were still battling the blaze late Monday night, and authorities ordered people to clear the area, warning that other buildings could collapse.

Government officials arrived on scene, including legislator Franklin Rodríguez, who told local media he was worried about people's health

and safety given the heavy smoke still streaming from several buildings.

"These buildings are very weak," he said.

He added that toll roads leading to San Cristobal were suspended to allow a greater number of ambulances into the area, with dozens of people rushing to nearby hospitals and clinics to search for loved ones. Some cried outside the main hospital as others hugged them for comfort.

Eddy Montás, a local representative, told Noticias SIN that he saw a couple of bodies in the area, in addition to the three deaths that authorities reported.

"We are saddened by what happened today," he said.

San Cristobal, the birthplace of dictator Rafael Trujillo, was the site of another explosion nearly 23 years ago. An arms depot exploded in October 2000, killing at least two people and injured more than two dozen others, forcing authorities to evacuate thousands.

Man killed in accident involving Dominica PM's son

Dominican Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has sent condolences to the family of a man, who was killed in a vehicular accident involving his oldest son.

The accident, which occurred on Sunday, claimed the life of Kyan Joseph.

At a press conference yesterday, Skerrit stated: "As you all know, my son was involved in a vehicular accident [Sunday] and one of the persons involved has lost his life."

"I want to extend my sincerest condolences as I have done private-

ly to the family of Mr Kyan Joseph. I cannot say much on this matter but I want to express publicly my heartfelt condolences and solidarity to his family."

According to reports, Joseph, 27, was riding his motorcycle west from Grand Bay on the Bellevue Chopin Road when he collided with a vehicle driven by Malik Skerrit.

Joseph was transported to the Dominica China Friendship Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

His female pillion rider was also hospitalised.



Kyan Joseph.

USVI health officials deny implementing new COVID-19 measures

The US Virgin Islands Department of Health (VIDH) is dispelling rumours that a new Public Health Advisory was issued recommending social distancing and mask wearing to protect against the coronavirus (COVID-19) variant XBB.

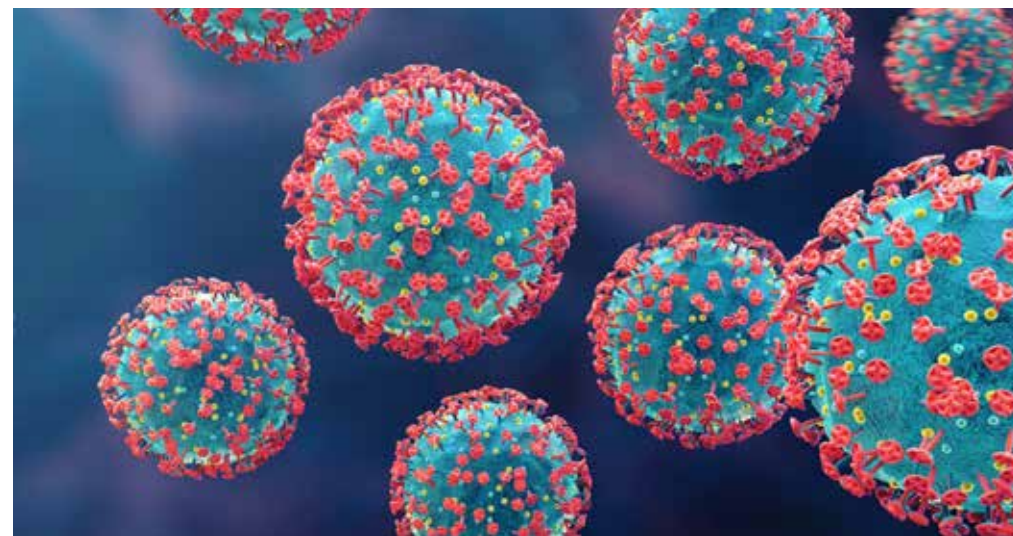
Rumours of the health advisory began circulating online over the week. The fake social media posts claimed the XBB variant is deadlier than previous strains and undetectable.

Health Commissioner Justa Encarnacion said the information is false.

"The Department of Health has not issued an advisory directing the public to wear a double layer of mask or to social distance. Wearing a mask is no longer mandated by the Department of Health.

"However, wearing a mask is a personal choice and we do encourage wearing a mask if you are sick to protect others around you," she said in a statement.

Dr Esther Ellis, Territorial Epidemiologist for the VI Department of Health explained: "The current variant



is EG.5. It is not showing to be more dangerous than previous COVID variants. Also, XBB, although more contagious, did not make people sicker and did not result in increased hospitalisations."

VIDH is encouraging islanders to vaccinate themselves against COVID-19.

Vaccines are available:

On St Croix from 9 am to 3 pm, Monday through Thursday, at the Department of Health clinic located on the second floor of 35 Castle Coakley

Unit 5, known as the Old Caribe Home Centre Building. No appointments are necessary.

On St. Thomas, for adults, vaccinations are available from 9 am to noon, Monday to Thursday, at the Community Health Clinic located at the Schneider Regional Medical Center. For the FLU vaccine call (340) 774-7477 to make an appointment. For children, vaccinations are available at the Maternal Child Health Clinic. Call 340-777-8804 ext. 2600 to make an appointment.

Mother of six-year-old who shot Virginia school teacher pleads guilty

By Brandon Drenon

The mother of a six-year-old who shot his teacher in a Virginia classroom has pleaded guilty to a charge of felony child neglect, US media report.

Deja Taylor, 26, entered the guilty plea as part of a deal with prosecutors to lessen the sentencing from up to six years to six months.

Her son shot Abigail Zwerner, a teacher at Richneck Elementary School in the city of Newport News, on 6 January.

Taylor's sentencing is scheduled for 27 October.

As part of Taylor's plea deal, a separate misdemeanour charge of reckless storing of a firearm was dropped.

James Ellenson, a lawyer for Taylor, said his client remains remorseful, although he believes no prison time



will be the appropriate sentence, NBC News reported.

"She feels very responsible, feels very bad," Mr Ellenson told reporters after the hearing.

The BBC has contacted Mr Ellen-

son for comment.

Taylor had previously told police she believed the gun was in her purse, secured with a trigger lock, and that the gunlock key was under her bedroom mattress.

But in her guilty plea she reportedly admitted that the gun was stored in a way that made it accessible.

An assistant Newport News Commonwealth's Attorney said in court on Tuesday the six-year-old took the gun from his mother's purse, which was on top of a dresser, according to the Washington Post. The gun was not secured with a trigger lock, the prosecutor said.

The shooting, which made national headlines in January, cast a renewed spotlight on issues of school safety and gun violence.

Ms Zwerner was hit in the hand and chest, resulting in a weeks-long hospital stay and multiple surgeries. She filed a \$40m (£31.4m) lawsuit against the school district earlier this year.

Newly revealed court documents unsealed in August added additional details about the tragic encounter.

The six-year-old is said to have ad-

cont'd on pg 17



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Texas woman awarded \$1.2bn in revenge porn case

By Nadine Yousif

A Texas jury has awarded a woman \$1.2bn (£944m) after ruling that she was the victim of revenge porn.

The woman, who was named only by the initials DL in court documents, filed a harassment lawsuit against her former boyfriend in 2022.

The suit alleged that he posted intimate pictures of her online to “publicly shame” her after a break-up.

Her lawyers in the case said the settlement is a win for victims of “image-based sexual abuse”.

“While a judgment in this case is unlikely to be recovered, the compensatory verdict gives DL back her good name,” said Bradford Gilde, the lead trial lawyer, in a statement.

The lawyers had originally asked the jury for \$100m in damages.

“We hope the staggering amount of this verdict sends a message of deterrence and prevents others from engaging in this despicable activity,” Mr Gilde added.

According to court documents, the woman and her former boyfriend began dating in 2016.



The woman's ex-boyfriend shared intimate photos of her online, as well as with her friends and family, without her consent.

The woman had shared intimate photos of herself with the defendant during the relationship. After a break-up in 2021, he is accused of having posted the photos on social media platforms and adult websites without her consent.

He allegedly sent links of the photos to her friends and family through a publicly accessible Dropbox folder.

He was also accused of having access to her phone, social media accounts and email, as well as to the camera system at her mother's home, which he used to spy

on her.

At one point, the defendant allegedly sent the woman a message: “You will spend the rest of your life trying and failing to wipe yourself off the internet. Everyone you ever meet will hear the story and go looking. Happy Hunting.”

Lawyers for the woman claim her former boyfriend posted the pictures “to inflict a combination of psychological abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse”.

He did not show up in court and did have an attorney to represent him, according to US media reports.

He was ordered to pay the woman \$200m for past and future mental anguish, as well as \$1bn in exemplary damages.

High settlements have been reached in US revenge porn cases in the past. In 2018, a California woman was awarded \$6.8m after her former partner shared explicit photographs of her on porn sites.

DL told a Texas broadcaster that after receiving little assistance from local police she turned to a civil attorney.

In 2016, around 10 million Americans reported being victims of non-consensual - or revenge - porn. Many of them are women aged 18 to 29, according to a study at the time by the Data & Society Research Institute.

All US states, with the exception of Massachusetts and South Carolina, have anti-revenge porn laws in place.

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mitted “I did it”, adding “I got my mom's gun last night”, shortly after the shooting. The boy has not been charged.

Taylor had pleaded guilty in June to a federal charge of using marijuana while possessing a firearm. The sentencing in that case is also scheduled for October.

Joe Biden vows to visit Hawaii soon amid criticism

US President Joe Biden says he will travel to Hawaii “as soon as he can” following deadly wildfires.

Speaking in Milwaukee on Tuesday, Mr Biden said he wanted to ensure that the people in the state had “everything they need”.

Nearly 100 people have so far been confirmed dead in the fires.

The president has come under increasing criticism from locals who felt the federal government’s response to the disaster was slow.

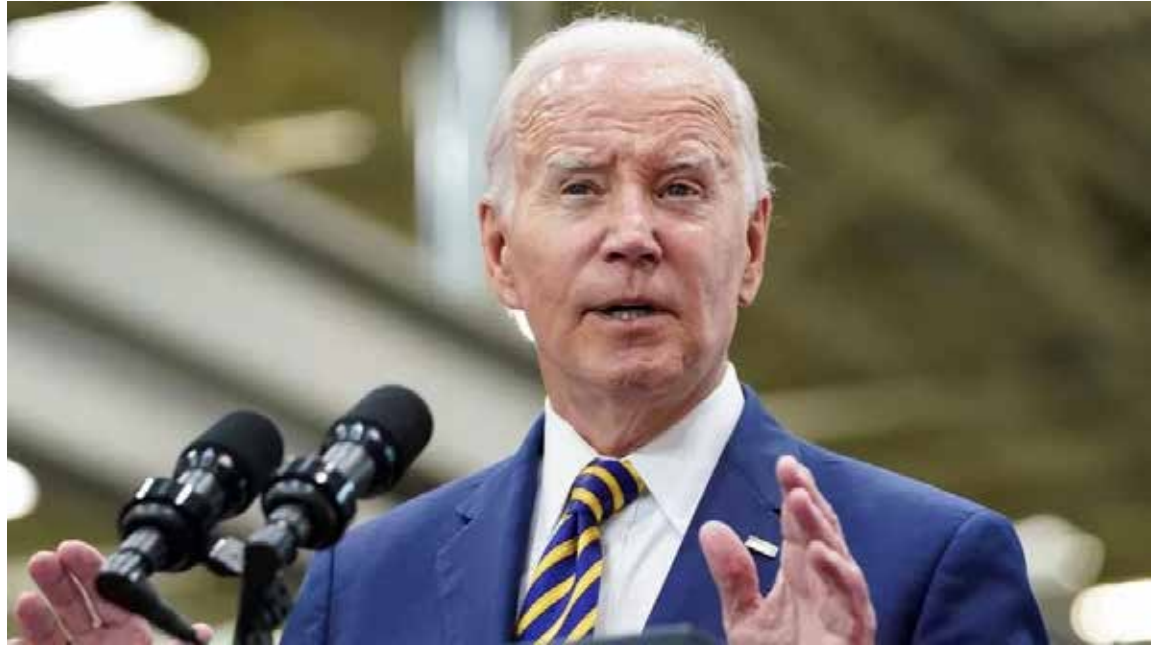
While at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, over the weekend, Mr Biden was asked by a reporter about the rising death toll in Hawaii, and responded: “No comment.”

The president said on Tuesday he hadn’t yet visited because of concerns that doing so would divert resources and attention from the humanitarian response. Jill Biden will accompany him to Hawaii, he said.

“I don’t want to get in the way. I’ve been to too many disaster areas,” Mr Biden said. “I want to be sure we don’t disrupt ongoing recovery efforts.”

Over 500 federal emergency personnel have so far been dispatched to help with relief efforts, including 150 search and rescue specialists.

Additional personnel are being sent to Maui to



US President Joe Biden

help those already on the ground, Mr Biden added.

He said that “all available federal assets” in the region will be used for recovery efforts, including the US military and Coast Guard.

“It’s painstaking work. It takes time and it’s nerve wracking,” the president said.

The US Small Business Administration has also begun offering low-interest disaster loans to help local residents rebuild.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) has approved one-time payments of \$700 per household to help with immediate needs in the wake of the disaster.

“Every asset they need will be there for them,” said Mr Biden. “And we’ll be there in Maui as long as it

takes.”

Officials in Hawaii have said they expect the death toll to rise in the coming days as more bodies are recovered from the worst hit parts of Maui.

On Monday, Governor Josh Green said that only 25% of the affected area had been properly searched for human remains.

Approximately 80% of Lahaina - a town of about 12,000 residents - was destroyed in the blaze.

On the ground in Maui, many residents told the BBC they have been frustrated at the scale and the speed of the recovery efforts.

One resident, Les Munn, said he has so far received \$500 (£395) from Fema - less than the price of a night in most hotel rooms on the island.

For now, he is still sleep-

ing on a cot in a shelter.

Another local, Felicia Johnson, said that “everybody wants the glory but nobody wants to put their feet on the ground”.

Others expressed frustration that locally sourced supplies are being turned away by government officials, or that road closures have prevented people from entering Lahaina to help.

“The government’s getting in the way of people helping,” said Liz German-sky, who lost her home in the fire.

“I don’t think the government could have done less,” she told the BBC while sitting in a snarl of traffic on the island. “The way things are unfolding right now is typical of what we all experienced on Tuesday... it’s no wonder that this got so out of hand.”

Empire and Bullets make winning starts to Parham Super League

Empire and Pigotts Bullets have made a successful start to their campaigns in the Parham Super League community football tournament.

Empire kicked off their campaign with a 5-2 victory against Swetes in the second game of a double-header at the Parham playing field on Sunday.

Armando Marty, Dorland Jacobs, Ellsworth Mack, Jevaughn Jarvis, and Rakeem Joseph were the goal scorers for Empire. Akeem Weekes and Raheem Deterville converted for Swetes in the Group B encounter.

A double conversion by Dorisca Marckens helped propel the Pigotts Bullets to a 3-2 victory against All Saints United in the second game on Sunday.

Junior Lee scored the other goal for the Pigotts Bullets in the Group A encounter. Carl Carr and Ajarnie Thomas each converted once for All Saints United.

Eight teams, divided into two zones, are contesting the Super League, which commenced with a double header at the same venue on Saturday.

SAP defeated Greenbay

Hoppers 3-1 in the opening Group B encounter, while Garden Stars and Parham fought to a 1-1 draw in the first encounter in Group A.

The eight teams are vying for the championship and a grand prize of

EC\$5,000. The competition will continue with a Group A double-header on Friday, August 18th.

Pigotts Bullets will take on Garden Stars at 6 pm, and All Saints United will clash with Parham at 7:30

pm.

In a Group B double-header on Saturday, August 19th, SAP will tackle Empire at 5 pm, and Swetes will challenge the Greenbay Hoppers at 6:30 pm.



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Spain beat Sweden to advance to first Women's World Cup final

AUCKLAND (Reuters) - Olga Carmona struck late to lift Spain to a thrilling 2-1 semi-final win over Sweden on Tuesday and send the Iberians into a first Women's World Cup decider as the tournament signed off in New Zealand with a flurry of goals.

Wearing the captain's armband, Carmona's 90th-minute strike from the edge of the area pinged off the crossbar and into the net two minutes after Rebecka Blomqvist had levelled the match for Sweden in front of a baying crowd of 43,217 at Eden Park.

"We're extremely happy. If you go to the dressing room now, it's incredible how they're celebrating," Vilda told reporters.

"We have the final in front of us, we're going to Sydney tomorrow and we want to win."

Peter Gerhardsson's Sweden bow out after another defeat at the penultimate hurdle, having made the semi-finals in France four years ago and at last year's European Championship.

"It felt like a punch in the stomach when they managed to take the lead again straight away. There are no words," Sweden defender Magdalena Eriksson told Swedish radio.

Fifteen Spain players had threatened to quit last year if Vilda was not moved on, but on Tuesday his decision to replace playmaker Alexia Putellas with Paralluelo before the hour mark proved decisive as the team beat Sweden for the first time at their 12th attempt.

In a match-up of Iberian attacking flair and Swedish defensive resilience, Spain were the livelier side early on but had nothing to show for it.

Full back Carmona blazed just wide with a low, long-range effort in the 14th minute and midfield dynamo



Spain's team celebrates after winning the Women's World Cup semifinal soccer match between Sweden and Spain at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023. (AP)

Aitana Bonmati thrashed a wild shot past the same right post from the edge of the area.

However, Sweden finished the half ascendant with a typical salvo of set-piece pressure. A few minutes from the break, Spain were dealt a fright as Nathalie Bjorn chested the ball down and crossed to an unmarked Fridolina Rolfo in the area.

But the Sweden winger's volley was well covered by keeper Cata Coll. Sweden kept up the heat after the break but Paralluelo, named player of the match, wrested back the momentum for the Spaniards.

She came close to breaking the deadlock in the 70th minute when she kept the ball alive with a cut-back pass to Alba Redondo in close. Slumped on the turf, Redondo swung a leg out but could only put her shot into the side netting.

Eleven minutes later Paralluelo pounced again on a poor clearance, thumping home into the right corner to

send Spanish fans into delirium.

"It was a magic moment once again," said the 19-year-old, who scored in the 111th minute to dump the Netherlands out of the tournament. "To be able to repeat this is really incredible."

It looked all over for Sweden as regulation time dwindled but Lina Hurtig headed down to an unmarked Blomqvist, who volleyed home from close range.

The Swedes' joy quickly turned to despair when Carmona took the ball from a corner, took a few paces forward and unleashed a fierce strike that keeper Zecira Musovic tipped onto the underside of the bar.

The ball bounced down over the line, giving Spain a chance to create more history at their breakout World Cup. Sweden boss Gerhardsson was left to rue the cruel, late twist.

"I think everyone just feels sadness and huge disappointment," he

cont'd on pg 21

England to host Zimbabwe in cricket test match for first time since 2003

LONDON (AP) - England will host a cricket test match against Zimbabwe for the first time since 2003 following discussions between the country's boards to forge closer relations.

The four-day test will take place in May 2025 at a venue yet to be confirmed, the England and Wales Cricket Board said Tuesday.

"The significance and magnitude of this tour cannot be over-emphasized," said Givemore Makoni, managing director of Zimbabwe Cricket, "and I would like to say a huge thank you to the ECB for committing to the resumption of cricketing relations between our countries that date back to the introduction of the game in Zimbabwe in the 1890s."

ECB CEO Richard Gould said his board was "committed to developing a closer relationship with Zimbabwe Cricket and the announcement of this test against our England men's team is a step in that ambition."

Gould said England wants to "help grow test cricket and find opportunities to play more nations where we can."



England's Stuart Broad, left, celebrates the dismissal of Australia's Todd Murphy on day five of the fifth Ashes Test match between England and Australia, at The Oval cricket ground in London, Monday, July 31, 2023. (AP)

The decades-long hiatus happened because of the political situation in Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe's regime, which ended in 2017.

The 2003 test series between the teams was notable for the debut of England pace bowler James Anderson, who is still playing at age 41.

cont'd from pg 20
 said. "We felt this enormous joy and elation that maybe we can bring this to extra time. Then it turned again."
 Host nation New Zealand bid a fond farewell to the tournament, having generated a total attendance of more than 700,000 people in 29 matches across four cities.



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Leewards lose again at CWI Under-17 Men's tournament

The Leeward Islands were beaten for the second time in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-17 Men's 50-Overs tournament in Trinidad and Tobago on Monday.

After losing by eight wickets against Jamaica in their opening encounter at Inshan Ali Park on Saturday, the Leeward Islands went under by five wickets via the Duckworth-Lewis Method against host Trinidad and Tobago in a rain-affected match that was reduced to 38 overs per side at the same venue.

The Leewards were sent in to bat and were all out for 110 in 33.4 overs in their innings which was interrupted by rain. Deantre Drew top scored with 22.

Aadian Racha snapped up four wickets for 11 runs, and Ishmael Ali grabbed three wickets for 13 runs.

Set a revised target of 115 in 35 overs, Trinidad and Tobago achieved victory by scoring 115 for five in 30.3 overs to record their second win in as many outings.

Opener Luke Ali top scored with 40, and captain Fareez Ali was not out on 20. Jevon Manners claimed two wickets for 10 runs, and Ozan Williams captured two for 22.

The young Barbados cricketers also recorded their second win in as



The Leeward Islands Under-17 cricket team

many matches by securing a three-wicket win against the Windward Islands at Gilbert Park.

The Windward Islands crashed to 123 all out in 43.2 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Middle-order batsman Kirt Murray struck 41, and Devonte McDowall scored 25.

Shaquan Belle took three for 21, Kyron King claimed three for 38, and Akeem McCollin picked up two for 11.

Barbados achieved victory by scoring 125 for seven off 33.1 overs. Opener Gadson Bowens

made 37, Jaden Webster scored 21, and there was a contribution of 28 extras.

Murray snapped up four wickets for 18 runs in 10 overs, and Jelani Joseph captured two for 28.

Guyana recorded their first win of the competition by beating Jamaica by 29 runs at the National Cricket Centre.

The Guyanese made 133 all-out in 43.3 overs after they were sent in to bat by the young Jamaicans. Captain Jonathan Van Lange cracked 41, and Nicholas Shiopersad chipped in with 27.

Demarco Scott bagged five wickets for 11 runs,

Dantae Clarke captured three for 42, and Roshawn McKenzie took two wickets for 13 runs.

In reply, Jamaica crashed to 104 all-out in 24.2 overs.

The Jamaicans were on course for victory at 77 for one, but suffered a dramatic batting collapse in which they lost their last nine wickets for just 27 runs.

Opener Tyriek Bryan struck 35, Scott made 27, and skipper Brian Barnes contributed 20.

Gulcharran Chulai snapped up five for 24, and Matthew Pottaya grabbed four wickets for 14 runs.



The Liberta Black Hawks with their championship trophy after winning the 2022 ABCA Super40 Cup title. (File photo)

ABCA's domestic season to climax this weekend

The 2023 domestic season of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) will come to a close this weekend.

It will conclude with the final stages of the Super40 Cup limited-overs competition. The ABCA Super40 will climax with the staging of the two semi-finals and the final.

Top seed and defending champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks will host third-seed Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles at Ball Beef in Liberta in the

first semi-final.

Second seed Empire Nation will clash with the fourth-seeded Pigotts Crushers in the second semi-final at the Pigotts playing field.

The winners of the two semi-finals, which will bowl off at 11 am on Saturday, will clash in the final at Ball Beef in Liberta on Sunday morning.

The four teams qualified for the semi-finals after finishing as the top four sides at the end of the nine-team round robin preliminary round matches.

The Black Hawks played unbeaten, winning all eight matches to finish at the top of the standings at the end of the preliminary rounds with a perfect 32 points.

Empire Nation came in second with seven wins and one defeat to finish with 28 points. Both the Bethesda Golden Eagles and Pigotts Crushers finished tied on 20 points after their quota of eight matches.

However, the Golden Eagles clinched third place by virtue of a better net run rate.