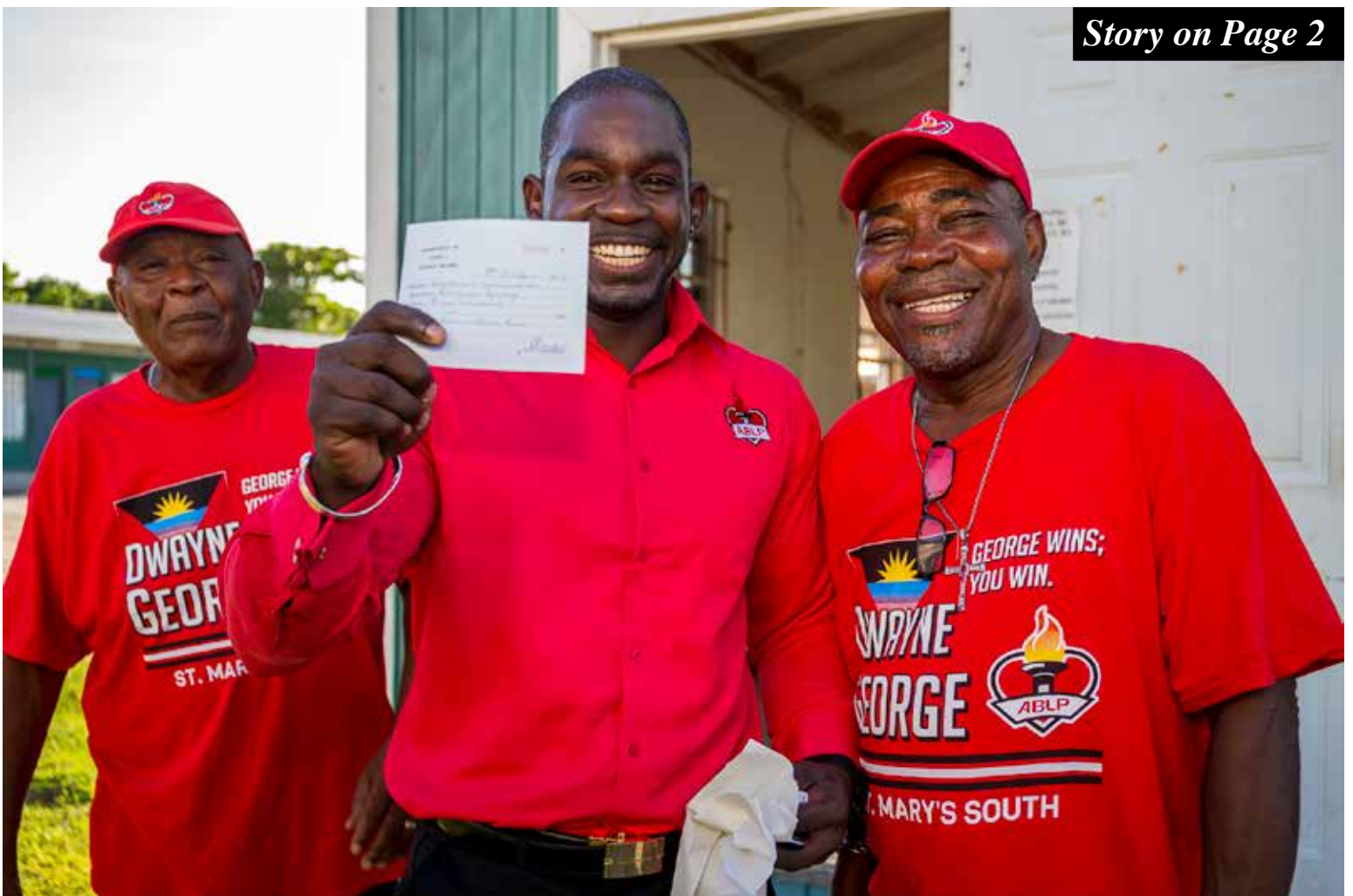


# THREE TO CLASH IN SMS BY-ELECTION

*Story on Page 2*



Dwayne George of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (centre) was nominated to contest the St. Mary's South by-election slated for October 24 following Nomination Day on Monday.

## Three to clash in SMS By-Election

Three persons have been duly nominated to contest the St. Mary's South by-election slated for October 24 following Nomination day on Monday.

The candidates are Dwayne George of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, Kelvin Simon of the United Progressive Party, and Andrew Antonio of the Democratic National Alliance.

As much as it is a three-way race, in the minds of most, the by-election is largely going to be a contest between the candidates for the two main political parties – the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and the United Progressive Party.

Both parties have launched intensive campaigns and are going all out to secure victory in the October 24 By-Election in the St. Mary's South constituency.

The By-Election was triggered by the UPP's Kelvin Simon, who was elected in the January 18, 2023, gener-



*Dwayne George*

al elections, but whose legitimacy was being challenged in the High Court over questions regarding his nomination.

Campaigning has been intensifying over the past several months and it was notched up to another level when the ABLP replaced Senator Samantha Marshall with Dwayne George as its candidate in July.

George, a lecturer at the Antigua State College, has brought new energy to the campaign, with the ABLP pulling out all the stops to support his candidacy.

The UPP has not been idle, as it too has been waging an intense campaign to regain the seat it felt it won fairly on January 18. On Nomination Day both parties staged separate motorcades through the constituency as demonstrations of their respective strengths.

The Revised Register for Elections is expected to be published today (Tuesday) with all the processes leading up to this stage now fully completed.

Supervisor of Election, Ian Hughes promises that the final list will be ready and published before the end of the week. There are just over 2,700 persons who will be eligible to vote, an increase of almost three hundred.

The outcome of the election will not affect the current arrangement in parliament where the ABLP already forms the government. It would, however, give the party a little 'breathing room' as it currently enjoys a one-seat majority.

### REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, CAP. 379

#### Statement of Persons Nominated

(Rule 17 Election Rules)

The following person whose particulars appear in the first column have been and stand nominated in terms of the above Act for the BY- Election in the Constituency of **ST. MARY'S SOUTH** on the 24<sup>TH</sup> day of **OCTOBER 2023**.

| First Column  | Second Column                 | Third Column      | Fourth Column       |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Names, other names, description and address of person nominated | Name of proposer and seconder | Electoral Numbers | Names of Assentors  |
| ANTONIO   | WEBB, Kemesia                 | 1576              | 1 ANTONIO, Heather  |
| Andrew Joshua Joel  | BAILEY, Nicole                | 14                | 2 BROWNE, Curaci    |
| Bolans Village  |                               |                   | 3 CORNELIUS, Tenecy |
| Tour Guide  |                               |                   | 4 KISNA, Cerriesa   |
|   |                               |                   | 5 KISNA, Natasha    |
|   |                               |                   | 6 SPENCER, Cuthbert |
|   |                               |                   | 7 THOMPSON, Foster  |
|   |                               |                   | 8 TONGE, Sparkle    |
|   |                               |                   |                     |
|   |                               |                   |                     |

The following persons whose particulars appeared in the first column have been nominated and no longer stand nominated for the reason set forth in the fourth column, all in terms of said Act for the said General Election in the said Constituency.

\* Place Party's initials here

## Ministry of Trade planning rollout of training for SME's

Just days after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC), the Ministry of Trade is now planning the formal rollout of the professional development programme for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Last Friday, Trade Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, and Principal of UWI FIC, Professor C. Justin Robinson, penned the MOU to collaborate on the establishment of a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) within the University of the West Indies.

“The programme is an integrated professional development and practical course of study designed for the SME sector that will better inform participants on how to start and manage a business. The UWI FIC will provide a course of



Trade Minister E.P. Chet Greene and UWI FIC Principal, Prof. C. Justin Robinson exchanged notes during signing of MOU.

study to help guide them in their entrepreneurial activities,” Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, explained.

He further explained that now that the MOU has been signed, the planning has started in earnest to have a professional development programme. *cont'd on pg 4*

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| First Column  | Second Column                 | Third Column      | Fourth Column        |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Names, other names, description and address of person nominated | Name of proposer and seconder | Electoral Numbers | Names of Assentors   |
| GEORGE, Dwayne  | AARON, Woodman                | 6                 | 1 FERGUS, Chesel     |
| Kenny Mustafa   | SIMON, Conrad                 | 1336              | 2 FRANCIS, Donnisha  |
| Bolans Village  |                               |                   | 3 GRAYMAN, Kenisha   |
| Teacher   |                               |                   | 4 GREENE, Charles    |
|   |                               |                   | 5 GRIFFITH, Peterson |
|   |                               |                   | 6 HENRY, Claudeth    |
|   |                               |                   | 7 JOSEPH, Tasha      |
|   |                               |                   | 8 VIGO, Louise       |
|   |                               |                   |                      |
|   |                               |                   |                      |

The following persons whose particulars appeared in the first column have been nominated and no longer stand nominated for the reason set forth in the fourth column, all in terms of said Act for the said General Election in the said Constituency.

\* Place Party's initials here

# Local News



*cont'd from pg 3*

sional rollout of the programme. He stated that specific groups of small businesses will be targeted for indication of what their needs are and together with the UWI they will develop courses to address these needs.

Ambassador Pilgrim advised that whilst there may be aspects of the programme that are rolled out this year, the ministry anticipates that the full rollout will not happen until next year.

“Logistically speaking, we are putting together a Calendar of Events for 2024 including the rollout. Even though some activities may take place this year the full programme will not materialize until next year.

“Principal Robinson indicated that he wants to begin some of the initial training as soon as possible and we are working to see how best we can achieve that,” he remarked.

Both the Ministry of Trade and the UWI FIC have agreed to collaborate



on the following areas. These areas of collaboration may be proposed by either institution and may include, but not be limited to:

- Collaborative research
- Joint strategies to promote micro and small enterprise growth and development, by offering training and consultancy services.
- Collective capacity development initiatives for MSMEs
- Joint teaching, workshops, seminars, and summer institutes to facilitate

Empowering entrepreneurs to improve the viability and performance of their businesses, generating higher returns on investment and efforts.

- Combined public outreach.
- Collaborative initiatives for student development
- Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and best practices related to MSMES.
- Mutual use of services and joint pursuit of mutually beneficial initiatives
- Collective strategies to promote Caribbean regionalism.

## REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, CAP. 379

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| First Column  | Second Column                 | Third Column      | Fourth Column                 |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Names, other names, description and address of person nominated | Name of proposer and seconder | Electoral Numbers | Names of Assentors            |
| SIMON   | THOMAS, Dean                  | 578               | 1 COCHRANE, Roxann            |
| Kelvin Craig  | HENRY, Justin                 | 662               | 2 DUBERY, Kizzy               |
| Bolans Village  |                               |                   | 3 JOHNSON, Joycelyn           |
| Counsellor  |                               |                   | 4 JOHNSON, Mary               |
|   |                               |                   | 5 LAPPS-HILLHOUSE, Pheobe Ann |
|   |                               |                   | 6 MARTIN, Deborah             |
|   |                               |                   | 7 MURRAY, Moria               |
|   |                               |                   | 8 TONGE, Shannon              |
|   |                               |                   |                               |
|   |                               |                   |                               |

The following persons whose particulars appeared in the first column have been nominated and no longer stand nominated for the reason set forth in the fourth column, all in terms of said Act for the said General Election in the said Constituency.

\* Place Party's initials here

## Hotel occupancy remained flat despite the rise in arrivals in August

There was a rise in visitor arrivals during August this year, but the increased numbers have not been reflected in hotel occupancy.

This has been revealed in the latest report issued by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association (ABHTA) detailing occupancy and arrival trends for the benefit of its members and the general public.

Using 2019 as its base year, because it was the best year for tourist arrivals before the pandemic. The report showed that arrivals jumped 25 percent compared with 2019. However, there was an increase in the 2019 figures, occupancy was down slightly this August compared with August 2022.

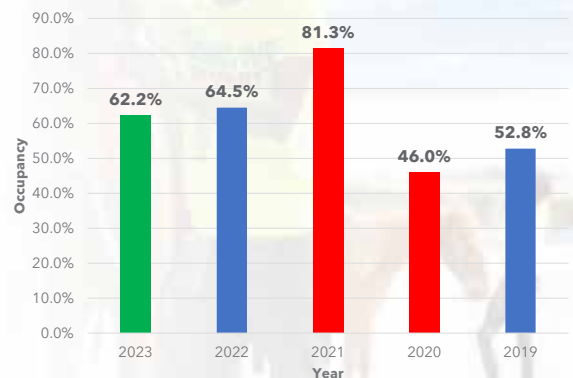
“In August, there was a notable rise in visitor arrivals, compared



|                   | 2023  | 2022  | % +/- YOY |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Overall Occupancy | 62.2% | 64.5% | -2.3%     |
| Large > 150 rooms | 64.5% | 68.4% | -3.9%     |
| Mid size 50-150   | 57.9% | 60.2% | -2.3%     |
| Small < 50        | 66.2% | 64.6% | 1.6%      |
| Luxury            | 44.7% | 51.7% | -7.0%     |
| Mid Range         | 66.2% | 67.3% | -1.1%     |
| Budget            | 69.6% | 66.1% | 3.5%      |

to the numbers seen in 2019, driven by the US Market. However, as in-

### Occupancy Comparison August 2019 - 2023



**Key Point:**

• **August 2023** result, IF equaled to the room nights available in 2019 will be **adjusted average to 43.9%**

dicated by the data presented in the following slide titled ‘Place of Stay,’ this increase in arrivals did not lead to a corresponding increase in average hotel occupancy,” the report noted.

The reason given was due mainly to people arriving in the country for Carnival and staying in private homes.

“This is largely due to the fact that over 60% of visitors opted for accommodations in Villas, Guest Houses, or within the VFR (Visiting Friends and Relatives) market, many of whom would have returned home in time for the carnival,” it stated.

For August, arrivals totaled 22022 visitors with almost half, 43 percent, coming from the United States. The next highest category was the visitors from the Caribbean, which further reinforced the fact that many of the visitors were arriving for Carnival. Hotel occupancy for the month averaged 62.2 percent; this is down slightly from the 64.5 percent record last year August.

## Walk for the Cure

Saturday, 14 October, 2023

**Assembly Point:** Sir Vivian Richards Stadium  
**Assembly Time:** 3:00pm  
**Move Off Time:** 3:30pm  
**Registration fee:** Adults \$50.00 & Children \$25.00

**Lots of prizes will be given away for categories such as largest group, 1st person to complete the walk and so much more.**

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

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

# Local News



## Principal extols MP on Health Month activities

The St. Paul's Health Month activities extended to the Cobbs Cross Primary School on Monday, as the 'Smoothies Monday' was held at the institution.

Health Month has been an important feature in the calendar of events planned each year for the St. Paul constituency. It is a 10-year-old initiative introduced and coordinated by Member of Parliament, E.P. Chet Greene

Principal of the Cobbs Cross Primary School, Gail Samuel-Walter welcomed the event, as she said it provided ample examples to the students showing healthy alternatives to sugary drinks.



"I wish to use this opportunity to applaud you and your team for celebrating Health Month and for sharing smoothies with our children today (Monday) showing them that there is a healthy alternative to sweet drinks and sodas, I know that it is a costly ven-

ture, but I would really like to see it being done again," Principal Samuel-Walter stated.

During the month, 'Smoothies Monday' rotates among educational institutions within the constituency.

Several clinics are



Principal of the Cobbs Cross Primary School, Gail Samuel-Walter

also being held during the month. These include general health, breast cancer, and prostate cancer screenings.

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## Mental Health advocate launches school tour initiative

Mental health awareness advocate, Chaneil Imhoff, has announced the launch of the “Be Kind to Your Mind” School Tour, an engaging and educational initiative designed to empower children aged 8 to 12 with essential knowledge about mental health.

The tour commenced on October 9th, 2023, at TOR Memorial School, Imhoff’s alma mater, and will continue through October 13th, 2023.

“In alignment with the World Mental Health Day (WMHD) theme for 2023,

*cont’d on pg 8*



CHANEIL IMHOFF

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# Local News



*cont'd from pg 7*

“Mental health is a universal human right,” this school tour aims to create a safe and inclusive space for children to explore and express their emotions while fostering understanding and compassion for mental well-being,” she

explained.

Imhoff describes herself as a being passionate about mental health advocacy and recognizes the importance of starting conversations about mental health at a young age. Through the “Be Kind to Your Mind” School Tour,

she intends to provide valuable insights and resources to young students, helping them develop emotional intelligence and resilience.

The remaining school tour schedule is as follows:

October 10th: Parham Primary School

October 11th: Five Is-

lands Primary School

October 12th: Pares Primary School

October 13th: Holy Trinity School

The highlight of the tour is the introduction of the “Be Kind to Your Mind” coloring and activity book, a delightful and interactive resource that encourages children to explore their feelings and emotions in a fun and engaging way. This resource is a valuable tool to initiate conversations about mental health, promote self-awareness, and enhance emotional well-being. The start of the tour also featured performances from Brandon Browne and Peetron.

Imhoff expressed her excitement about the tour, stating, “I am thrilled to kick off the ‘Be Kind to Your Mind’ School Tour at TOR Memorial School, where my journey began. It’s crucial to equip our children with the knowledge and tools to understand and nurture their mental health. I believe this tour will inspire empathy and kindness, creating a positive impact on our young minds.”

Parents, teachers, and students are invited to join Chaneil Imhoff on this inspiring journey towards a more compassionate and mentally healthy future. For more information about the “Be Kind to Your Mind” School Tour, please visit @chaneilcimhoff on all Social Media Platforms.

**SUZUKI**

# FRONX

## Coming Soon

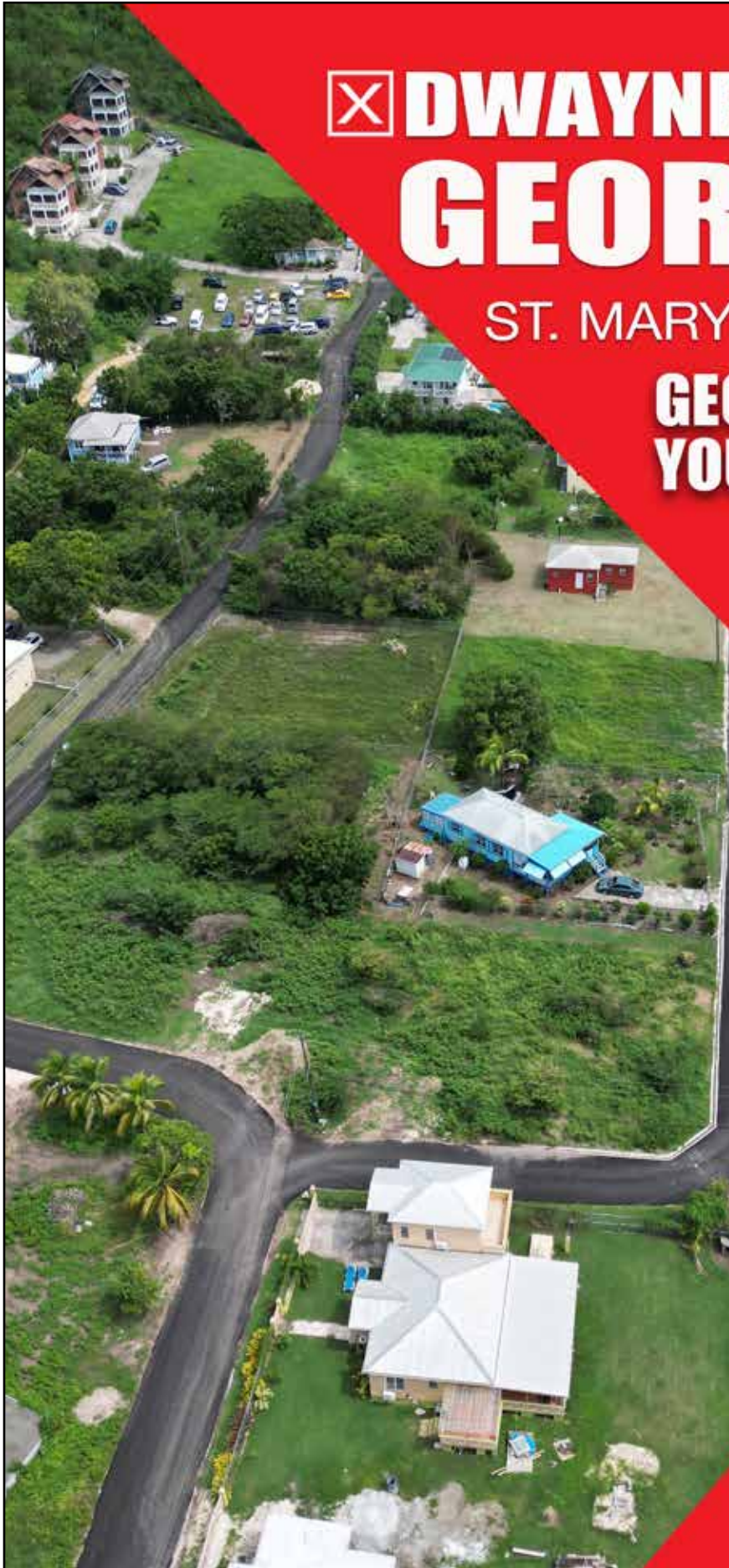
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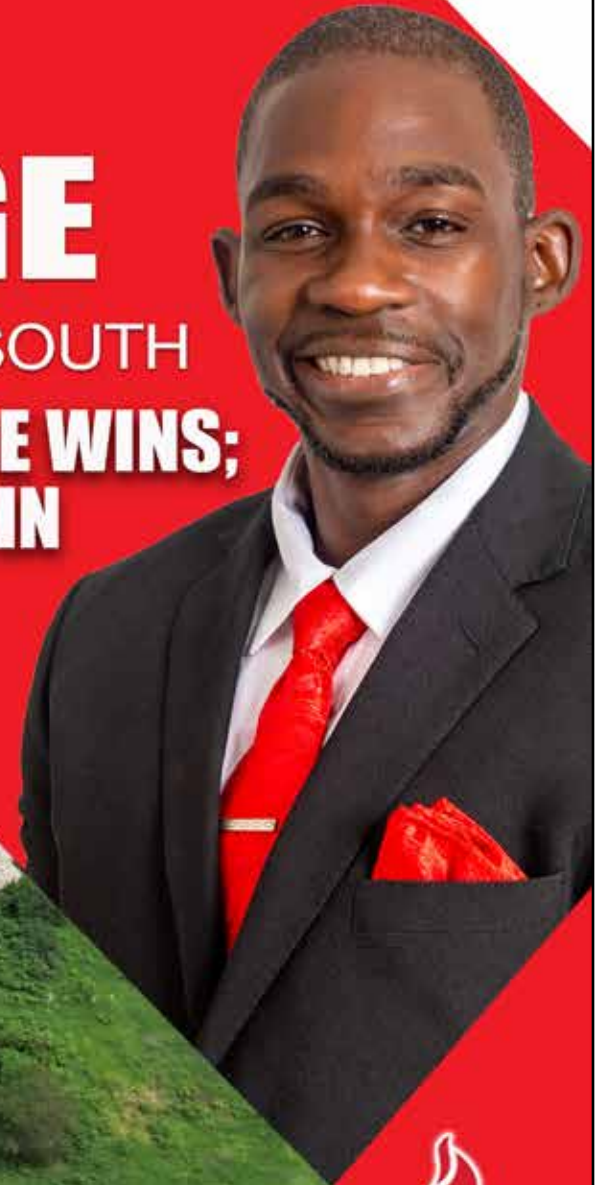




# DWAYNE GEORGE

ST. MARY'S SOUTH

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*"It is a long road to success, but I'm committed to making the progress as smooth as I can for you and your family"*

*Dwayne M. George*

**ROAD WORKS IN  
VALLEY CHURCH**

## Oil prices rise following Hamas attack on Israel

By Annabelle Liang

Oil prices have jumped on concerns that the situation in Israel and Gaza could disrupt output from the Middle East.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, climbed by \$2.25 a barrel to \$86.83, while US prices also rose.

Israel and Palestinian territories are not oil producers but the Middle Eastern region accounts for almost a third of global supply.

Hamas's assault on Israel was the biggest escalation between the two sides for decades.

Western nations condemned the attacks. A spokesperson for Hamas, the Palestinian militant group, told the BBC that the group had direct backing for the move from Iran - one of the world's largest oil producers.

Iran denied involvement in the assault at a UN Security Council meeting in New York on Sunday, Reuters reported. But Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has expressed support for the attack.

On Monday, Israel ordered US oil giant Chevron to pause production at the Tamar natural gas field off the country's northern coast, which is within range of rocket fire from the Gaza Strip.

The country's energy ministry, which has closed the field during previous periods of unrest, said there was enough fuel from other sources to meet Israel's energy needs.

Israel's largest offshore gas field, Leviathan, continues to operate as normal, Chevron said.

Energy analyst Saul Kavonic told the BBC that global oil prices have risen "due to the prospect of a wider conflagration that could spread to nearby major oil-producing nations such as Iran and Saudi Arabia".

On Monday morning, the price of West Texas Intermediate crude, the



US benchmark, was up \$2.50 a barrel at \$85.30.

"If the conflict envelops Iran, which has been accused of supporting the Hamas attacks, up to 3% of global oil supply is at risk," Mr Kavonic added.

Caroline Bain, chief commodities economist at Capital Economics, told the BBC's Today programme that Iran had been increasing oil production over the course of this year despite US sanctions.

"The US seems to have turned a blind eye to a steady increase in Iranian production, that... is going to be more difficult for the US to ignore going forward from here," she said.

Overall, Ms Bain said Capital Economics expected demand for oil to exceed supply in the final three months of the year and "that should support higher prices".

Mr Kavonic said that about a fifth of global supply would be "held hostage" if passage through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil trading route is disrupted.

The Strait of Hormuz is crucial for the main oil exporters in the Gulf region, whose economies are built around oil and gas production.

Uncertainty over how events could develop in the coming days may also drive investments into US Treasury

bonds and the dollar, which investors traditionally buy at times of crisis, said James Cheo from HSBC bank.

On Monday, Israel's central bank said it would sell up to \$30bn of foreign currency in a bid to calm markets and support the country's own currency, the shekel, which has fallen sharply.

"At this stage, there is a bit of nervousness. [Investors] want to see a little more clarity, particularly on economic data and on developments associated with geopolitical uncertainty," added Mr Cheo.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, oil prices soared, hitting more than \$120 a barrel in June last year.

They fell back to a little above \$70 a barrel in May this year, but have steadily risen since then as producers have tried to restrict output to support the market.

Saudi Arabia, a major oil producer, said it would make cuts of a million barrels per day in July.

Other members of Opec+, a group of oil-producing countries, also agreed to continued cuts in production in an attempt to shore up flagging prices.

Opec+ accounts for around 40% of the world's crude oil and its decisions can have a major impact on oil prices.

## Coldplay and ex-manager locked in multi-million pound court battle

By Mark Savage

Coldplay and their former manager have filed competing claims in London's High Court, with each party seeking millions of pounds from the other.

Dave Holmes, who worked with the band from 2005 to 2022, sued them in August for £10 million in unpaid commission.

In a counter-claim, the group rejected his claim and said Holmes had allowed tour costs to spiral out of control, and demanded £14 million in damages.

The case could come to court if the parties do not settle.

Holmes' original court case claimed that Coldplay owed him commission for two as-yet-unreleased albums.

According to his lawyers, the band were paid an advance of £35 million for their 10th album and £30 million for their 11th and 12th albums.

Holmes maintains that he helped to organise recording sessions, clear samples and liaised with producer Max Martin before the band decided not to renew his contract last year.

He is asking the High Court to declare that a contract covering the tenth and eleventh albums is valid, and to order payment.

For the band's previous two albums, *Everyday Life* (2019) and *Music of the*



Chris Martin is named in court documents alongside his bandmates Jonny Buckland and Will Champion.

*Spheres* (2021), he says he was paid between 8% and 13% commission.

When the case was filed, a representative for Coldplay said the claims would be "vigorously disputed" and, in a counter-claim filed on Friday, the band fired back.

In court papers seen by *The Times*, Coldplay alleged that Holmes had obtained loans totalling \$30 million (£24.6 million) from concert promoters Live Nation, who have worked with Coldplay for years.

"To the best of [our] knowledge... Mr Holmes used monies obtained by the loan agreements to fund a property development venture in or around Vancouver, Canada," the band alleged in the papers, arguing that he had used his position as their manager as

leverage.

They added that the debt could have affected Holmes' ability to negotiate favourable terms for the band's ongoing *Music of The Spheres* tour.

The court documents further allege that Holmes failed "adequately to supervise and control the tour budget", with expensive equipment ordered or bought that was not fit for purpose.

This included a \$9.7 million (£8 million) video screen that was so big it could not be brought on tour, and was only used for 10 performances in Buenos Aires.

Sixteen bespoke stage pylons were also ordered at a cost of €10.6 million (£9 million) before it transpired they were unusable, the court documents allege.

"Had Mr Holmes exercised reasonable care and skill in the performance of his obligations", the counter-claim continues, the band would not have incurred costs of at least £17.5 million.

Asked about the counter-claim this weekend, a spokesperson for Holmes told *The Times*: "Coldplay know they are in trouble with their defence.

"Accusing Dave Holmes of non-existent ethical lapses and other made-up misconduct will not deflect from the real issue at hand - Coldplay had a contract with Dave, they are refusing to honour it and they need to pay Dave what they owe him".

The former manager will now respond to the counter-claim as the case continues.

## Bermuda: Daughter of former govt minister wins lawsuit against police

CMC - Chief Justice Narinder Hargun has ruled in favour of Zarah Harper, the daughter of a former government minister who had been arrested and put in a cell by police after searching her home on October 12, 2020.

The lawmen had also seized her phone, two laptops and paperwork before taking her to the Hamilton Police Station.

In his ruling in her civil lawsuit, the Chief Justice found that the police had unlawfully arrested and searched the home of Harper, a radio station owner and daughter of former government minister, Zane DeSilva.

The police were investigating a party Harper allegedly organised during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As a result of the ruling last Friday, Harper is expected to seek compensation for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment and violation of privacy.

“The applicant is at liberty to apply for a further hearing in order to determine whether and, if so, the amount the respondent should pay the applicant by way of compensation for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment and violation of her privacy.” the judge ruled.

The 39-year-old Harper had described the “dawn raid” as totally unnecessary and an abuse of power by police.

In his ruling, Hargun said it was common ground that Ms Harper’s three small children and husband were present when the six-strong police team entered her home, adding “there is a dispute between the parties as to whether she was arrested and searched in the presence of her children”.



“No credible explanation has been given by the respondent as to why a 6:45 am dawn arrest by six police officers at her home address, where her children and husband resided, was necessary or appropriate”

The Chief Justice said that “for reasons known only to them”, the police chose not to apply for a warrant for the businesswoman’s home address during their investigation into an event held at Blu restaurant in Warwick, but also obtained one to search the neighbouring premises of her radio station, Vibe 103.

He described Ms Harper as a “businesswoman of good character, with no previous convictions” and detailed how she was treated differently to others linked to the case, including her father, who was arrested at his home by pre-arrangement on October 2, 2020 and who attended a pre-arranged interview with police on the same day as the raid on Harper’s home.

DeSilva and his daughter were both charged with providing information to a government official that they did not believe to be true in relation to the July 3, 2020 event at Blu, but the pair were cleared of the offences by a

Supreme Court jury last October.

DeSilva, a legislator since 2007, was forced to quit the Cabinet along with fellow minister Wayne Caines after attending the party because it breached regulations put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

A third defendant, Angela Caldwell, was also found not guilty of providing false information to a public officer in relation to the party.

Harper then sought a judicial review of the decision to arrest her, asking the court to declare her arrest and the search of her home unlawful.

Her attorney, Jerome Lynch KC, had argued in June that detectives had other options available to them and could have simply asked his client to attend a police station to help with their inquiry.

He said that in obtaining permission from a magistrate for the search of Vibe 103, police failed to disclose facts relevant to the issue of whether giving notice of their intentions could “seriously prejudice the investigation”.

“The court accepts that these facts were relevant and should have been disclosed to the magistrate, since they demonstrated that the applicant had

*cont'd on pg 13*

## Argument over stolen bike triggers brawl at BVI school

The British Virgin Islands Ministry of Education has said a security breach at the Elmore Stoutt High School was the result of a “retaliation in connection with a stolen bike.”

In a statement, the ministry said an investigation was launched by school officials after it was reported that a student had left campus without permission.

“As a result of our evaluation of the situation, a decision was made to contact local law enforcement for assistance. The authorities were already on campus

when the student who had left the premises returned, accompanied by three other individuals on bikes. Notably, one of these individuals was wearing a mask,” the ministry stated.

“We would like to clarify that upon the police’s arrival and subsequent detainment of these individuals, no firearms or other weapons were found in their possession. The situation was swiftly brought under control in less than 15 minutes.”



The ministry said a decision was taken to allow parents, who wished to collect their children from school

early, to do so.

The ministry said it is committed to ensuring students and staff are safe.

*cont’d from pg 12*

ample opportunity to destroy the material in question had she wished to do so.

“Failure to disclose these facts, in view of the court, was a breach of the respondent’s duty of candour owed to the court and would have also justified the setting aside of the search warrant dated October 9, 2020, issued by the magistrate,” the chief justice said.

Hargun said “no attempt” was made by the police to arrange to speak to Harper voluntarily or to invite her to attend the police station or another venue for an interview, and she was never asked to hand over material relevant to the investigation.





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Israel has launched retaliatory strikes on Gaza after the weekend attacks by Hamas.

## Gaza 'soon without fuel, medicine and food' - Israel authorities

The Gaza Strip could be on the brink of a new humanitarian crisis if supplies are not allowed in, authorities say, as Israel responds to the Hamas attacks.

On Monday, Israel declared a "complete siege" on the territory, saying electricity, food, fuel and water would be cut off.

According to residents, aid has not reached the enclave since Saturday.

BBC footage shows deserted streets covered with rubble from collapsed buildings following Israeli airstrikes.

Nearly 700 people have died in these attacks and thousands more are reported to have been injured.

The area is home to about 2.3 million people in total - 80% of whom rely on humanitarian aid mainly due to the ongoing hostilities with Israel.

It is ruled by Hamas militants but

Israel controls the airspace and its shoreline. It also restricts who and what goods can cross its borders.

Neighbouring Egypt strictly controls what or who can pass through its border with Gaza too.

Since the attacks began on Saturday morning, Israel has stopped all supplies entering Gaza, including food and medicine.

Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general, said more than a dozen healthcare workers had been killed or injured and at least seven medical centres had been damaged.

Meanwhile, many people are currently without electricity and internet, and could soon be out of essential food and water supplies.

"Damage to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities has undermined services to more than 400,000 people," said Mr Dujarric.

"The Gaza Power Plant is now the only source of electricity and could run out of fuel within days."

He added that the World Food Programme was already distributing food for up to 100,000 internally displaced Palestinians and that these efforts would increase eight-fold in the coming days.

Even before the latest restrictions, residents of Gaza already faced widespread food insecurity, restrictions on movement and water shortages.

Juliet Touma, a spokeswoman for the United Nations' Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), told the BBC people in Gaza were "terrified" by the current situation and worried for their safety - as well as that of their children and families.

On Monday, Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said it would

*cont'd on pg 15*

*cont'd from pg 14*

impose a “complete siege” on the territory.

“No electricity, no food, no water, no gas - it’s all closed,” he said, adding that “we are fighting animals and are acting accordingly.”

The Israeli infrastructure minister later ordered the immediate cut-off of water supplies to Gaza, saying: “What was in the past will no longer be in the future.”

In a statement released before those announcements, the Palestinian health ministry said hospitals were facing a shortage of medicines, medical supplies and fuel due to Israel’s actions.

It called on internation-

al actors to urge Israel to “restart power lines” and to supply emergency needs in the form of medicine, fuel and power generators.

Israel has launched massive retaliatory air strikes into Gaza in recent days. Sunday night saw a particularly heavy barrage of strikes, potentially the biggest Gaza has experienced in years.

Some of the strikes targeted the border area in the east of Gaza, from where Hamas launched their attacks on Saturday morning. Israel appears to be targeting those areas to try and shore up security there.

There have also been reports from witnesses of Israel using artillery fire in the border area.

Israel said it is striking Hamas targets in Gaza, but there are reports of civilians being hit.

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign affairs said two refugee camps in Gaza - Al-Shati (also known as the Beach camp) and Jabalia camps - were hit by Israeli airstrikes, reportedly leaving several injured and dead.

Video shared online from Jabalia showed widespread chaos, including a body being carried away and a man covered in blood and dust.

The foreign ministry also said air strikes hit a United Nations school in Gaza that was housing hundreds of civilians, including children and the

elderly.

The UN confirmed the attack, saying the school was “severely damaged”, but that no one was killed.

There have also been reports of a mosque, as well as homes, being hit.

According to Associated Press, 19 members of the same family were killed in a strike in Rafah, in the south of Gaza.

The UN said on Monday 123,538 people in Gaza have been internally displaced, mostly “due to fear, protection concerns and the destruction of their homes”.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) added that 73,000 people are sheltering in schools.

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## Mbankolo landslides kill 30 in Cameroon capital Yaoundé

At least 30 people have been killed in landslides caused by heavy rains in Cameroon's capital Yaoundé, the emergency services have said.

A local radio station put the death toll at 40, saying that many people are still missing.

Rescue efforts were hampered by floods, forcing locals to pull bodies out of the debris with their bare hands.

Heavy rainfall caused the Mefou River to burst its banks on Sunday, submerging several neighbourhoods.

The impoverished neighbourhood of Mbankolo, where many houses were built precariously on a hillside, was worst affected.

Local resident Ymele Guy told the BBC his child was killed by the flooding.

"I saw the disaster and just when I was informing my wife that things were bad, in a fraction of a second, my children and I were being submerged," he said.

"I saved my wife and at least three children. The rain took along the fourth... the rain snatched that child away."

Jouego Cathérine said her pregnant sister remained buried under the debris.

"I've still not found my sister. She got married in April. Together with her in-laws, all seven died here.



The landslide led to 25 homes collapsing.

Five corpses have already been recovered, it's remaining two — my sister and a young girl."

Landslides are frequent during the rainy season in Yaoundé - last year a soil embankment collapsed and killed at least 14 funeral attendees.

During Sunday's disaster, dozens of houses were swept away by the raging floods.

One home had been reduced to a mere passageway - a shortcut for emergency responders and grief-stricken residents.

People from outside the neighbourhood turned up on Monday to witness the devastation, such was the scale of the disaster.

Interior Minister Paul Atanga Nji urged peo-

ple, including residents, to evacuate the area "because the soil is unstable".

Many local people remain in the neighbourhood, however, as temporary accommodation is still being set up.

"We are organising rescue efforts, mattresses, blankets and all that," he said, adding that a three-month-old baby was among those who had been rescued.

Poverty and poor infrastructure make communities such as Mbankolo more vulnerable to extreme weather such as heavy rain, which is becoming more frequent and intense in Africa due to climate change, according to United Nations climate experts.

On Saturday, authori-

ties in neighbouring Nigeria warned residents to expect floods in nine states as Cameroon began releasing water from its Lagdo Dam.

It is expected to do this until the end of this month, Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (Nema) said, adding that Cameroon's dam was expected to spill water until the end of October.

Cameroon says the release of water is necessary due to heavy rains in the country's north.

The release would be kept to a minimum, officials added.

Last year, the release of water from the dam caused flooding and fatalities in Nigeria, especially in Benue state, on the border with Cameroon.



## Richie's Shooterz lose successive games in Business basketball league

After winning their first five games, defending play-off champions Richie's Shooterz have suffered successive losses in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Competition.

One day after losing for the first time in this year's competition, going under 52-60 against Anjo Wholesale, Richie's Shooters were beaten 55-48 by Sandals in the third game of a triple-header at

the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night.

Adissa "Ras I" Harish shot a game-high 18 points, John Rolland had 12 points, and Keroi Lee chipped in with 11 points for the Sandals.

Lincoln Weekes converted 14 points, Nickon McGregor had 12 points, and Kwame Brathwaite scored 11 points for Richie's Shooters.

The Board of Education and Trimingham Trucking Enterprises also recorded wins in the oth-

er two games on Sunday night.

The Board of Education prevailed 67-63 against the Sledge O'Ballers. Xavier "X-Man" Meade sank 18 points, Jesus Emmanuel scored 16 points, and Errol Henry contributed 12 points for the Board of Education.

Coy Quinland produced 15 points, and Kareem Edwards scored 14 points for the Sledge O'Ballers.

Donte Trimingham shot a game-high 21 points to

help Trimingham Trucking Enterprises snatch a 48-46 victory against H. Wright Promotions. Devorn Benjamin scored 12 points for H. Wright Promotions.

The business basketball league will continue with another double header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Tuesday).

Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew will take on Trimingham Trucking Enterprises at 6:45 pm, and H. Wright Promotions will face the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center at 7:45 pm.



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## Browne wins 2023 Robert Peters Two-Stage Race

Teenager Tahje Browne of the Wadadli Cycling Academy won the 2023 Robert Peters Two-Stage Race, which was hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) on Sunday.

Browne conquered the field in the first stage, which was an individual time trial from Hideout to the Block House at Shirley's Heights, and in the second stage, which was a criterium at the Pan Am Base. The cyclists in all categories rode the entire distance on the first stage.

Browne claimed the title by clocking the best overall time in the event. Browne completed the required 21 laps of the Pan Am Base circuit to win the Junior Male division of the criterium



From left to right: Abbiel Flemming of Team Pillars Cycling, Tahje Browne of the Wadadli Cycling Academy, and Jomari King of Vipers on the overall elite podium of the Robert Peters Two-Stage Race, which was hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

race in a time of one hour, 35 minutes, and 35.70 seconds.

Jahiem Telemaque of

Wadadli Cycling Academy finished second in the Junior Male category by clocking one hour, 40 minutes, and 33.67 seconds.

But Abbiel Flemming of Team Pillars Cycling clinched the overall runner-up position behind Browne. Fleming produced the second-best overall time in winning the Elite Male division. He completed the required 21 laps of the circuit in a time of one hour, 36 minutes, and 30.94 seconds.

Conroy Thomas of Team Terminix finished second in the Elite Male category by clocking one hour, 38 minutes, and 38.88 seconds.

Vincent Anfi, one of two newcomers making their de-

but on the domestic competitive cycling scene in Sunday's event, failed to finish the Criterium race. Anfi, an independent cyclist, had a spill in the second stage and was unable to finish the race in the Elite Male category.

Jomari King of Vipers captured the overall third place. King, who currently competes in the Cadets 14-17 class, contested the Open Elite Category, which required the participants to complete the same 21 laps as the Elite Male and Junior Male contestants.

King clocked a time of one hour, 37 minutes, and 27.38 seconds. King also won the Cadets 14-17 class by completing the required



Wadadli Cycling Academy's Tahje Browne, left, rides with other cyclists during the Robert Peters Two-Stage Race, which was hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation on Sunday, October 8, 2023. (Photos courtesy ABCF)

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Antiguans off to contest ECVA Under-23 men's championship

A 14-member contingent left Antigua and Barbuda on Monday to represent the twin-island state at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Under-23 Men's Championship in the British Virgin Islands.

The contingent comprises 11 players and three officials for the event, which will take place at the Multi-Purpose Sports Complex in Road Town, Tortola, from Wednesday, October 12, to Sunday, October 14.

The squad includes three outside hitters. They are Khaliq Joseph of High Flyers, along with Amali Mannix and Dale Gore of Antigua Grammar School.

Also selected as members of the team are middle blockers Jervon Carbon of the Sharks, Kemarni Joseph of Stoneville, and Shamar Bannis of the Sir



Head coach Michael Hamilton (white shirt) and the players of the Antigua and Barbuda Under-23 team at the V.C Bird International Airport before their departure to Tortola to contest the ECVA men's championship on Monday, October 9, 2023. (Photo courtesy the ABAVA)

Novelle Richards Academy. Sharks are the two opposite hitters in the squad.

George Freeland and The rest of the players Tayshawn Henry of the are setters Miguel Pena

Lugo of Island Academy and Roshaun Martin of Stoneville, and Libero Noah Perry of Island Academy.

The three officials accompanying the team are head coach Michael Hamilton, assistant coach Olsen "Karrat" Joseph, and manager Harris Lewis.

Ten teams will be participating in the event. They are Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Saba, Dutch St. Maarten, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### cont'd from pg 18

16 laps in a time of one hour, 16 minutes, and 50.36 seconds.

Aiden Tonge of the East Side Raiders finished second in a time of one hour, 19 minutes, and 09.41 seconds.

Elite Thomas of the Road Runners Cycling Club won the Cadets 11-13 category by completing the seven-lap circuit in a time of 46 minutes and 50.69 seconds.

The other newcomer making his debut, Kehmah Edwards of the Andre Simon Cycling Academy, finished second in a time of 49 minutes and 06.98 seconds.

Lone competitor Telesha Choy of Vi-

pers won the female division title. Choy completed the required 16 laps in one hour, 35 minutes, and 25.66 seconds.

Edward Henry of the Andre Cycling Academy captured the Masters Division, completing the required 19 laps in a time of one hour, 46 minutes, and 14.96 seconds.

Timothy Thomas of the Road Runners Cycling Club finished second in one hour, 54 minutes, and 34.16 seconds.

Tiziano Rosignoli of Road Runners Cycling Club won the Sports Class by completing the 16-lap circuit in one hour, 25 minutes, and 31.52 seconds.

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## Four teams battle in Dredgers Taped-Ball League

Four teams will resume their quest for title success in the championship stage of the Dredgers Taped-Ball League this evening.

Pelican Safari VIP, Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets, Marko Inc. Grill Box Buckleys 3J's, and host Dredgers will all be in action after advancing to the knockout stage of the competition, which will commence with two matches at the Dredgers playing field in St. John's this evening.

Pelican Safari VIP will take on Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets in Qualifier 1 at 5:30 pm, while Dredgers and Marko Inc. Grill Box Buckleys 3J's will clash in an eliminator at 7:30 pm.

The four teams booked their spots in the championship stage following the completion of the last two matches in the preliminary phase of the 10-over com-

petition.

Pelican Safari VIP defeated Marko Inc. Grill Box Buckleys 3J's by five wickets. Buckleys 3J's won the toss and batted first, scoring 100 for four off their allotted 10 overs.

Nigel Fergus made 30, including four sixes and a four, while Kadeem Phillip scored 23, inclusive of two sixes and a four.

The VIP achieved victory at 101 for five off with nine balls to spare. Michael Dover slammed 47, which included five sixes and two fours.

D'Andre Harris claimed two wickets for 18 runs, and Rodney Williams took two wickets for 28 runs.

However, the match between Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets and Rakaman Construction Strictly Business was rained out. Both teams shared the points.



Michael Dover will hope to continue his fine batting form and lead Pelican Safari VIP to more success in the Dredgers Taped-Ball League. (File photo)



The Antigua and Barbuda ladies team that finished first in net at the Eastern Caribbean Golf Championships at the Royal St. Kitts Golf Course at Frigate Bay in St. Kitts on October 7-8, 2023. From left: Akevia Warner, Lexi Hunte, and Kathrine Woodhouse.

*cont'd from pg 22*

States Virgin Islands.

Russell won the title with a total score of 137, while Hunte finished second with a score of 142. Fellow Antiguan Kathrine Woodhouse finished in joint fourth place with a score of 148, and Akevia Warner finished in 11th place with a score of 156.

The Antigua and Barbuda Seniors Team also claimed a second-place finish in Gross.

Marcus Franker and his Antiguan team-mate Eldine "Soca" Baptiste finished in joint seventh place with scores of 166 in the seniors' individual gross competition.

The other Antiguan on the seniors' team, Algenon Anderson Wynter, finished in 11th place with a score of 184. Rock Blake of St. Kitts and Nevis won the seniors' gross competition with a total score of 143.

# Sports

DEWS

TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2023

## Antigua and Barbuda finish third at ECGC

Team Antigua and Barbuda finished third overall at the Eastern Caribbean Golf Championships (ECGC), which were held at the Royal St. Kitts Golf Course at Frigate Bay in St. Kitts over the weekend.

Antigua and Barbuda went into the October 7-8 event as defending champions, having won the overall title at the 2022 event, hosted by St. Lucia.

But Antigua and Barbuda were unable to make a successful defense of their title, as they were dethroned by St. Lucia, who captured the overall team title. Host St. Kitts and Nevis captured the runners-up position.

Antigua and Barbuda's men's team was first in net. Tedson Weatherill won the men's individual net title with a total score of 129. But his fellow Antiguan finished outside the top five positions.

Siyolo Joseph finished joint 7th with a score of 147, team captain Wilston Charles finished joint 13th with a score of 152, and Marquise George had a total score of 158 to finish in 17th place.



The Antigua and Barbuda men's team that finished first in net at the 2023 Eastern Caribbean Golf Championships in St. Kitts. From left: Wilston Charles, Marquise George, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, Tedson Weatherill, and Siyolo Joseph. (Photos courtesy ABGA)

Antigua and Barbuda's Super Seniors were first in net. Wesley Dyer finished one shot behind the winner of the Super Seniors individual net title, Zeke Percival of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Percival won with a total net score of 146, while Dyer finished second with a score of 147. But his Antiguan team-mate Vere Ambrose finished in joint seventh place with a total score of 155.

The ladies team also finished first in net. Lexi Hunte captured second place behind the champion of the ladies' individual net competition, Megan Russell of the United

*cont'd on pg 21*