



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

# POINT EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 6

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# DOLLAR BARREL EXTENDED



# Local News



## Dollar barrel extended to January 31, 2024

The popular ‘dollar barrel’ initiative which many residents and their families enjoy each year, has been extended to the end of January 2024. Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, said the initiative which were to apply to barrels landed between December 1 and December 31, 2023, has since being extended. This means that more persons will benefit.

Due to the popularity of the programme thousands of barrels are shipped each December from the United States and other locales with

the expectation that they would only attract the \$10 clearance fee.

Boddu has reported that the 2023/24 instalment of the programme from December 1, 2023, there have been over thirty-two hundred (3,200) barrels processed at the port.

The extension is welcomed news for many individuals whose barrels may have been posted in December but which arrived or will arrive past the December 31, 2023, the initial cut-off date, because of a backlog in the shipping deliveries.

### AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
SOUTH CENTRAL	15 1987B	227

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024 at 11:00am the above residential property at Buckley’s Heights.

The property is under the ownership of **LOREAN DENISE ROBERTS (aka DENISE LOREAN ROBERTS)**. The land is a 10,890 sq. ft. (0.25 acre) plot with an approximate 3,841 sq. ft., 2-storey with a partial basement reinforced concrete building with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms.

The property is in a quiet residential area with a commanding view of the surrounding area.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: **464-7653** and **562-7653**.

Dated this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023

Trevor Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer

**STUDENT SAFETY POLICY**

**STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED**  
Live in a better State of mind

www.sicantigua.com  
info@sicantigua.com  
1 (268) 481-7800\04

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons



## LIAT 2020 awaits AOC to commence operations

LIAT 2020 is awaiting the issuance of ‘no objections’ letters from the shareholders of LIAT 1974 Ltd. in order to purchase one of the three aircraft the company, which is winding up, has on lease.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is reporting that these letters are critical as they will clear the way for the new airline – LIAT 2020 – to purchase one of the planes in order to get an Air Operator Certificate (AOC). The new airline cannot commence operations without an AOC.

“The hold-up now is that we are trying to purchase one of the aircraft of LIAT 1974 Ltd. How-

ever, ‘no objections’ letters from the shareholder governments are needed to facilitate the sale and I have been told that those letters should be in hand by this week. I am hoping that these letters will be sent so that we can complete the purchase, perhaps as early as this week,” PM Browne stated.

He emphasized that LIAT 2020 cannot get the AOC without owning an aircraft. “That is the issue right now. Once the letters are received, I can guarantee that the purchase of the first aircraft may be completed by this week; the cost is somewhere between 4 and 4.5 million dollars



(US),” he reported.

The prime minister has indicated that the new airline will purchase the aircraft at the current commercial value.

LIAT 2020 will be a joint venture between the government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Nigerian airline, Air Peace.

However, several Caribbean governments have expressed an interest in participating in the ownership of the airline. These include Dominica, Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadine and St. Kitts-Nevis.

Air Peace is expected to hold a majority stake in LIAT 2020 representing approximately 70 percent. Antigua and Barbuda has indicated that it is prepared to dilute its 30 percent shareholding to accommodate the other countries wishing to participate.

LIAT 1974 Ltd. has been under Administration since 24th July 2020 when it declared bankruptcy.

Since restarting operations in November 2020, LIAT has offered a limited

schedule to destinations including Antigua, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, St Maarten and Dominica.

Cleveland Seaforth of BDO Eastern Caribbean is the cash-strapped airline’s court-appointed administrator.

In a letter last week, Seaforth informed the Antigua-based airline’s staff that the company will wind up its operations before month’s end.

Seaforth wrote “after careful consideration and evaluation of the present operations, a decision has been taken by the court-appointed administrator to permanently cease all commercial flying operations as of the close of business on January 24, 2024. As a result of the foregoing, you are hereby notified that your employment with LIAT (1974) Limited (in administration) will be made redundant effective February 4, 2024.”

PM Browne said the majority of LIAT 1974’s staff will be rehired at the new company.



## Professional training of educators: A MOE priority

An intense and sustained programme of professional training is underway for teachers employed within the public education system organized by the Ministry of Education.

Director of Education, Clare Browne, said the ministry is very serious about upskilling the members of the teaching fraternity who impart knowledge to students in the classrooms.

That training, he emphasized, is ongoing for teachers from the pre-school level all the way to those in the tertiary level institutions.

“We have professional development training at the primary level to ensure teaching is at a premium and at the secondary level our training is designed to ensure the enhancement of leadership skills for those teachers who manage the school plants. These include principals, heads of departments and level heads,” Browne disclosed.

According to the director the training follows a standardized module across the board to ensure that the skill levels throughout the system meet an established standard of professionalism and approach regardless of where a particular principal or department head may be based.

“Our professional development programme is

critical as it is a means of improving the quality of education being offered throughout the system,” he remarked.

Director Browne has provided insights into the MOE’s vision for the future and the means through which it hopes to realise this vision.

*(During this week, Point Express will provide further insights into the MOE vision for education for 2024 and beyond).*



Director of Education, Clare Browne

### Job Offer

Fly All Ways

**TRAINEE CABIN ATTENDANT**

At Fly Allways, we move the people who move the world  
Keep climbing and apply to join us today!

Fly Allways, a young and dynamic airline company is looking for Trainee Cabin Attendants for Freelance.

**Requirements for the position of TRAINEE CABIN ATTENDANT**

- Experienced in Aviation is an advantage
- Must be between 23 and 30 years of age
- Length of ladies between 1.65 – 1.85 meters, Preferred weight 48-65 kg
- Length of gentlemen 1.72 – 1.85 meters, Preferred weight 60-75 kg
- Representative overall pleasing and well-groomed appearance with no visible piercings, tattoos, or dental decorations
- Non-smoker with an excellent overall health
- Not afraid of flying! Swimming skills are required
- Fluent communication in English, verbally and in writing. Spanish or Portuguese or another language is an advantage
- Junior college educated with 1 or 2 years of experience in the hospitality branch
- Available to work flexible/extended hours and able to work in a physically demanding role
- Must pass the required psychological test, medical test, alcohol and drugs test
- Willing to be home-based in Antigua or nearby. Accept assignment to any base after training graduation and relocate or commute (i.e. standby travel) to and from the assigned base location

**Application**

Ready to join the exciting world of Fly Allways? Please send your CV with a photo before **15 January 2024** to the **HR Team [flyallwayshrm@gmail.com](mailto:flyallwayshrm@gmail.com) / [secretary@flyallways.com](mailto:secretary@flyallways.com) / +597 8815522**



## PM expresses frustration with apartment owner over sewage water

Members of the community are voicing serious concerns over the release of what is believed to be raw sewage water from an apartment complex on the Epicurean Drive that finds its way unto the Lauchland Benjamin Drive and settled on that popular by-road.

Speaking on Saturday's *Browne and Browne* Show, Prime Minister Gaston Browne also expressed frustration with the public health officials' tardiness in not ordering the closure of the facility until the problem has been corrected.

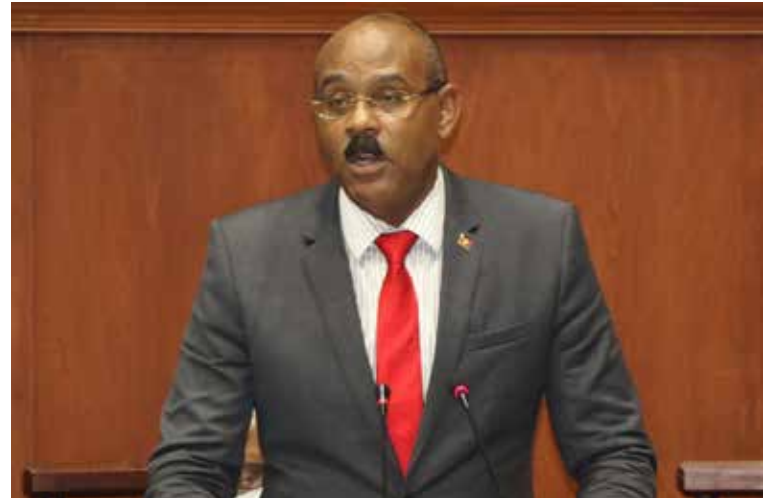
"My understanding is that this is raw sewage that this business man has allowed to flow unto the government road and this has been brought to the attention of both the Central Board of Health and the Development Control Authority and as far as the Cabinet is concerned those agencies need to read the riot act to that person. It has been months now that they have been warning him and the situation has only worsened. He has made several promises and he has not done anything, so therefore we have asked these agencies to 'up the ante'," the prime minister disclosed.

According to the prime minister the situation poses a serious health risk to individuals and families who drive along the LBD and have the sewage water splash unto their vehicles and getting

unto their clothes or bodies when they arrive home.

"This is a person who owns a lot of real estate in Woods and it is totally unacceptable where he is putting profits over the health of the people of Antigua and Barbuda. It seems as though these public officials are afraid to read the riot act to these people. That is why I have to be on the front line to call them out because our people are sometimes too timid to act," PM Browne exclaimed.

He stated that the prob-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

lem has been ongoing for months with no effective action from the CBH and others. He called out the de-

partment head to issue a letter locking down the apartments until the problem is rectified.



*FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK!*

*DEWS* 




DEWS


dewspro


info@dewspro.com


729-3397/ 729-1210

## Police identify shooting victim

The police have identified the victim of Sunday night's shooting that resulted in the death of young man.

The police named him as Keiran 'Cracker' Hutson of Yorks. He was 24-years

In what has been described as a harrowing incident, the shooting is said to have sent shockwaves through the community. It happened at approximately 7:30 pm.

Hutson was swiftly transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center in the wake of the shooting. Despite the efforts of emergency personnel, he was pronounced dead at approximately 8:30 pm.

Local authorities have launched a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident. The police are actively seeking witnesses and are gathering evidence to piece together the sequence of

events leading to the loss of life. The motive behind the shooting remains unknown at this stage.

The community is grappling with the shock and grief caused by this first homicide of 2024. Residents are urged to remain vigilant and to cooperate with law enforcement in the ongoing investigation. As the police probe continues, updates and further details will be provided to the public.

The police have not yet disclosed information regarding potential suspects or any arrests made in connection with the case. Authorities are emphasizing the importance of community cooperation to ensure a thorough and swift resolution to this incident.

The impact of this tragedy extends beyond the immediate circle of family and friends, affecting the broader community. The loss serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing challeng-



Keiran 'Cracker' Hutson es faced by local law enforcement in maintaining public safety.

**ONE NATION**

**ONE DROP Signature**

**13TH JAN 2024 8:00PM ARG**

**\$300 ALL INCLUSIVE**

**TAMUS RILEY | SKINNY FABULOUS | PABLO YG | ASA BANTAN | TIAN WINTER | CLAUDETTE PETERS | RAS JUBA & THE ROOT KULCHA BAND | EMPRESS**

**Hosted by Jesse Pynch and his**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE @ THE LARDER | EXOTIC ANTIGUA | BRYDENS**

**AUCTION NOTICE**

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCELS</u>
CEDAR GROVE & CROSBIES	44 1997B	76 and 77

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on **Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 12:00pm** the above residential property at the intersection of Westcott Avenue and Neem Avenue, Crosbies.

The property is under the ownership of **SALEM KHOULY and AIDA MANSOOR** with approximately 8,894 sq. ft. of residential building on a 0.75acre plot of land. The building is two-storey with the ground floor space consisting of living room, dining room, kitchen, playroom/bedroom with ensuite bathroom, guest bedroom with ensuite bathroom and a general bathroom. The upper floor is consisting of a master bedroom with ensuite bathroom, three other bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and a kitchenette. The property has a two vehicle garage and a standalone one vehicle garage.

On the property is a 26,000 gallon Swimming Pool with Deck, a Pool House and a Basketball Court. The property has a lawn with date palm trees, decorative flowering plants, three fish ponds and a courtyard paved with cut stones.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction can be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: 562-7653 and 464-7653

Dated this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023

---

Trevor Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer



BECOME A

# GERM BUSTER

GERMS ARE EVERYWHERE!  
WASH YOUR  
HANDS  
REGULARLY  
WITH SOAP.



GRAFINKZ



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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

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



for every child

## Police mourning loss of fellow officer

Members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda are mourning the loss of a fellow officer. Senior Sergeant John Pelle died at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center on Sunday, 7th January, following a brief illness.

Pelle was enlisted as a member of the police force on October 27, 1980. He worked in several departments, including Immigration, Criminal Investigations Department, Collators Office, Dockyard Police Station, and

the Stores Department, where he was last attached.

Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney expresses condolences to his family and colleagues on his passing.

Pelle served in the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda for 43 unbroken years.

He died at the age of 61 years. Further details of his funeral will be given at a later date.

May his soul continue to rest in peace!



Senior Sergeant John Pelle

## Ricardo Drue's funeral is today

Popular soca-artist, Ricardo Drue, who died suddenly on December 12, 2023, is to be laid to rest today after a funeral service at the Holy Family Cathedral on Michael's Mount.

Family sources say the funeral service will start at 1:00 pm and it is expected to attract not only family and friends but also members of the entertainment fraternity of Antigua and Barbuda and perhaps from further afield.

Drue was a popular artist who was a fixture at Carnival events and he even had his own show forming part of the official Carnival programme over the last two years.

His death sent shockwaves throughout Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the region.



*For Immediate Release*  
*January 1st, 2024*



**Ricardo  
Robert Barriteau  
Drue**

**July 31st, 1985 -  
December 12th, 2023**

*"Long after we gone we name go live on...  
Footprints on the ground, stamp of the nation...  
Let them know I was here"*

There are no words at this time to express the overwhelming love and support given as the family continues to process and come to terms with the passing of our beloved son **Ricardo Robert Barriteau Drue**. We are thankful for the respect shown during this extremely difficult time.

Whilst we all wish the hands of time could be rewound, the harshest reality of life is unfortunately death and as much as the family would give anything to have him with us in the physical, the ultimate acknowledgement is the Almighty is in full control.

We invite you to join us on **January 9th, 2024 at 1pm** at the **Holy Family Cathedral**, Michael's Mount, St. Johns, Antigua for a celebration of the Wonderful and Amazing life of **Ricardo Robert Barriteau Drue**.

On behalf of the family including ID and DWO, thank you for your prayers and your love.

*Nicola Barriteau*



## PRESS RELEASE



**St- John's, Antigua - January 8th, 2024 - As the Antigua & Barbuda Labour Party Caretaker for St. John's Rural West, I am deeply concerned about the recent increase in gun-related crimes in our community. These senseless acts of violence have had a devastating impact on families and have left many of our residents feeling unsafe in their own neighborhoods.**

**I want to encourage members of the community to work closely with law enforcement to help solve these crimes and to prevent further incidents in the future. It is crucial that we come together as a community to address these issues and ensure the safety and well-being of all our residents.**

**I urge anyone with information about these crimes to come forward and speak to the authorities. We must stand together to send a clear message that this type of behavior will not be tolerated in our community.**

**The Antigua & Barbuda Labour Party is committed to working with law enforcement and community leaders to address the root causes of these crimes and implement effective solutions to reduce violence in our neighborhoods. We will continue to advocate for the resources and support needed to keep our community safe.**

**I believe that by working together, we can make a positive impact and create a safer and more secure environment for all residents of St. John's Rural West. Thank you.**

**Finally, I wish to extend my deepest condolences to the families left to mourn.**

**-END**



**MICHAEL M. JOSEPH**  
FOR RURAL WEST  
#PEOPLEDIVEN



## Actor Jonathan Majors says he was 'shocked' by assault verdict

Jonathan Majors was "shocked" after he was found guilty of assaulting his former girlfriend, he said in his first interview since his conviction.

The actor is awaiting sentencing after a New York jury last month convicted him of attacking British choreographer Grace Jabbari.

He told ABC News that the incident has been «confusing in many ways».

"I'm standing there and the verdict comes down. I say ... 'How is that possible?'" he said.

"Based off the evidence, based off the prosecution's evidence, let alone our evidence, how is that possible?" he told the Good



Jonathan Majors is awaiting sentencing for his assault and harassment conviction.

Morning America programme in an interview that aired on Monday.

Majors said he plans to appeal his conviction on one count of third-degree assault and another count of second-degree harassment.

He was acquitted of two other counts of assault and aggravated harassment in a split verdict.

After the conviction, the Emmy-nominated actor was dropped by Marvel Studios, where he had starred in sev-

eral films and TV series. He could face up to a year in prison when sentenced in February.

The crime took place when Majors and Ms Jabbari were in a car in New York and she saw a text message from another woman on Majors' phone, which said: "Wish I was kissing you right now."

Prosecutors say that when she took the phone, Majors grabbed her, twisted her arm behind her back and hit her in the head to get it back.

Ms Jabbari was left with a fractured finger, bruising and a cut behind her ear.

Majors has denied assaulting Ms Jabbari and filed charges against her, claiming she was the one who assaulted him. Prosecutors said the case lacked merit.

Majors told ABC that he *cont'd on pg 11*



### Call for submissions: Naming and Logo Design for Antigua CPL Franchise.

The Worldwide Sports Management Group is thrilled to announce Antigua and Barbuda will be returning to the CPL (Caribbean Premier League), and wants YOU to be a part of its identity.

The Caribbean Premier League is an annual Twenty20 cricket tournament in the Caribbean, which was established in 2013, succeeding the Caribbean Twenty20 as the region's premier Twenty20 competition.

To include YOU the fans in the formative process, we are pleased to invite you to submit both a proposed name and a logo design for the new franchise.

Submissions should be sent to [antigua.cpl@gmail.com](mailto:antigua.cpl@gmail.com) and [jcmiller712@gmail.com](mailto:jcmiller712@gmail.com) on or before the deadline of January 15, 2024.

The fan who submits the winning name and logo will be awarded with USD1000.00 and two (2) season tickets to the home matches of the upcoming CPLT20 2024.



## Apple pays out over claims it deliberately slowed down iPhones

By Tom Gerken

Apple has begun making payments in a long-running class action lawsuit over claims it deliberately slowed down certain iPhones in the US.

Complainants will receive a cut of a \$500m (£394m) settlement which works out to around \$92 (£72) per claim.

Apple agreed to settle the lawsuit in 2020, stating at the time it denied any wrongdoing but was concerned with the cost of continuing litigation.

A similar case under way in the UK is seeking £1.6bn in compensation.

The US case dates back to December 2017, when Apple confirmed a long-held suspicion among phone owners by admitting it had deliberately slowed down some iPhones as they got older.

It said that as batteries



aged, their performance decreased, and so the “slow-down” lengthened the phones’ lifespan.

But it was accused of throttling the performance of certain iPhones without telling its customers, and the uproar resulted in Apple offering a cut-price battery replacement to fix the problem.

It led to the US legal action. At the time of the settlement, it was estimated that

each person might receive as little as \$25 each but the actual pay-out appears to be almost four times that sum.

In the UK, Apple lost a bid to block a similar mass action lawsuit last November.

The case, first brought by Justin Gutmann in June 2022, represents an estimated 24 million iPhone users.

Apple has previously called the lawsuit “baseless” and said “we have

never - and would never - do anything to intentionally shorten the life of any Apple product, or degrade the user experience to drive customer upgrades”.

Mr Gutmann told the BBC he was pleased to hear about payments being made in the US, but warned it does not have any bearing on the UK case.

“It doesn’t advance our position here, they haven’t admitted anything - they’ve settled,” he said.

“It’s a moral victory but not much use to me. I’ve got to plough on and pursue the case in the UK jurisdiction.”

He said Apple was “fighting tooth and nail” against the UK class action, which will next appear at the Court of Appeal who will consider a call from the firm to halt the case.

He said it was difficult to put a timeline on what would come next but hopes it will go to trial in late 2024 or early 2025.

### cont’d from pg 10

did not know how Ms Jabbari was harmed in the incident.

“I wish to God I knew. That would give clarity. That would give me some type of peace about it,” he said.

He claimed he has never hit a woman. “I’m an athlete. I’m a sportsman. I know my body. I know how it moves. I know my strength, or lack thereof, you know? None of that was employed on her,” he said.

In a statement to US media, Ms Jabbari’s lawyer said Majors continues to “take no accountability for his actions”.

“The timing of these new statements demonstrates a clear lack of remorse for

the actions for which he was found guilty and should make the sentencing decisions fairly easy for the Court,” lawyer Brittany Henderson said.

During the interview, Majors cried as he spoke about no longer being able to see his daughter because of the conviction.

He also said that the “world stopped” when Marvel dropped him as an actor. He had been set to reprise his role in Avengers: Kang Dynasty.

“It’s like you work so hard for things. And then, you know, it’s done,” Majors said. But he added that he believed he would eventually be back to work in Hollywood. “I pray that I do,” he said.

## St Vincent: Government looking to acquire private island Balliceaux

By Melissa Wong

The Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines is seeking to purchase or acquire Balliceaux, a small privately-owned island in the Grenadines.

Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves recently announced that he requested the Chief Surveyor to have a valuation done for Balliceaux with a view to the government setting up to purchase if there can be an agreement, or if not, to invoke the law in relation to acquisition.

Gonsalves notes that Balliceaux has been discussed for a long time and almost year recently now on March 14, the matter of the island being put up for sale is brought up.

March 14 is the anniversary of the death of Paramount Chief Joseph Chatoyer, the country's national hero. The date is celebrated annually as National Heroes' Day.

The prime minister says: "It's as though there are some forces out there who just want to get us upset and affect our equilibrium... they put out these prices for Balliceaux... Some agency which probably wants to sell it or given instructions by the owners



to sell... I don't know... 20 million... 25 million, five years before it was 10 million dollars... They just calling numbers off the top of their head."

The prime minister said he was told the current owners have been owning that property since 1920 or thereabout.

The Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines is seeking to purchase or acquire Balliceaux, a small privately-owned island in the Grenadines.

Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves recently announced that he requested the Chief Surveyor to

have a valuation done for Balliceaux with a view to the government setting up to purchase if there can be an agreement, or if not, to invoke the law in relation to acquisition.

Gonsalves notes that Balliceaux has been discussed for a long time and almost year recently now on March 14, the matter of the island being put up for sale is brought up.

March 14 is the anniversary of the death of Paramount Chief Joseph Chatoyer, the country's national hero. The date is celebrated annually as National Heroes' Day.

The prime minister says: "It's as though there are some forces out there who just want to get us upset and affect our equilibrium... they put out these prices for Balliceaux... Some agency which probably wants to sell it or given instructions by the owners to sell... I don't know... 20 million... 25 million, five years before it was 10 million dollars... They just calling numbers off the top of their head."

The prime minister said he was told the current owners have been owning that property since 1920 or thereabout.



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



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

# **TALKING POINT**

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



# Regional News



## Bahamas Prime Minister warns criminals, “we are coming for you”

CMC - Prime Minister of The Bahamas Phillip Davis has warned criminals that the authorities “are coming for you” saying he is “greatly saddened and deeply shocked by the recent spate of murders” in The Bahamas.

Davis said also that seven days into the new year, the country had already registered eight murders.

Speaking at the annual Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) Annual Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday evening, Davis said while the country should have been celebrating what is traditionally the Twelfth Day of Christmas, “instead, sadly, rather than celebrate, like all right-thinking people amongst us, I am greatly saddened and deeply shocked by the recent spate of murders in our country”.

Phillips said that in each of the eight murders recorded so far this year, the “victim appears to have been specifically targeted for one reason or another.

“This is not the gift of peace,” which the Twelfth Day of Christmas was meant to symbolise.

“Yes, crime has been a long-standing issue in our country, but recently, the crime of murder especially, has taken on a horrifyingly new level of brutality and barbarity. Something has indeed gone very, very wrong in our society.”

Davis said that the coun-



Bahamas Prime Minister, Phillip Davis (File photo)

try was now looking to the RBPF “in these trying times.

“We ask you to attend the scenes of the crimes, to witness the physical horrors inflicted on human beings, to do so amidst the shock and grief of families and communities, and then to find the perpetrators and potentially put your own lives at risk in apprehending them.

“For this, along with all other aspects of policing, we thank you. For maintaining public order and safety, and for enforcing the law, we thank you. In the public mind, we associate you most with your efforts to find and catch those responsible for crimes, and bring them before the courts, hopefully to then have them locked away from society.”

But Davis acknowledged that this is just one component of a much broader objec-

tive, saying “as a society, it is not our goal to fill our prisons with criminals.

“Instead, our real goal must be to deter or prevent crimes from being committed in the first place. This is especially true in cases of murder. The primary goal must be to prevent loss of life, rather than fill our prisons after those lives have been violently ended,” Davis said, adding “we know that this is much more easily ‘said’ than done”

He said prevention of any crime is a vexing issue, as there needs to be some indication that a crime is about to be committed before any intervention can be made.

“But if someone is being specifically targeted to be killed, if there is a conscious, deliberate, prepared effort, especially by someone acting alone, it is extremely difficult to intervene ahead of time.

“Our focus, therefore, must be to intervene early enough in the lives of young men – because it is almost always young men – we must intervene in their lives sufficiently early so that they do not form an intention to kill in the first place.”

Davis said as is true with the overwhelming majority of people in the country, there is need to put the idea of killing, outside the moral compass.

“So what we can we do? And more specifically, what are we asking of you?”

“Well, we know that here in The Bahamas, most murders and other crimes that cause significant harm, are linked to gang-related activities. We see in the crime statistics the tit-for-tat killings, the targeting of people out on bail for murder, and the cycles of revenge whereby those associated with one victim seek revenge on the presumed perpetrators.

“I profoundly disagree with those who say, “just let them shoot each other”. That is not the kind of country I want to live in, and the instruction from our Christian faith could not be clearer: “Thou shalt not kill!””.

Prime Minister Davis said that traditional policing still has a critical and vital role to play in the efforts to curb crime, noting that during the past two years, “we have

*cont'd on pg 15*



*cont'd from pg 14*

significantly increased the resources to help you to be more effective”.

He said more officers recruited, more vehicles brought onto the streets, more technological support, more firearms and so on.

“We have strengthened control of our borders, along with our partnership with the United States and others in the region, to reduce the flow of illegal trafficking of people and firearms.

“Additionally, in recent months, we have begun a strategic initiative to implement a ‘Whole Government Response’ to tackling Gang Crime,” he said, adding “you will hear more about this in the coming weeks.

“And so what we need from you is for you to become more engaged with our plans to prevent gang recruitment and youth involvement in crime.”

Prime Minister Davis said that it is also vitally important that the police build trust with the communities you work in, we want you to be mindful to provide a positive policing response to those communities, in order to protect them from crime.

“With a higher degree of trust in place, people are more likely to confide in you information which can help to prevent crime. Our initiative also includes the government’s commitment to bring offenders to justice swiftly, to demonstrate that convicted offenders will be punished, and that committing a crime carries real consequences.”

Davis said because the government wants offenders to be successfully reintegrated into communities after serving their sentence, it is also providing opportunities and pathways to rehabilitation.

“For me this issue is not merely a matter of good governance – it is deeply personal. I have grown up as a young man in The Bahamas. My sons and now my grandsons are also growing up as young men in our Bahamas.

“When I was in my early teens, had the gangs been as pernicious as they

are now, would I have been able to resist them? Will my grandsons be able to complete their school years without being harassed and terrorised into getting involved with some gang-related activity?

Officers: we need to do all that we can to support our young men.”

Prime Minister Davis said research conducted around the world and in The Bahamas, indicates that there are many factors that lead a young generation to become attracted to a gang lifestyle.

He said these include lack of opportunity, truancy, parent-child separation, neglect, poverty, community dis-organisation and so on.

“But what is so heart-breaking, is to learn that so many of these young people, so many of these young men are just searching for the basics in life. They’re not looking for great riches.

“They’re looking for food and water and shelter. They’re looking for a feeling of security, a feeling of connectedness, looking for a sense of belonging and friendship. And so, this is what I ask of you today.”

He said the government can continue to recruit more officers, buy more cars, and deploy the fanciest technology, “but we cannot personally and individually engage with the hearts and minds of the young men at risk.

“We need each of you – all of you – to play your part. We can bring a ‘whole government’ approach, but we also need a ‘whole society’ response. Do what you can, do all that you can, to provide mentorship and friendship to these young people. Show them that there is another way, a better way.

“Yes, you must not neglect your policing duties, but find time and space within those to express more of your humanity. When you see or engage with a vulnerable child or young person, pause to think how you might help.”

Davis said the authorities are aware that gangs are actively recruiting as early as primary school, asking the RBPF

“what can you do to offer support? What can you do to intervene?”

“The mere fact that you are an officer of the law means that you have already achieved enough in life to be able to offer them your life example. Please also encourage the family and friends of young people at risk, to join you in your efforts.

“Oftentimes, even if they don’t know the details, they know that something bad or dangerous is taking place in their home. They know that their loved ones are not living as they should,” he said, adding “help these parents and family members to understand that they not being a snitch to confide their worries or fears in an officer, a teacher, a pastor or some other trusted official.

“Instead, they are more likely to be saving that young person’s life. They are even more likely to be helping to save that young person’s future.

“After all the losses, all the waste of life, all the misery and fear and pain that is part of the criminal life in gangs, those who still choose to pursue the path of crime: understand that we are at maximum resolve,” Prime Minister Davis said, adding “while our arms are open for those who seek a better path, our stance against crime is resolute.

“We are coming for you. You cannot win. We will reclaim our streets, our neighbourhoods our homes. I feel the weight of every crime.

“I hear the cries of every tear shed. I hear the echoes of every plea for a safer nation. I am deeply moved, not just as your Prime Minister but as a Bahamian, a parent, a neighbour, and a friend,” he added.

Last week, Opposition Leader, Michael Pintard, called on the government to meet with gang leaders, saying many parliamentarians know the “street leaders” and those who wield “influence over a number of the persons who are wreaking havoc”.

The Bahamas registered more than 110 murders last year.

## Boeing 737 Max 9: United Airlines finds loose bolts during inspections

By James Gregory

Bolts in need of “additional tightening” have been found during inspections of Boeing 737 Max 9s, United Airlines has said.

Inspections began after a section of the fuselage fell from an Alaska Airlines 737 Max 9 on Friday.

United Airlines said “installation issues” relating to door plugs would be “remedied” before the aircraft type would return to service.

Some 171 planes of the same type remain grounded by the US regulator.

In its statement, United said: “Since we began preliminary inspections on Saturday, we have found instances that appear to relate to installation issues in the door plug - for example, bolts that needed additional tightening.”

The door plug is a piece of fuselage with a window that can be used as an emergency exit in certain configurations.

It was this part of the Alaska Airlines plane which dramatically fell off mid-flight over the US state of Oregon, eventually landing in a teacher’s back garden.

The plane made an emergency landing and none of the passengers were injured.

The vast majority of Boeing 737 Max 9s used in the US are operated by United Airlines and Alaska, while Turkish Airlines, Panama’s Copa Airlines and Aeromexico have also grounded jets of the same model for inspections.

United said it had cancelled 200 flights as of Monday and expected significant cancellations on Tuesday.

“We have been able to operate some planned flights by switching to other aircraft types, avoiding about 30 cancellations each on Monday and Tuesday,” United added.



Agents from the National Transportation Safety Board have recovered the plane’s door plug.

Meanwhile on Monday, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which regulates air travel in the US, said it had provided a checklist for operators to adhere to during inspections.

In a statement, the FAA said all 737 Max 9 aircraft would remain grounded until operators “complete enhanced inspections which include both left and right cabin door exit plugs, door components, and fasteners”.

“Operators must also complete corrective action requirements based on findings from the inspections prior to bringing any aircraft back into service,” the statement added.

Flight 1282 reached 16,000ft (4.8km) when it began its emergency descent on Friday evening, according to flight tracking data.

Images shared online - and later by investigators - showed a wide hole in the side of the craft, with oxygen masks dangling from the ceiling.

Passengers were quoted by The Oregonian newspaper as saying that a young boy seated near the affected area had his shirt ripped off by the force of the decompression.

The US National Transportation

Safety Board (NTSB), which is leading an investigation into the incident, said pilots had reported pressurisation warning lights on three previous flights made by the specific Alaska Airlines Max 9 involved in the incident.

The jet had been prevented from making long-haul flights over water so that the plane “could return very quickly to an airport” in the event the warnings happened again, NTSB chief Jennifer Homendy said.

It is not clear if there is a link between the issues that led to those warnings, and the issue that caused the blowout on 5 January.

Alaska Airlines said in its most recent statement: “While we await the airworthiness directive (AD) inspection criteria from the FAA and Boeing, our maintenance teams are prepared and ready to perform the required inspections of the mid exit door plugs on our 737-9 Max fleet.

“The 737-9 Max grounding has significantly impacted our operation. We have cancelled 170 Sunday flights and 60 cancellations for Monday, with more expected.”

*cont’d on pg 17*



# Christian Ziegler: Florida Republicans fire party boss over rape claim

By Max Matza

The Republican Party of Florida has fired its chairman, Christian Ziegler, as police investigate a sexual assault allegation against him.

Monday's vote to oust him was held in private, and was overwhelmingly against keeping him on, according to US media.

Mr Ziegler is accused of raping a woman with whom he and his wife had a prior consensual sexual relationship.

He has not been charged with a crime, denies rape allegations and had refused to resign despite pressure from allies.

"I believe it was almost unanimous vote to remove Christian Ziegler, which I believe is the absolute right thing to do," a source who attended the meeting on Monday in Tallahassee told NBC News.

"And I want to reiterate that we are spending a lot of time and energy on this,

on this meeting instead of focusing on the things we need to focus on, and that's simply because Christian Ziegler did not do the right thing and resign."

At an emergency meeting in December, the Republican board voted to strip Mr Ziegler - who took up the post in February 2023 - of his pay and authority.

The Sarasota Police Department in Florida is investigating a woman's accusations that Mr Ziegler raped her at her apartment in October.

According to heavily redacted police documents, Mr Ziegler, his wife, Bridget Ziegler and the woman had planned a threesome that day, but Mrs Ziegler was unable to attend. Mr Ziegler arrived alone, the complaint alleges, and assaulted the woman.

Last week, police expanded their probe to include allegations that he illegally recorded his sexual



Christian Ziegler

encounter with his accuser without consent.

An investigation is ongoing. No charges have been filed against Mr Ziegler, who has said the encounter was consensual. He did not respond to a request for comment on Monday.

The accusation has brought a rapid fall from grace for the Zieglers, a conservative Florida power couple with growing politi-

cal influence on the national stage.

Bridget Ziegler, an elected member of the Sarasota County School Board, is co-founder of Moms for Liberty, a national right-wing advocacy group born out of a resistance to Covid-19 school closures and mask mandates.

She has resisted calls to resign, fielding criticism from many who cast Mrs Ziegler - who with her husband has promoted anti-LGBT policies - as a hypocrite.

State Republicans in Michigan over the weekend also voted to oust their party chairwoman, Kristina Karamo, due to claims of poor fundraising.

*cont'd from pg 16*

Boeing said in a statement: "Safety is our top priority and we deeply regret the impact this event has had on our customers and their passengers."

The company's 737 Max has been described as "the most scrutinised transport aircraft in history" after a series of safety issues.

In late 2018 and early 2019, two of its aircraft were lost in near identical incidents, off the coast of Indonesia and outside the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

A total of 346 people were killed. Both crashes were caused by flawed flight control software, which ultimately forced the planes into catastrophic dives, despite the best efforts of the pilots.

## South Africa's Klaasen retires from Test cricket

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South Africa wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen has retired from red ball cricket despite the country's Test coach Shukri Conrad suggesting he would form part of his plans in 2024.

Powerful middle order hitter Klaasen has become a mainstay of the South African white ball side, with his record-breaking 174 from 83 balls against Australia in a One-Day International in September underlining his ability.

He played four Tests between 2019 and 2023, managing 108 runs at an average of 13.00, but was set to return to the team this year according to Conrad, with current wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne failing to impress.

"After a few sleepless nights wondering if I am making the right decision, I have decided to retire from red-ball cricket. It's a difficult decision that I have made because it is by far my favourite format of the game," Klaasen



South Africa wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen (Getty Images)

said in a statement on Monday.

Cricket South Africa's Director of Cricket Enoch Nkwe confirmed Klaasen was still part of their white ball plans.

South Africa recently lost opener

Dean Elgar to Test retirement, while others who have prematurely given up first class cricket to focus on the T20 circuit include Quinton de Kock, AB de Villiers, Faf du Plessis and David Miller.

## School football league set to wrap up with remaining matches this month

The Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Football Competition will conclude with the staging of the final set of matches at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) later this month.

Three of the five divisions have already been completed, and the competition, which began in October last year, will conclude with the crowning of champions in the Under-20 Boys and Under-16 Girls divisions later this month.

All Saints Secondary, which captured the runners-up position last season, will face Antigua State College at 4 pm in the second of two semi-final matches in the Under-20 Boys Division on Wednesday, January 24.

Ottos Comprehensive School and Irene B. Williams Secondary will clash in the other semi-final encounter at 2 pm.

All Saints Secondary qualified for the semi-finals by winning the east zone

with a total of 22 points from their 10 matches.

Irene B. Williams qualified for the semi-finals by virtue of a superior goal difference ahead of defending champions Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) after both teams finished their quota of 10 matches with 19 points apiece in the east zone.

Ottos Comprehensive finished at the top of the West Zone with 22 points

from their quota of 10 matches, while Antigua State College finished second by virtue of a superior goal difference to Princess Margaret School after both teams finished their quota of matches tied with 20 points.

The winners of the semi-finals will clash in the final, which will be played at the same venue on Friday, January 26, at 4:15 pm.

The Under-20 Boys Di-  
*cont'd on pg 19*





Players of the Sandals Inet Jennings Grenades football team. (File photo)

## Grenades and Old Road extend unbeaten run in Premier League

Cup holders Sandals Inet Jennings Grenades and Old Road maintained their perfect run in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday night.

A Dequan Pryce own goal in the 84th minute gave the Grenades a one-nil victory over Green City in the last game of a triple header at the ABFA Techni-

cal Center.

The result ensured that Grenades continued their unbeaten run to remain leaders on goal difference ahead of Old Road at the top of the standings.

Grenades advanced to 18 points after winning their sixth match in as many games.

Old Road stayed on the heels of Grenades by surging to their sixth win in as

many games by romping to a 4-1 victory against the Greenbay Hoppers in Sunday's opening encounter.

National winger Raheem Deterville struck a hat-trick with conversions in the 11th, 15th, and 86th minutes, while Stefan Smith scored the other goal for Old Road in the 69th minute. Alredo Alvarez scored an own goal for the Hoppers in the 56th minute.

The result lifted Old Road level with Grenades on 18 points, while Greenbay Hoppers would remain on 12 points after losing for only the second time in six matches.

Villa Lions also maintained their unbeaten run by snatching a one-nil victory over the Ottos Rangers in the second game on Sunday.

Cuban striker Yasnay Torres scored the only goal of the match in the first minute of added time (45+1 minute) in the first half.

Villa Lions moved into third place by advancing to 14 points after recording their fourth win in six matches, while Ottos Rangers would remain on eight points after suffering their second loss in six games.

### *cont'd from pg 18*

vision final will be preceded by a playoff for third place between the two losers in the semi-finals at 1 pm.

Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) will clash in the final of the Under-16 Girls Division on the same day at 3 pm.

Both teams booked their place in the final by recording victories in the semi-finals at King George V Recreation Grounds

in December 2023.

Princess Margaret School prevailed 2-0 against Clare Hall Secondary, while Antigua Girls High School romped to a 4-0 victory against Jennings Secondary School.

Princess Margaret School will be seeking their fourth title this season after winning the under-14 and 16 boys division league competitions as well as the under-20 girls championship.



**PLATINUM** FM  
We Entertain You **97.9**

**MON - FRI  
10AM - 12PM**

**HOSTED BY CARLENA KNIGHT**

**PLATINUM  
SPORTS CENTER**

**CALL: 562 - 9790  
FACEBOOK LIVE @ PLATINUM FM 97.9**



## Rohit and Kohli back in India's T20 squad ahead of World Cup

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Regular skipper Rohit Sharma and stalwart Virat Kohli returned to India's T20 squad after a year's gap for the home series against Afghanistan amid speculation about their future in this format.

Both batters have not played T20 Internationals since India's defeat to England in the semi-finals of the World Cup in Australia in November 2022.

While they have been active in other formats, speculation was rife whether they would play the T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the United States in June.

Both Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav, who shared the T20 captaincy burden in Rohit's absence, were left out of the series against Afghanistan reportedly because of injuries.

Wicketkeeper-batter KL



Regular skipper Rohit Sharma, left, and stalwart Virat Kohli returned to India's T20 squad after a year's gap for the home series against Afghanistan. (Getty Images)

Rahul missed out though the Indian Cricket Board did not offer any explanation for any of the omissions or inclusions in its statement on Sunday.

Pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj have been rested, ostensibly to keep them fresh ahead of the five-test home series against England beginning

later this month.

India kick off the series against Afghanistan in Mohali on Jan. 11 followed by matches in Indore and Bengaluru.

### cont'd from pg 22

no Turner slammed 40, player of the match Kimani George got 27, and Ashfield Weatherhead chipped in with 22. Kerry Mentore claimed two for 12, and Demitri Lucas picked up a wicket for nine runs.

In reply, Hanse On Security also made 102 for five off their 10 overs.

Andra Samuel struck 30, and Kerry Mentore made 26. Mervin Higgins claimed a wicket for nine runs.

Earlier, Grill Box and the Board of Education advanced to the semi-finals by recording wins in the two quarterfinal matches.

Grill Box prevailed by 10 wickets

against Polished Concrete Floors and Countertops (PCF&C), who made 50 for nine off their 10 overs.

Conroy Semple made 15. Player of the match Kimani George snapped up three wickets for seven runs, Menova Govia claimed two wickets for seven runs, and Ashfield Weatherhead captured two for 14.

Grill Box achieved victory by scoring 53 without loss. Randino Turner cracked 29, and Denley Thomas made 18.

Player of the Match Kadeem Henry slammed a half century as the Board of Education defeated PEL Boys by 59 runs.

The Board of Education made 150 for one off 10 overs. Henry slammed 84, including 11 sixes, and Isiah Viville struck 34. Ashfaq Ahmad picked up one for 13.

In reply, the PEL Boys were restricted to 91 for three off their 10 overs. Federick Floyd hit 54, and Kadeem Henry claimed one wicket for 10 runs.

Gill Box and TG Welding will clash in the final at Powells on Sunday, January 14. The Board of Education and Hanse On Security will also meet in the playoff for third place. The presentation of awards will follow after both matches.

## TG Welding and Grill Box to clash in final of MPL

TG Welding and Grill Box will battle for the title in the Cool and Smooth Mandy Premier League (MPL) Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League.

Both teams advanced to the final by recording wins in the semi-finals at the Powells playing field on Sunday.

TG Welding ousted the Board of Education by nine wickets in the first semi-final.

The Board of Education could only muster 93 for five off their 10 overs. Isiah Viville hit 27, Kadeem Henry got 25, and Rayn



TG Welding softball cricket team  
John scored 19.

Owen Graham claimed two wickets for four runs.

Player of the Match Deran Benta slammed a half century to lead TG Welding

to victory at 103 for one in six overs.

Benta struck 67, including seven sixes and three fours, and Essan Warner chipped in with 32. Tanez Francis claimed the only wicket to fall for 22 runs.

Grill Box clinched victory by three runs in the deciding super over in their keenly contested semifinal against Hanse On Security.

Grill Box won the contest in the super over after the game was tied, with both teams scoring 105.

Grill Box batted first and scored 102 for five off their 10 overs. Randi-

*cont'd on pg 21*



Grill Box softball cricket team