

APUA TO INCREASE WATER RATES

Story on Page 2



The ABLP will hold primary elections in the All Saints West constituency on Friday evening. The candidates are (from right) business executive, Regis Burton, agriculturalist/radio host, Lamin Newton and environmentalist, Arry Simon. *Story on page 5.*

Local News



New water rates for commercial customers take effect from April 1

APUA has announced its first increase in water rates in more than three decades as mounting production costs have left it with no other alternative but to introduce limited rate hikes.

This is contained in a press statement issued by the APUA's Water Business Unit on Thursday afternoon.

“The Water Business Unit of the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) has maintained its Water Rates for more than three (3) decades. As we navigate through the challenges of climate change and longer drought periods, we have been relentless in finding and implementing alternative solutions to



combat the challenges of water scarcity.

“The Water Business Unit has been innovative by expanding our water

production to a dependable but costly option by harvesting water from the sea,” the release stated.

It added that within the past ten years, APUA made significant investments by adding new Reverse Osmosis Plants, extending its transmission and distribution lines, upgraded to High-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes, and continual maintenance and upgrades to its network.

“These efforts are all in alignment with our mission, of providing services that are reliable, affordable

and of international quality.

“As we continue to expand our network; to include an urgent need to update our aged infrastructure it has become indispensable for us to adjust our billing rates in an attempt to offset production, distribution, operating and capital costs,” the release continued.

APUA said it understands that rate adjustments or increases may not always be welcomed at first. However, it wants to reassure its customers of its dedication to maintaining the most competitive and marketable rates while striving to uphold international service standards.

The rate increases will not affect domestic customers of APUA.



Effective 1st April, 2024 our Commercial Water Rates will be adjusted to reflect the following:

Customer Type:	Current rate per 1,000 gals	adjusted rate per 1,000 gals
Commercial	\$50.00	\$60.00
Cruise Port	\$50.00	\$75.00
Bulk Sales	\$50.00	\$60.00

Critical CARICOM heads meeting today

Two critical issues are going before CARICOM Heads of government who are meeting virtually today to make decisions on these issues; the ongoing instability that exists in Haiti and the decision on the freedom of movement within the community.

The meeting is the Thirty-Sixth Inter-Sessional where the Chairman of the Conference of Heads of Government, Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, will preside.

A four-member team from Antigua and Barbuda will participate in the virtual meeting.

The delegation will be led by Prime Minister, Gaston Browne and will include, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, CARICOM Ambas-

sador, Dr. Clarence Henry and Senior Foreign Service Officer, Kurt Williams.

Dr. Henry said the meeting is 'Decision Day' for the Community as the heads are expected to discuss at length a report prepared by the Inter-Governmental Task Force and reviewed by the Legal Affairs Committee for the implementation of the decision of the Conference to work towards free movement of all community nationals.

This has been one of the most topical subjects that came out of this month's 46th Conference of the Heads of Government where Antigua and Barbuda indicated that it will maintain the current Skills Certificate regime and delay the implementation of the full freedom of movement.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is on record indicating that the country cannot make that move at this time as it would cause undue strain on the social systems such as healthcare and education.

The other critical issue will be a report on the attempts to work towards finding lasting solutions to the Haitian crisis.

This week, CARICOM Heads, meeting under the chairmanship of Dr Ali, were able to get the Haitian Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry to resign, paving the way for setting up of an interim National Council.

The meeting will also hear an update on the preparations to host the World Cup T20 matches in six Caribbean territories.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind



Flat Tire



Locked Out



Dead Battery



Out of Gas



DON'T FUSS
CALL AutoPLUS

481-7888
FOR ASSISTANCE

Open response to Richard Lewis

From Prime Minister Gaston Browne in a Facebook post

Ministry of Works took custody of these buildings located on Friars Hill Rd, rent free in 2021. The Lessor (IF), gave notice to one of its retail tenants and a storage tenant to vacate a portion of the building, resulting in loss of revenue.

Ministry of Works rents from all and sundry irrespective of their political affiliation. Whenever the government rents a building, the leasehold improvements are paid for by the government and the monthly rent for building is also payable.

In this case, IF, rented the building for \$1.00 monthly \$12 per year. The commercial rent would have been in the region of \$70K monthly (84K) @ \$5 per square foot, which is the standard rental rate that government pays.

2.5 years later, the ministry still enjoys rent free occupancy of the building; significantly exceeding the costs of the improvements.

The lessor evidently has not benefited from any revenue from the government; but instead, lost revenues from the previous rentals.

Richard, the government has been the beneficiary of a rent-free space for 2.5 years and continuing.

Where is the legal, ethical or moral violation Richard?

PS. When you were paid \$1.5M by the UPP administration, of which you were an executive member, to publish a third-rate IT text book; what do you call that Richard? Cronyism?

Why didn't you go through the tender process for the contract; recognizing that all contracts over \$20K by law, had to go to tender?

Despite your chicanery; Pringle

shall defeat you. You are seeking spotlight for your convention contest, but your efforts shall fail.

You're not ready!

In fact, Michael Joseph will defeat you. In the unlikely event you become the UPP leader; you will be yet another UPP leader who loses his seat.

You're not ready.

Editor's Note: *This issue arose at the last meeting of the House of Representatives when during the Questions to the Prime Minister segment, the Representative for St. John's Rural West, Richard Lewis, posed a question inquiring about lease arrangements for the building on Friar's Hill Road that currently houses the Ministry of Works. On Thursday, PM Browne took to social media to provide additional information on the arrangement regarding the lease of the building.*



Curry House

ANTIGUA

A whole new dining experience awaits you.

Call us at 562-5724 | Whatsapp 736-7165

Three face off in ABLP Primary

The ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has started the process of selecting its candidates for the next general election, constitutionally due in January 2028.

The party will hold its second primary elections for the year on Friday evening in the All Saints West constituency to select a candidate who will be the party's standard bearer/caretaker during the interim period.

ABLP General Secretary, Sen. Mary Clare Hurst announced the names of the candidates who will compete in the primary. They are business executive, Regis Burton, agriculturalist/radio host, Lamin Newton and environmentalist, Arry Simon.

Sen Hurst said the primary election is an internal party matter and only registered

members of the party who are registered in the constituency are eligible to participate. All three candidates along with the ABLP secretariat have finalized on the electoral list for the primary.

It will take place at the Sea View Farm primary school from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Following the vote, the secretariat team, led by Sen. Hurst, who will serve as the Supervisor of the Election, will count the ballots in collaboration with the party's auditors, PKS. More than seven hundred and fifty persons are registered to vote in the primary.

The primary marks the party's determination to select its candidates well ahead of the next general election thereby allowing them to solidify their presence and con-

nection with the respective constituencies.

Earlier, Michael Joseph was selected in a similar process as the standard bearer/caretaker for the St. John's

Rural West constituency from a field of five persons.

Sen. Hurst said the party will hold other primaries in other constituencies in the coming months.

LAMIN NEWTON
FOR ALL SAINTS WEST

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA LABOUR PARTY
ALL SAINTS WEST PRIMARY

MARCH 15 2024 • 4- 7 PM

SEAVIEW FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL

X NEWTON

HOW TO VOTE in the

FRIDAY MAR 15TH 2024

ALL SAINTS WEST PRIMARY

ARRY SIMON

- MUST BE A REGISTERED VOTER IN THE CONSTITUENCY.
- MUST BE A REGISTERED AND ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE ABLP.

Registration deadline:
Monday 4th March, 2024

X VOTE SIMON FOR ASW Primary

BE THE CHANGE. SECURE YOUR FUTURE!

ALL SAINTS WEST ABLP PRIMARY
15TH MARCH 2024
SEAVIEW FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL

#ActionYEAR #SteppingUpToServe
#ABLPProspectiveCandidate #regisburton

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

REGIS BURTON
STEPPING UP TO SERVE

TO REGISTER CONTACT:
☎ : (268) 775-2525
✉ : regisburtonab@gmail.com

Local News



AT&LU/ABLP name Labour Queen contestants 2024

Nine contestants have been named for the 2024 edition of the annual Labour Queen Pageant, staged jointly by the Antigua Trades and Labour Union and the Antigua and Barbu-

da Labour Party. The contestants emerged from an audition held on March 2 when a final selection was made. The contestants who made it into the finals were all described as

'outstanding'. The contestants are currently undergoing an intense period of training with an orientation on Tuesday this week followed by sessions on Thursday and one on

Saturday. Head of the Organising Committee, Sharilyn James, said the training will take place three times weekly up until the show tentatively *cont'd on pg 7*





cont'd from pg 6
scheduled for May 4.

The contestants will make their first public appearance when they are introduced to the party's executive on Friday evening.

The contestants are; Miss All Saints West, Aliyah Wayne, Miss St. Paul, Kenesha James, Miss St. John's

Rural West, Eddenya Aska, Miss St. John's Rural East, Shermain Eustache, Miss St. John's City West, Nevaeh Greene, Miss St. Paul, Deneka Dublin, Miss St. John's City South, Shanakay Mc Dnald, Miss St. George, Nechel James and Miss St. John's City West, Dominique Trotman.

The Labor Queen pageant is a fea-

ture of the annual Labour Week activities jointly mounted by both institutions.

The committee is inviting members of the public to 'like' and 'follow' the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Queen's page for regular updates on the young ladies' journey towards capturing the crown.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

2

**DAYS
WAYS
SAVE**

\$16.99
- 2 pcs
- Biscuit
- Drink

\$19.99
- Zinger / CCB
- Drink

limitations apply

Local News



Delays continue for case involving police shooting

Sergeant Karim Warner will have to wait a bit longer before hearing his fate as his legal matter has been adjourned for another 13 days.

The matter was adjourned after Warner's lawyer failed to show up in court this week.

The officer was charged following a shooting incident where he allegedly fired up to 12 shots at two occupants of a vehicle.

It has been alleged that there have been efforts to sweep the matter under the rug, nonetheless, Warner was arrested and charged with firing shots in a public place.

According to reports, Warner was involved in an incident where he was trying to reclaim a vehicle he had leased to an individual.

He allegedly used GPS tracking to locate the vehicle in Willikies, where he con-



Karim Warner

Hearing adjourned for woman accused of causing death of Police Constable

May 28 is the new committal date that has been set for Dayneri Ferrer Vincent-Urlwin, the woman accused of causing the death of police constable Robert Dyer last September.

The collision occurred around 11:20 am on September 4, leading to Dyer's official pronouncement of death at approximately 12:45 pm.

This is just the latest addition in a string of adjournments in the Magistrates Court.

Vincent-Urlwin appeared in Traffic Court on Wednesday, but the matter was adjourned for the third time as the file is said to be under review by the Direc-

tor of Public Prosecutions.

Constable Dyer served 10 years in the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda beginning April 12, 2013.

He was posted to B Division Parham before he was transferred to the traffic department, serving as a motorcycle outrider. He was also previously a motorcycle escort to the Governor General.

Dyer was laid to rest on October 10, a few days later than the original date due to the passage of Tropical Storm Phillippe.

Vincent-Urlwin could face up to five years in prison if the matter proceeds to the High Court.

fronted the occupants who refused to return it.

Tensions reportedly escalated, leading Warner to discharge his weapon and fire a

dozen shots at the departing vehicle, striking it multiple times.

He will return to court on March 27.

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 Wednesday the 03rd day of April 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 **Trevor Teddy Santos Inc., Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: 464-7653 and 562-7653.

Dated this the 12th day of March 2024

Trevor Teddy Santos Inc.
Licensed Auctioneer



In Photo (L—R): Peter Anthony (AHHH), Salma Crump (SLBMC Marketing & Communications Manager), Franklin Maynard (Hash Master), Lisian Thomas (SLBMC Oncology Nurse), Bryan Law (AHHH).

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre receives monetary donation

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) was delighted to receive a significant donation from the Antigua Hash House Harriers (AHHH).

The hospital received a check for more than \$11,000 from the group—their largest donation to date. The funds were raised from their Red Dress Run, an annual

event held in February.

“We are pleased to make this donation to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center. We hope our support will make a meaningful impact on the lives of the patients and their families,” said Hash Master, Franklin Maynard.

The donation is earmarked for oncology services at the hospital.

“The Antigua Hash House Harriers knows all about the incredible work that goes on inside our hospital thanks to fundraising,” said Salma Crump, Head of Marketing & Communications at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre. “It feels good, and I think it acts as a bit of a morale-booster for our team, to have organizations who believe in our mission and work hard to support it. That’s exactly what the AHHH does—and have been doing for several years—and we thank them for it.

“I also want to say a huge thank you to every single person who partici-

pated in the run, donated, or supported the event in any way. Your effort is helping to make a real and tangible difference for our patients and families. It is always my hope that gifts such as these act as an inspiration to others in our community to give (no matter the size of your donation) to their hospital.”

Total Amount Donated: \$11,613 XCD

If you or the organization you represent is interested in making a donation to Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, please contact the Marketing & Communications Department at: info@msjmc.gov.ag or (268) 484-2711/2792.

Commercial Space For Rent

A 1500-square foot commercial space is now available for rent on the corner of Alfred Peters and Bennett Streets. Viewing can be arranged by calling the following numbers: 461-3041/781-3496/727-0300. Price negotiable.

Vybz Kartel: Jamaica dancehall star's murder conviction overturned

Jamaican dancehall artist Vybz Kartel's conviction for murder has been overturned.

The 48-year-old was given a life sentence in 2014 for the killing of Clive "Lizard" Williams on the Caribbean island.

His successful appeal, heard by the Privy Council in London, argued that a juror accused of trying to bribe others should have been thrown off his trial.

Authorities in Jamaica will decide whether the case should be retried.

The musician, real name Adidja Palmer, is one of the country's most popular artists and has collaborated with performers such as Jay-Z and Rihanna.

His 64-day trial was one of the longest in Jamaican history, and ended with Kartel being ordered to serve a minimum of 35 years in jail.

This was later reduced to 32-and-a-half years.

The trial heard that victim Clive Williams and another man, Lamar Chow, were given two unlicensed firearms belonging to Kartel for safekeeping.

When they failed to return them at an agreed time, prosecutors said, they were summoned to Kartel's house in August 2011.

Chow told the trial they were attacked and the last thing he saw was Clive Williams - who was nev-



Vybz Kartel was sentenced more than 10 years ago.

er seen alive again - lying motionless on the ground.

The house burned down days later and a body was never recovered.

Kartel and his co-accused Shawn Campbell, Kahira Jones and Andre St John had maintained their innocence since the original trial.

Their appeal hearing last month before The Privy Council, which serves as the highest court of appeal in Jamaica and other Commonwealth countries, was their last chance to reverse the verdict.

Delivering the council's ruling, a panel of justices said that a juror

accused of attempting to bribe fellow jury members was not removed.

The judge let them remain on the case and have a say in the final verdicts.

Allowing this juror to stay, the council said, was "fatal to the safety of the convictions which followed" and "an infringement of the [defendants'] fundamental right to a fair hearing".

The men had also argued that jurors were sent to reach a verdict late in the day, putting them under "undue pressure" to do so.

They had also argued that a key piece of mobile phone evidence - a

text message allegedly sent from Kartel's phone - presented in court had been obtained in breach of guidelines.

However, the panel did not rule on these matters, finding that the allegations of bribery alone were serious enough to dismiss the guilty verdicts.

Vybz Kartel is known worldwide for hits including Clarks, Ramping Shop and Summer Time, and his success led to him launching lines of shoes, alcohol and condoms.

The singer also became the first dancehall artist to star in his own reality TV show, Teacha's Pet.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

2023 NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS

MARCH 16TH 2024

Andrew Tate and brother Tristan appear in a Romanian court over UK arrest warrant

Controversial influencer Andrew Tate and his brother Tristan have appeared in a Romanian court after the UK issued warrants for their arrest.

The internet personalities were detained by Romanian police on Monday night on arrest warrants over alleged sexual offences in Britain.

Bucharest's Court of Appeal postponed a decision on the warrant.

Andrew Tate, 37, and Tristan, 35, "categorically reject all charges", their representative said.

The men remain in custody.

Romanian Police said two arrest warrants were issued by British authorities for exploiting people in the UK.

A representative for the Tate brothers before the hearing described the arrest warrant as a "bewildering revival of decade-old accusations" leaving the brothers "dismayed and deeply troubled".

"They categorically reject all charges and express profound disappointment that such serious allegations are being resurrected without substantial new evidence," the statement said.

"They are fully committed to challenging these accusations with unwaver-



Andrew Tate and his brother Tristan, left, arrive at court in Romania.

ing determination and resolve."

Their representatives claim the allegations cover 2012 to 2015.

Andrew, wearing a black hoodie, and Tristan arrived at court in handcuffs escorted by police.

They did not say anything to the gathered press, but as they were leaving court Andrew smiled when asked if he is ready to go back home.

Following the hearing, the brothers' lawyer Eugen Vidineac told reporters he knew little information regarding the warrant and did

not know if new evidence was provided by the authorities.

In December, the Tate brothers, who are dual UK-US nationals, were ordered by a Romanian court not to leave Romania after the brothers made a request to visit their mother in hospital in the UK.

The brothers are being investigated by Romanian authorities over separate allegations of rape, human trafficking and forming a criminal gang - charges they deny.

They are accused of exploiting women via an adult

content business, which prosecutors allege operated as a criminal group.

Two female Romanian associates were also named alongside the brothers in an indictment published in June, and seven alleged victims were identified.

Mr Tate has repeatedly claimed Romanian prosecutors have no evidence against him and there is a conspiracy to silence him.

He is a self-described misogynist and was previously banned from social media platforms for expressing misogynistic views.

GERM BUSTER

HABITS

HELP KEEP YOUR HOME AND ENVIRONMENT CLEAN



GRAFINKZ

Put your toys and school supplies away neatly.

Clean up after you eat.

Make sure garbage goes in the trash bin.

Make sure to recycle.

Wash your hands frequently.



BE HEALTHY



BE SAFE



BE KIND



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

Regional News



Suriname President Santokhi and government ministers under investigation

CMC - The Office of the Attorney General has requested a preliminary investigation into a potential corruption case against President Chandrikapersad Santokhi and two of his ministers, including the Finance Minister, Stanley Raghoebaring.

This follows reports that the government allegedly paid an estimated US\$7.5 million to Pan-American Real Estate, a local company, using false documents.

“It is important to emphasise that no one has yet been identified as a suspect,” the Public Prosecution Service said on Wednesday.

The issue first came to light last November when an anonymous whistleblower armed with various documents, filed a criminal complaint with the Attorney General Office.

In January, the whistleblower delivered even more potentially incriminating evidence to the Office of the Attorney general, and the police Anti-Corruption Unit was subsequently given the task of investigating the matter.

During the investigation, several individuals were questioned by the police, including Vice President Ronnie Brunswijk and the two ministers.

The Public Prosecution Service said it has received a police file on the case and on that basis a preliminary judicial investigation has been requested from the examining magistrate.

“After analysing the police investigation results and partly in view of the nature of the case, a preliminary



President Chandrikapersad Santokhi

nary judicial investigation has been requested,” the Public Prosecution Service added.

Santokhi and the two cabinet ministers have told reporters that they are not guilty of any criminal offense and that everything took place in accordance with the current

legal accounting rules.

According to the whistleblower, Public Works Minister Riad Nurmohamed submitted falsely prepared documents at the meeting of the Council of Ministers to facilitate the payment to Pan-American Real Es-

cont'd on pg 15

Dominican Republic Foreign Ministry organises humanitarian air corridor from Haiti

CMC - The government in the Dominican Republic has established an international corridor to facilitate the humanitarian departure of Dominicans, diplomats from friendly nations, and representatives of international organisations from neighbouring Haiti as tension continues to mount across the country.

This was revealed by Foreign Minister Roberto Álvarez, who said that while the Dominican embassy in Haiti remains operational to assist Dominican residents, the consulates are currently closed.

Álvarez emphasised that this endeavour involves collaborative efforts across various institutions, with the Foreign Ministry serving as the central axis



Foreign Minister Roberto Álvarez.

owing to its international responsibility.

He further disclosed that the evacuation of diplomatic personnel from nine countries, along with representatives from international organisations such as the World Bank and the European Union, has been

orchestrated from the Dominican diplomatic headquarters in Haiti.

However, citing security concerns, Álvarez refrained from disclosing the identities of the countries availing themselves of this logistical support or confirming whether they

remain in Dominican territory.

The chancellor clarified that Dominican Ambassador Faruk Miguel remains stationed in Haiti and highlighted the bolstered security measures in response to the ongoing crisis situation.

He added that despite the violence and political turmoil in Haiti, none of the over two thousand Dominicans residing there have been evacuated for humanitarian reasons.

Regarding binational markets, which serve as critical hubs for Dominican merchants and foreigners deprived of access to food due to instability in their country, Álvarez affirmed their continued operation.

cont'd from pg 14
tate.

The payment was allegedly blocked twice by Vice President Brunswijk, who presides over the meetings. But the whistleblower is claiming that the minister ultimately bypassed the ministerial meeting and submitted the suspected falsely prepared documents to the meeting of the government council and a meeting of the cabinet chaired by the president.

During that meeting, Santokhi said to have approved the payment of the amount of approximately US\$7.5 million.

Initially, the finance minister had refused to make the payment because he believed that the work carried out by Pan-American Real Estate did not qualify as a public private partnership project as had been suggested.

According to the minister of public works, the former government of Desi Bouterse, had entered into an agreement with Pan-American Real Estate for the construction of houses for low-income groups in 2019 in which the then government had committed to the paving of the roads at a real estate development project of the company.

Nurmohammed said these agreements were allegedly not fulfilled, resulting in the company having to pave the roads itself and was now seeking to recover the funds from the present administration.

Political observers say whether this case will result in prosecution of the president and his two ministers remains to be seen.

Members of government and former political office holders can only be prosecuted by law if they are charged by Parliament at the request of the Attorney General, where President Santokhi's coalition enjoys a majority.



Survivors were rescued from the drifting dinghy by SOS Méditerranée, who posted this image on X on Wednesday.

60 migrants die in dinghy in Mediterranean, survivors say

At least 60 migrants have died after a rubber dinghy ran into trouble in the Mediterranean Sea, according to survivors.

The 25 survivors were picked up by the Ocean Viking, a vessel operated by the humanitarian group SOS Méditerranée.

They told their rescuers that they had set off from Zawiya on the Libyan coast several days before being rescued.

The engine of the dinghy broke down after three days, leaving the boat adrift without food or water.

The survivors said that the victims included women and at least one child. They are believed to have died from dehydration and hunger, not drowning.

SOS Méditerranée said the Ocean Viking team had spotted the dinghy, which set off last Friday, with binoculars on Wednesday and had staged

a medical evacuation in co-operation with Italian coast guards.

It said the survivors were “in very weak health condition” and were all under medical care.

Two of them, who were unconscious and in critical condition, had been flown to Sicily by helicopter for further treatment, the group added.

The remaining 23 are still on board the Ocean Viking, along with more than 200 other migrants who were rescued from two other boats.

The vessel is heading for the port of Ancona, about four days away, but the team has requested a closer port of safety.

“The people who were on the boat in distress, lost at sea for almost a week, went out of water and food very quickly, according to the survivors,” said an SOS Méditerranée spokeswoman on board the ship.

“People died along the way. I met a man who lost his wife and one-and-a-half-year-old baby. The baby died the first day, the mother the fourth day. They were from Senegal and had been in Libya for more than two years.”

The EU’s border agency Frontex told the BBC that it raised the alarm last Friday after spotting a vessel with more than 50 people onboard near the coast of Libya. It did not specify if it was the same rubber dinghy picked up by the Ocean Viking.

Frontex says one of its aircraft out on a routine trip spotted the vessel within Libya’s rescue zone and so alerted the Libyan authorities.

The EU agency says it also issued a mayday alert to all other boats in the area to help the vessel - and contacted Italian and Maltese rescue coordination centres too.

cont’d on pg 17

Father of Michigan school gunman convicted of manslaughter

The father of a Michigan school shooter who killed four students has been convicted of manslaughter.

The trial heard that James Crumbley, 47, had ignored his 15-year-old son's mental health needs and bought him the handgun he used in the November 2021 attack.

The jury deliberated for just over a day before coming to the verdict.

Jennifer Crumbley, his wife, is due to be sentenced next month after being convicted on the same charges.

Crumbley was in court for the verdict and appeared to show little reaction as it was read out.

The case against the Crumbleys marks the first time parents have been charged with manslaughter over their child's role in a shooting in the US.

Their son, Ethan, killed fellow students Tate Myre, 16; Hana St Juliana, 14;

Madisyn Baldwin, 17, and Justin Shilling, 17. He is serving a sentence of life in prison without parole.

Seven people were also injured in the shooting.

Ven Johnson, an attorney representing the victims' families, said in a statement that the verdicts against James and Jennifer Crumbley "won't bring back the lives of these four students, but it represents one more step towards holding everyone responsible accountable under the law".

In her closing arguments to the jury of six men and six women earlier this week, prosecutor Karen McDonald called the attack at the Oxford High School "preventable and foreseeable".

She added that Crumbley's alleged actions were "rare and egregious".

He did not take even the slightest measures to ensure his son was not a threat



James Crumbley

after giving him a semi-automatic pistol as a gift, said the prosecutor.

When Crumbley heard about the shooting, he rushed home from his job as a DoorDash delivery driver, looking for the weapon, the trial heard.

His defence lawyer, Mariell Lehman, argued

that "James had no idea that his son was having a hard time".

Crumbley did not testify, unlike his wife, who took the stand during her trial and tried to blame her husband. She faces up to 60 years in prison.

Jennifer Crumbley and her husband bought the 9mm Sig Sauer pistol their son used just days before the shooting.

They were charged by police within days of the killings. Police had to search for the pair and found them in an industrial building in Detroit following a tip from the public.

Initially, the parents were supposed to be tried together but in November sought separate trials.

cont'd from pg 16

Frontex says its aircraft needed to return to dry land to refuel and it didn't know what happened to the vessel after the initial observation.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said last week that 2023 was the deadliest year for migrants since records began a decade ago, with at least 8,565 people dying on migration routes worldwide.

The UN agency said the figure was 20% up on the year before.

Its report found that the Mediterranean

crossing continued to be the most dangerous journey, with at least 3,129 deaths and disappearances during 2023 - the highest toll since 2017.

Julia Black, a IOM Project manager, told the BBC that "not as many people are crossing now but almost as many people are dying".

"With the 300 deaths recorded this year so far that's nearly the same as last year, so I am greatly concerned that we are going to see a record-breaking year in terms of the number of deaths in the Mediterranean."

Sports News



Clare Hall and Irene B. Williams grab one-point wins in schools' basketball

Defending champion Clare Hall Secondary School and Irene B. Williams Secondary both snatched victory by one-point margins in the junior boys division of the Cool and Smooth Inter-Schools' Basketball Championships on Wednesday.

Tajahron Davis scored 21 points to guide Clare Hall Secondary to their 35-34 victory over the first team of Antigua Grammar School in one of three matches in the junior boys division at the JSC Sports Complex.

Raheem Sawyer shot a game-high 22 points in a losing effort for the first team of Antigua Grammar School.

Irene B. Williams Secondary snatched their

one-point win against St. Mary's Secondary School.

Daniel Abbott scored seven points as Irene B. Williams Secondary prevailed 15-14 against St. Mary's Secondary School. Justin Carr also sank seven points for St. Mary's Secondary School.

Princess Margaret School recorded a 66-30 victory against St. Anthony's Secondary School in the other junior boys division encounter.

Craig Massiah shot a game-high 37 points, and Tyrese White had 14 points for Princess Margaret School.

Alexander Fuller converted eight points, and Justyn Raeburn scored seven points for St. Anthony's Secondary School.



Clare Hall Secondary's Tajahron Davis, left, and Princess Margaret School's point guard Craig Massiah, right, were the leading scorers for their respective teams in the Junior Boys Division games at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. (Photo courtesy of the School Basketball Unit)

Wins for Old Road Daggers and Ottos Warriors in ABBA's Division II League

The Old Road Daggers and Lava Smoke Shop Lower Ottos Warriors secured wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division II League on Wednesday.

The Old Road Daggers recorded their first win in four encounters by pulling off a 68-42 victory against the Gaston Browne Pointville Ballers in the first game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Braulio Lopez produced 25 points, six rebounds, six steals, and five assists; Obediah Browne converted

16 points; and Devea Aaron had 10 points, 11 rebounds, six assists, and six steals for the Old Road Daggers.

Dequan Charles sank 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and Connell Nedd had 14 points, eight rebounds, and five steals for the Pointville Ballers, who lost for the third time in four encounters.

Lava Smoke Shop Lower Ottos Warriors recorded their third win in four games with a 95-60 victory against the Daryll Matthew Ottos Clippers in Wednesday's second encounter.

Kwame Huntley produced 30 points, 15 rebounds, and five blocked shots; Ariel Quallis achieved a triple double with 19 points, 10 assists, 10 steals, and seven rebounds; and Abdul Khan scored 18 points and claimed five rebounds for the Lower Ottos Warriors.

Amare Browne shot a game-high 32 points and snatched five rebounds, and Antoine Browne converted 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Ottos Clippers, which lost for the third time in four games.

Bethesda drop points in Second Division League

Bethesda missed out on a chance to narrow the gap on the front-runners in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division on Wednesday.

Bethesda, currently in third place, suffered a one-nil loss against Golden Grove at the Golden Grove playing field. Tyler Isaac scored the only goal of the match in the 15th minute.

Their third defeat in 14 matches has left Bethesda in third place with 27 points, four adrift of Sea View Farm in second place, and six points behind leader Freeman's Village.

Golden Grove advanced to 24 points after securing their eighth win in 14 matches, but will remain in eighth place.

Jaheim Grant scored a hat-trick to propel TAMO

FC to a 6-2 victory against ABAYA FC at the Parham playing field.

Grant had conversions in the 23rd, 27th, and 28th minutes; Adonijah Dyett scored in the 12th minute; De'Aundre Ralph had a 32nd-minute conversion; and Kevin Paul scored in the 85th minute for TAMO FC.

Javante Harriet scored in the 19th minute,

and Kuen Wyre had an 84th-minute conversion for ABAYA FC.

TAMO FC advanced to 14 points but will remain in 14th place after securing their fourth win in 12 matches. ABAYA FC will remain third from the bottom of the standings with six points after crashing to their 10th defeat in 12 matches.

Blackburn Palace won by default against the Celtics, who failed to show up for their encounter at the Princess Margaret School playing field.

The result allows Blackburn Palace to overtake Belmont FC and move into sixth place on goal difference, joining FC Master Ballerz with 25 points.

The Celtics will remain in 17th place with seven points after losing for the 10th time in 13 matches.

Belmont and Soccer Academy battled to a goalless draw at the ABFA Technical Center.

Their third draw in 13 matches allows Belmont FC to drop from sixth to seventh place by advancing to 24 points.

Soccer Academy moved ahead of Urlings into 10th place on goal difference with 19 points after achieving their fourth draw in 10 matches.

DEWS

NO CASH? NO WORRIES!

WE ACCEPT CARDS AND CHEQUES!




YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT ID FOR CARD PURCHASES

 DEWS
  dewspro

 info@dewspro.com

 729-3397/ 729-1210



Players of the Young Warriors (red and black uniform) battle with CPTSA Wings FC A in the Under-11 division of the youth league at St. Anthony's Secondary School at Langfords on Saturday, March 9, 2024. (Photo courtesy of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

Teams continue to battle in Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League

Defending Under-7 champions Pigotts Bullets and last year's third-place finishers, Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) Rebels A, notched up wins in the second week of matches in the 2024 Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League.

The Pigotts Bullets beat the CPTSA Wings FC 3-0 in their encounter in the youth league, which is being played at St. Anthony's Secondary School at Langfords.

GNFC Rebels A also secured 3-0 wins against TAMO FC and Young Warriors in the other matches in the Under-7 division.

After losing their opening encoun-

ter against last year's third-place finishers, Pigotts Bullets FC the previous week, reigning Under-9 division champions GNFC Rebels, rebounded to record their first win in defense of their title.

The GNFC Rebels beat last year's second-place finishers, TAMO FC, 3-0 in their second outing, while the Pigotts Bullets FC made it two wins in as many games by securing a 3-0 victory against the Young Warriors.

Last year's second-place finishers, TAMO FC, also made a poor start to their Under-9 division campaign, losing 2-0 against Five Islands FC in their opening encounter.

Five Islands FC defeated CPTSA Wings FC 4-1 in the other second-round encounter in the Under-9 division.

GNFC Rebels I maintained their successful start in defense of their Under-11 title by snatching a 2-1 victory against Five Islands FC to claim their second win in as many games.

Greenbay Hoppers FC also made it two wins in as many outings with a 6-0 drubbing of CPTSA Wings FC I.

The GNFC Rebels A team and the Young Warriors secured their first win in two matches. The GNFC Rebels A team beat TAMO FC 3-0, and the

cont'd on pg 21

Cyclists to contest Pan Am Base Circuit Race



Tahje Browne of Wadadli Cycling Academy is expected to be a part of the field to contest the Pan Am Base Circuit Race on Sunday. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

The nation's cyclists will once again be taking to the streets in competitive racing this weekend when the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) stages its second race of the 2024 domestic season.

The cyclists will be vying for supremacy in the Pan Am Base Circuit Race on Sunday, March 17, starting at 3 pm.

Expected to be among them is the nation's current top cyclist, Tahje Browne of the Wadadli Cycling Academy (WCA).

Browne has already made an impressive start to competition in 2024. The teenager, who is a student at Antigua Grammar School, won the overall title in the opening race of the 2024 ABCF's domestic season.

Browne, who contested the junior male category,

won the Pan Am Base to Willikies race on March 3 after capturing the overall title in the Velocity Cycling Club's Warm Up three-stage race in Aruba from February 23-25.

Cyclists from all the clubs affiliated with the ABCF are expected to compete for top honours in several different categories.

They will be vying for supremacy in the elite male, elite female, junior male, masters, sports class, pre-junior male, and cadets 11-14 divisions.

The elite male, junior male, and masters' divisions will be required to complete 25 laps of the circuit.

Participants in the elite female and sports classes will be required to complete 20 laps; the pre-junior male will cover a distance of 15 laps; and the cyclists in the cadets 11-14 class will compete for a duration of 10 laps.

The cyclist must complete the required laps of the circuit to be eligible for the title.

Registration fees are EC\$20 for members and EC\$50 for non-members. Registration will open at 1:30 pm and close at 2:30 pm.

Sunday's race is being supported by APUA Inet and Gatorade.

cont'd from pg 20

Young Warriors hammered CPTSA Wings FC A 6-1.

Last year's second-place finishers, the GNFC Rebels A, recorded their second win in as many games in the Under-13 division.

The GNFC Rebels A prevailed 2-0 against the Urlings Minions in the only second-round match that was played in the Under-13 division.

But TAMO FC, which finished third last year, made a losing start to their campaign, losing 2-1 against Young Warriors FC.

Pigotts Bullets FC trounced Jennings Ebenezer FC 11-1, and CPTSA Wings de-

feated Urlings Minions FC 4-1 in the other opening round matches in the Under-13 division.

Reigning champions New Evolution launched their title defense in the Under-17 boys division with a 1-1 draw against Soccer Academy.

CPTSA Wings recorded the only win in the opening round of matches in the Under-17 boys division with a 2-1 victory against Ottos Rangers FC.

Villa Lions and Willikies FC fought to a goalless draw, and Five Islands FC and GNFC Rebels played to a 1-1 draw in the other opening round matches in the Under-17 boys division.

Teams to clash in ABCA's two-day semi-finals

The top four teams at the end of the preliminary stage will be battling for supremacy in the semi-finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) two-day competition this weekend.

The winners of the round-robin preliminary stage, Pigotts Crushers, will host fourth-place finishers Empire Nation at the Pigotts playing field.

Second-place finishers and defending champions, PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks, will face third-place finishers Jennings Tigers at the Bethesda playing field in the other semi-final.

The Crushers finished at the top of the preliminary stage with 88 points from their nine matches. They were followed by the Liberta Blackhawks with 82 points, the Jennings Tigers with 70 points, and the Empire Nation with 67 points.

Several of the top outstanding individual performers during the preliminary stage will be on show during this weekend's semi-finals. Among them will be the Jennings Tigers' left-arm spinner Glenton Williams, who topped the bowling aggregate with 62 wickets in 15 innings at an average of 7.63.

His teammate, fast bowler Jedidah Martin, finished sixth in the bowling aggregate with 32 wickets in 14 innings at an average of 11.5.

Pigotts Crushers and Empire Nation also had two players each in the top 10 individual performers in the bowling aggregate.



Empire Nation off-spinner Justin Athanaze

The Crushers pacer Jawakie Joseph finished third, and off-spinner Demari Benta came in fourth in the bowling aggregates. Joseph captured 45 wickets in 16 innings at an average of 9.36, while Benta claimed 43 scalps in 14 innings at an average of 7.19.

Empire Nation's veteran off-spinner Justin Athanaze finished second, and teenager leg-spinner Micah McKenzie came in fifth in the bowling aggregates.

Athanaza grabbed 58 wickets in 15 innings at an average of 6.31, while McKenzie picked up 35 victims at an average of 8.46.

Empire Nation's all-rounder, Tyrone Williams Jr., finished second in the batting aggregate. Williams Jr., who is an opening batsman, scored a total of 492 runs in 12 innings at an average of 44.73.

Pigotts Crushers' Demari Benta came in third, and Essan Warner fin-



Jennings Tigers left-arm spinner Glenton Williams

ished fifth in the batting aggregates. Benta scored a total of 444 runs in 12 innings at an average of 63.43, and Warner had an aggregate of 397 runs in 11 innings at an average of 56.71.

Michael Greaves of the Liberta Blackhawks finished fourth in the batting aggregates. He scored a total of 414 runs in 12 innings at an average of 46.