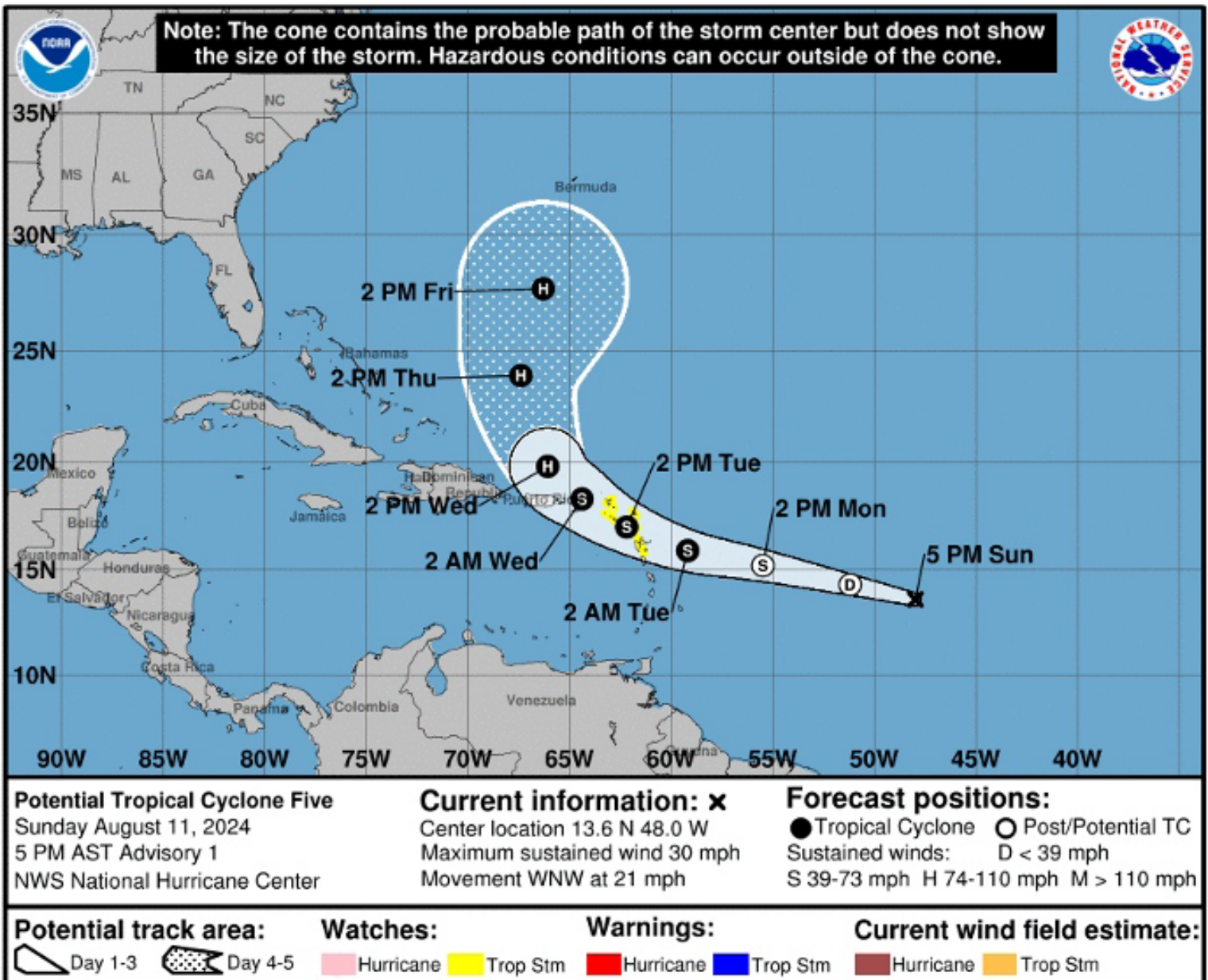




ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA UNDER TROPICAL STORM WATCH

Story on Page 2



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Antigua and Barbuda under tropical storm watch

Weather forecasters as well as officials at the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) are keeping a close eye on a tropical disturbance which they anticipate will develop into a tropical storm when it passes the Leeward Islands within the next 36 hours.

Forecasters at the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services (The Met Office) say the system up to last evening was roughly 950 miles East South East of Antigua and moving in a West North West direction at 21 miles per hour.

As such, Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the Leeward Islands have been placed on a tropical storm watch.

The system has not yet been named as it has not yet developed a centre.

They say the system was expected to develop into a tropical depression by Sunday night and by this afternoon (Monday) develop into a tropical storm, which is expected to pass close to

the islands by Tuesday.

Up to late afternoon Sunday, the system was referred to as Cyclone #5. The weather forecasters say it has the potential to bring large amounts of rainfall to the islands. Between three and five inches of rain have been forecast from this system.

While the storm has not been named, the Met Office wants residents of Antigua and Barbuda and the Leeward Islands generally to begin preparations for the anticipated arrival of a tropical storm.

A tropical storm watch means that an area can expect tropical storm conditions within a 48-hour period. Thus far Cyclone #5, which will be named Ernesto if it develops into a tropical storm, is packing winds at 30 miles per hour with higher gusts.

All analysts predict that this system will develop into a tropical storm. The question is how quickly it does so.

\$1.5 million paid out in prize monies for Carnival 2024

The Festivals Commission says prize monies for Carnival winners for 2024 have amounted to more than \$1.5 million.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Creative Industries, Senator Shenella Govia said prize monies have been paid to all those who are part of the winners' circle for every Carnival contest.

"The payouts were made on stage at the end of each show where the prizes are presented with a huge display cheque and an envelope with the cashable cheque while they are on stage. This is something that we started a few years ago and something that has won the support of the participants and members of the public alike," she stated.

She noted that there are some outstanding monies for unplaced participants, but these cheques are available at the Festivals Office awaiting to be collected by the respective artists/participants.

In addition to paying the artists and participants, the Commission also paid up to seventy-five percent of the contracted amounts to many of the service providers for Carnival.

"I am confident that the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda will ensure that we are

able to make the remaining twenty-five percent of the payment. To have paid out the bulk of the prize monies as well as most of the monies owed to the service suppliers is a remarkable achievement and we could not have done it without the support of the government through the ministry of finance," she stated.

Sen. Govia also spoke of the role of the sponsors in ensuring that Carnival 2024 was the overwhelming



Senator Shenella Govia

success that it was. She noted that all the 2024 Queen of Carnival delegates were sponsored and that each of the major Carnival events had title sponsors. She

called on the sponsors to continue to support Carnival and to support the development of the nation's cultural expressions.

"I want to challenge our sponsors to double the amount they injected into Carnival 2024 into their contributions for Carnival 2025. We are planning a number of bigger and better things and we do look forward to the support from our corporate community," she added.

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Local News



Anthony Smith makes first overseas engagement

The new Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith, is leading the Antigua and Barbuda delegation at a United Nations conference on deforestation that is taking place in the Bahamas.

Smith is leading the delegation in his first overseas mission as a minister in the Gaston Browne Cabinet. He was appointed in July after he resigned his UPP whip and decided to sit as an independent member of the House of Representatives. He later accepted an offer from PM Browne to join the Cabinet and to assume the



Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith

portfolio of Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries.

“This morning, I had the honour of representing our great Twin Island State at

the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Preparatory Conference of the Parties (COP) in the beautiful Bahamas.

While there are those who continue to spread lies, engage in character assassination, preach hate and incite violence, I remain steadfast and focused on what truly matters, working for the people of All Saints West and the people of Antigua and Barbuda. We’re building a stronger, sustainable future for our nation,” Smith wrote in a social media post from Nassau.

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PM Browne welcomes planned opening of another high-end restaurant

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is welcoming the announcement from the Jumby Bay Island Company Ltd. that it will be opening what it calls ‘a stunning new beach club and restaurant’ separate from the current Jumby Bay Club on Long Island.

In a media release, the company said the new facility, *The Hut, Little Jumby* is set for a November 2024 opening at Maiden Island, noting that it is destined to become the Caribbean’s most exciting

private beach club and restaurant.

To this end, the company has announced that The Hut, Little Jumby, will host a Job Fair from August 26 to 30 here in Antigua. There are openings for a host of positions within the new tourist attraction.

These include hosts, servers, food runners, bartenders, bar backs, drink runners, beach servers, beach runners, sous chefs, line cooks, stewards, maintenance assistance, storeroom clerk. Per-

sons seeking to receive bookings for interviews must have registered by August 9, 2024.

PM Browne said the new beach club and restaurant will go a long way in enhancing the country’s tourist attractions. “Employment opportunities at the Hut on Maiden Island. Yet another ultra-luxury restaurant in the class of Nobu Barbuda and the Reef at Green Island,” the prime minister wrote in a social media post.

ABEMS is improving the skillsets of its Supervisors with specialized training

Three Supervisors from the Antigua and Barbuda Emergency Medical Services (EMS) have been selected to participate in the prestigious EMS Instructor Level 1 course in the United States.

Brandon Browne, Critical Care Paramedic, and Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, Tundea Bruce and Courtney Kellman will undertake this vital training, which is designed to equip emergency medical professionals with advanced teaching methodologies and the latest educational technologies. The course will take place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, ahead of their attendance at the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) symposium from August 11th to 17th, 2024.

This training is crucial for the continued development of the ABEMS Academy. As Browne, Bruce, and Kellman bring back

cutting-edge knowledge and instructional techniques that will play a pivotal role in enhancing the Academy’s programmes. This will better equip the ABEMS Academy to develop high-caliber emergency medical professionals who can meet international standards in emergency care.

The NAEMSE symposium will further enrich their experience by exposing them to the latest trends, best practices, and innovations in emergency medical education.

This comprehensive approach to professional development ensures that they will return with a broader perspective and deeper insights, benefiting both the Academy and the wider healthcare system in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Ministry anticipates significant benefits for the citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda as a result of this professional de-



ABEMS supervisors to participate in training in the USA

velopment opportunity. The advanced skills and knowledge that Browne, Bruce, and Kellman will bring back to the island are expected to enhance the training provided at the EMS Academy, ultimately improving the quality of emergency medical care available across the

nation.

This initiative is part of the Ministry’s ongoing commitment to investing in the professional development of healthcare workers and maintaining the highest standards of emergency medical services in Antigua and Barbuda.

Local News



More training for EMS staff

Paramedic at the Antigua Barbuda Emergency Medical Services, Joanna Otto is in the United States to attend the prestigious Optimize OB/Neonate for EMS Education course in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

The course runs for this week and it is being held alongside the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) Symposium.

The Optimize OB/Neonate course is designed to enhance the skills of EMS professionals in the management of obstetric and neonatal emergencies. This programme is recognized internationally for its focus on critical knowledge areas, ensuring that participants are equipped to han-

dle complex cases in the field.

The course is being hosted as part of the NAEMSE Symposium, a premier event that brings together EMS educators, practitioners, and leaders from around the world to discuss advancements in pre-hospital care.

The course will cover a range of topics, including advanced techniques for managing high-risk pregnancies and neonatal emergencies, which are critical for improving maternal and child health outcomes. Upon her return, Joanna will share her new insights and experiences with her colleagues, contributing to the overall enhancement of EMS services in Antigua and Barbuda.



Joanna Otto

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New voter ID cards replacement begins

The process through which the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission will replace expired Voter ID Cards begins across all seventeen constituencies in Antigua and Barbuda today.

Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes said more than forty thousand cards will be replaced during the process, especially in the first several weeks. Over the past weeks, ABEC has been making preparation for the process, including readying several registration units to accommodate the process.

Hughes said everything is now in place for the process to begin. One of the key factors has been the completion of reliable internet access to all seventeen registration units. He added that APUA has been working overtime in ensuring that the internet access reaches the registration units as this is critical to the successful operation of the exercise.

Persons wanting to replace expired cards must present themselves in person with a valid government ID, the expired card, proof of address and or a marriage/divorce certificate in cases where a person wishes to change a surname or to revert to a surname.

After completing the application process, the applicant will be advised to

await a call from the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission within two to three weeks when they may return to collect the new cards.

Along with the staff of ABEC who will be present in the registration units, each unit will also have scrutineers representing the political parties and the in-

dependent candidates in the House of Representatives.

Hughes said the process to complete the application should not exceed five minutes per person.

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Maureen Hyman-Payne appointed to the Income Tax Appeal Board

Former Chief Magistrate Maureen Payne-Hyman has been appointed as a member of the Income Tax Appeal Board.

The Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Rodney Williams, officially appointed Hyman-Payne to the position based on advice of the Members of Cabinet in accordance with Section 60 of the Income Tax Act, Cap 212.

The Income Tax Appeal Board serves as a crucial body tasked with reviewing and adjudicating disputes related to tax assessments and decisions, ensuring fairness and transparency



Maureen Payne-Hyman (left) received her appointment document from Sir Rodney Williams (right). Photo courtesy of Wayne Mariette.

in the tax administration process in Antigua and Bar-

buda. The ceremony took place at Government House last week.

George Chiddick to appear in court today on firearms charges

George Akeba Chiddick of No.3 George Street will appear in the St. John's Magistrate's Court today to face a number of firearms related offences.

He is charged with Shooting With Intent to do Greivous Bodily Harm, Possession of one .32 Pistol, and one .32 Round of ammunition, and Making Use of a Firearm for the Commission of an Offence.

On the morning of August 6, the accused allegedly shot a woman of No. 3 George Street and left her with a wound to her left leg. She was treated at



George Akeba Chiddick the hospital and later discharged.

A bulletin was issued for his arrest, and he surrendered to the police on Thursday.

NOTICE OF CLEANING OF THE WASTEWATER SETTLING PONDS

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda - August 8, 2024

As part of the West Indies Oil Company's (WIOC) environmental and maintenance programs, WIOC intends to clean our Wastewater Settling Ponds and drains to maintain the quality of the water exiting the Facility. The cleaning is scheduled for August 12 - 14, 2024 between 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please be advised that, based on the prevailing wind direction, the cleaning process may produce some odour that could impact the neighbouring community. Rest assured, our environmental consultant will monitor and supervise the entire operation, and every precaution will be taken to minimise any impact.

We take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Kindly contact our representatives to relay any concerns relating to the cleaning operations:

Mr. Neville Alleyne - 462-0140 Ext. 2345 or 729-0455
 Mr. Mallon Joseph - 462-0140 Ext. 2234 or 727-5911
 Mrs. Tamica Chambers - 462-0140 Ext. 2320 or 727-3011

- END -

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APUA assists in power restoration efforts in the Canouan following Hurricane Beryl

In the wake of Hurricane Beryl, many of our Caribbean neighbours are still grappling with the aftermath, especially in the critical area of restoring power utilities. Recognizing the importance of solidarity and swift action in times of crisis, the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) responded without hesitation when St. Vincent Electricity Services Limited (VINLEC) reached out for assistance in their restoration efforts.

On Sunday, July 21, 2024, APUA promptly deployed a dedicated team to Canouan to aid in the recovery process. This team, led by Transmission and Distribution Supervisor Marlon Lawrence, joined forces with VINLEC and other local partners to help restore power across the island.

Throughout their mission, Team APUA received commendations for their professionalism, dedication, and team spirit from VINLEC and the communities they served. Their efforts have been a shining example of resilience and regional cooperation in the face of adversity. The combined efforts of the APUA Electricity Business Unit and its partner companies have become a symbol of resilience and solidarity in the ongoing restoration process. While Marlon Lawrence, Transmission and Distribution Supervisor, has already returned to Antigua, the re-



APUA workers return from Canouan on Sunday afternoon

maintaining team members—Kevin Guiste, Wamani Grayman, Euraldo Browne, and Shoy Matthew—continue their crucial work in Canouan. They are committed to ensuring that every repaired connection contributes to the return of hope and normalcy for the communities affected by the storm.

As the restoration efforts continue, the collaboration between APUA's Electricity Business Unit and our sister companies in the region stands as a powerful testament to the unity and support that define us as Caribbean nations.

Team APUA is expected to return to Antigua on Sunday, August 11, 2024, and will resume their normal duties. The management and staff of APUA extend heartfelt thanks to these un-

sung heroes for their selfless service, not just to their country, but to their regional counterparts as well.

UTILITIES ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

Customers are encouraged to settle their accounts for Electricity, Water and Telecoms (inet Mobile, Home and Business) services. Customers are reminded that accounts 30 days or more in arrears are subjected to disconnection. Customers may contact our Credit Control Department at 480-7002 to discuss special payment arrangements.

Bill payments and viewing of bills are available via the APUA Direct Online Bill Payment Portal at www.apua.ag. Online payments can be made through any of our banking or credit union partners.

Disconnections will be carried out during the period August 12th to August 30th, 2024.

Please be advised that reconnections are carried out within 1-2 business days after payment.





Visit us at www.apua.ag

Keith Yearwood – An inspiration to always give your best

By Annette Aflak

There is so much that can be said about Keith. There are countless ways to describe him, but to me, the words that truly capture his essence are: inspiring, dedicated, and passionate. This was my first Carnival without him, and it simply wasn't the same.

I first met Keith in 1999 when I was appointed Coordinator of Carnival. At that time, the Carnival office shared space with Youth Affairs, and there I encountered the most dedicated young man I've ever known in my career.

Keith was a Youth Officer, but from the moment Carnival shared the space with the Youth Ministry, he

was always eager to lend a hand.

He would often ask, "What can I assist with?" And when he did, he did it with class, professionalism, and a sense of urgency that was unmatched.

Keith quickly became an invaluable member of my department, working tirelessly before, during, and after Carnival. His diligence and commitment were undeniable.

After many administrative efforts, a transfer to the Carnival office was finally granted, and that's when Keith's shining and exemplary work truly began. He was technical, astute, and had an incredible knack for administrative tasks. Keith



Claudette "CP" Peters, left, and others paid their respects.

was my right-hand man—dependable, creative, and attentive throughout my

years as Coordinator.

Even when I served as an advisor to the Ministers of Carnival, Keith continued to share his expertise right up until his untimely passing.

Keith was someone who never stopped working. If it meant napping for an hour at his desk before getting back up to continue, that was him.

If you needed Keith, you knew where to find him, and you could be sure that whatever task he was given would be completed.

His dedication was beyond compare, and he quickly became everyone's favorite in the office. Keith was more than a colleague; he was family.



Members of Keith Yearwood's family gathered at a candlelight vigil in his honour on Sunday. The funeral will be held on Monday.

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Everyone in the office looked out for him, ensuring he had something to eat and drink because they knew how hard he worked. Condacy and Trini saw him as their son, and Harry was his big brother. We shared great times together, memories I will cherish forever.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” – That was Keith!

Keith was instrumental and proactive in every sense. He played a key role in the first Party Monarch competition, tirelessly working to get young soca artists to sign up and organizing the quarterfinals. Yes, that was our Keith Yearwood. He was always there to support the youth in Carnival and

beyond.

His love for life and people was evident in everything he did, whether it was offering advice, portraying Santa Claus at Christmas parties across the island, or simply volunteering. Keith was a family man who would give his last dollar to his sisters, nieces, and nephews out of pure love.

Our last moments together were less than 10 hours before he passed. We were at Tent City, standing by the door, talking quietly until the event was over.

I told him I wanted to discuss something with him on Monday - the day that never came for him. Our last conversation will forever be etched in my memory. My beloved Keith, the greatest youth to pass through Carni-



Another member of Keith Yearwood's family addresses the gathering.

Let his life stand as a testament to the impact one can have when they pour their heart and soul into everything they do. Keith's legacy will linger, it will be known, and it will be remembered.

We will always remember you, Keith. As Claudette “CP” Peters in her song says “Something’s Got a Hold on Me”: “We have to live life and enjoy every moment!” Keith, you lived your life to the fullest, you gave your all, and your memory will remain with us forever.





Caribbean Beach Cottages

seeks

TOP TALENT

Caribbean Beach Cottages Resorts began as COCOS Hotel, co-founded by Andrew Michelin in 1997 with five wooden cottages and an eight-table restaurant under a tree. Michelin's vision was to create an authentic Caribbean experience, featuring chattel-styled wooden cottages with outdoor showers and a select Caribbean menu using fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

Furniture and light fixtures are crafted by local artisans using local materials. Local seamstresses make staff uniforms, cushions, and curtains. The hotels are built with local stones, landscaped with local plants, and staffed by individuals from surrounding communities.

The food and beverage concept at the founding hotel was motivated by the Caribbean dishes Michelin enjoyed at his grandmother's house in rural Jamaica. This focus on fresh, locally produced food limited the need for processed items, creating a unique and healthy culinary experience cherished by guests.

Today, Caribbean Beach Cottages operates three resorts:

- **COCOS Hotel:** 45 cottages, 4-star rating
- **Keyonna Beach:** 46 cottages, 5-star rating
- **Hawksbill Hotel:** 110 rooms, with plans to expand by 40 more cottages in the next 24 months.

With the advent of online booking engines utilizing AI, room rates are now dynamically priced like airlines, based on demand. To match the heightened expectations, associated with these higher rates. Caribbean Beach Cottages is committed to elevating its standards. On Trip Advisor for Antigua, currently, Keyonna Beach is ranked number 4, and COCOS Hotel is ranked number 6, with the Hawksbill Resort soon to be in the top 10.

The higher the ranking, the higher the rates!

Seeking Top Talent

Michelin's philosophy is that the Caribbean is a world-class destination with unique experiences and immense potential. Raised in St. Ann, Jamaica with a no limits mentality, the same parish as Marcus Garvey and Bob Marley, Michelin is inspired to transition from Team Captain to Coach and needs a stellar team to drive his vision forward.

We are seeking part-time professionals, who can work from home to fill the following positions:

- **Engineer/Technical Troubleshooter:** Manage and optimize 350 split air conditioning units, 40 hot water heaters, and 70 pool and other pumps to improve efficiency and sustainability.
- **Financial Analyst:** Support our established financial team.
- **Farmers and Back Garden Liaison Officer:** Work with local farmers and backyard growers to ensure timely production of needed items.
- **Horticulturist/Green Thumbed Gardener:** Manage over 2000 potted plants growing in outdoor showers and restaurants, with the opportunity to grow herbs and vegetables.
- **Brand Standards Champion:** Ensure guests have consistent experiences by checking weekly cycled menus, drink selections, accommodations, and furniture.
- **Wellness Coordinator:** Assist staff with diets, lifestyle, banking, and financial planning, and coordinate guest wellness activities.
- **Entertainment Consultant:** Guide consistently high-quality guest entertainment.
- **IT Specialist:** Manage all technical logistics at the hotels.
- **Other Top Talents:** If you have unique skills, let us know how you can contribute.

Successful candidates will join a dynamic and goal-driven team led by hospitality guru Michelin, who co-founded and opened Cocobay, Hermitage Bay, Sunseakers, and Antigua Farm & Garden. Michelin also started a banana ripening room in Point for rejected bananas from Dominica. Despite Covid-19 delays, plans are in place to roll out five lodges in Guyana, starting with Letterwood Lodge, a Wellness and Gastronomic Rainforest Boutique Resort.



If you are passionate and want to be part of an innovative team driving world-class Caribbean experiences, apply by emailing jobs@caribbeanbeachcottages.com.

Andrew Michelin will personally review all applications.

Opinion



The number is 79 and counting

By Tony Deyal

Birthdays are good for your health. Studies show that people with more birthdays live longer. If you don't want to, there are two ways of keeping from getting old - lie about your age, which I don't do, and drive while drinking, which I won't do.

The hard part is that I had to reach 79 before people, including my wife and children, tell me that I look so young for my age. I'm not like the elderly couple who got married.

The first night, the husband reached out, took his wife's hand, and fell asleep. The second night, the same thing. Again, the same thing on the third night.

The wife looked at him and complained, "What are you? Some kind of sex maniac? Three nights in a row? You mad or what?"

I am more like the old man who saw a small boy crying. He asked the boy, "What's worrying you so much young man?"

The boy replied, "Sir, I'm crying because I can't do what the big boys do." So the old man sat down and he cried too. Perhaps he could have gone to the doctor like the old man who said, "Doc, my sex drive is too high. I want it lowered."

The doctor couldn't believe what the man was saying, "You're 79 and you want your sex drive lowered?" "That's right," said the old man, pointing to

his head, "It's all up here. I want it lowered."

In my case, it is low but not far enough. My back goes out more than I do, and my ears are hairier than my head which is empty outside but, fortunately, not inside as yet.

Steven Wright, the comedian, was very worried. He said, "When I turned two, I was really anxious because I'd doubled my age in a year."

He added, "I was worried because I believed that, if this keeps up, by the time I'm six, I'll be 90!" Fortunately for me, he was not right but still not too far off. Even at 79, you know you're getting older when the candles cost more than the cake.

However, it is when you buy both at that age that the real trouble and cost hit you because you have to get the Fire Brigade to stand by and the police, just in case.

The only reason to do it is that, as Charles Shultz, the creator of the cartoon 'Peanut' said, "Just remember, once you're over the hill, you begin to pick up speed."

You also pick up some hope and despair at the same time. At 79, the founding father of the US, Benjamin Franklin, invented bifocal eyeglasses. At the same age, I wear trifocals.

Christopher Wren, the British architect, completed the spectacular St Paul's Ca-



thedral in London. George Cayley engineered the first manned heavier-than-air flight.

The only flights I was involved in were once when the police nearly caught me for playing cards for money under the street light and I had to hide in a lady's house. She made me sit down at her table, gave me a cup of tea and a piece of bread and said, "They can't lock you up because you have been here for breakfast for almost an hour."

The other was when the police, this time with thick whips, tried to arrest all of us who were betting on a card game in the forest.

An old lady with a stick jumped the six-foot river and got away. I got my feet wet but not enough to stop me from running through the forest, crossing the main road without noticing it, and ending up hiding in a cane field.

What I did was nowhere close to the artist, Marc Chagall, who unveiled his

murals at New York City's Metropolitan Opera House, Giuseppe Verdi composed his opera Falstaff, and Cornelius Vanderbilt constructed the Grand Central Terminal in New York.

What I can boast of are the many friends, almost 300, who in less than two days not only wished me a happy birthday but included great memories and even good jokes.

One I had included in a column many years ago was about my getting heartburn every time I ate birthday cake and my doctor recommended, "Next time, take out the candle."

Even when I take out not just the candle but the cake, I am still stuck and struck with the seven ages of man - spills, drills, thrills, bills, ills, pills and wills.

I no longer drink to the grills, pretend I'm helping my father in his shop and grabbing some money from the tills, and then, when he chased me with the belt, run

cont'd on pg 15

Guyana, Brazil probe alleged trafficking of underage girls

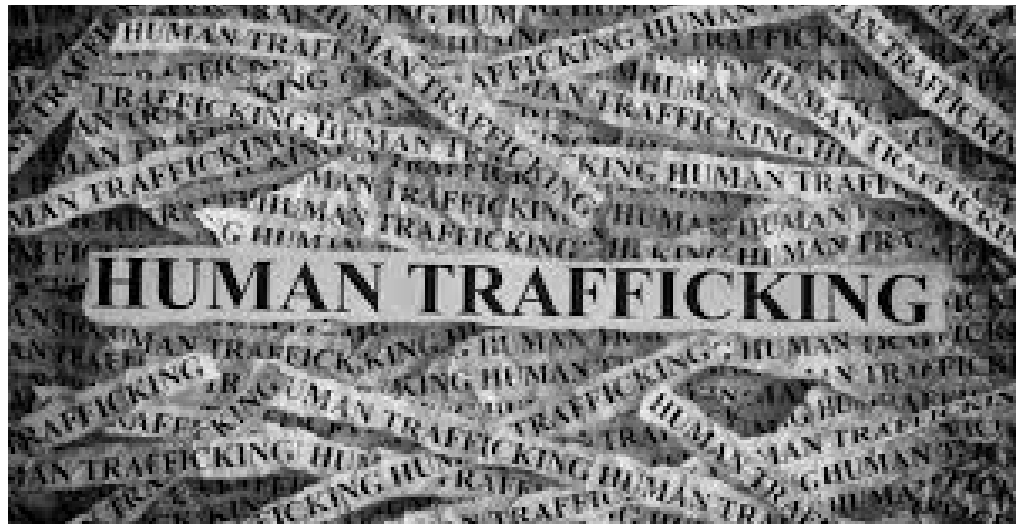
CMC - Security officials in Guyana and neighboring Brazil have launched a joint investigation concerning the alleged smuggling and trafficking of four underage girls, all foreign nationals, from Brazil to Guyana.

Preliminary information indicates that the girls, all between the ages of 14 and 17, were illegally transported across the border with the intent of exploitation.

In response to this information, and as a matter of priority, the Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling Unit, in collaboration with local law enforcement officials, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in Guyana, executed an operation to safely locate, identify, and place the alleged victims into protective care.

This operation was successfully conducted between August 4 and 7.

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (C-TIP Unit),



along with the Child Care Protection Agency, has initiated the provision of counseling, medical care, psychosocial support, and other essential services to the alleged victims.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the safety and protection of all individuals, both locals and foreigners, with a special focus on vulnerable groups

such as minors.

Meanwhile, the Guyana Police Force has commenced a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding these developments.

This investigation will include a thorough examination aimed at identifying and prosecuting all perpetrators involved.

cont'd from pg 14
up the hills.

Now I can't even run down a hill. But I can roll. In that sense, boys will be boys and so will a lot of old men, including me.

It is why I think of the English author and philosopher G.K. Chesterton who created the fictional Roman Catholic priest and amateur detective Father Brown, one of my favourite books and TV shows. He had two quotes on birthdays and again.

He said, "The first fact about the celebration of a birthday is that it is a way of affirming defiantly, and

even flamboyantly, that it is a good thing to be alive." I'm all for that unless my family or friends get me really angry.

The second is, "The birthday is a dogma no normal men deny, a formula of fundamental confession; it thanks heaven by implication for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of life."

In that sense, unless we kick the bucket, or it kicks us, none of us can help getting older but we don't have to get OLD.

For me, having a birthday is a lot better than not having any. Or, as one friend

told me, old age for a man is when he has been out with a girl all night and the only thing that comes is daylight.

In my case, I'm more like a dog chasing a car. Even if I catch it, I can't drive it. Perhaps, deep down, I envy the old man in this story.

A woman, well into her sixties, went to the doctor complaining of nausea, exhaustion, and occasional cramps.

After a thorough examination, the doctor sent her to the hospital for a battery of tests, and finally confronted her with the results. "Mrs. Barber," he

said, "medically impossible though it seems at your age, there's no doubt that you're pregnant."

"Impossible," she screamed and fainted. When she revived, she went straight to the phone, dialled her 82 year-old husband, and shouted, "You've made me pregnant, you dirty old man." There was a long pause at the other end of the line, and then her husband asked, "And to whom am I speaking?"

Tony Deyal was last seen advising his younger friends and children, "You were born an original. Don't die a copy."



Emergency services rushed to evacuate the hotel in Cairns.

Pilot killed as chopper crashes into Australian hotel

By **Simon Atkinson**

A pilot has died after their helicopter crashed into the roof of a hotel in the northern Queensland city of Cairns.

The aircraft hit the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel at around 01:50am local time on Monday (16:50B Sunday), sparking a fire and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of guests.

Queensland Police confirmed the only occupant of the helicopter died at the scene. The company who charts the helicopter told local media the pilot had been on an “unauthorised” flight.

Two hotel guests - a man in his 80s and a woman in her 70s – were taken to hospital in a stable condition, the state’s ambulance service said.

Amanda Kay, who was staying in the hotel on the main esplanade in Cairns, described seeing a helicopter

flying “extra low”, without lights in rainy weather.

“[It] has turned round and hit the building,” she said, adding that the aircraft “blew up”.

Two of the helicopter’s rotor blades came off on impact, landing on the esplanade and in the hotel pool, according to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS).

“There’s been reports it sounded like a bomb, and [that after] seeing smoke and fire from that, a lot of the occupants of the hotel were very unsure about the situation,” QAS senior operations supervisor for the Far Northern Region Caitlin Dennings told media.

Another tourist staying at the hotel, Alastair Salmon, described it to the ABC as “a colossal ear-deafening bang”.

Mr Salmon, from London, said

that after being evacuated he initially mistook the helicopter’s rotor blade for a lamppost.

“Then we looked up there and you could see this massive hole in the window of the building,” he told the ABC.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau says it is sending investigators to the scene.

And Nautilus Aviation said it would work closely with all authorities in Queensland as they examined the “unauthorised use of one of our helicopters in the early hours of this morning”, according to ABC News.

Streets around the hotel have been cordoned off and an emergency situation was declared by police.

Located in northern Queensland, the city of Cairns is a popular tourist destination due to its proximity to the Great Barrier Reef.

Rwandan president sworn in after 99% election win

By Joseph Winter

Paul Kagame has been sworn in for a fourth term as Rwanda's president after winning 99% of the vote in last month's election.

While some hail Mr Kagame for bringing peace and stability to his country after the 1994 genocide, others accuse him of running a repressive regime in a country where ordinary people are afraid to openly criticise him.

Rights groups say the margin of his electoral victory is proof of the lack of democracy in Rwanda.

Only two candidates were allowed to stand against Mr Kagame in the 15 July election.

In his four presidential elections, he has always gained at least 93% of the vote.

Several African heads of states were among the many thousands who attended the ceremony in the packed 45,000 capacity Amahoro National Stadium in the capital, Kigali.

In his oath of office, Mr Kagame vowed to preserve peace and national sovereignty, and to consolidate national unity.

He also pledged to "never use the powers conferred upon me for personal interests".

"Should I fail to hon-



Paul Kagame has always gained at least 93% of the vote in presidential elections.

our this oath, may I be subjected to the rigours of the law," he said.

Mr Kagame has been the real power in Rwanda since his then rebel forces came to power at the end of the genocide in which some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered, ousting the genocidal regime.

Since then, Rwanda has been relatively stable, with Mr Kagame seeking to turn the country into the "Singapore of Africa".

The capital is one of Africa's cleanest cities and is home to the African Basketball League, which is a partnership with the NBA.

It hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Gov-

ernment Meeting in 2022 and international stars like Kendrick Lamar have played concerts there.

Mr Kagame often criticises the West, yet he has also sought to build alliances, for example with the UK over the now scrapped policy of deporting asylum seekers to Rwanda, agreed with the former Conservative government.

While life has improved in Rwanda, Mr Kagame is accused of destabilising the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

Just days before the July election, a UN report said there were some 4,000 Rwandan troops in DR Congo, where they are accused of backing the M23

rebel group, fuelling a bitter row between the two countries.

Under Mr Kagame, Rwandan troops have twice invaded DR Congo, saying they were pursuing Hutu militias linked to the 1994 genocide.

Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi was not among the African leaders at the inauguration.

In his speech, Mr Kagame appeared to criticise Mr Tshisekedi for failing to help defeat Rwandan rebels based in DR Congo.

Unless that changes, he said mediation efforts wouldn't work.

He didn't sound like a man ready to give into any pressure and stop backing the M23 rebels.

Sports News



Ninth-place finish for Antigua at Americas Group III in Billy Jean Cup

Antigua and Barbuda's female tennis players finished ninth overall from the field of 10 teams at the Americas Group III of the Billy Jean Cup, which concluded at the National Racquet Centre in Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago, on Saturday.

Antigua and Barbuda prevailed 2-0 in the playoffs for ninth place against Aruba, which ended in 10th overall after finishing in the cellar of Pool B that featured five teams in round-robin pool play.

Antiguan Janae George-Alexander beat Aruba's Mali Baroud 6-4, 6-3 in the first singles, and Sibley Charles won the match for Antigua and Barbuda by beating Danna Nunez 6-0, 6-1 in the second singles.

Prior to the playoffs, Antigua and Barbuda suffered another 3-0 loss in their final match in round-robin pool play.

Antigua and Barbuda were beaten by Jamaica and finished in the cellar of Pool A without a win after losing by the same results to the Bahamas, Barbados, and host Trinidad and Tobago in their three other encounters in the women's tournament at the National Racquet Centre in Tacarigua.

Antigua and Barbuda's Jolie George-Alexander lost 6-0, 6-1 to Adeola Greatorex in the opening singles, and her sister Janae George-Alexander was beaten 6-0, 6-0 by Najah Dawson of Jamaica.

The Antiguan duo of Sydney Kent-

ish and Sibley Charles went under 6-1, 6-1 against the Jamaican pair of Najah Dawson and Katherine Dibbs in the doubles.

Pool A winners Barbados and Pool B winners Costa Rica won their respective promotion play-offs and earned promotion to compete in Americas Group II in 2025.

Barbados, which played unbeaten throughout the tournament, snatched a 2-1 victory against El Salvador, which finished second in Pool B.

Costa Rica, which also played unbeaten throughout the tournament, clinched a 2-1 victory against Jamaica, which finished second in Pool A.

Host Trinidad and Tobago finished

cont'd on pg 19

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Winston Benjamin celebrates son Rai's Olympic triumph

(CRICBUZZ) -- The Antiguans are celebrating the Olympics with great enthusiasm, and the Winston Benjamin family from the small Caribbean island is experiencing an extra dose of high.

The former West Indian pacer, not exactly known for his overt display of emotions, is overjoyed by his son's 'golden' feat in Paris. "It's a surreal feeling," he says.

"I have never met anyone who would have experienced a similar feeling; it was a surreal moment. I'm very happy for his achievement, because I know how much he worked, I know how hard it was for him and how much he really wanted it," Benjamin, typically a fearsome fast bowler of the West Indies cricket's golden era, told Cricbuzz.

His son, Rai Benjamin, won the gold medal in the 400 meters hurdles a couple of nights ago in Paris, continuing the United States' gold rush in track and field disciplines at the Games.

"He's an American. He was born in the US, so we are celebrating him just as much as the Americans are," the 59-year-old West Indian, who featured in 21 Tests and

85 ODIs in the 80s and 90s, said.

"I know what it meant for him to win an individual gold in particular. I know how hard he had been working, and I know that at the end of the day, he didn't leave any stone unturned. And to accomplish such a feat, it's phenomenal," Benjamin said.

Benjamin was among those who watched from the stands as Rai triumphed over his arch-rival, Karsten Warholm, in the final. He reflected on his emotions while watching his son tide over the hurdles at the packed and bustling Stade de France.

"The Olympics for me are like the World Cup final," Benjamin said. "No, I've never felt like this. I mean, I'm not an individual, who shows a lot of emotion. Even though I'm happy, I tend to internalise it. But, you know, it's a surreal moment."

Rai, 27, who finished second behind Warholm in Tokyo, matched his season's best time of 46.46 seconds in the Paris race. During those intense 46 seconds, Benjamin experienced a whirlwind of emotions while his son competed



Rai Benjamin of the United States celebrates after winning the men's 400-meter hurdles final at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Saint-Denis, France, Friday, Aug. 9, 2024. (AP)

against a strong field. He recalled those tense moments.

"I was just wheeling him on from the stands. I knew (he could win) once they were together, coming over the curve on the home stretch. Most of my focus was how he started.

"I said to his mom, he had a different risk today because he could not see his main challengers. And then in order for him to stay, he was going to have to work on push. At the start of the race, he was striving for Warholm. I think because of the lane draw, and I knew he was feeling fit and strong, and he just went out and executed that up. I said to myself, this is it."

Rai, one of Benjamin's six children, initially ex-

plored cricket and American football - he was a fast bowler and then a quarterback -- before ultimately focusing on track events.

Antigua's athletics coach recognised his potential and encouraged him to pursue athletics. Rai competed for Antigua before moving to the US.

"He was neither here or there (initially) for me, but he chose athletics and I supported him all the way from Day One to win the ultimate prize in the sport of his choice. I am very happy for him," Winston said.

Benjamin runs an academy in Antigua, and one of his other sons also played cricket. When asked if he would choose cricket or athletics as a career if given the option now, the Antiguan, who once injured Sanjay Manjrekar with his express pace, responded, "Cricket, of course."

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fifth and Bermuda finished seventh after winning the other two matches in the positional play-offs.

Trinidad and Tobago beat St. Lucia 2-0 in the playoff for fifth place, and Bermuda prevailed 2-1 against the Bahamas in the playoff for seventh place.

Antigua claim seventh place at CONCACAF Under-15 Girls Championship

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Girls claimed a seventh-place finish in League B of the CONCACAF Under-15 Girls Championship that ended in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday.

The Benna Girls secured seventh place in the playoff stage of the competition by defeating Curacao 2-0 at the Larry Gomes Stadium.

Antigua and Barbuda failed to qualify for the semi-finals after drawing 1-1 with Curacao in their final preliminary group match in Pool C.

The result meant that the Benna Girls finished second in Pool C, which was won by host Trinidad and Tobago, who advanced to the semi-finals as group winners.

The Trinidadians finished at the top of Group C with seven points from two wins and a draw. Antigua and Barbuda ended the group with five points after winning one and drawing their other two matches.

The Benna Girls were ranked 7th overall in League B after beating Curacao in the playoff.



The Antigua and Barbuda Benna Girls starting XI against Curacao in their seventh place playoff at the CONCACAF Under-15 Girls Championship at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in Trinidad and Tobago on Friday, August 9, 2024. (ABFA Media)

In the other playoff matches, Bermuda beat Cuba 2-0 to clinch fifth place; the Cayman Islands prevailed

1-0 against guest team Trinidad High Performance to claim ninth place; *cont'd on pg 21*

Bullets begin defense of Parham Super League with a draw

The Pigotts Bullets began their defense of the Parham Super League title with a draw in the opening encounter on Saturday.

The Bullets were held to a 1-1 draw by Garden Stars in the opening match of the football competition during a triple header at the Parham playing field.

Kimon Harrigan scored for the Pigotts Bullets, and Wilden Cornwall Jr. converted for the Garden Stars.

Willikies and Parham launched their campaigns with convincing wins in the other two matches during Saturday's opening day of the round-robin tournament.

Willikies cruised to a 3-1 victory against Freeman's Village FC. Phil Nicholas, Nadre Thomas, and Novelle Francis Jr. each converted once for Willikies. Josue "Naymar" Arias scored for Freeman's Village.

Parham snatched a 4-2

victory against the Attacking Saints of All Saints.

The goals for Parham came via conversions by Denie Henry, Ramone Montanana, and J'twan Browne, as well as an own goal conceded by the Attacking Saints. Corey Jarvis scored both goals for the Attacking Saints.

The Parham Super League will continue with a double header on Wednesday evening.

The Attacking Saints will face the Pigotts Bullets at 6 pm, and Garden Stars will meet Parham FC at 7:30 pm.

The second annual Parham Super League, which is organized by Eastboys Promotions, is featuring 12 teams this year.

The 12 teams, an increase of four teams, are competing in two zones, with the winner taking home a grand prize of EC\$5,000.

USA ties China in Paris Olympics gold medal count

PARIS (AP) - The United States of America (USA) women's basketball team held off France on Sunday to win gold in the final event of the Paris Olympics, and that hardware was needed for the Americans to tie China for the most with 40.

The USA easily won the total medal count with 126. Aside from the 40 gold, the Americans won 42 silver and 44 bronze.

"I saw the medal count beforehand so I knew," said US women's coach Cheryl Reeve, who thought to herself, "that's what we need — more pressure."

The USA lost a bronze medal Sunday when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said it was reallocated the bronze given to Jordan Chiles in the women's floor final to Romanian Ana Barbosu. USA Olympic officials are appealing.

China came in second in the total medal race with 91. China won 40 gold, 27 silver and 24 bronze. Japan was a distant third with 20 gold medals, 45 overall. Great Britain won 65 medals,



The United States team poses for a picture with their gold medals at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024. (AP)

but only 14 were gold for an overall ranking of seventh.

The medal rankings are done by gold, and the last time the USA didn't top the standings was at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, when the Americans finished second to China, 48-36.

The USA has won the most overall medals in eight consecutive Summer Games. The last time the Americans failed to top the medal leaderboard was the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

The "Unified Team" fea-

turing athletes from ex-Soviet republics won both the most golds (45) and total medals (112), while the Americans were second in both categories with 37 golds and 108 medals.

The USA had been battling with China for the lead in gold medals the last several days and entered Sunday, the final day of competition, trailing China 39-38.

China picked up an early gold medal Sunday when Li Wenwen won the top medal in women's +81kg weightlift-

ing. The USA followed with another gold when Jennifer Valente defended her women's omnium title in cycling track.

It then came down to the women's basketball game, and the USA won gold for the eighth consecutive time.

The United States of America won a total of five medals on Sunday, including a silver in women's freestyle 76kg (wrestling), a team silver in women's volleyball and a bronze in men's water polo.

Three years ago at the Tokyo Olympics, the USA beat China with 39 gold medals to 38. The USA won 113 medals in Tokyo. The Americans were far more dominant at the Rio Olympics in 2016, when they won 46 gold medals to 27 for Great Britain 26 for China.

cont'd from pg 20

Belize snatched a 2-1 win against Suriname to capture 11th place; and Barbados snatched a 3-2 win against Grenada to claim 13th place in the 14-team tournament.

Trinidad and Tobago finished in third place overall after beating Guatemala 3-0 in the playoff at the Hasely Crawford Sta-

dium on Sunday.

Trinidad and Tobago lost 1-0 against the Dominican Republic, while Guatemala lost 2-0 against Honduras in the first semi-finals.

Honduras won the title after snatching a 1-0 win against the Dominican Republic in the final at the Hasely Crawford Stadium on Sunday.

Sports

MONDAY 12TH AUGUST 2024

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
POINT EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

West Indies and South Africa draw first Test

Dominica's Alick Athanaze hits an impressive half century as the West Indies and South Africa battled to a draw on the fifth and final day of the rain-affected opening Test at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Sunday.

The left-handed Athanaze scored 92 from 116 balls as the West Indies reached 201 for five in their second innings at the close to deny South Africa victory on the final day in Port of Spain.

Set a fourth innings victory target of 298 in a little over two sessions, the home side slumped to 64 for three before debutant Keacy Carty (31) and Kavem Hodge (29) provided match-saving support to Athanaze.

South Africa's left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj, who finished with four for 88, claimed two wickets and pacer Kagiso Rabada (one for 38) added another to reduce the West Indies to 119 for three at tea but the Caribbean team's worries were gradually and patiently eradicated in the fading evening light.

A brilliant 68 from just 50 balls from Tristan Stubbs and quick runs from openers Tony de Zorzi and Aiden



South Africa's left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (#16) celebrates with teammates after claiming one of his four wickets on the fifth and final day of the first Test against the West Indies at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Sunday, August 11, 2024. (Getty Images)

Markram allowed South Africa to declare their second innings on 173 for three half an hour before lunch, setting the West Indies a fourth innings target of 298.

The home side had 20 minutes to survive before the break but captain Kraigg Brathwaite perished to the third ball of the innings with a remarkably uncharacteristic shot, charging down the wicket to Keshav Maharaj and slicing a drive high into the covers where Stubbs held the catch.

The West Indies were 11 for one at lunch but when Rabada bounced out Mikyle Louis (9), caught by Stubbs at midwicket, and Carty (31)

was smartly caught at short mid-off by Wiaan Mulder off Maharaj, the home side were in significant trouble at 64 for three.

Earlier, Stubbs was in glorious form striking six fours and two sixes, transferring some of his renown T20 skills into the test format with some booming drives and even a reverse sweep against seamer Kemar Roach for four at the end of his innings, which ended when Roach bowled him to prompt the declaration with skipper Temba Bavuma unbeaten on 15.

De Zorzi added 45 from 60 balls to his fine 78 in the first innings before a leg

glance against spinner Jomel Warrican, who claimed two for 57, finished in the gloves of 'keeper Joshua de Silva, while Markram's positive innings of 38 from 48 balls ended with a lofted drive to long off against Warrican, which Jason Holder caught inside the boundary.

It was a remarkable change of tempo in the match which saw the tourists amble to a first innings total of 357 at three runs per over and the West Indies crawl to 233 in their first innings at under 2.5 runs per over.

The second and final Test begins at the Providence Stadium in Georgetown, Guyana, on Thursday, August 15.