

# SENATOR JOSEPH SEES APPOINTMENT AS 'INSPIRATION' FOR SJRW YOUTH



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From left: Sandra Lady Williams, Senator Michael Joseph, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Mrs Joseph. Photo credit: Wayne Marriette



## Senator Michael Joseph sees his appointment as ‘an inspiration’ for the youth of SJRW

Newly minted Senator and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Michael Joseph, says he wants his appointment to serve as an inspiration to the young people of St. John’s Rural West constituency as a living testimony of what can be achieved through hard work and dedication.

Senator Joseph was speaking moments after he was sworn in at Government House by Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, before a gathering of senior government officials, other members of the Upper House, family and friends.

He said as a product of the area... he wants others to see what he has achieved and to believe that they too, can achieve high goals in life.

“I am from the St. John’s Rural West constituency and there is always a view that as someone from the area you won’t accomplish anything. I am happy too that as a young person the Prime Minister and the Cabinet have entrusted me with such huge responsibility,” he remarked.

Senator Joseph has been active in business and non-governmental organisations such as the Antigua and



Barbuda Red Cross and the Antigua and Barbuda Pharmaceutical Association. Eighteen months ago he was appointed as Chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Authority, a post he now relinquishes with the appointment as a minister.

“Mr. Joseph brings to this role a wealth of experience and dedication. His background as a pharmaceutical entrepreneur has provided him with valuable insights into the healthcare sector, an area of paramount importance to our nation. His significant tenure as President of the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross highlights his commitment to humanitarian efforts and community service. Additionally, his role as the Chairman of the Nation-

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al Solid Waste Management Authority to date will also provide him with a deep appreciation of public health and environmental matters,” Sir Rodney noted.

He encouraged Senator Joseph to serve with integrity, impartiality, and a steadfast commitment to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. “Uphold the principles of fairness and justice, ensuring that your actions are guided by the best interests of all citizens, without fear or favor, malice or ill will,” he admonished. The Governor Gener-



al also noted that Senator Joseph has served with the Halo Foundation, the

charity organization supported by Sandra Lady Williams.



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# Local News



## Senator Michael Joseph 'hits the ground running'

The new Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Senator Michael Joseph, is already demonstrating that he wants to immediately start doing the people's business following his appointment on Monday.

Less than an hour after he was sworn in as both a Senator and then as a Minister of State, Senator Joseph was invited to a meeting with the senior minister in the Ministry of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, who took the opportunity to introduce the new minister of state to team within the Ministry of Health.

Sir Molwyn says he knows of the new minister's capacity and he is confident that he has a strong leader on



board in the person of Senator Joseph and he urged all heads to give him the support he needs.

The senior minister says that the inclusion of Senator Joseph in the ministry will ensure that there is continuity in terms of project implementation and execution and also

it's a form of transitioning the ministry to better serve the public.

Senator Joseph says he looks forward to learning from Sir Molwyn's years of expertise and he is prepared to work hard to ensure the success of the Ministry.

On Tuesday, Senator Mi-

chael Joseph will meet with the permanent secretaries and heads of departments in the social transformation division and also chair the first planning meeting for the Official Funeral for former member of parliament the Hon. Asot Michael.

Following his swearing in at Government House, Senator Joseph recalled that he has been working alongside Sir Molwyn for a number of years, most notably, over the last 18 months when he chaired the National Solid Waste Management Authority.

He said he intends to build upon that relationship as he takes up the new appointment.





## Antigua and Barbuda looks forward to fruitful discussions at COP29 in Azerbaijan

The annual Conference of the Parties, more commonly known as COP is convening its 29th conference in Azerbaijan over the next two weeks.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne heads the Antigua and Barbuda delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), running from November 11 to 22, 2024.

As the conference unfolds, Antigua and Barbuda's delegation looks forward to engaging in impactful discussions, underscoring the necessity of both innovative and equitable financial solutions. The delegation will advocate for strengthened international cooperation to promote a low-carbon, sustainable future for all. COP29 offers a pivotal platform for Antigua and Barbuda to champion ambitious commitments that secure actionable outcomes for a resilient and equitable future.

This year's summit, referred to as the "Finance COP," emphasizes the critical role of financial resources in closing the gap between global climate ambition and action. A primary goal of COP29 is establishing a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, aiming to exceed the current \$100 billion annual pledge and mobilize resources for enhanced climate adaptation and resilience in vulnerable regions.

Accompanying Prime Minister Browne are Tumasie Blair, Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, Climate Change Ambassador Ruleta Camacho, Director of the Department of Environment Diann Black-Layne, and technical experts from the De-

partment of Environment Arry Simon, Gita Gardner and Garth Simon. AO-SIS Fellow Carlon Knight is also in attendance. Their presence underscores Antigua and Barbuda's dedication to advocating for critical climate finance solutions that address the urgent needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



COP29 Flag waving in the distance in Azerbaijan



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# Local News



## Cabinet approves lands for NSWMA to erect headquarters and operational base

The government has approved three acres of lands in the Yeptons/Cooks area for the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) to erect a headquarters building and an operational base.

Newly appointed Junior Minister of Health and the Environment, Senator Michael Joseph said hav-

ing its own purpose-built facility will go a long way in helping NSWMA achieve its goals of ensuring that Antigua and Barbuda has a cleaner, greener environment.

With its new headquarters, Sen. Joseph said the authority will be able to have a designated area for the proper housing of the

several additional equipment that have been purchased on its behalf.

Senator Joseph also revealed that the Cabinet has approved the appointment of a consultant to help NSWMA further develop the Cooks Landfill into a more efficient operation.

"We are getting a consultant out of Essex in the

UK, whose primary mandate would be to develop the landfill into a state-of-the-art landfill for the benefit of the people of Antigua and Barbuda," he remarked.

The new Minister of State also announced that NSWMA will import special bins for distribution among households that will achieve two main purposes. Firstly, they will be important as the authority moves towards separation of household waste and secondly, they will be useful in the move to mechanise the emptying of these bins into the garbage trucks.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph wants specialized training for those who will be employed as drivers for the new equipment being acquired by the NSWMA.

He is recommending that these drivers should undergo intense period of training especially when it comes to manoeuvring the manual-shift gears that are standard with all the new vehicles.

Last week, NSWMA took possession of seven dump trucks, a backhoe, an excavator with other equipment expected by early in the new year.

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## Murder accused remanded in prison

Alexta Francis, a 27-year-old resident of Golden Grove, has been remanded to prison after appearing in court on Monday to answer charges related to the alleged murder of Hon. Asot Michael, Member of Parliament for St. Peter.

Police arrested Francis on Friday, and he now faces committal proceedings scheduled for February 5, 2025.

The charges stem from Francis's alleged confession to police, during which he reportedly provided crucial evidence and claimed he acted alone. Authorities continue to investigate the motive, which is expected to be revealed in court.

Michael's death has sent shockwaves throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

The independent MP was found fatally wounded in his Dry Hill residence last Tuesday, a tragic incident that has drawn widespread public attention.

Francis, who has prior legal issues including malicious damage and escaping lawful custody, now faces a serious legal battle as the case unfolds.

## An Antiguan heads the Caribbean Toastmasters Clubs for the first time

Elka Price has been elected as the District Director of District 81 Caribbean Toastmasters which has been widely viewed as quite an accomplishment, not just for her but for Antigua and Barbuda as well.

District 81 the Caribbean Toastmasters, spans 29 territories from Haiti in the north to Guyana in the south, including both the British and US Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands.

District 81 is a dynamic community of change agents with over 200 clubs, more than 3200 individuals whose native languages range from English, French, Spanish, Dutch, Papiamentu, and Haitian Creole.

Since being Chartered in 2003, the position of District Director has been held by persons from Jamaica – 6 times, Curacao – 4 times, St. Maarten – 3 times, Barbados – 3 times, Guyana – 2 times, Haiti – 2 times and Grenada – once.



Elka Price

A banker by profession, Distinguished Toastmaster, Elka, DTM, has recounted in many a speech, how her fear of speaking and meeting new people has kept her back from opportunities in her career and personal life. Her fear of dogs having been bitten, not once but twice and her inability

to hear clearly in one ear following a bee sting in that ear served as barriers to her further growth.

When a Toastmasters Club was chartered in Antigua and Barbuda in November 2012, Price was one of the first members who signed up determined to conquer her many fears.

12 years later, after moving from just a member to several executive positions in the Antigua Toastmasters Club, including President, Treasurer and Vice President of Education. She set her sights on serving at the district level. She has served as Area Director of the Area to include St. Kitts, Anguilla and Antigua, Administration Manager for the District, Club Growth Director seeing to the building of New Clubs and retention of members, Program Quality Director overseeing the Education Program to obtaining the highest possible executive position being District Director at the district level.

In this year, while the Antigua Toastmasters Club celebrates its 12th anniversary it is proud to be the home Club of the District Director and salutes DTM Elka, as the poster child for the Toastmasters mantra – “Where leaders are made”.

# Alicia Ward featured in ABHTA's Unveiling Hospitality Series

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) celebrates Alicia Ward in its Unveiling Hospitality Professionals Series, highlighting her inspiring journey from a media professional to a key player in Antigua and Barbuda's hospitality industry. Alicia, who serves as the Communications & Events Manager at Mill Reef Club, is a testament to the importance of adaptability and dynamism in today's fast-paced hospitality landscape.

Alicia's career began in media and communication, where she honed her skills as a storyteller and public communicator. Her experience includes roles as Agency Producer at Maverick (now Tarsier Strategy), Editorial Assistant for

Business Focus Magazine, Producer at Rogers Radio, Writer and Reporter for the Observer Media Group, and Reporter for ABS Radio & Television. She holds a First-Class Honours Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

In 2018, Alicia made the transition to hospitality, bringing her extensive background in communications to the world of event planning and guest engagement at Mill Reef Club. Since then, she has coordinated over 200 private events and 14 wedding celebrations, consistently delivering exceptional service and creating memorable ex-



Alicia Ward

periences for club members and guests alike. Alicia's achievements are supported by certifications in Wedding

& Events Design, and Wedding Planning, Consulting, and Coordinating from the *cont'd on pg 9*

## NOTICE TO STAKEHOLDERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, OF THE TOTAL CLOSURE OF SSWH BETWEEN PARES VILLAGE AND COLLINS JUNCTION.

Special Notice is given that **SUBJECT TO THE WEATHER**, there will be a **TOTAL** closure of SSWH at the **BIG CULVERT** located between the Eastern end of Pares Village and the COLLINS Junction, commencing **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 until Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2024.**

Vehicular Traffic travelling Eastwards on SSWH to Destinations beyond Pares Village, **SHALL DIVERT** Southwards (right), at the PotWorks Junction, pass the PotWorks Dam, then left on the Collins Road, to regain access to SSWH. **PLEASE NOTE**, Vehicular Traffic to Pares Village **DO NOT**, take this Diversion.

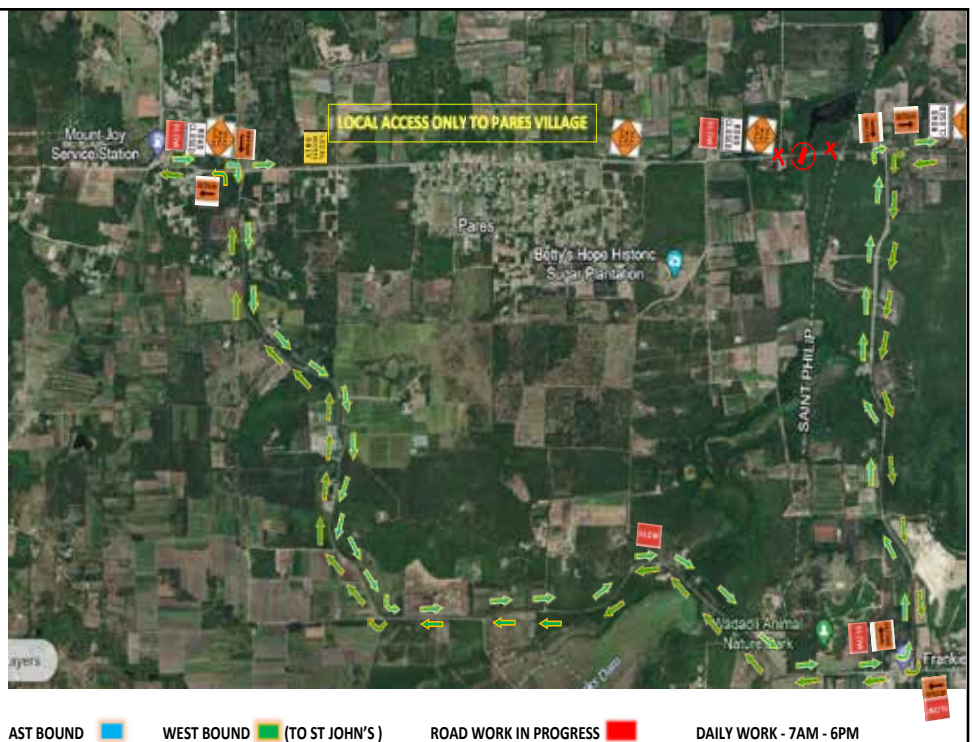
Vehicular Traffic travelling Westwards on SSWH from locations East of the Collins Junction, headed to Pares Village and further Westwards, **SHALL DIVERT** Southwards (left) at the Collins Junction and proceed via PotWorks Dam, to regain access to SSWH.

**IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE CLOSED SECTION OF SSWH WILL REOPEN TO SINGLE LANE TRAFFIC IN EACH DIRECTION, AFTER THE 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2024. A further Notice will be given, later in the Month, as to when Single Lane Traffic will be allowed.**

C O Williams sincerely regrets the inconvenience. The Roadwork is a part of the Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project being carried out by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

**Stakeholders are asked to make adjustments to their travel plans to allow for delays.**

Telephone Queries can be made by calling to C O Williams Project office at 562-9573.







## Antigua and Barbuda pioneers tourism innovation with Google Street View Project

Antigua and Barbuda has established itself as a pioneering leader in the tourism sector within the Caribbean, especially with its innovative Google Street View Project, undertaken by World Travel In 360

The project, has not only enhanced the visibility of the twin-island nation but has also set a benchmark that neighboring islands,

such as Dominica, are now looking to emulate.

As the first Caribbean nation to deploy this project, Antigua and Barbuda has achieved a remarkable milestone by garnering close to 3 million views on Google Maps.

This staggering figure represents the number of distinct instances where users worldwide have in-

teracted with street-view images of the islands while navigating Google Maps.

Such high engagement signals a growing global interest in exploring the breathtaking landscapes, vibrant culture, and historical landmarks of Antigua and Barbuda.

The implementation of the Google Street View Project has made it easier

for potential visitors to get a real-life glimpse of what Antigua and Barbuda has to offer.

It showcases the stunning beaches, lively local markets, and captivating scenery, enticing tourists to experience the islands in person.

This level of accessibility can significantly in-

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Wedding Planners Institute of Canada, earned in 2019 and 2023.

Reflecting on her career evolution, Alicia emphasizes the value of adaptability in the hospitality industry, which demands the ability to embrace change and meet new challenges with creativity and skill.

"The hospitality industry moves quickly, and being able to adapt is essential to success. Transitioning from

journalism to hospitality allowed me to bring fresh perspectives and skills to my role, and I am grateful to my team at Mill Reef Club for their support along the way," Alicia shares.

Alicia credits her advancement at the Mill Reef Club to her mentor, Rev. Dr. Claire Holsbrough, and the support of the entire team, including former Managing Director, Daniel Brown, Beverly Crump, and Chef Hugh Gauducheau all of whom have

played a key role in her success by fostering a supportive environment that has enabled her growth and allowed her to thrive in this dynamic industry.

The ABHTA's Unveiling Hospitality Professionals Series continues to showcase individuals like Alicia Ward, who exemplify the dedication, resilience, and creativity that drive Antigua and Barbuda's tourism sector forward.



# Local News



*cont'd from pg 9*

fluence travel decisions, encouraging more individuals to consider Antigua and Barbuda as their next holiday destination.

Building on this success, Dominica is set to launch a similar Google Street View project in the coming weeks.

Currently, discussions are ongoing with local tourism representatives in Dominica to ensure that the initiative aligns with the island's tourism goals and showcases its unique offerings.

The World Travel In 360 team will be heading to Dominica to further discuss the project and its implementation in coming weeks.

Antigua and Barbuda's pioneering efforts in utilizing Google Maps for tourism promotion not only enhance their own appeal but also inspire other Caribbean nations like Dominica to adopt similar strategies.

This collaborative growth in regional tourism, facilitated by innovative technology, is a promising devel-

opment for the Caribbean as a whole.

The CEO of World Travel In 360, Federico Debetto, and the COO, Dimitar Kunev, were connected to the government through Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to Spain, Dr. Dario Item.

Both Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez have expressed their satisfaction with the project

Google Street View is a feature within Google Maps and Google Earth that provides panoramic, 360-degree views of streets, landscapes, and interior spaces.

It allows users to virtually explore and navigate through cities, neighbourhoods, and iconic landmarks as if they were there in person, via their digital devices, including virtual reality headsets.

While on the island, the team collaborated with several popular restaurants, which allowed Google to list businesses that may not currently be

on its business listings.

Now, customers can find them online and access more options when choosing providers for goods and services.

Being on Google Street View also significantly boosts the island's tourism product, as it allows persons interested in visiting to view what it has to offer without leaving the comfort of their homes and make an informed decision.

Both projects are being coordinated by BiQVision Media, a company owned by journalist Shermain Bique-Charles

World Travel In 360 plans to map other Caribbean islands, including Bahamas, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, which will also be coordinated by BiQVision Media.

For interviews with World Travel In 360 team please call 268-7734369. The team is on island and available to conduct radio and telephone interviews.

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# Opinion

## Four whom the bells toll

By Tony Deyal

Trump's victory in the US reminds me of Richard Nixon who, in 1972, accused Chairman Mao of not having a democratic government. Nixon asked him flatly, "When was your last election?"

The 79-year-old chairman answered flatly, "Last night." Well, last night went with Trump's boast that "heads I win, tails you lose". However, now that Trump is the president, a lot of people will most likely catch their "ras", but this is no longer our business. We have to move on and deal with our own concerns, problems, and whatever we think will be coming down the track at us, especially the non-whites.

As I knew and once more learnt, the problem with political jokes is they get elected. Good old King Henry VII said this about elections and their consequences 500 years ago. Have I learnt anything? Not really.

One of my friends had asked me, "What's the difference between a politician and a snail?" When I grinned, he replied, "One is slimy, a pest, and leaves a trail everywhere, and the other is a snail." Despite this, I continued to be like the voter who got a call from a person, known as a "push puller", who attempted to lead him towards a position or candidate. Well, the vot-

er, who really hated the candidate, went into a five-minute rant, cursing, fuming and ending with, "And, if your person gets elected, I don't know whether I will kill myself or leave the country!" The "puller" said, "OK, I will put you down as 'undecided.'"

Another friend, very late last night, sent me a joke that I must share. "A woman in a hot-air balloon is lost, so she shouts to a man below, "Excuse me. I promised a friend I would meet him but I don't know where I am." "You're at 31 degrees, 14.57 minutes north latitude and 100 degrees, 49.09 minutes west longitude," the man replied. "You must be a Democrat," was her response. The man replied, "I am. How did you know?" The lady explained, "Because everything you told me is technically correct but the information is useless and I'm still lost. Frankly, you've been no help."

The man replied immediately, "You must be a Republican!" She was stunned and asked him, "Yes. How did you know?" He told her flatly, "You've risen to where you are due to a lot of hot air, you made a promise you couldn't keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. You're in exactly the same position you were in before we met but, somehow, now it's my fault."

Before I move on, I will add a few things that friends



Tony Deyal

told me. Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks. Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel. One even told me that I should not vote for Trump "because it is like voting for a chicken. When their day is over, they'll go for a coup!"

He also asked, "Why did the dentist vote for Trump?" And immediately added, "He likes to keep things white and straight." And the one I remembered today and laughed, "How many presidents does it take to change a light bulb?" The answer is Two! One, Joe Biden who changed the bulb when he won the election, and Trump who very soon will change it back again.

That is exactly what will happen early next year in the Caribbean. According to Caribbean Life, four of the larger Caribbean Community countries are prepar-

ing for general elections in the next year with Trinidad Prime Minister, Keith Rowley, "giving a clear signal that an election date is near and ordering his supports to begin campaigning in earnest." The 'Life' added, "While the governing People's National Movement (PNM) has started to screen possible candidates for about eight political constituencies so far, elections and boundaries commissions in Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname are also gearing up for key plebiscites (voters) in the coming months."

In a way, it is taking me back to the past when I worked in all the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean. The first thing people wanted to hear was my favourite jokes. In Trinidad, I claimed that my favourite joke was Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, our first prime minister (PM). Later, it became Patrick Manning and Basdeo

*cont'd on pg 13*

## Bitcoin tops record \$80,000 as Trump nears sweep of US Congress

By Peter Hoskins

The price of bitcoin has risen above \$80,000 (£62,000) for the first time ever, after Donald Trump's decisive victory in the US election last week.

It comes as the Republicans are edging closer to overall control of Congress after having already secured the presidency and a majority in the Senate.

On the campaign trail the president-elect pledged to make the US "the crypto capital of the planet".

The value of world's biggest cryptocurrency has now risen by more than 80% this year.



Other cryptocurrencies, including dogecoin - which has been promoted by high-profile Trump sup-

porter Elon Musk - are also making gains.

In the run-up to the election Trump said he would

create a strategic bitcoin stockpile and appoint digital asset-friendly financial

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Panday, both political leaders fighting to be PMs. In Jamaica, I thought of Michael Manley and Edward Seaga, but that was sometimes risky. I left Tom Adams and my choice for the best of all, Errol Barrow, alone.

However, in Trinidad, I always went back to my story of our first PM. A diehard member of the party eventually went to the great beyond where he met the Keeper of the Gates who asked, "Is there anything you particularly want or anyone you would like to meet again?" "Yes," the man said, "I want to meet the father of our nation." "Who is this man?" asked the Keeper. "Do you have a name?" "Well," the newcomer explained, "his name is Eric Williams."

The Keeper was apologetic, "The names 'Eric' and 'Williams' are common English names. We have a lot of them here. Is there some other characteristic that would help me find him?"

The man thought for a moment and suggested, "We used to call him 'Bill'." The Keeper laughed, "You know how many Bills we have here? More than your parliament. Can you remember anything else that will help?"

The man thought for a long time and then said, "Yes. He told us, if anybody took his name in vain, or did anything to bring his party into disrepute, he would turn over in his grave." The Keeper laughed in great glee, "Oh, you mean Revolving Bill!"

In Jamaica, I found out that there was a political party which provided really good weed to promote their party. I thought it interesting and asked the boss for the name of the group. He laughed, "Don't worry with that. It's propa-ganja."

My other Jamaican joke was about the great leader, Alexander Bustamante, who was not known for his reading or writing skills. When, after a riot in Montego Bay, he tried to summon his

police chief to bring him some help and a weapon, the phone connection was bad and 'Busta' had to speak slowly and spell out what he wanted. "Bring a gun. You hear me, a gun! You still can't hear me? GUN. G as in Jesus, U as in Europe, and N as in pneumonia."

I heard one about Barbados when, many years ago, I was on the seaside taking a break from my job and telling a friend I was helping the prime minister to win the next election. He asked, "What happen if your friend the politician drown in the river?" He didn't wait for me to respond and laughed, "That is pollution. And, if all of them drown, it is the solution." I called it delusion and left.

**Tony Deyal last remembered Basdeo Panday, who had linked up with three other parties to form a coalition against the government in power. When asked, "Mr. Panday, isn't that a marriage of convenience?" he asked, "Aren't all marriages?"**



# Regional News



## Airlines suspend Haiti flights after plane hit by gunfire

By Tiffany Wertheimer

Several airlines have suspended flights to Haiti after a passenger plane from the US was hit by gunfire as it tried to land in Port-au-Prince.

Spirit Airlines Flight 951 from Fort Lauderdale in Florida was diverted to the neighbouring Dominican Republic where it landed safely at Santiago Airport.

A flight attendant suffered minor injuries, the airline said in a statement, adding that no passengers were hurt.

It is the second time in three weeks that aircraft have been shot at over the Haitian capital.

Haiti is in the grip of a deep political crisis with armed gangs controlling large parts of the country.

On Monday, a new prime minister was installed



by the country's ruling council after the previous leader, Garry Conille, was ousted less than six months into the job.

The Spirit Airlines flight had been scheduled to land at Toussaint Louverture International Airport on Monday just before 12:00 local time (17:00 GMT) when it was hit.

Unverified video of the incident shared on social media appeared to show several bullet holes on the inside of the aircraft, where the crew sit during take-off and landing.

Spirit Airlines said that damage "consistent with gunfire" was found when the plane was inspected at Santiago Airport. The ai-

craft was taken out of commission, Spirit added.

The airline said it had also suspended flights to Haiti "pending further evaluation".

Two other US airlines, American Airlines and Jet-Blue, have also suspended flights to Haiti until at least Thursday.

The security situation has further deteriorated in Haiti in recent months. In October, gang members opened fire at a UN helicopter, causing some airlines to temporarily cancel flights to the Caribbean nation.

A UN-backed policing mission, led by officers from Kenya, had begun in June in an attempt to wrest back control from gangs.

Spirit is a low-cost airline, based in Florida, which flies throughout the United States, Caribbean and Latin America.

### *cont'd from pg 13*

regulators - spurring expectations that he would strip back regulations on the crypto industry.

Trump has said one of his first actions as president would be to sack the current chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Gary Gensler.

Mr Gensler, who was appointed by Joe Biden in 2021, has led the SEC's crack-down on the crypto industry.

"If the Trump administration does deregulate crypto, it's hard to see how it is not bullish for the sector," Matt Simpson, market analyst at StoneX Financial told the BBC, adding that such a move could

lead bitcoin prices to jump to as high as \$100,000.

But "it is still vulnerable to nasty sell-offs along the way - which can be less kind to smaller pockets," he added.

Trump's broader agenda, which includes cutting taxes and reducing regulations on businesses, has also driven a surge in other investments since he won the election.

With Republicans in control of the executive and potentially both the legislative branches of the government, they will be able to advance his ideas through each chamber and send those bills for him to sign into law.

## Dominica: Skerrit urges support for CBI at DLP delegates' conference

CMC - Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has urged Dominicans to stand up in support of the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CBI), which he says makes a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

Skerrit, who was re-elected unopposed as the leader of the ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) on Sunday, told a Delegates' Conference in Vielle Case on the north coast that it is necessary to support the programme.

Under the CBI, foreign investors are granted citizenship of Dominica in return for making a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

Skerrit said that the opposition parties here were staging a war against the programme, including recent court action.

"The programme has been and remains a cornerstone of Dominica's development. What we are seeing is a deliberate attempt by the opposition to create distraction to stir up fear where none is warranted," Skerrit told the convention which was also attended and addressed by the Prime Ministers of Grenada Dickon Mitchell and Phillip J Pierre of St. Lucia.

All three countries have CBI programmes and Sker-



DLP leader and Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit addressing supporters at party's delegates convention on Sunday (CMC Photo)

rit said the actions of the opposition are clear in that "they want to put an end to the CBI".

He warned putting an end to the programme would deny citizens "the benefits you have been receiving," adding that he had been in conversation with unnamed European diplomat who told him that he has been "following what is happening in these islands and while these people saying their actions are not to stop or destruct the programme in the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) countries

that is exactly what they are doing".

St Vincent and the Grenadines and British Overseas Territory of Montserrat are the only two OECS countries not involved in the CBI programmes.

"And you know and I know the impact this will have on every one of us in Dominica including their families. Trying to destroy the backbone of our non-tax revenue and denying us the opportunities to have decent homes, denying us the opportunity to have decent health care, denying us the opportunity for our children

to attend universities, denying an opportunity for an international airport....

"These are the things that are happening. Let us rise up...let us not be quiet and silent while these people are attacking us. We have to fight back and we have to stand firm," Skerrit told DLP supporters.

Skerrit also brushed aside opposition suggestions that he intends on calling an early general election as he did on the last occasion on December 6, 2022 when the DLP won 18 of the 21 seats following an opposition boycott.



## Teenage park ranger dies as wildfires burn in New York State

By Nadine Yousif

An 18-year-old park ranger has died in the US state of New York while battling a wildfire in Sterling Forest - one of several blazes that erupted in the region this week.

The teenager was identified by state police as Dariel Vasquez. Officials said Mr Vasquez, who worked for the state's parks and recreation department, was helping to fight the fire when he was killed.

As of Sunday, several brush fires were burning across the region of New England on the US east coast, fuelled by warm, dry weather.

Wildfires have also erupted on the other side of the country, in southern California, where at least 130 structures have been burned.

On Sunday, New York Governor Kathy Hochul said she was "deeply saddened" by Mr Vasquez's death.

"My prayers go out to his family, friends and coworkers during this difficult time," she said.

Scientists say climate change is making the weather conditions needed for wildfires to spread more likely.

Fires on the east coast led to air quality warnings in the neighbouring states of New York and New Jersey.

This region has a less defined wildfire season than western parts of the US.

Fires here are likely to have been exacerbated by unseasonal warm and dry conditions, said BBC weather forecaster Helen Rossington.

These conditions have led to extreme drought and fire warnings in New Jersey. The region is expected to receive some rainfall on Monday and Tuesday before turning drier and cooler again by Wednesday.

One blaze - the Whitehouse Fire -



A wildfire briefly burned this week in Brooklyn's Prospect Park.

is burning in Ulster and Sullivan counties, west of Hartford, Connecticut, and is up to 400 acres in size, Hochul has said.

Two others are burning in Sterling Forest State Park - about 45 miles (72 km) north of New York City - including the Jennings Creek Wildfire, which killed Mr Vasquez, the park ranger. As of Sunday evening, the blaze was only 10% contained and had burned more than 3,000 acres (12 sq km).

In recent days, a brush fire has erupted in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, spreading the smell of smoke across New York City. Wildfires rarely occur within city limits.

Officials said it took about three hours and more than 100 first responders to put out the blaze.

In Orange County, where the Sterling Forest State Park fires are burning, County Executive Steve Neuhaus urged nearby residents to have an evacuation plan in place.

"At this time, the Incident Command team has not indicated that evacuations are imminent, but we continue to monitor the situation carefully," he said in a Sunday update.

Officials in New Jersey have warned residents against lighting open

fires and have asked them to "take every precaution possible" for fire prevention.

On Saturday, a 37-year-old man was arrested in New Jersey's Jackson Township for allegedly sparking a blaze earlier in the week by firing his shotgun.

Richard Shashaty faces multiple charges including arson, according to the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

In southern California, crews have managed to contain 36% of the Mountain Fire in Ventura County, which has burned more than 20,000 acres as of Monday morning.

That fire destroyed 132 structures, mostly homes, in less than two days, officials said on Thursday. Its cause remains under investigation.

California officials said the fires spread due to the Santa Ana winds, which are dry, warm and gusty winds that blow from the interior toward the coast during the autumn months.

Although fires in California are possible all year round, November is past peak season, especially for the south of the state - according to the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA), a branch of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

## Russia denies Trump call with Putin urging restraint in Ukraine

By Kathryn Armstrong

The Kremlin has denied media reports that US President-elect Donald Trump held a call with Vladimir Putin, in which he is said to have warned the Russian president against escalating the war in Ukraine.

The call, which was first reported by the Washington Post on Sunday, is said to have happened on Thursday.

Trump is also reported to have mentioned America's extensive military presence in Europe to Putin.

A Kremlin spokesperson said the reports were "pure fiction", while Trump's team told the BBC that it would not comment on the president-elect's "private calls".

Trump's communications director Steven Cheung told the BBC: "We do not comment on private calls between President Trump and other world leaders."

But he said leaders had begun the process of contacting the president-elect.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied a conversation had taken place.

"This is completely untrue, it is pure fiction. That is, this is simply false information. There was no conversation," Peskov said.

Trump has promised to end the nearly three-year long war in Ukraine, but



Injuries were reported after a Russian missile struck an apartment building in Kryvyi Rih on Monday.

has yet to outline how he intends to do so.

Zelensky has previously warned against conceding land to Russia and has said that without US aid, Ukraine would lose the war.

While Peskov on Sunday spoke to Russian state media of "positive" signals from the incoming US administration, others say they trust the future president will not abandon Ukraine.

They include John Healey, the British defence secretary, who said he expected the US "to remain alongside allies like the UK, standing with Ukraine for as long as it takes to prevail over Putin's invasion".

On Sunday, during a visit to Ukraine, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell warned that any end to the war needed to be sustain-

able.

"This is a warning for the ones who say, this war has to end, so let's finish it as soon as possible no matter how. How matters," he said.

In Washington, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said outgoing president Joe Biden would make the case to Trump that walking away from Ukraine would mean greater instability in Europe.

On Monday, Germany's Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock, warned that Putin could take advantage of the US post-election transition period to press Moscow's advantage in Ukraine.

Urging Berlin and fellow European Union member states to increase aid to Kyiv, she said: "We don't have time to wait until

spring. Now is the transition phase that Putin has been waiting for and aiming for."

A dam close to the front line in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region was damaged on Monday, according to regional head Vadym Filashkin.

Filashkin said the Kurakhove reservoir's dam was hit by a Russian strike, warning rising water "potentially threatens" settlements on the Vovcha River. Russia claimed Ukraine was responsible.

Last week, Russia and Ukraine launched their largest drone attacks since the start of the war.

Russia's defence ministry said it intercepted 84 Ukrainian drones over six regions, including some approaching Moscow, which

*cont'd on pg 18*



# Sports News



## All Saints United joins two teams at the top of Premier League

Reigning champions Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United have joined Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades, and Garden Stars at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division.

D'Andre Bishop and Raheem Deterville both hit hat-tricks to propel All Saints United to a 7-0 drubbing of Parham in the last game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday evening.

Bishop had conversions in the 25th, 40th, and 43rd minutes; Deterville scored in the 51st, 55th, and 64th minutes; and Zafique Drew scored the final goal in the 79th minute as All Saints United claimed their third win in four matches.

The result lifted All Saints United to 10 points,



Players of the All Saints United football team. (File photo)

the same as Jennings Grenades and Garden Stars, as all three teams are now joint leaders of the 14-team domestic competition.

Parham remains firmly rooted in the cellar without a win or a point after crashing to their fourth defeat in as many outings.

After winning their first three matches, Jennings Grenades and Garden Stars both dropped their first points of the league when they battled to a 1-1 draw in Sunday's second encounter.

Jennings Grenades took the lead via a conversion by Ridel Stanislas in their first

minute of the game. But the Garden Stars drew level when Grenades' defender Kurt Fredericks scored an own goal in the fourth minute of play.

The Willikies Warriors notched up their second win in four matches after coming from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory against the Potters Tigers in Sunday's opening game.

Keon Greene scored in the 34th minute to give the Potters Tigers a one-nil halftime lead, but Willikies scored two goals in the second half to snatch victory.

Phil Nicholas scored the equalizer in the 58th minute, and Nadre Thomas struck the winner with a 76th-minute conversion as the Potters Tigers slumped to their second defeat in four matches.

### *cont'd from pg 17*

forced flights to be diverted from three of the capital's major airports.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 145 drones towards every part of the country on Saturday night, with most shot down.

On Monday, at least six people were killed and 21 others injured in Ukraine following the latest series of air strikes by Russia.

Russia, meanwhile, said it had destroyed 13 Ukrainian drones near the western regions of Kursk and Belgorod. It reported no deaths.

"Every day, every night, Russia un-

leashes the same terror," Zelensky wrote on Twitter following Monday's strike.

"More and more civilian sites are being targeted. Russia only wants to continue the war, and each of its strikes negates any claims of diplomacy from Russia."

Zelensky asked for "stronger global support" and more weapons to stop Russian aggression.

Elsewhere, Moscow's defence ministry said its forces had captured the village of Kolisnykivka in the Kharkiv region.

Russian territorial gains in October were the largest since March 2022, according to analysis of Institute for the Study of War data by the AFP news agency.

## England beat West Indies to take 2-0 lead in T20 series

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — England captain Jos Buttler bounced back to form after a months-long injury layoff with a brutal innings of 83 in a seven-wicket win for his team against West Indies on Sunday in the second Twenty20 international at the Kensington Oval in Barbados.

Buttler smashed six sixes and eight fours in his 45-ball innings as England achieved victory at 161 for three with 31 deliveries to spare and took a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

In a major change of fortune, Phil Salt, who hit an unbeaten century in the first T20 which England won by eight wickets on Saturday, was out to the first ball of the tourists' innings. Buttler, who made a first-ball duck in the same match, shook off that setback to top score for England 24 hours later.

Buttler returned to the England team for this series after being out since June with a calf injury and won important tosses in both of the first two matches, allowing England to bowl first and successfully chase.

Buttler helped to propel England past the home team's total of 158 for eight. He came to the crease with England one wicket for no run, and put on 129 for England's second wicket with Will Jacks, who made 38 from 29 balls.



England's captain Jos Buttler plays a shot against West Indies during the second T20 cricket match at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024. (AP)

Buttler reached his half century from 32 balls. One of the sixes in his innings, off Gudakesh Motie, flew out of Kensington Oval into the surrounding street.

"It's great to spend some time in the middle," Buttler said. "I was a bit scratchy for the first few balls but managed to come through that. I really enjoyed it. It's great to be back out there."

Jacks and Buttler both were out in the 13th over as England slipped to 130 for three, but Liam Livingstone (23 not out) and Jacob Bethell (3 not out) calmly saw England home. Livingstone finished the run chase with a six from the fifth ball

of the 15th over.

Earlier, captain Rovman Powell top-scored with a 41-ball 43 in a mediocre West Indies innings.

The hosts lost three wickets in the power play, as they did in the first match of the series. Once again Saqib Mahmood bowled superbly at the start of the innings, this time in partnership with Jofra Archer, who replaced the injured Reece Topley.

Mahmood dismissed Brandon King in the second over of the innings and Roston Chase in the fourth. Archer removed Evin Lewis in the third over as West Indies slumped to 35 for three, then 44 for three after the six-over

power play.

Nicholas Pooran and Powell stabilized the innings, taking the West Indies to 63 for three after 10 overs. Livingstone claimed a key wicket when he had Pooran stumped for 14 with the total on 70.

Livingstone struck again to dismiss Sherfane Rutherford (1) who tried to sweep a ball that turned and was hit on the pad. England successfully reviewed the umpire's decision of not out. Powell and Romario Shepherd, who made 22 from 12 balls, helped boost the total.

The third match of the series will be played at Gros Islet, St. Lucia, on Thursday.



# Sports News



## Dredgers retain IBSC T20 Classic title

Dredgers have retained the LL Supply Limited and Total Imports Island Boys Sports Club (IBSC) T20 Taped Ball Classic Championship.

The Dredgers secured the coveted title by pulling off a five-wicket win against Buckley's 3J's in the final at the Powell's playing field on Sunday.

The Buckley's 3J's, who were sent in to bat after losing the toss, made 168 for seven off of their allotted 20 overs.

Steve Martin slammed 55, including four sixes and five fours, and Gregson Merrick cracked 50, with five sixes and three fours.

Javaughn James picked up two wickets for 19 runs,



Dredgers celebrate after capturing the LL Supply Limited and Total Imports Island Boys Sports Club T20 Taped Ball Classic Championship at the Powells playing field on Sunday, November 10, 2024. (Photos courtesy ABSCA)

and D'Ahri Francis captured two for 45.

The Dredgers then

achieved victory by making 171 for five with seven balls to spare. Mervin Higgins struck 42, Jedediah Martin hit 27 not out, J'Quan Athanaze got 26, and Tyrone Williams Jr. scored 23.

Rodney Williams claimed two for 26, and Gregson Merrick took two for 32 for Buckley's 3J's, which captured the runners-up position to improve on last year's third-place finish in the same competition.

Lennox Looby, the owner of LL Supply Limited, sponsors of the competition, presented several awards during a brief ceremony following the tape ball final.

Mervin Higgins claimed the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the final award.

Kerry Mentore of the Gladys Potter (GP) Eagles

captured the Most Valuable Player Award of the 2024 competition.

Mentore scored a total of 422 runs at an average of 140.67 in eight innings, in which he batted not out on five occasions. He also captured a total of 10 wickets.

Mentore also collected the prize for the most runs (422 in the competition).

J'Quan Athanaze of Dredgers won the award for taking the most wickets (14).

Demari Benta of Buckley's 3J's claimed the award for the best overall bowling figures.

He achieved the feat, which is five wickets for eight runs in four overs against Pelican Safari and the Nest Beach Bar and Restaurant, to lead the Buckley's 3J's to a 62-run victory.



Gladys Potters Eagles' allrounder Kerry Mentore, right, accepts his tournament MVP award from Lennox Looby, who is the owner of LL Supply Limited, sponsors of the softball cricket competition.





The ECAB volleyball team

## Action continues in business volleyball league

Last year's fourth-place finishers, ICONS, will launch their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship on Tuesday evening (today).

The ICONS, which is a development team for Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad and Storming Lions in the national club championships, will begin their business league campaign against Police in the first game of a double header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex at 7 pm.

Police will be hoping to kick-start their campaign after failing to show up for their opening match in the competition last Thursday.

The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) were awarded a 2-0 victory via a 25-

0, 25-0 score after the Police failed to show up for their opening encounter in the league.

The 77 Bus team will start their business league campaign against newcomers Island Academy in Tuesday's second encounter at 8 pm.

The Island Academy will be seeking their first win after suffering a 2-0 loss against reigning back-to-back champions APUA Inet in their debut appearance last Wednesday.

APUA Inet continued their title defense in their quest to become threepeat champions with their second win in as many games on Saturday.

The defending champions had to dig deep to stave off a tough challenge posed by the Royalton and snatched a 2-1 victory, prevailing 25-12, 22-25, and 15-8.

It was the second defeat in as many games for the Royalton, who suffered a 2-0 loss against last year's third-place finishers, Nate's Photography, in their opening encounter.

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), which finished in the runners-up position for the past two seasons, made a successful start to their campaign with a straightforward 2-0 victory against newcomers EZ Fit Flyers.

The ECAB utilized their experience and guile to cruise to their 25-13, 25-18 victory against the EZ Fit Flyers, who were making their debut appearance in the competition.

Thirteen teams, two more than last year, are battling for supremacy in the 2024 ABAVA's Business League Competition.



# Sports

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2024



## Antigua and Barbuda three-peat as OECS swimming champs

Antigua and Barbuda are three-peat champions of swimming in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Team Antigua and Barbuda captured their third successive title by winning the 32nd Annual OECS Swimming Championships at the Shrewsbury Aquatic Center in Ratho Mill, St. Vincent, from November 8 to 10.

After narrowly beating Grenada to retain their title at the 31st OECS Swimming Championships at the Rodney Heights Aquatic Center in St. Lucia last November, Antigua and Barbuda produced a commanding

display to come away clear winners ahead of the other seven competing territories.

In a repeat of the final placing from last year's event, team Antigua and Barbuda claimed top honours with an overall total of 1,419 points.

Grenada held on to their runners-up spot with a total of 1,301 points.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines retained third place with 1,102 points, and St. Lucia once again finished in fourth place with 1,071.5 points.

St. Kitts and Nevis retained fifth place with 135 points, and St. Maarten held on to sixth place with 128



Antigua and Barbuda captured their third successive Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Swimming Championships in St. Vincent over the weekend. (ABSF)

points.

The British Virgin Islands claimed seventh place with a total of 37 points, and Anguilla finished in the cellar with two points.

The 34-member Antigua and Barbuda squad was slated to return home on Monday.

The 2023 Junior Sports-woman of the Year, Ellie Shaw, and national female 100-meter backstroke record holder Madison Mac-Millian were all members

of the squad, which successfully defended its OECS swimming title.

The team was led by Manager Kem Warner, with Head Coach Wayne Mitchell providing overall direction.

Coach Mitchell was well supported by Assistant Coaches Elizabeth Watkins and Nelson Molina Fojo, who both brought a wealth of knowledge and experience in guiding the team to success.



Co-captain of the Antigua and Barbuda team with their 2024 OECS Swimming Championship trophies.