WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

**VOLUME 6 ISSUE 60** 

**WWW.POINTVILLE.AG** 

# Its Council Elections Day in Barbuda\_\_\_\_



Asahi Joseph of Villa Primary School accepts a cheque for \$500.00 and a laptop computer for submitting the winning entry for the 2025 National Census slogan.

Making the presentation is P.S Colin O'Keiffe.

Story on Page 4

### **Local News**



## **Its Council Elections Day in Barbuda**



The people of the island-constituency of Barbuda are voting in elections Wednesday (today) to fill five vacant seats on the Barbuda Council.

In one of the most consequential elections in recent times, both the Barbuda People's Movement, which currently controls the Council, and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, which declined to participate in the last two previous Council elections, are fielding five candidates each.

At issue, is whether the ABLP, with its team of youth and experience, will be able to make any inroads into the BPM's tight control of the Council. Both entities have divergent views on the way forward for Barbuda; the ABLP wants to bring development to Barbuda while the BLM has shown little appetite for any of the government's developmental plans.

The five BPM candidates are; Nadia George, Wade Burton, Jacklin Frank, Melanie Beazer and Nico Anthonio. For the ABLP the candidates are Bonnietha John, Arthur Nibbs, Bernard

Christian Mackiesha Desuza and Orlando Morris.

There are eleven seats on the Council with the representative and the Senator appointed by the Council as members. With the other four seats controlled by the BPM, it means that the party will still control the Council regardless of the outcome of the elections. However, any success recorded by the ABLP would signal a loosening of the BPM's grasp of the Council.

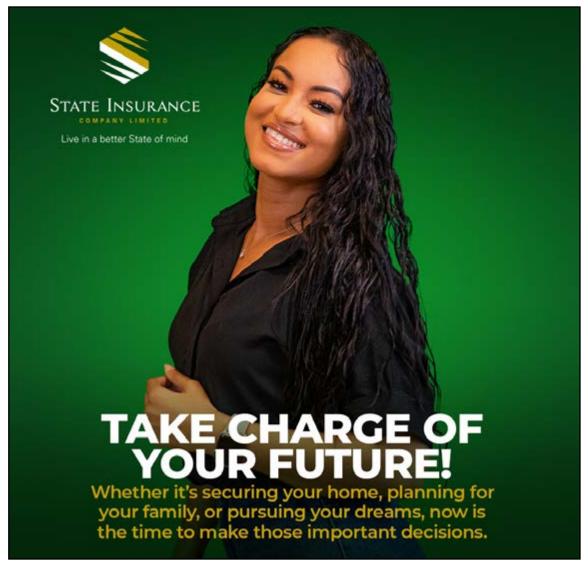
ABEC has reported that there are 1,328 persons eligible to cast votes in the elections. Voting begins at 7:00 AM and concludes at 6:00 PM. There are five polling stations, all of which are located at the Holy Trinity School.

It added that the final round of training for Election Day

Workers who will be in place for the 2025 Barbuda Council Elections, concluded Tuesday at the Holy Trinity Primary School.

During session, the workers were given additional information on the collection of data for the Gender Statistics Form. Additionally, they were given role play scenarios to further equip them with handling any situation that may arise as part of the process.

Each worker was officially sworn in and took the Oath of Secrecy in the presence of the Returning Officer, Lornamay Benjamin-Hughes.



PAGE 3

## **ABEC** temporarily relocates SMN Registration Unit

The Antigua and Barbuda Elec- be undertaken at such place or Commission wishes to advise that the St. Mary's North Registration Unit will be temporarily relocated to the Central Registration Facility (located opposite the John. E. St. Luce Financial Centre) on Factory Road, effective March 31st 2025.

The relocation of the St. Mary's North Registration Unit is in keeping with the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, No. II of 2002, Part II, Section 28 (2) (a) which states "Continuous registration shall

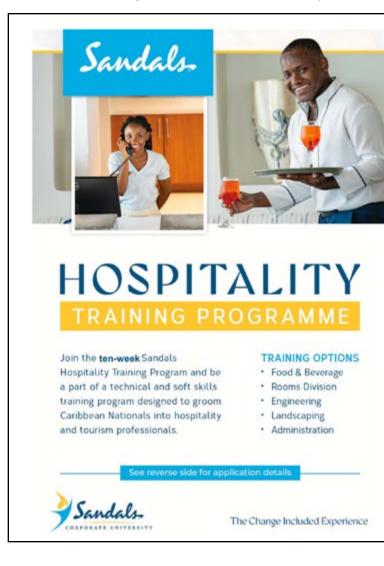
(ABEC) places and at the times fixed by



the Commission".

The Registration Unit was previously located at the Moravian Conference Centre at Cashew Hill to facilitate easy access for persons as part of the ongoing Expired Voter's ID Card Replacement Programme. The Commission is in the process of relocating to a more suitable location within the Constituency and we anticipate this process should be completed in short order.

The Commission apologizes for any inconvenience caused and assures the public that we will provide timely updates regarding the return of the Registration Unit to the Constituency.



#### HOW TO APPLY PROGRAM INCLUSION: · Ten weeks · Soft skills training . On the job training available · Sandals Certificate and Letter of Recommendation on successful completion · Eligibility for potential employment (based on availability) Stipend MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY: . Candidate must be 18-30 years . Must be desirous of working in the Hospitality . May or may not have formal training or work experience . Individuals who are currently studying or wish to further their studies in the field of Hospitality/ Tourism. . CXC Mathematics and English . Valid Identification (National ID, Passport or . TRN - Taxpayer Registration Number Valid Food Handlers Permit SUBMIT RESUMES TO email: recruitsat@grp.sandals.com Deadline: March 28, 2025 mailing address: Recruitment & Compliance Specialist, Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa, P.O. Box 143, St John's, Antigua

### **Local News**



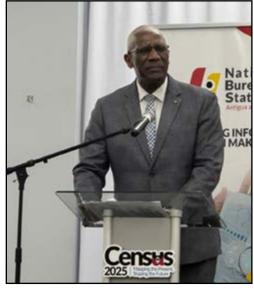
## Census Day is June 25, 2025; PM Browne wants everyone to participate



Prime Minister Gaston Browne has officially launched the 2025 National Census, naming June 25 as Census Day when the numeration of all residents of Antigua and Barbuda will commence.

In his message, PM Browne however underscored the need for the nation to coalesce around the national census as it is a vital exercise with huge developmental imperatives.

The prime minister wants all residents of Antigua and Barbuda to participate in the census, noting that it is not a political issue, but rather, it is a critical national issue with implications for planning, international importance



and even to help map things such as the prevalence of certain diseases.

Explaining that everyone should participate regardless of their political persuasion, the prime minister expressed disappointment that the Leader of the Opposition, who was invited to take part in the launch exercise, did not attend nor did he dispatch an excuse.

"I am not doing this to shame the Leader of the Opposition, but when you have such an important exercise in which we need to signal to the entire population the need for it. It is very important for us to come together, to participate, to come join the efforts, to



make sure that each resident in this country participates in the Census. It is important that we send a signal of full support coming from all areas, individuals responsible for all political parties, especially the main opposition and the government, for us to show that we are in full support of this very important exercise," PM Browne further explained.

The prime minister emphasized that it is important that there is an accurate count. "I mean, if for example, individuals decide not to participate because they may think that it is a partisan exercise that is promoted by the Labour Party and not jointly by the main opposition and the Labour Party,





PAGE 5



then clearly we cannot undermine the results of the Census. And if we have Census data that is not accurate, it has significant implications for the state. It would mean that all of these statistics that we promote, that they are inaccurate," he outlined.

Inaccurate data has implications for healthcare planning, the calculations of the per capita income, the population size, as well as such important data as morbidity and mortality rates of the country.

PM Browne also appealed to the non-national communities to participate regardless of their status in the country noting that census officers are not allowed to share their status information with anyone outside of those involved in the census.







The Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome you to our Business Round Table Luncheon with

**Prime Minister Hon. Gaston A. Browne.** 



#### Price:

- ⇒ EC\$350.00, for members
- ⇒ EC\$400.00 non-members

#### Venue

⇒ Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa

#### Time

⇒ 11:30 to 13:30

Thhursday 27th March 2025

Register Now:

chamcom@candw.ag

### **Local News**



## Prices and Consumers Affairs starts discussion on sustainable lifestyles



The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division has initiated discussions on an issue that is critical to Antigua and Barbuda and its future; the road towards a sustainable future for the twin-island nation.

As part of the effort, the Division hosted what has been termed 'a dynamic panel discussion' on Tuesday, focused on the theme "A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles." The event, held at Villa Polyclinic, brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including experts in the field of environmental policy, transportation, and local students. In a forward-thinking effort to create a more sustainable future

The session featured prominent figures such as Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim, Permanent Secretary for Trade, who emphasized the importance of the transition to sustainable vehicles. Ambassador Pilgrim remarked, "Today's discussion reflects our collective commitment to fostering a more sustainable future. The transition to sustainable vehicles is not merely an environmental imperative; it is a crucial step towards enhancing our economic resilience and ensuring a healthier planet for future generations."

Ambassador Pilgrim also highlighted that the Ministry of Trade is working actively with key stakeholders to develop a national policy to support the shift toward sustainable transportation. "This policy will provide a



comprehensive framework that supports the transition process and aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, which emphasizes the need for inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable urban environments," he said.

Panelists included Dwayne Simon, Communication Of-

PAGE 7



building a greener, more resilient future for generations to come. The Ministry of Trade's ongoing collaboration with stakeholders ensures that the transition to electric vehicles will be approached thoughtfully and inclusively, fostering a sustainable and economically resilient transportation system.

ficer from the Department of Environment; Nikyle Mohammed, Project Technical Officer from the Department of Environment; Sherrylaine Bowens, Project Officer at the Transport Board; Kelly Hazelwood, a Bus Driver from the Transport Board; and students from St. Joseph Academy, Clare Hall Secondary, and Adventist Seventh-Day School. These panelists shared valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with transitioning to sustainable lifestyles.

The discussion focused on the importance of a just transition to sustainable lifestyles, highlighting how society can shift to greener, more resilient transportation options and the broader impact on the economy and environment. The conversation emphasized fostering an inclusive approach to the transition process, ensuring that all voices are heard as we move towards a more sustainable future.

This initiative is part of broader efforts to promote sustainable transportation solutions and contribute to



### **Local News**



Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene hosts newly appointed Ambassador for the Dominican Republic Yolanda Alexandra Victoria and her team at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday



PAGE 9

## **CBH** staff undergo air quality training





In February, a dedicated group of professionals embarked on a transformative journey to deepen their expertise in Indoor Air Quality (IAQ). Thanks to the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), this comprehensive training program ran through March, equipping participants with the critical knowledge and skills needed to enhance air quality in various indoor institutions—ultimately promoting healthier working spaces.

Over four days of immersive online training, professionals from diverse institutions—including CBH staff, the Barbuda Public Health Inspectorate, and stakeholders from Mount St. John, the Department of Analytical Services, and APUA—actively engaged in expert-led sessions. Under the guidance of a seasoned Public Health Engineer, the program focused on Indoor En-

vironmental Quality and Ventilation in healthcare facilities, commercial establishments, and residential buildings.

A key highlight of the program was the in-country visit by the Public Health Engineer, where participants benefited from interactive sessions, hands-on demonstrations, and engaging discussions. This invaluable experience provided practical insights into conducting IAQ inspections, ensuring participants gained a well-rounded and actionable understanding of air quality management.

The in-county visit commenced in Barbuda, where inspections were conducted at several government institutions, followed by a series of assessments across various government facilities in Antigua. The hands-on approach allowed participants to bridge



theory with practice, empowering them to implement effective IAQ improvement strategies within their respective workplaces.

The training concluded on a high note as participants expressed newfound confidence in their enhanced expertise. Their commitment to applying these skills underscores the lasting impact of this initiative.

The Ministry of Health extends its deepest appreciation to PAHO for facilitating this invaluable training. By equipping professionals with essential IAQ expertise, this initiative has not only strengthened indoor environmental health but also heightened awareness of the crucial role air quality plays in public well-being. As we move forward, the success of this program serves as a foundation for continued improvements in indoor air quality standards, ensuring healthier spaces for all.

### **Local News**



## Antigua and Barbuda represented at Petersburg Climate Dialogue 2025 in Germany

Minister of State in the Minister of Health, Senator Michael Joseph, is currently in Germany attending the Petersburg Climate Change Dialogue 2025, alongside Diane Black-Layne, Director of the Department of Environment. This annual high-level forum brings together global leaders, policymakers, and climate experts to discuss urgent climate challenges strengthen international cooperation.

The Petersburg Climate Dialogue serves as a key platform for advancing global climate action, with a particular focus on climate financing, adaptation strategies for small island developing states (SIDS), and the transition to renewable energy. Senator Joseph and Direc-



Senator Michael Joseph, Junior Minister of Health, Wellness, Environment, and Civil Service Affairs

tor Black-Layne are active- ly engaging in discussions

to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda's climate resilience priorities remain at the forefront of international policy agendas.

As part of his engagements, Senator Joseph also met with the Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment, Andreas Bjelland Eriksen. The meeting reinforced Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to global environmental advocacy and the pursuit of innovative solutions to combat climate change.

The insights gained from this dialogue will contribute significantly to shaping Antigua and Barbuda's climate policies, ensuring that the nation remains proactive in addressing climate-related challenges.





PAGE 11

## The GARD Center Launches Project to Promote Sustainable Livelihoods



The Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARD Center) has been awarded a grant from CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) for a project to train communities in the use of Vetiver grass to support livelihoods and protect agricultural lands. The CCRIF grant of US\$21,195 (EC\$57,226.50) will help to improve environmental management and alleviate poverty in Antigua and Barbuda.

Vetiver grass is a tropical grass that is known for having an extremely deep and durable root system and can be used as an ecosystem-based adaptation strategy to reduce erosion and recharge groundwater along steep hill-sides and riverbeds. Additionally, the leaves and roots of the Vetiver grass can be used for weaving into mats and baskets and this aromatic plant can be processed to make items such as soaps and candles.

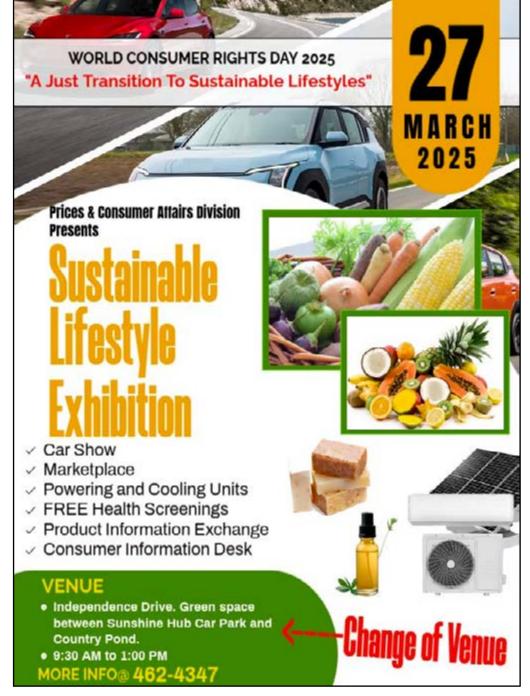
This project will build the capacity of farmers in how to plant and maintain the vetiver grass as well as Agriculture teachers at 10 secondary schools and their students in the use of Vetiver grass as an ecosystem-based adaptation strategy. Under the project, women from several communities also will receive training in making baskets, mats and other craft items and scented products by-products such as essential oils, soap, pillow

mists, and insect repellents.

June Jackson, Executive Director of the GARD Center, indicated her appreciation of CCRIF's support in providing resources for the implementation of this important project in Antigua and Barbuda.

CCRIF is the world's first multi-country, multi-peril risk pool based on parametric insurance, and is considered the Caribbean and Central America's

development insurer. CCRIF provides insurance coverage for tropical cyclones, excess rainfall, and earth-quakes and for the fisheries, electric utilities and water utilities sectors to Caribbean and Central American countries. Through its Small Grants Programme, CCRIF supports NGOs and community-based organizations such as the GARD Center to implement disaster risk reduction projects.



### **Local News**



## Clarence House Hosts Welcome Reception for The Nelson Society

vwas the setting for a special Welcome Reception held in honour of The Nelson Society. The event celebrated the Society's longstanding connection with Antigua and Barbuda and its dedication to historical preservation and research.

The reception was attended by members of The Nelson Society, including its Chairman, Chris Brett and Commissioner of the Antigua and Barbuda National Parks, Ann-Marie Martin. For many members, this visit marked their first time exploring the UNESCO World Heritage Site, making the occasion particularly memorable. The Society has been visiting Nelson's Dockyard for over two decades, with its ties to Antigua and Barbuda dating back to 2001.

The event opened with remarks from Sir Clare Roberts, the Governor General's Deputy who highlighted the significance of the Society's work and its contributions to preserving the rich history of Nelson's Dockyard.

Sir Clare shared that "The value of historical record-keeping cannot be overstated, and the history provides us with insights into the past, allowing us to engage with it critically and thoughtfully. It helps us understand the forces that have shaped societies, economies, and cultures. More importantly, it provides the foundation for dialogue, learning, and growth."

The Nelson Society's commitment to historical research and preservation has been instrumental in supporting the conservation of Nelson's Dockyard, a site that stands as a testament to centuries of history, resilience, and transformation. Their efforts have not only contributed to the preservation of this iconic landmark but have also fostered international friendships and cultural exchange.

Sir Clare encouraged attendees to re-



flect on the broader responsibility of ensuring that historical narratives are inclusive, comprehensive, and reflective of diverse perspectives. "Antigua and Barbuda has always been a place of resilience, adaptation, and forward momentum. It is through engagement with history that we continue to shape a future that is meaningful for all," Sir Clare noted.

The Nelson Society's visit underscores the enduring importance of historical preservation and the role it plays in fostering global understanding and collaboration. As the Society continues its work, its members remain steadfast in their mission to document and celebrate the rich tapestry of history that connects nations and cultures.





PAGE 13

## Christopher Terry is again nominated for Chef of the Year in the Maldives



Antigua and Barbuda's Christopher Terry, who now resides in the Maldives, has again been nominated for Chef of the Year in that country.

"This recognition is not just a personal achievement, but a win for Caribbean chefs and Antiguans everywhere. I am proud to say that I am the first Caribbean chef to receive such a nomination, and it fills me with immense pride to represent my roots on this global stage," Terry stated in a social media post.

He describes the nomination is a humbling reminder that hard work truly does pay off. "First and foremost, I thank God for blessing me with the talent and strength to excel in my career. To my family, friends, employer, colleagues, and all those who have supported me—thank you for your unwavering encouragement.

Let's proudly raise our flag and showcase our talent to the world," he added.

Terry is inviting residents to vote for him in his quest be named Chef of the Year.



### **Feature**



## Breaking the Silence: The Socio-Economic Toll of Mental Illness in Antigua and Barbuda



By Chaneil Imhoff

Antigua and Barbuda, celebrated for our picturesque beaches and warm community spirit, also grapples with a hidden crisis: the long-term socio-economic effects of mental illness. Mental health issues know no gender. Both women and men bear the weight of untreated mental disorders, which ultimately erode the well-being of individuals, families, and the nation's economic fabric.

#### The Hidden Cost of Mental Illness

In our close-knit island community, mental illness is more than an individual health challenge—it is a public health crisis with far-reaching socio-economic consequences. Untreated or inadequately managed conditions such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) lead to decreased productivity, job loss, and diminished quality of life. When a person experiences a mental breakdown, the consequences ripple far beyond their emotional state; they affect family dynamics, community relationships, and the overall economy. Antigua and Barbuda's mental health infrastructure is underdeveloped. Limited public resources and pervasive stigma prevent many from seeking timely and adequate care. As a result, individuals are caught in a cycle where mental health challenges lead to economic instability, which in turn worsens mental well-being—a vicious cycle that erodes hope and hampers national progress.

### The Vicious Cycle of Stigma and Resource Scarcity

In our society, mental illness is still shrouded in stigma. Traditional beliefs and cultural narratives sometimes frame mental health issues as a personal failing or a secret to be hidden. Women, in particular, have been judged harshly for their struggles, often facing isolation and a lack of support that further deepens their challenges. However, it is important to recognize that the stigma affects all genders.

The scarcity of mental health resources exacerbates the situation. Public services are underfunded, and private care, while available, remains prohibitively expensive for many citizens. The result is a dual burden: those suffering from mental illness face both emotional pain and financial hardship. This financial strain is especially crippling for individuals in lower-income brackets, trapping them in a cycle of deteriorating health and poverty.

#### Impact on Women: An Ongoing Struggle

For many women in Antigua and Barbuda, the socio-economic impacts of mental illness are profound. Women often juggle multiple roles—caregivers, breadwinners, and community anchors. When a mental breakdown occurs, these responsibilities do not dissipate. Instead, the stigma attached to mental health challenges may lead to social isolation and even ostracization, making it harder for them to seek help.

Consider the mother who, after experiencing a mental health crisis, is expected to continue caring for her children and managing household responsibilities. Without adequate support, the burden of recovery falls solely on her shoulders. Social stigma can lead to shame and self-blame, which further hinder recovery and limit her ability to return to work or pursue economic opportunities. Over time, this not only affects her personal growth but also has intergenerational consequences: children raised in households where mental health issues remain unaddressed may themselves face emotional and economic challenges later in life.

The economic toll on women is substantial. Many work in sectors where wages are low and jobs are seasonal—leaving little room for error when mental health challenges occur. The loss of income and reduced productivity further widen the gap between those who can afford quality care and those who cannot. Without effective public intervention, the cycle of stigma and neglect will continue to undermine women's social and economic stability.

#### Impact on Men: The Silent Struggle

Although mental health discussions often center on women, men in Antigua and Barbuda face their own significant, yet frequently overlooked, challenges. Societal expectations around masculinity can create enormous pressure for men to appear strong and self-reliant, which in turn discourages them from acknowledging vulnerability or seeking help when needed.

In many communities, admitting to feelings of depression, anxiety, or emotional distress is perceived as a sign of weakness—a notion that is deeply ingrained in cultural stereotypes. Men are expected to be the stoic providers, the pillars of strength in their families, and any deviation from this ideal is often met with silence or ridicule. As a result, many men suffer in silence, leading to an increased risk of substance abuse, relationship breakdowns, and even suicide.

Research in the Caribbean has shown that men often have higher rates of substance abuse and are more likely to engage in risky behaviors as a coping mechanism. For instance, studies have indicated that, in certain contexts, men exhibit higher rates of alcohol and drug abuse—a reflection of their struggle to manage stress in a society that does not encourage open emotional expression. This behavior not only worsens their mental health but also creates additional socio-economic burdens. Substance abuse can lead to loss of employment, legal issues, and deteriorating physical health, all of which compound the economic challenges men face.

### **Feature**

PAGE 15

#### con't from pg 14

Furthermore, the isolation caused by unaddressed mental health issues can disrupt personal relationships and diminish a man's role as a supportive partner and parent. In many cases, the failure to seek help due to stigma can create a ripple effect that undermines the stability of entire families. The economic ramifications are significant—men who are unable to work consistently due to untreated mental health issues contribute to reduced household income and a broader loss in productivity that affects community development.

#### **Bridging the Gap: Towards Inclusive Mental Health Support**

The socio-economic impact of mental illness in Antigua and Barbuda is not confined to one gender. Both women and men are caught in a web of stigma, insufficient resources, and cultural expectations that prevent them from receiving the care they need. To break this cycle, a comprehensive and inclusive approach to mental health is required—one that addresses the unique challenges faced by every member of our society.

#### 1. Dismantling Stigma Through Public Education

Changing societal perceptions is critical. Public education campaigns must emphasize that mental health issues are not a matter of personal weakness but a treatable medical condition. By promoting stories of recovery and resilience, we can challenge harmful stereotypes and encourage both women and men to seek help without shame.

#### 2. Expanding Access to Quality Mental Health Services

Government and private sector collaboration is essential to build a more robust mental health infrastructure. This includes integrating mental health support into primary healthcare services, ensuring that counseling and psychiatric care are both affordable and accessible—even in remote or underserved areas. Special attention should be given to culturally sensitive treatment programs that understand and address the unique needs of Antigua and Barbuda's diverse population.

#### 3. Economic Empowerment as a Pillar of Recovery

Economic stability is both a cause and consequence of mental health. Programs aimed at providing vocational training, financial counseling, and micro-loans can empower individuals to regain economic independence. For women, such initiatives may help bridge the gap between career setbacks and recovery. For men, they can offer pathways to rebuild confidence and re-engage with the workforce. Economic empowerment is key to breaking the cycle of poverty and poor mental health.

#### **4. Creating Community-Driven Support Networks**

Grassroots organizations like WISH play a pivotal role in filling the gaps left by limited public resources. By creating safe spaces for dialogue, support groups, and community outreach initiatives, we can foster an environment where both women and men feel supported in their mental health journeys. Peer support and community solidarity can mitigate feelings of isolation and offer practical assistance during times of crisis.

#### 5. Policy Reform and Advocacy

Effective policy is the backbone of a sustainable mental health system. Advocating for increased budget allocation to mental health, reforming outdated mental health laws, and establishing clear frameworks for accountability are essential steps. Policies must reflect the reality that mental health care is a fundamental right—not a luxury reserved for those who can afford it. This requires active participation from civil society, mental health professionals, and affected individuals to shape legislation that is both inclusive and progressive.

#### A Vision for the Future

I envision an Antigua and Barbuda where mental health is recognized as a cornerstone of public health—a society where stigma is replaced by understanding, where treatment is accessible to all, and where every individual, regardless of gender, is empowered to lead a fulfilling life. This vision demands an integrated approach that treats mental illness not only as a medical issue but as a socio-economic challenge that affects the very fabric of our communities.

At WISH, our commitment is rooted in empathy and driven by the belief that

every Antiguan and Barbudan deserves the opportunity to heal. We are dedicated to breaking down the barriers that isolate individuals in their time of need, whether they are women burdened by the dual weight of caregiving and societal judgment, or men who silently struggle under the pressure of traditional masculine ideals.

When mental health challenges go untreated, the consequences are severe: lost productivity, broken families, and an overall weakening of community resilience. But by addressing these challenges head-on—through public education, improved access to care, economic empowerment, community support, and robust policy reform—we can begin to transform our mental health landscape. The socio-economic toll of mental illness in Antigua and Barbuda is not an abstract concept—it is a lived reality that affects every corner of our society. It is a challenge that does not discriminate; it impacts both women and men, each in their unique ways. Women may face compounded burdens of care, isolation, and financial instability, while men often grapple with the stigma of vulnerability and the consequences of unaddressed emotional pain.

It is incumbent upon all of us—community members, mental health professionals, policymakers, and advocates—to work together to break the cycle of stigma and neglect. By fostering a culture of empathy and providing comprehensive support for mental health, we can create a future where every individual has the opportunity to recover, thrive, and contribute to a more prosperous Antigua and Barbuda.

At WISH, we stand in unwavering solidarity with all those affected by mental illness. Our mission is to transform mental health from a hidden crisis into a public priority, ensuring that every person, regardless of gender, has access to the care and support they need. Together, we can break the silence, dismantle stigma, and build a community where mental wellness is not a privilege but a right.

Let us unite to heal our society—one conversation, one policy change, and one life at a time.

## **Regional News**



## Mas Domnik sees 34% increase in visitors, injects \$34M into economy

Minister for Tourism, Denise Charles-Pemberton, has praised recently conthe cluded Mas Domnik (Dominica Carnival). declaring it the best yet and surpassing expectations. She highlighted a significant 34 percent increase visitor arrivals compared to the 2024 season, reflecting the growing appeal of the island's premier cultural event.

According to the Minister, the carnival injected \$34 million into the economy, providing a major boost for local businesses and the tourism sector.

She emphasized the important role the event played in supporting Dominica's economic growth.

"The star of the season," Charles-Pemberton said however, "was Bouyon music."

She commended local artists for their



success, both regionally and globally, noting, "Our artists are making waves both regionally and globally, and our partnerships with key artists and bands are putting Dominica on the map as the ultimate cultural and adventure destination."

The government invested \$1.2 million into Mas Domnik 2025, and Charles-Pemberton expressed her gratitude to the staff of Discover Dominica Authority and Dom-

inica Festivals for their exceptional work in organizing and promoting the event.

She noted that images of the carnival flooded social media, solidifying Mas Domnik's reputation as the most authentic carnival in the region.

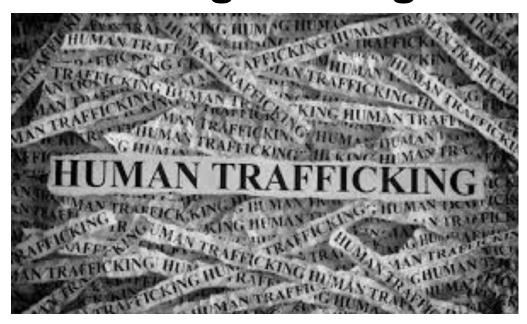
Looking ahead, the tourism minister also mentioned plans for the upcoming Jazz and Creole event, scheduled for May 4th at Fort Shirley in Portsmouth. (Loop Caribbean)



## **Regional News**

PAGE 17

## TCI: Major breakthrough in human trafficking investigation, 2 arrested



Officers from the Serious Crimes Unit of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) have made a significant breakthrough in a four-month-long investigation into human trafficking a police media release announced on Monday.

The investigation, which involved extensive investigative efforts, interviews, and consultations with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), has resulted in formal charges being laid against two individuals—Oren Walkin and Maria Alexander Pineda De Walkin, the release stated.

On March 19, 2025, Oren Walkin, a 50-year-old resident of South Dock Road in Providenciales, was charged with six counts of Trafficking in Per-

sons, one count of Keeping a Brothel Used for Prostitution, and one count of Controlling Prostitution for Gain, among other offenses.

On March 20, 2025, Maria Alexander Pineda De Walkin, also known as Kasandra, a 45-year-old from South Dock Road, was also charged with six counts of Trafficking in Persons, one count of Controlling Prostitution for Gain, and one count of Keeping a Brothel Used for Prostitution.

Both individuals remain in custody and are scheduled to appear before a Magistrate tomorrow, March 25.

According to the police, the breakthrough came after a coordinated operation on October 3, 2024.

Acting on intelligence, police said they executed a search warrant at

a bar along South Dock Road. The search was conducted under the authority to investigate firearms and human trafficking-related evidence, including receipts, books, and other related materials.

During the operation, officers seized multiple items that contributed to the ongoing investigation.

In addition to the evidence, authorities discovered twenty women of Colombian and Dominican nationalities, who are suspected victims of human trafficking, being held at the establishment.

This case marks a major milestone in the fight against human trafficking in the Turks and Caicos Islands, with police making it clear that they are committed to identifying, investigating, dismantling, and prosecuting those involved in exploiting vulnerable individuals for personal gain.

The RTCIPF has encouraged the public to come forward with any information related to human trafficking.

Individuals are urged to report tips confidentially by contacting the nearest police station, calling 911, or reaching out to the Serious Crimes Unit at 231-1842. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477 or via the Crime Stoppers P3 app. (*Loop Caribbean*)



## **Regional News**



## Guyana: Young lawyer, 27 dies in motorcycle crash

Police in Guyana are investigating the fatal death of a 27-year-old lawyer from South Georgetown, Akil Johnson, who died following a motorcycle crash on Sheriff Street early Sunday morning.

According to a police press release, the accident involved a car driven by 34-year-old Viola Mittelholzer, currently in police custody.

A breathalyzer test on Mittelholzer showed readings of 0.16 and 0.10 micrograms of alcohol in her breath. The legal limit for driving under the influence of alcohol in Guyana is 0.05 grams of alcohol per



100 milliliters of blood (BAC) for all drivers, and

0.02 grams per 100 milliliters for professional drivers.

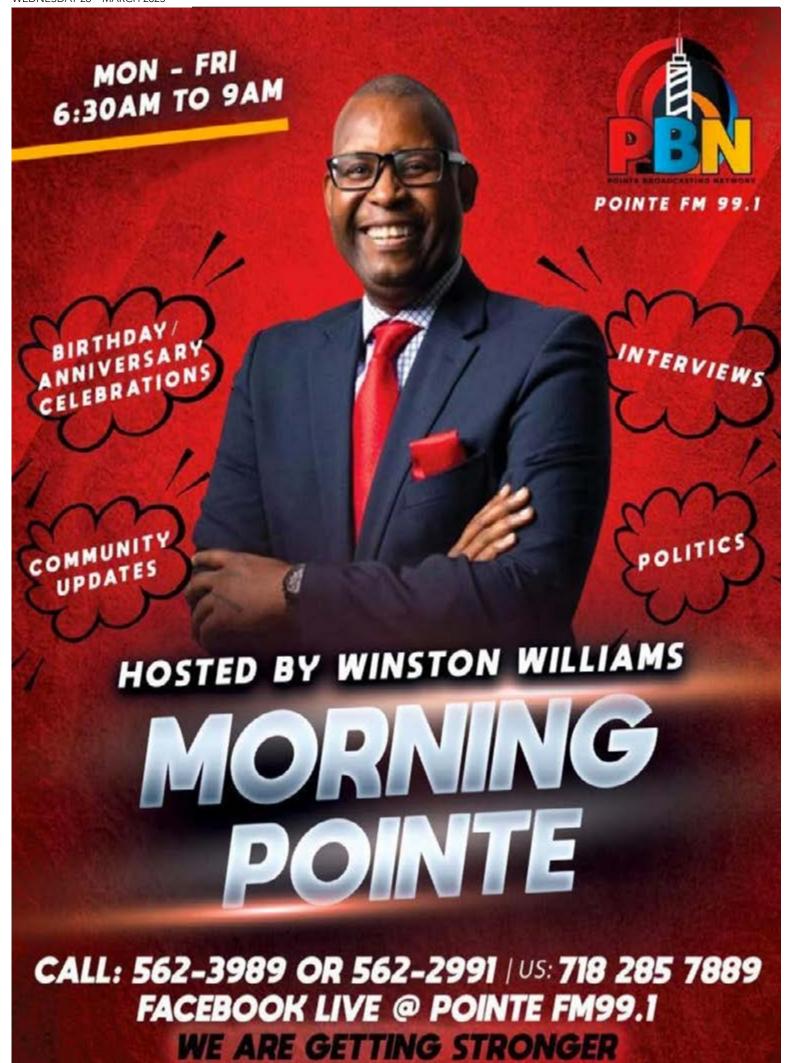
Police said the car, traveling north on Sheriff Street, attempted to turn onto Dadanawa Street when Johnson, riding his motorcycle at a high speed, collided head-on with the car.

Police said Johnson, who was not wearing a helmet, was flung onto the road and sustained fatal injuries.

He was rushed to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Mittelholzer was taken into police custody following the incident. Investigations are ongoing. (*Loop Caribbean*)





## International



## Trump says countries that buy Venezuelan oil will face 25% tariff

President Donald Trump said Monday he would be placing a 25% tariff on all imports from any country that buys oil or gas from Venezuela as well as imposing new tariffs on the South American country itself.

In a Truth Social post, Trump said Venezuela has been "very hostile" to the U.S. and countries purchasing oil from it will be forced to pay the tariff on all their trade to the U.S. starting April 2.

Venezuela will face a "Secondary" tariff because it is the home to the gang Tren de Aragua, he said. The Trump administration is deporting immigrants that it claims are members of that gang who illegally crossed into the United States.



Trump's latest tariffs threat suggests the administration will take bolder moves against China, the largest

customer for Venezuelan oil. The Trump administration has already levied universal 20% tariffs on

imports from China as an effort to crackdown on the illicit trade in fentanyl. (*Trinidad Express*)



## United Airlines flight to China diverted to San Francisco after pilot forgets passport

A United Airlines flight headed to Shanghai, China, had to turn around over the weekend after the pilot forgot to bring a passport, the airline company said.

The mishap happened Saturday afternoon on United Flight 198 from Los Angeles International Airport to Shanghai Pudong International Air-

port.

Data on FlightAware.com showed the flight took off on time just before 2 p.m. but was diverted to San Francisco, landing just after 5 p.m. There were 257 passengers and 13 crew members onboard.

United said in a brief statement that the pilot on the flight did not have their passport, so the plane had to return to California, where a new crew would take passengers to China. The plane left Saturday evening, about six hours behind schedule.

The airline said passengers were given meal vouchers and compensation for the inconvenience. (NBC News)

## Blatter, Platini cleared by Swiss court in FIFA corruption case



Former FIFA President Sepp Blatter and France football great Michel Platini were both cleared of corruption charges by a Swiss appeals court, two and a half years after they were first acquitted of the offences.

The pair, once among the most powerful figures in global football, were cleared of fraud on Tuesday

at the Extraordinary Appeals Chamber of the Swiss Criminal Court in the town of Muttenz near Basel.

The hearing came about after Swiss federal prosecutors appealed against the two men's 2022 acquittal in a lower court. Blatter and Platini had denied the charge.

"After two acquittals, even the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland must realise that these criminal proceedings have definitively failed. Michel Platini must finally be left in peace in criminal matters," Platini's lawyer Dominic Nellen said in a statement.

The case related to a 2 million Swiss franc (\$2.26m)

payment Blatter authorised for Platini, a former captain and manager of the French national team, in 2011.

The payment was a consultancy fee paid to Platini for work carried out from 1998 to 2002 that the Frenchman said had been partly deferred because FIFA lacked the funds to pay him in full immediately.

The scandal, which emerged in 2015 when Platini was president of UEFA, European football's ruling body, ended his hopes of succeeding Blatter, who was forced out of FIFA over the affair.

"The criminal proceedings have had not only legal but also massive personal and professional consequences for Michel Platini – although no incriminating evidence was ever presented. Among other things, the criminal proceedings prevented his election as FIFA president in 2016," Nellen said. (Al Jazeera English)

## International

POINTEXPRESS

AROUND THE WORLD

## Motorcyclist dies after being swallowed by sinkhole in latest such incident

A motorcyclist died after falling into a sinkhole in the South Korean capital, authorities said Tuesday, in the latest such fatal incident.

The man in his 30s, who has not been publicly identified, was found in cardiac arrest around noon local time on Tuesday, the day after a sinkhole about 65 feet wide and 65 feet deep opened up without warning as he was driving down a street in Seoul, according to the Gangdong Fire Station.

The massive sinkhole appeared around 6:30 p.m. Monday (5:30 a.m. ET) near an intersection in the Gangdong district of Seoul.

A dashcam video geolocated by NBC News showed the motorcyclist plunge into the sinkhole while a car in front of him jolted violently as its rear wheels barely avoided the hole.

His body was discovered about 160 feet below the center of the sinkhole after an overnight search involving about 40 rescue personnel. Rescuers also found the victim's mobile phone and motorcycle.

The search operation, which lasted for 17 hours, was difficult due to the water and soil mixed together at the scene and the entangled heavy machinery from a nearby construction site, an official from the fire station told reporters Tuesday.

"It was only after draining the area and deploying heavy equipment to remove the soil that we were able to locate the man," he added.

A woman in her 40s who was passing through the site before the sinkhole opened suffered a minor injury and is now recovering in the hospital.

The cause of the sinkhole remains



unknown. Seoul officials said they planned to conduct a "detailed and comprehensive investigation."

"We will identify the cause of the accident as quickly as possible to ensure that such incidents are not repeated and that citizens can use the roads confidently," Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon told reporters at the scene on Monday.

Seoul officials said a total of 223 sinkholes appeared in the city from 2015 to 2024.

Sinkholes appear when the ground below the land surface can no longer support it, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. They frequently occur where rocks below the land surface are naturally dissolved by groundwater circulating through them.

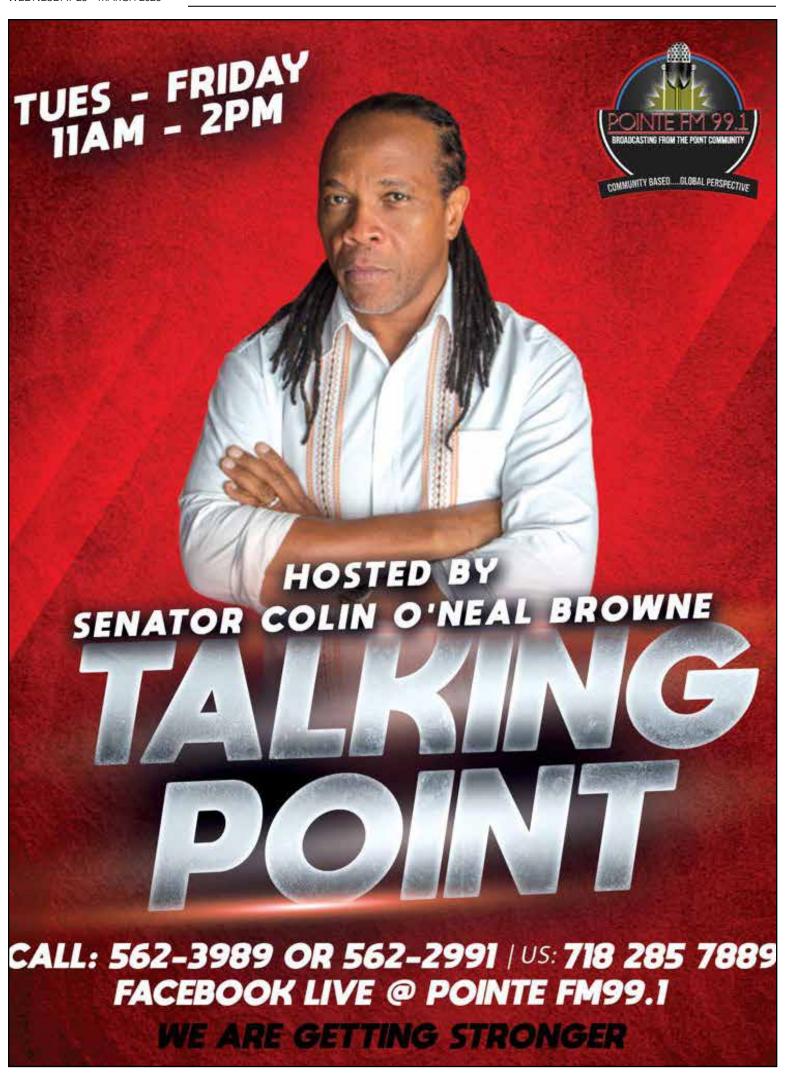
Sinkholes can also be human-induced, with some correlated to landuse practices such as groundwater pumping and construction, the U.S. agency said.

The incident in Seoul follows a similar one earlier this year in the Japanese city of Yashio, when a truck and its driver were swallowed by a sinkhole the size of a large swimming pool. The 74-year-old driver was never found after a two-week search.

Officials said the hole was most likely caused by a damaged sewage pipe.

There is no database for sinkholes in the U.S., but according to the U.S. Geological Survey the states with the most reported damage from sinkholes are Florida, Texas, Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and Pennsylvania.

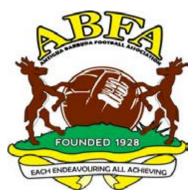
In December, a 64-year-old woman searching for her cat was found dead in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, several days after she fell into a sinkhole that authorities said was most likely caused by mine subsidence. (NBC News)



## **Sports News**



## Ottos Rangers move back to the top of First Division League



Ottos Rangers won their latest match in the group stage to move back to the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Division First (ABFA) League on Monday.

Rangers now hold a slender two-point lead over second-placed Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United after recording their 11th win in 16 matches with a 4-2 victory against Tryum FC at the Cashew Hill playing field.

Kylano Isaac struck a second-half hat trick to allow Rangers to come from behind and snatch victory after Swayne Thomas scored in the seventh minute and Sachin Merchant converted an own goal in the 23rd minute to give Tryum a twonil lead at halftime.

Isaac had conversions in the 64th, 75th, and 82nd minutes, and Junior Benjamin scored the other goal for Rangers in the 71st minute.

The result allows Ottos Rangers to advance to 38 points at the top of the First Division, while Tryum FC will remain in 10th place on goal difference with 14 points after suffering their 10th defeat in 16 matches.

Empire jumped from fifth to third place after recording their 10th win in 16 matches with a 3-1 victory against Bendals FC at the Bendals playing field.

Jevon Francis gave Bendals the lead with a fifth-minute conversion. But Carlos Solomon scored twice and Johnathan Forde once to propel Empire to victory.

Solomon converted the all scoring twice. equalizer in the seventh minute and scored again in the 70th minute to give Empire a 2-1 lead. Forde scored the third and final goal for Empire with an 84th-minute conversion.

The result allows Empire to advance to 33 points, one ahead of the Freemans Village Scorpions, dropped to fourth place but with a game in hand.

Bendals will remain in seventh place with 19 points after suffering their sixth loss in 15 matches.

Swetes FC consolidated their position in sixth place after recording their ninth win in 16 matches with a 7-0 drubbing of the bottom team. Liberta Blackhawks. in 45 minutes at the Freemans Village playing field.

Only eight players started the match for the Liberta Blackhawks, and Swetes took full advantage with Railique Browne, Kimoi Alexander, and Tnoy Andrew

Browne struck in the second and 12th minutes, Alexander scored in the 13th and 22nd minutes, and Andrew had conversions in the seventh and 18th minutes. The other goal was scored by Wayne Phillip, who converted a penalty kick in the 37th minute.

The match ended prematurely at the completion of the first half as the Blackhawks players refused to continue the match after the halftime interval. The Blackhawks players did the same thing in a previous encounter against the Freemans Village Scorpions at the same venue.

The result allows Swetes FC to advance to 30 points. while the Liberta Blackhawks remain in the cellar of the 14-team competition with three points after crashing to their 14th defeat in 15 matches.

### Wins for Navigators and Old Road Daggers in ABBA's Second Division



The Navigators and the Old Road Daggers recorded wins in the Second Division of the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) domestic season on Monday evening.

The Navigators claimed their eighth win in 11 matches by pulling off a narrow 57-53 victory against Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Ariel Quallis sank 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Ralph Spooner claimed 24 rebounds and scored six points for the Navigators.

Takeem Martin converted 17 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Rafiki Harris sank 14 points and snatched 12 rebounds; Joshua Morrison had eight points and 12 rebounds; Romel Diggs scored eight points and claimed nine rebounds; and Joel Christian produced six points and 12 rebounds for the Fearless Crew, who lost for the seventh time in 11 games.

The Old Road Daggers also notched

up their seventh win in 10 encounters by snatching a narrow 78-73 victory against Da Project 2 in the opening game of Monday's double-header.

Kelvin Simon produced 28 points, 19 rebounds, and six blocks; Yohhan Nicholas sank 17 points and grabbed 17 rebounds; Tyndale Telemaque also scored 17 points and claimed six rebounds; and Jesus Lopez had nine points and eight rebounds for the Old Road Daggers.

Nathan Matthew produced 20 points and five assists; Gabriel De-Suza sank 14 points; Elijah Charles scored 13 points; Beniah Mack had 12 points, 11 rebounds, and five assists; and Raheem Charles converted eight points and grabbed 13 rebounds for Da Project 2.

## **Sports News**

PAGE 25

### New softball cricket season commence with 10-Over contest

The 2025 domestic season of the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA) officially commenced with the opening round of matches in the ABSCA Rudy Mathew 10 Overs Competition on Sunday.

In Zone A of the Men's Division, PMS trounced Bryson's Shipping Bullets by 120 runs. PMS made 136 for two off their 10 overs. Malik Marcellin hit 66, and Ashfield Weatherhead struck 55 not out.

In reply, Bryson's Shipping Bullets were dismissed for 16 in 5.2 overs. Ashfield Weatherhead grabbed two wickets for two runs, Terence Thompson took two wickets for three runs, and Kenny Benjamin claimed two wickets for six runs.

Bryson's Shipping Bullets hit back to record a 48-run victory against Rackaman Construction Strictly Business.

Essan Warner hammered 94, and Andra Samuel hit 55 not out to fire Bullets to 164 for one off their 10 overs.

In reply, Strictly Business was restricted to 116 for seven off their 10 overs. Melvin Charles made 26, and Owen Graham scored

21, while Essan Warner captured three for 10.

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business rebounded to beat PMS by nine wickets. PMS could only muster 63 for six off 10 overs. Walter Carr scored 20, and Ashfield Weatherhead got 16. Winston Roberts took three for 11, and Melvin Charles picked up two for 10.

Strictly Business achieved victory at 64 for one in 4.1 overs. Kerry Mentore struck 34, and Adrian Abbott made 13.

In Zone B of the Men's Division, Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js crushed Mix Up Stars by 69 runs.

Buckley's 3Js made 109 for one off 10 overs. Steve Martin hit an unbeaten 37, Denley Thomas struck 34 not out, and Randino Turner scored 28.

In reply, Mix Up Stars were restricted to 40 for eight off 10 overs. Rodney Williams snapped up three wickets for three runs, and Nigel Fergus grabbed two wickets for three runs.

Dredgers pulled off a five-wicket victory against Lee's Landscaping/Goody Taxi Service & Tours 300.

Batting first, 300 was restricted to 79 for four off

10 overs. Molvin James cracked 40 not out, and Veston Lewis made 16. Kirt Douglas claimed two wickets for nine runs.

Dredgers achieved victory at 80 for six with four balls to spare. Mervin Higgins hit 29, and Kirt Douglas scored 19. Kennedy Tonge took two wickets for eight runs.

Dredgers also defeated Mix Up Stars by 29 runs. Dredgers made 117 for two off 10 overs. Mervin Higgins slammed 49, Javaughn James hit 25, and Brent Bloodman struck 22 not out.

In reply, Mix Up Stars were restricted to 88 for three off 10 overs. Fedrick Floyd hammered 48, and Gaster Desouche got 14.

In Zone A of the Female Division, Alzarri/Sharon Joseph North Sails Female Flyers beat Bryson's Shipping Bullets by eight wickets.

Bullets made 60 for four off 10 overs. Annette Frank and Karen Cort each scored 16. Menila James picked up two for 11.

Female Flyers achieved victory at 61 for two off 6.3 overs. Gaynel Ogarro smashed 31 not out, and Makada Hector made 16.

But Bryson's Shipping

Bullets hit back to claim a 25-run victory against Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Rockets.

Bryson's Bullets made 88 for one off 10 overs. Cheryl Williams cracked 44, and Lana Thomas hit 28 not out.

In reply, Bravos Rockets were restricted to 63 for six off 10 overs. Roshana David made 19, and Ann-Marie Parker scored 10 not out. Janice Browne captured two for 15.

In Zone B of the Female Division, Potters Uprising defeated Police by 10 wickets. Police was restricted to 36 for five off 10 overs. Keila Thomas scored 10, and Tawana John picked up two wickets for eight runs.

Potters Uprising achieved victory, reaching their target of 37 runs without losing any wickets in 3.3 overs. Stacey Telemaque hit an unbeaten 19, and Nolia Elvin struck 12 not out.

However, the female division matches between Police and Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors and Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors and Potters Uprising were not played. Both matches will be rescheduled for a later date.



## **Sports News**



## More success for the Starz 1 in Women's Division 1 volleyball

Starz 1 won for the second time in as many games as they continued their successful start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Women's Division 1 Local League in their latest outing on Monday.

After launching their campaign in the new season with a 3-1 victory against Stoneville, Starz 1, who finished third in the Women's Division 1 League last year, romped to a 3-0 victory against Royal Cruisers 1 in their second encounter at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Starz 1 prevailed 25-15, 25-23, and 25-14 against Royal Cruisers 1, who lost for the second time in three encounters.

After suffering a narrow 2-3 loss to the Storming Lions in their opening encounter, High Flyerz notched up their first win in two games with a 3-0 victory against Phoenix High Flyerz in the Men's Division 1 League.

High Flyerz prevailed 25-20, 25-17, and 25-15 against Phoenix High Flyerz, who lost for the second time in as many games following a 3-0 loss to reigning Men's Division 1 league champions Stoneville in their opening encounter.



Starz 1 Women's Division 1 volleyball team

Chargers Eagles 2 pre-

vailed 25-15, 25-18 against

There were wins as well for Dynasty Queen 1, Chargers Eagles 2, and Invaders in the ABAVA's Division 2 Developmental League.

After losing their opening encounter 2-0 to Starz 2, Dynasty Queen 1 rebounded to claim their first win in the Women's Division 2 League by snatching a 2-1 win against Jets 2.

Dynasty Queens 1 prevailed 25-20, 17-25, and 15-4 against Jets 2, who were playing their debut match in the competition that is only in its second season after its inauguration last year.

Chargers Eagles 2 also hit back from a 2-0 loss to defending champions Paragons 2 in their opening match to claim their first win with a straight-set victory against Dynasty Queens 2 in their second encounter.

lost for the second time in as many games following a 2-0 loss to Royal Cruisers in their opening encounter.

Invaders 2 rebounded from a 2-0 defeat to Chargers Velocity in their opening encounter in the Men's Division 2 League to snatch a 2-1 victory against Sharks in their second outing.

Invaders 2 prevailed 23-25, 25-16, and 15-7 against the Sharks, who were playing their opening match in the men's competition that is in its debut season.



## **Sports News**

**PAGE 27** 

## West Indies women set for ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifiers

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Monday confirmed the West Indies Women's squad to compete in the 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifiers, scheduled for April 9 to 19 in Lahore, Pakistan.

The team departed from the Caribbean on Monday for a pre-tournament camp in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) before travelling to Pakistan, where they will compete for one of the two remaining spots in the 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, set to take place in India in October and November.

The West Indies will face five opponents in a round-robin format: hosts Pakistan, Ireland, Bangladesh, Scotland, and Thailand. The top two teams will join Australia, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and hosts India in the main tournament.

Bangladesh, West Indies, Pakistan, and Ireland were unable to secure a direct spot for the Cricket World Cup via the 2023-25 ICC Women's Championship, having finished in seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth place, respectively, in the standings.

Scotland and Thailand qualified after being the next two best-ranked sides in the ICC Women's ODI Team Rankings.

CWI Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe expressed confidence in the team's preparation saying, "Our women have been training intensively and are fully prepared for the challenges ahead. We have seen many enterprising performances coming out of the home series against Bangladesh in January as well as the CG



Players of the West Indies women's team

United Women's Super50 Cup, both held in St Kitts.

"Now, the qualifiers represent a crucial opportunity for us to secure our place in the World Cup, and I believe as we have seen in the last few months, we have the talent and determination to achieve this goal.

"Particularly encouraging is the blend of experience and youth in our ranks. The senior players have embraced their mentorship roles, while our emerging talents have shown countless times they can perform on the international stage. This dynamic will create a resilient team that can thrive under pressure."

All 15 games in the round-robin tournament will be played in Lahore, Pakistan, at the Gaddafi Stadium and Lahore City Cricket Association (LCCA) Stadium.

The West Indies Women begin their campaign on April 9 against Scotland at the LCCA Stadium, followed by matches against Ireland, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Thailand.

West Indies Head Coach Shane Deitz also shared his confidence and expectations for the team during the Qualifiers.

"It's going to be a tough tournament with some really good teams to play against, but we are right up for the challenge. We know how important it is to qualify for the World Cup in India later in the year but obviously, all the teams will be doing everything they can to get those two spots in the World Cup," he said.

"We've prepared well and played some good cricket in the last series against Bangladesh. We have to be at our best in every game, prepare well off the field, trust our skills, play our best cricket and the result will take care of itself."

Captain Hayley Matthews highlighted the team's ultimate focus on the task ahead.

"As we head into the World Cup Qualifiers, we know we've prepared well for this moment. The team environment feels like a family, and we've all been enjoying ourselves out on the park," she said.

"We trust our skills and each other and are staying

focused on playing our best cricket without any distractions. Winning this is a big goal for us as a team, and we're confident in our chances to perform at a high level."

The West Indies Women's 15-player squad features a strong mix of experience and emerging talent. There are three (3) changes from the squad that contested the ODI home series versus Bangladesh in St. Kitts in January.

Stafanie Taylor and Chinelle Henry return from injuries, while Rashada Williams joins the squad after impressing with her performances in the CG United Women's Super50 Cup. They replace Nerissa Crafton, Djenaba Joseph, and Deandra Dottin, who misses out through injury.

West Indies women's squad: Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbelle (vice-captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Afy Fletcher, Cherry Ann Fraser, Shabika Gajnabi, Jannillea Glasgow, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, Stafanie Taylor, and Rashada Williams.

Team Management Unit: Head Coach: Shane Deitz; Team Manager: Sheena Gooding; Assistant Coach: Austin: Assistant Rvan Coach: Damien Wright: Team Analyst: Gary Belle; Physiotherapist: Angelica Holder; Strength & Conditioning Coach: Hector Martinez Charles; Performance Coach: Dr. Nadine Sammy; Team Doctor: Dr. Ruchelle Brown Calvert; and Media & Content Officer: Nicholas Maitland.

# S OOFTS WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH 2025



## PMS and AGS advance to finals in School Basketball League

Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Antigua Grammar School (AGS) recorded wins in the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Monday to advance to the finals, which will be held during the Night of Champions at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday, April 6.

Princess Margaret School snatched an 18-14 victory against Antigua Grammar School in the Mini Boys Secondary Division to advance to take on St. Joseph's Academy in the final next month.

Elijah Charles converted nine points for Princess Margaret School, while Giovanni Hodge also scored nine points for Antigua Grammar School.

Antigua Grammar School pulled off a 45-29 victory against St. Joseph's Academy in the Junior Boys Division to advance to tackle Princess Margaret School in the final.

Raheem Sawyer shot a game-high 19 points for Antigua Grammar School, while Jayden Lewis scored 13 points for St. Joseph's Academy.

Greenbay Primary and Five Islands Primary will clash in the final of the Mini Girls Primary Division.

Meanwhile, Sir McChesney George Secondary of Barbuda snatched a twopoint win against Princess Margaret School in the Senior Boys Division.

Eli Harris sank 17 points to lead Sir McChesney George Secondary to their narrow 46-44 victory against Princess Margaret School. Tyrese Whyte shot a game-high 18 points for Princess Margaret School.



Princess Margaret Mini Boys Secondary team



Antigua Grammar School Junior Boys team. (Photos courtesy of School Basketball League)

Editor: Everton Barnes. Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua (268) 562-4989 Editorials and Reporting: evertonbarnes55@gmail.com; advertising: Sales@pointville.ag.