

# Strengthening Social Security through Strategic Investment

Story on Page 2

**THE LIONS CLUB & DR DWAYNE THWAITES**

with assistance from : Dr. BRIAN COHEN, Dr. DANIEL CARUSO,  
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Dr. OBI AKEWENNA & DR. ADRIAN RUDD

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# Strengthening Social Security through Strategic Investment

Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced plans to publish a booklet detailing strategies for making Antigua and Barbuda's Social Security Scheme sustainable.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, the Prime Minister explained that: (a) Social security schemes cannot rely solely on contribution income and (b) Investment portfolios—spanning short, medium, and long-term assets—are essential for generating sufficient returns.

He criticized past practices where Social Security funds were primarily kept in low-yield current and deposit accounts, leading to insolvency in 2010. PM Browne emphasized the need for diversified investments in stocks, bonds, and real estate.

## Learning from Regional Examples

Drawing a comparison with St. Kitts and Nevis, Prime Minister Browne noted that their social security scheme now holds assets valued at approximately \$1.7 billion, almost double that of Antigua and Barbuda's, despite a smaller population.

According to the prime minister the key difference between the two schemes is quite simple; St. Kitts and Nevis actively invested their Social Security funds,



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking on the Browne and Browne show**

becoming one of the largest corporate investors in the country.

PM Browne argued that critics, including former opposition leader Harold Lovell, inadvertently made the case for investment-driven social security management through their comparisons. He rejected Lovell's characterization of investment strategies as "gambling" with pension funds.

"It is proven globally that social security schemes or pension schemes cannot survive exclusively on contribution income," he reiterated.

Through this comprehensive discussion on Point FM, Prime Minister Browne highlighted two central pillars of responsible governance:

## 1. Financial Transparen-

cy: Ensuring audited accounts are complete, accurate, and free from adverse opinions through institutional reforms and accountability systems.

## 2. Social Security Sustainability:

Building a robust investment portfolio to safeguard long-term benefits for all Antiguans and Barbudans, drawing lessons from both local history and successful regional models.

"These initiatives align with the government's broader agenda to foster financial integrity, protect national institutions, and ensure long-term economic resilience for Antigua and Barbuda," PM Browne explained.

Prime Minister Browne revealed plans to release a detailed booklet titled:

"The Transfer of Jolly Beach to Social Security: A

Strategic Imperative"

Authored by PM Browne himself, the booklet outlines his administration's rationale and financial analysis supporting the transfer of the Jolly Beach Resort to Antigua and Barbuda's Social Security Fund. He emphasized that this move aligns with the government's broader vision of: **Entrepreneurial Socialism (Empowerment Capitalism)**: Where state and private sector partnerships generate wealth that benefits the nation as a whole and **Strategic Investment Over Foreign Dependence**: Breaking from old colonial economic models where key assets were owned and controlled by foreign investors.

The forward of the booklet spells out the government's commitment to building a self-reliant Antigua and Barbuda. It highlights examples of national assets reclaimed under Browne's leadership, such as: **West Indies Oil Company**: Now majority-owned by the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. As well as **Domestic Banking Sector**: Following the purchase of Canadian-owned bank branches, local banks reported over EC\$110 million in combined profits last year, profits that now remain within the Antigua and Barbuda.



## Ensuring Financial Transparency and Social Security Sustainability in Antigua and Barbuda

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has been providing detailed insights into challenges surrounding financial accountability and transparency within Antigua and Barbuda's public sector.

This as the Prime Minister, who is also the country Minister of Finance, raised significant concern involved recurring adverse audit opinions regarding the financial accounts of statutory organizations, including Social Security. According to the Prime Minister, these adverse opinions stem from incomplete or missing financial data—particularly concerning a bond valued at approximately \$330 million issued to Social Security. Rather than proactively resolving discrepancies through collaboration between auditors, social security officials, and central government, the matter has often been left unaddressed. Prime Minister Browne emphasized that this lack of resolution creates unnecessary public speculation about possible mismanagement or misuse of funds, even when the issues are technical and resolvable. He made clear his intention to implement systems ensuring all outstanding financial discrepancies are properly addressed, involving the Accountant General and the Treasury Department as necessary. "They seem happy now to have completed accounts but with an adverse opin-

ion. I'm saying that is not acceptable," Browne stated firmly.

### Understanding Audit Classifications

The Prime Minister also offered an educational breakdown of audit classifications:

#### □ **Unqualified Opinion:**

Financial records are materially correct.

#### □ **Qualified Opinion:** Some material information is missing, preventing full validation.

#### □ **Adverse Opinion:**

Significant inaccuracies or missing data prevent auditors from confirming



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

the accounts. PM Browne stressed that accepting adverse opinions as routine undermines

public trust and that urgent corrective measures are required.



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## Travel demands for Antigua and Barbuda rise as Carnival '25 nears

With Antigua Carnival '25 set to kick-off in less than two weeks, there is growing demand for travel to the destination.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's Director of Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America, Charmaine Spencer, said, "From as early as February, we ramped up advertising and on-the-ground activations targeting key audiences across markets, with the goal of keeping Antigua and Barbuda top of mind for the summer carnival season."

Antigua Carnival 2025, which runs from July 25 to August 5, under the theme 'Itz A Vibe, will deliver twelve days of non-stop vibes and experiences filled with mas, music and culture. This year's celebration includes major musical milestones, as the destination marks the 80th anniversary of Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra, 40 years of Burning Flames, and 25 years of Claudette "CP" Peters.

The packed carnival schedule released by the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, offers an exciting line-up to include: the popular T-Shirt Mas on July 26, Burning Flames' 40th anniversary concert on July 30, Annual Watchnight Gathering and the Caribbean Melting Pot on July 31, the Panorama Steelband competition on August 2,



**Tourism promotions for Carnival**

Party Monarch on August 3, and the traditional J'ouvert morning, Carnival Monday and Carnival Tuesday mas on August 4 and 5 respectively. The carnival season draws to an end with Last Lap, that sees carnival goers take one last jump-up through the streets of St. John's on the night of August 5.

Airlines are responding to the demand for travel to the destination from visitors and diaspora all hoping to enjoy the festivities. American Airlines has added an additional flight from Miami for July 25 - July 28, while Caribbean Airlines is operating a special flight from Toronto to Antigua on July 31 to facilitate travel for Carnival.

Regional carrier LIAT 20 is also offering 25% off airfare to Antigua for travel between July 13 and August 12. The promotion, available when booked by August 4 with the code

VIBE25, applies to all LIAT 20-operated routes including Trinidad, St. Kitts, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

In early July, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, alongside LIAT 20, conducted a five-day promotional roadshow in Trinidad and Tobago aimed at inspiring last-minute bookings for Antigua Carnival and the general destination offerings. Trinidad and Tobago is Antigua and Barbuda's largest Caribbean source market.

The Antigua and Barbuda team included Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Marketing Communications Manager Maria Blackman and Marketing Officer Alfonsina Olmos who was joined by LIAT 20 Marketing Supervisor Tito Thomas. The promotional activities included live media interviews with television and radio stations such as CNC3, TV6, Slam

100.5FM, Hott 93.5 FM, Vibe CT 105.1 FM and others, one-on-one travel agent meetings at Hyatt Regency, and a consumer pop-up at East Gates Mall.

"There was a real buzz in Trinidad. Antigua and Barbuda is a top Caribbean destination for the Trinidad traveller and mall-goers had numerous inquiries for the team. We saw a strong interest in Antigua Carnival, and the destination overall, with persons asking about places to stay, and special offers," said Blackman. "The campaign with LIAT 20 is providing our Caribbean family and friends even more of an incentive for them to travel for Antigua, be immersed in Antigua Carnival and then spend some time after relaxing on any one of our 365 beaches, for their summer vacation."

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, and the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority are gearing up for increased arrivals into the destination within the coming weeks and have begun arrangements for a festive welcome of visitors.

For more information on Antigua Carnival and special travel offers go to: [www.visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com), [www.instagram.com/antiguafestivalofficial](https://www.instagram.com/antiguafestivalofficial) and [www.facebook.com/AntiguaCarnival](https://www.facebook.com/AntiguaCarnival)



## Dedication of Tranquility Park Cemetery set for this week

A dedication ceremony will take place this week for the new public cemetery – Tranquility Park Cemetery - located on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Sir Molwyn Joseph, has announced that his ministry is working closely with the Ecclesiastical Commission for a formal dedication service to take place at the cemetery on Thursday afternoon at 4:00.

Both the ministries of health and works have combined efforts to bring the new cemetery into operation and to finally bring burials to an end at the public cemetery on Friar's Hill Road, which has long since reached its carrying capacity.

Sir Molwyn has indicated in the past that the new cemetery will be departure from the way bodies are buried in



**FRONT ENTRANCE**  
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 Sir Sydney Walling Highway  
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the past to a more aesthetically pleasing and more dignified manner.

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The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

**SIMULATION LABORATORY INSTRUCTOR**  
**(Salary Range: XCD\$102,021.00-XCD\$109,866.00 per annum)**  
School of Health and Behavioural Sciences

**The successful candidate will be responsible for:**

- Managing and coordinating the activities of the Simulation Laboratory; which is a specialised facility that provides hands-on training and education to nursing students and other healthcare professionals using high-fidelity simulators and other instructional technology.
- Ensuring that students receive high-quality training and education using simulation technology.
- Identifying training needs, developing simulation scenarios, and managing the day-to-day operations of the lab.
- Maintaining communication with programme and year coordinators and faculty.
- Conducting and maintaining an accurate inventory of equipment and supplies and being proficient in preparing and processing order forms in accordance with institutional procurement policies.

**Essential Qualifications and Experience:**

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a Health-related discipline required. Master's degree preferred.
- Current licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) and/or current Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- Minimum of three (3) years of clinical simulation experience

**Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Experience in nursing simulation education or lab coordination experience working with mannequins, and software including Laerdal
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Knowledge of simulation technology and instructional design principles
- Strong organizational and record-keeping skills

Applicants are required to submit a completed **UWI employment application form**, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), a statement on teaching and research interests and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to [fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu](mailto:fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu) and addressed to the **Employee Success Department, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua**. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025**. Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above Email address without waiting to be contacted. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua by **August 1, 2025**. An attractive salary package is offered.

**The University of the West Indies is an equal opportunity employer. The University thanks all applicants; however, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**



## AT&LU President to attend regional workshop on a proposed migration policy for CARICOM

President of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU), Bernard DeNully will join stakeholders from across the region who are meeting in Barbados this week to discuss a migration policy for CARICOM.

The occasion is the Bi-Partite consultation of Caribbean Workers' and Employers' organisations on the development of a regional Labour Migration Policy Framework and Action Programme that takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday in Bridgetown.

The literature for the consultation explained that in recognizing the importance of addressing migration comprehensively, CARICOM Heads of Government called for the development of a regional migration policy in February 2019. In response to this mandate, the Regional Approach to Migration Policy (RAMP) initiative was launched in 2022. Since then, a draft framework document has been prepared and subjected to several rounds of review and revision, benefiting from inputs of the CARICOM institutions and a UN Advisory body.

The current draft of the CARICOM Migration Policy Framework (CMPF)



**AT&LU President Bernard DeNully**

addresses various aspects of migration, giving priority to border governance, justice and protection, migration and economic development, and

labour migration, alongside cross-cutting issues like climate change.

Within the context of the development of the CMPF, the ILO is providing technical assistance at the request of the CARICOM Secretariat CARICOM Single Market & Economy (CSME) Unit, to develop a customised regional Labour Migration Policy Framework and Plan of Action/Work Programme, which will be aligned with and expand upon the labour aspects of the broader CMPF.

A crucial input for this policy development is the report of the CARICOM Labour Market Assessment, which is being conducted with ILO Technical Assistance. This assessment, launched in January 2025, is designed to provide evidence-based insights into economic, employment, labour, and migration dynamics, including the effects of climate change and patterns of labour mobility. It aims to analyse both the supply and demand sides of the labour market, equity aspects, and existing policy/institutional frameworks. The assessment report was expected to be finalized in June 2025.



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# Local News



## An exchange of students initiative is being implemented by the University of New Mexico and UWI FIC



**Ralph Mims**

Discussions are taking place to establish an exchange programme between the University of New Mexico and the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. Spearheading the initiative is American-born Ralph Mims, who has Barbudan roots and who lives and has close ties with the University of Albuquerque in New Mexico.

Mims has already made contact with both Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew, and Dr. Curtis Charles of the UWI FIC both of whom are said to be fully supportive of the initiative.

“We proudly celebrate the growing partnership between these two esteemed institutions, paving the way for academic and cultural exchange between students from Antigua and Barbuda and the United States.

“A heartfelt thank you to Ralph L. Mims of R. Mims

World Group, whose outstanding work and commitment to nation-building continue to open doors of opportunity for the people of Antigua and Barbuda. Your leadership and vision are truly appreciated,” said community activist, Terri London who is assisting Mims with local arrangements.

She explained Mims’ contributions to Antigua and Barbuda is helping to build bridges and create opportunities for our youths.

Mims told Point Express newspaper that already one student from the University of Albuquerque – a fourth year Philosophy and Psychology student, Florence Garcia, has already signed up for the programme and she will be spending the fall semester at UWI FIC.

“While this programme will be open to all students of the university who may wish to visit, I especially hope that African American students, many of whom have never traveled, would seize the opportunity to live and study in the Caribbean,” he stated.

This he noted would help them broaden their horizons as well as to get an understanding of the culture and people of the Caribbean.



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## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

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The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

The UWI Five Islands Campus invites applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Web Programmer (IT Officer I)**.

The UWI Five Islands Campus Information Technology Services (CITS) seeks a Web Programmer to support strategic growth objectives. This role addresses evolving IT demands by providing scalable resources for technological advancement. The position focuses on developing, maintaining, and optimizing campus websites, web-based applications, and platforms to ensure seamless user experiences. As FIC expands, this skilled team member will be essential for delivering high-quality IT support and reliable system operations that align with business objectives.

#### Duties of the post include the following:

- **Web Development & Optimization:** Designs, codes, modifies and troubleshoots web applications, ensuring optimal usability, speed, and performance while creating intuitive online applications and user interfaces.
- **Campus Web Management:** Functions as Campus Web Master, maintaining all FIC websites in collaboration with Marketing to ensure university brand standards and providing technical support for Drupal CMS.
- **Database & Security Administration:** Administers databases to ensure data integrity, security and performance while managing user access and implementing proper security protocols for system users.
- **Cloud Services Management:** Manages cloud services (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) and ensures seamless integration with on-premises infrastructure systems.

#### Qualifications, Training and Experience:

- Education & Experience: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science/Information Systems with a minimum of 5 years in web programming, design, and system administration
- Core Technical Skills: Proficiency in Python, PHP, JavaScript, SQL, HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript frameworks (React, Angular, Vue.js); deep expertise in Drupal CMS
- Infrastructure & Platforms: Experience with server operating systems (Linux, Windows Server), cloud services (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud), and database technologies (Oracle, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, SQL Server)
- Security & Best Practices: Knowledge of secure coding practices, web vulnerability assessments, penetration testing, and security frameworks (OAuth, SSL/TLS, SSO)
- Support & Specialization: Experience providing technical support and end-user training; familiarity with higher education applications (Ellucian Banner preferred)

#### Key Competencies:

- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Attention to detail and a commitment to quality.

**Salary will be fixed in accordance with the IT Officer I salary scale.**

Applicants are required to submit a completed **UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), and copies of academic qualifications.** These should be sent by electronic mail to [fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu](mailto:fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu) and addressed to the **Employee Success Department, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.** The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025.** Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above Email address without waiting to be contacted. **The University of the West Indies is an equal opportunity employer. The University thanks all applicants; however, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

## Halo Foundation partners with local doctor to provide essential eye-care services

The Halo Foundation has announced a key partnership with two entities to provide restorative vision to more than sixty (60) senior citizens.

In a statement, Halo Foundation announced the partnership with Dr. Salem Zreibi of Progressive Vision and the Swiss Embassy in the Dominican Republic to offer the essential services. The Foundation said this initiative forms part of its ongoing mission to serve the vulnerable.

“Thanks to the unwavering support and compassionate care provided by Dr. Salem Zreibi, and under the outstanding leadership of Teffenah Otto of the Halo Foundation, the gift of sight was successfully restored to 60 elderly citizens aged between 54 and 92, in Part Two of the program,” the statement said.

It added that this heartfelt initiative exemplifies the profound importance of giving back to the communities. Each individual, who once faced the challenges of impaired vision, now has renewed hope and independence, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Halo Foundation’s team and their partners.

“Dr. Zreibi’s support and care have



**Halo Foundation announced the partnership with Dr. Salem Zreibi of Progressive Vision and the Swiss Embassy in the Dominican Republic to offer the essential services**

been instrumental throughout this project, offering not only medical expertise but also a compassionate presence that uplifted the spirits of those served. His commitment underscores the vital role of medical professionals in community outreach and social re-

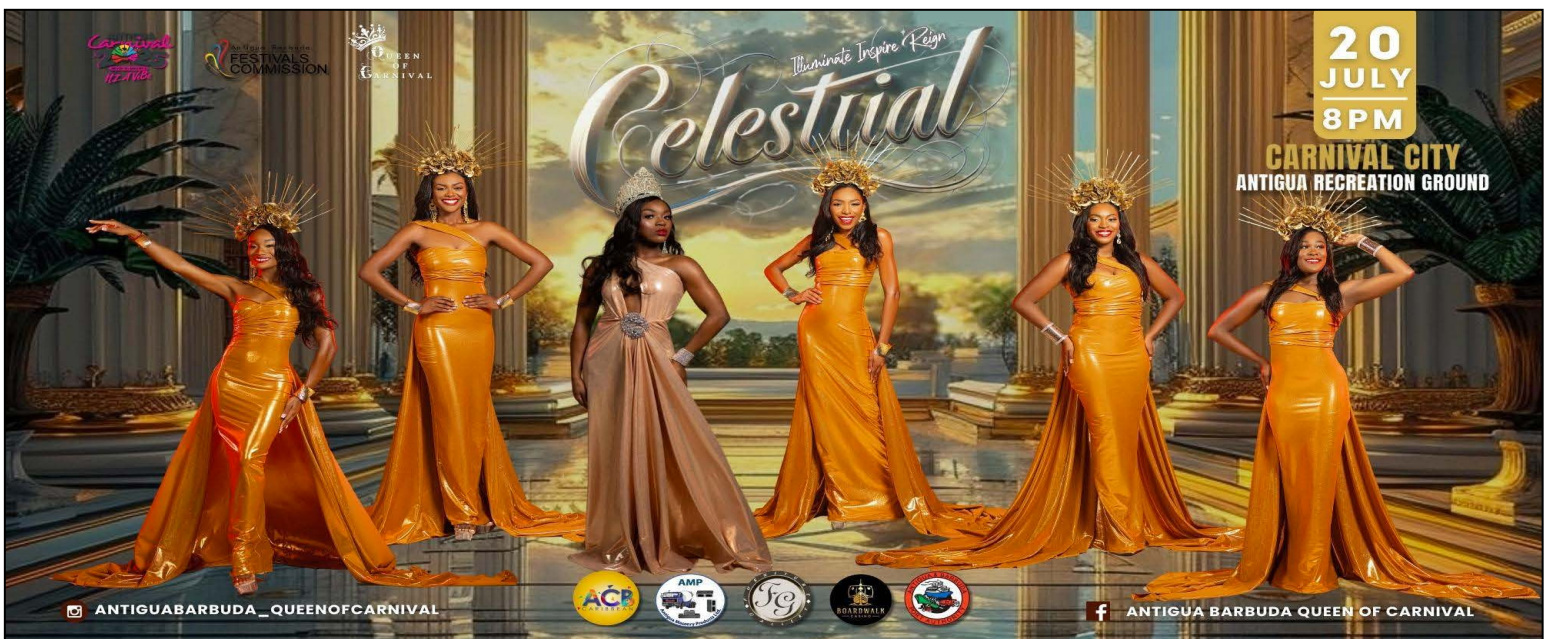
sponsibility,” the statement noted.

Led by Teffenah Otto, Halo’s project management excellence ensured the seamless execution of this life-changing initiative. From planning and coordination, every step was handled with precision and dedication, reflecting the Foundation’s core values of service, compassion, and community empowerment.

“This project, entitled “Future Bright with the Gift of Sight” highlights the transformative power of giving back”, said Otto. “We are honoured to have played a part in restoring vision to our elders by providing them with glasses at no cost.”

The Halo Foundation remains committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. This successful project serves as a reminder of the profound impact that compassion, collaboration and community engagement can have.

The Halo Foundation was started by Sandra Lady Williams, who serves as President and Founder, and is this year celebrating its tenth annum of operation.





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# CALYPSO MONARCH SEMI-FINALS

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*Itz A ViBe*



Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission @antiguacarnival @antiguacarnival @antiguafestivalsofficial



## Antigua Rotary Club mounts exhibition from its sewing programmes



The Antigua Rotary Club mounted an exhibition last Saturday of the items produced by members of its sewing classes being conducted in several communities. Starting in the Grays-Green community back in 2009, the sewing classes have spread in close to a dozen communities in the years since

with a new one starting every other year.

The exhibition was held at Rotary House on Nugent Avenue and it featured craft and other items produced by sewing classes from Pigotts, Potters, Willikies, Sea View Farm, Jennings/Bolans and Liberta among others.

“Usually, the women

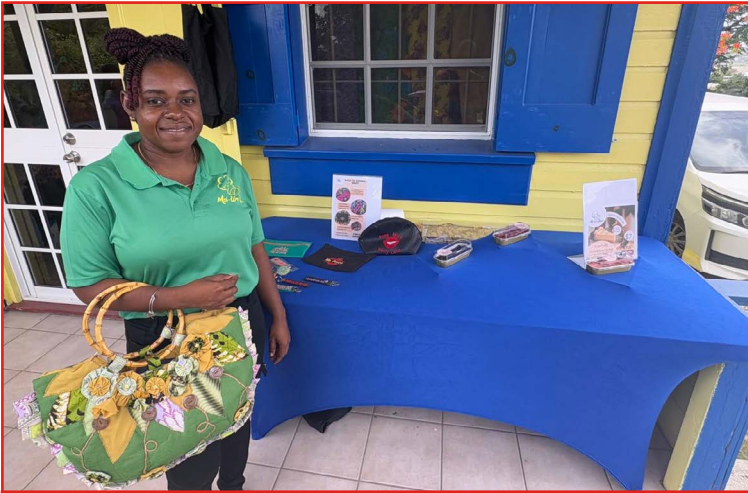
attending these classes start off by making an apron and over time they graduate to making more complex items where in one case one woman made a suit for

her husband,” coordinator of the programme Cordell Josiah stated.

He said the Rotary Club provides materials for the programme and machines are provided by a



# Local News



sister Rotary Club from Washington State in the USA.

According to Josiah while he can't say that any of the women who attend the sewing classes now take up sewing

as a full-time job, he said many are making their own dresses, shirts, table cloths, mats, pot holders and bags among other items.

He said the Rotary Club is pleased to announced

that over the course of the several years that the programme has been in existence, more than five hundred women have benefitted. The Club provides professional seamstresses who

provide the instruction at the classes.

He said the next project is to establish a sewing class in Barbuda. That he announced is 'on the horizon'.



# Local News

## Two Men Convicted in Magistrate's Court on Firearm and Drug Charges

Two men appeared in the St. John's Magistrate's Court on Thursday, July 10, and pleaded guilty to separate charges of unlawful possession of a firearm, ammunition, and cannabis.

Twenty-five-year-old Emerson Alexander of Villa appeared before Acting Chief Magistrate Wason on charges of unlawful possession of a (.380) Pistol, and possession of six (6) rounds of matching ammunition. He pleaded guilty to both charges and was remanded to His Majesty's Prison until July 23 for sentencing.

In a separate matter, 43-year-old Keiron Philip of Ottos Newtown appeared before the said magistrate on a charge of unlawful possession of 50 grams



**GUILTY PLEA**

of cannabis. He pleaded guilty, and was convicted and fined \$1,000 to be paid within 14 days. In default, he will

serve 90 days at His Majesty's Prison. The court also ordered the destruction of the cannabis.



## DAILY PROGRAMMING



**EARLY VIBRATIONS** 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.  
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**THE RUSH HOUR SHOW** 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.  
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**ASSEMBLY POINT: OLD HOUSE OF CULTURE 1:30PM**  
**MOVE OFF AT 2:00PM**

**ROUTE:** Turn **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave. **LEFT** on Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** on Independence Ave. **RIGHT** at the roundabout onto Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto Coronation Rd. into Carnival City.

**WATER BREAKS:** Between (The corner of Alley & Redcliffe Street) and between (The corner of ACB & Magistrate Court).



LONG BAY  
BREWING



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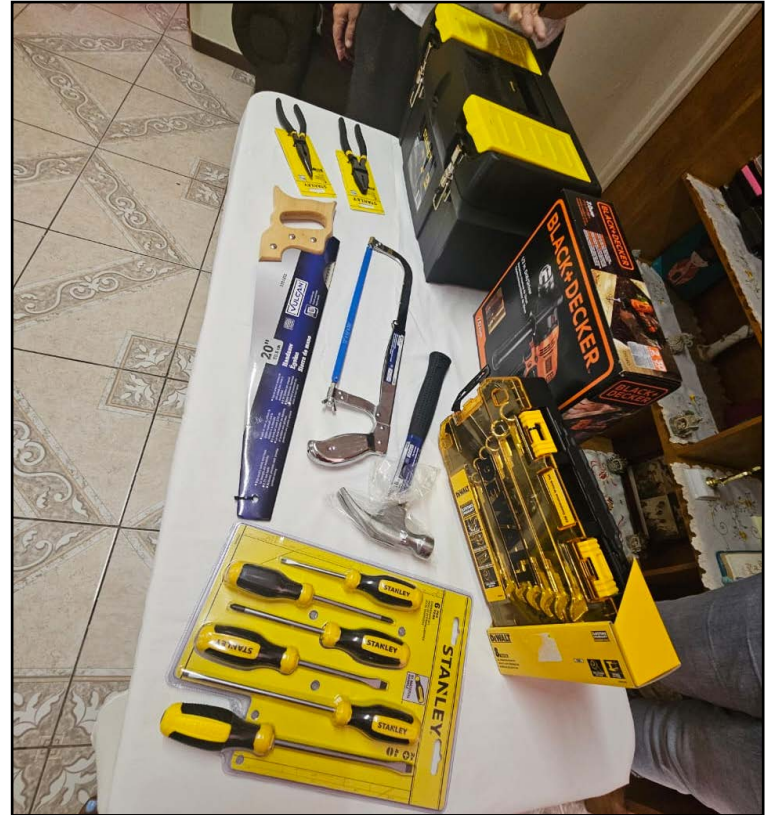
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# AT&LU makes donation to Sunshine Home for Girls



On Saturday, the Antigua and Barbuda Trades & Labour Union made a very important donation to the Sunshine Home for Girls located in Johnson's Point. The Trade Union presented the Sunshine Home with a fully equipped toolbox. The toolbox contained the basic tools necessary for daily, on property,

maintenance and repairs. Major Violet Ezech, on behalf of the Sunshine Home, expressed her appreciation for the donation of the toolbox. She also indicated her desire for a continued positive relationship between the AT&LU and the Sunshine Home for Girls.

The AT&LU has also

committed to facilitating a training session on the proper usage of the tools provided, as well as other basic home tools.

Deputy General Secretary Avelyn Watley made the presentation on behalf of the AT&LU.

The AT&LU entered into a partnership with the Sunshine Home for

Girls earlier this year. On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025, International Women's Day, the AT&LU held a presentation for the residents of the Sunshine Home for Girls. The presentation focused on topics such as: becoming a professional woman, the rights of workers and gender-based violence and harassment at work.

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# inet PARTY MONARCH

## SEMI-FINALS

THE COOLER FETE

*H2 A ViBe*

CARNIVAL CITY | 8:00 PM

**18TH JULY 2025**

ADM:  
**\$20.00**

SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST **YUNG BREDDA**

DRINK RESPONSIBLY





## Liberty Caribbean salutes CANTO's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone

*leading telecom provider returns as Headline Sponsor of CANTO's 40th Annual Conference*

Advancing the Caribbean's digital agenda will come into sharp focus as Liberty Caribbean returns as the headline sponsor for CANTO's 40th Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition under the banner 'Towards a Unified and Sustainable Caribbean Gigabit Society'.

The region's premier telecom conference, taking place at the Grand Hyatt Baha Mar in Nassau, The Bahamas between July 13 and 16, brings together heads of state and government, along with regulators, telecom operators, and other key industry stakeholders to network, build alliances, review policy, and share best practices as it relates to the regional telecoms sector.

"We are incredibly proud to once again serve as headline sponsor of this milestone event. Our longstanding partnership with CANTO reflects our shared belief in the power of collaboration to move the region forward. This is our moment to shape a digital Caribbean that reflects our values, meets our needs, and embraces our full potential. The work we do here will echo far beyond these halls," said Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Caribbean.

"This year's theme strikes at the very heart of what we do at Liberty Caribbean. As one of the region's leading enablers of digital



connectivity, we are deeply invested in building the networks, systems, and partnerships that will deliver a gigabit-ready Caribbean — one that is fast, fair, and future-ready."

Smidts will deliver remarks at the opening ceremony on Sunday, and she will be joined onstage by The Honourable Philip Davis, Prime Minister of The Bahamas; Dr. Delreo Newman, Chairman of CANTO; Teresa Wankin, Secretary General of CANTO; Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union; and Brendan Carr, Chairman,

Federal Communications Commission.

Liberty Caribbean will host several discussions and events during the conference to shine the spotlight on important industry topics including digital sustainability, cybersecurity and the rise of AI, sustainable infrastructure development, strategies for equitable access to broadband services, and empowering an inclusive digital economy.

Featured company speakers include Neda Brown, Senior Director, Regulatory & Government Affairs; Sameer Bhatti, CEO, BTC; Aamir Hussain, SVP, Chief

Technology and Product Officer, Liberty Latin America; Shelton Flash, Director, Liberty Business (North Caribbean); Desron Bynoe, VP & General Manager, Barbados; Felipe Ruiz, VP, Information Security, Liberty Latin America; Stephen Price, VP & General Manager, Jamaica; Rhys Campbell, Director, Liberty Caribbean Charitable Foundation; Carol Robertson, Senior Business Development Partner, Liberty Caribbean; and Darron Turnquest, Director, People, Liberty Caribbean.

"CANTO has been the driving force behind the Caribbean's digital evolution, a trusted platform for dialogue, collaboration, and collective progress," added Smidts.

"Today, we stand not just to commemorate the past, but to step boldly into a future where high-speed connectivity is universal, innovation and inclusion move in lockstep, and technology fuels sustainability, economic resilience, and social equity across every island."

CANTO is a non-profit association made up of operators, organisations, companies, and individuals primarily focused on leading the information and communications technology (ICT) sector across the Caribbean region and the Americas.





**ANTIGUA  
AND BARBUDA**  
*The beach is just the beginning...*



# ANTIGUA CARNAVAL 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## PRE-EVENTS

**THURS  
FEB 27**

**CARNIVAL LAUNCH**

**SUN  
JULY 13**

**AUNTY CLAUDETTE'S  
KIDDIES FETE**  
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS  
JULY 17**

**CALYPSO MONARCH  
SEMI-FINALS**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**FRI  
JULY 18**

**PARTY MONARCH  
SEMI-FINALS**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**FRI  
JULY 25**

**FACE OFF**  
CARNIVAL CITY

**SAT  
JULY 26**

**LIAT 2020 T-SHIRT MAS**  
ST. JOHN'S

**SUN  
JULY 27**

**GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE**  
COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND  
**JUNIOR CARNAVAL PARADE**  
ST. JOHN'S/CARNIVAL CITY  
*FREE*

**MON  
JULY 28**

**OASIS WATER  
JUNIOR PARTY  
MONARCH**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | *FREE*

**TUES  
JULY 29**

**KARI SOCA  
INTERNATIONAL  
SOCA MONARCH**  
CARNIVAL CITY

**WED  
JULY 30**

**BURNING FLAMES  
40TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**  
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS  
JULY 31**

**DRINK TILL YA WEAK**  
BOAT CRUISE  
**LONG BAY LAGER  
MELTING POT**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM  
\$100 (GENERAL)  
\$350 (HOUSE OF VIBES)

**EMANCIPATION WATCH NIGHT**  
ARG / BOTANICAL GARDENS

**SAT  
JULY 19**

**WITNESS YA FITNESS**  
INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

**SUN  
JULY 20**

**ECAB MR & MISS  
TEENAGE PAGEANT**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**TUES  
JULY 22**

**QUEEN OF CARNAVAL**  
CARNIVAL CITY  
\$30 (STAND) | \$50 (RESERVED)  
**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF WEST INDIES  
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS  
JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | *FREE*

**FRI  
AUG 1**

**EMANCIPATION DAY**  
**CALYPSO MONARCH**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$30

**SAT  
AUG 2**

**RISE**  
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS  
CRICKET STADIUM

**CARNIVAL DREAMZ**  
HODGES BAY

**STATE INSURANCE  
COMPANY LTD  
PANORAMA**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$40

**SUN  
AUG 3**

**D BREAKFAST FETE**  
SPLASH ANTIGUA

**INET PARTY MONARCH**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$40

**MON  
AUG 4**

**J'OUVERT**  
ST. JOHN'S

**MONDAY MAS  
PARADE**  
ST. JOHN'S

**TUES  
AUG 5**

**PARADE  
OF BANDS**  
CARNIVAL CITY

**LAST LAP**  
ST. JOHN'S



Antigua Carnival



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Antigua Carnival



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# Regional News

## OAS Chief Albert Ramdin makes Haiti his top priority

Finding lasting solutions to Haiti's deepening political, security, and governance crises is a top priority for Organisation of American States (OAS) Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, during his 2025-2030 tenure.

"I have made Haiti a priority and we are working very hard on Haiti currently. That is an effort that goes to the heart of the OAS, in terms of its core principles, about democracy, human rights, security and about development. And in Haiti, regrettably, all these issues are challenged at the moment, in the absence of a legitimate government," he told *The Sunday Gleaner* in an interview last week.

Forced migration from Haiti to nearby Caribbean nations like Jamaica and The Bahamas underscores the regional impact of the crisis. Ramdin reiterated his commitment to re-establishing the 'Group of Friends of Haiti' within the OAS and collaborating closely with CARICOM and international stakeholders.

"I had good conversations in Jamaica about Haiti with the CARICOM leaders, with the Honourable Prime Minister Andrew Holness. And I want to make sure that we are clear about it," said Ramdin, who attended the CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting in Montego Bay, St James, last week.



He praised CARICOM for its work in the search for solutions.

CARICOM has done great work in facilitating a process of governance by bringing together stakeholders to form the Transitional Presidential Council as a form of governance in absence of elections of a parliament and a cabinet government. I know that we need to work towards that end. But I salute CARICOM's efforts of the Eminent Persons Group, the CARICOM chairpersons of Guyana and Suriname and also Barbados and now Jamaica," said Ramdin.

The OAS, he added, will align its efforts with CARICOM's framework and contribute to a broader, long-term strategy under a five-pillar 'Haitian Road

Map' developed with Haitian authorities. The first critical focus: restoring security, especially access to vulnerable communities.

"We need better security in Haiti. We need access roads to people who are in need of assistance to be free. We need the ports secure. And so security in different manifestations need to be addressed. Security and humanitarian assistance are to be provided, but they need to be well organised," he stated.

"Once this plan is developed and we are in the final stages of it, it will be presented to the Haitian authorities. It will be presented to other stakeholders, including the United Nations and CARICOM. We want to showcase how much is already

being done in terms of assisting Haiti," said Ramdin.

The OAS is also working on citizen identification projects to support future elections and democratic processes. Coordination meetings with CARICOM and the United Nations are expected by month-end to consolidate efforts and avoid duplication.

In addition to the OAS, other regional and international agencies – such as the Inter-American Development Bank, Pan American Health Organization, and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – are engaged in Haiti's recovery.

Beyond food and water, Ramdin said there must be focus on education, health-care, and getting children back in school.

"We need to get the political stakeholders which have been mobilised by CARICOM to develop a forward-looking agenda for Haiti, in terms of political and constitutional reform, as well as economic rebuilding. Key issues on health and education and security should lead us to elections," he explained.

Despite its unique challenges, Haiti shares common issues with other Caribbean nations – climate change, debt burdens, migration, and underdeveloped education systems – which demand a unified regional response. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



## Port Royal added to UNESCO World Heritage List



The United Nations cultural organisation has added Jamaica's famed Port Royal to its World Heritage List.

The decision to include "The Archaeological Ensemble of 17th Century Port Royal" was made during the ongoing meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, France, Culture Minister Olivia Gange, has reported.

In a video statement following the announcement, Grange, said Jamaica was "proud that our nomination of this unique terrestrial and submerged site has been accepted....This inscription to the World Heritage List supports our national efforts to preserve this heritage for all humanity."

"In this regard, I express appreciation to the World Heritage Centre, the International Council of Monuments and Sites, the governments of Mexico, Canada, the Netherlands and Japan, as well as the people of Port Royal whose livelihood is inextricably linked to the preservation, promotion and sustainable development of the site," she said.

The site was inscribed based on two UNESCO's criteria - one that recognises "an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates significant stages in

human history," and another that relates to sites "directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance."

In recommending the inscription, the evaluation team noted: "The integrity of the property is based on the terrestrial and underwater evidence of the 17th-century town of Port Royal. The archaeological ensemble contains all the attributes necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value, including the entire town encircled by the six fortifications present at the time of the devastating earthquake in 1692, and its 17th-century urban plan....The underwater sections of the town are exceptionally well preserved under layers of sediments."

Port Royal now joins the Blue and John Crow Mountains as the second Jamaican site on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Nestled at the entrance of Kingston Harbour, Port Royal wears its tumultuous past like a badge of honour. Once a bustling haven for pirates, buccaneers, and adventurers, this vibrant city earned the notorious reputation of being the "richest and wickedest city on Earth" during the 17th century.

Founded by the Spanish in the late 15th century, Port Royal quickly became a hub of trade and debauchery. Its narrow streets were lined with taverns, brothels, and gambling dens, attracting characters like the infamous Henry Morgan and Calico Jack. However, Port Royal's prosperity was short-lived, as it was devastated by a catastrophic earthquake on June 7, 1692, sinking much of the city beneath the sea. Today, its remnants serve as a poignant reminder of its storied past, drawing visitors from around the world to explore its sunken treasures.

The forts in Port Royal hold profound historical significance, serving as tangible remnants of the city's strategic importance during the colonial era. Fort Charles, for instance, stands as a symbol of British naval power in the Caribbean, protecting the lucrative trade routes and defending against foreign incursions. Its imposing walls and strategic placement showcased British dominance in the region. It remains the only British fort completely standing in Jamaica today. In contrast, Fort Rocky, with its strategic position guarding the entrance to Kingston Harbour, exemplifies Jamaica's tumultuous history, witnessing battles and changing hands between colonial powers.

Port Royal had seven forts: Fort Carlisle, Fort James, Fort Charles, Fort Rocky, Fort Morgan, Fort Rupert and Fort Walker. These forts not only provided defence but also shaped the cultural and economic landscape of Port Royal, influencing trade, settlement patterns, and even the development of nearby towns. Today, they serve as poignant reminders of a bygone era, attracting tourists and historians alike, while also underscoring the enduring legacy of colonialism in the Caribbean. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



# Regional News

## Migrant boat capsizes off Dom Rep coast, killing 4

A boat carrying migrants capsized off the eastern coast of the Dominican Republic killing at least four people, authorities in the Caribbean nation said Saturday, as emergency personnel and the military searched for survivors.

Seventeen people who were rescued, including a girl, received medical attention and were in good health, Juan Salas, director of the country's Civil Defense, said. A survivor reported that about 40 people were on the boat before it capsized.

"That happened close to the coast; it's possible some people swam out," said Salas, who estimated the boat sank at a depth of 500 meters (1,640 feet) to 600 metres (1,970 feet). He added that the search was being hampered by strong waves and seabed conditions.

The boat included migrants from Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The number of illegal journeys to Puerto Rico by sea in Dominican Republic waters has increased significantly in the last few years. The International Organization for Migration documented at least 321 deaths and disappearances of migrants in the Caribbean in 2022, the highest number since 2014. Haiti's once-illustrious Grand Hôtel Oloffson, a beloved Gothic gingerbread home that inspired books, hosted parties until dawn and attracted visitors from Mick Jagger to Haitian presidents, was burned down by gangs last weekend.

Hundreds of Haitians and



foreigners mourned the news as it spread across social media, with the hotel manager on Monday confirming the fire on X. Even though gang violence had forced the hotel in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, to close in recent years, many had hoped it would reopen.

"It birthed so much culture and expression," said Riva Précil, a Haitian-American singer who lived in the hotel from age five to 15. In a tearful phone interview, Précil recalled how she learned to swim, dance and sing at the Oloffson.

Longtime hotel manager Richard Morse, who had been overseeing the property remotely from the United States since the hotel's closure in 2022, told The Associated Press last Monday that for several months, there were persistent rumors that the hotel had burned.

"So when I heard Sunday morning that it burned, I did what I usually do, which is call someone who has drones and have them go take a look," he said. "This

time, when they called back, they said something like, 'take a seat.' I knew then that this wasn't like the other times."

The attack on the community where the hotel was located began late Saturday, according to James Jean-Louis, who lives in the hills above the Oloffson. He told The Associated Press over the phone on Sunday that he observed the flames as he and other residents were chased out while police and gangs exchanged heavy gunfire.

Journalists are currently unable to visit the site and verify the damage at the hotel because gangs control the area, which remains inaccessible. Patrick Durandis, director of the Institute for Safeguarding National Heritage, also confirmed the fire in a message to the AP.

Among those lamenting the fire was Michael Deibert, author of *Notes From the Last Testament: The Struggle for Haiti and Haiti Will Not Perish: A Recent History*.

He landed in Miami on Sunday only to open his phone and see a flurry of messages from friends in Haiti.

"When you went to the Oloffson, you really felt you were being connected with Haiti's political and cultural history," he said. "You went to Haiti and were never the same. And the Oloffson really captured that."

The hotel attracted artists, intellectuals and politicians from Haiti and beyond, including Jacqueline Onassis and Tennessee Williams. It also survived coups, dictatorships and the devastating 2010 earthquake.

Isabelle Morse, daughter of Richard Morse, said he loved having writers, photographers and other artists at the Oloffson.

"His sense of community was very important to him," she said in a phone interview Monday, describing the hotel as "his whole life." "For him, it represented freedom, where people from all walks of life could come in and share that space," she said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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



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## Search for victims is suspended as central Texas braces for more flash flooding



More flash flooding is forecast for central Texas, where more than 100 lives were claimed by devastating floods last week.

Flash flooding in Texas' Hill Country region materialized in the early hours of July 4, when the Guadalupe River surged over 20 feet. The aftermath was catastrophic, especially in Kerr County, where 103 people were killed. Over 100 people are still unaccounted for, but the search effort has been suspended due to more flash flooding expected Sunday, according to the Kerrville Police Department.

Approximately 3 to 6 inches of rain is expected to accumulate Sunday in areas that flooded last week, and create flooding in new areas as well, according to the NWS Weather Prediction Center.

Earlier Sunday morning, thunderstorms producing 2 to 4 inches of rain per hour

drifted into northern Llano and Burnet counties, according to the National Weather Service, which warned that "flooding is now ongoing or is expected to begin soon."

"Significant rain has fallen and flooding is expected to develop shortly, particularly over Llano county," the weather service said.

The rain is expected to move southeast into the Hill Country region and the southern Edwards Plateau, the weather service said.

"Do not drive into flooded roads or around barricades," the weather service warned.

Flash flood warnings have been issued in Bertram, Llano, Cherry Spring, Watson and Briggs until 10:45 a.m. local time, according to the weather service.

In Williamson County, officials warned that flash flooding is occurring due to a surge in the San Gabriel

River and advised residents not to drive in the floodwaters. The northwestern part of the county is under a flash flood warning until 10 a.m. local time.

Kerr County, which was hit especially hard in last week's floods, is also under a flash flood warning until 11:30 a.m. local time, the city of Kerrville announced on Facebook. Heavy rain has already begun falling in the city, according to the Kerrville Police Department.

Video posted to Instagram showed what appears to be floodwaters and downed trees near the Guadalupe River.

"This is a dangerous and life-threatening situation," the city warned. "Do not attempt to travel unless you are fleeing an area subject to flooding or under an evacuation order." (NBC News)




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**MONDAY  
JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
2025**

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RECREATION  
GROUNDS**

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AND COME**



# VACANCY

## PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated and creative Public Relations Coordinator to support and manage key public relations and public education initiatives. This role is essential to strengthening APUA's brand presence and fostering meaningful connections with the public, media, and key stakeholders.

### Key duties include:

- Develop and execute strategic public relations campaigns that align with APUA's goals
- Serve as a key contact for media, partners, and stakeholders, managing communications across multiple platforms
- Monitor media coverage and assess the impact of PR initiatives
- Craft and refine compelling content across formats, including articles, reports, and promotional materials
- Oversee the production of brochures, leaflets, videos, photography, and other multimedia assets
- Plan and coordinate events such as press conferences, exhibitions, and community outreach activities
- Manage APUA's website updates and support digital engagement efforts
- Conduct research to guide public relations and education strategies
- Strengthen community relations through public engagement and participation in local initiatives
- Provide communications support during crisis situations while upholding and enhancing the Authority's reputation

### The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Communications, Marketing or a related field.
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in public relations, communications, or related area.
- Exceptional interpersonal and human relations skills with the ability to build and maintain relationships.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, with proven editing and content creation abilities.
- Excellent organizational, time-management, and multitasking skills; adept at working under pressure.
- Creative mindset with a strong sense of initiative and imagination.
- Business acumen and awareness of current affairs affecting the organization.
- Positive, proactive attitude with a vibrant, hardworking, and detail-oriented approach.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team and adapt to a dynamic environment.

## ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE SALES)

We are seeking a dynamic, results-driven professional with strong business acumen and a passion for strategic client engagement. This role is ideal for a self-motivated individual who thrives on building meaningful partnerships and driving growth in a competitive environment.

### Key duties include:

- Secure and grow a strong portfolio of corporate clients across various sectors
- Develop and implement strategic sales plans to achieve and exceed targets
- Build and maintain trusted relationships with key decision-makers and stakeholders
- Identify and capitalize on new business opportunities
- Deliver customised solutions that align with client needs
- Prepare accurate sales forecasts and performance reports
- Use a variety of sales methods including cold calling, networking, and referrals

### The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Proven track record in B2B sales, preferably in telecommunications or a related sector
- Excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and presentation skills
- Strong understanding of sales pipelines, client relationship management, and sales software
- Highly self-driven with the ability to work independently and consistently deliver results
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Must own a reliable vehicle and hold a valid driver's license
- Familiarity with APUA Telecommunications products and services is an asset

### Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager  
Antigua Public Utilities Authority  
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue  
St. Johns, Antigua  
**OR** Email: [hr@apua.ag](mailto:hr@apua.ag)

### Deadline for application is Wednesday 16th July, 2025

\*\* Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged \*\*  
"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"





## EU and Mexico criticise Trump's proposed 30% tariff

The European Union (EU) and Mexico have expressed disappointment at US President Donald Trump's threat to impose 30% tariffs on their imports from 1 August.

Mexico criticised what it called Trump's "unfair deal" and insisted its sovereignty was non-negotiable, while the EU's chief, Ursula von der Leyen threatened to take "proportionate countermeasures", if needed. Both said they wanted to keep negotiating with the US.

Trump has warned he will impose even higher import taxes if either of the US trading partners decide to retaliate.

This week Trump also announced new tariffs on goods from Japan, South Korea, Canada and Brazil from next month.

In the letter sent on Friday to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Trump wrote: "We have had years to discuss our trading relationship with the European Union, and have concluded that we must move away from these long-term-large, and persistent, trade deficits, engendered by your tariff, and non-tariff, policies and trade barriers.

"Our relationship has been, unfortunately, far from reciprocal," the letter added.

In his letters to the EU and Mexico, Trump warned that if either trade partner retaliated with import duties of their own against the US, he would hit back by raising tariffs by a similar percentage over and above the 30%.

In a pre-recorded interview with Fox News which aired on Saturday night, President Trump said some countries were "very upset now" but he insisted the tariffs meant "hundreds of billions of dollars" were "pouring in".

The EU has been a frequent target of Trump's criticism. On 2 April, he proposed a 20% tariff for goods from the



bloc, as well as dozens of other trade partners. He then threatened to raise the EU import taxes to 50% as trade talks stalled.

Washington and Brussels had hoped to reach an agreement before a deadline of 9 July, but there have been no announcements on progress.

In 2024, the US trade deficit with the bloc was \$235.6bn (€202bn; £174bn), according to the office of the US trade representative.

Von der Leyen said the EU remained ready "to continue working towards an agreement by Aug 1".

"We will take all necessary steps to safeguard EU interests, including the adoption of proportionate countermeasures if required," von der Leyen said.

"Few economies in the world match the European Union's level of openness and adherence to fair trading practices," her statement added.

France's President Emmanuel Macron said he was in "very strong disapproval" of Trump's announcement.

If no agreement is reached, the French leader suggested the EU plan "speeding up the preparation of credible countermeasures".

Bernd Lange, the head of the European Parliament's trade committee, de-

scribed Trump's move as "a slap in the face for the negotiations".

He said that it was "no way to deal with a key trading partner," adding said Brussels should enact countermeasures as soon as Monday.

Some EU leaders called for a deal with Trump. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said in a statement she trusted "a fair agreement" could be reached, adding: "It would make no sense to trigger a trade war between the two sides of the Atlantic."

Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof said on social media that the EU "must remain united and resolute" in its aim to reach a "mutually beneficial" deal with the US.

Germany's Association of the Automotive Industry warned about the prospect of rising costs for German carmakers and suppliers, and said it was "regrettable that there is a threat of a further escalation of the trade conflict".

In his letter to Mexico's leader, Trump said the country had not done enough to stop North America becoming a "Narco-Trafficking Playground".

"Mexico has been helping me secure the border, BUT, what Mexico has

**Con't on page 27**



## French prisoner escapes in fellow inmate's bag, officials say



A man has escaped a French prison by hiding in the bag of a fellow inmate who was leaving prison after serving their sentence, officials told local media.

The prison service has launched an investigation after the man escaped from Lyon-Corbas prison in south-east France on Friday,

according to broadcaster BFMTV.

He “took advantage of the liberation of his fellow inmate to hide himself in his luggage and get out”, the prison service said in a statement to AFP news agency.

French media have reported that the escaped prisoner was serving several sentenc-

es and was also under investigation in a case linked to organised crime.

A judicial investigation has also been opened into possible “escape as part of an organised gang and criminal conspiracy”, according to local media.

Last month, the Lyon Bar Association expressed

alarm about overcrowding at the Lyon-Corbas prison.

As of 1 May 2025, around 1,200 people were detained in the prison, which has capacity for 678 places, BFMTV had reported. *(BBC News)*

### Con't from page 26

done, is not enough,” Trump added.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum expressed confidence that a deal could be reached.

“We believe, based on what our colleagues discussed yesterday, that we will reach an agreement with the USA and that we will, of course, achieve better conditions,” Sheinbaum said on Saturday.

“We are clear on what we can work with the USA and we are clear on what

we cannot,” she added. “And there is something that is never negotiated, ever, and that is the sovereignty of our country.”

Trump’s letter did not say if Mexican goods traded within the 2020 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement would be exempt from the proposed 1 August tariff hikes, as the White House said would be the case with Canada.

Earlier this week, the White House sent a letter to Canada threatening a 35% tariff.

As of Saturday, the Trump administration has now proposed tariff conditions on 24 countries and the EU - composed of 27 countries.

On 12 April, White House trade adviser Peter Navarro set a goal to secure “90 deals in 90 days”.

So far, the president has announced the outlines of two such pacts with the United Kingdom and Vietnam as negotiations with others continue. *(BBC News)*



# Sports News

## 300 and Bullets extend unbeaten runs in ABSCA's T20 competitions



***The Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets female softball cricket team.***

Goody's Taxi Service and Tours 300 have extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) Men's T20 Competition.

300 claimed their fourth win in as many games after recording a nine-wicket victory against PMS at the Dredgers playing field in their latest outing.

PMS, who lost for the fourth time in as many games, made 113 for nine in

14.5 overs. D. Roach hit 28, Kenny Benjamin struck 25, and Hughan Tonge scored 16. Justin Periera captured three for 29, Dwayne George picked up one for 12, and Vernel Isadore claimed one for 16.

300 achieved victory by scoring 119 for one in 14.5 overs. Player of the match Richard Dyer slammed an unbeaten 48, Veston Lewis cracked 38, and Molvin James struck 21 not out.

Bryson's Shipping and In-

surance Bullets also maintained their unbeaten run in the ABSCA's Women's T20 Competition.

Bullets claimed their third win in as many games with a 31-run victory against Potters Uprising Cricket Team at the Powells playing field.

The Bullets scored 129 for three off 18 overs. Cheryl Williams smashed 68, and Lana Thomas hit 35 not out. Erica Dickson took one for 17, and Gail Jobe claimed one for 30.

In reply, Potters Uprising were restricted to 98 for five off 18 overs. Stacey Telemacque hit 26, Nolia Hodge struck 19, and Maria Abraham made 12 for Potters, who suffered back-to-back losses after winning their opening encounter.

Mouricia Willette picked up two for 13, Cheryl Williams claimed one for 12, and Lana Thomas captured one for 15.





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# Leewards get first win at CWI Women's Under-19 Tournament



**Players of the Leeward Islands Under-19 women's cricket team.**

The Leeward Islands have claimed their first win in three matches at the 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship, which is taking place in Trinidad and Tobago from July 8 to 19.

After rain forced the abandonment of their opening and second-round matches against Trinidad and Jamaica, respectively, the Leewards under-19 women trounced the Windward Islands by 81 runs in their third-round encounter at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex on Saturday.

In a match reduced to 35 overs due to rain, the Leewards were all out for 126 in 26.5 overs after being sent in to bat. There was a contribution of 33 extras, including 28 wides.

Opener Sainavi Kambalapalli top-scored with 27, Katherine Bean Rosarion struck 26, and Aaliyah Weekes hit 21 not out. Amiah Gilbert claimed three for 23. Shadia Seaman, Selena Ross, and Delisha Francois each

picked up two wickets.

In reply, the Windwards crashed to 45 all out in 15.4 overs. No batter managed to reach double figures, but there was a contribution of 22 extras, including 17 wides. Sainavi Kambalapalli captured six wickets for eight runs.

But defending champions Guyana lost for the second time in three outings, crashing to a 98-run defeat against Barbados at Gilbert Park.

After their opening and second-round matches were abandoned due to rain, Barbados set up their first win by making 119 all out in 25.1 overs in the encounter that was reduced to 35 overs per side. In reply, the Guyanese were bundled out for 21 in 14 overs.

Jamaica under-19 women notched up their second win in three matches with a 56-run victory against Trinidad and Tobago at Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground.

Jamaica made 155 for nine off their

allotted 35 overs, and Trinidad and Tobago, who had their opening and second-round matches abandoned due to rain, succumbed to their first loss after being dismissed for 99 in 24.5 overs.

Meanwhile, the Leeward Islands suffered their third loss in four matches at the CWI Rising Stars Men's Under-19 Tournament in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Leeward Islands suffered a narrow nine-run loss against Trinidad and Tobago at Elquemedo Willett Park in Nevis.

Trinidad and Tobago made 241 for nine off their 50 overs. Cristian Rampersaud cracked 43, Stevon Gomez hit 32, and Riyaad Mohammed struck 29.

Captain Matthew Miller captured three for 52, and fellow Antiguan Tanez Francis claimed two for 50.

In reply, the Leeward Islands were restricted to 232 for nine off their 50 overs. Matthew Miller cracked 52, Kunal Tilokani struck 45, and Eirette Richards scored 38.

Aadian Racha took two for 31, Zachary Madray claimed two for 34, and Abdul-Raheem Toppin picked up two for 42.

In the other fourth-round men's under-19 matches, defending champions Barbados made it four wins in as many matches with a four-wicket victory against Jamaica at the St. Paul's Sports Complex in Basseterre.

USA 1 also made it four wins in a row with an 81-run victory against USA 2 at the Conaree Sports Club, and the Windward Islands trounced Guyana by 79 runs at St. Mary's Park in Cayon.



## Old Road wins Under-17 Division in Antigua Cup

Old Road dethroned 2024 champions Bath United of Nevis to capture the Under-17 Division of the Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament.

Old Road clinched the title by snatching a one-nil victory against Bath United in the final at the Buckley's Primary School playing field on Friday.

National under-17 forward Greg Williams scored the lone goal to finish with a tally of four goals in the competition.

But defending champions Bath United enjoyed success in the Under-15 Division, notching up a 3-0 victory against Lion Cub. Malik Freeman scored twice, and Eliab Dickenson converted the other goal for Bath United.

Attackers also pulled off a 2-0 victory against Free-



**Players of Old Road celebrate after winning the under-17 division of the Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament at the Buckley's Primary School playing field on Friday, July 11, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the Young Warriors FC)**

man's Village in the Under-15 Division. Jayden

Russell scored both goals tackers. with conversions in the 10th and 19th minutes for the At-



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# Sports News

## Palace gets first win in Fort Road football league

Blackburn Palace rebounded from a humiliating loss against Villa Lions to record their first win in the Fort Road Community Football League (FRCFL) on Saturday.

Conversions by Diondre Harrigan in the fourth minute and Imani Joyce in the 38th minute propelled Blackburn Palace to a 2-1 victory against Fort Road at the Fort Road playing field.

Shaquelle Perry scored the only goal for Fort Road in the 44th minute. Fort Road fought to a 2-2 draw with West Ham in their opening encounter in Group A.

Blackburn Palace suffered an 8-2 defeat against Villa Lions in their opening encounter. Tyrik “Castro” Hughes struck a hat trick, and Mali Johnson scored twice for the Villa Lions.

Hughes had conversions in the first, 52nd and 60th minutes, while Johnson scored in the ninth and 25th minutes.

The other goals for the Villa Lions were converted by Jah-Quane Richards in the 20th minute, Dejarnie Moore in the 27th, and Jahlanie Barzey in the 58th minute.

Diondre Harrigan

scored both goals for Blackburn Palace with a strike in the 23rd minute and a penalty kick conversion in the 70th minute.

Enforcers launched their campaign in Group B with success after being awarded a 3-0 victory

via default against Earthquake, who were unable to field a team for their Group B encounter on Saturday.

The league will resume at the Fort Road playing field on Monday (today). Enforcers will tackle Real Blizzard at 5 pm. Real

Blizzard pulled off a 3-1 victory against Exclusive Ballaz in the opening Group B encounter last week.

Eight teams, divided into two zones, are contesting the Fort Road Community Football League.

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## Sinner dethrones Alcaraz at Wimbledon



**Jannik Sinner of Italy holds the trophy after winning the men's singles final match against Carlos Alcaraz of Spain at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Sunday, July 13, 2025. (AP)**

When Jannik Sinner arrived at three match points in the fourth set of his Wimbledon final against Carlos Alcaraz on Sunday, the memory of what happened five weeks ago in Paris was flashing through the minds of everyone inside Centre Court.

Everyone, perhaps, except world number one Sinner, who managed to banish any lurking demons from the darkest recesses of his brain to seal a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory and become the first Italian Wimbledon men's singles champion.

Just as on the Parisian clay, 23-year-old Sinner was the better player for long periods. Just as at Roland Garros he had the title in his hands.

But unlike that day when three consecutive match points vanished in the fourth set and Alcaraz roared back to win the longest French Open final ever, this time the ice-cool Sinner was never going to be denied.

Alcaraz, whose bid to become only the fifth man in the professional era to win three successive Wimbledon titles was watched from the Royal Box by Spain's King Felipe, saved one match point. But this time there was no escape for Alcaraz as Sinner fired down an unreturnable serve.

There were no ecstatic celebrations. Sinner raised his arms to the sky, before consoling the man he de-throned and headed off in time-honoured fashion to embrace those in his box.

"Back in the days when I was young, this was only a dream, because it was so far away from where I'm from," the man from the Dolomites, who could have been a top skier, said on court.

"Emotionally I had a very tough loss in Paris. So I'm very happy that I held my nerves and yeah, it's an amazing feeling."

While Sunday's duel contained some

mind-boggling points, it lacked the twists of last month's Roland Garros roller-coaster. It did, though, underline why the Sinner-Alcaraz rivalry is set to dominate men's tennis for the foreseeable future.

Alcaraz had led their series 8-4 entering Sunday's final, including winning their last five showdowns. So while Sinner was fuelled by a shot at redemption, he also needed to make a statement.

He did so with a superlative display of craft and skill. He refused to be knocked off track by losing the last four games of the first set and went on to pick apart Alcaraz's game with a level of tennis his opponent could not match.

Meanwhile, Iga Swiatek took another stride towards tennis greatness by ruthlessly tearing apart American 13th seed Amanda Anisimova 6-0, 6-0 and lifting her first women's singles Wimbledon trophy on Saturday.

The big occasion turned into a nightmare for Anisimova who became the first woman to lose a Wimbledon final by that painful scoreline since 1911 and the first to do so at any major since Steffi Graf routed Natasha Zvereva at the 1988 French Open.

Already a US Open champion and a four-times French Open winner, Swiatek's demolition job at the All England Club meant that she became the youngest woman since a 20-year-old Serena Williams in 2002 to lift major titles on all three surfaces.

Her superb display on the sun-drenched lawns of London also ensured that she emerged as the first player since Monica Seles in 1992 to win her first six major finals.



## El Hombre wins ASCFL title



**El Hombre football team**

El Hombre are the new champions of the All Saints Community Football League (ASCFL).

El Hombre, who clinched third place last year, won the 2025 ASCFL by prevailing 5-4 against Police on penalty kicks in the final at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints on Saturday.

El Hombre secured the title on penalty kicks after both teams finished deadlocked at 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

It means that Police finished in the runners-up po-

sition for the second successive year after losing in the final to Old Stagers last year.

Both teams booked their spot in Saturday's final with victories in the semi-finals.

Kemoy Walsh scored all five goals to lead El Hombre to a 5-1 victory against Fundamentals in the second semi-final.

Walsh had conversions in the 23rd, 28th, 47th, 58th, and 72nd minutes for El Hombre, who also finished the match with 10 men after Karique Knight was ex-

pelled in the 26th minute for picking up a second yellow card.

Troy Jules scored a consolation goal for Fundamentals in the 77th minute.

Police prevailed 3-2 against Dark A Bark in the first semi-final. Shaquille Watkins opened the scoring in the second minute, Daryl Massicot made it two-nil with a 28th-minute conversion, and Orran Isaac scored the winner for Police in the 58th minute.

Vashawn James scored in the 30th minute, and Sham-

oy Carr had a 32nd-minute conversion for Darg A Bark.

Meanwhile, Fundamentals captured third place. Fundamentals came from behind to prevail 3-1 against Darg A Bark as the two losing semi-finalists met in the playoff for third place.

Troy Jules scored twice, and Shafeeq Joseph converted the other goal for Fundamentals.

Kemoy Walsh of El Hombre and Troy Jules of Fundamentals jointly shared the Golden Boot or Top Goal Scorer Award.