

Prime Minister Gaston Browne Calls for Urgent Climate Action

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne (left) and Climate Change Ambassador Ruleta Camacho Thomas at COP30 in Brazil

Local News

Prime Minister Gaston Browne Calls for Urgent Climate Action to Safeguard Small Island Developing States



Prime Minister Browne engaged in high-level discussions with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)

Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, is now in Belém, Brazil to participate in the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Upon arrival, Prime Minister Browne engaged in high-level discussions with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO); President Irfaan Ali of Guyana; and senior Ministers from Venezuela, among other global and regional leaders. The discussions centered on advancing collaborative strategies for climate resilience, sustainable development, and global health security in the context of a rapidly changing climate.

Prime Minister Browne is accompanied by a delegation that includes Ambassador for Climate Change, H.E. Ruleta Camacho-Thomas; Director of the Department of Environment, Diann Black-Layne; Climate Assessment and Information Officer, Arry Simon; Crown Counsel at the Attorney General's Chambers, Zachary Phillips;



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Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Green Climate Fund Operational Focal Point, Gita Gardner and Public Relations Officer, J'noure Smith-Kellman.

Prime Minister Browne speaking at the COP30 Plenary Session, made a resounding call for honesty, courage, and urgent action to address the escalating climate crisis — particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which continue to face existential threats.

In his remarks, the Prime Minister emphasizes that for nations like Antigua and Barbuda, climate change is not a distant concern but a lived reality. “For Small Island States, the climate crisis

is not past tense or future tense — it is our lived reality,” Prime Minister Browne asserts.

“Antigua and Barbuda comes to Belém with one fundamental message: 1.5°C is our lifeline. We cannot and will not surrender 1.5°C.”

The Prime Minister’s address highlights the urgent need for equitable climate finance, stronger global accountability, and accelerated emissions reduction. He further underscores that climate finance is not charity — it is climate justice, calling on major polluting nations to lead in repairing the damage their emissions have caused.

Browne’s intervention follows a week of devastating climate events across

the region, including Hurricane Melissa’s destruction in Jamaica, underscoring the real-time impacts of global warming on vulnerable nations. He reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda’s commitment to building resilience, advancing adaptation, and championing the principles of Loss and Damage as a critical mechanism for recovery and justice. “We must stand as one and fight unrelentingly to stop this ecocide — to restore balance, to build economies that serve humanity, not just profits,” the Prime Minister stated.

“This COP — the COP of Truth — must deliver more than promises. The world has the knowledge, technology, and financial resources to act. What we need now is the political and moral will to match the urgency of this moment.”

Prime Minister Browne also commended Brazil for hosting COP30 in the heart of the Amazon — “the lungs of the Earth” — and for launching the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, describing it as “a bold symbol of global solidarity.”

Antigua and Barbuda, he said, stands ready to partner in global efforts to protect the planet “not as a victim, but as a voice of resilience and hope.”

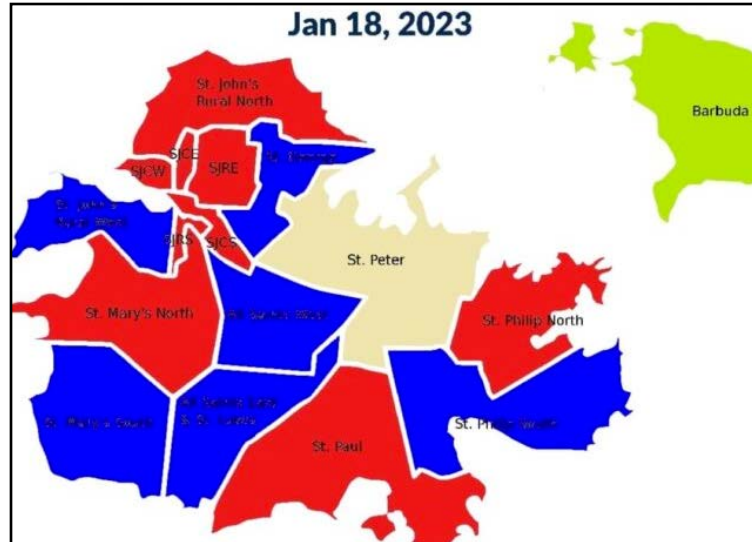
Local News

The Boundaries Commission to hold public consultation

The Boundaries Commission of Antigua and Barbuda is inviting key interest groups and stakeholders to participate in a national consultation on the proposed constituency boundary changes on Monday November 10th at the Multipurpose Cultural Center starting at 2:00pm.

This consultation forms part of the Commission's ongoing comprehensive review of constituency boundaries across the country—an essential component of its constitutional mandate to ensure equitable representation and fair electoral processes.

The Commission emphasizes that transparency, inclu-



sivity, and civic engagement are central to its approach. As such, the consultation seeks to gather meaningful input from organizations that play an active role in Antigua and Barbuda's democratic framework.

During the session, the Commission will present the current proposals, share supporting data and rationale, and invite feedback, questions, and alternative suggestions from participants. The insights gathered will help ensure that the

final recommendations accurately reflect the realities and concerns of communities across the nation.

Organizations are encouraged to designate a representative (or representatives) to attend and contribute to the discussion.

For further information or clarification, please contact:

Mr. Danley Philip, Chairman – Tel: 464-8565

Ms. Nicole Edwards, Secretary – Tel: 464-5286

The Boundaries Commission expresses its appreciation for the continued support and engagement of all stakeholders in strengthening democratic governance in Antigua and Barbuda.

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Antigua and Barbuda sees hosting of CHOGM as 'defining moment'

Antigua and Barbuda sees its hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) as a defining moment for the country as it prepares to welcome more than five thousand visitors to its shores for the November 1 – 4, 2026 meeting.

The observation was made by Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, as both he and Lady Williams, hosted the visiting Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Shirley Botchwey, at an official dinner on Tuesday night at Carlisle Bay.

The dinner was held in celebration of the official launch of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026, which took place on Tuesday 4th November at Sandals Grande Antigua.

In his remarks, Sir Rodney expressed Antigua and Barbuda's deep sense of pride in welcoming the Secretary-General for this momentous occasion.

"Antigua and Barbuda was truly honoured to have her come to our shores to officially launch CHOGM 2026," said Sir Rodney. "This marks a significant milestone for our nation as we prepare to host leaders from across the Commonwealth and showcase our commitment to global partnership and sustainable development."

According to the Governor General as the country moves toward CHOGM 2026, Antigua and Barbuda



is determined to demonstrate that small states can have a big voice on the global stage. "We are building a legacy of inclusion, innovation, and resilience that will inspire the Commonwealth for generations to come," said Sir Rodney.

Along with the Secretary General, the distinguished attendees were; Chief of Staff to the Secretary-General, Ambassador Kwabena Osei-Danquah; High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill, accompanied by Second Secretary Mr. Brent Scotland; Deputy British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

Charley Williams and Resident British Commissioner John Hamilton; and other members from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Secretary-General Botchwey commended Antigua and Barbuda's leadership and vision, noting that CHOGM 2026 will serve as a platform for meaningful collaboration among member states.

"At a time when the world faces mounting global challenges, from climate change to economic vulnerability, it is vital that we recognise the strength within our Commonwealth family," the Secretary-General stated. "Together, we can contribute a fair share of our own solu-

tions—meeting our needs and addressing the issues that most affect our small and vulnerable states."

The evening also featured discussions on ongoing preparations for CHOGM 2026, including infrastructure readiness, cultural programming, and youth engagement initiatives aimed at making the upcoming summit a landmark event in the region.

The dinner concluded with renewed optimism and commitment to ensuring that CHOGM 2026 in Antigua and Barbuda becomes a historic gathering that advances unity, resilience, and prosperity across the Commonwealth.

The African swine fever pilot extends to Barbuda



A team of veterinarian technicians has traveled to the sister island, Barbuda to continue the blood samples from the pigs to ensure that the virus is not present on the island.

During the visit, the team took samples from three participating farmers who were willing to support the pilot. The team of veterinary technicians is led by Alexandria Dowdey from the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Livestock Division.

The African swine fever pilot is a collaboration between IICA and USDA in support of the Ministry of Agriculture priority actions towards the food security and nutritional security.

Field activities continued with visits to four pig farms in Antigua collecting 35 samples of blood.

The goal is to collect minimum 80 samples of blood which will be shipped to Plum Island today, November 7.

The Veterinary and Livestock Division continued to collect blood samples over the past week from other pig farms in an effort to reach the goal of the pilot.

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs, with a near 100% mortality rate. While it does not pose a risk to human health, it poses a significant threat to the pig farming industry in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region, not only directly affecting the herds but also causing devastating socio-economic impacts, threatening livelihoods and food and nutrition security.

With outbreaks already confirmed in parts of the Caribbean, including the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the risk of ASF spreading across CARICOM is high due to the region's interconnected economies, porous borders, high dependence on food imports and limited veterinary infrastructure.





MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ANNOUNCES THE CHRISTMAS HOME AND BUSINESS LIGHTING COMPETITION 2025:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday 01st, October 2025 – *St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.....*
The Department of Creative Industries is pleased to announce the Christmas Home and Business Lighting Competition 2025.

We aim to evoke the spirit of the season through the creative and dazzling lighting display of our 2025 competitors, the Department encourages all interested Home and Business owners to register for the competition on or before Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Registration Forms are available Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Creative Industries Headquarters on Old Parham Road, upstairs INET or the National Festivals Office, 1st Floor Cecil George-John Building, Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley.

Pre-judging will commence on December 20th and 21st December, 2025, while the final displays will be judged on December 28, 2025. Winners will be announced via Good Morning Antigua, Barbuda on Friday, January 5th 2026.

Home entries will be categorized and judged according to the zones – East, West, North, and South. All Home participants will receive a 100% waiver on electricity service for December 15th 2025 to January 15th 2026, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners in each zone as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Business entries will receive a 50% waiver on electricity service for December 2025, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Register now to be a part of the joy and splendor of Christmas 2025.

END.

Civil society groups attend specialized training

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across Antigua and Barbuda have taken a significant step forward in strengthening community resilience and promoting citizen security through a dynamic training session held this week.

Organized under the framework of the United Nations' commitment to inclusive development and peace-building, the CSO Citizen Security Training brought together over 20 participants from diverse organizations working at the grassroots level. The training aimed to build capacity in areas such as civic responsibility, human rights, violence prevention, and the role of CSOs in fostering safer, more inclusive communities.

Jason Francis, Senior Policy Advisor, Conventional Arms Control Programme – Caribbean, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), underscored the importance of CSOs in supporting the objectives of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap to reduce the illicit proliferation of firearms and ammunition across the Caribbean.

"I was deeply impressed with the title of the workshop: Training and Sensitization Session on the Importance of Civil Society Organizations in Strengthening Community Involvement and Citizen Security as this amply reflects the multi-sectoral work done by the Ministry responsible for National Security", remarked John McKinnon, Director of Projects, Ministry of Legal Affairs, Public Safety, Immigration



Jason Francis, Senior Policy Advisor, Conventional Arms Control Programme

and Labour.

Richard Jones, Executive Director of the Caribbean Policy and Development Center, emphasized the importance of working collaboratively through the formation of umbrella bodies and networks among CSOs across the Caribbean to amplify their collective voice and influence regional development agendas. He further encouraged CSOs to document their work and showcase the unique contributions they make to Caribbean development.

Participants engaged in interactive sessions led by regional and international experts, including a compelling presentation by Peace and Development Officer in the Resident Coordinator Office in Trinidad and Tobago, Dylan Kerrigan, whose work on community-based prevention models sparked vibrant discussion and new ideas for local implementation.

"This training has equipped us with the tools and insights needed to design more impactful projects," said one participant. *"It's inspiring to see how citizen-led initiatives can*

contribute meaningfully to national security strategies."

The initiative forms part of a broader effort to enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration in support of citizen security, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's strategic priorities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

LaFleur Quammie, Coordination Officer in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and CSO Focal Point in the Resident Coordinator Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, emphasized the importance of empowering CSOs: *"Civil society plays a critical role in shaping safe and inclusive societies. This training is a testament to the power of partnership and local leadership in driving sustainable change."*

Andrea Andrew, Country Coordination Officer in Antigua and Barbuda in the Resident Coordinator Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean reminded participants that their deep-rooted presence in communities, ability to mobilize collective action, and their role in fostering trust between citizens and institutions make them indispensable partners in advancing citizen security and sustainable development.

The training concluded with a renewed commitment from participants to apply the knowledge gained in their ongoing and future projects, ensuring that citizen security remains a shared responsibility across all sectors of society.



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For registration, Scan the QR Code below:



Under the Auspices of Senator Michael Joseph

Canadian TV Production team films docuseries in Antigua and Barbuda

Global Heroes Productions, a Canadian television production company, with the support of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's (ABTA) Canada office, filmed a multi-episode docuseries, *The Good Trek with Alex Kopacz*, in Antigua last week. The production team spent 10 days capturing the authentic beauty, history and culture of the island, and interviewing residents who are working towards building better communities.

"We were very pleased to have hosted Global Heroes Productions and to share the unique stories and people that make Antigua and Barbuda so special," said Tame-



Host Alex Kopacz interviewed and rowed with Team Antigua Island Girls at Shell Beach Marina (courtesy of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority).

ka Wharton, Director of Tourism for Canada. "This collaboration allows us to connect with an engaged au-

dience that values authentic experiences and sustainable practices."

This project highlights

a growing trend towards meaningful travel, where visitors seek to engage with and connect to the people

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The Good Trek docuseries captured the work of the Antigua Sailing Academy to teach people living with disabilities and youth to sail in the waters of Falmouth Harbour (courtesy of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority).

and local culture. By featuring Antigua and Barbuda through this lens, the docu-

series aims to inspire viewers to go beyond traditional attractions, promoting travel

experiences that support social initiatives and contribute to the sustainable development of the destination.

While on the island the film crew visited the Antigua Naval Dockyard UNESCO World Heritage Site in the National Park and captured some of the Independence celebrations including the National Awards Ceremony, parade, and the food fair. An aspiring Antiguan filmmaker also had the opportunity to shadow and learn from the crew, building capacity of local talent.

Host of the series, Alexander Kopacz, a Canadian Olympic gold medalist and public speaker, met with Team Antigua Island Girls, fishermen, market vendors and the Ras Freeman community. In addition to these exciting interviews, the episode will also feature The

National Sailing Academy's Sailability programme, and the Elkhorn Marine Conservancy's efforts to revive Antigua and Barbuda's ecosystems.

"We are thrilled to have had the support of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority to showcase the heart and soul of this incredible country. Our mission is to shine a light on the positive efforts of people around the world who are providing solutions for their communities' greatest challenges," said Amir Shirazi, President of Global Heroes Productions.

"In Antigua, we discovered a powerful narrative of resilience, and a deep commitment to preserving the natural and cultural heritage, which perfectly embodies the spirit of *The Good Trek*."

DAILY PROGRAMMING



EARLY VIBRATIONS 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
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THE RUSH HOUR SHOW 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

TOUCHLINE 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS

BAD COMPANY 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
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REGGAE INSPIRATION 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

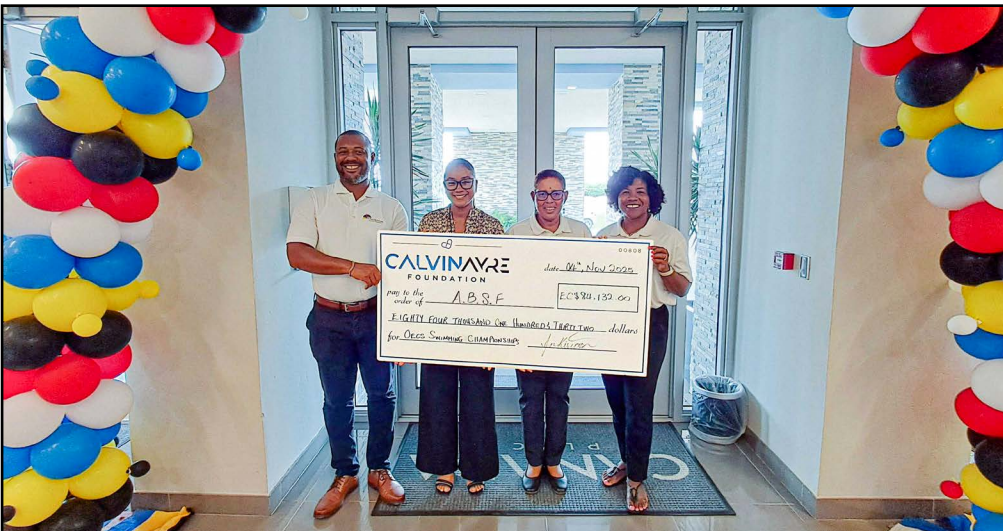
JAH WADADLI 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

Local News

Calvin Ayre Foundation Invests EC\$84,132 as Platinum Sponsor of National Swim Team



National Swimmers attending the OECS Championships



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pay to the order of <u>A.B.S.F</u>	<u>EC\$84,132.00</u>	
<u>EIGHTY FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED & THIRTY TWO</u> dollars		
for <u>OECS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS</u> <i>Jamilla Kirwan</i>		

The Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) and sports development, by supporting the Antigua and Barbuda Swim-

ming Federation (ABSF) with an EC\$84,132.00 Platinum sponsorship, for the upcoming 33rd OECS Swimming Championships, scheduled for 7th - 9th November 2025 in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

This regional championship brings together young athletes from across the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to compete at the highest level, fostering not only elite performance but also regional unity and national pride.

Through this major sponsorship, CAF covered round-trip airfare and accommodation for Antigua and Barbuda's 39-member delegation, ensuring the team is well positioned, supported, and focused as it prepares to defend its reigning championship title.

"The Calvin Ayre Foundation is proud to stand behind Antigua and Barbuda's National Swim Team as they represent our nation at the OECS Championships in St. Vincent," said Jamilla Kirwan, Manager, Calvin Ayre Foundation, *"At CAF, one of core giving pillars is sports, especially when it comes to empowering youth and nurturing their talent on the world stage."*

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation, Edith Clashing, expressed her deepest gratitude to the Calvin Ayre Foundation, noting that this marks the first time a private sponsor has come forward with such a significant level of support.

The sponsorship is part of the Foundation's wider mission to strengthen community development and opportunities for youth through sport, access, and equity.

The athletes, parents and executives of the National Swimming Federation departed Antigua and Barbuda on Thursday, November 06th.

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Reduction in most crimes recorded



The police are reporting that there have been significant reductions in some categories of crimes, while other categories remained unchanged or recorded increases.

This comes as this week's Cabinet Notes is reporting that the Cabinet at its meeting this week reviewed the Crime Statistics Breakdown Report and the Firearms and Ammunition Arrest Report for January–October 2025, comparing them with figures from 2024.

The figures show that overall, crime has decreased by 10.3%, with total reported offenses dropping from 3,034 in 2024 to 2,720 in 2025. Notable reductions were observed in:

- ♦ Breaking and Larceny: Down 9%
- ♦ Burglary: Down 27%
- ♦ Larceny: Down 6%

However, increases were recorded in *indecent assault*, *aggravated robbery*, and *sacrilege*, while murder cases remained steady at 11 for both years.

In firearms-related offenses, 44 individuals (including 3 juveniles) were arrested. Police recovered 25 firearms—ranging from rifles to modified flare and nail guns—and 290 rounds of ammunition. Authorities acknowledged ongoing concerns about illegal firearm circulation despite active enforcement and vowed to strengthen



tracing, intelligence operations, and inter-agency cooperation to curb the issue.

During the question and answer segment of the Post Cabinet briefing, concerns were raised over rising violent offenses among young people. Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant explained that while crime overall is decreasing, Cabinet emphasized the importance of community collaboration in tackling emerging violent trends.

He urged citizens to embrace a 'See Something, Say Something' mindset, rather than the complacency of "see something, ignore everything," which undermines police efforts. Merchant noted that next week's Cabinet meeting will include a detailed report from the Royal Police Force on its strategy to address violent crimes.

He also revealed that discussions are ongoing between the police and local media to enhance public education campaigns, emphasizing legal awareness, deterrence, and crime prevention. Plans include the launch of official police social media accounts—on

Facebook, Instagram, and Messenger—and regular weekly updates across traditional and digital platforms to strengthen transparency and public engagement.

Regarding legal procedures for young offenders, Merchant stated that existing regulations already provide sufficient legal frameworks, but greater enforcement and consistency are needed, particularly around curfew laws for minors.

Merchant was also questioned about what measures are in place to support victims and to prevent repeat offenses. Merchant revealed that the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has been directed to strengthen its focus on community and victim support services, not only addressing perpetrators but also aiding survivors.

He explained that the police are developing a framework for victim assistance, emphasizing that prevention and recovery are equally vital components of crime management. "Yes, it is being looked at," he confirmed, referencing the Cabinet's support for this initiative.

The Evolving Role of Finance Professionals

Accountants are normally thought of as pencil pushers – however the profession has become more than that. That is the focus of the 2025 Accountants Week being celebrated from Sunday 9th November – Saturday 15th, November.

Accountants Week will be celebrated across the OECS islands comprising the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Eastern Caribbean.

While some sessions will be in person and specific to each island, there will be several opportunities for linking up including the two day Business Conference examining Corporate Governance, Artificial Intelligence, Branding and staying relevant for the next 10 years.

Why be a member of the ICAEC?

The first listed objective of the Institute in the ICAEC Agreement is “to promote, foster and maintain the highest standards of accounting in public practise, the public service and the commercial and industrial spheres”.

■ **Members are considered the Crème de la Crème** - The Institute routinely offers opportunities for members (practising and non-practising) to improve on their knowledge and technical skills. It is a requirement for non-practising members to obtain at least 21 CPD hours per year. Practising Members need 40 hours annually. This ensures that members are up to date with the

latest knowledge in accounting.

- **Employability** - Employers routinely look first to Institute’s members to fill vacancies. All members must possess a professional designation as verified by the Council prior to admission to membership
- **Networking** - Members have a network of like-minded professionals
- **Training** - Members have access to training at reduced rates
- **Extended Membership** - Your membership of the ICAEC also makes you a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean, ICAC
- **Cost Savings** - Reduced rates for attendance at the annual ICAC conference

Who can be a member of the ICAEC?

There are two levels of membership: -

- **Practising Members**
- **Non - Practising Members**

To become a member of the ICAEC, one must be in possession of a professional accounting designation. A professional designation is that step after obtaining the first or undergraduate degree. Most persons are familiar from seeing job advertisements in the press with the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) from the US. The CA issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Canada,

the Certified General Accountant, CGA; Certified Management Accountant, CMA and the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, ACCA from the UK. These designations are conferred upon meeting the requirements for membership as specified by the various bodies. In all cases there is the requirement for pass-

ing examinations and in most cases there is a requirement for practical experience to be obtained.



ARTICLE 16

Publication of names of members with valid practicing certificates

The Council shall cause to be published annually in a newspaper circulation in each member state, a list of all members of the institute who have been granted valid practising certificates

Membership valid to March 31, 2026

ICAEC - Antigua Branch

Practicing Member List 2025 - 2026

	First name	Last Name
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2	Ralston	Allen
3	Sandra	Baptist
4	Londel	Benjamin
5	Lisa Marie	Brathwaite
6	Heather	Browne
7	Davidson	Charles
8	Campbell	Coates
9	Neil	Coates
10	Kathy	David
11	Gordon	Edwards
12	Hordley	Forbes
13	Raquel	Glynn
14	Wilbur	Harrigan
15	Dojn	Kentish
16	Sharon	Matthew
17	James	Massiah
18	Ivonie	Punter
19	Vincent	Richards
20	Lisa	Roberts
21	Christine	Russell
22	Megan	Samuel-Fields
23	Cleveland	Seaforth
24	Cassandra P.	Simon
25	Veran Annver	Spencer-Graham
26	Avondale	Thomas
27	Romell	Tiwari
28	Craig	Walter
29	Charles	Walwyn
30	Donald	Ward
31	Robert	Wilkinson

“Sovereignty” – A Plaything of the Powerful?



For the powerful, sovereignty is a sword; for the small, it must remain a shield

By Sir Ronald Sanders

Sovereignty is supposedly the cornerstone of international order: the formal declaration that every state has the right to govern itself, protect its territory, and determine its own destiny. Yet the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of American States proclaim not the idea of sovereignty in general, but the specific principle of sovereign equality among states. In law, all states are equal in sovereignty; in practice, they are not. Sovereignty is both a right and a capacity, and while every nation possesses the right, not all have the means to exercise it freely. In the real world, only powerful states are truly sovereign; weak countries are sovereign only by permission, or by strong collective action.

Since the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, the idea that all states are equal before international law has been celebrated as the great equalizer of nations. Yet power, not law, defines the boundaries of freedom. Great powers decide when intervention is justified, which states may possess certain technologies, and what constitutes legitimate governance. They regularly exempt themselves from the rules they enforce

on others.

The problem is not new; it has only changed form. The international system was built to preserve order among the strong, not to guarantee equality for the weak. Law follows power, not the reverse. When powerful states act beyond the limits of law - in military action, sanctions, or financial coercion - they are not punished. For smaller states, however, the slightest deviation invites reproach, blacklisting, or exclusion.

Post-colonial scholars have long argued that sovereignty itself was conceived in imperial terms. As Professor Antony Anghie showed, European powers defined “civilized” peoples as sovereign and the rest as subjects of tutelage. The legacy of that hierarchy endures. The instruments may have changed - development loans, debt conditions, trade rules, and aid regimes - but the logic remains: some states may act freely, others only when allowed.

Today’s international financial and regulatory structures often reproduce this inequality. The Caribbean knows this well, beginning with the OECD’s 1998 *Harmful Tax Competition* initiative, whose standards were imposed on small states, for what it called “harmful tax practices”. This was followed by the European Union’s “list of non-cooperative jurisdictions” (launched in 2016 and updated regularly), under which several Caribbean countries have been repeatedly coerced through black and grey lists until they surrendered to imposed standards.

Ratings agencies, sanctions committees, and multilateral lenders now exercise power once wielded by colonial administrators. The result is what might be called *conditional sovereignty*: a state’s independence is respected only so long as it conforms to standards set by the mighty.

Political scientist Stephen Krasner famously called this system one of “organized hypocrisy.” Powerful states claim to respect sovereignty, yet they violate it whenever their interests demand. In practice, sovereignty has become graduated; strong for some, weak for others. The powerful decide the exception; they determine when the rules do not apply.

This inequality extends to international institutions. The veto power in the UN Security Council, the dominance of rich states in global financial governance, and the persistent asymmetries in trade negotiations and climate-change talks all demonstrate that sovereignty’s equality is largely nominal. The architecture of international law was never designed to redistribute power; only to manage it.

However, for small and vulnerable states, especially in the Caribbean and Pacific, the status of “sovereign state” is both precious and precarious. It is not a tool of dominance but a shield of existence - a fragile protection against neglect or coercion. As the late Caribbean statesman, Sir Shridath Ramphal, taught, for small states sovereignty is no licence of power but a shield of survival. For powerful states, sovereignty is a sword; for small states it is a shield.

Small states face the paradox of dependence: they must engage the global system to survive, but doing so often requires concessions that erode their autonomy. Economic vulnerability, limited military capacity, and exposure to climate and financial shocks all constrain the practical meaning of sovereignty. Yet it is precisely because of these vulnerabilities that sovereignty matters most. It affirms the moral equality of nations even when material equality is impossible. That is why Article 2 (1) of the UN Charter is of such importance; it affirms that “the Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all of

its Members.” While the principle is often ignored, its proclamation is the lifeline that gives small states legitimacy in the international system.

In the contemporary world, the emerging concepts of digital sovereignty, including Artificial Intelligence (AI); climate sovereignty; and food sovereignty represent new efforts to establish dominion in spaces dominated by transnational corporations and major powers. The campaigns by small states, led by Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, for a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index - adopted by the UN General Assembly in August 2024 - and for recognition of rights in the International Court of Justice’s 2025 climate advisory opinion are examples of how law can be reclaimed as an instrument of equality, not subordination.

Sovereignty, therefore, must always be claimed by small states but the exercise of it must be strengthened through collective action. Individual sovereignty is easily quashed by the tools available to larger powers. For small states, survival depends on cooperation, not confrontation; on collective strength, not solitary assertion. Regional integration, whether through CARICOM, the OECS, or the Alliance of Small Island States, transforms weakness into influence by speaking with one voice on global issues such as climate change, debt, and development finance. Yet, even with this understanding, some small states continue to weaken themselves and the collectives to which they belong by seeking or accepting convenient alliances with powerful countries for short-term gains.

However, in a world where power determines outcomes, small states should rally together in solidarity and common cause. They should use their legitimacy to persuade, to bargain, and to survive. The Caribbean’s history of decolonization, democratic resilience, and commitment to international law gives it a standing that is not measured in weapons or wealth. When that collective standing is exercised consistently

and coherently, small countries give themselves a chance to exist in dignity with their culture and identity intact.

The inequality of sovereignty remains the central contradiction of our time: a doctrine that proclaims equality but operates through hierarchy. The challenge for small states is not merely to survive within that system, but to insist that law must restrain power, not be bent to serve it.

Sovereignty, in its truest sense, is the

freedom to choose one’s path without coercion. For the powerful, that freedom is assumed; for the small, it must be defended. All small states – in every global and regional organization – must understand that the success of such defence depends on collective action, jointly devised.

(The author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Dean of the OAS Ambassadors accredited to the OAS. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



VACANCY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) invites applications for the position of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** at the V.C. Bird International Airport (VCBIA).

ABAA is responsible for the management and operations of both V.C. Bird International Airport and Barbuda International Airport, ensuring safety, efficiency, and world-class service in compliance with international aviation standards.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic leadership and oversight to ensure alignment with the Authority’s mission and vision.
- Develop and implement Board-approved policies, plans, and operational strategies.
- Ensure compliance with national, regional, and international aviation regulations and standards.
- Oversee financial performance, budgeting, and resource allocation.
- Lead airport modernisation, infrastructure, and development initiatives.
- Foster a culture of safety, accountability, and service excellence.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with government ministries, regulators, unions, and industry partners.
- Represent the Authority at local, regional, and international meetings, conferences, and forums.

Minimum Qualifications & Experience:

- Bachelor’s in Business Administration, Aviation Management, Public Administration, or a related discipline
- 10–15 years of progressively responsible experience in aviation, transportation, or a comparable leadership environment.
- Proven expertise in strategic planning, financial management, and stakeholder relations.
- Completion of or active enrollment in the Airport Management Professional Accreditation Programme (AMPAP) will be considered a strong asset.
- Strong knowledge of aviation regulatory bodies (MOCA, ECCAA, ICAO).
- Demonstrated ability to lead in high-pressure and complex environments

Key Competencies:

- Strategic and innovative leadership
- Financial acumen and governance
- Relationship management and negotiation
- Project and infrastructure development
- Risk and safety management
- Organisational transformation and change management
- Effective communication and public representation

Why Join Us:

This is a unique opportunity to lead one of the Caribbean’s premier airport authorities during an exciting period of growth and transformation. The successful candidate will have the platform to make a lasting impact on national economic development and regional aviation excellence.

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority
V.C. Bird International Airport
P.O. Box 1051
Coolidge, St. George’s, Antigua
E-mail: hr@abairportauthority.com

The deadline for receipt of applications is 28 November 2025.
Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.

Pause Before You Post: Over 45% of Young People Regret What They Post on Online Platforms



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

As someone who doesn't spend much time online, I'm often struck by the level of hostility I see in the comment sections when I do. In a society as close-knit as ours, this kind of digital enmity is not just unhealthy—it's dangerous. That's why I'm writing this message to our youth.

It's 11:47 p.m. You're lying in bed, scrolling through your phone. You see a post that annoys you. You type a fiery comment. You hit "send." You feel better—for a moment.

But by morning, your words are screenshotted, shared, and reshaped. The damage is done.

This is the reality for many young people across Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean. Social media is powerful—but it's also permanent. And in a region where over 5 million people are active on platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat, the need to pause and think before you post has never been more urgent.

The Digital Mirror

Social media is where we laugh, learn, vent, and connect. But it's also where we reveal parts of ourselves—sometimes too much, too fast.

A recent study in The Bahamas found that two-thirds of teens spend three or more hours daily on social media, with many engaging in risky behaviours like cyberbullying and sexting. Across the region, youth are facing rising levels of anxiety, depression, and regret linked to what they post online.

And it's not just about mental health. Employers, scholarship boards, and even immigration officers now check social media profiles. One survey found that 45% of people regret what they posted in their younger years, and 32% said it hurt their job prospects.

Stories of Regret

Young people and adults too have shared stories of posting in anger, sharing private moments, or joining online trends that later embarrassed them. One Caribbean teen said, "I posted something about a friend during an argument. We haven't spoken since. I wish I had just waited."

Another confessed, "I shared a video that got laughs, but it made my cousin look bad. I didn't think it would go viral."

These moments are real. And they're reminders that what we post can outlive the moment.

Why We Post Without Thinking

1. **Peer pressure:** Everyone's doing it, so we join in.
2. **Emotions:** Anger, sadness, or excitement can cloud judgment.
3. **Validation:** Likes and shares feel good—but they don't always reflect truth.
4. **FOMO:** Fear of missing out pushes us to post fast, not smart.

But as Caribbean elders say, "*Hurry bird don't build good nest.*"

A Call to Action to All

Here's what I invite you to do—before your next post:

1. **Pause:** Take 10 seconds. Ask, "Would I be okay if this was shown to my teacher, boss, or grandmother?"
2. **Reflect:** Is this post kind? Is it true? Is it necessary?
3. **Protect:** Don't share private info—yours or others. Respect boundaries.
4. **Think Long-Term:** Will this help or hurt your future?
5. **Be the Example:** Use your platform to uplift, not to tear down.

Let's Build a Better Country by Posting Responsibly.

Social media isn't the enemy. It's a tool. But like any tool, it can build or break.

Let's choose to build.

Let's be that generation that thinks before it posts. That uses social media to inspire, inform, and connect—not to shame, expose, or destroy.

Because in the Caribbean, we know the power of words. And online, our words travel fast, far and wide.

So next time your fingers hover over "send," remember: **Pause. Think. Then post.**

Let's make Antigua and Barbuda a model for digital responsibility—one thoughtful post at a time."

8th November, 2025.

Happy Birthday



Lynette Thwaites

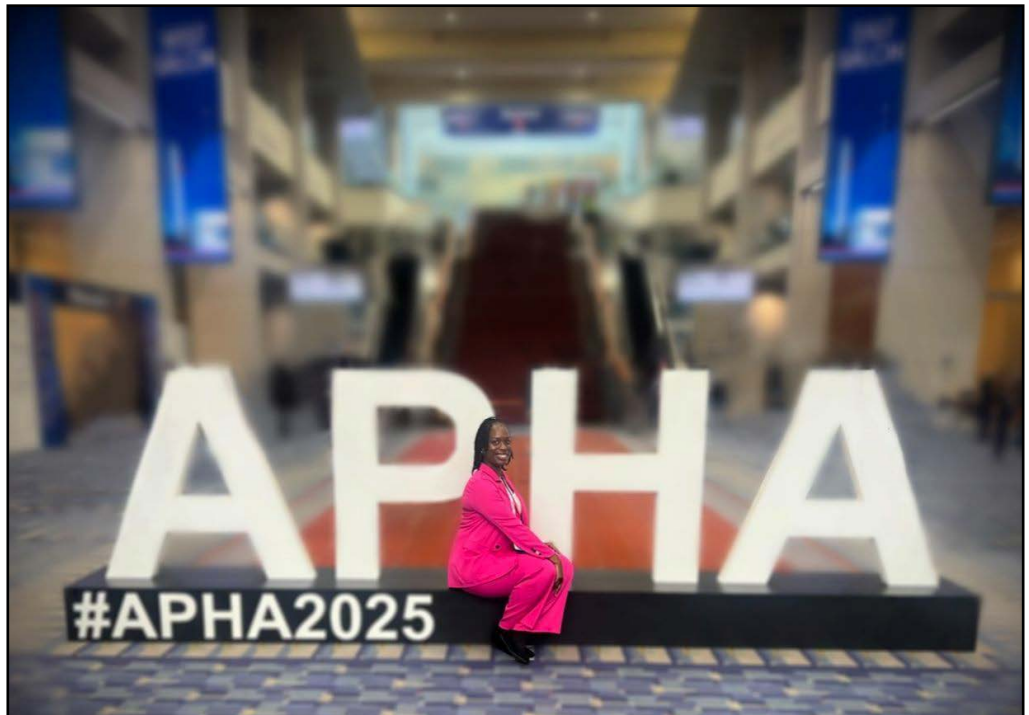
We hope your birthday is
as special as you are.

Scrub Life Cares Presents Groundbreaking Menstrual Health Research at the 2025 American Public Health Association Conference

Scrub Life Cares, a registered non-profit organization dedicated to advancing menstrual equity and reproductive and sexual health education, is proudly representing research from Antigua and Barbuda on the global public health stage this week. Founder and CEO, **Tanya Ambrose, MPH**, is currently presenting at the **American Public Health Association (APHA) 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo** in Washington, D.C.. “This research will serve as a catalyst for national policy advocacy and deeper collaboration with our Ministries of Health and Education,” Ambrose noted. “It opens the door to broader regional discussions around health tourism and the design of sustainable, gender-inclusive public health systems in the Caribbean.”

At APHA 2025 with over 16,000 health professionals, Ambrose is presenting Scrub Life Cares’ groundbreaking research, **“Lived Experiences of Menstrual Health and Product Access in Antigua and Barbuda Among Women and Girls: A Qualitative Study,”** as part of the International Health program. Later this week, she will also share findings from **“Periods & Period Products: A Qualitative Research Report”** during the virtual **International Association for Adolescent Health (IAAH) World Congress**. Both studies mark the first time original menstrual health research from Antigua and Barbuda is being presented at this level of international recognition.

“This moment is monumental for Scrub Life Cares, and for Antigua and Barbuda as a whole,” said Ambrose during her presentation. She continues, “To see our community-based research and advocacy reach the world stage is proof that our stories, challenges, and solutions are worthy of attention. Centering the lived experiences of women and girls across the Caribbean ensures menstrual equity becomes a global



Scrub Life Cares Founder and CEO Tanya Ambrose at APHA 2025

public health priority.”

This marks Scrub Life Cares’ second appearance at the American Public Health Association’s prestigious Annual Meeting. In 2023, the organization’s powerful short film on period poverty was accepted into the APHA Short Film Festival, capturing the emotional and social realities of period poverty through a Caribbean lens. Two years later, Scrub Life Cares returns with data-driven, community-rooted research, reaffirming its dual commitment to storytelling and evidence-based advocacy.

Following the APHA 2025 conference, she will continue on to the **13th World Congress on Adolescent Health**, hosted by the **International Association for Adolescent Health (IAAH)**, now being held virtually due to the national disaster declaration in Jamaica following the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Melissa.

While the Caribbean continues to grapple with the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the families

who have lost loved ones. Scrub Life Cares expresses solidarity with our regional partners, particularly the women, girls, and health professionals in Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba, who continue to demonstrate strength and resilience in the face of adversity.

In these moments, we must remember the women and girls who are in need of menstrual and hygiene supplies. Additionally, we highlight the importance of maternal health and child health. Now more than ever, communities must support new and expecting mothers and breast-feeding moms. As our Caribbean sisters and brothers rebuild their homes and hearts, we remain committed to ensuring access to essential health and wellness resources, from maternal care to menstrual supplies and mental health support.

Scrub Life Cares continues to champion evidence-based programming and community empowerment through its signature initiatives. Its flagship event, the Grow With the Flo: Women & Girls Health Expo, provides a



Scrub Life Cares Founder and CEO Tanya Ambrose presenting research APHA 2025.

platform for menstrual health education, inter-generational learning, and reproductive justice by reaching hundreds of women, girls, and men annually. The findings being presented this week directly inform the future of this work and will strengthen the organization's ability to advocate for policy integration, school-based education reform, and public-private partnerships on menstrual health and hygiene.

Though small in size, Scrub Life Cares' impact has transcended borders. The organization has gained growing visibility in the United States, particularly in South Carolina, where Ambrose earned her Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in Health Services Policy and Management and a Certificate in Maternal and Child Health. Her leadership bridg-

es Caribbean community work with global public health dialogue, combining research, advocacy, and storytelling to create systems that center the voices of women and girls.

"Being able to take research conducted at home in Antigua in collaboration with partners like Aritex Biotech and present it internationally is a full-circle moment," Ambrose reflected. "It's a testament to what can happen when community-driven work meets global recognition."

Scrub Life Cares extends sincere gratitude to the study participants and the dedicated research team whose collaboration made this project possible, including **Mrs. Billie Sterling-Lewis, Miss Chloe Ambrose, Miss Shushanna Ambrose, Miss Claire Donahue,**

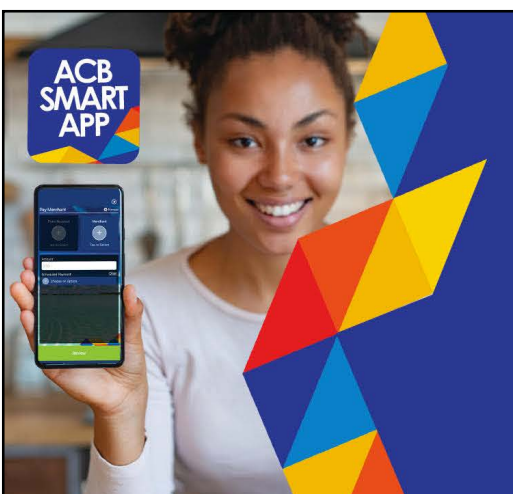
Miss Shavani Stewart, Miss Britney McDonald, Miss Tia Philip, Miss Kayla Joy Richards, Miss Janet Simon, Miss Villacy Clendenen, Mr. Karil Knight, Miss Kirah Gregory, and Ms. Lyneth Freelan, the Cana Moravian Church who hosted the qualitative research session. Their insights and commitment continue to shape this work's authenticity and impact.

"This research belongs to the community," Ambrose concluded during her APHA remarks. "It belongs to a future where no woman or girl is left behind because of her period. Menstrual health is not a privilege; it is a human right."

Proudly marking its 5th anniversary in November 2025, **Scrub Life Cares** increases dialogue on public health, access to menstrual health resources and comprehensive reproductive and sexual health education across Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean. Through public engagement, advocacy, and education, the organization continues to advance dignity, health equity, and empowerment for women and girls throughout the Caribbean.

For more information or to support Scrub Life Cares, visit www.scrublifecares.org or follow on Instagram [@scrublifecares](https://www.instagram.com/scrublifecares).

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Business Status: Existing ☐ No. of years in operation: _____
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Please State Purpose for which Loan is Requested:

Applying for Concessions: Yes ☐ No ☒

Documents to be Provided with Application :

- ☐ Business Registration/ Certificate of Incorporation
- ☐ Articles of Association /By-Laws
- ☐ Business License
- ☐ Business Plan with financial projection
- ☐ Business Financial Statements for the 2 previous years (*existing companies only*)
- ☐ Evidence of Registration with the Inland Revenue Department
- ☐ Valid Government-issued photo ID (*passport, driver's license, electoral, social security, MBS cards*)
- ☐ Proof of Address (*utility bills not older than 3 months, driver's license*)
- ☐ Minimum 1 financial reference
- ☐ Character Reference Letter
- ☐ Invoice/ Estimate

Additional documents may be required

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If yes, please provide the name of institution(s) and Purpose(s):

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Do you have any existing loans? Yes ☐ No ☐

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Have you or your spouse served as a co-signer, guarantor or endorser for any financial obligation?
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Other
(specify) _____

Details of Your Personal Income and Expenses:

Annual Household Income	\$	Annual Household Expenses	\$
Employment Income		Loan and/or mortgage payments	
Other Income(state source)		Lease/rental payments	
Spouse's Income		Property taxes	
Interest and dividends		Approx. total living expenses (food, utilities, clothing etc.)	
Other Income:		Other Expenses:	
Total Annual Income	\$	Total Annual Expenses	\$

Average Monthly Income: _____

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By signing below, you are certifying that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete and that you agree to the terms and conditions set out in this application.

Terms and Conditions - by signing this application you,

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- Authorize us to request, obtain and disclose information to credit grantors, any person or body who have financial relationships with you or as required under the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.
- Authorize us to verify the information you have provided to us.
- Authorize any person or financial institution relating to this application to provide us with the relevant information.
- Will not withdraw any consent given to us as long as a business relationship exists with us including the use or disclosure of information and collections procedures.
- Agree that we reserve the right to either agree or decline to grant credit to you.
- Agree that we will assess the above information in addition to conducting due diligence to determine the eligibility of this application.
- Agree that should the loan be approved, each owner of the company is required to individually sign or personally guaranty this loan facility.

Applicant's Signature(s):

DD/MM/YY

DD/MM/YY

Regional News

JCA urges donors to coordinate relief shipments through registered charities

The Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) is urging individuals who intend to donate large quantities of relief items in response to Hurricane Melissa to coordinate with registered local charities.

Chief Information Officer, André Williams, explained that individuals are permitted to clear a “reasonable quantity” of approved relief items. However, shipments such as 100 pairs of shoes will be classified as commercial quantities.

“The Government has given this relief for persons to benefit. These are goods that are not for resale, but are destined to be given to individuals. There are persons who would want to send what is deemed a commercial quantity. But of course, this is a private contribution and that is where the charitable institutions come in. There are a number of registered charitable institutions. We have Food For the Poor and a number of others... and so persons who are associated



with charities will be able to now send this larger quantity,” he explained.

Organisations registered under the Charities Act are exempt from import duties and General Consumption Tax (GCT)

Williams was speaking in a JIS Studio ‘58A’ interview on Wednesday (November 5).

The Government has waived customs duty and General Consumption Tax (GCT) on relief supplies and dona-

tions to support national recovery efforts following the passage of Category Five Hurricane Melissa.

The duty- and tax-free period, which commenced on October 29 and was originally scheduled to conclude on November 29, has been officially extended to December 31.

Williams also advised that individuals or organisations wishing to donate school supplies should coordinate with the National Education Trust (NET).

NET is a charitable organisation and government agency that has been playing a pivotal role in transforming Jamaica’s education sector by mobilising resources and fostering strategic partnerships with the Jamaican Diaspora, as well as local and international stakeholders.

“For healthcare, it is working with the National Healthcare Enhancement Foundation; they are also a registered charitable institution,” Williams informed.

He assured that all relief shipments arriving in Jamaica before December 31 will qualify for the duty and tax exemptions.

“I guess a lot of persons are concerned about the busy period, where there are more goods coming in and then probably a little bit of a delay on the logistics end. But once the goods get in the island before that date, then they’re still eligible to benefit from the relief,” Williams said. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Climate change boosted Hurricane Melissa's destructive winds and rain, analysis finds

Human-caused climate change boosted the destructive winds and rain unleashed by Hurricane Melissa and increased the temperatures and humidity that fuelled the storm, according to an analysis released Thursday.

Melissa was one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes to make landfall and brought destructive weather to Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba, causing dozens of deaths across the Caribbean. Roofs were torn off of homes, hospitals were damaged, roads were blocked by landslides and crop fields were ruined.

The rapid analysis by World Weather Attribution found that climate change increased Melissa's maximum wind speeds by 7% and made the rainfall 16% more intense. The scientists also wrote that the temperature and humidity in which the storm intensified were made six times more likely due to climate change compared to a pre-industrial world.

Rapid attribution analyses are a type of research that study factors influencing an extreme weather event and explore what the event would have been like in a world without climate change. They are typically published days or weeks after an extreme weather event.

Melissa slowly tracked across the region and drew in enormous amounts of energy from abnormally warm ocean water. The analysis reported ocean temperatures in Melissa's path through the Caribbean were about 1.4°C (2.5°F) warmer compared to a pre-industrial climate.

"Warmer ocean temperatures are effectively the engine that drives a hurricane ... the warmer the ocean temperatures, the greater the wind speed a hurricane can have," said Theodore Keeping, a climate scientist who works for WWA and contributed to the analysis.

Melissa is the fourth storm in the Atlantic this year to undergo rapid in-



tensification, which is when a tropical cyclone's maximum sustained winds increase by at least 30 knots (about 35 mph or 56 kph) in 24 hours.

"A hurricane this rare would actually have had wind speeds about 10 mph (16 kph) less extreme" in a pre-industrial climate, said Keeping. He said research links hurricane wind speeds to economic damage and there would have been less destruction caused by Melissa if the winds were slower.

Scientists have linked rapid intensification of hurricanes in the Atlantic to human-caused climate change. Planet-warming gases released by humans, such as carbon dioxide, cause the atmosphere to hold more water vapour and increase ocean temperatures. Warmer oceans give hurricanes fuel to unleash more rain and strengthen more quickly.

"It's like basically taking a sponge and wringing it out, and climate change is making that sponge even larger," said Brian Tang, a professor of atmospheric science at University at Albany.

Tang, who was not involved in the WWA research, said the methodology of the study released Thursday seems robust, and one of the more novel as-

pects of the analysis was the connection the scientists drew between wind speeds and increase in damage, which he said is a challenging area of research.

Andrew Dessler, professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M University, who was not involved in the WWA research, said the findings of the rapid analysis are in line with existing research about climate change and tropical storms in the Atlantic. "This is completely consistent with our expectation of what's going to happen in the future," Dessler said.

Rapid attribution analyses help fill the need for an explanation about the influence of climate change shortly after a catastrophic weather event occurs, said Dessler. He said such analyses are "very valuable as a quick look" before the scientists are able to do more time-consuming calculations.

Dessler said one of the scariest aspects of Melissa was the storm's peak sustained winds of 185 mph (298 kph) winds. "That's pretty rare to have a storm that strong. And I think that, to the extent that this is a harbinger of the future, it's not good," he said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News

Police await further analysis after autopsy finds UWI student died from asphyxia

The police are awaiting further analysis of evidence in the death of University Of the West Indies, Mona, student Victoria Hanley-Brown following an autopsy on Wednesday which said the primary cause of death was asphyxia or suffocation.

Hanley-Brown, 20, was found dead at the George Alleyne Hall on October 16.

The conclusion by a government pathologist was that Hanley-Brown died from asphyxia, a condition arising when the body is deprived of oxygen, causing unconsciousness or death.

The Gleaner understands, further, that the examination unearthed a “manoeuvre on the neck under unknown



circumstances”.

A senior police officer told

The Gleaner the police made further enquiries of the pathologist regarding the “ma-

noeuvre on the neck” and a report is expected soon.

Hanley-Brown’s death was first classified as a suspected suicide.

Her body was discovered October 16 around 7 a.m. in her room on Block 17 of the hall of residence.

She was reportedly last seen alive around 1 a.m.

A friend is believed to have found the body and raised an alarm.

The police had said from the outset, they would be examining closed-circuit television footage as part of their investigation.

The St Andrew Central (CIB) is probing the incident. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Shipping delays expected after UPS cargo plane crash



The UPS cargo plane crash on Tuesday at the company's global aviation hub in Kentucky, which killed at least 12, will temporarily disrupt the supply chain and result in some shipping delays.

But UPS says it has contingency plans in place, and experts say the impact should be cleared up before the peak holiday season.

The plane crashed Tuesday evening as it was departing for Honolulu from UPS Worldport, UPS' largest shipping hub, at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport.

Package sorting at the centre was halted late Tuesday and the halt continued on Wednesday. About 416,000 packages can be

sorted at the facility per hour, according to a UPS fact sheet.

UPS has not released any details about how many and what type of packages were on the plane.

Ed Anderson, a professor of supply chain and operations management for the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas, estimates the average number of packages per plane leaving the Louisville shipping hub is 10,000 to 13,000.

Consumers who want to check on their UPS packages can wait to hear from the company or look up tracking details online. UPS has a claims process for lost or damaged packages, but it is unclear if people and busi-

nesses with packages on the downed plane will have to go through that process. UPS will likely reach out to affected customers in coming days. They did not respond to a request for comment.

Tom Goldsby, professor of supply chain management at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, said UPS will most likely step up flights to its regional hubs to offset Worldport's closure.

The hubs are "going to take on a greater burden until that critical operation in Louisville gets back to the full capacity," he said.

UPS said in a statement that it has contingency plans in place to help ensure that shipments arrive at their fi-

nal destinations as quickly as conditions permit, but did not give specifics on what the plans were.

Goldsby said UPS will be under pressure to resolve any delays before the peak holiday season.

"It's an issue that they quickly want to resolve, but they are going to have to do their due diligence in resolving the current crisis," he said.

He himself was expecting a UPS package from Oregon routed through Worldport today, but got a message that it would have to be rescheduled.

"I understand the circumstance and will gladly receive it when it arrives," he said, adding patience will be needed for others expecting packages. "People and businesses don't have a lot of understanding (about the supply chain). We just don't expect our logistics operations to have a calamity or even a bad day."

The crash comes as UPS works on a turnaround, focusing less on Amazon deliveries and more on business-to-business deliveries. In its most recent earnings report last week, the company said it has cut 48,000 jobs in the year to date and closed some buildings as part of its turnaround. Its third-quarter results beat expectations. (AP)

Miss Universe contestants walk out after pageant chief berates Miss Mexico



A Miss Universe executive singled out and criticized one contestant at an event in Thailand, causing a walkout by contestants and an international controversy after the video went viral.

Ahead of the 74th Miss Universe competition, which takes place in Bangkok later this month, contestants gathered in Thailand over the past few days. Per the schedule, delegates arrived Nov. 2 ahead of a sashing ceremony, which was set for Nov. 5.

As part of the schedule of events, contestants attended a talk from Nawat Itsaragrisil, a Thai businessman and national director of Miss Universe Thailand.

While live streaming the event on Facebook, the Miss Universe Thailand organization captured a heated exchange between Itsaragrisil and Miss Universe Mexico titleholder Fatima Bosch.

He has since apologized and said he was misunderstood.

What happened, and how did the Miss Universe organization respond? Here's everything we know so far.

While speaking to Miss Universe con-

testants, Itsaragrisil appeared to single out Bosch for not participating in certain promotional activities for the pageant and its host country. He also criticized the national director of Mexico's Miss Universe organization.

"If you follow the order from your national director, you are dumb," he said.

He continued to criticize not posting about the host country and the pageant before Bosch again spoke up.

Bosch, who spoke calmly throughout the interaction, seemed to upset Itsaragrisil as she attempted to share her perspective.

"Not about you," he said.

"I didn't give you opportunity to talk. Please keep polite. I still talking. Listen," he added as the exchange continued.

When Itsaragrisil asked why Bosch stood up to talk while he's "talking to everybody," she said, "Because I have a voice."

When Bosch said Itsaragrisil was "not respecting me as a woman," he grew increasingly frustrated and called for security.

The other women in the room were

disturbed by the tense interaction and said, "No," as Itsaragrisil called for security.

Meanwhile, Bosch could be heard saying, "I am here representing my country, and it is not my fault that you have problems with my organization."

The other women in the room then got up to follow Bosch out and Itsaragrisil instructed them to "sit down" if they wanted to continue in the contest.

Outside of the event, Bosch expressed disappointment with the way she had been treated. In a video interview that was shared by the Miami Herald, she said Itsaragrisil was "not respectful."

"He called me dumb because he have problems with the organization. And I think that's not fair because I'm here and I do everything OK. I don't mess with anyone. I just try to be kind. I'm trying to give my best and he just shot me and he just said to me and shut up and a lot of different things," she said.

Bosch explained that she and her fellow contestants are "empowered women" with a powerful "platform."

"And no one can shut our voice and no one will do that to me," she said.

Following the incident, the official Miss Universe Mexico Instagram account expressed its support for Bosch.

"Mexican women always getting up. We will always raise our face and soul high, because the voice of @fatima-boschfdz carries with it the voice of women of the world. Today we don't only speak for Mexico, we speak for all those who deserve respect, dignity and recognition. Thank you to all the fans, media, and content creators who have come together to stand up for what's right. Mexico does not shut up. Mexico is rising up," the post read.

Miss Universe Organization President Raúl Rocha responded to the viral moment by filming a video message condemning Itsaragrisil's treatment of Bosch.

"I will not allow the values of respect and dignity toward women to be violated. Unfortunately, Nawat has forgotten the true meaning of what it means to be a genuine host. It means to demonstrate to all delegates of all countries that he as a host, he has the obligation to serve them, assist them and support them, and to ensure they have a unique life experience filled with kindness and courtesy so that they may enjoy and take from Thailand the best memories of their lives, in an atmosphere of healthy and friendly competition," he said.

Rocha expressed his "great indignation toward Nawat" and said he "humiliated, insulted and he showed a lack of respect" toward Bosch.

Rocha said Itsaragrisil has a "constant

desire to be the center of attention" and urged him to change his approach while speaking with members of the Miss Universe organization and others.

"Nawat you need to stop. Every woman in the world should be respected," he added.

"I will not allow any of them to be attacked and humiliated as many of them have managed to reach this platform of visibility and voice precisely while trying to overcome situations like these," he said.

Itsaragrisil addressed the controversy with a post on Facebook. While re-sharing a post from the Miss Universe Organization, he added, "Just finished meeting with MUO from Mexico. Thanks so much for understanding and corroborate."

The Miss Universe statement said the organization "reaffirms its commitment to working closely with the host community, the Miss Grand Interna-

tional Organization, and all local partners to ensure the continued success of the 74th Miss Universe competition. Together, we are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of respect, safety, and integrity for all participants, staff, and stakeholders."

Itsaragrisil also seemingly apologized, per footage from an Instagram live re-shared by several Instagram users. In the video, Itsaragrisil said, "If anyone (is) feeling not good, if anyone (is) not comfortable. If anyone (was affected), I do apologize for everyone. But I did talk, apologize to the rest of the girls in the room, about 75 girls in the room already."

He also said he had been misquoted in some coverage Online.

Itsaragrisil also expressed frustration that there hasn't been anyone with "authority" for Miss Universe Thailand and said he was meeting with the Miss Universe organization to discuss the situation. (NBC)

World's oldest president sworn in for eighth term in Cameroon

Cameroon's 92-year-old leader Paul Biya has been sworn in for another seven years as president in a ceremony at the country's parliament in Yaoundé.

Biya won a controversial eighth term in a fiercely disputed election last month.

He has been in power for 43 years, and addressed only one campaign rally before the election.

The nonagenarian, the world's oldest head of state, won 54% of the vote, compared to the 35% of Issa Tchiroma Bakary, according to the official results. Tchiroma Bakary maintains he was the rightful winner of the poll and has accused the authorities of fraud, which they have denied.

The announcement of the result led



to major protests across the country. (BBC)

FAA reducing air traffic by 10 per cent across 40 'high-volume' markets during government shutdown

The Federal Aviation Administration said Wednesday that it was taking the extraordinary step of reducing air traffic by 10 per cent across 40 "high-volume" markets beginning Friday morning to maintain travel safety as air traffic controllers exhibit signs of strain during the ongoing government shutdown.

The cutback stands to impact thousands of flights nationwide because the FAA directs more than 44,000 flights daily, including commercial passenger flights, cargo planes and private aircraft. The agency didn't immediately identify which airports or cities will be affected but said the restrictions would remain in place as long as necessary.

"I'm not aware in my 35-year history in the aviation market where we've had a situation where we're taking these kinds of measures," FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford said at a news conference.

Air traffic controllers have been working unpaid since the shutdown began October 1, and most have been on duty six days a week while putting in mandatory overtime. With some calling out of work due to frustration, taking second jobs or not having money for child care or gas, staffing shortages during some shifts have led to flight delays at a number of US airports.

Bedford, citing increased staffing pressures and voluntary safety reports from pilots indicating growing fatigue among air traffic controllers, said he and US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy did not want to wait until the situation reached a crisis point.

"We're not going to wait for a safety problem to truly manifest itself when the early indicators are telling us we can take action today to prevent things from deteriorating," Bedford said. "The system is extremely safe today and will be extremely safe tomorrow. If the pressures continue to build even



after we take these measures, we'll come back and take additional measures."

He and Duffy said they would meet with airline executives later Wednesday to determine how to implement the reduction in flights before a list of the affected airports would be released sometime Thursday.

The Associated Press on Wednesday sent requests for comment on the FAA's decision to major US airlines, including Delta, United and American Airlines.

Calls to the customer service hotlines at United and American were answered within a few minutes Wednesday afternoon, suggesting anxious passengers were not swamping the airlines with questions about the status of their upcoming flights.

In a letter to employees, United CEO Scott Kirby promised to try to give customers as much notice as possible and minimize disruptions by focusing cuts on regional routes and flights that don't travel between hubs. He said the airline will try to reschedule customers when possible and will also offer refunds to anyone who doesn't want to

fly during this time, even if their flight isn't cancelled.

"United's long-haul international flying and our hub-to-hub flying will not be impacted by this schedule reduction direction from the FAA," Kirby said. "That's important to maintain the integrity of our network, give impacted customers as many options as possible to resume their trip, and sustain our crew pairing systems."

Airline industry analyst Henry Harteveltdt, who is president of Atmosphere Research Group, said he thinks the government may have bungled this announcement by not meeting with airlines first and giving them more time to adjust schedules made months in advance.

"To tell airlines you've got 48 hours to rebuild your schedules at 90 per cent of what you've got isn't much time, and it's going to result in a lot of chaos," said Harteveltdt, who was waiting to hear if his own flight from San Francisco to Dallas on Saturday would be cancelled. He added that the Trump administration may be using aviation safety "to force the two sides in Washington back to the negotiating table to

resolve the shutdown.”

AAA spokesperson Aixa Diaz advised travellers to watch for flight updates on the airline’s app and airport social media accounts. She also recommended allowing plenty of time at the airport before a scheduled flight.

“It’s frustrating for travellers, because there’s not much you can do. At the end of the day, you either fly or you don’t,” she said.

The cuts could represent as many as 1,800 flights and upward of 268,000 seats combined, according to an estimate by aviation analytics firm Cirium. For example, O’Hare International Airport in Chicago could see 121 of its 1,212 flights currently scheduled for Friday cut if the FAA distributes the reductions equally among impacted airports, Cirium said.

The FAA regularly slows down or stops flights from taking off toward an airport for a number of reasons, including weather conditions, equipment failures and technical problems. Staffing shortages also may lead to slowed or halted departures if there

aren’t enough controllers and another facility can’t absorb some of the work load.

Last weekend saw some of the worst staffing shortages of the shutdown, which became the longest on record early Wednesday.

From Friday to Sunday evening, at least 39 different air traffic control facilities announced there was some potential for limited staffing, according to an Associated Press analysis of operations plans sent through the Air Traffic Control System Command Center system. The figure, which is likely an undercount, is well above the average for weekends before the shutdown.

During weekend periods from January 1 to September 30, the average number of airport towers, regional centres overseeing multiple airports and facilities monitoring traffic at higher altitudes that announced the potential for staffing issues was 8.3, according to the AP analysis. But during the five weekend periods since the shutdown began on October 1, the average more than tripled to 26.2 facilities.

Major airlines, aviation unions and the wider travel industry have urged Congress to end the shutdown.

Wednesday’s announcement came on the heels of Duffy warning a day earlier that there could be chaos in the skies next week if the shutdown drags on long enough for air traffic controllers to miss their second full pay cheques next Tuesday.

Duffy said the FAA wanted to take a proactive approach instead of reacting after a disaster. He pointed to all the questions that arose after the deadly mid-air collision in January between a commercial jet and a military helicopter near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport about why FAA didn’t recognise the risks and act sooner.

“We learned from that. And so now we look at data, and before it would become an issue, we try to assess the pressure and try to make moves before there could be adverse consequences,” Duffy said. “And that’s what’s happening here today.” (AP)



PMS continues to lead Schools' U-14 Boys Division League

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) extended their unbeaten run at the top of the Under-14 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition on Wednesday.

Princess Margaret School, which finished third last year, notched up their sixth win in as many games with a 4-0 drubbing of All Saints Secondary at the Mock Pond playing field in All Saints.

The goals for Princess Margaret School were scored by Jerol Pryce in the seventh minute, Marcus Thomas in the 25th, Kiron Cordice in the 33rd, and Alan Henry in the 42nd minute.

The result allows Princess Margaret School to remain as leaders of the 10-team round-robin competition by advancing to 18 points. All Saints Secondary remains on six points after suffering their third defeat in five matches.

Defending champions Antigua Grammar School stayed within touching distance of PMS, consolidating their position in second place and extending their unbeaten run by securing their fifth win in

as many games with a 3-1 victory against Clare Hall Secondary at the Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

Johnathan Duberry scored in the 10th minute, T'Andre James had a 24th-minute conversion, and Sachin Richards converted the last goal for Antigua Grammar School, who advanced to 15 points with the win.

Tevon Henderson scored in the 37th minute for Clare Hall Secondary, who remains on three points after slumping to their third loss in four games.

Jennings Secondary remains in third place by claiming their fourth win in six matches with a one-nil victory over Ottos Comprehensive School at Golden Grove.

Elreekk Francois scored the lone goal of the match in the 50th minute to win the game for Jennings Secondary, who advanced to 13 points.

The Ottos Comprehensive School remains at the bottom of the standings without any points after crashing to their fifth loss in as many games.

St. Joseph's Academy claimed their third win in

five matches with a 1-0 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School at Golden Grove.

Jariq Roberts scored the only goal in the 30th minute to give St. Joseph's Academy the win to advance to nine points.

St. Mary's Secondary School remains on one point after suffering their fourth defeat in five matches.

Meanwhile, the Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE) extended their unbeaten run to become the new leaders of the Under-20 Boys Division on Wednesday.

The HCABSCE notched up their third win in three

matches with a 3-1 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary at Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

Kayonzae Gifford scored in the 22nd minute, Adoniyah Dyett had a 58th-minute conversion, and Karick Richards converted the third goal for the HCABSCE in the 69th minute. Tejhano Cochrane scored a consolation goal in the 70th minute for Irene B. Williams Secondary.

The result propels HCABSCE to the top of the standings with nine points, while Irene B. Williams Secondary remains without any points after suffering their second defeat in as many matches.



Teams complete semi-finals line-up in Business Basketball League's Playoffs

Former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board and Richie's Shooterz have completed the semi-final line-up in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Playoff Championship.

Both teams advanced to the semi-finals after winning their respective first-round playoff series at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday.

The 2023 double champions and fourth-seeded Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board prevailed 72-66 against fifth seed H. Wright Promotions in the second game of Wednesday's double-header.

Veteran guard Marlon "Buju" Charles shot a game-high 22 points, Ishan Peets sank 17 points, and Lindsay McDonald scored 11 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board. Humroy Wright converted 15 points for H. Wright Promotions.

The third-seeded Richie's Shooterz shot their way to a commanding 81-54 victory over sixth seed Anjo Wholesale in Wednesday's opening game.

Devorn Benjamin sank 19 points, Tajahron Davis converted 15 points, and Jaheem James scored 12 points for Richie's Shooterz.



Marlon 'Buju' Charles led the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board in scoring during their win against H. Wright Promotions in their business league playoff first-round series. (Photo courtesy of ABBA)

Steven Matthew sank 16 points, Derick Perez had 12 points, and Webster Baptista chipped in with 10 points for Anjo Wholesale.

This year's league champions and top seed, the Board of Education, and defending champion and second seed

Sandals complete the semi-finals line-up after winning their respective first-round series the previous night.

The Board of Education, who played unbeaten to clinch the round-robin league title by winning all 13 matches, advanced to the semi-finals by surging to an emphatic 100-59 victory against eighth-seed Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance in the opening game of the playoffs.

Sandals, who clinched the runners-up spot in this year's league with a record of 11 wins and two losses, launched the defense of their playoff title with a 65-58 victory against seventh-seed Sledge O Ballers in the other first-round game.

The playoffs will resume with the opening games of the two best-of-three semi-final series at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

Top seed the Board of Education will take on fourth seed Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 7:30 pm, and second seed Sandals will meet third seed Richie's Shooterz.

The teams will meet again in Game 2 on Sunday, and if necessary, they will clash in the deciding Game 3 on Tuesday, November 11.





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Sports News

LeBron James ready for contact basketball activity

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James is ready for contact basketball activity, and he will be re-evaluated by the Los Angeles Lakers' team physician in one to two weeks as he prepares to begin his unprecedented 23rd NBA season.

James has yet to play this season or practice with the Lakers after being shut down early in training camp due to sciatica, a lower-body nerve problem.

The next step in his recovery is five-on-five basketball work in practice, but it's unclear when that could begin because the Lakers are headed out on a five-game road trip beginning Saturday in Atlanta, and James isn't expected to travel with the team.

The 40-year-old James has been working out individually in recent weeks. The



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, left, and Bronny James, center, celebrate a San Antonio Spurs turnover during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Calif., Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025. (AP)

Lakers announced James' progression to contact basketball on Thursday, exactly four weeks after the team initially said the top scorer in NBA history would be re-evaluated in three to four weeks.

"We don't have a target date," Lakers coach JJ

Redick said last week of James' progress. "It's just somewhere in that general timeline. We hope that he's kind of checked all the boxes and is going to be back sometime in that second or third week in November."

If James wants on-court work while the Lakers are

on the road, he could conceivably join the Lakers' G League affiliate at the team's training complex in El Segundo. The Lakers' next home game is Nov. 18.

The Lakers have played remarkably well in James' absence, stoking fans' excitement about being a possible contender six seasons after James and Anthony Davis won the franchise's 17th championship in the Florida bubble.

Luka Doncic scored 35 points while the Lakers held off San Antonio 118-116 on Wednesday night for their fifth consecutive win, including three in four nights.

Los Angeles is 7-2 even with James sidelined all season and with Doncic and Austin Reaves missing significant time because of injuries and rest.

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Women's boxing champ Shields signs US\$8 million promotional deal



Claressa Shields captures the undisputed heavyweight title with a unanimous decision victory over Danielle Perkins at Dort Financial Center in Flint, Michigan, on Feb. 2, 2025. (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Claressa Shields signed a multi-fight deal Thursday that will pay her a minimum of \$8 million, and the undisputed women's heavyweight boxing champion plans to return to the ring in early 2026.

Shields, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and five-division champion as a professional, last fought in July when she beat Lani Daniels in Detroit to defend her heavyweight belts.

There were no set number fights in the deal with Wynn Records and Salita Promotions, a partner-

ship that builds off the success of the fight in Detroit, which drew an announced crowd of 15,366 at Little Caesars Arena. It offers cross-promotional opportunities for the Flint, Michigan, native.

"From the start of her career, Claressa Shields has shattered barriers in the pursuit of equality and recognition. She became the first American boxer to win two Olympic gold medals, the first woman to headline a premium-cable boxing event, and a multidivision undisputed world champion," said Dmitriy Salita,

the president of Salita Promotions.

"Today, she moves into a new era, signing a landmark multi-million-dollar partnership that will elevate women's sports to new heights."

The 30-year-old Shields (17-0) won gold medals in the 2012 and 2016 Olympics. She has held titles from the 154-pound limit through heavyweight and is the only fighter to hold all four major world titles in three different weight classes simultaneously.

New Zealand level T20I series against West Indies



West Indies' Romario Shepherd, left, and Rovman Powell put on an impressive partnership against New Zealand in the second T20I at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, on Thursday, November 6, 2025. (AFP/Getty Images)

New Zealand held their nerve in a dramatic finish to defeat West Indies by three runs in the second T20I at Eden Park in Auckland on Thursday.

The hosts set a daunting total of 207, powered by aggressive middle-order batting, before West Indies mounted a fierce chase that ultimately fell just short.

With this result, New Zealand levelled the five-match series at 1-1. West Indies, needing 208 for victory, finished on 204 for eight off their 20 overs. The contest went down to the final ball as Kyle Jamieson successfully defended seven runs off the last four deliveries.

Mark Chapman was the standout for New Zealand, producing a rapid-fire 78 off 28 balls that shifted momentum. Chapman blasted three sixes and a four in one over off Romario Shepherd and

scored heavily against Jayden Seales, taking 23 runs in a single over.

Daryl Mitchell joined in with an unbeaten 28 off 14 balls, hitting three sixes off Akeal Hosein as New Zealand amassed 82 runs in the final four overs. This late surge proved decisive, with the team crossing the 200-run mark and establishing a challenging target for West Indies.

Tim Robinson hit 39 off 25 balls and fellow opener Openers Devon Conway (16) provided a solid start, putting on 55 runs in seven overs. Both were dismissed in quick succession, but Rachin Ravindra (11) and Chapman consolidated, taking the score to 81 for two by the 13th over.

The middle overs saw measured accumulation before Chapman and Mitchell's late assault, with the final over alone yielding 19 runs as

Seales bowled to Santner and Mitchell. Off-spinner Roston Chase claimed two for 33.

The West Indies' chase got off to a shaky start as Brandon King was dismissed for a three-ball duck.

Alick Athanaze (33 off 25 balls) attempted to stabilise the innings with three sixes and some boundaries, but the run-rate remained only at a run a ball during the power-play, putting pressure on the middle order.

By the 11th over, quick wickets had reduced the visitors to 74 for four, and the required rate began to climb as set batters struggled to accelerate. Captain Shai Hope fell for 24 and Akeem Auguste made seven.

Jason Holder (16) provided a brief resurgence with two sixes off Ish Sodhi, but his dismissal left West Indies still needing substantial contributions.

In the late overs, Rovman Powell produced a blistering 45 off 16 balls, supported by Romario Shepherd's 34 off 16 and Matthew Forde's unbeaten 29 off 13. The trio combined to add 75 runs in just four overs, shifting the match into a tense finale.

With 16 runs required from the final over, Kyle Jamieson was handed the responsibility to bowl for New Zealand. Despite conceding two boundaries, Jamieson held his nerve and managed to defend seven runs off the last four balls.

Mitchell Santner captured three for 31, and Sodhi finished with three for 39. The teams will meet in the third match of the T20 International series at the Saxton Oval in Nelson on Saturday.