

DCA demolishes a structure at Morris Bay erected by the opposition leader

Story on page 2



The remains of what was a structure erected at Morris Bay beach by Opposition Leader Jamale Pringle after it was demolished by DCA. Pringle had defied DCA instructions regarding the structure's presence at the site.

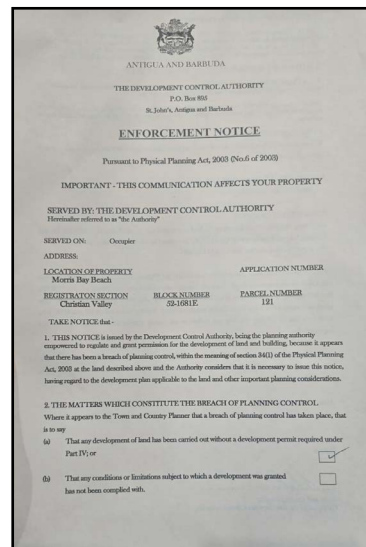
DCA demolishes a structure at Morris Bay erected by the opposition leader



The Development Control Authority (DCA) has demolished a structure at Morris Bay beach in Old Road erected by the Leader of the Opposition and Member of Parliament for the Area, Jamale Pringle.

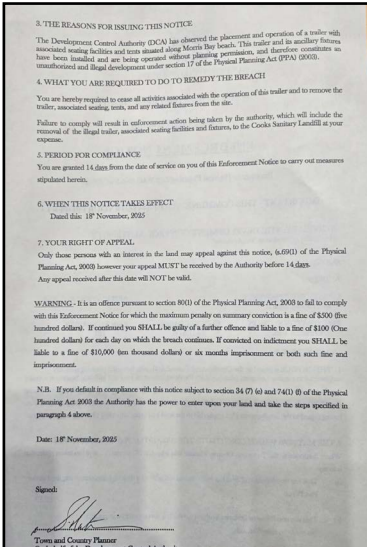
The DCA had advised Pringle in a letter dated November 18, 2025, that the structure, said to be used as a restaurant, had been erected at the site and that this constituted a breach of planning control as required under the Physical Planning Act of Antigua and Barbuda.

Pringle was further advised that the breach to the planning control was based on the fact that the structure was erected without Pringle acquiring a permit to do so under Section IV of the Act. The DCA said it also noticed the placement and operation of a trailer with associated seating facilities and a tent situated along Morris Bay beach. "The trailer and ancillary fixtures



have been installed and are being operated without planning permission and therefore, constitutes an unauthorized and illegal development under the Physical Planning Act, 2003," the DCA letter stated.

DCA further advised Pringle to cease all activities associated with the operation of the trailer and to remove the trailer, associated seating, tents and any related fixtures from the site. It warned that failure to follow these instructions, would result in the removal



of the trailer and other fixtures being moved to the Cooks Landfill and his expense.

He was given two weeks to comply with the order from the DCA.

During the National Budget debate this week, Pringle was advised by other parliamentarians to comply with the instructions issued by the DCA, an advice he ignored to his detriment.

One government source noted that Pringle was warned in writing and verbally. Instead of cooperat-

ing, he threatened further lawlessness, something that the government took seriously and acted accordingly.

"His threat has implications for compliance by other vendors. A message had to be sent. On the basis that the others cooperate with us, we will use soft hands, reorganize and find them appropriate alternatives," the source stated.

The source noted that the actions taken against Pringle and his illegal structure at Morris Bay beach had not been motivated by politics; rather it is a case where the DCA is enforcing the regulations regarding similar breaches of the Act.

The Physical Planning Act requires that any erection on a public beach — like the structure allegedly built by Jamale Pringle — must go through formal channels, seek approval, and be assessed under building codes.

Government to refund CXC fees that have already been paid



Prime Minister Gaston Browne



Education Minister Daryll Matthew

Following the announcement that the government will waive all CXC fees from the 2026 academic year, now comes another major announcement regarding such fees; the government will refund CXC fees that have already been paid for exams at the end of this academic year in June.

Word of this comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne via a social media post and followed up by Education Minister Daryll Matthew during his contribution to the debate on the National Budget for 2026. According to the PM's post, the refund will begin next week and the government is committed to paying all CXC fees going forward.

“For all of the students and the parents who have paid their CXC fees already, instructions have been given to remit the funds back to the schools. The schools will have a record of how much each student paid based on the number of subjects they are doing and so before Christmas, you will have another

reason to smile,” Matthew stated.

In addition to refunding the CXC payments to students and parents, the prime minister is also announcing that public servants who opted to stay home for the vaccine mandate during the COVID-19 pandemic should submit their claims to the respective permanent secretaries to facilitate the preparation of payment vouchers.



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Local News

CXC offers high praise to Antigua and Barbuda over fees waivers for students



The Caribbean Examinations Council endorses the move by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to cover the cost of CSEC examination fees for all students in the nation's public and private schools.

This decisive investment in education by Antigua and Barbuda comes at a time of profound change in the world. It is a huge step for inclusive education and gives impetus to CXC's duty of care for the region, that of 'Igniting the Potential and Shaping the Future of our Caribbean People'.

On behalf of the Chairman and Council of CXC®, I commend this exemplary initiative that will be spearheaded by the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries. In expanding access to CXC's world-class credentials to higher education and the world of work, the Ministry has defined a sustainable pathway that will have a profoundly positive and lasting impact on the youth of Antigua and Barbuda, and by extension the entire society for generations to come.

Wayne Wesley, PhD, CMgr.
Registrar and CEO



**PM Browne Announces
Free UWI Five Islands Tuition
After the Coming Expansion,
Free ABCAS Tuition, and
Waived CXC Exam Fees**

Pointe FM 99.1

The Caribbean Examinations Council, headquartered in Barbados, is welcoming the decision by the Antigua and Barbuda government to pay CXC fees for its students starting with refunds for fees already paid and a commitment to pay the fees for 2026 academic year and beyond.


In a posting on Facebook page, the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of CXC, Dr. Wayne Wesley, said

the action by the Antigua and Barbuda government comes at a time of profound change in the world. "It is a huge step for inclusive education and gives impetus to CXC's duty of care for the region, that of 'Igniting the Potential and Shaping the Future of our Caribbean people,'" he remarked.

He said on behalf of the Board of Directors of the CXC, he wishes to commend 'this exemplary initiative' that



will be spearheaded by the Ministry of Education of Antigua and Barbuda.

"In expanding access to CXC's world-class credentials to higher education and the world of work, the Ministry of Education has defined a sustainable pathway that will have a profound positive and lasting impact on the youth of Antigua and Barbuda, and by extension the entire society for generations to come," Dr. Wesley declared.



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All Saints West MP decries attacks on his family



Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jr

The Member of Parliament for All Saints West constituency, who is also the Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jr., has called out parliamentarians who engage in what he describes as an unacceptable behavior; attacking the family of other members of parliament.

MP Smith was speaking in parliament on Wednesday as he contributed to the debate on the National Budget 2026. He was especially referring to members of the opposition who have singled him out for personal attacks ever since his decision to leave the United Progressive Party, and to sit as an Independent MP in the House of Representatives. Smith currently caucuses with the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party Administration and was subsequently appointed to the Cabinet.

“Mr. Speaker, I have been called many names, yet I remain focused. Political disagreements will arise, but they should never devolve into personal attacks on people’s families. There are Members on the Opposition side who openly attack families, and that is unacceptable. It is important that all Members of this Honourable House rise above such conduct. We must set an example for the youth who look to

us for guidance,” he declared.

The MP invited members of his family to the debate, including his mother, who he revealed has also been verbally attacked because of his decision. This,

he said, was wrong and he called on those engaged in this practice to end it immediately. “We should not stoop to the level of attacking each other’s families,” he stated

According to Smith, some on the opposition benches have accused him of flip-flopping, but despite this, he said remains resolute in his position. “I will not compromise my integrity to fall in line with any group driven by division. My allegiance is, and will always be, to the people of Antigua and Barbuda,” he emphasized.

MP Smith revealed that while still a member of the UPP he had signed a letter expressing a lack of confidence in the leadership abilities of Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle, and while he admits to signing the letter, he however revealed that at least three current members of the opposition in parliament, whom he identified by name, had also signed the letter.

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APUA pledges to repair roads it digs up to fix broken pipes



and well will take responsibility for the repairs to the roads. I have been on record long before I came into government criticizing officials at both APUA and Public Works over this issue and as the minister now, it falls on my shoulders to see that we solve this problem,” Nicholas told parliament during his contributions to the debate on the National Budget on Wednesday.

The minister is giving an undertaking that this new regime will go into effect by the first half of 2026.

The Antigua and Barbuda public can look for to relief from one of the annoying occurrences that happens from time to time; the Ministry of Works resurfaces a road only to have APUA dig it up soon after in order to repair broken pipes.

Now, according to the Minister responsible for Utilities, Melford Nicholas, relief is coming to the frustrated motorists and other road uses in the New Year as APUA moves positively to remedy the situation.

According to the minister the statutory body will be acquiring new equipment next year that will allow APUA to repair the roads itself following the repairs to the broken pipes.

“We will have our own equipment and personnel within APUA



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China-Funded Solar Project Set to Transform Antigua and Barbuda's Energy Landscape



Antigua and Barbuda will begin installing more than a thousand solar-powered streetlights and hundreds of home energy systems next week, marking one of the country's most ambitious steps toward renewable energy to date.

The initiative follows a formal handover ceremony on Wednesday, during which the People's Republic of China transferred 1,500 solar streetlights and 200 household photovoltaic systems to the government.

The donation strengthens an already longstanding partnership between the nations and builds on previous renewable energy contributions made by China. Officials said this latest effort represents the most extensive collaboration so far, both in scale and strategic planning.

China's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Jiang Wei, emphasized that the project reflects the shared commitment of both gov-

ernments to address climate risks and accelerate sustainable development. She highlighted that Antigua and Barbuda was among the first states in the Eastern Caribbean to formalize diplomatic relations with China more than four decades ago. "For 42 years our nations have stood together in mutual respect," the Ambassador said. She added that China's approach to ecological conservation and green development has shaped its foreign assistance, especially to vulnerable Small Island Developing States. "Climate change affects all humanity, and China is committed to doing its part to support resilience and long-term growth."

The Ambassador noted that the shipment of solar equipment directly followed agreements made during Prime Minister Gaston Browne's recent high-level visit to China, describing the project as a tangible outcome of that engagement.

Representing the government at the event, Junior Minister in the Ministry of Health Michael Joseph said the rollout of solar technology signals a renewed national push for energy security, climate resilience, and improved public safety. He described the initiative as a meaningful investment in the country's future.

"This is a defining moment for Antigua and Barbuda," Joseph said. "The benefits will be felt in our homes, our communities, and our economy. We are grateful for China's continued friendship and its practical support of our clean energy goals."

Installation will be led by Yangde Electric, the Chinese engineering firm responsible for manufacturing the units. Chairman Zhang Aiwen said the company was proud to contribute to Antigua and Barbuda's green transition. He explained that the equipment was built to withstand tropi-

cal conditions and that technical personnel will train APUA and local workers to install and maintain the systems.

"The true value of cooperation lies not only in the equipment but in the knowledge exchange and the long-term partnership it strengthens," Zhang said.

Once installed, the new units are expected to reduce pressure on the electricity grid, increase nighttime visibility and safety on public roads, and bring added reliability to households receiving solar PV systems. Officials say the move aligns with Antigua and Barbuda's broader climate adaptation strategies, particularly as island nations confront rising energy costs and increasingly severe weather patterns. Both governments reaffirmed their commitment to continued collaboration in sustainable development. As Zhang put it, the partnership "will shine as steadily as the Caribbean sun."



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Series of Community Emergency Response Teams Training and assistance to Barbuda



The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is enhancing the capabilities of its volunteers through a series of training sessions focused on community emergency response.

Presently, 25 individuals from various districts are involved in a four-day Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training at NODS which began on Monday.

CERT provides some basic skills to individuals who will be able to assist in their communities until professional help arrives. It focuses on disaster management, fire safety, search and rescue, telecommunications which covers the use of VHF radios among other topics.

Prior to this week's training, another group was involved in similar ses-



sions in November which ran for three consecutive weekends while a one-week session was held in Barbuda with 20 participants just last week.

While in Barbuda, NODS Director Sherrod James took the opportunity to meet with some members of the Barbuda Council to further strengthen the relationship with the Council provide capacity building for council members to address disaster management matters in Barbuda.

In that meeting were Bar-

buda Council Chairman John Mussington, Chairman for Health responsible for disaster Wayne Burton and Council Secretary Shari Cannegieter. NODS staff also assisted with equipping the newly constructed Barbuda Disaster Office with some well-needed equipment and supplies.



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Code Red social draws massive turnout at party headquarters



The ABLP Women's Action Group hosted its highly successful "Code Red Social" at the party's headquarters Tuesday 9th December as part of its celebration on VC Bird Birthday, drawing hundreds of enthusiastic supporters, including both women and men of Labour, in a powerful show of unity and solidarity.

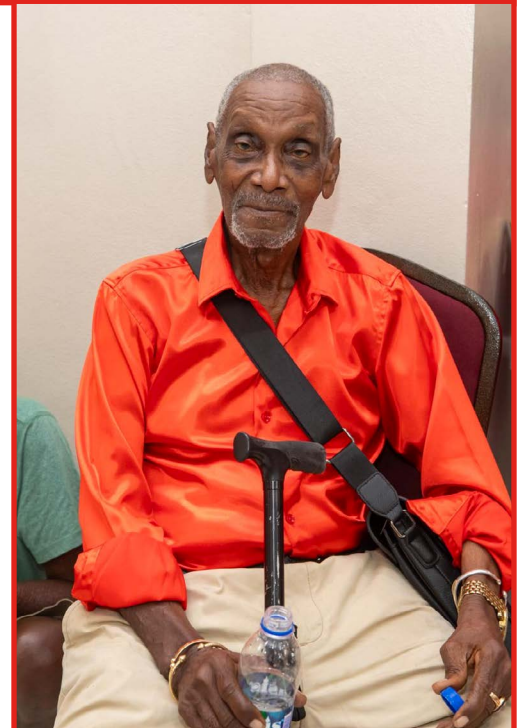
Interim Chairperson of WAG and Party Organizer Sharilyn James noted that the atmosphere was electric as a sea of red T-shirts filled the venue, symbolizing strength, commitment, and shared purpose. "It was a joyful and inspiring sight to witness supporters and friends coming together to socialize, dance, and celebrate in a spirit of togetherness. We were also grateful to see our Prime Minister and Party Leader, Gas-

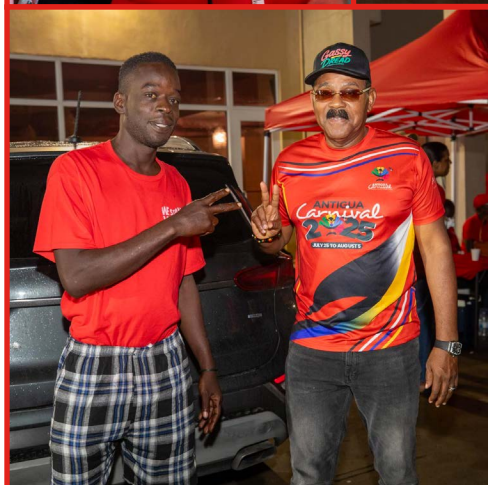
ton Browne, taking time out to socialize with us as well," James noted.

She said the event created a warm and vibrant space for camaraderie, connection, and continued motivation as the Women's Action Group strengthens its outreach and engagement with the wider community. The overwhelming turnout sent a clear message of support, energy, and readiness for the work ahead.

James added that the group has a full calendar of events for 2026, that will reinforce that ABLP Women's Action Group is back on track.

"We've also adopted the slogan 'Ladies we got work to do'," she declared.





WISH Calls for Global Recognition That Mental Health Is Freedom: A Human Right for All



The Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing (WISH) joins the international community in observing Human Rights Day by reaffirming a critical truth that shapes the wellbeing of individuals and societies: mental health is freedom and therefore a human right.

Human Rights Day commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, a landmark commitment to dignity, equality and justice for every person. Yet mental health remains one of the least understood and least protected elements of this promise. According to the World Health Organization, one in eight people globally are living with a mental health condition, while millions more are unable to access timely and appropriate support because of stigma, discrimination or insufficient services.

WISH Founder Chaneil Imhoff emphasized the urgency of protecting this right within the Caribbean context. “Mental health is freedom. It is the freedom to learn, to work, to contribute, to love, to heal and to live without fear. When we deny people access to mental wellbeing, we deny them the ability to participate fully in society. We cannot claim to uphold human

rights if we continue to overlook mental health.”

The right to mental health is rooted in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and wellbeing. Further, the World Health Organization Constitution recognizes health as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing. This means that mental health is not optional or secondary. It is essential to human dignity and must be protected through policy, investment and community support.

Research in the Americas underscores this point. The Pan American Health Organization reports that mental health conditions represent a leading cause of disability in the region and that limited access to care disproportionately affects vulnerable and marginalized groups. The New Agenda for Mental Health in the Americas calls for stronger community based systems, early intervention, data driven planning and national leadership that prioritizes mental wellbeing as a human right.

WISH’s work in Antigua and Barbuda aligns with this global direction. The organization continues to invest in ed-

ucation, youth engagement, research and digital empowerment through tools such as the upcoming WISH Mood Tracker. These initiatives aim to give individuals both the knowledge and the practical support needed to care for their mental wellbeing.

Imhoff added, “We envision an Antigua and Barbuda where mental health is treated with the same seriousness as physical health. This means investing in school based supports, workplace wellness, community outreach and policies that protect people from discrimination. It also means building systems that meet people where they are and empower them to thrive.”

Today, WISH calls on government institutions, civil society partners, the private sector and community leaders to adopt a rights based approach to mental health. This includes expanding access to care, strengthening prevention, promoting public awareness and investing in the social systems that protect mental wellbeing.

For more information about WISH or to partner on upcoming initiatives, please contact wishwadadli@gmail.com or follow @wishwadadli on social media.

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Feature

A message from Commissioner Everton Jeffers on the observance of Human Rights Day



Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers

As we join the global community in observing Human Rights Day, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda stands in solidarity with all who continue to champion the rights, freedoms, and dignity of people everywhere.

On Human Rights Day, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding these fundamental principles within our own organization and across our twin-island nation.

As the primary law enforcement agency, our foremost responsibility is to protect the rights, safety, and privileges of every individual residing in or visiting Antigua and Barbuda. We recognize the value of our people and the importance of working collectively to ensure that our nation remains one of the safest, most secure, and most peaceful in the Western Hemisphere.

Respect for human rights is deeply embedded in our Mission and Vision Statements, guiding our actions and shaping our approach to policing. The RPFAB is a community-oriented organization that strives to understand the needs of every citizen, provide the highest standard of service, and ensure that the laws of our nation are upheld with fairness, integrity, and compassion.

This year's theme, "Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials," is a timely reminder that these rights are not abstract ideals, but daily necessities that safeguard human dignity and strengthen democratic societies. Everyone has a voice, and we believe they have a right to be heard, barring they do not slander or defame anyone's character.

As we reflect on this theme, the Royal Police Force pledges to remain firmly rooted within the communities we serve, working together to meet the basic essential needs, freedoms, and wellbeing of all.

I encourage every resident of Antigua and Barbuda, including the dedicated men and women under my command, to uphold the rights and dignity of one another, not only today, but every day.

Let respect, fairness, and empathy be guiding principles in our interactions

as we build a more just and harmonious society.

The Police Administration remains committed to ensuring that the rights of all are respected and protected in the interest of equity, justice, and national unity. I take this opportunity to extend sincere gratitude to the public for your continued cooperation and support.

Together, we will continue to make Antigua and Barbuda a better place for all, respecting each other's views, ideas, and differences along the way.

May the rights and freedoms of every individual, here at home and across the world, always be upheld and cherished.

Mr. Everton Jeffers

Commissioner of Police

Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda

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JANUARY 2026-MARCH 2026

AGES: 18 - 30



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Wings remain unbeaten but winless in Second Division League



The CPTSA Wings football team. (File photo)

The CPTSA Wings remained unbeaten but are still searching for their first win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division.

The CPTSA Wings recorded their fifth draw in as many games during a 1-1 stalemate with the Urlings Golden Stars at the Urlings playing field on Tuesday.

The result allows the CPTSA Wings to advance to five points, while the Urlings Golden Stars also moved on to five points after securing their second draw in four matches.

But the Sea View Farm FC maintained their perfect winning start to their campaigns in the Second Division. Sea View Farm FC recorded their fifth win in as many games with a 3-2 victory against Earthquake FC at the Fort Road playing field.

Nigel Graham opened the scoring for Sea View Farm FC with a strike in the first minute. Ajay Barthley equalized for Earthquake FC with a 14th-minute

conversion.

Bertrand Chastanet scored in the 31st minute to give Sea View Farm a 2-1 lead at halftime. Earthquake FC drew level once more via a 47th-minute conversion by Junito Jeffrey.

But Devin Christopher scored in the 67th minute to snatch the winner for Sea View Farm FC, which advanced to 15 points. Earthquake FC remains on three points after succumbing to their second loss in three matches.

Meanwhile, the Freemans Village Scorpions continued their unbeaten run during the latest round of matches in the ABFA's First Division.

The Scorpions notched up their third win in four matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Bendals FC at the Cashew Hill playing field.

Following a goalless first half, the Scorpions eventually broke the deadlock with second-half goals by Roy Gregory in the 74th minute and Malique London in the 84th minute to clinch their latest win.

The result carries the Freemans Village Scorpions to 10 points, while Bendals FC remains on two points after suffering their fifth defeat in seven matches.

Five Islands FC has ended the unbeaten run by Empire FC. Jamal Joseph scored twice as Five Islands FC recorded their third win in seven matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against Empire FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Joseph had conversions in the 59th and 80th minutes, while Daniel Williams scored the other goal in the 57th minute for Five Islands FC.

Nickado Lindsay scored in the 28th minute, and Marckens Dorisca converted a penalty kick in the 53rd minute for Empire FC.

The result allows Five Islands FC to advance to 12 points, while Empire FC remains on 11 points after suffering their first defeat in six matches.

Swetes Vipers FC recorded their first win in six matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against Bolans FC at the Mock Pond playing field in All Saints.

Lyndon Goodwin scored their winner and only goal of the match with a conversion in the 66th minute.

The result carries the Swetes Vipers FC to six points, while the Bolans FC remains on four points after slumping to their second loss in six matches.

The First Division League will resume with four matches on Thursday at 4:15 pm. FC Master Ballerz will take on SAP FC at Radio Range in Ottos, and English Harbour FC will clash with Greenbay Hoppers FC at English Harbour.

Willikies FC will tackle Cedar Grove Blue Jays at Willikies, and Golden Grove FC will face Parham FC at Golden Grove.

Sports News

KFC Antigua and Barbuda supports MDBA Christmas Basketball Camp

KFC Antigua & Barbuda has given its support to the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA) Annual Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp.

The company has officially thrown its support behind the event as the MDBA hosts its 9th Annual Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp at the JSC Sports Complex from December 15 to 19.

In a generous show of community partnership, KFC Antigua and Barbuda will be treating campers to their finger-lickin' good chicken on a surprise day during the camp, adding excitement and motivation for all participants.

Representing KFC Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Nair Roberts presented the donation to Coach Mahijah Davis, expressing the company's well-wishes for a successful and impactful camp.

KFC Antigua and Barbuda applauded MDBA's com-



KFC Antigua and Barbuda's Nair Roberts, left, makes a presentation to coach Mahijah Davis of the MDBA.

mitment to youth development and the positive influence the camp continues to have on young, aspiring student-athletes across the island.

The MDBA Christmas Fiesta Camp remains a key platform for nurturing basketball talent, building dis-

cipline, and inspiring the next generation of players in Antigua & Barbuda.

The Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy will be utilizing the services of American coach TJ Cox at this year's Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp.

Cox, who is also a sports

agent and player development specialist, will be the main facilitator at the event.

Former national forward Mahijah Davis, who is the creator of the MDBA, will be hosting the five-day camp for boys and girls aged 12 to 25 years in his continuing drive to develop young basketball talent in Antigua and Barbuda.

This month's MDBA camp will be conducted in two sessions per day. A session for the 12 to 16 age group will take place from 3 pm to 4:55 pm, while another session for the 17 to 25 age group will be held from 5 pm to 6:55 pm.

A fee of US\$120 or EC\$300 per person is being charged to participate, and registration will be done at the venue on the first day of the camp. Interested persons can call 721-2264 for more information.



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THURSDAYS 9PM - 11PM

New Zealand in charge of 2nd Windies Test despite Tickner injury



Blair Tickner had to be stretchered off after he hurt his shoulder on the opening day of the second Test against the West Indies at the Basin Reserve in Wellington, New Zealand, on Wednesday, Dec 10, 2025. (Getty Images)

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - New Zealand dismissed West Indies for 205 and reached 24 without loss in reply on the opening day of the second Test on Wednesday, but their already ravaged bowling stocks were further depleted by a freak injury at Basin Reserve.

Blair Tickner had marked his return to the test arena with four for 32 in a fine display of impact bowling when he dived to prevent the ball from crossing the boundary rope in the final session, injuring his left shoulder in the effort.

The 32-year-old ended the first day of his fourth Test, and first for nearly three years, in hospital and looking unlikely to play any meaningful further part in the match.

The seamer had earlier teamed up with 30-year-old debutant Michael Rae (three for 67) to put the tourists firmly on the ropes and prevent them from building on their great escape in the drawn series opener in Christchurch last week.

New Zealand chose to put West Indies in to bat after winning the toss and the Caribbean islanders made a decent start with John Campbell and Brandon

King putting on 66 for the opening wicket.

Tickner trapped King in front for 33, however, and then sent back Kavem

Hodge for a duck in similar fashion to make the first inroads.

Rae, distinctive with a white headband wrapped around his bald head, then got in on the act when he had Campbell caught in the slips for 44 for his first Test wicket.

Shai Hope was the next West Indies batter to get a start and made 48 before a Tickner bouncer had him in all sorts of trouble and he gloved the ball to Kane Williamson in the slips.

Skipper Roston Chase made 29 before becoming Tickner's fourth victim and the last of seven West Indies wickets that tumbled for the addition of only 52 runs.

Devon Conway, who was 16 not out, and Tom Latham, unbeaten on seven, negotiated a few tricky moments as the ball moved around a bit in the nine overs they faced before stumps.

The New Zealand openers will resume on Thursday looking to cut further into the 181-run deficit.



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Feature Details
Spot Count 66 total spots over 6 weeks (11 per week)
Spot Length 15 sec
Air Time Between 8 AM and 10 PM (prime listening hours)
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Liverpool fans make their stance clear in Salah vs Slot saga



Liverpool's manager Arne Slot applauds at the end of a Champions League, league phase, soccer match between Inter Milan and Liverpool in Milan, Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025. (AP)

MILAN (AP) — Liverpool fans showed which side they are on in the dispute between club great Mohamed Salah and Arne Slot.

The traveling group of around 5,000 supporters loudly chanted Slot's name before and after Tuesday's 1-0 win at Inter Milan in the Champions League, in an unequivocal show of support for the Liverpool coach.

Slot had dropped Salah from the squad that traveled to Italy following the forward's stinging public criticism of the club on Saturday.

"That means a lot to me," Slot said about the fans' support. "But it's not about me, it's about the team. And they were also there for the team."

"So many away fans in difficult circumstances for the club and it shows you one more time: If things go against us or if there's a hard time, we're all there for each other and we fight together and that's what the fans of the

players showed today."

Salah has established himself as one of Liverpool's greatest players — winning two Premier League titles, the Champions League and a host of other trophies.

Last season he was named player of the year for the third time after scoring 34 goals in all competitions and firing Liverpool to a record-equaling 20th league title.

But his form has dipped during a troubled start to the season for Liverpool, which is 10th in the Premier League.

Salah had lashed out Saturday after he was benched for the third game in a row, saying it "seems like the club has thrown me under the bus," and he doesn't have "any relationship" with Slot.

Following the fallout from his comments, Salah posted Tuesday a picture for his 85 million followers across Ins-

tagram and X of him alone in the gym at Liverpool's training complex.

Slot said on the eve of the match in Milan that he had "no clue" whether Salah would play again for the club and he tried to swerve further questions about the Anfield icon's future on Tuesday.

"Where I stand is that tonight it should be all about the players that are here," Slot said.

"In the rich history Liverpool have, they had many of these evenings but, in the season we are in, I think if you have an away win in this stadium against such a strong team then it should be about the midfield ... or about the ones that are here."

"They deserve all the credits. I can fully understand on Friday that I will get a lot of questions about other things. But tonight it should be about the ones that are here."

Island Academy wins inaugural under-13 basketball competition



St. John's Catholic Primary



Island Academy

Island Academy has captured the title in the inaugural Inter-Private Schools Under-13 Basketball Tournament, which concluded at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday.

Island Academy played unbeaten to claim the title by winning all four matches in the five-team round-robin competition.

Island Academy pulled off a 37-24 victory against St. John's Catholic Primary, which captured second place, in the final game of the tournament. Elijah Peters sank 19 points, and Nesario Decastro converted 14 points for Island Academy. Jasiel Henry scored 16 points for St. John's Catholic Primary.

Island Academy defeated St. John's Lutheran 25-7 in the second semi-final game at the JSC Basketball Complex.

Jasiel Henry scored a last-second basket to enable St. John's Catholic Primary to snatch a 17-15 victory against Grace Christian Academy in the first semi-final encounter.

Island Academy also recorded

wins against Minoah Magnet and St. John's Catholic Primary in their last two games in the preliminary round.

Island Academy prevailed 24-2 against Minoah Magnet in their last preliminary round encounter at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Island Academy secured a 29-14 victory against St. John's Catholic. Elijah Peters produced 13 points, 17 rebounds, and seven steals for Island Academy.

Jasiel Henry had 12 points, eight rebounds, and five rebounds for St. John's Catholic Primary.

In another preliminary round encounter, Grace Christian Academy cruised to a 44-10 victory against Minoah Magnet.

Aric Adams produced 20 points, six steals, and four rebounds; Brendan Jonas made off with six steals; and Teagan Telemarque collected five steals and three rebounds for Grace Christian Academy.

Annalique Martin snatched 5 steals, and Troy Dennie claimed

three steals for Minoah Magnet.

Taylon Matthew of Island Academy captured the overall Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award of the tournament. Matthew also claimed the MVP award for Island Academy.

Jasiel Henry won the MVP accolade for St. John's Catholic Primary, and Aric Adams claimed the MVP award for Grace Christian Academy.

Jalique Sargeant won the MVP title for St. John's Lutheran, and Troy Dennie captured the MVP accolade for Minoah Magnet.

Jasiel Henry of St. John's Catholic Primary claimed the Most Points Award; Elijah Peters of Island Academy captured the award for the most rebounds; Keyon Quinland won the award for the most assists, and Jasiel Henry claimed the award for the most steals.

Terrice Roberts of St. John's Lutheran was awarded the trophy for being the most exciting player of the tournament.

Contributions toward the tournament were made by Powerade, Shouls Toys, Gifts & Housewares, and Town House Mega Store.

The inaugural Inter-Private Schools Under-13 Basketball Tournament was hosted by the Youth Basketball Unit of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club.