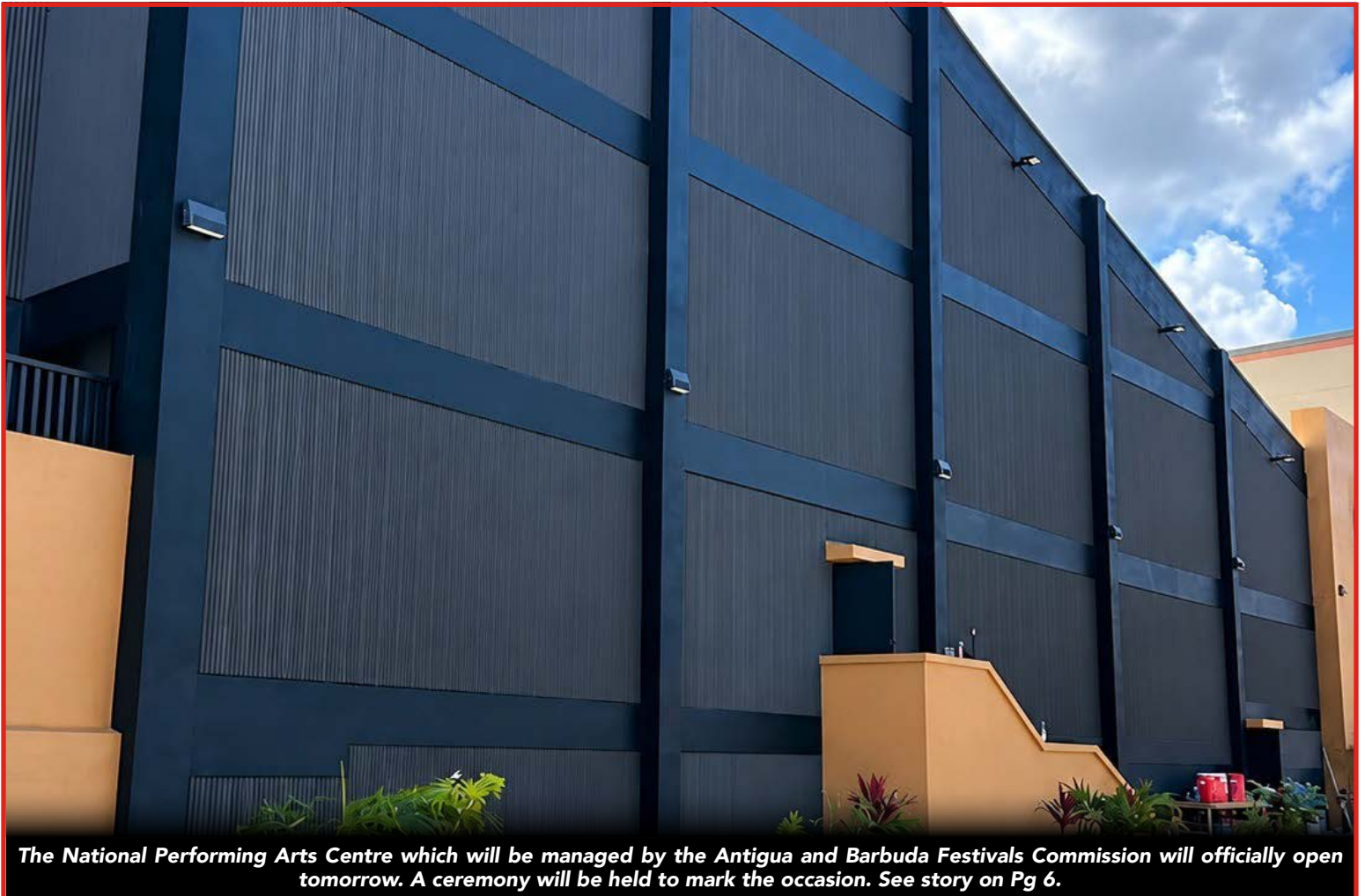


One Million Cruise Passengers Projected for 2027

Story on page 5



The National Performing Arts Centre which will be managed by the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission will officially open tomorrow. A ceremony will be held to mark the occasion. See story on Pg 6.

Photos courtesy: Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission

Antigua and Barbuda Projects One Million Cruise Visitors in 2027

Antigua and Barbuda is on track to welcome one million cruise passengers in 2027, as the destination anticipates increased ship calls from major cruise lines following investments in port facilities and enhancements to its tourism product.

Tourism Minister Charles “Max” Fernandez announced the positive outlook following the country’s participation in the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) 32nd Annual Conference, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 12th to 16th October 2026.

The conference attracted nearly 700 cruise executives, government officials, port operators, tour providers and other industry stakeholders to discuss opportunities to strengthen the regional cruise tourism sector and expand its economic benefits for local communities.

Minister Fernandez led the Antigua and Barbuda delegation, which included Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) Chief Executive Officer Colin C. James and other officials from the tourism ministry and the authority.

During the conference, the delegation held high-level discussions with representatives of 12 cruise lines and FCCA executives, sharing updates on developments within the destination’s cruise sector and outlining plans to accommodate projected growth.

The Minister of Tourism said investments in cruise port facilities, including improvements to accommodate larger vessels and a US\$30 million upland investment, were contributing to increased opportunities for businesses and workers across the country.

“The recent investment in our country’s cruise port facilities to ac-



Antigua and Barbuda’s delegation at the FCCA Conference

commodate larger ships, the US\$30 million upland investment, our award-winning and distinctive visitor experiences, along with the strong relationships we have cultivated with our cruise line partners, have been bearing fruit,” the minister said.

He noted that the industry’s continued expansion was generating economic opportunities for thousands of Antiguan and Barbudans who depend on cruise tourism.

However, Fernandez said the anticipated growth also made it necessary to examine the destination’s capacity to accommodate increasing passenger numbers while maintaining the quality of the visitor experience.

He announced plans for a comprehensive cruise tourism capacity study to assess the country’s carrying capacity, guide future development and ensure the industry’s economic benefits remain sustainable.

The delegation also presented new developments expected to enhance

the experience of cruise passengers during the 2026/2027 winter season.

These include newly constructed upscale retail stores, plans for a day-club experience featuring a swimming pool and bar, and mobile visitor information kiosks designed to improve access to information for passengers arriving at the St John’s port, including those with disabilities.

The country’s ability to provide liquefied natural gas (LNG) for newer cruise ships was also highlighted as a potential competitive advantage as cruise lines increasingly incorporate LNG-powered vessels into their fleets.

The discussions produced several positive developments regarding future cruise calls.

Norwegian Cruise Line outlined plans for approximately 16 calls during the 2027/2028 season, while at least 28 calls are anticipated across Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas

Cruises.

This would represent a substantial increase from the two calls expected from Norwegian Cruise Line's main-line fleet during the current winter season.

MSC Cruises also confirmed that MSC World Europa, a vessel capable of carrying more than 6,700 guests, is scheduled to make its inaugural call to Antigua on December 7, 2026.

The vessel, weighing more than 200,000 gross tonnes, is expected to become the largest cruise ship ever to dock in Antigua and the first of its size to berth in St John's.

Additionally, MSC Opera is scheduled to make alternate Saturday calls to Antigua throughout the year through 2029. Carnival Cruise Line has confirmed 14 calls for the 2026/2027 winter season, up from four during the previous winter season. The increase follows positive feedback from Carnival passengers

who have visited the destination.

Meanwhile, P&O Cruises, which operates homeporting services in Antigua, announced that Britannia will conduct a one-off turnaround operation in the destination for the first time.

The cruise line also indicated that homeporting operations will double to weekly services from November 2027, with Arvia and its sister ship Iona alternating visits throughout the season.

Royal Caribbean Group has confirmed 110 planned calls for Antigua during the 2027/2028 season across its Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises brands, representing a significant increase over the current season.

James said the projected growth in cruise tourism reflected the destination's efforts to strengthen its competitiveness as the global industry expands.

"With global cruise passenger numbers projected to climb from about 37 million in 2025 to 46 million by 2031, Antigua and Barbuda must constantly ensure that we remain well positioned to benefit from the industry's continued expansion," he said.

James reported that Antigua and Barbuda was expected to record 483 cruise ship calls in 2026, up from 436 in 2025, bringing approximately 894,469 cruise passengers to the country.

He said the destination was on course to achieve one million cruise passenger arrivals in 2027.

The key takeaway from Antigua and Barbuda's attendance at the FCCA Marketing Conference 2026, is that Antigua and Barbuda's significant investment in its cruise tourism product has resulted in significant growth in cruise calls across major brands, reflecting the industry's overwhelming confidence in the destination.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99

-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink
\$17.99



@KFCANU



Foreign Affairs Minister Says CHOGM Benefits Go Beyond the Four-Day Event

Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene has urged Antiguan and Barbudans to view the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) as an opportunity to generate long-term economic benefits and raise the country's international profile, rather than simply a four-day event.

Speaking at a CHOGM town hall meeting last evening, Greene stressed that the true value of hosting the international gathering would depend on how the country capitalises on the opportunity.

"CHOGM is not a Nescafe moment. In other words, it's not a now moment. Something will happen now, but it is how we treat the now that will determine the future," he said.

Minister Greene pointed to countries that have hosted major international events, including the FIFA World Cup and the Olympic Games, noting that the benefits often continue long after the events have ended.

He cited the 2012 London Olympics as an example of how a country can continue to reap rewards from hosting a major international gathering years later, arguing that Antigua and Barbuda must adopt a similar long-term outlook.

"Antigua and Barbuda are in that space now," Greene said, adding that the country had already demonstrated its ability to host major international meetings, including the United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and meetings of the Organization of American States (OAS).

He described CHOGM as a further step in the country's efforts to establish itself as a destination for high-level international conferences and meetings.

The minister said the event would bring leaders from across the Commonwealth's 56 member countries,



Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene

placing Antigua and Barbuda under significant international scrutiny and creating an opportunity to showcase the country to a global audience.

"What we can get from CHOGM we can't pay for," Greene said, explaining that the country's tourism and national budgets could not independently finance the level of international exposure expected from the meeting.

He noted that CHOGM would attract not only the attention of Commonwealth member states but also the wider international community, as leaders discuss issues affecting the global political and economic landscape.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs also highlighted Antigua and Barbuda's role in advocating for small island developing states, noting that the country had been at the centre of international



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind



INSURE AHEAD NOW

 **LIFE & MEDICAL** |
  **PROPERTY** |
  **MOTOR**

ANTIGUA
(268) 481-7800/04

BARBUDA
(268) 727-7422

www.sicfinancial.com

discussions on their development challenges since hosting the SIDS conference in 2024.

He said the opening of the Centre of Excellence for Small Island Developing States this evening will further reinforce that position, while hosting CHOGM would provide another opportunity for the country to influence discussions on the global stage.

According to Greene, the meeting would allow Antigua and Barbuda to help shape the Commonwealth's agenda while demonstrating its capacity to organise and host major international events.

However, he emphasised that the benefits would not be limited to the country's reputation or diplomatic standing.

He identified hotels, Airbnb properties, guesthouses, taxi operators, restaurants and souvenir vendors among the businesses expected to benefit directly from the influx of visitors.

Providing an update on preparations, Minister E.P Chet Greene disclosed last evening that 12,426 people had been registered for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting as of 6:22 p.m. on Wednesday.

He said the target of approximately 5,000 international participants, which

had been announced from the outset, was nearing completion, with the remaining registrations largely accounting for local participants involved in the meeting.

The registration figures he noted, demonstrated the scale of the gathering and reinforced the potential for economic activity across several sectors.

He also commended the management of the American University of Antigua (AUA) for the construction of its conference centre, which is being used to support the hosting of major international meetings.

The minister said the decision to pursue international conferences and meetings formed part of the government's broader efforts to diversify the economy following the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He explained that the government had identified the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector as an area of opportunity, with the aim of creating additional economic activity beyond traditional tourism offerings.

Hosting CHOGM, he said, was consistent with that strategy and could help position Antigua and Barbuda to attract future international conferences.

The Foreign Affairs Minister maintained that the country's ability to benefit from the event would depend not only on government preparations but also on the conduct and contribution of ordinary citizens.

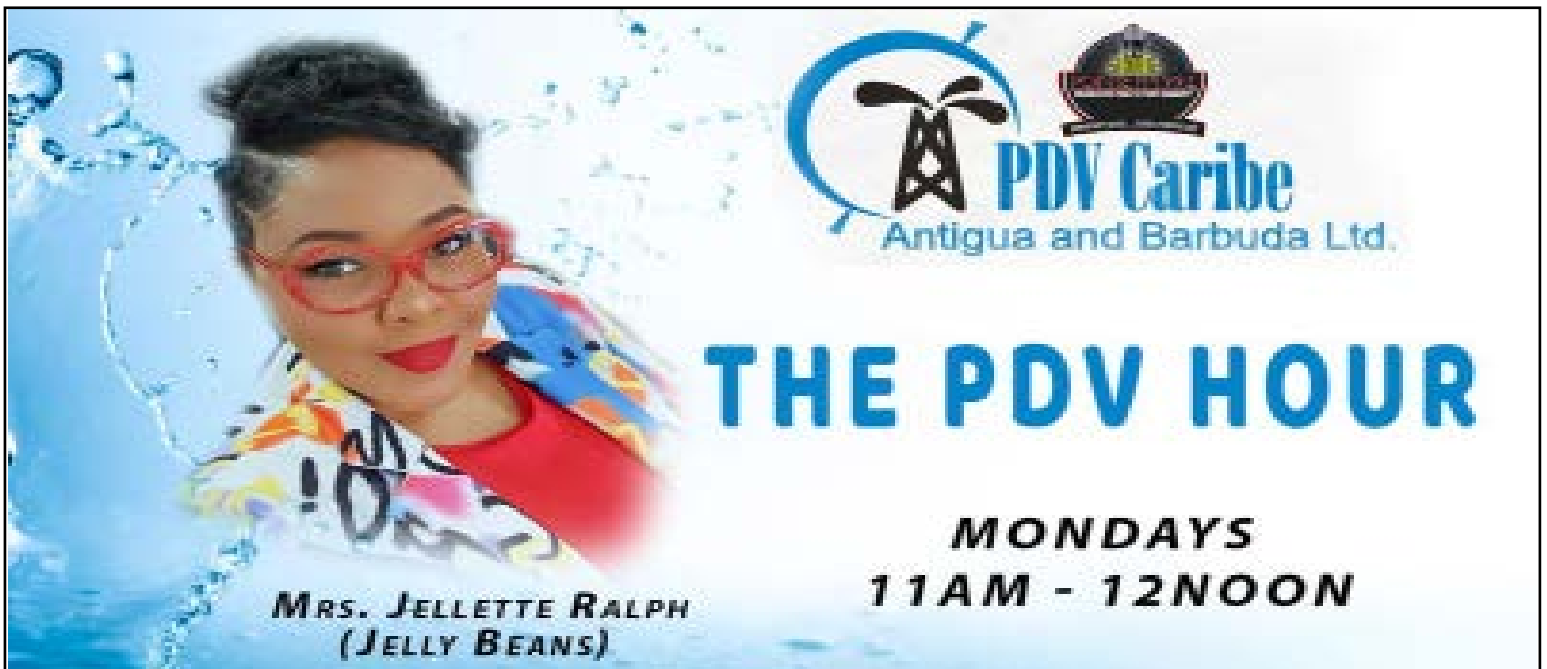
He called on residents across all occupations to recognise their role in shaping the impressions visitors take away from Antigua and Barbuda.

"My ask again, is that we, each of us, be brand ambassadors for our country," he urged.

The minister explained that even seemingly small contributions, from maintaining hotel gardens and providing good service to transporting visitors and assisting with their needs, could influence whether international guests decide to return.

He said the country must therefore make a collective effort to present its culture, hospitality and services in a manner that encourages visitors to develop lasting connections with the destination.

Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene said the objective should be to ensure that the benefits of CHOGM continue long after the leaders and other delegates have departed, leaving Antigua and Barbuda with an enhanced international reputation and greater opportunities for future economic growth.



PDV Caribe
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

Performing Arts Centre Officially Opens Tomorrow

Final preparations are underway ahead of tomorrow's official opening of the National Performing Arts Centre located on High and Cross Streets.

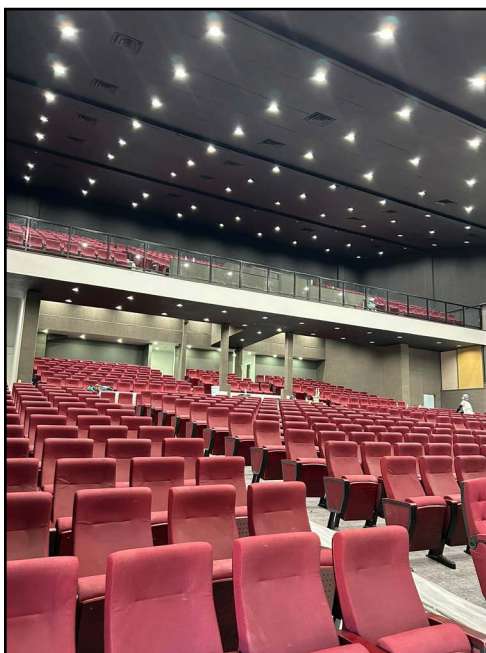
A ceremony and ribbon-cutting will mark the occasion, which will commence at 10 AM.

The opening of the centre marks the culmination of more than a year of construction of the facility, formerly the Deluxe Cinema. The property was purchased by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for \$ 6 million, while its construction and retrofitting were financed through grant funding.

A logo, which will be selected from submissions made through a competition, is expected to be selected shortly for the facility. The deadline for submissions ended on 15th October 2026. Participants who were required to be Antiguan and Barbudan nationals in order to qualify, were asked to submit designs that capture the theme 'Bring Our Culture, Shape Our Identity'.

The first major activity scheduled for the 850-seat performing arts centre is the opening ceremony for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, with British Monarch King Charles III who is head of the Commonwealth of Nations being in attendance.

According to government officials, future plans for the facility will ensure the existence of a dedicated space for the performing arts.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne says the facility will serve as a haven for aspiring as well as seasoned artists.

"Transformed from the former Deluxe Cinema into a vibrant home for music, dance, theatre and storytelling; this centre represents our commitment to preserving our heritage, empowering our artists, creating economic opportunities and nurturing the next generation of creatives," Prime Minister Browne stated.

He acknowledged the challenges that were experienced, but added that his administration was determined to deliver on its promise.

"Despite the criticisms, negativity and fallacious claims of corruption

and nepotism we persevered. We delivered a \$25M entity, with less than half its value taken from the public purse," he added.

"Another promise made, another promise kept! Our culture is not merely part of our identity; it is an economic asset that can strengthen our experiential tourism product, monetized to create revenue and showcase the best of Antigua and Barbuda to the world."

Prime Minister Browne is optimistic that the National Performing Arts Centre will "inspire generations of creatives, produce internationally comparative artists and strengthen the cultural soul of our beloved nation".



ACB
CARIBBEAN

**MORTGAGES
DESIGNED
JUST FOR YOU**

Apply today.





50% off
legal fees



100%
Financing





ABDF Captain Announces Retirement, Citing Breakdown in Relationship with Management

Captain Javonson Willock has announced his retirement from the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) after 21 years of service, citing a significant deterioration in his relationship with the force's current management.

Willock made the announcement on Wednesday as he reflected on his military career, which began on 21st October 2005 and included professional training in several countries and operational assignments in the Coast Guard.

Willock said he initially joined the military with aspirations of becoming a doctor, intending to begin as a medic before pursuing further medical training.

"Interestingly, to this day, I cannot even read a prescription. During recruit training, one of my instructors approached me and asked whether I was interested in becoming a Commissioned Officer. Without hesitation, I said yes, although I had absolutely no idea what a Commissioned Officer was. All I knew was that it sounded interesting.

Following recruit training, Willock completed two local military courses, emerging as the top student in both. In 2007, he travelled to Guyana to undergo commissioned officer training.

He said his career advanced significantly from 2008, with professional military training primarily through the United States Army, Navy and Coast Guard, as well as opportunities in China, Canada, the United Kingdom, Jamaica and other countries.

Willock described his time in the Coast Guard as one of the most memorable periods of his military service, highlighting his involve-



Captain Javonson Willock

ment in coordinating search and rescue operations that resulted in distressed fisherfolk being reunited with their families.

"I remain proud of what we accomplished together," he said, while acknowledging the men and women with whom he served in maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and operations centre management.

However, Willock posting on his social media page said his career took a significant turn after an anticipated appointment to lead a specialised unit failed to materialise in 2018 or 2019.

He recounted that on 23rd December 2020, he was summoned by a Lieutenant Colonel who questioned him about allegations of misconduct.

Willock alleged that he was promised that nothing would come of the investigation if he cooperated, but said the meeting marked the beginning of a difficult period in his military career.

The allegations of misconduct against him resulted in him being found guilty by the Defence Board

and subsequently asked to resign. He challenged the decision before the High Court of Justice, and the matter remains part of a wider dispute that has extended over several years.

Captain Javonson Willock said the proceedings resulted in legal victories and reinforced his determination to defend his rights.

He maintained that his legal action was not motivated by personal hostility towards any individual, but by a determination to protect his rights, reputation and pension entitlements amid what he described as pressure to resign.

Despite the difficulties he described, Willock acknowledged the institution's contribution to his personal and professional development, saying the ABDF had provided opportunities that helped shape his discipline, leadership and outlook on life.

"I must also acknowledge the exceptional men and women with whom I served in the Coast Guard. Our team was among the very best in maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and operations centre management. I remain proud of what we accomplished together".

As he prepares to depart, he said his relationship with the current management has deteriorated to the point where continuing his service has become extremely difficult.

"As a consequence, I have made a decision to retire from the ABDF and will do so in the coming days, subject to certain conditions," he said.

Willock expressed gratitude to those who contributed to his career over the past 21 years.

Kareem Simon Guilty of Murdering Dennis Edwards

Greenbay resident Kareem Simon has been found guilty of murdering 66-year-old Dennis Edwards on Lower All Saints Road in August 2023.

Following an altercation between the two men, Edwards was discovered motionless with puncture wounds to his upper body on 21st August 2023.

Simon was later arrested and charged with causing the death of Edwards who was a food vendor for many years on Lower All Saints Road.

The trial came to an end in the courtroom of Justice John Spencer when the jury returned a guilty verdict. Simon was remanded to His Majesty's Prison and will be sentenced on 19th November 2026.

Surveillance footage from the day of the incident showed the two men on the steps of Courts Furnishings involved in a war of words. As it escalated, video evidence revealed the now convicted man swung at Dennis Edwards, before a fight broke out.

The altercation ended with Edwards sustaining stab wounds that resulted in his death.

During the trial, Kareem Simon mounted a self-defense argument, but the video evidence was compelling and in the end, jurors rejected his claims.

It was revealed that prior to the incident the two men had never spoken to each other.



Dennis Edwards (Deceased)



Curry House

ANTIGUA

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm


[currytandoorihouseanu](#)

[curryhouseanu](#)

[\(268\) 736-7165](#)


 A collage of various Indian and Caribbean dishes including curries, rice, and vegetables, arranged in a circular pattern around the text.

Sub-Regional Youth Parliamentarians Dialogue with Governor General and Lady Williams



Their Excellencies Sir Rodney Williams, Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda, and Lady Williams, President of the Halo Foundation, welcomed a group of youth parliamentarians from across the Eastern Caribbean during a courtesy call at Government House on Monday as part of the Eastern Caribbean Youth Parliament Network (ECYPN) 2026.

The meeting brought together young representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Montserrat, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, who travelled to Saint John's to participate in the regional youth parliamentary initiative.

During the courtesy call, Sir Rodney Williams shared valuable insights from his political journey,

offering the young parliamentarians guidance on the importance of education, personal development and preparing for the future. He encouraged the participants to diversify their skill sets, make the most of educational opportunities and remain open to learning and growth in an ever-changing world.

The youth delegation was also commended for their work and commitment to youth engagement, leadership, and regional development.

Lady Sandra Williams suggested the adoption of important qualities that contribute towards meaningful and powerful leadership by elected youth parliamentarians across the Caribbean—including honesty, transparency and a genuine love and respect for fellow citizens. She stressed that

by referring to the youth, we are primarily, albeit not solely, concerned about young people who can now make a positive impact on our environment, economy and ethics — as opposed to the notion that these individuals are majorly being groomed for future positions. Her Excellency also pledged a monetary grant from the Halo Foundation to assist the Youth Parliamentary Association of Antigua and Barbuda to offset expenses of their current program.

The youth parliamentarians were given the opportunity to engage their Excellencies in a question-and-answer session. The courtesy call concluded with a photo opportunity, capturing a memorable moment of regional unity and youth leadership.

New York Offices Prepare to Host Thanksgiving Service and Gala for 45th Anniversary of Independence

The Antigua and Barbuda Consulate General in New York will commence its major activities in celebration of the nation's 45th year of Independence with the traditional Service of Thanksgiving this Sunday 25th October 2026.

The service will take place at Salem United Methodist Church, located at 2190 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard on West 129th Street in Harlem and begins at 4 pm, with Dr. Ava Jolley of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights serving as officiant, while the sermon will be delivered by Rev. F. Craig Henry of the Little Rock Baptist Church and the Shiloh Baptist Church.

Also participating in the service as members of the clergy will be Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards, Rev. Dr. Cheryl White Lewis, Rev. Dr. David K. Allen, Rev. Elouise Hill Challenger, Evangelist Patricia Ralph and Bishop Kevin Griffin. They will lead the congregation in offering prayers for the nation as it celebrates its 45th anniversary of political independence.

The Antigua and Barbuda International Chorale, led by Dean Belgrave Pelle and the City South Steel Orchestra will accompany the congregation in a selection of hymns and songs. Praise and Worship will be led by Kyann and The Chosen Generation.

The service will be streamed live from the church's website Facebook page and YouTube.

An official flag raising ceremony will take place on Monday 26th October at Bowling Green Park in Manhattan, beginning at 2:00 pm.

Meantime, plans are being finalised for the highlight of the celebrations, the annual Independence



Gala, which will be held at the renowned Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle. The highly anticipated event takes place on Saturday 21st November 2026 at 8 pm.

In a major shift, organisers will introduce the popular Session Starters DJs to this year's celebrations. This is the first time since the Burning Flames became a fixture that another act will lead the entertainment.

The New York gala traditionally brings the curtains down on the season of Independence celebrations and so this year is themed Road to Golden, setting the ball going for



the journey to fifty years of Antigua and Barbuda's Independence.

Tickets are now on sale with the Early Bird special available for \$200 until Thursday 5th November. Thereafter, tickets will be available for \$225 until the day before the event.

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



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

Celebrate 45 years with 45% OFF.

Get a
Samsung A17
with a new Postpaid plan



a chance to win weekly
prizes and a **Royalton CHIC**
Antigua getaway for two.



Happy Independence
Antigua and Barbuda.

Sign up today.

Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid while stocks last.
Promotion period September 28 to October 31

Royalton
CHIC Antigua

FLOW



BIG ANNOUNCEMENT COMING SOON



ONE PEOPLE ONE L  VE

JAN 9TH AND 10TH 2027



ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL



ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Your Child Is Safe at Home, But Are They Safe Online?

Games, chats and social media are where our children play and make friends. Here is what every parent and guardian needs to know to keep them safe there.



By Dr. Gail Rolle-Greenidge
Lecturer in Computer Science

*The University of the West Indies,
 Five Islands Campus*

Cybersecurity discussions often focus on banks, businesses and government systems. We rarely talk about the child on a tablet, the teenager being blackmailed through a private message, or the nine-year-old who thinks an online gaming buddy is a real friend.

We should. This Cybersecurity Awareness Month, every parent and guardian should ask:

Who is really in the room with my child?

Our parents taught us not to talk to strangers, accept gifts from people we did not know, or go anywhere without permission. Those lessons still hold. What has changed is where the stranger stands.

They no longer wait at the school gate or at the bus stop. They walk in through a gaming chat, a friend request or a private message, often pretending

to be a child.

The Playground Has Changed. Has Our Parenting?

For many of our children, the internet is the playground, the entertainment centre and the social circle all at once. They play on Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite, connect on TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram and WhatsApp, and carry on the conversation on Discord long after the game ends.

These platforms have real benefits. The danger is that children meet people they are not yet mature enough to judge.

Here is how it often happens. A child gets a message from someone who says they are eleven. They play together, trade compliments and gaming rewards, and trust builds. Then the conversation moves to Discord, WhatsApp or another private app, and the questions change. Which school do you go to? Are your parents home? Can you send me a picture?

This is online grooming: building a child's trust in order to exploit them. It happens slowly, which is exactly why children do not see it coming.

Not everyone online is dangerous. But our children must learn that an online friend is not always who they claim to be.

The Illusion of Online Friendship

Many parents relax because their children seem to be chatting with people their own age. But profiles can be stolen, ages faked and voices disguised, and artificial intelligence now makes convincing fake photos and identities easy to create.

A lonely or left-out child is especially at risk. Someone who offers attention, sympathy or gaming gifts can become that child's closest confidant long before any inappropriate request is made.

Be concerned when an online contact encourages secrecy, pushes to move the conversation to another platform, or tells your child that you "wouldn't understand."

When the Game Becomes the Gateway

Games bring their own traps: cyberbullying, scams and exploitation. Children are offered Robux, V-Bucks or rare items in exchange for their passwords. Links promising free rewards lead to stolen accounts and unauthorised purchases. And gaming friendships are used to pull children into private chats where parents can see even less. Age ratings, privacy settings and parental controls help but they are not a complete shield.

This Is Not a Distant Problem

Last month, UNICEF published its latest Disrupting Harm findings. Across 21 countries, including the Dominican Republic, one in five internet-using children aged 12 to 17 had experienced technology-facilitated sexual exploitation or abuse in a single year. More than 40 per cent never told anyone. Fewer than one per cent of cases reached the authorities. These are not figures for our islands, but nothing suggests our children are immune.

In 2023 alone, the US-based National Center for Missing & Exploited Children received 26,718 reports of financial sextortion, where someone threatens to release intimate images unless the victim pays money or sends more.

Boys and girls are both targets. A teenager shares an image with someone they believe is a peer, and the threats begin: pay up, or this goes to your friends, your classmates, your family.

With AI, a child does not even need to have shared anything. Manipulat-

Feature

ed images can falsely show a child in compromising situations.

These dangers do not only find children who take risks. Sometimes, all it takes is misplaced trust.

Watch What We Share, Too

In small Caribbean communities, it does not take much to identify a child. A school uniform, a photo outside the family home, a sports jersey or a location tag can reveal where a child studies, lives and plays. No one needs a home address; a handful of ordinary posts paints the picture.

Before posting photos of prize-giving, birthdays or graduations, ask who can see them, and who could download, alter or pass them on.

Before we teach our children to protect their digital footprints, we must examine the footprints we are creating for them.

Warning Signs Parents Should Not Ignore

Children often stay quiet. They fear losing their devices, being blamed or being embarrassed. Some have been threatened into silence.

Watch for:

- ▶ Unusual secrecy about online conversations, or screens quickly hidden when you walk in.
- ▶ Anxiety, withdrawal or distress after using a device.
- ▶ Unexplained gaming credits, digital gifts or money.

▶ Private conversations with unknown people, especially late at night.

▶ Reluctance to go to school after online harassment.

▶ Pressure to share photos, personal details or passwords.

None of these signs proves exploitation. But each one deserves a calm, non-judgmental conversation. The goal is to make it safe for your child to tell you.

What Every Caribbean Parent Can Do

Know the platforms. Explore the games, apps and chat services your child uses. Check the privacy settings and parental controls and find out who can contact your child.

Set age-appropriate boundaries. Young children should not have unrestricted access to social media or private messaging. Respect age limits, use supervised settings and review contact lists regularly.

Teach children to spot manipulation. Explain that strangers may pretend to be children, offer gifts, ask for secrets or pressure them for information. Practise how to say no, block and report.

Protect accounts and devices. Use unique passwords, turn on multifactor authentication, install updates, and ignore any link that promises free gaming rewards.

Keep talking. Talking about their on-

line life should be as ordinary as asking about their school day.

Have a plan. If your child is threatened, bullied or sent an inappropriate request, they should stop responding and tell a trusted adult. Save the evidence, report the account through the platform, and contact the police or child-protection authorities if you suspect exploitation or a crime. Never forward intimate images of a minor, even to prove abuse.

Most importantly, do not punish a child for coming forward. The fear of losing a mobile device is enough to keep a child silent.

Ask the Harder Questions

This month, do not just ask how long your child was online;

Ask what happened there.

Ask who they spoke with.

Ask what they shared.

Ask whether anyone made them uncomfortable.

And make sure they know that no online mistake, threat or embarrassment is too big to bring to you.

Locking the front door is no longer enough. The question is not whether your child is safe at home. It is whether your child is safe online at home.

This Cybersecurity Awareness Month, let us raise children who are not only digitally connected, but digitally aware, confident and protected.



POINTE ON DE STREETZ 2
 HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER

PBN
 TUE - FRI
 2PM - 3PM
 CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991
 f POINT FM99.1



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

ROOTED IN PRIDE, BOUNDED BY PROSPERITY FOR ALL

NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

SPECIAL DRILLS AND CHEERLEADING COMPETITION



THURSDAY
22
OCTOBER 2026



SIR VIVIAN
RICHARDS
STADIUM



8:30 AM



NATIONAL
EVENTS
DEPARTMENT
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



MINISTRY OF
SPORTS &
CREATIVE
INDUSTRIES

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 45TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

18

OCTOBER

Independence Church Service

Precision Center

4:00 PM

THURSDAY

22

OCTOBER

National Youth Rally, Special Drills and Cheerleading Competition

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

8:30 AM

SUNDAY

25

OCTOBER

National Food Fair

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

10:00 AM

National Schools' Panorama

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

6:00 PM

MONDAY

26

OCTOBER

National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway

10:00 AM

National Independence Business Decor Competition

Starts: October 26

Ends: October 29

TUESDAY

27

OCTOBER

Voices in Harmony - Festival of Choirs

St. Anthony's Secondary School

8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

28

OCTOBER

Schools' Independence Programs

Schools Across the State

Island Treasures Gala - Golden Age

Casa Palmadita

THURSDAY

29

OCTOBER

Barbuda Day Activities**Evening of Theatre**

St. Anthony's Secondary School

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

30

OCTOBER

Independence Calypso Competition

Green Lounge – Cedar Valley

8:00 PM

National Dress and Flag Day

SUNDAY

1

NOVEMBER

Independence Flag Ceremony

Barbuda

7:00 AM

Independence Ceremonial Parade

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

5:45 PM



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

ROOTED IN PRIDE, BOUNDED BY PROSPERITY FOR ALL

SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Regional News

'I never felt fearful' - Brave Higgins honoured for capturing child killer; Barnswells for rescuing minor

As Susan Higgins stepped onto the dais at King's House on Monday to receive the Badge of Honour for Gallantry for assisting in the capturing and handing over of a man who raped and murdered an eight-year-old girl, her thoughts were with the child's mother, with whom she has formed a quiet bond in her heart despite never meeting.

"I tell myself I wish someday I could meet that mother just to give her a hug. Even though I can't bring back the life of her child, and I can't even fathom what it would feel like as a mother to lose a child in such a manner, I would like to give her some comfort and sound words of power," she said.

Higgins helped track down Troy Ellis, the man who has since been convicted for the rape and murder of eight-year-old Talia Thompson in Discovery Bay, St Ann, in 2023.

According to police, Thompson was lured to Ellis' home at Fortlands Road in Discovery Bay, where she was raped and stabbed repeatedly. Her body was found inside his house by residents of the community.

Ellis, a sanitary worker, attempted to commit suicide after the killing but was unsuccessful.

He also escaped police guard while he was hospitalised.

Reflecting on the Sunday evening that she saw Ellis walking on the road in October 2023, and eventually realising that he was the



man wanted by the police, Higgins said she knew she could not let him escape.

She feigned concern for his injuries and offered him a ride. Unbeknownst to Ellis, her plan from the get-go was to take him into the police station.

"I single-handedly hold him with my right hand and pull him past the police and throw him in the guard room," she said, while she waited for confirmation of his identity.

"I never felt fearful. I never felt timid. I did what I do best," she added.

Ellis was found guilty of rape, murder, and grievous sexual assault and sentenced to more than 30 years in prison in May 2024. He will have to serve 24 years before becoming eligible for parole.

After experiencing sexual assault as a child and be-

ing left feeling unprotected, Higgins, mother of five, said she feels that it is now her purpose to be a voice for the voiceless and to help those in society who are most vulnerable.

The award is motivation for her to remain brave.

"I am so elated. I am so happy. I feel so confident. I am so blessed, knowing that the world is watching and the world can see there are many strong women in this world," she said.

Meanwhile, husband and wife team of Councillor Scean Barnswell and Danielle Anna-Marie Barnswell were also awarded the Badge of Honour for Gallantry for their quick action that saved the life of a six-year-old girl who was abducted from her school in Clarendon in December last year.

The child, a student of St

Thomas More Preparatory School, had reportedly gone missing after a man reportedly walked off the school compound with her.

The police issued a high alert for the missing child.

Barnswell was travelling with his wife and actively discussing circulating reports of the missing child when he observed a man walking with a child wearing the uniform of Thomas More Preparatory School.

He said he turned his vehicle around, blocked the man's path, exited his vehicle, and confronted him. The suspect reportedly attempted to flee but was overpowered, and the child was rescued.

Barnswell said he alerted the police, who arrived shortly after, and both the man and the child were turned over to the lawmen.

The councillor for the Hayes Division in the Clarendon Municipal Corporation and former Mayor of May Pen said the award was unexpected but that he was pleased.

He encouraged Jamaicans to see helping each other as part of civic duties.

"If any citizen of this country would have seen anybody in dire need, they should consider giving some support or assistance whether personally or try to get to the security forces to render some assistance. But nothing is wrong in getting involved in rendering help," he said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News

PAGE 19

Father remains prime suspect as body of 6-y-o boy found in Berbice canal

The Guyana Police Force says the father of a six-year-old child, whose body was found Tuesday among other debris near the canal by the sea dam in Bath Settlement, Berbice, is assisting their investigations.

The police said that six-year-old Orlando Jaikarran was found after investigators obtained information, including additional surveillance footage showing the child's father travelling on a motorcycle towards the canal with what appeared to be his son before returning later without the child.

Police Commander in Region Five, Lansdale Withrite, confirmed the discovery of the child's body and that his father, Bharrat Jaikarran, is the prime suspect and remains in police custody.

"Based on some information that came to light last evening, we conducted a search of the canal that runs next to the sea dam," Withrite told reporters at the scene.

"That exercise started around quarter to nine and about one o'clock this morning, the body of the missing child was recovered about a mile from this current location.

"We had some additional footage, so we were able to gather some information from the main suspect in this matter, which is the child's father," he added.

The father had initially claimed that he was unaware of the child's whereabouts and had last seen him when he put him to bed on October 13. He reported the boy missing the following day and initially assisted in the search operations.

Police said that the child's body was found among other debris near the canal, reportedly being eaten by reptiles.

"The public and the members of the community have been very supportive and contributed by coming out and assisting, searching and so on, since this



matter was reported," Withrite said, adding that schools had also played a role in circulating information about the missing child.

"Even the schools and so on were

posting that the child was missing, and that was useful in bringing us to this point that we are at the moment," the commander added. (CMC)

Generators for Rent

One 150KVA 3phase Generator with Out Door Enclosure.

One 50KVA Single Generator with Out Door Enclosure.

THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.

PAYNTERS.

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

GENERATOR RENTALS

GENERATORS FOR RENT

150KVA 3Phase 3wire.120/240v.

50KVA 3Phase 3wire 120/240v.

CONTACT:

THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.

PAYNTERS.

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

US pledges renewed Caribbean focus

Positioning the United States as a true “Caribbean nation”, US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau says Washington under the Trump administration is actively reorienting its foreign policy back to its immediate neighbourhood after years of relative neglect.

“For far too long, we have been looking at things that are happening half-way across the world, and we have been ignoring things that are happening right in our own neighbourhood,” Landau told a gathering of Caribbean leaders at a US-Caribbean Dialogue last Thursday.

“We are restoring the Western Hemisphere to its position of pre-eminence and priority in American foreign policy,” he said.

His statement preceded the announcement of a US\$340-million investment package in the region for economic growth, security, digital connectivity, and healthcare.

Landau said the relationships between the United States and the Caribbean have been crucial throughout history, noting that the gathering is not a blank slate being written on.

“And frankly, it has been a source of pain for many of us as Americans to see the United States not giving the Western Hemisphere, generally, the attention it deserved, and specifically, the Caribbean,” he said.

Landau noted that he and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio believe that what is in the region’s interest is also in the United States’ interests, mentioning that there are several areas where there should be deepening cooperation and where there are great solutions.

He said while short-term government grants are helpful, sustainable Caribbean growth relies primarily on long-term private-sector investment and business partnerships.

“But ultimately, the greatness of the



United States is not driven by the government; it’s driven by our private sector. And so our job – or what I see our job as being – is just to be an interlocutor so that our private sector is aware of the opportunities in the Caribbean and that the Caribbean is aware of what the private sector might be interested in here,” he said, mentioning next year’s planned investment conference in the region.

At the same time, he expressed concerns about an “uptick” in recent years of drugs being smuggled through the Caribbean from South America towards the United States.

Landau warned that the US would no longer rely solely on legal extraditions to combat trafficking, officially framing the overdose epidemic in that country as a national security threat. He said the US would continue to take stronger, more direct action across the region.

“And we’d like to work with your countries to make sure that we’re all on the same page, at least in recognising the common danger of this and seeing how we can try to address this scourge together,” he said, announcing

US\$37 million for new programming in security.

Addressing the persistent flow of illegal guns fuelling violence in the region, Landau highlighted US state efforts to clamp down on gun trafficking originating in Florida, particularly shipments bound for Haiti.

He noted that the State Department is working closely with federal prosecutors in the Southern District of Florida to dismantle illicit smuggling networks.

Added to that, he said illegal fishing has been a priority of his and the State Department worldwide.

“If there are people fishing illegally in your waters, we want to work with you to address that because obviously, fish is an important resource for all of our peoples,” he said, announcing a US\$55 million grant to strengthen law enforcement and US\$11 million in Foreign Military Financing to build the capabilities of security forces of the countries in the region. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Bahamas monitoring COVID-19 cluster cases

The Bahamas government says it is “closely monitoring a reported cluster of COVID-19 cases in Grand Bahama” following a church retreat which was held from October 8-11 this year.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness in a statement said that of the 112 participants, 20 tested positive for COVID-19 via rapid testing.

It said 14 of those were confirmed residents of Grand Bahama and the remaining six from New Providence. In addition, the ministry said that of the 14 persons who tested positive, one person in Grand Bahama has been admitted to the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH) and is listed in stable condition.

“Members of the public are reminded to practice prevention protocols by staying up to date with the COVID-19 vaccination, washing hands frequently using soap and water and using an alcohol-based sanitizer, improving indoor ventilation, wearing a well-fitted mask when appropriate, staying home when you are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and taking precautions when you are around older relatives and people who are at high risk of severe illness.”

The ministry said that COVID-19 symptoms include fever or chills; cough, sore throat or congestion; fatigue and body aches; headache; loss of taste or smell; shortness of breath; and nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

It said that symptoms can range from mild to severe, and some people may have few or no symptoms but can still transmit the virus.

“Persons having difficulty breathing or severe shortness of breath; persistent chest pain or pressure; new confusion or inability to stay awake; pale, grey or blue lips; or any other severe or rapidly worsening symptoms should seek emergency medical attention immediately,” the ministry said. It urged members of the public to be



guided only by information released by the Ministry of Health and Wellness or official sources.

A total of 844 to 849 cumulative COVID-19 deaths have been officially reported in The Bahamas since the pandemic began. The vast majority of

deaths occurred during earlier pandemic surges, peaking around 2021.

In recent years (2024–2026), new reported COVID-19 deaths in The Bahamas have dropped to near zero or very minimal numbers. (CMC)

FOR SALE

One 30KVA open set Generator with 200amp Automatic Transfer Switch. \$40,000.00ec.
THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION. PAYNTERS.
Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

FOR SALE

One 30KVA open set Generator with 200amp Automatic Transfer Switch. \$40,000.00ec.
THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION. PAYNTERS.
Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Australian MP loses both legs after alleged car attack, husband says



Helen Haines, the Australian MP who was hit by a car in what authorities say was a deliberate attack, has lost both her legs, her husband has confirmed.

Phil Haines said the “horrendous incident” caused his wife significant injuries but “her heart and her mind are in good shape”. He added that the “good news in all this is that she’s alive”.

The alleged attacker, 43-year-old Brendan Nugent, faces multiple charges and appeared in court for the first time on Wednesday.

Nugent was arrested moments after he allegedly drove his Toyota Land-Cruiser into the independent MP outside her electorate office in the regional town of Wangaratta, about 240km (150miles) northeast of Melbourne.

Haines’ “road to recovery will be long and difficult, but we know she is a fighter,” her husband said at a press conference in Melbourne where she is being treated.

“She is a determined person who will do her best, with our support and love, to recover. And that is what we hope for.”

He thanked hospital staff and people, both in Australia and internationally, who have shown their concern for

Haines, and urged those who want to show their support to donate to the Save the Children fund.

“Please keep sending Helen your love,” he added.

Earlier on Wednesday, Nugent appeared at the local court to face three charges: dangerous driving causing serious injury, intentionally causing serious injury, and causing harm to a Commonwealth public official. Police said more charges may be laid, including attempted murder.

Nugent - a local from the nearby town of Tarrawingee and known as an environmental campaigner - remained silent and emotionless during his brief court appearance.

He did not apply for bail and is due back in court in February. Court documents show he was also charged with cultivating and possessing cannabis.

In court, Nugent’s lawyer said that his client had “mental health concerns” but did not give any further detail.

The court also heard that Nugent has a rare neurological condition - idiopathic transverse myelitis - caused by inflammation of the spinal cord.

Victoria Police said its investigation, with support from the Australian Fed-

eral Police (AFP), remains ongoing and a motive is yet to be established.

“His motivation for this - what we allege is a deliberate attack - is very much a centrepiece of the investigation,” said Victoria Police Commissioner Mike Bush.

“Our people will continue to explore every element, angle and avenue to work that out. It’s something that, when we work towards it, discover it, we will present in court.”

Nugent was not on the radar of police and there was no intelligence of any threat to Haines before the incident, police said.

Investigators are also looking into whether drug use or medication played a part in the incident and if there was any personal connection between Nugent and Haines.

Nugent’s family earlier put out a statement saying they were long-time friends with Haines, who is the independent MP for the regional seat of Indi in Victoria. They described the apparent attack as “devastating and unfathomable”.

The incident occurred on Monday afternoon at around 15.35, local time. Moments after the car hit Haines, bystanders pulled Nugent out of the vehicle and detained him.

Jacob and Jackie Evans were among the first on the scene, and said Haines was grateful to them for coming to her aid as she lay severely injured.

“Thank you, you lovely people,” is what Haines said to them, according to the Herald Sun.

“She was thanking us, it was incredible,” Jackie told Nine’s Today programme.

Jacob used a tourniquet he had in a medical kit in his car to help stem the bleeding from one of Haines’s legs.

Haines underwent surgery after the incident and lost one of her legs. As of Wednesday morning she has also lost the other leg, her husband Phil told reporters.

The community in Wangaratta, as well as the wider political community, are in shock over the incident in a country where political violence is rare.

Leaders from across the political spectrum have paid tribute to Haines, who was first elected in 2019 and is well regarded by her peers.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he had spoken to Haines's husband several times since the incident.

In an interview with the national broadcaster ABC, Albanese said threats to female politicians were marked by a "different form of vilification and aggression" such as threats of rape.

There has also been a recent growing trend of threats against "high office holders", with almost one person a week being charged for such offences, police said.

Monday's incident has sparked debate over the level of security for MPs.

Federal police said that individual protection for every one of the country's 226 federal MPs would require "incredible" levels of staffing.

Instead, police assess the need for close personal protection based on a person's role and the threat environment around them, police said.

Australia's Governor-General Sam Mostyn, who spoke at the same press conference as Haines' husband, said this was "a moment for us to pause, and to choose to be better".

"We should do what I imagine Helen would be doing if she was not the victim of this terrible attack - reaching out to those who are terribly distressed by what has happened," she says.

"Most importantly, that we learn or re-learn to exercise our muscle of decency." (BBC)



Saudi capital's airport reopens to limited traffic, and other Mideast news



Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport was open for domestic flights on Wednesday following multiple Houthi strikes on the Saudi capital this month.

A limited number of Saudi airlines took off and landed at the country's main airport on Wednesday, two days after authorities notified airlines that they could resume operations with prior permission.

Saudia and FlyNas were operating flights Wednesday, according to flight-tracking data published by FlightAware. Major carriers, including Lufthansa and Air France, have canceled flights through mid-November.

Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport has been hit multiple times by Yemen's Houthi rebels this month and shut down on Oct. 10.

The Houthis have acknowledged attacking the airport, claiming without evidence that Saudi Arabia provided military equipment to government

forces through the facility.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization said Wednesday unknown projectiles ignited a fire aboard a tanker in the Persian Gulf off Oman and struck another tanker off Iraq in separate incidents.

The first attack occurred 12.6 miles west of the coastal town of Bukha in the Omani province of Musandam, it said.

The UKMTO said the fire was extinguished and the tanker was at anchor, with its crew safe.

The second attack occurred 34.5 miles southeast of Al Faw, Iraq. The tanker's crew is safe while no damage to the tanker or environmental impact has been reported.

The attack was the latest against vessels attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz without coordinating with Iran amid its conflict with the United States.

Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, a spokes-

man for the Saudi-led coalition fighting against the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, said in a social media post Wednesday that five drones fired toward Saudi Arabia were intercepted and destroyed over the holy city of Medina.

The attack was the latest on Saudi Arabia since the resurgence of fighting with the Houthis in mid-July. The Yemeni rebels repeatedly struck targets in the kingdom, including oil facilities and airports, and engaged in fierce clashes with Saudi-backed Yemeni forces in Yemen.

The coalition, in turn, hit the rebel-held areas in Yemen including the capital, Sanaa and provided air cover to a major offensive the Yemeni government launched earlier this month.

The Houthis claim the military camp houses a command center for the Saudi-led forces fighting the rebels.

A transportation ministry official in Aden said a civilian airplane had taken off from the airport before the strike, while the departure hall was evacuated.

He said operations in the airport were temporarily suspended and that there was no damage to the tarmac. The official was speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

This is the second time the Houthis claim to have targeted the military camp inside the airport complex in five days and the third this month. (AP)

Burkina Faso's parliament unanimously votes to reinstate the death penalty



The parliament in the West African junta-run nation of Burkina Faso has adopted a new penal code reinstating the death penalty for crimes including terrorism, espionage and treason.

According to the country's justice minister, Edasso Rodrigue Bayala, all 71 members of the Burkina Faso legislature unanimously voted in favor of adopting the new penal code on Tuesday.

The development ends the abolition of the death penalty, which had been in effect since 2018 under the previous and democratically elected president, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. The last known execution in Burkina Faso took place in 1988, according to Human Rights Watch.

The junta's Council of Ministers approved a bill reinstating capital punishment in December, prompting a backlash from human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which criticized the move as repressive and an effort to suppress dissent.

In 2024, Bayala announced that "the issue of the death penalty ... is being discussed (and) will be implemented."

The military junta has previously been accused of targeting dissidents by detaining human rights defenders and journalists. It also dissolved all political parties in the country and

scrapped the laws governing them earlier this year.

The move comes as landlocked Burkina Faso, a country of 23 million people, grapples with a security crisis as authorities battle militant groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

Both government forces and militants from Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, an al-Qaida-aligned group, have been accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity by rights groups. A Human Rights Watch report this year said government forces killed over twice as many civilians as jihadis between 2023 and 2025. (AP)



VACANCY

Join Our Team

WE'RE HIRING — ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS!

Are you friendly, energetic, and passionate about great customer service?

KFC is looking for **dedicated individuals** to join our restaurant team as **Food & Customer Service Team Members**.

As a Team Member, you'll help create a great experience for our customers by:

- Providing fast, friendly, and exceptional customer service
- Preparing and serving our much-loved KFC products
- Working as part of a supportive and energetic team
- Helping to maintain a clean, safe, and positive restaurant environment

COME READY TO INTERVIEW!

Bring your **resume** and come prepared to meet with our team. You could be one step closer to joining the KFC family!

Location: KFC Administration Office, Brysons Complex, Friars Hill Rd., St. John's, Antigua.

All applicants:

- **Must be 18 years and older**
- **Have Social Security & Medical Benefits**



**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER



A vibrant and colorful poster for the Antigua Carnival 70th Anniversary. The background features a collage of carnival performers in elaborate costumes with large, multi-colored feathered headdresses. The performers are smiling and dancing, creating a festive atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

ANTIGUA
Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

Legendary **70**

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027

 ANTIGUA CARNIVAL  @ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL

Bullets continue resurgence in IBSC Tape Ball Classic

Cup-holders Bryson's Bullets have continued their resurgence during the latest round of matches in the LL Supply IBSC Tape Ball Classic.

After losing their first three matches in defense of their title, Bullets claimed their fourth consecutive win by pulling off a two-wicket victory over Grill Box at the Powells playing field.

Grill Box was dismissed for 158 in 17 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Demari Benta hit 41, Kadeem Henry struck 40, and Steve Martin scored 34. Michael Harrilall snapped up three wickets for two runs, Andra Samuel claimed three for 34, and Shaquan Reifer picked up two for 33.

The Bullets achieved victory by scoring 162 for eight in 13 overs. Roniel Jeffrey slammed an unbeaten 54, and Essan Warner made 35.

Rodney Williams bagged four for 44, and Richie Thomas claimed two for 20 for Grill Box, which lost for the second time in eight matches.

TG Welding & Fabrication Underdogs recorded their second win in seven matches by claiming a 29-run victory over PMS at Powells in a match that was reduced to 15 overs per side.

TG Welding & Fabrication Underdogs won the toss and batted, scoring 160 for six from their 15 overs.

Malique Jacobs hit 36, Dario Hodge made 35, and Vishal Gobin scored 24. Iverson Joseph bagged three for 24.

In reply, PMS was restricted to 131 for six off their 15 overs. Cheldon Charles struck 60, while Thagpaul Gainchand took three for 29 as PMS tumbled to their fifth defeat in seven matches.

But the other two matches were abandoned due to a wet pitch and outfield at the Rising Sun ground in St. John's.

The affected matches involved the VIP and Hanse on Security and Easy Pickings Mix-Up Stars and Dredgers.



Roniel Jeffrey of Bryson's Bullets struck 54 not out against Grill Box to claim the Player of the Week Award during the latest round of matches in the LL Supply IBSC Tape Ball Classic.

Each team received a point.

The VIP has played seven matches, comprising five wins, one loss, and a rained-out encounter.

Hanse of Security have also played seven games, winning four, losing twice, and the other match was rained out.

It was the second successive aban-

doned match for Easy Pickings Mix-Up Stars after losing all previous five matches.

It was also the second abandoned match in seven encounters for the Dredgers, who have also registered three wins and two losses.

Several teams book spots in knockout stage in business football league



The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority business football league team

Several teams booked their spots into the knockout stage of the 2026 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship during the latest round of matches.

Among them are defending champions APUA Telecoms, Keyonna Beach Resort, Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors, and Hermitage Bay Strikers.

The top four teams in each of the four groups, which comprised seven teams apiece, at the end of the round-robin pool-play stage will advance to the Round of 16 knockout stage.

APUA Telecoms and Galley Bay Ballers have already secured two of the qualifying spots from Group 2. APUA Telecoms won their final match 3-0 via default against Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to finish with 15 points.

The Galley Bay Ballers also have 15 points with one game remaining. Four of the other five teams remain in contention to claim the other two qualifying spots in Group 2.

Keyonna Beach Resort and the University of the West Indies (UWI) Frigate Bird FC have secured two of the qualifying spots in Group 1.

Keyonna Beach Resort maintained their unbeaten run by prevailing 4-1 against Postal Services, while the UWI Frigate Bird FC snatched a 1-0 victory against Jumby Bay Resort in their penultimate matches to secure their spots in the Round of 16.

Their fifth win in as many matches lifted Keyonna Beach Resort to 15 points, five more than UWI Frigate Bird FC. Four of the other five teams remain in contention to claim the other two qualifying spots in Group 1.

The CHAPA Warriors, Immigration Department, and Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) have qualified from Group 3, with all three teams having one match remaining.

The CHAPA Warriors have 15 points from five matches. The Immigration Department claimed a 2-0 victory over the Jolly Harbour Stingers to advance to 13 points from five matches, while the ABAA have 10 points from five encounters.

Three of the other four teams are still in contention to grab the last qualifying spot from Group 3.

Hermitage Bay Strikers have finished as Group 4 winners despite suffering a 3-1 loss to Cocos Hotel in their final encounter.

Hermitage Bay Strikers are the only team to confirm their spot in the Round of 16 from Group 4 after finishing their quota of six matches with 13 points.

The other six teams in Group 4 are still in contention to claim one of the three remaining qualifying spots into the Round of 16.

In other results from the latest round of matches, KOSCAB hammered Jack Idle 6-1, Sandals beat West Indies Oil Company 5-0, and Blue Waters Hotel prevailed 1-0 against NHD Demolition Squad.

The Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) snatched a 2-1 victory over Royalton Chic Hotel, and NHD Full Experience romped to a 4-0 victory over Public Works Asphalt.

Sports News

Man United's crisis deepens with Champions League loss at Como



Manchester United's Mason Mount is dejected after Como scored their fourth goal during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Como and Manchester United in Como, Italy, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026. (AP)

ROME (AP) — Manchester United is hardly putting up a fight in the Champions League these days.

Michael Carrick's struggling team was beaten 4-1 at competition newcomer Como on Wednesday and United has now been outscored 6-1 in their last two European matches.

Nico Paz scored twice and also set up another score for Cesc Fabregas' Como, which was playing in the fourth division of Italian soccer just seven years ago.

In the other early game, Galatasaray won 4-2 at Lille with Victor Osimhen scoring against one of his former clubs.

Paz has been auditioning to take over

Lionel Messi's playmaker spot with Argentina and his performance against United was a case in point.

At the tiny 10,000-seat Giuseppe Sinigaglia stadium, Paz put Como ahead two minutes in with a curling shot from the edge of the area when Harry Maguire allowed him some space.

Man United became the first English team to concede in the opening two minutes of consecutive major European matches after Pablo Barrios scored in the opening minute of Atletico Madrid's 2-0 win last week.

Tasos Douvikas then took a pass from Paz before lobbing in over goalkeeper Senne Lammens for his third goal in three Champions League matches.

For Como's third, Paz went in virtually uncontested before shooting around Lammens. Center back Jacobo Ramon scored Como's fourth.

Joshua Zirkzee pulled one back for Man United in the stoppage time. Man United have won only one of their last 11 Champions League away matches. Como moved up to sixth in the standings, while United dropped to 20th.

In France, 19-year-old Soriba Diaoune scored twice for Lille in the first half, but it was 2-2 at the break before an own goal and a strike from Osimhen put Galatasaray in control.

It was Galatasaray's first win of this season's competition, while Lille have now lost all three of their matches.

Sixers spoil Knicks' title celebration in NBA season opener



Philadelphia 76ers guard Jaylen Brown, left, celebrates a three-point basket with teammate guard Tyrese Maxey, right, as New York Knicks head coach Mike Brown looks on, center, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in New York, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026. (AP)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Tyrese Maxey scored a game-high 28 points Tuesday night for the visiting Philadelphia 76ers, who spoiled the New York Knicks' ring and banner-raising ceremony with a 106-100 victory in the season opener for both teams.

Prior to the game, the Knicks received their championship rings from Walt "Clyde" Frazier -- a member of the franchise's previous title-winning teams in 1970 and 1973 and an analyst on New York's television broadcast team -- and raised the banner commemorating the long-awaited crown.

However, the 76ers, who were swept by the Knicks in the Eastern Conference semifinals before adding Jaylen Brown and LeBron James over the summer, dampened the festivities by taking the lead for

good with an 11-0 run to end the third quarter.

Brown (19 points, eight rebounds, six assists) and James (14 points, nine rebounds, seven assists) produced strong debuts for the 76ers, who haven't won the title since 1983.

Karl-Anthony Towns (19 points, 12 rebounds) and Andre Drummond (12 points, 14 rebounds) recorded double-doubles for the Knicks. Brunson finished with 21 points but shot just 6-of-19 from the field. Josh Hart had 14 points while OG Anunoby added 10 points.

Duncan Robinson scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter as Detroit reeled off 23 unanswered points and downed visiting Boston 121-113 in the first game of the new NBA regular season.

Jalen Duren and Cade Cunningham

scored 22 points apiece for the Pistons, who had an Eastern Conference-best 60 wins last season. Javonte Green came off the bench to score 19 points in 18 minutes, spurring Detroit's run which turned a 10-point deficit into a 112-99 lead with 3:33 left.

Paul George, making his Celtics debut, had a game-high 38 points. Payton Pritchard and Derrick White scored 17 points apiece, but Jayson Tatum was held to 13 points on 6-for-23 shooting and contributed a game-high 11 assists.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander poured in 32 points as visiting Oklahoma City built a huge first-half lead and held on for a 116-104 victory over San Antonio in the season opener between last year's top two teams in the Western Conference.

Jared McCain added 20 points and matched his career high with six 3-pointers for the Thunder. Chet Holmgren had 14 points and Jalen Williams finished with 12.

Stephon Castle led San Antonio with 24 points while Dylan Harper added 18, De'Aaron Fox hit for 14, Victor Wembanyama had 12 points, 13 rebounds and six blocked shots, and Keldon Johnson tallied 10 points.

Wembanyama went 1 of 13 from the field, with his only basket on a dunk on a lob to end the third quarter.

Real Blizzard maintain winning start in Second Division



Real Blizzard football team

Real Blizzard FC have maintained their winning start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Tuesday.

After launching this season's campaign with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Blackburn Palace, Real Blizzard picked up their successive victory with a 6-1 drubbing of Lion Hill FC in their second encounter at the Golden Grove playing field.

Jahrius Benjamin produced a hat trick for Real Blizzard with conversions in the 51st, 65th, and 72nd minutes. The other goals were scored by Jaden Dowdye in

the 19th minute, Nathan Fenton in the 34th minute, and Malik Dublin in the 78th minute.

Jevoi Grey scored a consolation goal in the 36th minute for Lion Hill FC, who were playing their first match of the new domestic season.

Glanvilles FC rebounded from a 4-0 loss to Point Westham FC in their season opener to claim their first win with a 3-0 victory over Police FC at the St. Johnstone Village Stadium.

Roshaun Martin had a double conversion with strikes in the 30th and 66th minutes after teammate Khadeem St. Jean scored the open-

ing goal in the 28th minute.

It was the first defeat for Police FC after securing a 4-1 victory over Tryum FC in their opening game.

But the match between Tryum FC and FC Masterballers at the Cashew Hill playing field was postponed. The match was not played after the match referee ruled that the playing field at Cashew Hill was not prepared to host the second division encounter.

FC Masterballers recorded a 3-1 victory over Wadadli United in their opening encounter.

Blackburn Palace claimed their first win after being awarded a 3-0 victory via default against the Cedar Blue Jays, who were unable to field a team for their encounter at the Fort Road playing field.

It was the second successive time the Cedar Grove Blue Jays, who were relegated from the ABFA's First Division last season, have failed to field a team for their match in the second division.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays defaulted to the Young Warriors FC in their opening match at Sea View Farm.