

Think outside the bank

Above the Bottomline

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SIGNIAGLOBE FINANCIAL

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FIRST COVID CROP OVER

After 2 years with Crop Over festivities being almost non-existent, both Bajans and tourists were glad to be outside once again for the season. While still aware of the presence of the covid pandemic, as there were many protocols still in place to keep the spread of the virus at bay, thousands of individuals still left their homes (as much as several times a week) to patronize the many events the season had to offer. To attend most of the events, individuals were required to either be fully vaccinated or produce a recent certificate showing the absence of covid. On the inside, you were encouraged to stay in your groups, limit interaction with people you did not come with and to remain masked up where possible. Despite all of this, 'feters' came out in their numbers to the many garden parties, J'ouverts and cruises that Crop Over 2022 had to offer.

We also took part in some of the festivities, as SigniaGlobe was the title sponsor of the 2022 Junior Masquerade Project. This project saw the creation of beautiful and culturally-expressive costuming done by several primary and secondary schools, as well as some youth groups across Barbados. Teachers, students and helpers from 10 schools/groups worked tirelessly to bring their pieces to life. It all culminated in dazzling parades at the participating schools with lots of music and tons of vibes.

This summer also saw the emergence of our Summer of Fun promotion; where we partnered with several small-scale Barbadian businesses and visited several locations across Barbados giving back to the community. We kept the Crop Over spirit alive as our DJ played soca songs while we gave away many prizes to anyone who was brave enough to step up and Spin to Win.

Although we may not be fully out of the woods yet, this season shows how far we have come; and I am hopeful Crop Over 2023 can be maskless once again. Until then, continue to mask up, social distance and keep safe.

By Ramon Boyce



Get to know us!



INTRODUCING **ALAIR HUNTE**

My name is Alair Hunte. I am a twenty-four-year-old University Graduate from St. Peter. I recently obtained my bachelor's degree in Management and International Business and now work in the Control Department as a Processing and Control Assistant at SigniaGlobe Finance. In my leisure time, I catch up on the news and the latest offerings in the automotive industry. Additionally, my favorite color is red, and I prefer to be occupied than to be doing nothing.

SG - Superman or Batman?

AH - Batman.

SG - What is your favourite drink of choice?

AH - Boom 600.

SG - If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live and why?

AH - Canada because they have a strong employment market and have a lot of natural resources.

SG - What is your favorite sport?

AH - Track and Field.

SG - How have you settled in with the SigniaGlobe staff?

AH - I've settled in with the staff well as they are very encouraging and polite. If you're having a bad day, it's guaranteed that you will leave in good spirits.

SG - What is your most played song?

AH - "In the End" by Linkin Park.

SG - Boiled eggs or fried ham?

AH - Fried ham.

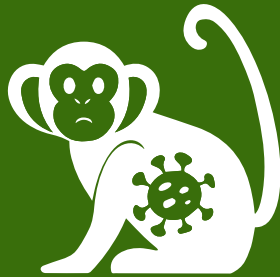
By Jelan Ward

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MONKEYPOX- WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Just as the world was learning to live and cope with covid-19 and we were returning to some sense of normalcy, we were hit with the Monkeypox outbreak. The name sounds very funny, I know, with the possible comedic vision of a poxy monkey, however, that is not the case. As much as the name may bring a few giggles, this illness, even though not deadly, should be taken very seriously.

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkey pox virus. This virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus; the virus that causes smallpox. Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and is rarely fatal. Monkeypox is not related to chickenpox. It was discovered in 1958 when two outbreaks of a pox-like disease occurred in colonies of monkeys kept for research. Despite being named "monkeypox," the source of the disease remains unknown. However, African rodents and non-human primates (like monkeys) might harbor the virus and infect people.

Symptoms

People with monkeypox get a rash that may be located on or near the genitals or anus and could be on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, face or mouth. The rash will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing. It can initially look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.

Other symptoms of monkeypox can include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion
- Muscle aches and backache
- Headache
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g., sore throat, nasal congestion or cough)

- Sometimes, people have flu-like symptoms before the rash.
- Some people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms.
- Others only experience a rash.

Currently, testing for monkeypox is only recommended if you have a rash consistent with the virus. The testing process is one where a specimen is needed, so a swab will be used to rub vigorously across lesions of your rash. (They will take swabs from more than one lesion.) This swabbing may be uncomfortable, but is necessary to get enough material to detect the monkeypox virus from the specimens. The specimens will be tested in a lab to see if the monkeypox virus is detected. Results are usually available within a few days. While you are waiting for your results, take precautions to avoid getting or spreading the monkeypox virus to others.

Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, including:

- Direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox.
- Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels) and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.
- Contact with respiratory secretions.

If I get sick, what treatment is there?

There are no treatments specifically for monkeypox virus infections. However, monkeypox and smallpox viruses are genetically similar, which means that antiviral drugs and vaccines developed to protect against smallpox may be used to prevent and treat monkeypox virus infections.

2022 OUTBREAK CASES & DATA		
U.S. Cases Total cases	U.S. Cases Total deaths	Global Cases Total deaths
16,603	0	45,535

By Keitha Layne

THE IMPORTANCE OF UPDATING PERSONAL INFORMATION

Anytime you move or get a new phone number, it comes with a seemingly endless list of organizations that you need to inform. Whenever you change addresses, phone numbers, name, etc., it is essential to make sure you also update your information with your financial institutions, your utility companies, your family and friends - basically anyone that you receive mail from.

When it comes to your financial institutions, you may think that as long as your debit card and online banking access work, an updated driver's license, passport or an updated phone number or street address isn't vital, but that couldn't be further from the

truth! Current information including valid identification documents, name, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. need to be kept up to date in the files at the financial institutions. If they don't have a reliable means of contacting you, you could be missing out on some key personal benefits including but not limited to:

- Security Updates
- Fraud Protection
- Statements and Notices
- Important Account Changes
- Debit Card Upgrades and Replacement

By Internal Audit & Compliance Department

TAKE A HIKE WITH ME

You can say it's in St. Thomas... you can say it's in St. Andrew. Whatever you say, Mount Hillaby is the tallest point in Barbados, as it stands at 1,115 feet above sea level.

The views from the mount are totally breathtaking, with the lush shades of green appearing to magically blend into the Atlantic Ocean. What's even more amazing, is the sunset views facing the north of the Island!



The trek to the mount is a bit bushy, so be sure to have someone familiar with the area be your guide. Up for a little more adventure? Just for the fun of it, you can take a walk on the White Hill trail - you won't regret it!

By Joan Brewster





Jokes, jokes & MORE JOKE!



Ossie's muddah asks, "Ossie, what yuh staring at so, and why it taking wunna so long tuh eat wunna breakfast?" Ossie replies, "Because de orange juice carton say Concentrate!"

.....
Walter is walking by the rumshop and looks up on the roof, to see Ossie standing there. Walter yells, "Hey Ossie, man, wuh yuh up pon de roof fuh?"
Ossie says, "Cause sumbuddy say de drinks are pon de house!"

Ossie's mother sent him by Ms Polkadot to collect a table. As he was walking home with it, he realized that the table had four legs. Ossie then put down the table in the road and continued home without it. When asked by his mother where the table was, Ossie replied, "I got two legs an' de table got four... So, I figure it would get home before me."



By Keitha Layne



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