Price: \$3

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PRIORITY #1 BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS

The newly appointed Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Samantha Marshall, said her top priority in taking over the ministry is to resolve the problem of poor working conditions for employees in several departments within the ministry.

Marshall met on Tuesday with heads of division within the ministry as well as other staff representatives to discuss the challenges faced by the staff of the ministry. According to the minister improving working conditions is critical as the ministry seeks to realise the government's vision of having the agricultural sector make a greater contribution to the nation's economy. She said poor working conditions lead to decreased output.

"My main priority is to work assiduously towards improving the work environment for the staff as currently some departments are operating from temporary locations while others are in a serious state of disrepair," she disclosed. The minister identified the veterinarian division, the Plant Protection Unit as well as the Dunbars Agricultural Stations as among the departments that need immediate repairs. In fact, she noted that the veterinarian unit is currently operating from temporary quarters.

Tuesday's meeting was well attended with representatives from the fisheries division, the extension division, the chemical processing

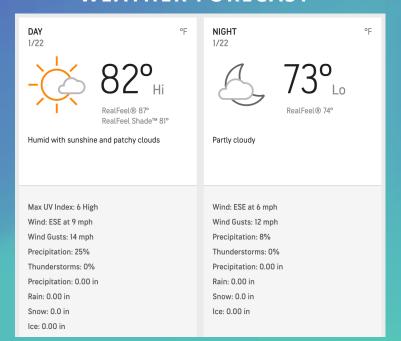
Cont'd on page 3



Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Samantha Marshall



WEATHER FORECAST



SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST

6:40 AM

Sunset AST

5:57 PM

11:17 hr

Duration

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST

4:41 AM

Moonset AST

Duration

4:05 PM 11:24 hr





Cruise Ship Port Schedule 2019

| Date | Cruise Ship | Arrive-Depart | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| 22 January, 2020 Wednesday | ✓ Mein Schiff 2 | 07:00 19:00 | | | | |
| 23 January, 2020 Thursday | • Seabourn Odyssey | 08:00 23:00 | | | | |
| 23 January, 2020 Thursday | Marella Explorer 2 | 08:00 18:00 | | | | |
| 25 January, 2020 Saturday | № Braemar | | | | | |
| 25 January, 2020 Saturday | → Oceania Marina | 10:00 19:00 | | | | |
| 26 January, 2020 Sunday | * Aurora | 07:00 18:00 | | | | |
| 26 January, 2020 Sunday | Norwegian Dawn | 08:00 16:00 | | | | |
| 27 January, 2020 Monday | X Celebrity Summit | 16:00 | | | | |
| 28 January, 2020 Tuesday | Viking Sea | | | | | |

The Living Word

Where Are You Headed?

Read: 2 Samuel 12:1-14

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" 2 Samuel 12:7

In northern Thailand, the Wild Boars youth soccer team decided to explore a cave together. After an hour they turned to go back and found that the entrance to the cave was flooded. Rising water pushed them deeper into the cave, day after day, until they were finally trapped more than two miles (four kilometers) inside. When they were heroically rescued two weeks later, many wondered how they had become so hopelessly trapped. Answer: one step at a time.

In Israel, Nathan confronted David for killing his loyal soldier, Uriah. How did the man "after [God's] own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14) become guilty of murder? One step at a time. David didn't go from zero to murder in one afternoon. He warmed up to it, over time, as one bad decision bled into others. It started with a second glance that turned into a lustful stare. He abused his kingly power by sending for Bathsheba, then tried to cover up her pregnancy by calling her husband home from the front. When Uriah refused to visit his wife while his comrades were at war, David decided he would have to

We may not be guilty of murder or trapped in a cave of our own making, but we're either moving toward Jesus or toward trouble. Big problems don't develop overnight. They break upon us gradually, one step at a time.

What decision can you make right now to move toward Jesus and away from trouble? What must you do to confirm this decision?

Jesus, I'm running to You!



Priority # 1 Better Working Conditions



From page 1

laboratory, the pesticides unit, the Central Marketing Division, plant protection as well as the director of agriculture, Sharon Edwards.

Marshall said she plans to hold urgent discussions with the Ministry of Public Works to discuss in detail a schedule for the commencement of work for the various departments in her ministry.

She also plans to do a physical 'walkthrough' of the departments so that she may get a first-hand account of the scope of the repairs that are needed.

Asked how she plans to manage her new responsibilities with her previous portfolio of Minister of Social Transformation and Human Resources Development, Marshall said it is her intention to spend time equally in both ministries.

Additionally, the minister indicated that she intends to approach the task as effective teamwork involving herself as minister and the department heads and other technicians within both ministries.

Marshall is no stranger to the agriculture portfolio as she served as junior minister in the ministry from 2014 to 2018 when Arthur Nibbs was the senior

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne, has appointed Barbuda Senator, Knacyntar Nedd to serve as the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, effective Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

A statement from the Office of the Prime Minister said the many responsibilities of the newly-appointed Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Samantha Marshall, require that the be provided competent assistance in the performance of her new



Senator, Knacyntar Nedd

duties, the Prime Minister explained. The Antigua and Barbuda Constitution contemplates this likely outcome, and provides for Parliamentary Secretaries to provide assistance to a Minister.

Senator Knacyntar Nedd became a public figure when she was elected to the Barbuda Council. She was subsequently appointed to the Senate by the Prime Minister, under Section 28(6) which allows for a resident of Barbuda to be selected by the Prime Minister. The Senator is pursuing a Degree at the UWI Fourth Landed Campus. She is the mother

Senator Nedd will confer with the Cabinet on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, and begin exercising her authority on Monday, January 27, 2020.

Success ouni

Country Fest 3 was another success story of the MNM Music Group with more than 1,000 in attendance.

Country Fest is an event geared towards raising funds for community development, building community spirit while promoting unity and highlighting the talent found in the southern-communities. It also provides a positive avenue for youth expression. In 2019, the MNM Music Group decided to host it's first Queen of the South competition along with the Soca Competition.

The Queen of the South pageant was introduced to showcase other talents within the community as the focus was on singing and songwriting for the previous years. There were five beautiful and talented young ladies vying to be the first ever Queen of the South Crown, Ms. John Hughes, Daryn cont'd on page 4



Carib Beer to set up Brewery in Antigua



Trade Minister Hon. E.P Chet Greene and Carib Brewery's Chief Executive Officer Peter Hall,

Carib Brewery, makers of Carib Beer and a host of other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, has announced plans to re-establish a brewery in Antigua as it expands further into the OECS.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed Monday between Trade Minister Hon. E.P Chet Greene and Carib Brewery's Chief Executive Officer Peter Hall, paving the way for the multi-million dollar investment in the twin-island state.

The trade minister welcomed the Carib team to Antigua and Barbuda and expressed his government's commitment to work hand in hand with the company to make the venture a success. He said he was particularly pleased that Carib Brewery, a member

of the diversified regional group, the ANSA McAL Group of Companies, has decided to make this investment in the country.

Greene disclosed that work at the Crabbe's Peninsula site, where the former Antigua Brewery once operated a similar facility, will begin in the second quarter of this year with actual production of beer and other products expected by the second quarter of 2021.

According to the minister, the establishment of the brewery is expected to provide a boost to the national economy. He noted that Antigua and Barbuda has a thriving tourist-based economy but the government is seeking to woo more investors to the manufacturing sector as well.

CEO Hall said Carib Brewery will spend an estimated US\$20 million to construct and equip the new plant at Crabbe's. He said the company will provide approximately 60 direct jobs to Antiguans and Barbudans with man more expected to be employed indirectly.

Part of the plans announced by Carib Brewery is that Antigua will again have its own branded beer, although a name has not yet been selected. It is expected that a name will be selected following market research and other data analysed by the company.

Carib Brewery is headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago but also operates breweries in St Kitts-Nevis and Grenada in the OECS.

from page 3

Thomas emerged victorious. First runner up was Ms. Jennings, Zoelyn Rogers and second runner-up was Ms. Urlings, Alphalyn Anthony.

The highly anticipated Soca Competition results were as follows: Groovy Competition: Second runner-up

was Germaine Panthier (Inferno), first runner-up was Shammon Joseph (Chawa) and winner Zandray Cornelius (Destiny). Jumpy: second runner-up was Toriano Edwards (Shellingz Kid), first runner-up Rupert Albert (Low Rider) and winner was Roderick Frederick (Nelly). As the MNM Music groups makes its donation to the St. Joseph's Anglican Church, they send heartfelt appreciation and love to the sponsors, participants, volunteers, well-wishers and their audience. Already, planning has started for Country Fest 4.



Peter Wickham comments

Political scientist Peter Wickham is suggesting Prime Minister Gaston Browne's temper may have cooled when he decided to inform Dean Jonas via letter on Monday that his "withdrawal and termination" will last for six months at which time a decision may be taken to reverse the action taken.

Jonas was stripped of his ministerial portfolios and removed from the Cabinet for refusing to heed the Prime Minister's advice against taking decisions that are inimical to good governance and to the government's policy.

Wickham, in an invited comment said he doesn't foresee any fallout from

the decision.

The letter also highlighted the toxic relationship that exists between the former minister and employees of the Ministry of Agriculture and also with farmers.

There is mixed reaction to Dean Jonas' removal as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, but Peter Wickham noted that Monday's development sends a clear message to ministers within the Gaston Browne led administration.

Political scientist and principal director of the leading Caribbean political research company, Caribbean Development Research Services (CADRES), Peter Wickham, has done



Peter Wickham

public opinion survey for political parties across the Caribbean, including the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

No medical marijuana license yet

Despite businesses showing an interest in setting up shop on the island through the medical marijuana industry, licenses are yet to be distributed.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst, pointed to a delay in the preparation of leases as the reason for the stalled process.

According to Hurst the delay stems from the provision in the law that mandates that the person or company seeking a license must first obtain leases for the lands upon which they intend to grow the marijuana. He said this has not yet been done and this is why no license has yet been issued. He emphasized that there are several persons 'with cheques in their hands' awaiting the issuance of leases

so that they may obtain their licenses.

A Canadian medical marijuana company in 2018 indicated it could provide US \$ 18.7 million annually to the government in taxes, fees, licenses and export duties for every 25 acres of cannabis it could harvest.

The company's representatives told Cabinet then that its systems of extraction would allow it to yield significant quantities of oils from the strains of plants that it would instruct the farmers to grow; the oils would be bottled under controlled circumstances and exported to markets where there is a demand. Their investment would exceed \$8 million dollars in machines and \$3 million in buildings, patent use, the purchase of seeds, security of farms and other expenses.



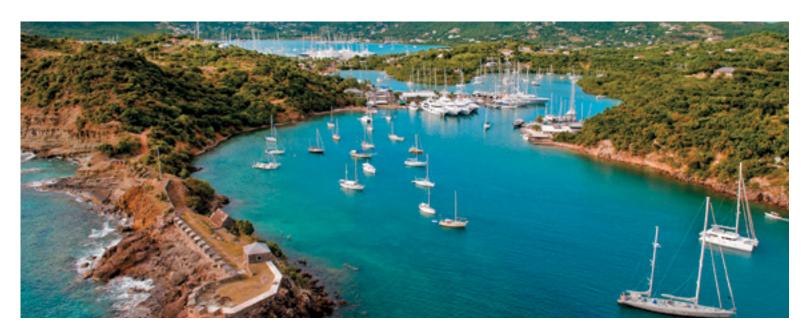
Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst

Then there is Mike Tyson, who has indicated to the government his interest in establishing a Cannabis farm on the island.

Timeout! DAILY SPORTS PROGRAM on Pointe FM 99.1. Hosted by Veron "Epilus" Edwards with guests and panellists 7-9am Mondays to Fridays.

Share your news and views with us. Call 268-562-4989

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Awards Gala returns in 2020



The much-acclaimed Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Awards gala has been announced for a 2020 staging, following a considerable period of absence.

Set for May 5, 2020, the event will be executed under the theme 'Spring Time in Wadadli', and comes under the auspices of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels Tourism Association and (ABHTA).

On Tuesday, the ABHTA issued a call to all of its Hotel and Associate to submit nominations.

"Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) is pleased to announce its call for nominations for inclusion in the most prestigious awards and recognition in tourism in Antigua and Barbuda," the ABHTA said.

The award is open to Hotel and Associate members of the ABHTA, with each member being invited to nominate their team members for several top awards.

The 2020 categories for award include Hotel, Associate and General, with subcategories fitting for each.

For Hotel recommended awardees, these will feature employee of the year, supervisor of the year, rising star, young hotelier of the year, young chef of the year and chef of the year.

the Associate members category, they will get to put forward recommendations for employee of the

year, supervisor of the year, rising star, young chef and chef of the

lifetime a chievement award is listed under the general category and is open to both hotel associate members.

The Lifetime Achievement Award considered the highest honor of the night and will be "presented to individual organization who has made a highly significant contribution the Hospitality Industry Antigua and Barbuda. The award is based significant, long-term contributions to the industry and/ or the ABHTA."

Form RLNC 6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34 of the Act

REGISTRATION SECTION

Potters & Belmont

613-1989B

274, 275 & 276

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST OR DESTROYED LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 20th day of December, 2019 by NOCOLE HARDY nee HURST, a National of Antigua and Barbuda but now residing at 501 Philsmont, Gaithersburg, MD, USA, Zip 20878 the Administratrix of the Estate of DELVIN LYONEL HURST (deceased) for the replacement of Land Certificates Nos. 5941/1999, 5942/1999 & 5943/1999 dated the 7th day of December 1999 and issued to the day of December, 1999 and issued to the said DELVIN LYONEL HURST (deceased). The applicant herein is the Administratrix of the Estate of the said DELVIN LYONEL HURST (deceased) who is the registered owner of the abovementioned parcels of Land, which Certificates have been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of new Land Certificates or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificates must within the period of one (1) month from the second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificates within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificates and issue new Land Certificates in their place without further notice

Registrar of Lands



CARIFESTA 2021 back on board with new board, subcommittees



A section of the pilots of CARIFESTA 2021 in Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda has announced the revival of its CARIFESTA 2021 with the official installment of a management committee and board comprising a cross section of the island's resources, all coming together to realize the EC\$12.5 million undertaking.

Set to take place between August 6 – 15, 2021, CARIFESTA 2021, will be staged on the heels of Carnival and before the island's 40th Independence celebration – a point newly appointed Deputy Director of CARIFESTA 2021, Michael Freeland expects all Antiguans and Barbudans to recognize and invest in.

"This event means 18 months of planning; proper execution and showing the world that we can execute an energetic rhythmatic and positive output of our culture for all to see," Freeland said at a press conference on Tuesday organized to introduce the new CARIFESTA 2021 structure and its principals.

Darryl Matthew, Minister of Sports, Culture, National Festival and the Arts said the 2021 staging of the Caribbean's foremost cultural gathering will be one Antigua and Barbuda intends to capitalize on, particularly from the angle of climate change and the environment.

To cement this, Minister Matthew

underlined the presence of the Environment Division as one of the key inclusions in the board of directors set up to spearhead the 2021 undertaking.

"I would like to thank the team of persons in the CARIFESTA unit that were working along with Director Walter for their contribution to date and for continuing to hold the fort while we made this very important transition. Without their contribution [and] continued willingness to serve Antigua and Barbuda, thigs would be in disarray," Matthew said.



Graphic designer Gamal Goodwin of GProductions and Minister of Sports, Culture, National Festival and the Arts at Tuesday's unveiling and announcement press conference.

While the minister will himself chair the committee leading the

undertaking, with Senator Shenella Govia as his deputy; the charge will be in the hands of Director of Culture Annette Aflac as CARIFESTA Director and former Senator Michael Freeland. Freeland is a former Senator who is also senior officer at the Department of Youth Affairs.

Aflec replaces former Director Vaughn Walter who died suddenly last November.

"It is indeed a pleasure for me to be asked to serve in this capacity. I am



rather humbled to take culture to its highest level to showcase Antigua and Barbuda's culture to the Caribbean, the region and the world. I look forward

Antigua and Barbuda Stands with CARICOM Chair Mia Motley on US Invitation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is standing in solidarity with Prime Minister, The Hon. Mia Motley on her position in not sending a representative to the announced meeting with US Secretary State Mike Pompeo in Jamaica on Tuesday.

The Hon E.P Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs said, "We are very much in support of, and identify with the sentiments expressed by the CARICOM Chair, PM Motley of Barbados. As a government, we stand in support of this position."

PM Motley made her declaration over the weekend when she stated, "As chairman of CARICOM, it is impossible for me to agree that my Foreign Minister should attend a meeting to which members of CARICOM are not invited" and suggested it was an attempt at divide and rule among CARICOM countries "if some are invited and not all".

Antigua and Barbuda reiterates its stance on fostering stronger intraregional relations and common regional approaches to international relations.



Minister of Trade, E.P Chet Greene

Supplementary sources being eyed as gov't budgets \$12.5M for CARIFESTA 2021

CARIFESTA 2021 will cost Antigua and Barbuda a budget EC\$12.5 million, according to Darryl Matthew, Minister of Sports, Culture, National Festival and the Arts.

Minister Matthew on Tuesday, "the Cabinet has approved has approved a budget of \$12.5 million to be spent by the government to host CARIFESTA."

He said the administration was "confident" in its ability to raise "substantial" sponsorship and funding, despite its own projected injection.

"So, we have no doubt that with a budget of \$12.5 million, we will be able to successfully put on our opening and closing ceremonies; put the [required] infrastructure in place; ensure that all visitors to Antigua and Barbuda would be satisfied with the program and the concerts and events on display.

The idea of additional funding through third-party agencies, according to the Minister, is a means of allowing for the government to reduce its liquid capital injection into the event.

There is a particular interest in ensuring that the push for an environmental focus will receive the buy-in from regional and international parties.

"The only thing that is needed is for us to prepare ourselves for... the best CARIFESTA that we'll ever have in the Caribbean," the Minister said; adding, "It will be a festival that will make all of Antigua and Barbuda tremendously proud."

CARIFESTA 2021 will follow on the heels of Carnival of that year and set the stage for Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of its 40th Independence on November 1.

"We intend to market this event and Antigua and Barbuda as a whole in 2021 as the place to be for the summer... so next year will really and truly be a spectacular year in this country and I am appealing to all in Antigua and Barbuda to come on board and be apart of this fantastic celebration."



Environment Division to play significant role in CARIFESTA 2021

Minister of Sports, Culture, National Festival and the Arts Daryl Matthew it would be in Antigua and Barbuda's best interest to capitalize on the strength of the island's environment division as a means of raising the level of awareness and potential support for Antigua and Barbuda's active battle with climate change and the environment.

Speaking at a press conference on the matter on Tuesday, Minister Matthew said, "We intend to position CARIFESTA in Antigua and Barbuda 2021 as a festival that is used to building awareness of the challenges we face as a region, environmentally – climate change, sea level rise and so much

more," the Minister said.

He added, "We believe that if we can use an event as large as CARIFESTA to let the world know that as a region we are faced with very peculiar challenges. We are some of the smallest polluters on the planet, but we are affected – almost the greatest – in the world.

"It is our belief that to use this festival, much like we have used the concert in 2019 as a festival to raise awareness [of our environment]; if we can use CARIFESTA as an event to raise the awareness to the challenges we face as a region and we use the expressions of culture that will be on display in Antigua and Barbuda as the tools to bring that message to the world – for us

- it will be a successful CARIFESTA."

Discussions are already underway to get the buy-in of other participating territories to allow for the inclusion of an environmental awareness feature in each cultural performance.

"We ultimately believe that the legacy of CARIFESTA in Antigua and Barbuda will be one that the world will take note of and certainly the region would remember," the Minister said.

The Environment Division is said to possess the expertise and network to ensure that this aspect of CARIFESTA 2021 is amply achieved.

from page 3

to everyone's support in every which way you can to ensure that we look good overall," Aflac said.

The CARIFESTA board will include representatives from several state and statutory organizations including the Ministries of Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Health, and Culture; along with those from the Festivals Office, the Director of CARIFESTA, Environment Division, the Cultural Division, Immigration Department, Police and the legal department.

These board of directors will oversee a number of subcommittees which will be established and announced in the not too distant future. These will include a marketing subcommittee, protocol, logistics, security, events planning and programing, hospitality, health and safety, volunteers, cultural expression, finance and transport.

"It was important for us to ensure that all areas of event management and event hosting are covered by the different subcommittees. And the persons sitting on those sub committees will not necessarily be persons that are a part of the government sector, but any person within Antigua and Barbuda who has the expertise in a particular area," Minister Matthew said.

Tuesday's press conference also saw the introduction of the CARIFESTA 2021 official logo, designed by professional graphic designer Gamal Goodwin of GProductions.

CARIFESTA 2021 will be staged at a series of venues across the country, with Minister Matthew assuring that the main stage for cultural performances – Deluxe cinema building – will be ready in time for the event.

The renovations, he said, are expected to commence this year with "drawings and concept" having already been received and reviewed. The process of fundraising is currently underway.

The controversial acquisition of the Deluxe facility, is to be one of the main pillars of the 2021 staging.





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Dear Mr. Editor: I forgot to mention in my first letter that I like your Cruise Ship Port Schedule and The Living Word.

Now, down to some questions for you.

Firstly, in some previous issues dealing with LIAT, you mention that Owen Arthur is now the Chairman. There are eight directors on the LIAT Board of Directors, of which three are from Antigua.

Which islands do the other five directors represent? Also, is Dr. Ralph Gonsalves still another "Chairman"? If so, won't there be a conflict of interest? It would be nice to know.

Which island is the majority shareholder? What percent does it hold, and what is the percentage held by the other islands?

With reference to your Wednesday

15 January issue, Operation Derelict is a good idea, but will it work? Hopefully the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) will do a good job. This includes "roadside" mechanics and heavy duty equipment contractors. A lot of these "roadside" mechanics block off ancillary roads in the villages while our traffic police turn a blind eye.

Your LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – well done! The first one by "Reds" is 100 percent true. The Development Control Authority (DCA) allows a curbside bar by the bridge with vehicles parked at the curb late at night and in the early hours of the morning. Where are our police?

Speed bumps? We need them, but the "new" ones are too close together. We need one at the Mission Church and two by the main bridge – one before and one after. Well done "Reds". I hope to read more from him.

Mr. Editor, the other week, Social Security Director David Matthias was on OBSERVER-AM with some long drawn-out story, as usual with him, but which makes no sense. I am a pensioner who is paid through the bank but never on time.

My five percent for the weekend before Christmas was paid on Friday 27 December. Bloody disgraceful! Two banks suffered, CIBC and Scotia, but not even an apology.

What I and the other bank pensioners would like to know, what is the total amount of contributions for January 2020 and what amount goes to the pensioners? Also, what is going to happen to the old Social Security building on Long Street?

Mr. Editor, I forgot to mention about LIAT that if you go on the Internet and Google "LIAT's Request For Minimum Revenue Guarantees", it makes for some rather interesting reading.

I thank you, Mr. Editor, for your time and patience, and look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards, Fergus D. Young, Bolans Village







Barbados Immigration under fire for allegations of mistreatment of another Jamaican



Immigration officials in Barbados have insisted that the human rights of a Jamaican awaiting deportation after being convicted of drug importation were not violated, as his attorney has claimed.

The allegations of mistreatment had come from Asante Brathwaite, the attorney of Kivesi Andrae McPherson who paid a BDS\$8,000 (US\$4,000) fine for importing cannabis on December 30, 2019, and was handed over to the Immigration Department to be sent back to Jamaica.

According to Brathwaite, her

client was detained for a week at the Grantley Adams International Airport. He was eventually able to get a flight back home last Thursday, but Brathwaite told the Barbados Today online newspaper that his family was considering pursing legal action.

But in a statement, the Immigration Department sought to clear the air about why McPherson remained in custody so long before getting a flight to Jamaica.

It explained that Caribbean Airlines requires 48 hours advance notice for deportees to travel on its aircraft, and permission was granted on January 13 for McPherson to travel to Kingston – three days after a request was made.

The Jamaican was ready to leave on a 6 a.m. flight the next day, but when he was escorted to the departure gate by an immigration official, the plane's captain refused to accept him on the aircraft because he was not being escorted by an immigration officer to Jamaica – a practice the Immigration Department said was not customary in the circumstances.

"The general manager of the airline was contacted and he subsequently advised that he would have to get additional clearance from the security manager in Trinidad, and the department would be informed when permission was given to travel," statement explained.

"That permission was granted on the evening of January 15, 2020. The following day, Mr McPherson boarded a Caribbean Airlines flight, which departed for Jamaica via Trinidad at 4:58 a.m. His attorney was informed of his departure."

Regarding claims by the attorney that her client had to purchase his own meals while in custody, the statement said that except for January 10 when McPherson declined the meal offered by the Immigration Department and bought food from Chefette instead, he was provided with three meals daily. (Caribbean 360)





Caribbean travel industry celebrates at World Travel Awards in the Bahamas



The finest travel brands in the Caribbean have been unveiled at a star-studded gala ceremony in the Bahamas. The elite of the travel industry assembled for the World Travel Awards (WTA) Caribbean Gala Ceremony 2020 to find out who amongst them had been crowned best of the best.

The red-carpet evening, hosted at Sandals® Royal Bahamian, marked the opening leg of the WTA Grand Tour 2020 – an annual search for the finest travel and tourism organisations in the world.

Winners on the night included the paradise island of St. Lucia, which fended off stiff competition to emerge as 'Caribbean's Leading Honeymoon Destination', whilst Turks & Caicos was voted 'Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination'. Jamaica emerged a multiple winner, picking up trophies for 'Caribbean's Leading Destination', 'Caribbean's Leading Cruise Destination' and 'Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board'.

Guests at the gala event enjoyed

entertainment from acclaimed Bahamian artists including Alia Coley and Partice Murrell. The evening took place on the eve of the 38th edition of Caribbean Travel Marketplace.

Graham Cooke, Founder, WTA, said: "What an incredible evening it has been here at the magnificent Sandals Royal Bahamian to mark the opening of our 27th annual Grand Tour. We have had the privilege of recognising the Caribbean's leading destinations, hotels, resorts, airlines and travel providers and my congratulations to each of our winners."

In the hospitality sector, winners included Jamaica's Round Hill Hotel & Villas ('Caribbean's Leading Villa Resort'); Beaches Turks & Caicos ('Caribbean's Leading All-Inclusive Family Resort'); Coco Reef Resort & Spa, Tobago ('Caribbean's Leading Hotel'); and GoldenEye ('Caribbean's Leading Boutique Resort'). The relentless drive to innovate helped Sandals to lift the title of 'Caribbean's Leading Hotel Brand'. The secluded sanctuary Amanera in Dominican

Republic was heralded 'Caribbean's Leading Beach Resort'.

Bahamian winners included Atlantis, Paradise Island, which claimed the title of 'Caribbean's Leading Casino Resort' and The Bahamas was named 'Caribbean's Leading Luxury Island Destination'.

Newcomers included the hideaway retreat of Cabrits Resort & Spa Kempinski Dominica ('Caribbean's Leading New Resort') and AC Hotel Kingston, Jamaica ('Caribbean's Leading New Hotel').

In the aviation sector, Bahamasair was named 'Caribbean's Leading Airline', whilst Sangster International Airport, Jamaica walked away with 'Caribbean's Leading Airport'.

Events on the WTA Grand Tour 2020 include Antalya (Turkey), Seoul (South Korea), Nairobi (Kenya), Thompson Okanagan, British Columbia (Canada) and Dubai (UAE), with the winners progressing to the Grand Final in Moscow (Russia) on 27th November.

CARICOM Secretariat launches solar project



Turning the sod (from left) Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque; Minister of Public Infrastructure, Guyana, Hon David Patterson; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana, Dr. Hon. Karen Cummings; Japan's Ambassador to CARICOM and Guyana H.E. Mr. Tatsuo HIRAYAMA

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – A project that will see the CARICOM Secretariat's Headquarters Building in Georgetown, Guyana generating 100 per cent of its electricity needs through a Photovoltaic Power Generation System has been launched.

The project, being funded by the Government of Japan, will include: installation of 400 kilowatt of solar photovoltaicpowergenerator to provide electricity to the Secretariat building; a battery and power conditioning system for energy storage and power quality regulation; and an advanced building energy management system to, among other things, provide air conditioning controls and track energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

The planning is being coordinated by the CARICOM Energy Committee chaired by Deputy Secretary-General Ambassador Manorma Soeknandan.

CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque said that over the last decade, renewable energy and energy efficiency have been on the forefront of the region's agenda.

Noting that, globally, the building sector is the largest energy-consuming sector and is equally a major contributor to carbon dioxide emissions, he said buildings within CARICOM account for nearly 80 per cent of electricity usage.

"This is, in part, due to our climatic conditions, as well as design, with buildings requiring significant amounts of cooling and humidity control. The increasing attention to climate change and energy costs within the region has focused attention on energy use in buildings," he said.

Ambassador LaRocque said the photovoltaic power generation project marks another milestone in the history of the CARICOM Secretariat, and in the relationship between Japan and CARICOM.

He recalled the green buildings initiative and the first Energy Audit of the Secretariat in 2010 which laid the initial groundwork for the journey to energy efficiency.

"It was an initiative fully supported by the Executive Management of the Secretariat, who urged that our headquarters should be a green building as an example to other public buildings in the Community. Now, with the help of the Government of Japan, we are on the way to achieving that objective," LaRocque said.

"We are breaking ground today in front of our beautiful headquarters building which was built by the Government of Guyana, for which we are eternally grateful, with considerable financial support from the Government of Japan."

Ambassador LaRocque noted that Japan has supported a significant number of initiatives in disaster management, climate resilience and sustainable energy in the region, and thanked the government for its continued support. (Caribbean 360)



Saint Lucia ends 40th Year of Independence with over 400k Stay-over Arrivals



The latest figures indicate that Saint Lucia has surpassed all previous records set with regards to stay-over arrivals. For the period January to December 2019, Saint Lucia recorded 423,736 stay-over visitors; the highest in the island's history.

This year marked the first time that the destination broke the 400,000 mark in stay-over arrivals in a one-year period. This is a significant achievement, as it indicates that the destination welcomed 100,000 additional visitors in nine years – an increase of 38%.

Much of the growth is being attributed to increases in airlift from the US market in particular, which this year, accounted for close to half (45%) of total stay-over arrivals – roughly 191,000 visitors. The Caribbean emerged as the island's second largest market claiming 20% of total stay-over arrivals, followed closely by the UK market with 19% and Canada with 10%. In total, stay-over arrivals was

up 7% from the previous year, which in itself, was a record-breaking year.

This increase in arrivals was of tremendous benefit to the tourism industry, and by extension, the entire economy of Saint Lucia as it resulted in increased bed-nights, meaning more persons stayed in paid accommodation, required taxi services and enjoyed the natural sites, attractions and cuisine that the island has to offer and thereby, created more job opportunities for the local population.

In responding to the unpresented growth, Tourism Minister Hon. Dominic Fedee said, "We are not simply interested in increasing numbers but more importantly ensuring that the growth trajectory of the industry is sustainable and that it touches every facet of economic development leading to employment creation and income generation for our people. External reports also indicate that although Saint Lucia has

one of the highest Average Daily Rates (ADR) in the region, we continue to be in high demand, which only augurs well for the revenue generation capability of the destination."

He continued, "We are extremely proud of this achievement as it clearly is the result of strong industry leadership, coupled with thought out and targeted marketing policies and programs, that result in employment generation for thousands of Saint Lucians either on the front lines of the hospitality industry or indirectly via related industries. Surpassing the 400,000 visitor-arrival threshold truly is a fitting way toconclude the island's recognition of its 40th year of Independence."

The first time the country surpassed the 300,000 mark was in 2010 when the island recorded 305,937 stay over arrivals.

International

'Nobody likes him' - Hillary Clinton bashes Bernie Sanders

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Hillary Clinton criticized the campaign of her former Democratic presidential rival Bernie Sanders in a new documentary in which she says he was an ineffective U.S. senator who accomplished little because "nobody liked him."

Clinton also weighed in on the dispute between Sanders and 2020 Democratic presidential rival Elizabeth Warren centering around the electability of women, saying Sanders demonstrated "a pattern" in how his campaign attacked women rivals.

The criticism, made in a Hulu documentary to be shown at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday and an interview promoting it, revealed lingering bitterness toward Sanders after he mounted an unexpected Democratic primary challenge to Clinton in 2016. Clinton backers blame Sanders' supporters for tarnishing her with vitriolic criticism that helped put Republican Donald Trump in the White House.

"He was in Congress for years. He had one senator support him. Nobody likes him, nobody wants to work with him, he got nothing done. He was a career politician. It's all just baloney and I feel so bad that people got sucked into it," Clinton says in the documentary, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Asked recently by the magazine if that assessment still holds, Clinton



said, "Yes, it does."

Sanders said in a statement that "my focus today is on a monumental moment in American history: the impeachment trial of Donald Trump. Together, we are going to go forward and defeat the most dangerous president in American history."

Clinton did not commit to endorsing and campaigning for Sanders should he win the nomination this year, citing a competitive Democratic field, but she criticized his campaign as having a culture of insult and attack.

"I will say, however, that it's not only him, it's the culture around him. It's his leadership team. It's his prominent supporters. It's his online Bernie Bros and their relentless attacks on lots of his competitors, particularly the women," Clinton told the Hollywood Reporter.

When she was asked about the dispute over whether Sanders told Warren in a private conversation that a woman could not beat Trump, Clinton pointed out that she got 3 million more votes than Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

Clinton called the dispute part of a pattern with Sanders, noting he had attacked her as being unqualified despite her experience, including as secretary of state and a U.S. senator.

She encouraged voters "to elect a president who's going to try to bring us together, and not either turn a blind eye, or actually reward the kind of insulting, attacking, demeaning, degrading behavior that we've seen from this current administration."

Toyota recalls 3.4 million vehicles worldwide because air bags may not deploy in crashes



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Toyota Motor Corp said on Tuesday it will recall 3.4 million vehicles worldwide because of an electronic glitch that can result in air bags not deploying in crashes.

The recall, which includes 2.9 million U.S. vehicles, covers 2011-2019 Corolla, 2011-2013 Matrix, 2012-2018 Avalon and 2013-2018 Avalon Hybrid

vehicles.

The vehicles may have an electronic control unit that does not have adequate protection against electrical noise that can occur in crashes, which could lead to incomplete or non-deployment of the airbags.

Toyota dealers will install a noise filter between the airbag control module and its wire harness if needed.

Exclusive: Apple dropped plan for encrypting backups after FBI complained – sources



SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Apple Inc dropped plans to let iPhone users fully encrypt backups of their devices in the company's iCloud service after the FBI complained that the move would harm investigations, six sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The tech giant's reversal, about two years ago, has not previously been reported. It shows how much Apple has been willing to help U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies, despite taking a harder line in high-profile legal disputes with the government and casting itself as a defender of its customers' information.

The long-running tug of war between investigators' concerns about security and tech companies' desire for user privacy moved back into the public spotlight last week, as U.S. Attorney General William Barr took the rare step of publicly calling on Apple to unlock two iPhones used by a Saudi Air Force officer who shot dead three Americans at a Pensacola, Florida naval base last month.

U.S. President Donald Trump piled on, accusing Apple on Twitter of refusing to unlock phones used by "killers, drug dealers and other violent criminal elements." Republican and Democratic senators sounded a similar theme in a December hearing, threatening legislation against end-to-end encryption, citing unrecoverable evidence of crimes against children.

Apple did in fact did turn over the shooter's iCloud backups in the Pensacola case, and said it rejected the characterization that it "has not provided substantive assistance."

Behind the scenes, Apple has provided the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation with more sweeping help, not related to any specific probe.

An Apple spokesman declined to comment on the

company's handling of the encryption issue or any discussions it has had with the FBI. The FBI did not respond to requests for comment on any discussions with Apple.

More than two years ago, Apple told the FBI that it planned to offer users end-to-end encryption when storing their phone data on iCloud, according to one current and three former FBI officials and one current and one former Apple employee.

Under that plan, primarily designed to thwart hackers, Apple would no longer have a key to unlock the encrypted data, meaning it would not be able to turn material over to authorities in a readable form even under court order.

In private talks with Apple soon after, representatives of the FBI's cyber crime agents and its operational technology division objected to the plan, arguing it would deny them the most effective means for gaining evidence against iPhone-using suspects, the government sources said.

When Apple spoke privately to the FBI about its work on phone security the following year, the end-to-end encryption plan had been dropped, according to the six sources. Reuters could not determine why exactly Apple dropped the plan.

"Legal killed it, for reasons you can imagine," another former Apple

employee said he was told, without any specific mention of why the plan was dropped or if the FBI was a factor in the decision.

That person told Reuters the company did not want to risk being attacked by public officials for protecting criminals, sued for moving previously accessible data out of reach of government agencies or used as an excuse for new legislation against encryption.

"They decided they weren't going to poke the bear anymore," the person said, referring to Apple's court battle with the FBI in 2016 over access to an iPhone used by one of the suspects in a mass shooting in San Bernardino, California.

Apple appealed a court order to break into that phone for the FBI. The government dropped the proceedings when it found a contractor that could break into the phone, a common occurrence in FBI investigations.

Two of the former FBI officials, who were not present in talks with Apple, told Reuters it appeared that the FBI's arguments that the backups provided vital evidence in thousands of cases had prevailed.

"It's because Apple was convinced," said one. "Outside of that public spat over San Bernardino, Apple gets along with the federal government."

However, a former Apple employee said it was possible the encryption project was dropped for other reasons, such as concern that more customers would find themselves locked out of their data more often.

Once the decision was made, the 10 or so experts on the Apple encryption project - variously codenamed Plesio and KeyDrop - were told to stop working on the effort, three people familiar with the matter told Reuters.



U.S. Senate rejects Democratic bid for documents in Trump impeachment trial

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Republican-controlled U.S. Senate rejected a Democratic bid on Tuesday to force the White House to produce documents and evidence in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, an early sign the trial could proceed along lines favorable to Trump.

As the third impeachment trial in U.S. history began in earnest, senators voted 53-47 along party lines to block a motion from Democratic leader Chuck Schumer to subpoena White House documents related to Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

Schumer immediately introduced a second motion demanding a subpoena of State Department records and documents related to the matter. The Senate will debate the motion for up to two hours.

Democrats have called on the Senate to remove Trump from office for pressuring Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a political rival, and then impeding the inquiry into the matter.

Trump, who was impeached last month by the Democratic-led House of Representatives on charges of abusing power and obstructing Congress, denies any wrongdoing and describes his impeachment as a partisan hoax to derail his 2020 reelection.

D u r i n g early debate, Trump's chief legal defender attacked the case as baseless and a top Democratic l a w m a k e r said there was "overwhelming"

evidence of wrongdoing.

With the television cameras rolling, U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts convened the proceedings and the two sides began squabbling over Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's proposed rules for the trial.

White House counsel Pat Cipollone, who is leading Trump's defense, attacked the foundation of the charges against the Republican president and



House Managers Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) walk to the Senate Floor for the start of the Senate impeachment trial of U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington, U.S., January 21, 2020. REUTERS/Mary F. Calvert

said Democrats had not come close to meeting the U.S. Constitution's standard for impeachment.

"The only conclusion will be that the president has done absolutely nothing wrong," Cipollone said as he argued in favor of McConnell's proposal to decide on whether to allow further witnesses or documents later in the trial.

"There is absolutely no case," he said.

Jamaica selects team for World Rugby Challenger Series next month



Conan Osborne will lead a 15-man squad named to represent Jamaica 7s at the inaugural World Rugby Challenger Series Tournament to be held in Chile & Uruguay February 15-23, 2020.

After a rigorous selection process, Head Coach Stephen Lewis was finally able to select a squad in what he described as a difficult process.

"There were some hard decisions to make given the increased competition for places on the team," he said.

"That having been said, this is a strong squad with a good balance of veterans and younger players. These tournaments are a great opportunity for Jamaica to showcase its' talents and break into the top 20."

The full squad includes Rhodri Adamson (Chile only), Anthony Bingham, Tyler Bush, Mason Caton-Brown, Omari Caro, Dylan Davies, Oshane Edie, Mikel Facey, Dyneal Fessell, Conan Osborne (captain), Samuel Rees, Lucas Roy-Smith, Mike St. Claire.

Non-travelling reserves are Omar Dixon, Andrew Simpson (sportsmax. tv)

Nayeem Young stars as West Indies defeat England by 71 runs

Half-centuries from Kevlon Anderson and Nayeem Young, who also had a five-wicket haul, propelled the West Indies U19s to a 71-run win on Duckworth Lewis in their rain-affected match against England in Kimberley, South Africa on Monday.

Leonardo Julien also contributed 40 to the winning total.

The young West Indians who beat Australia in their opening match scored 267 for 7 from their 50 overs. Had they been successful, it would have been England U19's highest-ever successful chase, but it was not to be.

Tight bowling by the West Indies held England in check early and it eventually paid dividends as they collapsed from 120-2 to 184-9, with Young putting in another solid allround performance, taking 5-45.

Spinner Hamidullah Qadri, who took 2-46 and Lewis Goldsworthy 2-28, were the best bowlers for England, who were losing their first match of the tournament.

England openers Ben Charlesworth



Nayeem Young

and Jordan Cox shared an opening stand of 50 from the first 12 overs. However, after both batsmen were dismissed – Cox for 20 and Charlesworth for 39, England struggled.

From there they lost wickets at regular intervals, which limited their

ability to accelerate and match an everrising required run rate.

Page 19

England eventually got to 184 for 9 in the 44th over before rain mercifully brought an end to their struggles. (Sportsmax.tv)

Walsh to face Tendulkar for Bushfire Cricket Bash



Courtney Walsh

West Indies bowling legend Courtney Walsh will face off against India batting great Sachin Tendulkar with the former players selected as opposing coaches in the Bushfire Cricket Bash.

The charity event teams will be led by legendary Australian players Ricky Ponting and Shane Warne, with proceeds going towards rebuilding efforts in wake of Australia's recent devastating bushfires.

The match itself will be a bigger part of Cricket Australia's charity efforts and will serve as a curtain-raiser to this year's Big Bash League final day on February 8.

Other former players confirmed for

the match, called the Bushfire Cricket Bash, including Justin Langer, Adam Gilchrist, Brett Lee, Shane Watson, Alex Blackwell, and Michael Clarke. Steve Waugh and Mel Jones will be involved in a non-playing capacity.

"I'm delighted to confirm the Bushfire Cricket Bash will be Cricket Australia's major fundraising initiative to support Australians impacted by the recent unprecedented bushfire emergency," the CA chief executive Kevin Roberts said.

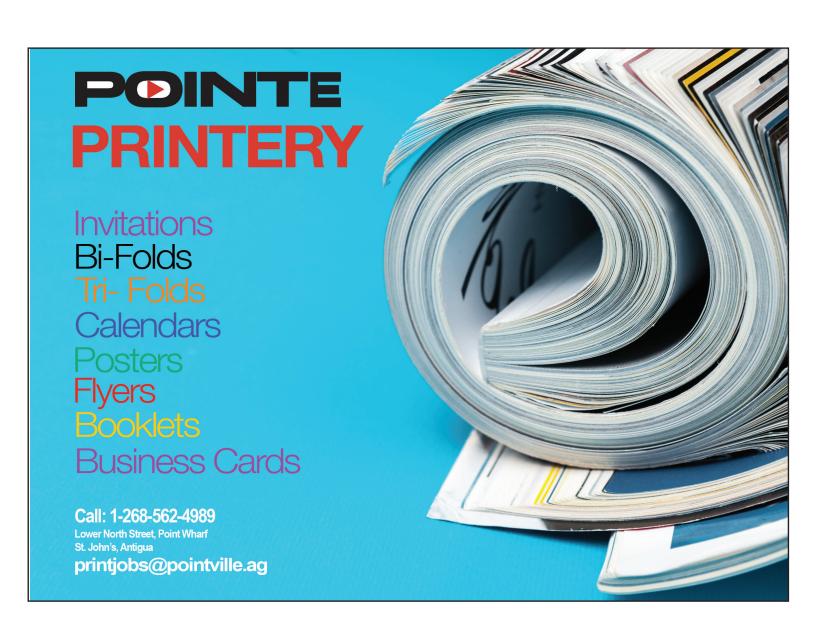
"People the world over have seen the overwhelming images of hundreds of thousands of hectares burnt, precious lives lost, hundreds of properties destroyed and the devastating loss of wildlife as a result of the fires. These images have reinforced the need to get behind organisations like the Australian Red Cross which is responding to the immediate requirements of people who have lost loved ones, their homes, and their livelihoods."

Sodoku

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Answer to last Sodoku

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Your Stars Foretold



Aries

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Monitor your use of social media and identify if it's healthy for you. If you can't reduce your use, dedicate time to finding healthy communities online to support you. Also, mind that you're going to be a little clumsy today, so proceed with caution.



Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

New lucrative opportunities are being revealed with unexplored potential. The balance of energy is giving a gentle and harmonious aspect to the imagination. There are no dreams that are too big to achieve



Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Any dangling threads left regarding the terms of a deal can safely be tied at this time. And, if you missed the moment to read the fine print of your conditions aloud the first time, here's another chance.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Acting upon, rather than just pondering upon, issues of career or health should be easier than it's been in a while. It'll become easier still as the matters at stake are further elucidated.



Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

You will have to step up and take responsibility for your actions towards someone recently. Be honest to yourself and to them. Alternatively, invest in yourself. Invest time where it makes sense to grow. Invest money in what makes sense for a safe future.



Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

When you spend money during the day, make sure it is on things that enrich your life and make a more permanent difference in your well-being. Retail therapy might address the symptoms but it doesn't fix the root of the problem.



Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

You may be feeling a bit displaced in your own world, but a house is not a home unless you make it one. Take the time to Marie Kondo your space today, how much joy can it spark if it's just sitting around collecting dust?

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

Be upfront - but pleasant - about what works for you and what doesn't. When people are negotiating, they're generally more concerned with making a good deal for themselves than making sure your needs are being met.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Another communications refresher course. All you need to do is get across your desires regarding domestic affairs to the relevant parties in a straightforward, reasonable fashion, and there's every chance they will be done.



Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Confidently take your best shot" should be the motto du jour. Happily, the options are plentiful and your biggest responsibility is to choose and embrace the one that suits you best.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Let common sense be your guide. There are several possibilities that could be highly enjoyable, and since it appears that you've got your affairs mostly under control, you've got leeway to take on more than one thing at a time.



Pisces

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Somewhere along the line, you may have assumed a position concerning a situation that was more self-serving than accurate. The timing is now perfect for a climbdown that won't leave you flat on your rear end.





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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1. Nourish
- 5. Rare African antelope
- 10. Rod's mate
- 14. Good-sized plot
- 15. Book of public records
- 16. Shoppe type
- 17. Jerry Lewis comedy
- 19. Cheers from Charo
- 20. Request to be rescued
- 21. Remove
- 22. Pyle of Mayberry
- 24. Employ
- 25. Jet set garb
- **26**. Highbrow
- 29. Landlubber's malady, maybe
- 33. Warms
- **34**. Jeanne _
- 35. Showy flower
- 36. Art Deco illustrator
- 37. Castle illumination
- 38. Yea or nay
- 39. Daredevil Knievel
- 40. First-class
- **41**. Let go
- **42**. Sweat
- **44**. Indy entrants
- 45. Bothers
- 46. Red-carpet treatment
- 47. Cigar residue
- 49. Stare slack-jawed
- 50. Kind of rally
- 53. Colorado River feeder
- **54**. Neil Simon comedy
- **57**. Smell
- **58.** Cruise stopovers
- **59**. Night light
- 60. Casual parting
- **61**. Explosive trial
- **62**. Hardly a landlubber

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 15 16 16 19 16 19 10 11 12 13 14 19 10 11 12 13 13 13 14 19 10 11 12 13 14 19 10 14

Down

- 1. Domino of music
- 2. Reverberate
- **3**. "__ Tu": 1974 hit
- 4. One to throw a ball for
- **5**. Queen of sleuthing
- **6**. City in northern France
- 7. 6-Down cleric
- 8. New beginning?
- 9. Ambush
- **10**. Marx Brothers comedy
- **11**. Couture magazine
- **12**. River through Hesse, Germany
- 13. Brown of renown

- 18. Does publishing work
- 23. Former California fort
- **24**. De Carlo/Ustinov comedy
- 25. Travesty
- 26. Flock members
- **27**. Moxie
- 28. Western
- 29. River to the Seine
- **30**. "Ordinary People" actress
- **31**. Acid-alcohol compound
- **32**. Marsh grasses
- **34**. Morrison's group, with "The"
- **37.** Critical downturn

- **41**. Goddesses of destiny
- 43. Cake alternative
- **44**. Meal
- **46**. Stuns
- 47. Verdi opera
- 48. Place for a coin
- **49**. Big wind
- **50**. Hummus holder
- **51**. List shortening abbr.
- 52. Saucy
- 53. Came down with
- 55. WWII carrier
- **56**. Battleship inits.

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Answer to last puzzle

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| Т | н | Е | В | Е | L | L | В | 0 | Υ | | 0 | L | Е | S |
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Lakers humbled in Boston, Simmons and Lillard star in victories

The Los Angeles Lakers suffered their heaviest loss of the NBA season on Monday, while Ben Simmons and Damian Lillard inspired victories with stunning performances.

LeBron James and Anthony Davis featured from the start but the Lakers never got going in a heavy 139-107 defeat to the Boston Celtics.

Jayson Tatum registered a gamehigh 27 points to help Celtics teammate Kemba Walker celebrate his first career win against superstar James at the 29th attempt.

Joel Embiid's absence through injury failed to hurt the Philadelphia 76ers as Simmons shone in a 117-111 road victory over the slumping Brooklyn Nets.

Simmons enjoyed one of the best games of his career, posting a triple-double with 34 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists, plus five steals.

There was similar joy elsewhere for Damian Lillard, who erupted for a career-best 61 points – including 11 three-pointers – as the Portland Trail Blazers overcame the Golden State Warriors 129-124 in an overtime thriller.

Westbrook heroics not enough as OKC complete comeback

Russell Westbrook's 32 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds went unrewarded as the Houston Rockets squandered a big lead to lose 112-107 to the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The Rockets were overrun after taking a 16-point advantage into the fourth quarter, as Chris Paul and Danilo Gallinari shared 53 points for OKC.

Giannis Antetokounmpo (28 points, 14 rebounds, 10 assists) also recorded a triple-double, the reigning MVP reaching 10,000 career points as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Chicago Bulls 111-98.



Lebron James

The Miami Heat resumed their charge in the Eastern Conference, outlasting the Sacramento Kings 118-113 in overtime.

Meanwhile, in Minnesota, the Denver Nuggets bounced back to winning ways, topping the Timberwolves 107-100 thanks to double-doubles from Nikola Jokic and Michael Porter Jr.

Lowry misses out in Atlanta

The Toronto Raptors claimed a 122-117 win against the Atlanta Hawks but it was still a game to forget for five-time All Star Kyle Lowry, who went threeof-11 from the floor and missed each of his five three-point attempts.

Brown posterises LeBron!

Celtics guard Jaylen Brown had 20 points and a huge dunk on an NBA superstar at TD Garden.

Monday's results

San Antonio Spurs 120-118 Phoenix Suns

Portland Trail Blazers 129-124 Golden State Warriors (OT)

> Utah Jazz 118-88 Indiana Pacers Washington Wizards 106-100

Detroit Pistons

Toronto Raptors 122-117 Atlanta Hawks

Philadelphia 76ers 117-111 Brooklyn Nets

Miami Heat 118-113 Sacramento Kings (OT)

Milwaukee Bucks 111-98 Chicago Bulls

Oklahoma City Thunder 112-107 Houston Rockets

Orlando Magic 106-83 Charlotte Hornets

New Orleans Pelicans 126-116 Memphis Grizzlies

New York Knicks 106-86 Cleveland Cavaliers

Boston Celtics 139-107 Los Angeles Lakers

Denver Nuggets 107-100 Minnesota Timberwolves

Clippers at Mavericks

Kristaps Porzingis could return from a knee injury when the Dallas Mavericks (27-15) entertain the Los Angeles Clippers (30-13) in Tuesday's only game. (sportsmax.tv)



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SPORTS





French national triathlon champion returns to defend AUA Rohrman Antigua title

The reigning French Sprint Triathlon Champion Aurélien Raphaël has confirmed his return to Antigua to defend his title in the AUA Rohrman Triathlon on Saturday March 7th, 2020.

Raphaël, a former European Junior Champion and former Junior World Champion will also take part in the Jumby Bay Fund Rohrman Barbuda on Sunday March 8th, 2020.

Raphaël won the Antigua title in 2019 in stunning fashion, breaking the two hour barrier and setting a course record of 1 hour 57 minutes and 21 seconds, for the 1,500 meter swim, 40km bike, and 10k run.

The French triathlete, after starting his season in Antigua, then went onto claim his first ever French national title in June.

Raphaël's confirmed presence has already attracted a contingent of over 20 French amateur athletes who will test themselves against him, in one of the only triathlons in the world which allows amateur triathletes to race side by side with pro-athletes.

The AUA Rohrman Antigua features 10 triathlons including junior age groups of 6 & under, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12and 13-15. The adult events include Olympic, Sprint and Mini distances, with the Sprint & Mini distances both available in individual or team formats.

The event continues with a second day for the Jumby Bay Fund Rohrman Barbuda which involves a number of swimming and running events along with fun activities such as tug o war.

The non-profit event is sponsored

by the Government of Antigua & Barbuda, Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority, the Ministry of Sports, the National Olympic Committee, the American University of Antigua, the Jumby Bay Fund, Sugar Ridge, Tamarind Hills, Cool & Smooth, Cedars Pottery, Island Provision, Pellegrino water, Barbuda Council, Barbuda Ocean Club, Road Runners, Stonewall Sounds, Island Sanitation, Pure Sports & Events, Special Security Services, Antigua VIP Tours, and SO Ltd.

The event is also supported by the Royal Police Force of Antigua & Barbuda, ABSAR, the Ministry of Environment, the Coast Guard, the EMS and many volunteers.

Editor : Everton Barnes, Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua Tel:-1-268-562 4989, Editor: editor@pointville.ag Advertisement: sales@pointville.ag, Reporting: news@pointville.ag



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