



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2020

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BIG BUCKS FOR DEAD DOGS

Story on Page 2



Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Estonia, last week established diplomatic relations during a visit of Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill. High Commissioner Hill presented her Letter of Credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Antigua and Barbuda to Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia at the Kadriorg Palace during a two-day official visit. **Story on Page 6**

Big bucks for dead dogs

The government is to launch an investigation into an arrangement under which opposition leader, Jamal Pringle, has been able to bill the National Solid Waste Management Authority for \$1.4 million over a 7-year period for the removal of dead dogs from around the country.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is asking Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph to look into the matter to see whether it represents a case of overcharging the government for the service.

Pringle was the one who brought the matter to light when he informed the House of Representatives that he had been awarded the contract to clear dead dogs and other animals from St John's and other parts of the country 'because no one else wanted

to do it'.

Following that announcement, Joseph asked for the records of the arrangement, however, the initial search was unable to turn up any evidence of an actual contract.

"Here's a situation where a man, the leader of the opposition, Hon. Jamal Pringle, has had a so-called contract, by the way there's no contract, but he has been paid, every month, every year for seven years to pick up dead dogs from around the country.

"I am calling the member for St Mary's North to put an investigation in place immediately to establish what exactly happened," Browne stated.

At the time Pringle raised the issue, he was accusing the government of entering into 'suspicious' contracts.

JAMALE PRINGLE
 Tyrell's Road
 St. Paul's, Antigua
 Tel: 268-725-0000

Date: 23rd May 2019 Invoice # 519
 Vehicle Registration No.: C-38800

To: National Solid Waste Management Authority
 Sir George Walter Highway
 St. George's
 Antigua

APPROVED
 DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Description of Service	Amount \$
Transportation of solid waste on the following days:	
1. Thursday 16 th May 2019 Garbage and Dead Animal Collection Areas - (Around Market Area, Government House, Welfare Office, Old Defense Force Compound) (C-38800)	\$500.00
2. Friday 17 th May 2019 Garbage and Dead Animal Collection Areas - (Around Market Area, Government House, Welfare Office, Old Defense Force Compound) (C-38800)	\$500.00
3. Saturday 18 th May 2019 Garbage and Dead Animal Collection Areas - (Around Market Area, Yasco Sports Complex, Simon Boulevard Pre-School) (C-38800)	\$500.00
4. Monday 20 th May 2019 Garbage and Dead Animal Collection Areas - (Around Market Area, Liberta, Bambu Gutter, Horsford Hill, Halcyon Heights and John Hughes) (C-38800)	\$500.00

DAY

Max UV Index: 7 High
 Wind: E at 22 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 30 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 58%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 2.1 mm
 Rain: 2.1 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1.5
 Hours of Rain: 1.5
 Partly sunny with a brief shower or two

28° Hi



NIGHT

Wind: E at 18 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 28 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 41%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 0.6 mm
 Rain: 0.6 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

23° Lo



Mainly clear with a shower in places

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:36 AM

Sunset AST
6:07 PM



Duration
11:31 h

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
7:46 PM

Moonset AST
8:34 AM



Duration
12:48 h

Private sector wages low!

There has been a reversal in the rate of salaries and wages paid to employees in the private sector compared with those paid to people employed in the public sector.

According to Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Hon. Gaston Browne, salaries and wages in the public sector are now higher on average to similar rates in the private sector.

Browne said this accounts for the fact that most people clamour more for public sector employment than to find work in the private sector.

“The average income in the public sector is between \$2,900.00 to \$3,000.00 per month, while the average salary and wages in the private sector are marginally lower,” he disclosed.

He added that when security of ten-

ure, pension and other benefits are included, it makes employment in the public sector much more attractive to young people than finding jobs in the private sector.

Speaking in parliament on Friday, the prime minister said this fact is at the heart of some of the issues facing the country.

“Private Sector salaries and wages, especially the hotels, have not risen to the extent to attract our people and that is why everybody is seeking to join the public sector. We are calling on the private sector to do something about that!” he stated.

Browne is of the view that it is an untenable situation where the public sector and the private sector salaries and wages are the same or they are higher in the public sector.

“No one will want to leave the public sector to join the private sector. There’s no incentive; why would anyone leave?” he asked.

The finance minister noted that the government has been criticized repeatedly for its large wage bill and the number of people it employs, but the inequality of wages is one of the root causes of the problem.

He challenged the private sector to ‘do something about it’ as it must understand that their employees are also stakeholders in the process.

“The economy is expanding and most of the growth is recorded by the private sector. If you are enjoying a seven (7) or six (6) percent growth annually, you can give periodic increases. Keep your staff happy!” he advised.



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Court appearance for 'drug mule'

A Jamaican national with a history of being a drug mule is to appear in court today to answer charges that he attempted to import drug into Antigua and Barbuda.

Law enforcement officials did not identify the man by name, but they confirm that he arrived at the VC Bird International Airport on Thursday afternoon on a Caribbean Airways flight



from Kingston.

Immigrations officials confirm that the man was denied entry after he was searched thoroughly by customs. No drugs were found either on his person or in his luggage. However, he was denied entry into the country as he did not meet the criteria established by the immigration department. He was later placed in the department's detention centre for deportation where he is believed to have passed several packages of what is believed to be cocaine. The drugs are being tested by the government's laboratory for confirmation.

The man is believed to have passed the drugs into the toilet in the detention centre but his attempts to flush the drugs failed as instead, the packages clogged the toilet.

Immigration officials retrieved the packages and turned the man over to the police. It is believed that he will face at least two charges; importation



of drugs and possession with intent to transfer.

The man was intercepted in Barbados in 2017 attempting to smuggle drugs into that country. He was fined and deported immediately.

UTILITIES ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

STAY CONNECTED BY M.Y.A!

APUA would like to remind both residential and commercial customers to stay connected by Managing Your Account. Customers are reminded to settle accounts that are overdue by 30 days or in arrears. Disconnections will be carried out during the period **February 10 to February 28, 2020**

Please be advised that reconnections are carried out within 1-2 business days after payment.



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Health Ministers to discuss virus

Health ministers from across the Caribbean are to utilize the available technology to strategize on how to deal with an outbreak of the deadly novel coronavirus.

Today, Minister of Health, Molwyn Joseph will join his counterparts Ministers of Health in the Caribbean region in participating in a virtual executive information session on the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

The Antigua and Barbuda team at the virtual conference will include the country's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas. The session will also include all PAHO member states.

The Caribbean region to date, has had NO suspected cases of the deadly virus that started affecting people in Wuhan Province in the People's Republic of China.

The Ministry of Health has adopted a proactive stance in its efforts to prevent the virus from spreading to Antigua and Barbuda. Several individuals who recently traveled to China have been quarantined and a cruise ship that was due to dock in St John's last week was turned away.

cont'd on pg 5

Police express frustration

The police are expressing frustration at the frequency with which they are called to investigate cases where teenagers, especially girls, go missing from home for extended periods of time.

Police spokesman Inspector Frankie Thomas expressed the sentiments while reporting that the



George Attwood

teenage girl – 18-year old Zinajah Peters of All Saints Village – has been located. He said the girl returned home sometime after midnight Sunday morning. She was unharmed.

The police official reported that the young woman, a student at the All Saints Secondary School who was reported missing since last week Wednesday, was said to have spent the time with a male companion in New Winthropes.

He noted that while the young woman is not a minor the police nonetheless are carrying out an investigation to determine the circumstances under which she went ‘missing’ and to ensure that at no time did she encounter potential harm or danger.

Thomas feels that the parents ought to be more involved in their children’s lives and to take measures

that will bring an end to these cases where teenage girls go ‘missing’.

When this happens, he continued, the police are forced to divert much resources to assist in locating these children and return them to their parents as soon as possible.

According to Thomas... the police will not ‘throw up’ their hands in light of the current problem, but he noted that the law enforcement agencies cannot tackle the problem by themselves. They need help from all in society.

Meanwhile, the elderly Buckley’s man, 70-year-old George Attwood, whose family first reported him missing to the All Saints Po-



Zinajah Peters

lice Station on Tuesday, is still missing.

Thomas said several search parties including fellow villagers and policemen have failed to locate the man.



cont’d from pg 4

Despite not showing any symptoms of the virus, the ministry reports that two females and three males have nevertheless been ordered quarantined for 14 days, in Antigua; the quarantine period has been proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Additionally, four Antigua and Barbuda students returned home and they too have been quarantined, although they were not near the epicenter of the disease.

Meanwhile, the old Margetson Ward at the Holberton Hospital is to be repaired and retrofitted for both quarantine and isolation. The ministry has also placed an order for additional masks, gloves and body suits to protect health workers, who have reportedly become victims of the virus in at least one country.

The government has commended health professionals in Antigua and Barbuda who have been acting intelligently and skillfully to prepare the nation for every eventuality.

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE		
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CLAIM NO: ANUHC2017/0441		
In the Matter of a Mortgage Claim under Section 72 of the Registered Land Act (Cap. 374)		
BETWEEN:		
RBC ROYAL BANK OF CANADA	<i>Claimant</i>	
-And-		
LARRY JACKSON COLLEEN JACKSON	<i>Defendants</i>	
NOTICE OF HEARING		
TAKE NOTICE that this matter will be heard on Thursday the 20th day of February, 2020 before The Honourable Justice Rosalyn Wilkinson at the High Court of Justice, Parliament Drive, St. John's, Antigua at 9:00am .		
Dated the 6 th of December, 2019.		
 Andrea Smith MARSHALL & CO. Attorneys-at-Law For the Claimant		
<small>Filed by Messrs. MARSHALL & CO., Attorneys-at-Law, Ann-Rebecca House, Factory Road, St. John's, Antigua Telephone Nos. 1(268)462-3562/722/73/74 Fax 1 268 462-3563 email: mco@bcmllaw.com Attorneys for the above named Claimant whose address for service is the same.</small>		

Antigua & Barbuda and Estonia establish diplomatic relations

TALLINN, Republic of Estonia – Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Estonia, last week established diplomatic relations during a visit of Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill. High Commissioner Hill presented her Letter of Credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Antigua and Barbuda to Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia at the Kadriorg Palace during a two-day official visit.

In her presentation to President Kaljulaid, Ambassador Hill stated: "I am honoured and delighted to present my credentials to you, Your Excellency, as the first Ambassador (non-resident) of Antigua and Barbuda to Estonia and also the first female and youngest to do so. I also convey warmest greetings to you from Prime Minister, the Honourable Gaston Browne and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. It is also a great privilege to represent

the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda as we seek to establish and grow our developmental, trade and investment, and cultural partnerships," High Commissioner Hill stated.

President Kaljulaid welcomed Ambassador Hill to Estonia and expressed how elated she is that formal relations have been established following previous diplomatic engagements. President Kaljulaid also reflected on her short stayover in Antigua while en route to a CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting in St. Kitts, recalling the delicious seafood, stunning scenery, and warmth of the people. During the bilateral engagement, Ambassador Hill noted that one foreign policy objective of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is to establish relations with strategic partners who understand the particular challenges faced by small developing states. Both Ambassador Hill and the President then engaged further on subject-matters such as trade and investment, climate change



and resilience, gender and equality, education, derisking and blacklisting, information technology and e-Governance, and culture.

Ambassador Hill arrived in the Estonian capital, Tallinn on 4 February and held discussions with Estonian officials and organisations. They met with the Director-General of Estonian Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Estonia, the Director of the Cyber Security Division of the Information System Authority, the e-Governance Academy, and officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education. The discussions centred on possible trade and investment initiatives, tourism and marketing prospects, e-Governance and cybersecurity cooperation, scholarship opportunities at Estonian universities, and cultural exchange programmes.

Also, Antiguan and Barbudan students at the Tallinn University of Technology, Shamaise Peters and Kaiszia Celestine had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Hill. Her Excellency

commended them for taking advantage of the educational opportunity to pursue higher education in Estonia and challenged them to push the boundaries of their goals while remaining committed to contributing to the development of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Republic of Estonia is a northern European country with a population of 1.3 million. It is a member of the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and currently sits as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). After gaining independence from Soviet Russia in 1918 and again in 1991, Estonia rapidly transformed into a developed country with a very high human development index being ranked 30 out of 189 measures countries. Leading up to and after joining the EU in 2004, Estonia pioneered the digital revolution and e-governance and is as such today recognised as a global leader in information and communication technologies.



Industrial Court to get VP

Mounting backlog of cases at the Industrial Court has moved the government to take steps to appointment a Vice President which is expected to help the court operate more efficiently.

The House of Representatives last Friday passed an amendment to the Industrial Court Act that provides for the appointment of a VP. This will allow for simultaneous sittings of the court to hear new cases as well as deal with the longstanding problem of backlogs in outstanding cases.

Attorney General, Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin noted that the current Industrial Court Act only provides for the appointment of a President of the Court who serves

as its chairman during hearings. Under the existing law, if the president of the court is absent then the court is not able to meet.

"This cannot continue in this day and age with so many cases being filed in the court. The amendment makes provision for the appointment of a vice president who may then form his/her own court thus making it possible for there to be concurrent meetings," he explained.

He further explained that when the Labour Code was passed in 1975 the intention was to see the speedy resolution of matters and in 1976 when the Industrial Court came into being it was the understanding that



where difficulties arise in industrial matters these will go before the court for resolution expeditiously.


Unfortunately, according to the attorney general, hearings of new cases before the court were recently suspended specifically to

deal with the backlog. He reported that there are only five judgments now outstanding.

The court is now expected to resume full operations, hearing new cases, as well as, continuing to tackle the backlog.

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
CLAIM NO: ANUHCV2017/0441



In the Matter of a Mortgage Claim under Section 72
of the Registered Land Act (Cap. 374)

BETWEEN:

RBC ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
Applicant/Claimant/Judgment Creditor

-and-

**LARRY JACKSON
COLEEN JACKSON**
Defendants/Judgment Debtors

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

The Applicant/Claimant/Judgment Creditor, **RBC ROYAL BANK OF CANADA**, of Market Street and High Street, in the City of Saint John's, Antigua, through its Attorneys-at-Law, Messrs. Marshall & Co., applies to the Court for an Order that: -

- (1) Pursuant to the Order of the Court entered on the 24th day of January, 2018, the Claimant, as Judgment Creditor and Chargee in exercise of its power of sale, may sell the property of the Defendants particularly described in the Land Registry as **Registration Section: Falmouth & Bethesda; Block: 34 2482A; Parcel: 426** either by private treaty or by public auction at an upset price of \$225,000.00, being 90% of the forced sale value of \$250,000.00;
- (2) The Claimant is at liberty to apply for a further reduction of the upset price by an additional 10% should a sale not be achieved on the reduced upset price of \$225,000.00.
- (3) Such further or other directions as this Honourable Court may deem fit and proper; and
- (4) The costs of and incidental to these proceedings be provided for.


A draft of the Order that we seek is attached hereto.

The Grounds of the Application are:

- (a) By Order of the Court of the 24th day of January, 2018, Judgment was entered against the Defendants in the sum of \$326,805.73 and the Claimant was granted possession of the charged property belonging to the Defendants and permission to sell the same by public auction at no less than the forced sale value of \$255,000.00, as ascribed in a Valuation Report of the property dated the 16th day of November, 2017.
- (b) The said property has been listed for public auction on several occasions but no one has been prepared to purchase the property at either its forced sale or market value.
- (c) In the hope of being able to enforce its Judgment and recover the debt owed to it from the Defendants, the Claimant is prepared to accept the best price that can be achieved for the said property.
- (d) There are additional concerns for the Claimant that the expenses of advertising the property for public auction continue to mount with no offers at the forced sale price being achieved.
- (e) The Defendants have failed to make payment whatsoever towards satisfaction of the Judgment Debt obtained by the Claimant against them in these proceedings.

An Affidavit of ANDREA DICKENSON accompanies this Application

Dated the day of October, 2019


Andrea L. Smith
MARSHALL & CO.
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant/Claimant



Antigua Commercial Bank

PRESS RELEASE

The **64th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Shareholders of **ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.** was held at the Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa, Dickenson Bay, St. John's, Antigua, on **Thursday January 30, 2020**. The event was for the first time streamed live via our website www.acbonline.com and available for private viewing by our over 5000 shareholders, further cementing our leadership in the market in the area of shareholder engagement.

As the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's 2019 Bank of the Year Awardee in Corporate Governance, the ACB Group remains committed to compliance with established best practices to foster a culture of integrity and accountability throughout the organization.

The **ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK GROUP (ACB GROUP)**, recorded a **Consolidated Net Profit** of **\$20.7 million** for the financial year ended September 30, 2019. It also maintained its status as a "billion dollar bank" with total assets of **\$1.3 billion**, reflecting continued strong liquidity and capitalization.

The Bank's wholly owned Subsidiary, **ACB MORTGAGE & TRUST COMPANY LIMITED** recorded its highest Net Profit ever of **\$9.73 million**, a 17.8% increase over prior year. Total Assets grew by **\$10.23 million** or 3.3%.

Shareholders declared a **CASH DIVIDEND** of **\$0.50** for each share in respect of the financial year ended September 30, 2019, to be paid to shareholders on record as at January 20, 2020.

In relation to the composition of the **ACB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, **REGINALD N. PETERSON** retired from the Board prior to the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Clause 4.5.2 (h) of the Company's Bylaws. The Board recognizes the former Vice Chairman for his invaluable contribution during his tenure.

Additionally, **MAVIS GEORGE** retired from the Board in compliance with section 3 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2009. The Board takes this opportunity to pay tribute to former Vice Chairman George for her service to the ACB Group.

ADEKUNLE OSOBA also retired from the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting, having served since his election to the Board on March 9, 2017. The Board acknowledges his service during his tenure.



REGINALD N. PETERSON
FORMER VICE CHAIRMAN



MAVIS GEORGE
FORMER VICE CHAIRMAN



ADEKUNLE OSOBA
FORMER DIRECTOR

RETIRING DIRECTOR CASSANDRA P. SIMON was re-elected to the Board, while **DESIREE A. ZACHARIAH, ERIC E. JOSEPH** and **DYNA M. HARNEY-BARNES** were newly elected.



CASSANDRA P. SIMON
DIRECTOR



DESIREE A. ZACHARIAH
DIRECTOR



ERIC E. JOSEPH
DIRECTOR



DYNA M. HARNEY-BARNES
DIRECTOR

The present members of the Board of Directors of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. are:-

- LORRAINE RAE BURN - CHAIRMAN
- SHARON A. MATTHEW- EDWARDS - VICE CHAIRMAN
- SANDRA DERRICK
- CASSANDRA P. SIMON
- C. DAVIDSON CHARLES
- C. KEVIN SILSTON
- C. KAMILAH ROBERTS
- DESIREE A. ZACHARIAH
- ERIC E. JOSEPH
- DYNA M. HARNEY - BARNES

Audit Firm, **KPMG**, was re-appointed as the Group's External Auditor for the year ending September 30, 2020.

The **ACB GROUP'S 64th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** was hosted under the theme of its **ANNUAL REPORT 2019, "EMPOWERING ASPIRATIONS; ENABLING ACHIEVEMENT"**, a theme that powerfully captures the ethos of the Antiguan and Barbudan spirit as expressed in our country's National Anthem, **"EACH ENDEAVOURING; ALL ACHIEVING"**.

During the financial year under review, the **ACB GROUP** adopted new Vision and Mission Statements:

OUR VISION

Empowering those we serve to achieve wealth and value beyond their expectations.

OUR MISSION

To create shared value through exceptional financial services built on best practices and our foundation as an indigenous institution.

IN LOOKING AHEAD, the **ACB GROUP'S Strategy** will continue to focus on maximizing shareholder value by institutional strengthening in the following areas:

- pursuing growth and sustainability of earnings
- enhancing the customer experience
- improving operational efficiency through automation
- creating a cadre of highly skilled, professional and productive work force.

The Group further records its commitment to exceeding the expectations of its supportive shareholders, dedicated employees, loyal customers and the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

RHODETTE PAIGE
LEGAL COUNSEL/ CORPORATE SECRETARY

February 5, 2020

Antigua Commercial Bank - 2019 Summary Financial Statements



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2nd Floor, ABI Financial Centre
156 Redcliffe Street
P.O. Box W388
St. John's
Antigua
Telephone: 1 (268) 562-9172
Email: ecinfo@kpmg.aq

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Shareholders of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd.

Report on the Audit of the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion

The summary consolidated financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated statement of financial position as at September 30, 2019, the summary consolidated statements of income, profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. ("the Group") for the year ended September 30, 2019.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by International Financial Reporting Standards. Reading the summary consolidated financial statements and our report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited consolidated financial statements and our report thereon.

The Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited consolidated financial statements in our report dated January 10, 2020.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (cont'd)

To the Shareholders of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary consolidated financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

KPMG

Chartered Accountants
January 10, 2020

Antigua and Barbuda

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2019	2018
Assets		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank	\$ 169,110,446	214,760,039
Due from other banks	97,482,109	71,838,547
Treasury bills	89,836,565	90,223,743
Statutory deposit	5,965,440	5,074,812
Loans and advances	674,762,574	659,077,207
Other assets	15,434,041	22,221,662
Investment securities	184,810,977	113,625,445
Property and equipment	34,529,550	32,611,807
Pension asset	7,561,763	8,109,502
Total Assets	\$ 1,279,493,165	1,218,342,764
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Income tax payable	\$ 3,826,505	1,173,830
Deposits due to customers	1,008,480,032	972,880,583
Provisions and other liabilities	16,793,189	16,620,392
Deferred tax liability	5,775,417	7,277,536
Total Liabilities	1,034,875,143	999,952,341
Equity		
Stated capital	36,000,000	36,000,000
Statutory reserve	26,059,962	23,459,372
Other reserves	75,160,350	58,623,186
Retained earnings	107,397,710	100,307,895
Total Equity	244,618,022	218,390,423
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 1,279,493,165	1,218,342,764

Approved for issue by the Board of Directors on January 10, 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Sharon A. Edwards Chairman
Sharon A. Edwards Director
Sharon A. Edwards Director

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Income

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2019	2018
Interest income		
Income from loans and advances	\$ 52,366,010	44,082,198
Income from deposits with other banks and investments	12,237,396	9,244,418
	<u>64,603,406</u>	<u>53,326,616</u>
Interest expense		
Savings accounts	10,117,888	10,439,998
Time deposits and current accounts	4,393,344	4,943,057
Investment expenses	28,777	30,224
	<u>14,540,009</u>	<u>15,413,279</u>
Net interest income	50,063,397	37,913,337
Other operating income	16,927,728	14,518,845
Total income	66,991,125	52,432,182
Operating expenses		
General and administrative expenses	28,923,335	26,006,330
Depreciation	2,198,204	1,995,345
Directors' fees and expenses	944,182	999,304
Provision for loan impairment	10,874,896	190,880
Provision for impairment of other financial assets	7,790	118,699
Property – revaluation adjustment	(1,300,392)	-
	<u>41,648,015</u>	<u>29,310,558</u>
Profit before tax	25,343,110	23,121,624
Taxation		
Current tax expense	3,888,538	1,075,173
Deferred tax expense	719,141	2,329,293
	<u>4,607,679</u>	<u>3,404,466</u>
Profit for the year	\$ 20,735,431	19,717,158
Earnings per share	\$ 2.07	1.97

Antigua Commercial Bank - 2019 Summary Financial Statements



ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2019	2018
Profit for the year	\$ 20,735,431	19,717,158
Other comprehensive income:		
<i>Items net of tax that are or may be reclassified to profit or loss in the future:</i>		
Increase in fair value of AFS equity securities, net of taxes of \$nil (2018: \$211,293)	-	628,502
	-	628,502
<i>Items net of tax that will never be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>		
Increase in fair value of FVOCI equity securities, net of taxes of \$1,979	5,934	-
Revaluation surplus due to increase in fair value of property	585,000	-
Actuarial loss for the year, net of taxes of \$280,844 (2018: \$170,869)	(842,534)	(512,607)
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	\$ (251,600)	115,895
Total comprehensive income for the year	\$ 20,483,831	19,833,053

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2019	2018
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the year	\$ 20,735,431	19,717,158
Items not affecting cash:		
Provision for loan impairment	10,874,896	190,880
Provision for impairment of other financial assets	7,790	118,699
Depreciation	2,198,204	1,995,345
Pension income	(173,144)	(156,679)
Property revaluation adjustment	(1,300,392)	-
Interest income	(64,603,406)	(53,326,616)
Interest expense	14,540,009	15,413,279
Tax expense	4,607,679	3,404,466
Cash flows used in operating activities before changes in operating assets and liabilities	(13,112,933)	(12,643,468)
Change in statutory deposit	(90,628)	(29,263)
Change in other receivables and other assets	6,219,102	(3,009,381)
Change in loans and advances	(31,519,633)	(9,337,375)
Change in deposits due to customers	35,585,840	33,343,196
Change in provisions and other liabilities	(3,320,181)	1,035,191
Cash flows (used in)/from operating activities before interest, taxes and pension contributions	(6,238,433)	9,358,900
Interest received	63,123,298	52,777,444
Interest paid	(14,526,400)	(14,722,141)
Taxes paid	(1,184,051)	(3,835,757)
Pension contributions paid	(402,495)	(384,505)
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	40,771,919	43,193,941
Cash flows from investing activities		
Redemption of investment securities	19,843,110	5,903,908
Purchase of short-term investments	(25,000,000)	(65,477,912)
Purchase of property and equipment	(2,230,555)	(3,347,494)
Purchase of investment securities	(52,292,708)	(13,941,022)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(59,680,153)	(76,862,520)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Dividends paid	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(22,908,234)	(37,668,579)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	226,101,952	263,770,531
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 203,193,718	226,101,952

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	Stated Capital	Statutory Reserves	Revaluation Reserve: FVOCI	Capital Reserve	Revaluation Reserve – PPE	Pension Reserve	Regulatory Loan Loss Reserve	Retained Earnings	Total
Balance at September 30, 2018 as previously stated	\$ 36,000,000	23,459,372	2,736,004	7,461,949	5,317,922	8,109,502	34,997,809	100,307,865	218,390,423
Changes on initial application of IFRS 9	-	-	16,493,969	-	-	-	-	(6,750,201)	9,743,768
Restated balance at October 1, 2018	36,000,000	23,459,372	19,229,973	7,461,949	5,317,922	8,109,502	34,997,809	93,557,664	228,134,191
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,735,431	20,735,431
Other comprehensive income	-	-	5,934	-	585,000	-	-	(842,534)	(251,600)
Total comprehensive income	-	-	5,934	-	585,000	-	-	19,892,897	20,483,831
Transfer to reserve fund	-	2,600,590	-	-	-	-	-	(2,600,590)	-
Decrease in pension reserve	-	-	-	-	-	(547,739)	-	547,739	-
Transactions with owners									
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)
Balance September 30, 2019	\$ 36,000,000	26,059,962	19,235,907	7,461,949	5,902,922	7,561,763	34,997,809	107,397,710	244,618,022

Antigua Commercial Bank - 2019 Summary Financial Statements



ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity (cont'd)

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	Stated Capital	Statutory Reserves	Revaluation Reserve: FVOCI	Capital Reserve	Revaluation Reserve – PPE	Pension Reserve	Regulatory Loan Loss Reserve	Retained Earnings	Total
Balance at September 30, 2017	\$ 36,000,000	20,768,281	2,107,502	7,461,949	5,317,922	8,251,792	16,438,353	106,211,571	202,557,370
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,717,158	19,717,158
Other comprehensive income	-	-	628,502	-	-	-	-	(512,607)	115,895
Total comprehensive income	-	-	628,502	-	-	-	-	19,204,551	19,833,053
Transfer to reserve fund	-	2,691,091	-	-	-	-	-	(2,691,091)	-
Increase in reserve for loan loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,559,456	(18,559,456)	-
Decrease in pension reserve	-	-	-	-	-	(142,290)	-	142,290	-
Transaction with owners									
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)
Balance at September 30, 2018	\$ 36,000,000	23,459,372	2,736,004	7,461,949	5,317,992	8,109,502	34,997,809	100,307,865	218,390,423

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Notes to Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

September 30, 2019

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

1. Basis of preparation

These summary consolidated financial statements are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. for the year ended September 30, 2019 and have been prepared in accordance with criteria developed by management.

Major tsunami simulation exercise tomorrow

Selected areas of the city of St. John's and two of its densely populated environs will be staging points for a major tsunami simulation exercise that will be conducted tomorrow, Tuesday 11th February 2020.

The disaster preparedness drill is a collaboration between the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) and the UNESCO-DIPECHO-CTIC Project.

UNESCO is a well-known abbreviation for the United Nations Educational, Sporting and Cultural Organization, while DIPECHO stands for the European Union's Disaster Preparedness Programme, and CTIC is the Caribbean Tsunami Information Center.

The part of St. John's that will be covered in tomorrow's exercise "stretches from South Street all the way to the area known as Back Street, and it also includes Point and Villa", according to Keithley Meade, the former Director of Me-

teorological Service who is now the UNESCO-CTIC consultant for Antigua and Barbuda.

The project is also being carried out in other Caricom territories, to wit, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Dominican Republic.

"The whole point of it ... is to seek tsunami readiness for some communities; so Point and Villa were chosen as pilot communities this time around. As the project continues, other communities will be targeted as well," Meade explained.

Similar exercises were last year held at Christian Hill in Bethesda and at the Multi-Purpose Center for the Gray's Farm/Perry Bay areas and their environs.

Elaborating further, Meade said tomorrow's exercise "will involve some modelling ... to see just where the inundation areas are; just how far up the water will come. And then, based on those, it can be de-



NODS Director Philmore Mullin cided if those areas will be in trouble."

Operating procedures that are to be applied in any such eventually will be tested as part of the exercise. Evacuation maps will show where the water is expected to come in and the routes that evacuating residents should take in order to get out of the danger zones.

"They also show the assembly areas where you are expected to go to. For instance, if you are in the Villa area, you are expected to go to the Princess Margaret School, which is considered a safe location based on the modelling that is done. If you are in the downtown area, you are expected to go up to Independence Avenue; or, if you are in the St. Michael's area, to the Catholic church.

"If you are in Point proper, near the Deep Water Harbor area, or in other areas of St. John's, you go up to the Anglican Cathedral. If you are in the Fort area, then you go up to areas near the

Adelin Clinic or the St. Andrews Church area. Persons who are participating in the drill, this is where we expect them to go, and signs will be placed to direct them," Meade stated.

The exercise is expected to get underway around 11:00 a.m. tomorrow.

NODS director Philmore Mullin told Pointe Xpress that this time use will be made not only of the new inundation maps, but also the modelling capabilities made available by a university in Italy.

He said this will provide an opportunity for those who have been trained "to see how they can apply the knowledge that has been shared with them. This will be analyzed and allow us to repackage, if necessary, the public information and education programs specific to those communities."

The St. John's Cathedral has been selected as the Command Centre, where the officers controlling the exercise will be based.



UNESCO-CITIC Consultant Keithley Meade.

Barbados gov't committed to fighting workplace violence and harassment

The government says it remains committed to fighting the scourge of violence and harassment in the workplace and in the wider world of work, and is encouraging others to do likewise.

Minister of Labour and Social Partnership Relations, Colin Jordan, gave this assurance recently while addressing the Barbados Employers Confederation's (BEC) seminar on Violence in the Workplace at Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, Hastings, Christ Church.

He told those gathered: "To bolster our efforts to foster sustainable economic growth, we need businesses to be sustainable, competitive and profitable, but this will not be achieved by workers who are affected by workplace violence and harassment. Violence and harassment in the workplace ... have the potential to affect a person's psychological, physical or sexual health, dignity and family and social environment.

"We must also be cognizant that violence and harassment can impact productivity. It can actually decrease worker engagement; contribute to a hostile environment, increase the level of absenteeism and worker turnover; and lead to a poor public image for the

employing organization, in your case, your businesses."

The Labour Minister stated that in recognizing the link between workers, and economic growth and development, employers should feel "compelled to fervently and actively address any issues that negatively affect them", and added that it would be "a wonderful day when employers, in the public, private and third sectors take a proactive approach rather than reacting to things like laws and regulation and conventions".

Jordan, while noting he had taken a special interest in the Convention on Violence and Harassment because it was an issue that had long plagued workplaces, said it was often more a case of harassment than violence. "It is now recognized as a health hazard. It is a serious multi-faceted problem that affects not only the intended targets, but also colleagues, the entire workforce; it impacts households; it impacts families, and therefore, it impacts communities," he explained.

He pointed out that through the introduction of several pieces of labour legislation, such as the Employment Sexual Harassment Prevention Act, the Safety and Health at Work Act and



the Employment Rights Act, Barbadian workplaces had been made safer.

Jordan stated that the Ministry, having completed work on the Anti-discrimination Bill, which will speak to the prevention of discrimination in the workplace, would shortly submit this to Cabinet for approval, prior to it being laid in Parliament.

Jordan stressed too that while the pieces of legislation touch on aspects of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention (No. 190), their intent would not have specifically taken into consideration the broader definition of violence and harassment.

To this end, he noted that Government, along with employers, workers and the social partners in general, needed now to engage in discussion that would determine whether the provisions of the Convention are best served by amending exist-

ing legislation, or by the introduction of new legislation.

Participants in the seminar were encouraged to become familiar with the ILO Convention, its provisions and requirements, adopted in June last year in Geneva.

Meanwhile, President of BEC, Yvonne Hall, urged employers to ensure they were equipped to deal with any eventuality. She said: "We seem to be faced with a more aggressive society, which, when coupled with the harsh economic realities faced by Barbadians, could lead to increased workplace violence, including an increase in robberies.

"While it has been reported by police that major crime overall declined in 2019, the level of violence in society is still of significant concern as it affects people from all walks of life in our society, and by extension the perception of our tourism product." (Barbados Today)

Ministry of Health quarantines another person at Grenada's airport

Health officials have placed another Grenadian in quarantine, bringing to 4, the total number of Grenadians quarantined in the past week.

The latest traveller, identified as a student, left mainland China and landed at the Maurice Bishop International Airport (MBIA), just after 9 pm on Saturday.

On arrival, Ministry of Health personnel, port-health, immigration and airport officials acted swiftly to isolate the individual from the general population at the arrival area.

In keeping with established protocols, as soon as the aircraft landed, it was boarded by a port-health officer, who informed the flight's captain of the concern. The student was screened and interviewed by medical personnel.

A review of the student's travel documents by immigration officials verified that the individual left mainland China on 7 February 2020, hence the execution of the mandatory quarantine order on arrival in Grenada.

Faced with a rising number of affected persons, China has enforced strict travel restrictions, particularly from the area identified as the epicentre of the Coronavirus outbreak, to help contain the spread of the disease.

The Government of Gre-

nada has also taken proactive steps to restrict travel to the country by persons who were at risk of exposure to the virus within the last 14 days.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has since declared the Coronavirus outbreak, a Public Health Emergency of International

Concern.

Meanwhile, Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr Francis Martin explained that the measures currently being implemented by the Ministry of Health, are intended to safeguard the best health interest of all Grenadians.

The Ministry of Health commends all frontline

personnel engaged in this national public health response, and reiterates its fullest support for them.

Health authorities are also reminding the general public, that while the risk is still low, they should continue to exercise caution and practice proper hygiene.



The student (right) was screened and interviewed by medical personnel.

Diego man home torched, victim chained to gas tank

By: Darren Bahaw Trinidad News Day

The charred body of a 30-year-old Diego Martin man was found in his home tied to a gas tank.

According to police, they received a report of a house on fire at Plum Drive Extension, Second Drive, Bagatelle Road around 8.30 pm Friday.

After fire officers extinguished the blaze, they found the body of David Strubing.

His left arm was chained to a 20-pound gas tank, police said.

No motive has been established for his killing.

An autopsy will be done on Monday to determine a cause of death as police and the district medical officer could not say if Strubing was killed before his home set ablaze or if he died as a result of the arson attack.

US\$55B Could double every Guyanese worker's salary for the next 40 years

Global Witness has put out a report stating that Guyana is set to lose US\$55B in value over 40 years, due to a poorly negotiated deal with Exxon-Mobil for its right to continue exploring the 6.6 million-acre Stabroek Block.

But because that amount is so much, it may be difficult for one to fathom just how much money US\$55B really is.

To put it into perspective, like Global Witness did, Guyana's 2019 budget was presented as \$300B.

That is about US\$1.4B. When that is compared to what Guyana could lose (US\$55B), it becomes clear

that that money could impact Guyana's budget 40 times.

In other words, US\$55B could double Guyana's budget for the next 40 years. That amount of value, for every Guyanese worker, would mean a doubling of all salaries... for 40 years.

For every bridge, school, or other infrastructural project Government undertook in 2019, it could build 40 more of each with US\$55B.

For every good or service Government undertook to fund, it could double them for 40 years. Attorney-at-Law Christopher Ram had also sought to put the US\$55B figure into per-

spective.

In a release to Kaieteur News, he wrote, "It means that at the national minimum public service pay of \$70,000 per month, this Government has given away 222 months' or roughly 18 years and six months' worth of earnings for every single man, woman and child in Guyana," Ram said.

The attorney said that President David Granger should rethink his position on the 'sanctity' of the Stabroek Block license granted to ExxonMobil and its partners, and renegotiate the "improper" agreement which was signed under the "strangest of circumstances".

"He has a duty to this country to show leadership, commonsense, strength, patriotism – a duty to restore... our patrimony which his Government meekly surrendered," Ram wrote in a letter.

The firm, Global Witness, commissioned to conduct the analysis, OpenOil, has released a report and a detailed economic model to support the (US\$55B) figure.

The firm assumed a US\$65 price per barrel of oil for 7.9B barrels of oil.

That extended over the fiscal terms of the Stabroek Block deal, determines that

Guyana would get about US\$168B.

Then, it came up with fiscal terms it considers in keeping with industry norms, what would be called a fair deal, and found that that would get Guyana US\$223B.

The difference between those two shows that Guyana could lose US\$55B. In its report, OpenOil in providing its detailed economic model for public scrutiny, has acknowledged the potential variance in the oil price.

Nevertheless, its projections show that the loss for Guyana is very likely to be in the vicinity of tens of billions of US dollars.

When OpenOil reached out for ExxonMobil to comment on its projections, its Guyana Country Manager, Rod Henson, responded with a letter, rejecting the firm's calculations.

Supporters of the deal, including Government officials, have touted a recent Rystad report which states Guyana will get 60 percent of oil revenues, instead of 52 percent, as calculated by OpenOil.

However, unlike OpenOil, Rystad's figures are unjustified, since it has not published its economic model.



global witness

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Date: Monday, 10th February 2020
Time: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Affected areas: Sections of Buckley lines and Olivers area.

Date: Monday, 10th February 2020
Time: 08:30AM - 10:30AM

Affected areas: Sutherlands area.

Date: Tuesday, 11th February 2020
Time: 08:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Affected areas: Sections Of Mathews main Rd., All Saints and Jonas Rd.

Date: Tuesday, 11th February 2020
Time: 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Affected areas: Anchorage Rd. & Dickenson Bay area.

Date: Tuesday, 13th February 2020
Time: 08:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Affected areas: Sections of Cochrane area.

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page and APUA Website, www.apua.ag.

Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.



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Trump proposes 21% cut in U.S. foreign aid in budget proposal - officials

WASHINGTON (Reuters)

President Donald Trump will propose cutting billions of dollars in U.S. foreign aid in his fiscal 2021 budget while seeking an increase in funds to counter developing economic threats from China and Russia, senior administration officials told Reuters.

Trump, a Republican, sought in his budget proposal last year to slash foreign aid but faced steep resistance from Congress and did not prevail.

His latest budget, which will be released on Monday, is a blueprint for his spending proposals that is unlikely, again, to be passed, particularly in an election year.

Trump will seek to make a 21% cut in foreign aid in the proposal, which seeks \$44.1 billion in the upcoming fiscal year compared with \$55.7 billion enacted in fiscal year 2020, an administration official said.

Aid to Ukraine would remain at its 2020 levels under the new proposal, the official said. Trump was acquitted last week of impeachment charges that he withheld aid to Ukraine to spur Kiev to investigate political rival Joe Biden, a Democratic presidential candidate and former U.S. vice president.

Administration officials told Reuters that Trump would request an increase in funding for the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to \$700 million compared to \$150 million the previous year.

The DFC was formed in large part to counter China's growing economic influence. It serves as a development bank that partners with the private sector to provide loans in developing countries. It also serves as an alterna-



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to reporters as he departs for travel to North Carolina from Washington, U.S. February 7, 2020. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

tive financing option to what the United States sees as predatory practices from China.

U.S. officials want to counter the soft power China has wielded with such loans and help countries avoid what they consider Beijing's "debt trap" diplomacy in which countries give up control ports, roadways or other major assets when they fund infrastructure projects with Chinese loans that they cannot pay back.

"Every country knows the drawbacks of working with autocratic governments," said Adam Bohler, the DFC's chief executive, in an interview, listing poor infrastructure as

one consequence developing countries faced. "There are very few countries in this world that wouldn't prefer the American private capital market... That's what we represent."

The increased budget funding would help counter economic threats and was in line with Congress's bipartisan wish the agency would have such resources, he said.

He said part of the agency's money would be oriented to driving 5G technology in developing countries.

The budget also proposes \$1.1 billion for cybersecurity efforts by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Switzerland votes in favour of LGBT protection bill

Voters in Switzerland have backed a proposal to make discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and sexual identity illegal.

The result - 63.1% in favour to 36.9% against - is a huge boost for Switzerland's LGBT community.

It had argued Swiss law on the issue lagged far behind other countries in Europe. Opponents of the new law argued it could restrict free speech.

In Switzerland, discrimination because of race or religion is already illegal.

In the run up to the vote, campaigners had said they thought the result would be tight, and that a yes vote of more than 60% was unlikely.

Sunday's outcome shows public opinion is far more receptive to strengthening anti-discrimination leg-

islation than analysts had predicted.

Pink Cross Switzerland said: "The result proves a strong sign of acceptance for lesbians, gays and bisexuals. After the clear yes, the LGBTI community will use this momentum to achieve the consistent implementation of the penal code and to enforce marriage equality."

A bill to legalise same-sex marriage is currently on its way through parliament.

"Many Swiss people tend to overrate how modern our country is," explains Anna Rosenwasser of the Swiss Lesbian Organisation.

She points out that on the Rainbow Map of 49 countries' respect for LGBT rights, Switzerland ranks just 23rd. "It might be rich, but it's really not modern yet. We have no laws concerning



The proposal to make discrimination on the grounds of sexual identity or orientation illegal has proved controversial

public discrimination based on sexual orientation."

To support her argument that the lack of legal protection causes harm to the gay community, Ms Rosenwasser cites suicide rates: "Amongst queer people in Switzerland, it is five times higher compared to heterosexual people. That's quite something, it shows how we are not feeling safe yet."

China's virus death toll surpasses SARS but new cases fall

BEIJING (AP) — China's virus death toll rose by 89 on Sunday to 811, passing the number of fatalities in the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic, but fewer new cases were reported in a possible sign its spread may be slowing as other nations stepped up efforts to block the disease.

Some 2,656 new virus cases were reported in the 24 hours ending at midnight
cont'd on pg 19



A traffic policeman adjusts his mask on a street in Beijing, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020. China's coronavirus death toll on Sunday have surpassed the number of fatalities in the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic, but fewer new cases were reported in a possible sign its spread may be slowing as other nations step up efforts to block the disease. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

cont'd from pg 18

Saturday, most of them in the central province of Hubei, where the first patients fell sick in December. That was down by about 20% from the 3,399 new cases reported in the previous 24-hour period.

“That means the joint control mechanism of different regions and the strict prevention and control measures have worked,” a spokesman for the National Health Commission, Mi Feng, said at a news conference.

Also Sunday, new cases were reported in Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, the U.K. and Spain.

More than 360 cases have been confirmed outside mainland China.

“Dramatic reductions” in the pace of the disease’s spread should begin this month if containment works, said Dr. Ian Lipkin, director of Columbia University’s Center for Infection and Immunity. He assisted the World Health Organization and Chinese authorities during the outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Warmer weather will reduce the virus's ability to spread and bring people out of enclosed spaces where it is transmitted more easily, Lipkin said in an online

news conference. However, he said, if new cases spike as people return to work after the Lunar New Year holiday, which was extended to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, then “we’ll know we’re in trouble.”

The new U.K. case was the nation's fourth, while Spain reported its second, as European authorities sought to contain the spread of the virus by tracking down people who came into contact with those infected.

Both of the new cases were acquired during trips to France, officials said.

The new U.K. case is a known contact of a previously confirmed case there,

the country's Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty said, adding that experts "continue to work hard tracing patient contacts."

In Spain, authorities were working to identify everyone who came into contact with a British man whose case was detected in Mallorca, a popular vacation island in the Mediterranean Sea, Spain's National Microbiology Center said.

The fatality toll passed the 774 people believed to have died of SARS, another viral outbreak that originated in China. The total of 37,198 confirmed cases of the new virus vastly exceeds the 8,098 sickened by SARS.

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Thailand mourns victims of country's deadliest mass shooting

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand (AP) — As mourning began for the victims of Thailand's worst mass shooting, the country counted its losses: a mother shot dead at the wheel of her car as her son sat beside her, a 13-year-old student gunned down as he was riding his motorbike home and more than two dozen other people.

Authorities said the attack was carried out by a single gunman — a disgruntled soldier who opened fire on strangers before he was fatally shot Sunday at a shopping mall. Another 58 people were wounded.

The dead were mourned Sunday night in Nakhon Ratchasima, a hub for Thailand's relatively poor and rural northeastern region. More than 1,000 people turned up for the vigil led by Buddhist monks.

They lit candles and prayed and chanted in the town square featuring a statue of Thao Suranari, a governor's wife who is revered for leading troops against invaders from Laos two



Armed commando soldiers carry a person out of Terminal 21 Korat mall in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020. (AP Photo/WasonWanichakorn)

centuries ago.

Officials said the gunman was angry over a financial dispute with his commanding officer. He made Col. Anantarote Krasae his first victim before stealing guns from an army camp and heading to the mall, shooting wildly along the way at people inside and outside the building.

The attacker was identified as Sgt. Maj. Jakrapanth Thomma, who holed himself up in the Terminal 21 Korat, an airport-themed mall filled with colorful Lego sculptures, a merry-go-round and huge replicas of landmarks from around

the world.

After most mall employees and shoppers were evacuated, a joint police and military team hunted down the gunman and killed him.

"This incident was unprecedented in Thailand," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha told reporters as he gave a casualty count after visiting the victims in hospitals. By the end of the day, the toll had risen to 29 people killed.

The death toll surpassed Thailand's last major attack on civilians, a 2015 bombing at Bangkok's Erawan Shrine that was allegedly carried out by human traf-

fickers who killed 20.

"I hope this is the only one and the last incident and that it never happens again. No one wants this to happen. It could be because of this person's mental health in this particular moment," Prayuth said.

He said he was worried that people inside the mall could be accidentally hit by bullets fired by police, but added, "I have checked, that didn't happen."

Video taken outside the mall showed people diving for cover as shots rang out. Many were killed outside the mall, some in cars and others while walking.



TRUTH AND PRAISE GOSPEL

WITH **SEAN O'NEIL**

MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM 5AM - 6AM



Hurricane-force winds pound UK and Europe, upend travel

LONDON (AP) — Storm Ciara battered the U.K. and northern Europe with hurricane-force winds and heavy rains Sunday, halting flights and trains and producing heaving seas that closed down ports. Soccer games, farmers' markets and cultural events were canceled as authorities urged millions of people to stay indoors, away from falling tree branches.

Named by the U.K. Met Office weather agency, the storm brought massive gusts that hit 93 mph (150 mph) at the northern Welsh village of Aberdaron and 86 mph (138 kph) at the Welsh town of Capel Curig. A British Airways plane is thought to have made the fastest ever flight by a conventional airliner from New York to London.

The fierce winds propelled a Boeing 747-436 to make the 3,500-mile transatlantic journey from New York to London in just 4 hours and 56 minutes, landing 102 minutes early and reaching a top speed of 825 mph (1,327 kph), according to flight tracking website Flightradar24. Two Virgin Airlines flights also roared across the Atlantic, with all three smashing the previous subsonic New York-to-London record of 5 hours and 13 minutes, Flightradar24 reported.



Waves crash over the harbour and a lighthouse, as Storm Ciara hits Newhaven, on the south coast of England, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020. Trains, flights and ferries have been cancelled and weather warnings issued across the United Kingdom and in northern Europe as the storm with winds expected to reach hurricane levels batters the region. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

Storm surges ate away at beaches and pounded rock cliffs and cement docks. The Met Office issued 190 emergency flood warnings and urged people not to try to drive through flooded roads. Residents in the town of Appleby-in-Westmorland in northwest England battled to protect their homes amid severe flooding as the River Eden burst its banks.

Three people were injured after a pub roof partially collapsed Saturday evening in the city of Perth in central Scotland.

At least 10 rail compa-

nies in Britain sent out "do not travel" warnings, while nearly 20 others told passengers to expect extensive delays.

The strong winds damaged electrical wires and littered train tracks with broken tree limbs and other debris, including a family trampoline.

London's Heathrow Airport and several airlines consolidated flights Sunday to reduce the number cancelled by heavy winds. British Airways offered to rebook customers for domestic and European flights

out of Heathrow, Gatwick and London City airports. Virgin Airlines canceled some flights.

Lufthansa airlines said there would be numerous cancellations and delays beginning Sunday afternoon and running until at least Tuesday morning. The airline plans to keep operating long-haul flights at its main Frankfurt hub. Eurowings, a budget subsidiary of Lufthansa, canceled most flights for the duration of the storm.

Brussels Airport also saw delays or cancellations.

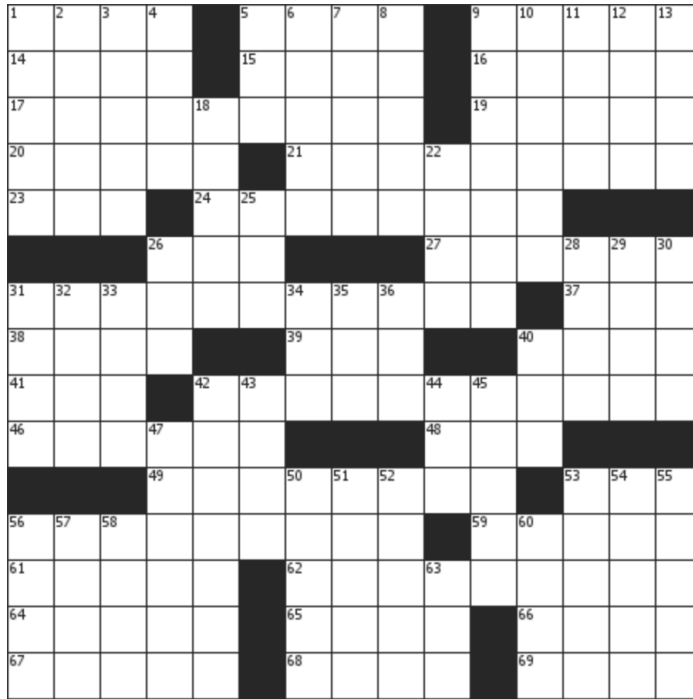
Leisure

ARTICLES AND REVIEWS
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COMMUNITY BASED - GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Football season
 5. Flair
 9. Diminutive dwarf
 14. Jai ____
 15. Crunchy munchie
 16. Update boundaries
 17. Rotini's shape or move in i2-Across
 19. Bert's buddy
 20. Purposely lost
 21. Rumor mill or finishing move
 26-Across
 28. Right to speak
 29. In single file
 30. Vamp's wrap, perhaps
 31. Street for 19-Across
 32. Challenging puzzle or move
 36-Across
 37. Dallas cager, briefly
 38. Word with bed or head
 39. School org.
 40. It may be practical
 41. Exercise target
 42. Final straw or move in 62-Across



Down

1. Sgt. Friday's focus
 2. Hilo hello
 3. Frizzy-haired Stooge
 4. Similar
 5. List-shortening abbr.
 6. Grande
 7. Biting
 8. Adamant denial
 9. Less experienced
 10. Butterflies
 11. Present opener?
 12. Chief
 13. Pointless weapon?
 18. Pass out
 22. Model
 25. Seize
 26. Boring accessory
 28. One way to run
 29. Model partner
 30. Word before after?
 31. Bart Simpson, for one
 32. Musical McEntire
 33. Org.
 34. Bars on a Mars bar?
 35. Corp. shares
 36. Bar bill
 40. Binge
 42. Chocolatey treats
 43. Concerning
 44. Portuguese king
 45. White wading bird
 47. Loaded with talent
 50. Aggressively peddles
 51. Bobble or overthrow
 52. Journalist ____ Rogers St. Johns
 53. Entrance barrier
 54. High IQ group
 55. Exhorted
 56. Healthy resorts
 57. No, informally
 58. Train
 60. Ariz. Diamondback or N.Y. Met
 63. Palindromic airline

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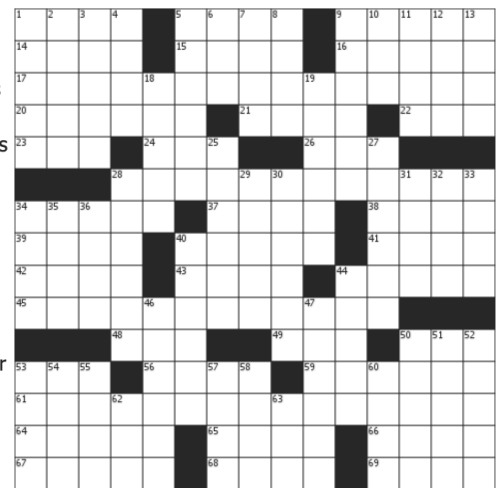
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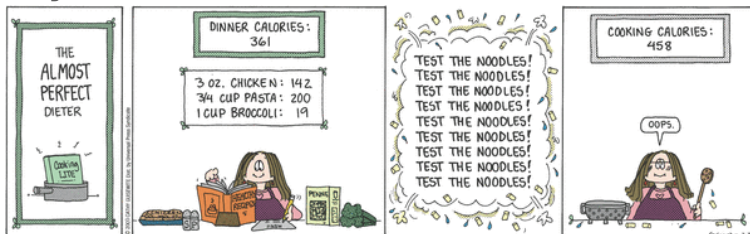
Answer to last puzzle



Non Sequitur



Cathy



Daily Comics presented by azcentral.

Big Nate



Pearls Before Swine



Kuma and Friends Win At Golf



Victory for Marlon George, Kareem Doherty and Leon “Kuma” Rodney in the Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association Fun Day Championship at Cedar Valley on Sunday.

The trio outlasted a star studded field to win an eighteen hole scramble tournament as they combined to win the gross section with a score of 61.

For their successful efforts they took home the top prize of EC\$1000.

Success too for Tony Edwards, Eldine Baptiste and Akeem Edwards who swung their way to honors in the Net Division as they came home ahead of their

rivals with a score of 56.

They too were awarded EC\$1000.

Individually, there were prizes for Ski Anthony who won the long drive competition while Beckham Clarke, Eugene Silcott, Eldine Baptiste, Connie Nicholas and Ralph Francis were awarded vouchers for winning the closest to the pin contests.

Sponsorship for the event came from Sir Viv Richards, Kuma Rodney, Eighteen Plus One Restaurant, Digicel, Dane Mellanson, Tony Edwards and Joseph “Colo” Warner.

Thirty players took part in the exercise.



Sports

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MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
POINTX PRESS
TRUSTED NEW AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Grenades edge Hoppers in top-of-the-table clash

Sandals/Inet Grenades have opened up a six point lead at the top of the standings in the Harney Motors and Flow sponsored Antigua and Barbuda Football Association Premier Division.

Playing in Sunday's feature showdown, the league leaders pulled off a hard fought, come from behind 2-1 victory over their nearest rivals, Cool and Smooth/A.C Delco Greenbay Hoppers.

Yoandir Puga Estavez had given Hoppers the early advantage from the penalty spot but that was all that went right for the town men as Jairo Escobar found the equalizer for Grenades

before Blake Thompson sealed the three points late in the second half.

Meanwhile Swetes came from a goal down to spank Parham 3-1, in Sunday's second fixture as Vincentian import Azhino Solomon hit home twice with one of his efforts being described as the goal of the season while Carl Osbourne scored the other.

Darien James had given Parham the lead earlier.

In Sunday's opening encounter Ottos Rangers had the better of All Saints United by a 3-2 score thanks to Lloyd Jeremy who hit the back of the net twice and teammate Javier Lee who added the other for the vic-



tors.

Carlos Title and Kenijah Challenger scored for All Saints.

Twenty four hours earlier,

Five Islands and defending champions Liberta Blackhawks played to a 1-1 draw and in Saturday night's feature matchup and former champions Old Road edged Pigotts Bullets 1-nil.

So after the latest round of matches, the standings are as follows, Grenades are leading on 26 points, Hoppers are second on 20, Ottos Rangers follow with 19, Swetes and Old Road both have 18 while Liberta are in mid table with 16. Bullets 14, All Saints United 13, Five Islands 11 and Parham on 6 complete the table.

