

MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2020 | ISSUE 41 |

www.pointville.ag



EXPOSE

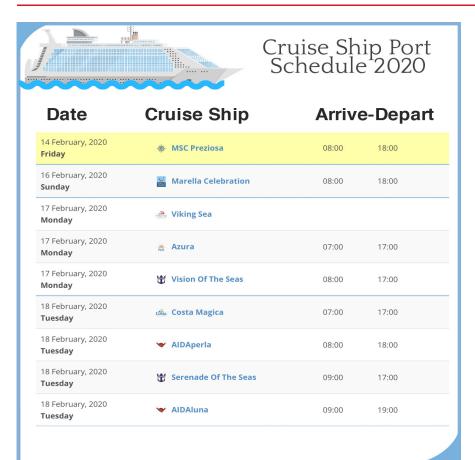
Story on Page 3



Tourism officials have sealed the deal for the renowned Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge to culminate in Antiqua for the next five (5) years. Story on Page 5

Local News





The Living Word

Water into Hope

Read: John 4:4–14

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. John 7:37

Tom and Mark's ministry refreshes lives. This is clear in the video they share of a group of fully clad children laughing and dancing in the refreshing water of an open shower—their first ever. The mer work with indigenous churches to install water filtration systems or wells in Haiti, easing and lengthening lives as diseases connected to contaminated water are prevented. Access to clean, fresh water gives the people hope for their future.

Jesus referred to "living water" in John 4 to capture a similar idea of a continual source of refreshment. Tired and thirsty, Jesus had asked a Samaritan woman for a drink (vv. 4–8). This request led to a conversation in which Jesus offered the woman "living water" (vv. 9–15)—water that would become a source of life and hope within them, like "a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (v. 14).

We discover what this living water is later in John, when Jesus said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink," declaring that whoever believed in Him would have "rivers of living water [flowing] from within them." John explains, "By this he meant the Spirit" (7:37–39).

Through the Spirit, believers are united to Christ and have access to the boundless power, hope, and joy found in God. Like living water, the Spirit lives inside believers, refreshing and renewing us.

How has Jesus satisfied your thirst through His Spirit? How will you share what Jesus has done for you?

Dear God, thank You for leaving us Your Spirit. Work in us so that our lives point others to You.



NIGHT 2/17

Wind: E at 20 km/h
Wind Gusts: 30 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 5%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 0%
Precipitation: 0.0 mm
Rain: 0.0 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm

Clear to partly cloudy

22 °Lo

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST 6:33 AM

Sunset AST 6:10 PM



Duration 11:37 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST 1:40 AM

Moonset AST 1:09 AM



Duration 11:29 hr

Local News



Contractor dumping waste illegally exposed

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment has notched up another successful round in its hardworking determination to rid the country of derelict vehicles and other improperly discarded unwanted items that are not only an eyesore on the landscape.

It has long been recognized that derelict vehicles are a source of disruption and degradation natural cycles by, for example, serving as receptacles for illegal garbage disposal – and thereby providing additional breeding shelters for rats and other vermin – impeding or interrupting natural proliferation of vegetation, and becoming source of pollutants such as grease, oil and other toxic material.

The Ministry says its Operation Derelict Marking Team "observed an unsightly condition while searching for old and abandoned vehicles in the area leading to Deep Bay ... while carrying





Law enforcement and environment official observe illegal dumpsite discovered and cleared last week.

out their duties on Monday 10th February 2020."

According to the statement posted on the Ministry's Facebook page, "they searched the waste that was dumped at this illegal site and discovered documents for a particular business place."

The establishment's identity was not disclosed, but the Ministry said "a clean up order was issued to the [unnamed business] on Wednesday 12th February 2020."

The establishment is said to have carried out "an internal investigation" which reportedly revealed that "an independent contractor admitted to the illegal dumping offence."

The Ministry's statement says "the area was cleaned on the 14th February 2020", but did not say if any penalties have been or will be applied against the offending contractor such as a fine and/or termination or suspension of the waste haulage contract.



Local News



Young Antiguan doctor opens practice

Dr. Cleofoster Beazer continues to innovate healthcare services in Antigua and Barbuda as he embarks on own his private practice in the heart of St. John's.

Dr. Beazer, a native son of the soil has a wealth of experience in the medical field having severed as a House Officer at Holberton Hospital, an Emergency Medical Officer at Mount Saint John's Medical Centre and a District Medical Officer. Dr. Beazer also served as a member of Omega Medical Company along with collaboration in Dr. Philip's private practice.

Having started his academic and career journey from humble beginnings, Dr. Beazer noted the importance of education despite your circumstances. Dr. Beazer graduated from medical school with a G.P.A of 4.94 and went onto securing his Masters in Public Health from The U.W.I.

This young and enthusiastic medical doctor first embarked on his own medical practice by offering mobile



medical concierge services to primarily tourists at various hotel properties.

Noting the importance of convenient and reliable healthcare services for all, Dr. Beazer is now the new administrator and General Physician at the previously owned Dr. Cecil Phillip's office.

Dr. Beazer's office offers a wide range of healthcare services conveniently located at the corner of Cross and Tanner Street – Just one block away from Medical Benefits.

"In a fast-paced environment, we are aiming at ensuring that your health-care becomes a priority with our convenient location. We also accept all major medical insurances and debit/credit card. Making it easier for our





patients," Dr. Beazer commented.

For more information, you can contact them at 462-2031 or WhatsApp for your convenience at 764-5439.

ECCU economies stable

The economies of Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) continue to perform well despite warning signs in the global economy.

A communique from the just concluded 95th meeting of the ECCU's Monetary Council, said the Council received the Governor's Report on Monetary and Credit Conditions in the ECCU, which was based on developments from January to December 2019; and evaluated against

outcomes during the comparative period of 2018; and the ECCB Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

The statement said the global economy continued its slowdown due, in part, to the USA/China trade war and other geopolitical uncertainties. Global economic growth was projected at 3.0 per cent in 2019 from 3.8 per cent in 2018; however, global output is expected to strengthen to 3.4 per cent in 2020.

For the ECCU states... monetary and credit condi-

tions were assessed as having improved slightly during 2019. That was against the backdrop of a moderation in the ECCU's economic growth to 3.3 per cent in 2019 from 3.8 per cent in 2018.

The Governor reported that the stability of the EC dollar is firmly entrenched with a 99.0 percent backing by foreign reserves. It supports monetary conditions and sustains investor and consumer confidence. The report said domestic credit extended by the commercial banking sec-

tor was projected to increase by 1.1 per cent at the end of December 2019, relative to the 0.9 per cent growth observed at the end of December 2018. At the same time, credit and monetary conditions are projected to remain favourable in the near to medium term. Credit growth is expected to accelerate in 2020, but mostly to households and governments. The Monetary Council has decided that he interest rate on savings should remain at a minimum of 2 percent.

Local News

PAGE 5

Major developments in Tourism

Royal Caribbean International and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, have signed an agreement for the company's first Royal Beach Club. The agreement marks the start of the planning and development for the Royal Beach Club scheduled to break ground later this year.

Created exclusively for Royal Caribbean guests, the Royal Beach Club at Antigua will sit along more than a half-mile of pristine beachfront and combine the island's striking beaches with the cruise line's signature service and amenities.

"The Royal Beach Club will deliver a memorable beach day to our guests," said Michael Bayley, President and CEO, Royal Caribbean International.

"Together with the government of Antigua and Barbuda, we will bring to life an experience that will bring more visitors to these idyllic islands and create significant economic benefits and opportunities.

"In addition, we are looking at ways for the local community to also enjoy the beach club on days our ships are in other destinations."

The cruise line has also committed to bringing Symphony of the Seas to the island nation with a call on November 3, 2020.

Docking at the island capital of St. John's, guests on board Symphony will have the opportunity to experience the rich culture and heritage of the island, delectable delicacies and some of the world's best beaches.

Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez said: "The government of Antigua and Barbuda is truly grateful and appreciative that Royal Caribbean's first Royal Beach Club will be in Antigua, which confirms confidence in our twin island state.

"We are also excited to share our beautiful island with guests sailing aboard Royal Caribbean ships when they begin calling to the island later this year."

Meanwhile, Tourism officials have sealed the deal for the renowned Talisker Whis-



ky Atlantic Challenge to culminate in Antigua for the next five (5) years.

Minister Fernandez sees formalizing the agreement as significant, noting that the campaigns have brought tremendous attention to the tourist destination through extensive international media coverage. Carsten Heron, CEO of Atlantic Races also

sees the contractual arrangement as extremely beneficial to the race's viability.

"With this year being our 6th race returning to the historic Nelson's Dockyard, we are pleased as organizers that our efforts are being recognized by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and this gives us stability for the next 5 years", he said.

The 2020 Budget goes to the Senate

The 2020 National Budget approved by the House of Representatives just over a week ago, goes to the Senate, the Upper House, for review today.

Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Mary Claire Hurst, will introduce the bill and during her one and a half hour presentation she is expected to focus primarily on the areas of finance, tourism, where she is a junior minister and the developments taking place at the Antigua Port Authority, where she is chairman of the board of directors.

On the economy, Hurst said her focus will be the government's policies that have enabled the local economy to continue the path of strong growth for successive years. According to the Budget statement, the Antigua and Barbuda and Barbuda economy is estimated to have recorded a growth of 6.2 percent in 2019.

Hurst heralds this as a 'wonderful' achievement by the government especially when the other economic variables are considered.

These include unemployment, now calculated in the single digits as well as the continued improvements in the country's debt to GDP radio; now down to 64 percent.

The leader of government business will highlight developments in the tourism sector which too has recorded strong growth over the past year with a promised of better performances over the next twelve months.

Hurst has assigned responsibilities for the various ministries to her colleague senators upon which to focus in their individual presentations.

This week's session of the Upper House will discuss amendments to the Industrial Court Bill, the Stem Cell Research and Therapy Bill and the Law (Miscellaneous) Bill.

Local News



The rcently appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs has disclosed that help has been identified for her when she heads the soon to be established Barbuda Affairs Office on the sister isle.

Senator Knacyntar Nedd spoke Saturday as a guest on the Browne and Browne Show, and was responding to questions about how she intended to navigate the fractious relationship between the Barbuda Council (of which she has been a frontline member) and the Central Government in St. John's which she now serves as a junior minister. The Gaston Browne administration has decided, for the first time, to establish an office representing the direct

Nedd pledges success for new Barbuda Affairs Office

presence of Central Government, after the Barbuda Council – dominated by the opposition Barbuda People's Movement (BPM) whose political leader, Trevor Walker, is the current national Member of Parliament for Barbuda – has resisted and stonewalled every Government initiative, including denial of office space for Central Government representatives with public (state-owned) buildings and facilities.

During his annual budget presentation last month, Minister Prime Gaston Browne announced that his administration would bypass the resistance and attempted

Central Government building on Barbuda within which the Office of Barbuda Affairs would be housed and whose ownership would be beyond dispute or contention.

During Saturday's programme on Pointe FM Radio, Senator (now Parliamentary Secretary Nedd) said she was aware that several BPM members of the Barbuda Council did not agree with the constantly hostile approach practiced by Walker and like-minded colleagues on the local government body.

Nedd, however, said she had no idea why those members who differed with the adversarial policy had not spoken out openly against it.

She however promised that her substantive senior. Hon. Samantha Marshall, would

sabotage by constructing a not be disappointed in her announced intention to give her (Nedd) the leading role within the new Barbuda Affairs Office.

> "We will have persons such as Councilor Makisha DeSouza - wonderful lady, great support system to me – who will be there to man the operations of the office; and I have no doubt that she will do a wonderful job where that is concerned." The new and youthful Parliamentary Secretary alluded to others cut from similar cloth as DeSouza also coming on board.

> Nedd insisted that opposition to the new Barbuda Affairs Office was coming from Trevor Walker and not from the Barbuda people who have been inundating her with phone calls expressing their unwavering support for the initiative.

Statement from PLH/ **Barbuda Ocean Club**

PLH/The Barbuda Ocean Club has been consistent in its commitment to a science-based, sustainable development that aims to restore the environment and support the local community on Barbuda.

We have engaged leading scientists and utilized the best available science throughout the research, planning, and implementation of our project.

We are proud that both the Department of Environment [DOE] and DCA [the Development Control Authority] have independently acknowledged our efforts to restore and sustain the environment, and to implement rigorous science-based mitigation and environmental protection measures.

PLH/The Barbuda Ocean Club will continue to uphold the same high standards throughout the development for the lifetime of the project.

We are grateful to be working with Barbudan friends and employees, and we will continue to work collaboratively with all Government agencies and our neighbors to forge a resilient Barbuda for today and for future generations.



PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHURCH UPKEEP

Local News

PAGE 7

PM Browne joins global solidarity with PRC

Prime Minister Gaston is among world leaders who have publicly expressed their support for the People's Republic of China in its ongoing battle against the coronavirus epidemic in the Asian nation, the world's most populous country.

The outpouring of sympathy and support for Beijing, is captured in a report published by the Malaysian Star in its online edition of Friday 14 February 2020 under the headline 'World leaders give support for China's fight against Covid-19'.

BEIJING: Many world leaders on Valentine's Day (Feb 14) have expressed their sympathies to and support for China's battle against the epidemic caused by Covid-19 (coronavirus) in its country.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro noted that China has adopted innovative measures to tackle the epidemic and has made enormous efforts to protect its people, which demonstrates the advantage of the Chinese system. He also expressed belief in China's final victory.

Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi said that China's comprehensive and effective measures have not only protected its own people, but also foreign nationals, which fully displays a spirit of friendliness, kindheartedness, cooperation and coexistence.

President of Tanzania John Magufuli expressed appreciation for the Chinese government in taking swift and forceful measures, and for the Chinese people's courage and resolution.

Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte said the Chinese government and people have great courage and power, and he firmly believes that China will closely coordinate with the



Nurses in protective suits treating a patient in the intensive care unit at Ditan Hospital in Beijing, one of the hospitals in China's capital that are receiving Covid-19 patients. World leaders on Friday (Feb 14) have expressed their sympathies to and support for China's battle against the epidemic caused by Covid-19 (coronavirus) in its country. - Xinhua/ANN

World Health Organisation (WHO) to bring the epidemic under control.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern expressed appreciation for China's resolute and decisive measures to control and prevent the COVID-19, saying that her country is willing to provide assistance to China to win the battle against the virus.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stressed that the international community must continue to cooperate at this difficult and uncertain time, adding that his country is always ready to provide assistance to China.

Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, speaking at the opening of the 33rd AU summit, extended sympathies to the Chinese people who are suffering from the COVID-19, and voiced full support for China's fight against the epidemic.

Arab League (AL) Secretary Gener-

al Ahmed Aboul Gheit said the AL appreciates and supports China's great efforts in combating the COVID-19, adding that it believes China is capable of surmounting the challenge.

Guyana, which holds the chair of the Group of 77 (G77), said the G77 fully supports the Chinese government's huge efforts in battling COVID-19, stressing that the international community should address the epidemic together in the spirit of responsibility, transparency, unity and cooperation, and avoid discrimination, stigmatization and misinformation.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, speaking at the opening of a global forum on the disease, paid tribute to the Chinese people, praising them for showing courage and patience at this extremely difficult time.

Vowing to stand together with the cont'd on pg 8

Local News



Three OECS institutions in focus

The operations of three critical institutions of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) came into sharp focus at the recently concluded meeting of the 68th Meeting of the OECS Authority.

Chaired by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the meeting discussed the operations of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA), based in St John's, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and the OECS Commission, both based in St Lucia, among other matters. Regarding the ECCAA, the joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said the Authority reviewed recent reports by the Inter-



national Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on the status of ECCAA. Heads of Governments also received an update on the initiatives that have already been implemented within the ECCAA following the recommendations of the two bodies.

The statement said the

Meeting recommended a thorough review of the EC-CAA with a view to modernise its operations given the many challenges facing the aviation industry.

On the question of the St Lucia-based institutions, the statement said the Authority deliberated extensively on the sustainable financing of the OECS Commission and the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC). The Meeting discussed the financial obligations of Member States and considered various measures to ensure the adequate budgeting and funding of both institutions.

It said Heads of Governments mandated the Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the Director General of the OECS Commission to research and make proposals to The Authority on the viability of an automatic payment mechanism with a view to improve the timeliness of subvention payments. Heads also considered a presentation by the Governor of the ECCB on the feasibility of a trust fund for the Court.

cont'd from pg 7

Chinese people, Tedros wished them early success and health.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretary-General Vladimir Norov said the Chinese government and people have taken decisive and effective measures to combat the epidemic, pledging that the leaders of the SCO countries firmly and unconditionally support China's efforts.

In addition, support and sympathies has also been expressed by the Republic of the Congo President Denis Sassou Nguesso, Namibian President Hage Geingob, President of Gabon Ali Bongo Ondimba, King Letsie III of Lesotho, President of Slovenia Borut Pahor, President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado Quesada, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea James Marape, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands Manasseh Sogavare, the executive

director of the United Nations (UN) Population Fund, the chair of the UN Commission for Social Development, the president of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the executive secretary of the Southern African Development Community and the president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. - Xinhua/Asian News Network

Meanwhile on February 7th 2020, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda – which has almost 40 years of very deep and close relations with the PRC – penned a letter of support to his Chinese counterpart.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne's letter to President Xi Jinping is reproduced below in its entirety.

PM BROWNE'S LETTER

February 7, 2020

Excellency:

I present my compliments and wish to express the support of my Government for the People's Republic of China during this most difficult period, battling the fallout from the coronavirus challenge.

My Government has great faith in the scientists and doctors of the People's Republic of China, Excellency, and I am certain that the appropriate pharmaceutical will soon be developed to combat this unusual illness.

The people and Government of Antigua and Barbuda salute China's openness and determination to bring a solution to this challenge and to confine the spread of the illness.

I avail myself, Excellency, of this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest esteem and regard.

Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.

Prime Minister

H.E. Xi Jinping

President

The People's Republic of China Beijing, CHINA

Letter to the Editor

PAGE 9

The traffic study, please?

I ask a few questions of the Attorney General and those advising him on traffic management. I – and I am sure – many other thinking citizens would like to see/hear/read the results/conclusions of the Traffic Study that the manager of the Transport Board told us was performed (media report) which guides the speed bump installation programme..

For surely that study hopefully will tell us why:

Speed bumps are placed within thirty feet of stop signs or stoplights

They are unmarked – no signs indicating their lurking around the corner or over the hill

On my way home at seven o'clock at night, I must traverse eight speed bumps installed - I am told, to calm traffic there during school hours and church Sundays.

That study hopefully will tell us where are:

Examples in other countries of the successful use of speed bumps of this quality and size.

The areas in our road network that are considered 'hot spots' and the reasons for that consideration – and further why increased traffic police surveillance is not evident in those areas.

That study hopefully will tell us what is:

The cost to motorists of the constant braking and gearing down of their vehicles in parts (under carriage – shocks, ball joints, brake pads, break fluids etc) and also in gas consumption. Estimates suggest that well tuned vehicles (worse for those smoking ones) use an extra ten millimetres of gas per speed bump. My back-of-the-envelope calculation point to a national increase of fuel costs and replacement parts of twenty to twenty five million dollars a year.

The impact on traffic in residential areas. I avoid about twelve speed bumps daily by using 'back roads'. I am clearly not alone. One of these 'back roads' is now congested.

If any – the change in air quality of the homes adjacent to the temporary stop of thousands of vehicles daily. Does it predict negative health outcomes?

The future for school crossing guards and zebra crossings? Are they now extinct or do we need all three to calm traffic along with traffic police active enforcement?

The annual revenue to the Treasury for traffic violations

That study hopefully will tell us how:

Speed bumps affect the response time of emergency vehicles.

Speed bumps affect the peace and comfort and calm of national motorists and sight-seeing tourists.

We understand that the speed bump 'high' may be thoughtful – in its attempt to reduce accidental deaths and injuries, and vehicular maintenance. But at the same time, it may be thoughtless. Many now observe that the

seeming indiscriminate plastering of our road network with low grade speed bumps may be having a contradictory impact. Too much of anything becomes an irritant, a challenge to normality. And that may be why many motorists and drivers of heavy-duty vehicles and Government vehicles treat the speed bumps that way they fly over them because that is how they are perceived - as irritants! Any reputable study should show us that what the users of our roads now endure is the result of careful planning.

The traffic study – if it is to be worth the paper it is printed on – must promote

more stringent standards of tolerance and decency and good manners within driver training schools and driver licensing programmes. And it must emphasize the known efficacy of signs and traffic patrols enforcing speed limits and safe driving practices. Fines hurt, the withdrawal of driving privileges - even more! Police on motor bikes must not only lead the unnecessary dangerous weave of the vehicles of officials and diplomats through congested highway traffic

Alas – we have opted for the lazy solution. But the study may prove me wrong.

Dorbrene O'Marde (persona)

Telephone # 1-268-468-8500/01/02/03 Facsimile # 1-268-468-8518/468-8519



Government of Antigua and Barbuda

Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy

Ministry of Headquarters Cassada Gardens St. John's, Antigua

Ref: PUCATE 7/298

10th February 2020

To whom it may concern:

Re: Air Traffic Controller Assistant

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is advertising vacant positions for Air Traffic Controller Assistant within the Air Traffic Services (ATS) at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Position Requirements:

- A sound basic educational background with no less than five (5) CSEC subjects with passes at grades 1 and 2 proficiency level.
- English, Mathematics and a Science subject are compulsory, Geography will be an asset.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills are a must.
- Initial shortlisting does not guarantee a placement into the V.C. Bird Air Traffic Services.
- Applicants must be between the ages of eighteen (18) to twenty Four (24) years and should successfully qualify for a Class 3 Medical Certificate and Psychiatric Evaluation

Applications should reach the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy no later than 28th February 2020.

Please note, only suitable applicants will be contacted.

Pennarent Secretary
Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transport and Energy

Cc: Sir Robin Yearwood- Minister of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy

Local News



The CDB: Ease of doing business in the region a problem

The Caribbean Develop- business in all countries of Bank's Doing Business Inment Bank (CDB) wants Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean territories to make it easier to do business in their respective territories. Speaking at a regional workshop in St John's, CDB's Director for Projects Development, Daniel Best, said recent surveys of doing

the world show the Caribbean heading in the wrong direction.

"An urgent imperative must be the creation of an environment that makes it easier to do business and facilitates trade. In 2019, the average ranking of the Caribbean on the World

dex was 126 out of 190 countries compared with 81 out of 181 countries in the 2009 survey," he disclosed. He bemoaned the fact that in many Caribbean countries, they are still grappling with inadequate legislative and regulatory frameworks, weak public sector institutions for providing legal protection, and inefficient business support and training services. The CDB official also made a strong case for the support of small and medium size enterprises He said the bank recognises that while it spearheads the much-needed climate smart infrastructural investments, growth, if it is to be sustainable, must be driven by the private sector.

"MSMEs are the backbone of the regional private sector and are key drivers of economic growth and social inclusion in our region. They account for on average, 50% of GDP and 45% of jobs," he revealed. He said that as the CDB embarks on its strategic plan for the period 2020-2024; the MSME sector is emerging as a critical area for strategic and focused attention in the region's ongoing efforts to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and eliminate abject poverty, and inequality.

Best added that in its 50 years of experience working in 19 borrowing member countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, it has come to realise that MSMEs across this region share similar history, experiences, challenges and prospects. One thing is clear, he posited, the full potential of MSMEs remains unrealised as their export levels do not match their share of the private sector or contribution to employment.

Press Release

The Ministry of Health Wellness and the Environment (MOHWE) remains committed to ensuring the health and safety of citizens, residents and visitors to Antigua and Barbuda.

The country's only public hospital, the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) plays its part in this commitment by providing an environment where persons can receive the health care required for their specified medical condition, once available. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) also plays its part by providing the vehicles and staff for the safe transfer of ill passengers from a ship's medical facility to the MSJMC.

The outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID 2019) has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization (WHO). As such the MOHWE is part of WHO's global surveillance network for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), the causative agent for COVID 2019. As part of this surveillance network, we are required to pay particular attention to patients with respiratory symptoms. We also require a detailed travel history for patients being considered for transfer. This information should be readily available and provided in a timely manner so as to not delay care.

We have noticed that the normal practice for ill passenger transfers between cruise ships and the MSJMC has changed over the last few weeks. Changes include an increase in the number of referrals for patients with respiratory symptoms. There has also been a deviation from the practice of producing a detailed medical report to a casual non-medical discussion between cruise ship agents and hospital staff. There is also some hesitancy on the part of the cruise ship agent in providing requested information to hospital physicians.

The MOHWE maintains the view that the transfer of ill passengers from cruise ships particularly, those with critical illnesses, necessitates a coordinated approach between the ship's medical team, the EMS and the medical team at the MSJMC. This must be initiated with a medical report that details the patient's illness and medical condition. This, many times, depending on the patient's condition, also requires a discussion between physicians on the ship and those at the hospital. In view of the global health situation it also requires a travel history for the patient being transferred. In the spirit of good medical practice, the medical team at the hospital is always available to receive information and discuss cases as part of the transfer process. The MOHWE reiterates its commitment to the care of citizens, residents and visitors to Antigua and Barbuda. The Ministry appeals to all stakeholders to behave responsibly as we all adapt to effectively manage this rapidly evolving global health situation.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment

PAGE 11

Guyana has strong case to renegotiate Exxon's deal

Chatham House Associate Fellow

When the Government of important that the deal is Guyana engaged in negotiations with ExxonMobil in 2016 for the Stabroek Block licence, it had a lot of power in its grasp but perhaps, did not realise it. Since then, Chatham House Associate Fellow. Dr. Valerie Marcel, says Guyana's power has grown significantly.

In fact, the industry expert says with this kind of power, it gives Guyana a strong case for renegotiation. The Petroleum Governance academic made the foregoing remarks, among others, during a recent interview on Kaieteur Radio's programme, "Guyana's Oil and You." There, she was asked to say if Guyana has a good case for amending the terms of the deal given the impressive discoveries to date.

Dr. Marcel said, "I think there is a strong case for renegotiation because it's

fair and that it's favourable enough to both parties to endure for a very long time because, you know, the oil project lasts for 25 years. So if it's too unfair it becomes well, you know, like a political football and it becomes very difficult for the deal to survive."

Even as she agreed that Guyana does have grounds for renegotiating the deal, Dr. Marcel was quite careful to note that she would not recommend "unilateral renegotiation." In this regard, the Industry Expert explained, "When we say renegotiation, it's basically coming back to the table. So every time an oil company comes to the government to say 'Well you know, you we need an extension for this and this reason' or 'We haven't gotten the permits, we need some more time, we need to alter terms to compensate for this,' ...that is



Chatham House Associate Fellow, Dr. Valerie Marcel

not called renegotiation but it is renegotiation."

Dr. Marcel added, "And that's the opportunity for the government to say 'Well while you're here, get comfortable (and) let's talk about what kind of modifications we would like to see to the contract so that it is mutually beneficial.' And I think these

are long term relationships, you don't want them to be adversarial..."

At the end of the day, the Chatham House Associate Fellow said there is still scope for being assertive about what sort of minimum requirements the leaders of the day want to see in the agreement.





Secretary-General will attend CARICOM summit in

Barbados to spur speedy climate action



The Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland will reassure Caribbean leaders that the Commonwealth will keep fighting for bold climate action on the global stage.

She will attend the inter-sessional conference of heads of government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Barbados next week as a special guest. Of 15 CARICOM members, 12 are in the Commonwealth.

Climate action

Secretary-General Patricia Scotland will highlight that despite ambitious pledges, countries are receiving limited funds to improve response to climate change. She will also focus on how the climate crisis is destabilising economic growth leading to food insecurity, stressed resources and impaired livelihoods across the Commonwealth.

As of February 2019, less than a quarter of the \$26 billion deposited for climate action has been disbursed, according to Climate Funds Update.

Commonwealth initiatives

Patricia Scotland will brief Caribbean leaders on the current Commonwealth initiatives helping the region tackle the effects of climate change and external shocks such as disasters and financial crises. Examples are:

The Commonwealth has helped five Caribbean countries access more than \$27 million in funds to deal with climate change;

All Caribbean member countries use the Commonwealth debt management software to manage their public and publicly guaranteed debt;

The Commonwealth supported The Bahamas and Barbados to seek \$550,000 each from UN-India fund. The Bahamian project will promote long-term public debt sustainability, which is crucial to achieve development goals. The Barbadian project will help more

local suppliers engage with the supply of goods and services.

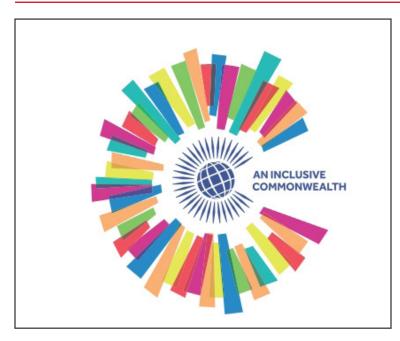
A forthcoming Commonwealth portal gives small states 24-hour access to information on key financing options such as loans to better manage the impacts of disasters: and

A proposed Universal Vulnerability Index to build a global consensus on defining and assessing countries' net vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks.

She said: "The Caribbean is increasingly bearing the brunt of frequent, long-lasting and intense weather pat-

cont'd on pg 13

PAGE 13



terns. This means that business-as-usual is no longer an option if the region's beautiful islands and vibrant communities are to flourish and prosper for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations."

Hurricane Dorian

Last October, the Secretary-General visited The Bahamas after a category five storm Hurricane Dorian devastated many of the nation's islands. The storm claimed 73 lives and caused

\$3.4 billion in damage.

She added: "In Abaco, I met life-loving people who once had so much to look forward to yet had little left but debris.

"We owe it to these people forced to flee their homes and those who lost their entire life savings in a matter of seconds. We cannot afford to wait any longer to tackle the climate crisis.

"We will use every platform at every occasion to galvanise support for our small island developing states. We must step up urgent global action around the world to keep global warming under 1.5°C. The future of the region relies on this collective action."

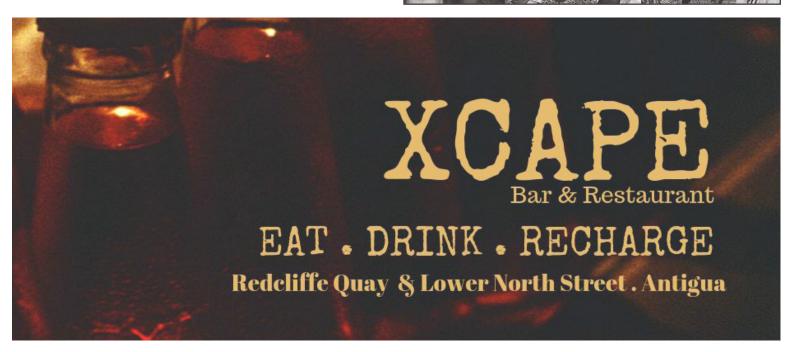
CARICOM

During her visit, Patricia Scotland will listen to Caribbean leaders and strategise with them as to how the Commonwealth can mobilise more tailored and practical assistance to the region.

She said: "The Commonwealth has been engaged with CARICOM from the beginning. Our partnership spans over 46 years working together on socio-economic issues and delivering initiatives to advance development in member countries."

Secretary-General Scotland will also meet with Caribbean leaders, high commissioners and envoys of the international community.





NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING RATES

	RWM	GULUK
CHRISTMAS CENTER SPREAD FULL PAGE MINI PAGE HALF PAGE - VERTICAL QUARTER PAGE EIGHT OF A PAGE PROBATE 16TH OF A PAGE CLASSIFIED - PERSONAL	1,650.00 675.00 600.00 450.00 262.50 187.50 240.00 100.00	2,800.00 1,280.00 960.00 680.00 400.00 280.00 350.00 260.00



POINTE FM RADIO ADVERTISING RATES

RADIO RATES	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
3 SPOTS DAILY	132.00	841.50	2,692.80
4 SPOTS DAILY	160.00	1,020.00	3,264.00
6 SPOTS DAILY	216.00	1,377.00	4,406.40
30 TO 45 SECS ADS			
3 MENTIONS DAILY 4 MENTIONS DAILY 6 MENTIONS DAILY	120.00	510.00	1,632.00
	160.00	680.00	2,176.00
	240.00	1,020.00	3,264.00

PROGRAM SPONSPORSHIP

PRIME TIME NON-PRIME TIME 15 MINS | 200 15 MINS | 150

30 MINS | 350.00 30 MINS | 200.00

PAGE 15



CARICOM Heads to tackle wide-ranging agenda at Barbados Meeting

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government meet in Barbados, 18-19 February 2020, with issues ranging from current public health concerns to strengthening ties with Africa before them.

The Heads of Government are also expected to have an exchange of views with the Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Justin Trudeau.

This 31st Inter-Sessional Meeting, under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, is expected to deliberate on a regional approach to the Corona Virus (Covid-19) as

well as the continuing challenges posed by non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Heads are also expected to examine the status of implementation of provisions of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). In this regard, they are expected to have an engagement with representatives of the Region's Private Sector, Labour and Civil Society.

Among other pressing economic development matters, the Meeting is expected to discuss digital transformation in CARICOM and an action plan for elimination of regional roaming charges. The need for ongoing advocacy against the challenges of blacklisting, de-risking, and withdrawal of Correspondent Banking Services is also expected to get the Head's attention.

The Heads are also expected to discuss a proposed CARICOM African Summit among a number of Foreign and Community relations matters.

They are also expected to address crime, violence and security issues affecting the Region.

The Meeting, at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre (LESC), begins at 9:00 a.m.

with Opening Remarks from CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin La-Rocque; Out-going CAR-ICOM Chairman, Prime Minister Allen Chastanet of Saint Lucia; and CARICOM Chairman, Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados.

This will be followed by a Presentation to the Meeting from Prime Minister of Canada, Mr Justin Trudeau.

This Session will be Live-Streamed on the CARICOM Secretariat's Face Book page – https://www.facebook.com/caricom.org

International



Coronavirus: Americans from quarantined cruise ship flown from Japan

Two planes carrying Americans from the quarantined cruise ship Diamond Princess have left Japan.

The aircraft chartered by the US government departed Tokyo's Haneda Airport in the early hours of Monday, Kyodo news agency reported.

There were some 400 Americans on board the ship, which has been held since 3 February due to infections from the new coronavirus which has hit China. At least 40 US citizens are infected and will be treated in Japan. The Diamond Princess has been quarantined in Japan's port

of Yokohama with some 3,700 passengers and crew on board.

The ship was held after a man who disembarked in Hong Kong was found to have the virus. It has the largest cluster of coronavirus cases outside China. The Japanese authorities on Sunday said the number of new cases on board the ship had risen by 70 to 355.

The Americans who are infected will receive medical treatment in Japan, Dr Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases told Face the Nation on CBS.



Americans are taken from the docked ship to Haneda airport in Tokyo



Those bound for the US left from Tokyo's Haneda Airport

It is not clear exactly how many are on board the evacuation flights which are expected to take them to Air Force bases.

"If people on the plane start to develop symptoms, they'll be segregated within the plane," Dr Fauci said.

Those entering the US will undergo a 14-day quarantine, on top of the time they have already spent confined on the ship.

"And the reason for that," Dr Fauci added, "is that the

degree of transmissibility, on that cruise ship, is essentially akin to being in a hotspot."

Some of the Americans have declined to be evacuated, preferring to wait until the ship quarantine comes to an end on 19 February.

Passenger Matt Smith, a lawyer, said he would not want to travel on a bus to the plane with possibly infected people.

Mixed signals as Pompeo begins three-stop Africa tour

The United States's top diplomat has arrived in Senegal at the start of a whistle-stop tour of three African countries, with analysts viewing it as a bid to counter Chinese influence in Africa at a time of growing confusion over Washington's strategy on the continent.

On his first official trip to a sub-Saharan African country since taking office almost two years ago, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will also visit Angola and Ethiopia.

Pompeo has already warned of what he called China's "dangerous influence" on the African continent, saying in January that Chinese investment feeds corruption and undermines the rule of law, and presenting the US as an alternative.

Joseph Ochieno, a political analyst, called Pompeo's comments "almost hypocritical".

"I don't think the US can tell Africa that American companies are necessarily the cleaner ones when it comes to the continent," he told Al Jazeera, alluding to past corruption and patronage scandals involving US companies in Africa.

Beijing surpassed Washington as Africa's largest trading partner more than



Top US diplomat's visit to Senegal, Angola and Ethiopia taking place amid travel bans and potential military cuts.

a decade ago, forming a relationship worth about \$204bn in trade, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

Several African states have also signed on to China's Belt and Road Initiative, which has seen Bei-

jing finance power plants, roads and other infrastructure projects across the continent.

As a result of the billions of dollars in loans provided by China towards such projects, the country has become Africa's largest debt holder.

"The US is realising that they were playing games with Africa but China came in - and came in fairly big with minimum, if any, conditions," Ochieno said.

"Africa is up for grabs, unfortunately".



International



'Queen of Katwe' actress Nikita Pearl Waligwa dies at 15 of a brain tumor



The Ugandan teen played chess whiz Gloria in the 2016 movie.

A Ugandan teen who graced the silver screen as a chess whiz died this weekend from a brain tumor, according to her school.

Nikita Pearl Waligwa, 15, had been attending Gayaza High School in Kampala while she had cancer. The

school tweeted a heartfelt announcement on her passing late Saturday night.

A Ugandan teen who graced the silver screen as a chess whiz died this weekend from a brain tumor, according to her school.

Nikita Pearl Waligwa, 15, had been attending Gayaza High School in Kampala while she had cancer. The school tweeted a heartfelt announcement on her passing late Saturday night.

cont'd on pg 19



International

PAGE 19

"You were a darling to many and we have lost you to [a] brain tumor at such a tender age," the school tweeted. "Rest in Perfect Peace dear." Waligwa starred in the 2016 Disney film "Queen of Katwe," a biographical film about Ugandan chess player Phiona Mutesi, who came from the slums to be one of the top players in the world. Waligwa played Gloria, Mutesi's friend and fellow chess player who says in chess, "the small one can become the big one."

The movie was a hit among Ugandan audiences who saw local actors on the same screen as Hollywood stars like Lupita Nyong'o and David Oyelowo.





Leisure



our Stars Foretold



Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Your creative star is in the ascendant, and there are those who are rather impressed with you or your performance. Redouble your efforts and magnify the impression.



Libra (Sen 23 - Oct 22)

If you agree to a course of action that fundamentally irritates you just to terminate a discussion, you could find yourself in a real bind. Stick to your guns and say, "No thanks."



Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Examine the ways a venture could be structured so that it takes your creative and economic needs into account. Right now you have a blank canvas upon which you can design whatever you want. So grab your crayons.



Scornio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Try to get as much work done as possible. Within a few days, the desire to industriously produce widgets will be replaced by the urge to loll under a tree, while holding a beverage with a parasol in it.



Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

Your perfectionist tendencies notwithstanding, review some of the activities that you would enjoy but don't actually do because you aren't expert at them. Can you guess the rest? That's right-get out there and do them.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

While there is always a comfort to be derived from familiar routines and patterns, there's a heaping helping of inspiration to be drawn from the untried. Let the unknown take you for a spin today.



Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

If you're looking for inspiration, the instructions are simple. Anything that propels you out of your rut or your routine, even temporarily, is a growth opportunity of the first order.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

It's possible you've made a choice that you're not entirely crazy about. You didn't actually engrave the agreement in stone, did you? Good, because then there's still time to change your plan.



Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

Certain business or personal arrangements may no longer be ringing your bell the way they once did. You could gain altitude if you chose to jettison those that are weighing you down.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

If you're doing what you enjoy doing, carry on. If you aren't-and only you know for sure-you ought to seriously consider what would have to happen for you to feel the



Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

There's really no reason to worry about future events. Your time is far better spent becoming excited about the fun you can have extracting enjoyment from your existing-the operative word is existing-resources.



Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Have confidence in your efforts. You have quite an assortment of options and a wealth of talents, all of which are far more worthy of your attention than the hole in the bucket, dear 'Liza or Henry.



COMING SOON







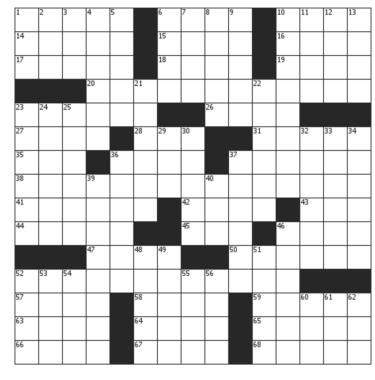
Leisure

PAGE 21

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Fatherhood" author "Out of Africa" author iesen

- . Shoe insert
- . Halos, e.g.
- . Composer Bartok
- . French possessive phrase
- . Suspended cable cars
- . Part of QEII
- . Demolish
- . Vintage soda machine ture
- . City of Tanzania
- . Wordsmith Webster
- . Ending for switch or smack
- . Faltering sounds
- . Cap
- . Russian-born author Rand
- . "Animal House" house
- . Beach Boys hit
- . Question posed by cell one users?
- . Trade associations?
- . Nike rival
- . Elephant or exam ending
- . Short pen name?
- . Guitar master Paul
- . One who's next in line
- . Doctor's order
- . Wedding reception tributes
- . Intangible wealth
- . Imported wheels
- . One who minds his manors?
- . "To ___ own self be true"
- . "Tosca" highlight
- . Trick
- . Haunting
- . Care for
- . Netherworld river
- . Answers an invitation



Down

- 1. Whiskered pet
- 2. "___ American Cousin"
- 3. Malaga Mrs.
- 4. Curtain material
- **5**. "Answer me, ___ no!"
- 6. "A likely story!"
- **7**. Word with hard or soft
- 8. Nonnational
- 9. Simple wind instrument
- 10. Something commuters may rail about
- **11**. Neighbor of Yemen
- 12. Move like goo
- 13. Wedding-cake level

- 21. Zodiac sign
- 22. Fragrance designer Picasso
- 23. China piece
- 24. Early Indo-Europeans
- 25. Clyde's partner
- 29. _ __-jongg
- 30. Basketball coup
- 32. Currencies
- 33. "Consider it done"
- 34. Trump buildings
- 36. More affectionate 37. Skating great
- Yamaquchi
- 39. "For shame!"

- 40. 5th or Park in NYC
- 46. Diner side orders
- 48. Gushes forth
- 49. Characteristic
- 51. Frisky swimmer
- 52. Teen's exam
- 53. Bern's river
- 54. Prerequisite for gain?
- 55. Paris airport
- 56. Show off one's bicep
- 60. Kupcinet or Cross
- **61**. ___ and tuck 62. Wide shoe widths

App Store GET IT ON Google Play

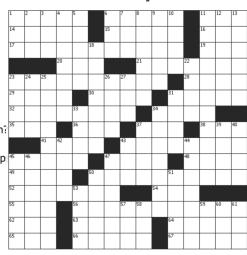
Download Pointe FM App

CLASSIFIED

SALE!!!

ON SAMSUNG PHONE & LG PHONES @ **Donofficial Accesso**ries Store **Upper Nevis Street** Tel # 268 720 4488

Answer to last puzzle



Daily Comics presented by azcentral.

Non Sequitur



Cathy









Garfield









Luann

LUANN



YOU, TONI. NO CARD EVER COULD. OR POEM. OR BOOK. THERE JUST





Sports News





Parham upset Grenades 3-2

In stunning fashion, bottom of the table Asots Arcade Parham sent shockwaves through the Harney Motors Premier Division when they produced a stunning upset against league leaders Jennings Grenades on Sunday night.

Playing in the feature encounter at the ARG, Parham defeated Grenades 3 goals to 2 thanks to a double strike by Trevaughn Harriet

and Daryan James who add-ham's first in 13 matches ed the other conversion. lifted them to 9 points while

Gregson President and Kieron Richards found the back of the net for Grenades.

The win, which was Par-

ham's first in 13 matches lifted them to 9 points while Grenades, who remain at the summit, have 26.

Earlier in the day, Fitzroy Rewinding Bullets jumped to 20 points and 4th place in the standings thanks to their 1-nil victory over All Saints United.

The Pigotts men were indebted to Jorge Villaim who hit home in the 75 minute.

In Sunday's second game the goals flowed as Five Islands swamped Swetes 5-2 with Quinton Griffith, Leon Joseph, Tony Lorenzo Sanchez, Darien Jaime and Samuel Semper all finding the back of the net for the victors while Azhino Solomon scored both goals for



GOT NEWS BECOME A CITIZEN JOURNALIST!

SHARE YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS WITH US. CALL: 268 562 4989 | EMAIL: NEW@POINTVILL.AG



Sports News

PAGE 23

cont'd from pg 22

Swetes.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Cool and Smooth/AC Delco Hoppers came storming back from three goals down to beat Drahz KFC Old Road 4-3 and Ottos Rangers edged defending champions Liberta Black Hawks 2 goals to 1.

Coming up next weekend, Swetes will battle All Saints United in Saturday's opening fixture while in the night capper, it will be Hoppers versus Rangers at 7pm.

Then on Sunday Bullets will take on Grenades in the day's opener at 3, Five Islands will challenge Parham two hours later and then Old Road will confront defending champions Liberta in the feature encounter.

Here's a look at the standings, Grenades 26, Hoppers 23, Ottos 22, Bullets 20, Swetes occupy 5th place

with 18 while the bottom five are, Old Road with 18 points, Liberta have 16,

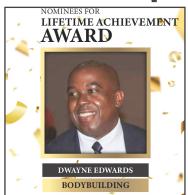
Five Islands 14, All Saints United 11 and Parham in the cellar on 9.



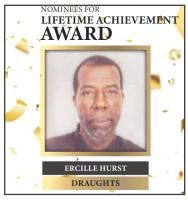


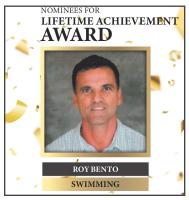


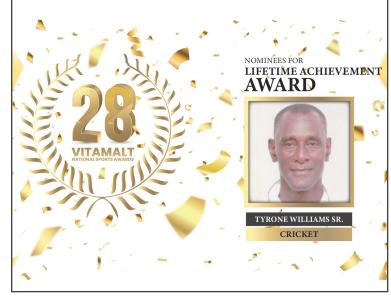
National sports awards Lifetime Achievement Awards











The Minister of Sports, Culture, National Festivals and the Arts, the Honourable Daryll Matthew, as well as the Officials within the Ministry convey sincere CONGRATULATIONS to

the recipients of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award, for their invaluable contribution and dedication to their respective sporting discipline.

S DOFTS MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2020



Athletes of the Year named

Two U.S-based athletes were singled out for their achievements over the past twelve months and named Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year 2020.

The honours were presented Saturday night at the annual National Sports Award Ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Sports. Sponsored by Vita Malt, the occasion is the highly anticipated gala to honour the nation's top sportsmen and women in their various fields of endeavour.

Nominated by the National Athletics Association, Priscilla Frederick was named Sportswoman of the Year, while fellow athlete, Cejhae Greene was named Sportsman of the Year.

Both athletics brought home medals at the Pan Am Games held last year. Frederick won a silver medal in high jump despite what she termed 'having to overcome challenges'.

The past year was one filled with personal bests, both national and regional. The high jumper set a new national record with a 1.9 m jump at the Czeck High Jump series in January earning a silver medal. She repeated the second place with a jump of 1.88 m at the Milrose Games and again at



Priscilla Frederick, right, was named Sports Woman of the Year, while fellow athlete, Cejhae Greene was named Sportsman of the Year.

the Pan Am Games clearing 1.87 m.

She also performed creditably at the University of Albany Indoor Invitation, the Drake Relays and the Cork City Games.

For his part, Greene also had an outstanding year over the past twelve months. Now a professional athlete,

he captured five first place finishes on the international circuit, including a time of 9.94 in the 100 m at the La Chaus-de-Fonde in Switzerland. He also recorded three second finishes.

The star athlete also made the finals of the prestigious London Diamond League, placing 6th in a

field of 24 athletes, becoming the 2nd Antiguan male athlete from Antigua and Barbuda to medal in the 100 m following a 12-year drought. Cejhae is the only Antiguan to qualify for the World Championship in Doha, Qatar. He is currently number three in Pan American.

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



84569532658