



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2020

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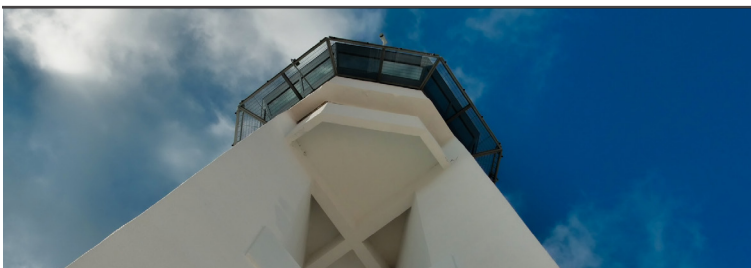
# 40 YEARS FOR MURDER

*Story on Page 3*



## Agreement Signed

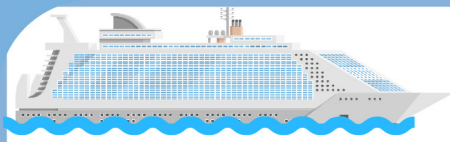
*Story on Page 5*



**Story on Page 4**

## NEW ATC CAB COMMISSIONED

# Local News



## Cruise Ship Port Schedule 2020

Date	Cruise Ship	Arrive-Depart	
19 February, 2020 <b>Wednesday</b>	Crown Princess	07:00	16:00
19 February, 2020 <b>Wednesday</b>	Mein Schiff 2	07:00	19:00
19 February, 2020 <b>Wednesday</b>	Silver Wind	08:00	19:00
20 February, 2020 <b>Thursday</b>	Norwegian Gem	08:00	17:00
20 February, 2020 <b>Thursday</b>	Seabourn Odyssey	08:00	23:00
20 February, 2020 <b>Thursday</b>	Marella Explorer 2	08:00	18:00
22 February, 2020 <b>Saturday</b>	Braemar		
23 February, 2020 <b>Sunday</b>	Oceania Riviera	07:00	16:00
25 February, 2020 <b>Tuesday</b>	MSC Divina	07:00	18:00

## 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 men work with indigenous churches to install water filtration systems on 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.

### DAY 2/19

Max UV Index: 8 Very High  
 Wind: E at 24 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 37 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 42%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
 Precipitation: 0.9 mm  
 Rain: 0.9 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 1  
 Hours of Rain: 1

# 27° Hi



Partly sunny with a shower in places

### NIGHT 2/19

Wind: E at 37 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 52 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 55%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
 Precipitation: 1.1 mm  
 Rain: 1.1 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm

# 22° Lo



Mainly clear and breezy with a passing shower

### SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
6:32 AM

Sunset AST  
6:11 PM



Duration  
11:37 hr

### MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
3:32 AM

Moonset AST  
2:54 AM



Duration  
11:22 hr

# 40 years for murder

Dorian Marshall who was convicted last year in the shooting death of Xavier Thomas will spend 40 years in prison for the crime.

High Court Justice Stanley John imposed sentence on Tuesday.

Marshall was told by the Judge that the crime warranted a sentence of 60 years, but he began at 45 years in prison, taking several factors into consideration, including his age and that the 39 year old is a father of six children.

A jury returned a guilty verdict in the case in November, 2019.

Marshall, Jason Millette and Shalom Bailey were placed on trial for the shooting death of 20 year-old Xavier Thomas.

Thomas died on the evening of

18<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, when she was shot by the occupants of a car who pulled up at a Cedar Grove Restaurant and opened fire.

The men were recognized by Lorne Nicholas, who testified against them in the High Court trial.

While Dorian Marshall was found guilty, jurors could not decide the fate of his accomplices Shalom Bailey and Jason Millette.

The two are to face re-trial this year.

The three men vehemently denied the charge of murder and had provided alibis, which allegedly placed them at other locations when the incident occurred.

After serving 20 years in prison, Dorian Marshall's sentence will be reviewed.



*Dorian Marshall will spend 40 years in prison.*

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Facsimile # 1-268-468-8518/468-8519

Ref: PUCATE 7/298  
10<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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

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

# New ATC cabin commissioned

Air Traffic controllers at the VC Bird International Airport are now operating for the newly installed ATC Cabin erected at the airport to improve overall services.

The new cab was formally commissioned at a ceremony held at the airport on Tuesday.

Actual operation from the new cabin took effect this morning with the arrival of the 6:00 AM shift.

Addressing the ceremony, Aviation Minister, Sir Robin Yearwood, said the new cabin which stands at over 480 feet above ground, allows ATC officers to see much further and its larger size provides more room within which the officers can operate.

With the new cabin in place, the aviation minister said he doesn't intend to rest on this achievement.

"This new cabin allows the ATC to see a much further distance; they can see the planes and track them much better.

"However, it is not our intention to be satisfied with this. We will begin to process to determine just how soon we will be able to add radar services to the work of the ATC's," Sir Robin stated.



Currently, the local ATC's get a feed for radar services from their counterparts in Guadeloupe.

The minister said the choice of who will get the contract to provide the radar will be determined by the Tender's Board. "No politician will have a hand in the selection of who gets the radar contract," Sir Robin declared.

The commissioning ceremony was also addressed by Airport Chief Executive Officer, Euletta Francis, provided background on the process to acquire the new cabin.

She explained the previous cab was



*Aviation Minister, Sir Robin Yearwood.*

installed in the early 1980's. But over the years it had become obsolete as the equipment were no longer being serviced by the manufacturers.

"With the growth in air traffic in Antigua and the region, it was crucial that Antigua and Barbuda embrace the new technologies to effectively manage its airspace," she reported.

The decision was finally made in 2017, with the GOAB selecting Aeronav, A Montreal based company, to partner on this project. The project started in January 2018 and completed earlier this month.

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, and acting Prime Minister, Steadroy Benjamin, joined Sir Robin in participating the ribbon cutting exercises to formally open the new cabin.



*From left: Aviation Minister, Sir Robin Yearwood; Governor-General Sir Rodney Williams; and Attorney-General Steadroy Benjamin at the ribbon cutting.*

## PM signs financing agreement with Caribbean Development Fund

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda the Honourable Gaston Browne and the Chief Executive Officer of the CARICOM Development Fund, Mr. Rodinald Soomer, on Tuesday signed the third financing agreement under the CDF's second funding cycle, bringing the total value of funds committed to Antigua and Barbuda to US\$1.39 million within the current cycle.

The grant of US\$80,000 is for an institutional review and capacity building support to the Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank (ABDB), which is expected to set the stage for the consideration by the CDF of concessionary loan assistance to that institution for onlending to the SME sector.

Antigua's Country Assistance Programme (CAP) with the CDF now consists of:

1. A grant of US\$1.0 million to co-finance the construction of an 800 KW solar-diesel-battery storage hy-



Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne (far right) signed the third financing agreement under the Caribbean Development Fund with its Chief Executive Director Mr. Rodinald Soomer in Barbados on Tuesday.

brid power plant on Barbuda;

2. A grant of US\$310,000 to facilitate growth of bilateral trade with Suriname under a technical cooperation agreement between the two countries; and

3. A grant for technical assistance support to the ABDB, valued at

US\$80,000.

The CDF has provided concessionary financing to SMEs mainly through national development banks in member countries, including Belize, Grenada, Dominica and St. Lucia. This is the first such intervention under consideration for Antigua and Barbuda.

## New meal ordering app launched

Technological innovation continues to flood Antigua and Barbuda with the launch of the newest meal ordering app – PayMeal.

The release comes from the innovator behind the PayCab transportation app and brings a marriage between transportation and food.

Officially kicking on 19th February, 2020, the app brings culinary advances in the palm of Antiguan hands and invites restaurants from across the island to join the platform by opening their kitchens to the virtual world. Developer Sherwin Jupiter, who is known for ground breaking mobile applica-

tions in and outside of Antigua and Barbuda, says the technology is intended to "bring food to tummies in an instant."

He said, "I am not the biggest person around but those who know me know I love a good meal. So, this particular mobile app is especially close to my belly."

The developer cited the settlement of PayCab as the foundation for PayMeal, noting that the reliability of the first will cement the second. He is also known for the development of other apps that include Pointe FM, Misfitz, Caribbean Chronicle, Nice FM, and the Antigua Carnival App, among others.



99.1 FM RADIO

# TRUTH AND PRAISE GOSPEL

WITH SEAN O'NEIL

MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM 5AM - 6AM



# Households being surveyed for waste elimination project

Antigua and Barbuda's collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – a United Nations organization – to eliminate plastic pollution and minimize overall waste generation is from today shifting to a higher gear with a month-long data collection exercise.

IUCN is assisting Antigua and Barbuda, through its regional office in Mexico, with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

The Plastic Waste Free Islands project will span two years, and IUCN has contracted Asia-Pacific Waste Consultants to carry out the data collection component.

During a joint press conference on Tuesday host-



Health Minister Molwyn Joseph (left) with Martina De Marcon of Asia-Pacific Waste Consultants.

ed by his Ministry and the consultants, Minister for Health, Wellness and the Environment Hon. Molwyn Joseph said “this is on top of our success in eliminating single use plastic bags.

We are now moving toward zero-waste with the support of IUCN.”

He added, “It means we need to know what the households are treating as waste, so at the end of the

day, the plastics, the bottles, the cardboards, the organic waste, are treated in such a manner that will make it unnecessary to carry waste to the landfill. We are having a pilot project in the Fitches Creek Community. They have decided to work with us so we can handle the issue of waste separation in order to reduce the volume of waste that goes to the landfill. Plastics can be shredded and long term use made of them. A company will be coming into Antigua to establish a factory here to make products out of plastics.”

Joseph said it was important to know the volume of waste being generated in Antigua and Barbuda, and to get a better idea of the

*cont'd on pg 7*



## Three remain quarantined for coronavirus screening

Fourteen persons have so far been placed in quarantine as a result of the screening for coronavirus that has been taking place at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

It is part of Antigua and Barbuda's heightened surveillance which includes tight monitoring of all ports of entry.

During a press conference on Tuesday at the Ministry of Health, government epidemiologist Dr. Anju Smith said her Epidemiology and Surveillance Team has been "on the ground waiting for persons who would have travelled to or had a travel history from China coming into Antigua.

"We have screened them at the airport, and as a result we have had, to date, 14 persons in quarantine. Seven of them are males and the other seven are females. Five of them have been repatriated and six of them have successfully completed the quarantine period. We now have three in quarantine."

She disclosed that five of the 14 who have undergone quarantine are students, "but they are all doing very well."

Health Minister Molwyn Joseph took the opportunity to remind possibly anxious residents that "passengers coming to Antigua are pre-screened before they board an aircraft – whether they are coming out of the UK, US or anywhere out of Europe – and if anyone appears to have any symptoms they are not allowed to board.

"Fortunately for us we are close enough to our main market, the United States, where it takes no more than four or four-and-a-half hours to get here. So chances are that someone who doesn't show any symptoms [when they board] are likely not to show any symptoms when they arrive in Antigua and Barbuda ..."

But arrivals from the People's Republic of China – whether from the mainland or Hong Kong – are dealt

with differently, according to Minister Joseph. He said about a few weeks ago, local officials met with the Chinese Ambassador to discuss the necessary restrictions, while at the same time reaching out to the local Chinese community to ensure there is full understanding and cooperation.

He explained: "We've had extensive discussions, giving them the reassurance. We have worked with them. They share information with us.

"We do not want any attempt in Antigua and Barbuda, where the Chinese citizens and residents are pointed out. They do not pose a threat. What we have done, though, like most other Caribbean countries, is to declare a ban on people coming from mainland China and Hong Kong. As long as you come to Antigua through mainland China and Hong Kong, you have to go through the 14-day quarantine. In addition to that, the



*Health and Wellness Minister Molwyn Joseph*

Chinese diaspora here ... have social clubs. We are able to get information from the social clubs.

"We do not have any large numbers of Chinese returning to Antigua at this time. As a matter of fact, over the last few weeks, if I can recall, maybe approximately 12, and six of them have been repatriated. They came and then there was no purpose, really, for them being here other than on a vacation. So under those circumstances, we did not anticipate their presence, and we gave them the option of either going back, or if they were to stay, they would have to go through the 14 day quarantine."

*cont'd from pg 6*

composition or components of that waste.

Parallel to this, the Minister added, there was "another organization right now at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium dealing with the landfill and what we will do with hazardous materials like discarded batteries and old computers."

Martina De Marcon of Asia-Pacific Waste Consultants, which is based

in Australia, was present at Tuesday's press briefing and disclosed that the Plastic Waste Free Islands project will subsequently be carried out in Saint Lucia and Grenada.

Upon its launching here in Antigua, as of 10:00 a.m. today, the data collection exercise will involve household interviews, waste collection and sorting.

The project is expected to take four weeks, during which 180 households

in Antigua and 20 in Barbuda will be interviewed and surveyed.

The consultants have indicated that over the next few days they will be knocking on doors in Crosbys, Mount Pleasant, Royal Gardens, Barnes Hill, New Winthropes, Picadilly, Old Road, Grays Farm, Golden Grove-New Extension, Marble Hill, McKinnons, Villa, Point – wrapping up their data collection on the mainland at Nelson's Dockyard.

# Police Round-up

## Drug mule jailed

Rohan Dwight Campbell, 47 of Jamaica was sentenced to three months at Her Majesty's Prison for Importation of Cannabis.

He appeared before Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards at All Saints Magistrate's Court on Tuesday charged with Possession of 209 grams of Cannabis, Importation of Cannabis and Possession with intent to transfer.

He pleaded guilty to all the charges; however, he was reprimanded on Possession of Cannabis and Possession with intent to transfer. Campbell arrived in Antigua 6th February, from Jamaica. He was denied

entry into the country and was held at the Immigration Detention Center.

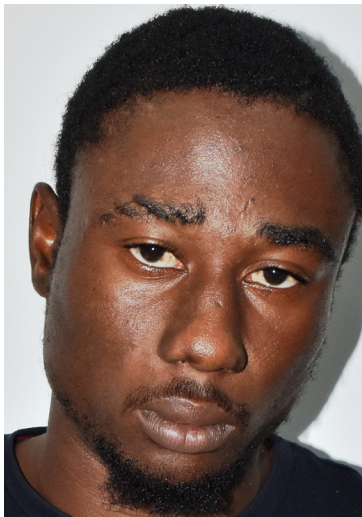
While there, he was observed to be behaving in an unusual and suspicious manner.

This prompted Immigration Officers to carry out a search on the room he was occupying and they found thirty (30) small Cannabis pellets, tightly wrapped in transparent plastic among human faeces in a toilet bowl inside a bathroom.

The matter was brought to the attention of the police and he was arrested and taken into custody and later charged. The illegal substance has an estimated value of \$2,490.



*Rohan Dwight Campbell, 47 of Jamaica was sentenced to three months at Her Majesty's Prison for Importation of Cannabis.*



*Datwan Simon, 21 of All Saints*

## All Saints man fined for firearms, etc

Datwan Simon, 21 of All Saints was convicted and fined \$15,000, after he appeared at St. Johns Magistrate's Court, charged with Possession of Firearm and Ammunition.

He appeared before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh on Tuesday when

he pleaded guilty to both charges.

He was fined \$10,000 for possession of firearm and \$5,000 for possession of ammunition.

The fines were ordered to be paid forthwith, or in default serve one year at Her Majesty's Prison.

The Court heard that approximately 9:30 pm on Saturday 15th February, 2020, police officers attached to the Special Services Unit (SSU) were on mobile patrol, when they responded to a report on Popeshead Street, concerning the All Saints resident.

A search was carried out on a black knapsack bag he had in his possession, and one .380 pistol, along with four matching rounds of ammunition were found.

The illegal items were seized and he was arrested and taken into custody. So far for the year, a total of seven illegal firearms and approximately 70 rounds of ammunition have been removed from off the streets by police.

## Another missing teen

The Police and the family of 13 year old Idean Mason of Bendals Village, are seeking the help of the general public in knowing her whereabouts.

Idean was last seen on Saturday 15th February 2020.

She is fair in complexion, about 5ft 6in. in height and slimly built.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Youth Intervention Unit at 562-8417 or the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/14 without delay.



## Greene holds talks with Canadian counterpart

Several interest that are of concern for Antigua and Barbuda were among matters discussed when Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene held discussions with his Canadian counterpart, Francois-Philippe Champagne.

The meeting was held at the sidelines of the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting that concluded in Barbados on Tuesday.

Reports are that the bilateral talks focused on a multiplicity of subject matters of mutual interest including but not limited to the impact of the coronavirus, its potential impact on regional tourism and economic activities; the ongoing effects of blacklisting/derisking, resilience building, and the building of stronger relations between Antigua and Barbuda and Canada.

The Minister sought Canada's support for advocacy on derisking, a matter of grave concern for Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the Caribbean region.

Greene used the occasion to repeat



an earlier request for funding by Canada of dormitories at the Five Islands Campus of the UWI.

He noted that the relationship has morphed into a stronger bilateral relationship noting that the Caribbean 'needs Canada's voice of advocacy' to help with the issue of graduation and access to concessionary financ-

ing as the region fight the cyclical debilitating effects of hurricanes and other natural disasters.

"Antigua and Barbuda supports Canada's candidacy for a seat on the UN Security Council. This support acknowledges your country's role as a friend, as a hemispheric leader and anticipates exemplary global leadership from this very important, responsible and prestigious position," Foreign Minister Greene told his colleague.

He again expressed Antigua and Barbuda's appreciation for Canada's assistance in the aftermath of the devastation of hurricane Irma on Barbuda which remains a 'work in progress'.

He also thanked Foreign Minister Champagne for the Canadian biometric programme to facilitate nationals and especially students to enter Canada. Greene opined that the programme represents a significant cost savings and said he hopes that it is a precursor to the restoration of a return to our country and region regaining visa-free status and access to Canada.

## Over 30 history teachers and historians benefit from Reparations Seminar

On Tuesday, thirty (30) history educators benefited from a one-day seminar hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission in conjunction with the Centre for Reparation Research (CRR).

The purpose of the seminar was to engage history teachers across secondary schools on effective methodologies in teaching histo-

ry. The seminar also provided a unique opportunity for teachers to share their experiences and issues affecting their ability to provide a comprehensive history education.

Some of the issues highlighted by the cohort of educators were the unavailability of books, the subject streaming of history and the lack of interest by students.

*cont'd on pg 10*



# Local News

*cont'd from pg 9*

The island educators also indicated a want for the improvement and inclusion of national history in syllabi.

The history driven workshop was facilitated by Ms. Nattecia Bohardsingh, a history graduate of the University of the West Indies, attorney-at-law and Reparatory justice advocate. Ms. Bohardsingh, a Jamaican historian, focused the discussion on understanding history's relevance to personal development and national development, reviewing the challenges within the school systems and examined experimental and creative teaching methodologies that could be introduced in the classroom.

In her presentation, Bohardsingh spoke on her experiences in the classroom and provided practical tips and resource materials that can be used to encourage more enthusiasm in the subject area.

Tips such as activity planning involving the creation of individual family trees, documentation of the history of your school, and bringing history influencers into the classroom. Discussion on Reparations and reparatory justice also played a major role in the one-day seminar, re-emphasizing that the history of Africa and its peoples did not start with the European invasion and its trade in the captured and enslaved.



According to the guest facilitator, "this session was extremely important and inspired positive action by the call to the table of our most crucial stakeholders, our teachers. To dialogue and involve the teachers is to dialogue and involve a nation and by extension a generation."

The teachers, who gathered at the Heritage hotel for the seminar echoed the sentiments shared by the facilitator, thanking the hosts for the opportunity to have open discussions on their challenges. The history teachers also spoke on the possibility of forming a History Teachers Association in the near future.



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## Fixed Roaming Rate for CARICOM Nationals imminent – CARICOM Chair

Community governance, a fixed single CARICOM roaming rate, and a unified regional approach, were among the key highlights of Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, when she addressed the opening of the Thirty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference in Barbados, earlier on 18 February 2020.

On the issue of community governance, the Chair noted that “some self-examination” was in order.

Her references included the under-resourced CARICOM Secretariat which she said was now functioning with 30 million Eastern Caribbean dollars less than it did 10 years ago and with 40 people less than it did 30 years ago”, despite increasing challenges and new mandates.

She questioned whether the “appropriate governance and funding models to ensure the sustainability of this ‘family movement’ that is so vital to our being able to bring prosperity to our citizens”, was in place.

She suggested a review of the 2003 Rose Hall Declaration and the entire issue of Community governance with a view to finding a modality that would allow for more effective imple-



Prime Minister Elliott Deighton Mottley

mentation of Heads’ decisions, particularly those related to the CARICOM Single Market and Single Economy.

Speaking on matters of the digital economy, the Chair reiterated the Community’s belief in this sector’s “powerful role in the development of our economies”.

She used this opportunity to make a very well received announcement of ongoing work to provide a “a modest fixed single CARICOM roaming rate for all CARICOM nationals”, which she said would be announced shortly.

On the last issue of “family”, the Chair, throughout her presentation, reiterated the importance of a unified approach despite ideology, to surmount the ever present and changing global challenges before the Region.

She alluded to challenges such as: chronic non communicable diseases (CNCDs), the existential crisis of climate, violence, which she noted had genuinely become a public health disorder; challenges to the Community’s fiscal sovereignty, among others.

The Prime Minister reminded the gathering of the need to rely on the bonds of family to make the decisions that would effectively address the challenges before the Community.

Continuing, she noted that whether it is at the level of countries or at the level of homes and communities, “being kith and must stand for something.”

She added that determining how best to move forward with the character that defines us as being resilient was important. The Chair used the current threat to the Region posed

by COVID-19

(corona virus) to demonstrate the benefits of family and taking decisions to confront our challenges.

She singled out regional institutions: CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) (and its sub-agency Joint Regional Communication Centre (JRCC) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) that are working along with other agencies to keep the disease out of the Region.

Prime Minister Mottley, who also dealt with issues such as regional air transport and the financing for the Caribbean Development Fund (CDF), among others, exhorted her fellow colleagues to “perfect a finer vision for ‘ourselves [the Community] and act to create that vision”.



# Blacklisting comes under microscope at Interseasonal

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) continues to intensify its advocacy against the blacklisting of its Member States by the European Union (EU). The EU has used its tax good governance standard to label some Caribbean countries as non-cooperative

tax jurisdictions, despite the fact that the countries in question are not designated as non-compliant by the relevant regulatory authorities, such as the Financial Action Task Force and the OECD Global Forum.

Blacklisting influences strategies of international banks, and has resulted in reputational damage, the crippling effects of de-risking and ruptured correspondent banking relations that are crucial to the Caribbean. Up to the middle of 2018, 25% of the 50 banks operating across CARICOM had reported termination of correspondent banking services, while 75% reported they were facing certain correspondent banking restrictions.

To place the situation in context, CARICOM Member States fall into the category of Small Island Developing and Low-Lying States (SIDS). Many of them are middle-income countries which cannot access concessional development financing. But, according to the International

*cont'd on pg 13*



# Regional News

PAGE 13

Monetary Fund (IMF) the countries so categorized exhibit extreme versions of long-term low growth, high debt, significant vulnerabilities and limited resilience to shocks which set them apart from other middle-income states. Some have unsustainable debt levels.

The move to blacklist Member States is also seen as an incursion on their sovereignty and right to determine the economic and financial pathways to development based on their peculiar circumstances.

Member States have also placed on record their frustration with the 'shifting goal posts'. Even as Caribbean countries make adjustments to their tax regimes, the EU has signalled its intention to update the criteria from time to time.

Blacklisting is especially damaging to those Member States that also face existential challenges posed by climate change which has resulted in major natural disasters across the Region.

From Bucharest to Basseterre, Heads of Government, the CARICOM Secretary-General and other Community spokespersons have been bringing attention to the matter, seeking understanding and international advocacy of governments on

the Community's behalf.


As they gather in Bridgetown for their 31st Interessional Meeting, 18-19 February 2020, Heads of Government will have these issues foremost in their minds as they seek to chart viable, sustainable economic growth paths individually, and as a Community.

The Interessional Meeting comes just three months after the Hon Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, led a team that included the Hon. Allen Chastanet, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia to meet representatives of the United States Congressional Financial Services Committee – chaired by the Hon Representative Maxine Waters – and the US Banking Sector at a Round Table interaction in Washington DC. Prime Minister Browne chairs the Committee of Ministers of Finance on De-risking and Blacklisting.

The "mutuality of interest" of the Caribbean and the US was acknowledged during the Round Table. Prime Minister Browne argued that the process of de-risking which has led to a withdrawal of relations by some US banks from Caribbean banks, posed a serious threat to the Region's welfare, including its capacity to im-


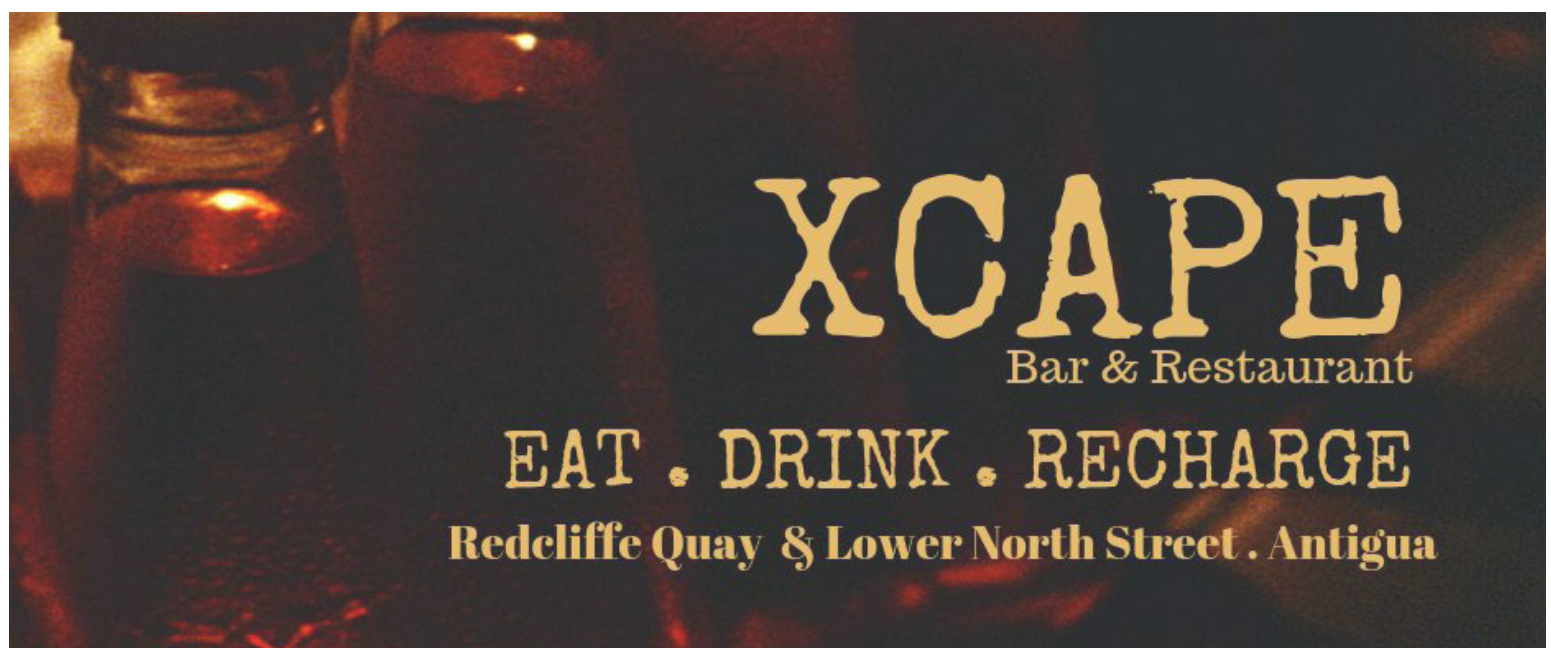
port goods from the US. There was acknowledgement also that the impact of withdrawal of correspondent banking relations was felt not only in financial terms, but in the critical role it plays in global trade, investment and other financial services.

Proposals from those talks are expected to be discussed among the menu of measures to be agreed on to resist and remedy the situation.


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7AM - 9AM	-	TIME OUT
10AM - 1PM	-	BROWNE AND BROWNE (REBROADCAST)
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## Jamaica Test-Ready For Coronavirus, Officials Say

Despite concerns in the United States about the reliability of the testing regime for COVID-19, better known as the novel coronavirus, Jamaican healthcare officials have defended its accuracy, even if false negatives appear to have been recorded overseas.

The scare emerged over inconclusive results from a limited number of faulty test kits issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nine Jamaicans were trained last week by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to test for COVID-19, and the National Influenza Centre, located at The University Hospital of the West Indies, is the only local testing facility.

PAHO-WHO Country Representative Dr Bernadette Theodore-Gandi said Jamaica's capacity to test for influenza placed the country in a prime position to receive the reagents needed for testing.

"Since last year, the centre has already been re-evaluated by WHO as a collaborating centre and it has passed all the proficiency testing, etc, so we have every confidence that the National Influenza Centre is more than capable," Theodore-Gandi

said.

Head of the unit, Dr Monica Smikle, explained that the polymerase chain reaction method is used to amplify the virus.

"Because this is an RNA [ribonucleic acid] virus, we have to convert RNA to DNA [deoxyribonucleic acid] before testing," she said during a tour of the molecular laboratory, where the final stage of testing is done.

### TEST ACCURATE

Acting director of the National Laboratory Services, Dr Michelle Hamilton, is also confident in the testing method being used.

"If you test a person who has symptoms and they come up negative – the virus is not detected, it is highly likely that they have something else. The fact that you may have tested a person two or three times and they are negative, does not mean the test has failed. The test is very accurate, it's very sensitive," Hamilton said.

She explained that the method is able to detect as few as 10 copies of the viral gene being tested for, even in the early stages of infection. Smikle added that it makes it more sensitive than existing assays for HIV. "Jamaica is at the cutting edge. This is what is being rolled out across



**Rudolph Brown/Photographer**

Dr Christopher Tufton (left), minister of health and wellness, listens as Dr Monica Smikle (second right), head of the National Influenza Centre, discusses the capacity of a coronavirus testing machine during a tour of the facility at The University Hospital of the West Indies yesterday. Looking on are Dr Michelle Hamilton (right), acting director of the National Laboratory Services, and Dr Carl Bruce, medical chief of staff and consultant neurosurgeon of UHWI. - Jamaica Gleaner

the world and within two weeks of the international declaration, here we are," said Hamilton. St Joseph's Hospital in St Andrew has been retrofitted as a quarantine facility. "We are looking for an alternative location for the Food For The Poor clinic, which, to my mind, is the most inconvenient adjustment for the community," he said, adding that they are trying to locate it within the community. Tufton said that the cruise shipping industry posed a "particular challenge" because of the "sheer numbers that each of these vessels carry" – a reference to the 2,000 to 3,000 passengers per ship.

He said that cruise operators were required, under law, to communicate any medical issues to health authorities 24 hours before docking.

"I certainly expect the cruise lines to act responsibly and ... that they would strengthen their monitoring and evaluation ... . We're not gonna be complacent or overdependent on that, however, and that's why the dialogue between ourselves is ongoing," the health minister said.

Up to yesterday, seven persons remained quarantined in Jamaica. None were in isolation.

## Hiding money: US is a major hub of financial secrecy, says report



The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists says Isabel dos Santos, a billionaire and the former chairman of Sonangol Holding-Sociedade Nacional de Combustiveis de Angola EP, is being investigated by Angolan government officials for 'looting hundreds of millions of dollars from the state's oil and diamond-trading companies' [Daniel Rodrigues/Bloomberg]

*Africa's richest woman, Isabel dos Santos, is accused of using US firms to move allegedly ill-gotten money offshore.*

*by Radmilla Suleymanova*

The United States is the world's most complicit country in helping individuals hide money from the rule of law, according to a new report from the Tax

Justice Network (TJN). The network's findings come as Angola accuses Africa's wealthiest woman of siphoning public funds and moving the money offshore with the help of western consulting firms. The scandal has become known as the "Luanda Leaks".

Isabel dos Santos, the daughter of Angola's former president, is worth an estimated \$2bn, according

to Forbes magazine. The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) claims dos Santos used an "army" of Western advisors to "hide assets from tax authorities".

"Isabel dos Santos, too, took advantage of a US secrecy jurisdiction. The Luanda Leaks documents show that dos Santos used a Delaware company to buy property in Portugal. Delaware

is one of the easiest places to create a low-taxed, secretive company," said Fergus Shiel, Luanda Leaks project manager at the ICIJ.

Africa's first female billionaire is accused of using international tax havens to move and store her assets. In a televised interview, dos Santos told Al Jazeera the allegations levied against her are untrue.

*cont'd on pg 17*

Calculating financial secrecy

In the “The Financial Secrecy Index”, TJN ranks nations by how much their financial systems allow people to hide and launder money extracted from other countries. The 2020 index found that the US increased its financial secrecy by 15 percent, and overtook Switzerland as one of the top destinations for people looking to hide money.

Now holding the top spot is the Cayman Islands, where financial secrecy jumped 24 percent.

The index ranks countries on a scale from 1 to 100. Zero means full transparency, while 100 means cloaked in full secrecy. The score is combined with the volume of financial activity conducted in the country by non-residents.

Also on the top 10 list are Hong Kong, Singapore, Luxembourg, Japan, the Netherlands, the British Virgin Islands and the United Arab Emirates. And while lower-income countries supply only one percent of financial secrecy measured, they are the most vulnerable to “feel the sting” of its consequences.

“Financial secrecy keeps drug cartels bankable, human trafficking profitable and tax abuse feasible,” TJN’s Mark Bou Mansour told Al Jazeera. “Secrecy causes communities in developing countries to lose vital funds while other communities get pumped with dirty money.”

There is some good news, however. The global total of all financial secrecy shrunk by seven percent since 2018, “meaning less room for money laundering, tax evasion and huge offshore concentrations of illicit and untaxed wealth”, according to the TJN report.

Hiding money in the UK and US

Increasing levels of financial secrecy in the US are largely due to the passing of a new law permitting the establishment of non-charitable private foundations without the need for disclosure, the report said. The US has also yet to sign onto the Common Reporting Standard, which is maintained by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and which currently has 105 signatories.

Meanwhile, the United

Kingdom increased its secrecy score by four points, more than any other country, with the trend extending to its network of satellite jurisdictions made up of Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. This includes the top-ranked Cayman Islands, as well as the British Virgin Islands, which ranked ninth, and Guernsey, which ranked 11th.

The report also claims OECD members are responsible for nearly half of the world’s financial secrecy.

Isabel dos Santos

The 2020 report ranks Angola as the second-most internally secretive country in the world. Angola is currently investigating former first daughter Isabel dos Santos as part of a campaign launched by President Joao Lourenco to root out corruption.

For the first time in the history of its financial secrecy rankings, TJN has placed Angola on its list.

Earlier this year, the ICIJ’s team of 120 reporters in 20 countries was able to trace “how an army of Western financial firms, lawyers, accountants, government

officials and management companies helped [dos Santos and her husband] hide assets from tax authorities”.

“Based on a trove of more than 715,000 files, our investigation highlights a broken international regulatory system that allows professional services firms to serve the powerful with almost no questions asked,” said the ICIJ.

“What the Luanda Leaks shows is that secrecy aids the flow of money from poor countries to rich ones,” Shiel told Al Jazeera. The Luanda Leaks also highlights how that such secrecy can provide cover for unscrupulous deals.

“If the richest nations in the world, ones like the US, wanted to end the abuses afforded by secrecy, they could do so,” Shiel added.

Meanwhile, dos Santos has denied all accusations made against her.

“This is a very concentrated attack. It is an attack that has been very well coordinated. It’s an attack coordinated with foreign media that is working with the Angolan authorities to create a false perception of my business,” dos Santos told Al Jazeera.



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## Venezuela crisis: US blacklists Russian oil firm for helping Maduro

*The US has sought to increase financial pressure on Venezuela by blacklisting a subsidiary of Russia's state-controlled Rosneft oil giant. -REUTERS*

The move freezes any US-held assets of the Switzerland-based Rosneft Trading SA and its chairman, Didier Casimiro.

The firm is accused of helping President Nicolás Maduro to evade US sanctions on Venezuela's oil industry.

The US accuses Mr Maduro of leading a corrupt and brutal regime, a charge he has repeatedly rejected.

Oil dominates Venezuela's economy, accounting for almost all of its export earnings. But oil production in Venezuela has collapsed in recent years, and the country is in a deep economic crisis. The US is backing opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who last year declared himself interim president.

Earlier this month, the US imposed sanctions on Venezuela's state-run airline Conviasa, saying the company was being used to "shuttle corrupt officials around the world".

Meanwhile Russia, a key backer of President Maduro, has pledged to boost economic and military co-operation with the government in Caracas.

What are the latest US sanctions?

The sanctions were announced by the

US treasury on Tuesday.

"Rosneft Trading SA and its president brokered the sale and transport of Venezuelan crude oil," Trade Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement. "The United States is determined to prevent the looting of Venezuela's oil assets by the corrupt Maduro regime," he added. The statement said that the US sanctions "need not be permanent and are intended to change behaviour".

"The United States has made it clear that we will consider lifting sanctions for those who take concrete, meaningful, and verifiable actions to support democratic order in Venezuela," the statement said. Rosneft and Rosneft Trading SA were already the subject of US restrictions relating to Russia's involvement in the conflict in Ukraine that erupted in 2014. What's the Russian response? Neither Rosneft nor its trading arm have so far publicly spoken on the issue. But the Russian foreign ministry condemned the sanctions. "Russia categorically does not accept unilateral restrictive measures by which the US, striving for global hegemony, is trying to subjugate the whole world to its will," the ministry said in a statement (in Russian).

It added that the sanctions would not be able to influence Russian policies towards Venezuela or any other country.



Rosneft is yet to publicly comment on the latest US sanctions

What's the background to the Venezuela crisis? Mr Maduro narrowly won a presidential election in April 2013 after the death of his mentor, President Hugo Chávez. He was elected to a second term in May 2018 in an election seen as flawed by international observers.

Venezuela has experienced economic collapse - inflation was 800,000% last year - and three million people have left the country.

Mr Guaidó has accused President Maduro of being unfit for office. He has won the support of many in the country as well as US and EU leaders.

## NIGHTLY NEWS

WITH PHIL GEORGE

MONDAY - FRIDAY

6:30PM | 6:30AM



99.1 FM RADIO



## Massachusetts Rep. David Nangle arrested for financial fraud, had gambling debts: FBI, IRS

When he wasn't conducting state business as the long-time elected representative of communities north of Boston, David Nangle frequented casinos throughout New England, accumulating so much gambling debt that he turned to campaign funds to keep himself financially afloat, according to a 28-count indictment unsealed Tuesday.

Nangle, D-Lowell, was arrested Tuesday by the FBI and the IRS on charges of bank fraud, wire fraud, filing false tax returns and lying to a bank.

"Time after time he allegedly used campaign funds to pay for personal expenses, spending thousands of dollars on golf club fees, gas, gift cards, hotels, restaurants, flowers and rental cars for trips to casinos, some of which he had already been reimbursed for by taxpayers," said the FBI's Joe Bonavolonta.

When regulators asked about these expenses, prosecutors said Nangle "fraudulently described the purpose of such spending as political in nature."

"David Nangle is a good man who has proudly served his district as a state representative," Nangle's attorney, William Connolly, said in a statement to ABC News. "The charges against David are nothing more than alle-



David Nangle

gations. We will fight these charges in court."

Nangle has been the state representative from Lowell and Chelmsford since 1999 and in recent years, earned about \$100,000, according to court records.

"Despite his salary and perks, Nangle was heavily in debt, had poor credit and had regular cash flow problems as a result of extensive gambling at various casinos in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, among others -- placing thousands of bets on internet gambling sites," per the indictment.

As his debts ballooned to tens of thousands of dollars, Nangle tapped campaign funds to supplement his personal finances instead of using the funds for permissible campaign purposes, the indictment read.

According to federal prosecutors, Nangle defrauded Massachusetts campaign finance regulators by "using the Nangle Committee bank account as his own personal checking account to pay for various personal expenses and to withdraw cash."

"I think there's a real deterrent value in us being active in this area and we will continue to do that," said Andrew Lelling, U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, when asked why Nangle was being charged federally instead of at the state level.

According to the indictment, Nangle raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, despite running unopposed and spent as much as he raised -- but for personal gain.

He set up a campaign bank account, which he used solely for personal funds, federal prosecutors said. Nangle bor-

rowed sums totaling more than \$100,000 from local friends and business owners. He paid these back, almost entirely with campaign funds, federal prosecutors alleged.

Prosecutors also detailed how exactly Nangle used his campaign funds to pay for a golf club membership, which he categorized as "Campaign Volunteers Appreciation," and charged the green fees and member dues as "fund-raiser catering."

Separately, Nangle did not pay for up to \$8,000 in renovations to his house, instead "handing the contractor his State Representative business card." Ultimately, the contractor, who was not named, was rewarded with "lucrative bids for construction projects for which Nangle had secured state funding."

## Your Stars Foretold



Aries

### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

The pioneer and trailblazer of the horoscope wheel, Aries energy helps us initiate, fight for our beliefs and fearlessly put ourselves out there.



Libra

### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

The balanced beautifier of the horoscope family, Libra energy inspires us to seek peace, harmony and cooperation—and to do it with style and grace.



Taurus

### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

The persistent provider of the horoscope family, Taurus energy helps us seek security, enjoy earthly pleasures and get the job done.



Scorpio

### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

The most intense and focused of the horoscope signs, Scorpio energy helps us dive deep, merge our superpowers and form bonds that are built to last.



Gemini

### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

The most versatile and vibrant horoscope sign, Gemini energy helps us communicate, collaborate and fly our freak flags at full mast.



Sagittarius

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

The worldly adventurer of the horoscope wheel, Sagittarius energy inspires us to dream big, chase the impossible and take fearless risks.



Cancer

### Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

The natural nurturer of the horoscope wheel, Cancer energy helps us connect with our feelings, plant deep roots and feather our family nests.



Capricorn

### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

The measured master planner of the horoscope family, Capricorn energy teaches us the power of structure and long-term goals.



Leo

### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

The drama queen and regal ruler of the horoscope clan, Leo energy helps us shine, express ourselves boldly and wear our hearts on our sleeves.



Aquarius

### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

The mad scientist and humanitarian of the horoscope wheel, futuristic Aquarius energy helps us innovate and unite for social justice.



Virgo

### Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

The masterful helper of the horoscope wheel, Virgo energy teaches us to serve, do impeccable work and prioritize wellbeing—of ourselves, our loved ones and the planet.



Pisces

### Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

The dreamer and healer of the horoscope family, Pisces energy awakens compassion, imagination and artistry, uniting us as one.

**POINTE TV**

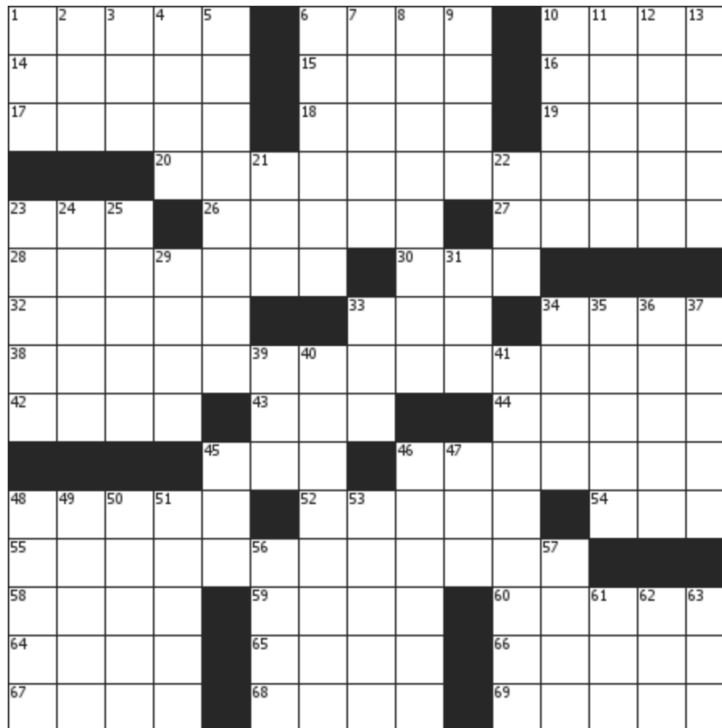
# COMING SOON



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ross

- The Donald's first  
Kind of improvement  
. Gorgeous legs, to a guy in a  
t suit  
. Exasperated  
. Magazine items?  
. Mosque leader  
. If it's canceled, it has been  
epted  
. Table section  
. Small pond  
. Beloved snappy dresser?  
. Timezone letters  
. Calliope power  
. Also-ran in '96  
. Soporifics  
. Tag pursuers  
. Half a city?  
. Shepherd's place  
. The lady of the Haus  
. Beloved golden parachutes?  
. Some Giants  
. Not a particular  
. "West Side Story" role  
. Bro counterpart  
. Trail closely  
. Trail closely  
. Slab of chocolate  
. Chicago-to-Miami dir.  
. Beloved Ralph and Alice?  
. Fully avenged  
. Decade components, in  
xico  
. Words of dismay  
. Bivouac element  
. Hurt all over  
. Suspended  
. Foundations may support  
:m  
. O'Casey or Connery  
. Office dispatches



### Down

1. Conditions
2. Spot checker?
3. Oral surgeon's org.
4. Without sensation
5. Hunger trigger
6. Attaches importance to
7. Biology 101 subject
8. Like a snake oil salesman, and then some
9. Protein-rich health food
10. Greedy person's demand
11. Eastern ruler (Var.)
12. Phil's wife
22. AWOL hunters
23. Search for water, in a way
24. Salmon do it
25. Like some floors
29. Brewpub quaffs
31. End of an exchange?
33. Not of the cloth
34. Manage independently
35. Bookies' nightmares
36. Some chorus girls?
37. Application
39. "Bali \_\_\_\_" (South Pacific song)

45. You may reach for
46. Burner designer
47. Suffix with serpent elephant
48. Eighth letter of the Greek alphabet
49. Generic dog name
50. With regard to
51. Word on a nickel
53. Foofaraw
56. "Serpico" author Peter
57. Year's last word, often
61. Vitality

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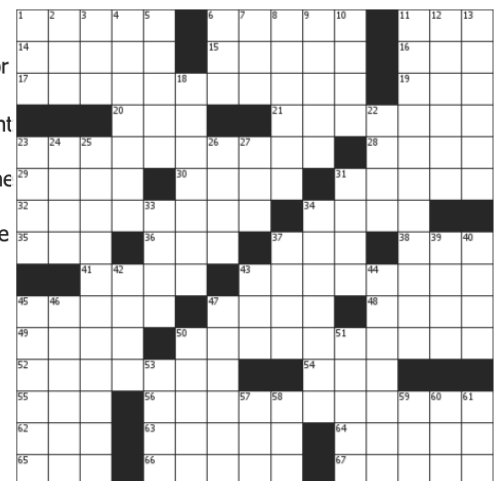
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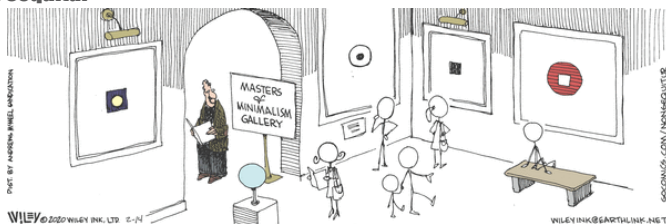
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### Non Sequitur



### Cathy



### Garfield



### Luann



BY GREG EVANS

Daily Comics presented by azcentral.

# Reggae Boy Darren Mattocks facing felony charges in Pennyslvania



Reggae Boyz striker Darren Mattocks is in hot water as he is facing two felony charges in Pennsylvania, according to media reports from the United States.

The 29-year-old FC Cincinnati forward has been accused of making a false, fraudulent or incomplete insur-

ance claim and theft by deception in Carroll Township, Pennsylvania.

Media reports say that according to court documents, the complaint against Mattocks was first filed on December 5, 2019, in which bail was set at \$50,000. A formal arraignment is scheduled for February 27, 2020.

Mattocks was about to begin his second season at FC Cincinnati. Last season he scored three goals for the club in 21 appearances.

An eight-year veteran of Major League Soccer (MLS), Mattocks has played for the Vancouver Whitecaps, DC United and the Portland Timbers.

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## West Indies start with loss despite Bravo century

Darren Bravo marked his return with a stroke-filled century as West Indies had their first warm-up match on the ongoing tour against the Sri Lanka Cricket XI on Monday at the P Sara Oval.

The experienced left-hander hit 14 fours and a six in an even 100 – before he retired. He faced just 88 balls and played a number of powerful shots on both side of the wicket but was particularly eye-catching driving through the covers. His effort helped the West Indies post 282 all out off 48.4 overs.

The score, however, wasn't enough as the Sri Lanka XI made 283-8 off 47.3 overs.

Bravo shared in two crucial partnerships as the West Indies batsmen looked to get valuable time in the middle ahead of the ODI series, which starts on Saturday. He added 113 with Sunil Ambris, who made 41 off 63 balls with six boundaries.

After Ambris fell, Nicholas Pooran joined Bravo and the pair of left-handers dominated the bowling with a stand of 79 in just 12 overs. Pooran, who made his maiden international

century against Sri Lanka at last year's World Cup, scored 41 off 38 balls, with two fours and two huge sixes. In the backend Fabian Allen (28) and Jason Holder (22) played cameos to boost the total.

"My goal was to spend at much time as possible at the crease. I had a particular game plan and it worked out so I'm confident going into the One-Day Series, later this week," said Bravo.

In the second half of the match, left-arm pacer Sheldon Cottrell (2-22) was sensational with the new ball to have the home side two wickets down in the first over.

Left-arm spinner Fabian Allen (2-62) and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh (2-52) both bowled well but they were trumped by a brilliant knock of 120 from former Sri Lanka captain Upul Tharanga, who hit 16 fours and a six off 124 balls.

The West Indies will remain in Colombo this week, where they will have another warm-up match against the SLC XI on Thursday.

The first ODI is at the Sinhalese Sports Club on Saturday.

## New Uniforms For National Athletes

New uniforms that all national athletes will wear when they represent Antigua and Barbuda have been unveiled.

The uniforms come in three colours, black, red and white and each athlete who represents the country at an overseas sporting event will receive a set.

Sports Minister, Daryl Matthew, said the days when national athletes represent the country without being properly uniformed are now over.



## BVI's McMaster expected 400m record, targets better health, faster times

Fresh off his new national indoor 400m record set at the Tiger Paw Invitational on Saturday, Kyron McMaster said he will focus on maintaining good health this season and he prepares to match strides with the world's best at the Olympic Games in Tokyo in July.

The 23-year-old British Virgin Islander set a new national record of 45.84s over 400 metres at the meet held at Clemson University on Saturday and says that he is as good as any 400-metre hurdler in the world and being in good health will allow him to show the magnitude of his immense talent.

In 2018, McMaster established himself among the world's elite 400m hurdlers when he clocked a personal best 47.54, one of the fastest times in the world that year when he won gold at the Commonwealth Games, NACAC Senior Championships and the CAC Games.

However, in 2019 he suffered injury setbacks that saw him miss the Pan Am Games and perhaps caused him not to be at his best for the World Championships



in Doha where he finished in fourth place in 48.10.

For 2020, he wants to put his injury worries behind him.

"My main focus is staying healthy and to dominate and execute my workouts. Competition is something I have been doing professionally now for four years so the mental preparation for races is always there. So, the main focus is staying healthy and executing workouts," he said, acknowledging that he can

successfully challenge 2019 World Champion Karsten Warholm, silver medallist Rai Benjamin and bronze medallist Abderrahman Samba during the coming outdoor season.

"I think I have the same calibre of talent and put in hard work to contest those athletes," he said.

"They set the bar high and it's just like the high jump, sort of. After one athlete clears the bar, the next competitors raise the bar and they surely did that,

and I am not trying to foul out this time."

He is confident he will be in the mix this season.

"I think I'm in pretty good shape this trip around compared to the last few years and I think I do stand a shot to challenge them at Olympics and on the circuit," he said.

Coming off a strong personal-best 32.91-run over 300m in January, McMaster said he was not surprised by the new national 400m indoor record.