



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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PRICE \$3

GOV'T, HOTELIERS MEET OVER VIRUS

Story on Page 3



Scholarship Winners - Pg 9

**COVID-19 readiness
in two weeks - Page 5**



Cruise Ship Port Schedule 2020

Date	Cruise Ship	Arrive-Depart	
Day	Ship	Arrival	Departure
1 March, 2020 Sunday	 Marella Celebration	08:00	18:00
2 March, 2020 Monday	 Azura	07:00	17:00
2 March, 2020 Monday	 Norwegian Gem	10:00	18:00
3 March, 2020 Tuesday	 Balmoral		
3 March, 2020 Tuesday	 Costa Magica	07:00	17:00
3 March, 2020 Tuesday	 AIDAperla	08:00	18:00
3 March, 2020 Tuesday	 AIDAluna	09:00	19:00
4 March, 2020 Wednesday	 Mein Schiff 2	07:00	19:00
4 March, 2020 Wednesday	 Oceania Sirena	09:00	19:00

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 3/4

Max UV Index: 9 Very High
Wind: E at 17 km/h
Wind Gusts: 26 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 47%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
Precipitation: 1.5 mm
Rain: 1.5 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm
Hours of Precipitation: 1.5
Hours of Rain: 1.5

28° Hi



Partial sunshine with a shower in the area

NIGHT 3/4

Wind: E at 15 km/h
Wind Gusts: 26 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 4%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 0%
Precipitation: 0.0 mm
Rain: 0.0 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm

22° Lo



Mainly clear

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:23AM



Sunset AST
6:15PM

Duration
11:52 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
1:16 AM



Moonset AST
2:47AM

Duration
13:31hr

Government and hoteliers meet over virus

An important meeting was convened on Tuesday between members of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association (ABHTA) and officials from the Ministry of Health, the Antigua Workers Unions and the Ministry of Tourism.

A release from the Ministry of Tourism said the meeting was convened to gain first-hand information on the possible threats posed by COVID 19 on the tourism industry and protocols that can be developed when dealing with a potential case.

The forum, held at the Antigua and Barbuda Hotel Training Institute (ABHTI), also provided an opportunity for a condensed training

session on cleaning and disinfecting presented by Ms. Janelle Williams of the Central Board of Health.

Minister of Tourism the Hon. Charles Fernandez outlined the priority areas for the government with regards to the hotel sector.

“My team and I recently concluded a tour of the isolation facility at the Margetson ward of the old Holberton Hospital to ascertain the progress of work being done as well as its suitability for the intended purpose and we are convinced that we are on the right track with regards to preparations there,” said Minister Fernandez.

The tourism minister is recommending the estab-



lishment of a hotline to the Ministry of Health where hoteliers and other industry partners can have 24 hr. access to pertinent information and advice regarding guest issues as they arise concerning COVID 19.

CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin James, stated that efforts are being placed towards collaborating with the Ministry of Health to establish a questionnaire to be used by all tour operators and booking agents to ascertain the travel history and state of health of all potential visitors to Antigua and Barbuda. This James reported should be completed by the end of the week.

Union representative, David Massiah, who recently returned from a meeting in the UK relating to workers issues that may arise in the threat of COVID 19 in the workplace, re-iterated the support of the union to resolve any employee/employer issues which may arise as a result of employee sick days, work schedule changes etc.

A channel of communication was opened between the hoteliers and Dr. Orita Zachariah which sought to enlighten on proper preventative methods for contraction of the coronavirus as well as updates on the current infection and mortality rate world-wide.

Hoteliers' questions also centered on travel ban protocols for countries which have registered high infection rates as well as procedures adopted locally for screening and testing visitors.

The Ministry of Health is the government lead agency for official updates and information regarding coronavirus protocols in Antigua and Barbuda.



PM welcomes Austrian diplomat

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has welcomed Ambassador-Designate of Austria, Stefan Weidinger to Antigua and Barbuda. The courtesy call witnessed the Austrian Ambassador presenting his credentials to the country's leader as they both engaged in discussions that seek to deepen diplomatic relations between the two countries.

in greeting the new Ambassador, impressed upon him to be integral and present in the Antigua and Barbudan community. "Please enjoy your stay here and we expect to see you very often especially when we have our ceremonies such as independence. It may help to enhance the bilateral relations between both countries." PM Browne stated.

Prime Minister Browne, The high-level meeting in-



cluded discussions on issues such as climate change, De-risking, tourism management, renewable energy, and further diplomatic relations.

During the courtesy visit, PM Browne highlighted that the issue of De-Risking within the European Union (EU) still hampers trade and banking for Antigua and the wider region. "When they (the EU), take certain actions and place us on these sanction lists, you have corresponding banks for example in Europe and the US that will act based on the information no matter how erroneous, and they take punitive action against us. They de-risk our banks and it becomes very difficult and certainly very expensive to facilitate trade with simple transactions," PM Browne illustrated.

The Prime Minister went on to explain how important it is to have the EU understand the effects of these punitive actions on the economy and livelihood of Small Island developing states.

"We value your friendship and we certainly value this relationship and we are asking you to assist us in the Council of the European Union to address the issues of De-risking and certainly the blacklisting that is affect-

ing us," he emphasized.

Throughout the diplomatic exchange, PM Browne reaffirmed his government's full commitment to cooperating with the Austrian Government and requested that the Ambassador consider the proposal in opening an Embassy in Antigua and Barbuda.

In response, the Austrian Ambassador thanked PM Browne for his warm welcome and stated that he fully understands the importance of having a permanent representative in the English-speaking Caribbean. Ambassador Weidinger commented that "It would make sense to have a permanent representation in Antigua and I will certainly support this in presenting my results from this visit to my ministry."

The ambassador also assured Prime Minister Browne that he will communicate the discussion points to his ministry and looks forward to ways both countries can strengthen people to people exchange.

Prime Minister Browne encouraged the visiting Ambassador to put together a working cooperation agreement as a follow-up mechanism.

WILL ANNEXED FORM P7 (b):

Rule 15

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

(Probate)

In the Estate of JAMES VESTA FRANCIS aka JAMES THEODORE DREW FRANCIS aka JAMES THEODORE DREW late of Liberta, St. Paul's, Antigua, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **JOAN FRANCIS** formerly of Newgate Street, in the Parish of St. John's, in the state of Antigua and Barbuda, presently residing in 668 East 225th Street, Bronx New York, in the United States of America for a Grant of Letters of Administration with Will Annexed of the above named deceased who died on 12th day of September, 2014 without revoking a will bearing the date of 6th day of September, 1999 wherein the Applicant is the sister and beneficiary of the estate. Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration with Will Annexed to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice. Dated this 27th day of February, 2020

JOAN FRANCIS

Filed by Peyton J. V. Knight of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates, Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Upper Newgate Street, P. O. Box 131, St. John's Antigua, and pknightslaw@gmail.com and (268)-562-1653.

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Rule 15

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ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION

PEYTON J. V. KNIGHT & ASSOCIATES
SOLICITORS

COVID-19 readiness in two weeks

There's a hive of activities taking place at the former Holberton Hospital to prepare the country for what is expected to be the arrival of the much-feared coronavirus in the country.

Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, is projecting that within two weeks the preparations are expected to conclude that will make it possible for the country to arrive at a state of readiness for the disease.

"We have a two-week window to be in a position



to declare that we are fully ready to take on the challenge. We currently have

five rooms to be allocated to isolation. These are ready except for the equipment that is needed to treat very sick people. These pieces of equipment should arrive by the end of the week," the minister reported.

One of the pieces of equipment that is needed is one that will keep the rooms what is called 'negative pressure'. He explained that this will ensure that nothing leaves the rooms where sick people are housed.

In addition, twelve rooms are also being readied specifically to house people in quarantine. The minister added that a further six rooms will be completed by the end of next week. Work is also being carried out on an area to house the nursing staff that will care for the sick and/or quarantined.

"We are making arrangements to complete an area to house the nurses. That too is expected to be ready by the end of next week," the minister further explained.

As work continues in these areas, the ministry is also focusing attention on preparing a laboratory that will be an integral feature of this facility. "The area designated for the lab is now being gutted and the chief chemist, Dr Christian, and I have visited the site for him to advise the architect of the best uses for the space," Joseph noted.

He announced that a team from the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) will be visiting the

cont'd on pg 6



Local News

Austria, Antigua and Barbuda to strengthen ties

Antigua and Barbuda is committed to strengthening ties with the European nation of Austria.

Those sentiments were expressed Tuesday when Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, met with the Austrian ambassador-designate to Antigua and Barbuda, Stefan Weidinger, during a courtesy call.

Greene used the opportunity to invite the Austrian diplomat to convey

to his government Antigua and Barbuda's desire on the issue. Additionally, he is asking Austria to consider the possibility of opening an embassy in St. John's. The minister said the government will gladly donate the lands upon which the embassy will be constructed.

Minister Greene noted that the government is interested in cooperating with Austria in the areas of tourism,

diplomatic training, renewable energy, and disaster resilience/management

Antigua and Barbuda is also reviewing an offer by Austria to help with establishing an OECS office in Vienna. Greene gave an undertaking to raise this matter with his Cabinet colleagues.



cont'd from pg 5

country shortly. Joseph said there was some talk about delaying the visit by a week so that the team will arrive in time to consult on the setting up of the lab.

Meanwhile, the ministry of foreign affairs has issued an official statement on the COVID19 epidemic. "The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has issued a travel advisory to all airlines to deny boarding to any foreign national (including passengers and crew) who has travelled to cities and

towns in Italy which have been quarantined by the Government of Italy.

"This is a direct result of the significant increase in the number of persons testing positive for the COVID-19 virus in recent days. However, citizens of Antigua and Barbuda as well as resident diplomats will be allowed entry. All airlines are kindly asked to provide advance passenger information of the scheduled arrival of citizens in order to facilitate the necessary quarantine," the statement said.



Big wage increases at odds with fiscal reality – PM Browne

Antigua and Barbuda simply does not have the fiscal capacity at present to pay public sector employees wages that are significantly higher than what they presently earn, says the one person best positioned to know.

Renowned for being a straight shooter when it comes to truths, however inconvenient, Prime Minister Gaston Browne says this inability to pay higher wages remains for now an inescapable reality, regardless of whether industrial agitation is mounted to press such demands – or even if a change of government is achieved.

The head of government, who is also this country's Minister for Finance, was speaking last Saturday on **Pointe FM's Browne and Browne Show**.

"We do recognize that salaries and wages have not kept pace compared to, let's say, the decade of the '70s and '80s," he conceded.

"But, again, I want to signal to the people of Antigua and Barbuda that it's not something we can fix overnight; it's not exclusive to Antigua and Barbuda. It is a problem, literally, in all countries of this hemisphere – and in other [parts of the world].

"Now, having said that, there has to be some lev-

el of forbearance, because there is no quick fix; and, if for example there was to be mass protest action here in Antigua – or any other country within the Caribbean – to demand a substantial increase in wages, where is this money going to come from? It cannot be sustained," he stated.

He recalled that two years ago his government had granted public servants a 5-percent "interim increase", saying, "We will have to give an additional amount ... and when we would have added that additional amount, it will far exceed what would have been offered in other Caribbean countries."

Browne said he hoped that those who were "pushing for an increase" were at least "able to appreciate the extra efforts of [his] government". Elaborating further, he said: "It's not that we have surpluses sitting on that we can give them increases."

He pointed out that this was exacerbated by the fact that Antigua and Barbuda had "the largest public service per capita in the entire Caribbean", and this seriously exacerbates the impact of granting large across-the-board wage increases to so many people.

GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA MINISTRY OF WORKS SECOND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION PROJECT CLERK OF WORKS REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB) has obtained financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOAB and upon approval by CDB and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purposes of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOAB shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

This Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Works (MoW), through the establishment of a Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU). A Project Coordinator within the PIMU shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities. Engineering Consultants shall be retained by MoW to assist with the supervision of the contract.

MoW (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") intends to engage the services of a Clerk of Works (CW) for the duration of the project implementation phase.

The objective of the consultancy is the effective and timely achievement of the project outputs and outcome(s) through efficient delivery of services.

CW will report to the Project Coordinator, PIMU or an officer designated and will be assigned exclusively to the unit. His/her duties will include, but will not be limited to:

1. Monitor and inspect work of construction contractor for assigned projects on behalf of the Consultant.
2. Review contract documents, drawings and specifications in order to maintain familiarity with assigned projects and insure construction contractor's full understanding of documents.
3. Review contractor shop drawings and provide comments on conformance/non-conformance to Resident Engineer.
4. Act as liaison between consultant and contractor.
5. Conduct on-site observation and spot-checks of work in progress.
6. Ensure contract compliance by the contractor, such as conducting tests specified in contract and installing materials/equipment as specified in contract, and report deficiencies to Resident Engineer and contractor.
7. Provide reports on all on-site matters, including third-party inspections, progress, safety concerns, and causes for delay.
8. Maintain job-site files, documents, reports and daily log; prepare periodic reports for Project Manager as required.
9. Attend all job-site meetings in conjunction with project manager.
10. Receive, record, present for approval, and maintain custody of samples submitted by construction contractor.
11. Review requests for progress payments measurements submitted by construction contractor and forward with recommendations to Project Manager.
12. Perform related duties as assigned.

Prospective candidates must possess the minimum following qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in construction technology, quantity surveying, building science or related field and four years of related experience in civil construction in capacity such as clerk of the works or project manager's assistant.
2. Ability to read and interpret engineering drawings, specifications, codes, and other material pertinent to construction.
3. Working knowledge of civil construction components and systems.
4. Knowledge of construction materials means and methods.
5. Knowledge of applicable building codes, Life Safety and hazardous materials.
6. Excellent written and oral communication skills and ability to establish and maintain professional working relationships.
7. Ability to wear/use personal protective equipment as needed on construction site.

The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of twenty-four (24) months.

GOAB now invites interested eligible individuals to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualification and experience required to provide these services.

Individual Consultant shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) the persons are citizen or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and
- (b) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to qualifications and experience on similar assignments. All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the third address below between 0800 and 1600 hours, Mondays to Fridays.

Four (4) hard copies of the Expressions of Interest must be received at the first address no later than 1500 hours local time on 30th March, 2020 and one electronic copy must be sent to CDB at the second address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked "Expression of Interest – Clerk of Works (CW) Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project"

Following the assessment of submissions, the most technically capable and appropriately experienced applicant will be invited to negotiate a contract to provide the consultancy services. GOAB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not selecting any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

Chairman, Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance
Government Office Complex
Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Tel: (268) 562-5825 / 5826
Fax: (268) 562-1717
Email: tenders.board@ab.gov.ag

Project Coordinator
Ministry of Works
St. John's Street
St. John's
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Tel: +268 562 1867
Fax: +268 462 4622
Email: projectcoordinator.works@ab.gov.ag

Procurement Policy Unit
Caribbean Development Bank
procurement@caribank.org

Minister pledges resources for chemical safety

The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) is from Monday March 2 until Friday March 6, 2020 observing Pesticides Awareness Week under the theme, *'The Many Faces of Chemicals Management'*.

The Board is a division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs.

In her address marking the occasion, Minister Samantha Marshall noted that the Board, with the support of Cabinet, has established an Inspectorate that has commenced the inspection of chemical retailers.

She said the goal of the initial inspection phase is to chart a path towards full compliance with the Law.

Punitive measures are not envisioned within this initial phase of enforcement action, the Minister stated, but rather a collaborative and cooper-

ative approach toward sound management of chemicals.

Activities for the week include providing an understanding of the legislation which governs the judicious use of pesticides and toxic chemicals in Antigua and Barbuda; highlighting the need for collaboration between the various regulatory agencies and the

commercial dealers and users of toxic chemicals; emphasizing the need for commercial pest control operators and distributors to function within the scope of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals legislation; establishing timelines for compliance and increasing public awareness.

"Chemicals provide a means to manage or eradicate pests before they reach a level that pose an uncontrollable risk to human, animal, and environmental health," the Minister observed. She

said it was important to recognize that "chemicals are inherently toxic and should be managed throughout their lifecycle to safeguard the health of our communities and our environment.

"Mismanagement of chemicals, inclusive of poor regulatory practices," Minister Marshall added, "increases the risk of potential negative effects and potential irreversible harm to humans and the ecosystem, as many of these chemicals may cause severe health impacts [including] but not limited to cancer, damage to the [reproductive and] hormonal system and varied physical reactions.

She gave the assurance that the current Gaston Browne administration is committed to ensuring that the PTCB is provided with the necessary financial and other resources to ensure compliance with the law.

Scouts Association names new executive

A new executive has been elected to manage the affairs of the Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association following the organisation's annual general meeting last week.

The new executive is led by Chairman of the Council, Vinema Jarvis, Vice-Chairman of the Council, Cordel Josiah, Honorary Treasurer, Charrelle Browne, Honorary Secretary, Dr. Janil Gore-Francis, Leader Representative, Leslie Scotland, Leader Representative, Kenny Richards, Leader Representative, Paget Terry, Lay Member (Public Relations Officer), R. Anderson Edghill, Lay Member Dean Ernest Flemming, Lay Member, Phillip Isaacs



Sr., and Lay Member, Derrick Nicholas.

Three distinguished individuals continue to serve as Trustees to the Association.

They are Dame Eusalyn Lewis, Dr. Hayden Thomas, and Clarence Pilgrim.

The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams serves

as Chief Scout of the Association, with Patricia Salmon serving as Ex Officio Member in the capacity of Chief Commissioner.

Scholarship winners recount 'wonderful' experiences

Two young women who recently returned from successfully completing Masters' Degree studies in the United Kingdom through the Chevening Scholarship initiative, are encouraging other nationals to apply for the programme.

Since 1983, Chevening has brought over 50,000 exceptional professionals from over 160 countries around the world to study in the UK through scholarships and fellowships funded by the UK government.

At a reception held at Freedom Hall Tuesday night to celebrate their successful completion of the programme, the young women – Sasha-Gay Middleton and Trecia-Gaye Malcolm – both young women described one of the highlights of their lives so far.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to study and live in the UK...it was a vigorous programme, but would I trade it? Certainly Not! It was an incredible experience where sometimes I questioned myself, but in the end, it brought out important skills set in me," Malcolm told the audience. She added that she now knows her strengths and weaknesses as she moves into another phase of life, the world of work.

For her part, Middleton said she was humbled to have been selected as one



of 1,800 recipients of the scholarships from over 65-thousand applicants. "The experience was in a word 'unforgettable'. I went there with no friends and knowing no one, but I was able to interact with so many people from so many different countries that I have been able to forge friendships that will last for a long time," she recalled.

Both women were especially thankful for the opportunities the scholarship offered for them to travel widely. They traveled throughout Europe and even spent two weeks in Uganda working with people there on the challenges they face in their developmental thrust.

British High Commissioner representative, Lindsay Thompson described the Chevening Scholarship Programme as unique opportunity that has helped to elevate careers, transform communities, shift and deepen perspectives, and

towards their countries," she declared.

The UK government official noted that in Antigua and Barbuda Chevening scholars and alumni are exceptional. "We have alumni who are leading the way in journalism, in the financial sector, in pathology, and have even served as a Prime Minister. There is no doubt that Antigua and Barbuda has benefited from the investment that has been made in our alumni's learning, and from their subsequent efforts in their careers," she added.

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Date: Monday, 2nd March 2020

Time: 08:30AM - 11:30AM

Affected areas: Upper section of St. John's street near Public Works.

Date: Tuesday, 3rd March 2020

Time: 08:30AM - 01:00PM

Affected areas: Bolans area.

Date: Thursday, 5th March 2020

Time: 08:30 AM - 01:00 PM

Affected areas: New Field, St. Phillip, Freetown, Half Moon Bay, Mill Reef & Browne Bay area.

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page.

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

FAO consultants meet with pineapple producers

The Antigua Black Pineapple producers training session was the last activity of the FAO's Mission here in Antigua.

A group of FAO Consultants have been meeting with various target groups to sensitize participants on GI as a tool for rural development and intellectual property protection and benefits for Antigua and Barbuda.

The objective of Monday's meeting was to get into the details of specifications in terms of what can be defined to build a Geographical Indication on the Antigua Black Pineapple.

Although overseas-based FAO Consultant Catherine Teyssier thinks the Antigua Black has great prospect for becoming a GI, she thinks that the production of the commodity needs to be strengthened.

"I think its high potential for the local market because tourists in particular, they are looking for it, but we have some production issues as production today is really weak so there will be a need to support the producers," Teyssier stated

In recent times, government is moving to bolster production of the local commodity with the Pineapple Expansion Programme at Cades Bay.

FAO Consultant, Mr. Julius Ross noted that discussions at yesterday's meeting highlighted some of the prob-



lems and challenges which farmers are facing and they also came with some useful suggestions which can help to determine the specifications of the product in order to arrive at a GI.

According to Ross, based on the discussions, it was clear that planting material is one of the issues that they will have to look at with a view of giving very clear instructions.

A Pineapple taste test using local and imported pineapples was also conducted during yesterday's meeting and based on the feedback, it was concluded that the Antigua Black was the preferred choice.

"The taste test that we did with the two pineapples; the imported one and the local one, was very interesting indeed and you can clearly see from the results that the Antigua Black is the preferred variety to the other one which was imported and although it was a small tasting, brought out the



point of the quality of the Antigua Black Pineapple," Ross said.

Ms. Ricki Camacho from the Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office, welcomed the meeting and said that she is looking forward to working with the farmers in making the progressive step with regards to Geographical Indications.

"I think today's session regarding technical specifications is very important to bring all the farmers/producers, who are really the most important part of this whole process, together. I think that it will benefit all of us in the future if we are able to work along with our farmers who really will make this whole process a success and really help us to define the Antigua Black with regards to technical specifications and I look forward to continually working with the farmers in hopes to one day registering the geographical indications that's known as the Antigua Black Pineapple."

Francis Henry, A former director of agriculture who has been in farming basically all his life, also shared his views on the meeting.

"Well I think it's an important step in the commercialization of the pineapple; getting to a trademark it's an important aspect. We produce but other people can produce and get into our market; I think this would be an important facet to brand your produce and ensure that you can get the best price for it."





NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING RATES

	B & W	COLOR
CENTER SPREAD	2,200.00	3,500.00
FULL PAGE	900.00	1,600.00
MINI PAGE	800.00	1,200.00
HALF PAGE - VERTICAL	600.00	850.00
QUARTER PAGE	350.00	500.00
EIGHT OF A PAGE	250.00	350.00
PROBATE	240.00	350.00
16TH OF A PAGE	120.00	300.00
CLASSIFIED - PERSONAL	30.00	
CLASSIFIED - PROFESSIONAL	60.00	125.00



POINTE FM RADIO ADVERTISING RATES

RADIO RATES	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
3 SPOTS DAILY	165.00	990.00	3,366.00
4 SPOTS DAILY	200.00	1,200.00	4,080.00
6 SPOTS DAILY	270.00	1,620.00	5,508.00
30 TO 45 SECS ADS			

MENTIONS			
3 MENTIONS DAILY	120.00	600.00	2,040.00
4 MENTIONS DAILY	160.00	800.00	2,720.00
6 MENTIONS DAILY	240.00	1,200.00	4,080.00

PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

PRIME TIME	30 MINS 500.00
NON-PRIME TIME	30 MINS 250.00

POINTE XPRESS & POINTE FM RADIO COMBO ADVERTISING RATES

	B & W	COLOR
MINI PAGE 4 MENTIONS	750.00	1,199.00
HALF PAGE 4 MENTIONS	600.00	850.00
CLASSIFIED ADS & 4 MENTIONS	150.00	-
QUARTER PAGE & 3 MENTIONS	350.00	500.00
CENTER SPREAD & 3 RADIO ADS OR 6 MENTIONS	1,900.00	3,200.00

New employees caught in shock closure

One hundred and forty-nine staff members, some of whom were supposed to spend their first day on the job on Monday after leaving their former jobs, have been cut deepest by the abrupt closure of three upscaled restaurants.

With mounting bills, families to support and children to feed, employees of Cin Cin by the Sea, Hugo's Barbados and Primo Bar and Bistro, all members of Chaps Restaurants Limited are now facing an uncertain future about when and how severance will be paid to them.

The confused and frustrated former employees vented their frustration while attending a meeting at the company's Canewood, St. Michael offices around 4 p.m after being informed of the company's closure while preparing this morning for another day of work. Hours before, Chief Executive Officer Joanne Pooler explained the company's decision not to inform workers of the closure was

to ensure they maintained the high quality of service expected of them. The workers still don't know how much money they will be getting beyond last week's pay.

"I just took on three guys who quit their jobs to come to Hugo's last week. All last week they could have told us not to let these guys quit their jobs and come to Hugo's. This is very unprofessional and this has hurt me to the core," revealed an assistant manager at the Sand Street, Speightstown restaurant.

He explained that some of the company's directors had not even been informed of the decision.

In a memo sent to staff and printed on the front of each restaurant, Pooler explained that the decision to close was based on declining revenues due to overall guest spend, increased government taxes and "unfair" duty-free tax concessions given to restaurants attached to hotels but not to standalone restaurants.



Chaps Restaurants' CEO Joanne Pooler



Confused and frustrated employees turned up for work on Monday

"It was six in the morning [on Monday]. I just woke up. How am I to tell all of my staff that they are out of a job and we hadn't been informed formally. It's just chaos... total chaos," the assistant manager told Barbados TODAY.

In the parking lot of the

Canewood offices, a 25-year-old man stood aimlessly in the parking lot. He told reporters he had just quit his job at KM2 Solutions as a Data Entry clerk and was eager to start work on Monday as a host at Hugo's. "I am disappointed, a little angry. I am pissed because I have other things that I have to do like paying rent, child support, and bills. I really don't know what to say about that. I just have to wait and see," he said.

Casey Collins, 33 also resigned from his previous job and officially started as a waiter just last week. He explained that he was the only employed person in his household and bills had been mounting. For other more longstanding employees, rumors had been swirling for as long as two years. But such questions were often quelled by the CEO, they said. During

cont'd on pg 13

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The evolution of road safety

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REGULARLY**

cont'd from pg 12

the day, Minister of Tourism Kerrie Symmonds blasted the company's top brass for its treatment of workers as he walked out of a meeting at Cin Cin along with Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment Marsha Caddle.

At the time, Symmonds indicated that the development caught the Barbados Government by surprise, but expressed hope that efforts would be made to minimise the dislocation caused as a result. "In all of this, I think it is important for us to understand that labour matters in this country and it leaves a bad taste in everybody's mouth if you create a situation where there is no prior

notice given and people just come to work to find out there is no job and that is the part that I will not accept because tourism cannot be about the investor only. It has to be about the people who are making it work on a day by day basis. "So we have made it very clear, even if we can come to some form of cooperation going forward, there has to be an understanding that that type of approach to investment is not going to be acceptable in Barbados," he said. Barbados TODAY understands workers were informed that the company needs 700,000 to pay severance and is contemplating filing for bankruptcy so it can liquidate its assets.



Press Release

This October Antigua will be the host to one of the world's largest leadership empowerment movement. The Global Leadership Summit (GLS) aims to inspire world-class transformational leadership to create a movement of leaders to maximizing their full leadership potential to impact the world. The local branch, GLS Antigua, will be hosting a soft launch on April 16 2020 to introduce the initiative to the Antigua and Barbuda public.

The main event in October of 2020, comes as a precursor to the Global Leadership Summit which is a two-day, world-class conference experience broadcasted every August to hundreds of satellite locations in North America. Their initiative is to spread leadership content across the globe, which has been quite successful in various countries. The Summit takes place at over 900 host sites and 135 countries across the globe. The Global Leadership Summit (GLS) is more than an event. It is a catalyst for change and a resource to be leveraged for community impact throughout the year. The GLS lies at the heart of a movement that is seeing people around the world grow in their leadership, resulting in a tremendous positive impact on society. Our partners are made up of teams of leaders across all sectors, including churches and Fortune 500 companies, who are drawn together by a vision to see the world impacted. Further, they are driven by a fundamental belief that everyone has influence. The Global Leadership Summit has seen speakers such as Melinda Gates- wife of Bill Gates Microsoft Founder, Condoleezza Rice - United States Secretary of State, Rory Vaden - A New York Times Best Selling Author and many more. The Global Leadership Summit Antigua branch would like to invite you to our Soft Launch on Thursday 16th, April, 2020.

About GLS Antigua

The GLS Antigua Steering Committee comprises of
 Telephone: 1(268) 720-5523/784-8181
 Email: globalleadershipsummitanu@gmail.com
 Instagram: @gls.anu

Picture above -Steering committee: starting from the left Chairperson - Ms. Cherry Ann Casimir, Production Manager - Mr. William Dorsette , Marketing and Resource Manager - Ms. Rickisha Terry, Events Manager - Mr. Kareem Thomas - Committee Members, Mr. Cameron Singh, Ms. Raisa Charles, Mr. Trevaun Solomon



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"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees." Is. 35:3

PRESS RELEASE

Climate - Smart Agriculture Project Combating Effects of Climate Change on local Agricultural Sector



With the negative effects of climate change being felt by farmers across the world, a timely partnership between the Sandals Foundation and the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development (GARD Center) led to the creation of a yearlong program which promoted and strengthened Climate - Smart Agriculture across Antigua and Barbuda, with a special focus on hydroponics. The Sandals and Yellow Bird Foundations provided over US\$42,000 funding for the program. We are also indebted to the Ministry of Agriculture through its Agricultural Extension Division who provided an Extension Officer as a trainer. CARDI and IICA were also integral partners over the period of this project.

The Center wishes to sincerely thank the Sandals Foundation for this partnership which allowed the Center to spearhead the 'Hydroponics movement' on Antigua in 2019, with over 125 participants trained in various aspects of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). This training raised the awareness on CSA and engaged youth and women to make sustainable decisions for their future and the future of our local agricultural sector.

A demonstration hydroponic unit at the GARD Center for future training courses in hydroponics was constructed. Mini hydroponic units were established at Jennings Secondary School; Trinity Academy and Pares Primary School. Persons living with disabilities from various communities

have also undergone training in Hydroponics in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons Living with Disabilities.

About GARD Center: GARD Center is a grassroots non-profit, non-government organization which operates under the auspices of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA). For the past thirty (30) years the Center has been working ardously with at-risk youth; men and women in the community to engage them in various forms of agriculture for sustainability in this 21st century.

About the Sandals Foundation: A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, The Sandals Foundation was created to continue and to expand upon the philanthropic work that Sandals Resorts International has undertaken. It is the culmination of three decades of dedication to playing a meaningful role in the lives of the communities where we operate across the Caribbean. The Sandals Foundation funds projects in three core areas: education, community and the environment.

Grenada Charter flight passengers refused entry

- Linda Straker

Health Minister Nickolas Steele said that Grenada did not allow travellers to disembark from a charter flight with Chinese businesspeople because two of the passengers were recently in China and Singapore. "Grenada still has a travel restriction in place for anyone who travelled there and so we had to act accordingly."

Steele confirmed the plane which landed at Maurice Bishop International Airport (MBIA) with 7 passengers didn't come directly from China to Grenada, but stopped in the Cape Verde islands.

"We are also on high alert in Grenada and the rest of the region and that also required us to be provided with additional information about the passengers when

submitting manifest requirements, and what we received guided us in making the decision to have them not disembark," he added.

The flight with its passengers continued to Barbados which currently has no travel restrictions in place for Covid-19, but provides screening for high temperature and other symptoms of all arriving passengers.

This is the third charter flight with Chinese businesspeople to arrive in Grenada since the coronavirus became a global health concern. The passengers of the first two were allowed to disembark because they were not considered a health risk. The first came from Beijing and the second from Panama. It is not clear if they are on China state business with state officials or private sector representatives in the region.



Health Minister Nickolas Steele

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Former Miss Jamaica contestant dies after beating at ATM in New York

Former Miss Jamaica contestant, Tamara Sinclair.



A former Miss Jamaica contestant, Tamara Sinclair, died last month, presumably from injuries she sustained when a Bronx woman and her friends reportedly beat her up after she refused to let her attacker into a bank lobby. As a result, a woman, Reign Harney, is now facing murder and robbery charges in relation to the death of Sinclair, who was a nursing assistant. Harney was arrested last week and arraigned in the Bronx Criminal Court last Friday. Reports are that Sinclair, 44, was in a TD Bank vestibule on White Plains Road near Pelham Parkway South on February 11, when Harney banged on the glass door, demanding that Sinclair let her in. Sinclair refused and later crossed the street to a Bank of America location, where Harney and two friends reportedly attacked her. Police responded to the assault, but no report was filed. One of

the women who is still at large, snatched Sinclair's cell phone, pushed her to the ground and kicked her when she tried to fight back, prosecutors said. Another of the assailants took Sinclair's wallet, gave it to Harney to rifle through, and kicked the victim down the bank vestibule steps, according to court papers. Sinclair filed a police report on February 17. Three days after that, she went to Montefiore Medical Centre complaining of head and chest pains, police sources said. A doctor warned Sinclair that blood clots that developed from the beating could kill her, but her family said she feared a big hospital bill, so she went home. She subsequently died at home.

The NYPD is investigating why no report was filed the day of the attack, and trying to apprehend the other two persons who were reportedly involved in the attack.

News Release

Popular Steel Pan Activist and foundation ember of Hell Gate Steel Orchestra, Eustace Henry better known as Manning dies at Mount St. John's Medical Centre Monday night at the age 90. Manning who received National Award of the country for outstanding contribution to culture was taken to the hospital Monday afternoon and died hours after arriving to Mount St. John's Hospital. A spokesman for the family said Manning also worked at the General Post Office in St. John's for over thirty (30) years. He is from the area of Bryson Street.

Talks Appear To Falter As Carnival Threatens To Pull Vessels Over Coronavirus Protocols

Jamaica is at risk of losing at least three ship calls this week as a “stand-off” over protocols between the Ministry of Health and Wellness and Carnival Cruise Limited deepened last night, with the cruise line threatening to bypass the country if the Government failed to soften its stance on safeguards against the deadly novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Up to last night (Monday night), ministry officials were locked in discussions with senior executives of the cruise line who warned of their intention if local authorities did not relent on the stringency of protocol demands.

Carnival’s hard-line position was triggered after one of its ships was initially denied landing privileges to Ocho Rios yesterday until further information was provided. Passengers from nations on Jamaica’s ban list were not allowed to disembark.

“It could be a stand-off the way it is now, but this is something that we have to hold true to,” Minister of Health and Wellness Dr Christopher Tufton told *The Gleaner* on Monday night in summing up the stalemate.

“The Carnival people are saying that they are going to be pulling their vessels from

Jamaica. I think they have three due to come in this week. But they were making some demands of us to give them guarantees, based on what they say they would do,” Tufton said.

With more than 3,000 COVID-19 deaths and almost 90,000 infections globally, Jamaican government officials drew a red line last week, preventing the MSC Meraviglia from docking in Ocho Rios.

Tufton said the cruise vessel was denied access because it was in breach of the Quarantine Act, as authorities did not file that they had health concerns on board. The Costa Luminosa was forced to await clearance last Friday and a limited number of persons on board disallowed from disembarking.

The health and wellness minister said last night that the Government was unwilling to exercise the flexibility demanded by Carnival, insisting that the health risks to its population were paramount.

“Our position is that we can’t give those guarantees because there are certain procedures that are required for them to file, prior to the ship landing or within a certain time, and we require those as a matter of our pro-



Minister of Health and Wellness Dr Christopher Tufton

ocols. They are now saying that we don’t have any protocols and they can’t come to Jamaica, so they are bypassing Jamaica, and I think they may be doing it to St Lucia, too.

“My position is simple. We value the cruise industry and the benefits that it brings in terms of the tourists that come ... but at this point in time, the reality is that the health and safety of the Jamaican people and population in light of the coronavirus is an absolute priority.”

The Ocho Rios cruise ship

schedule has four Carnival cruise vessels – Horizon, Sunrise, Vista, and Sensation – down to make a total of nine visits to Ocho Rios from March 3-31.

So far, Jamaica has recorded no cases of COVID-19, but health authorities are fearful given the rate of spread, with more than 30 new countries impacted in the last week alone.

Speaking to *The Gleaner* last night, Michael Belnavis, chairman of the National Cruise Council and mayor of St Ann’s Bay, could

cont’d on pg 17

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not confirm if Carnival had decided to pull out of Ocho Rios, but said he would not be surprised of that development given the heightened concern over coronavirus.

Belnavis said he had spoken with Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett earlier in the day but the topic of Carnival suspending calls to Ocho Rios had not arisen.

He said, however, that local officials must take steps to avoid the spread of COVID-19 to Jamaica's shores – even if there is pushback from cruise lines.

"It's up to the island to make them feel comfortable, and yes, we want the business, but at the same time, we have to think of our people and ensure that there are no situations where we endanger the population," Belnavis said.

"It's a lose-lose situation when you have a ship come and they (passengers) can't come off the ship. What is

a win-win in that situation?"

Belnavis said if one person were to contract the novel coronavirus, it could damage the island's tourist industry.

"It's up to them (cruise lines) to insist that they check and double-check and triple-check, to ensure that there are no issues there. No issue with their workers and no issue with the people coming in (passengers). None. Zero tolerance!" he insisted.

Meanwhile, president of the St Ann Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the JHTA Ocho Rios and Runaway Bay chapter, Vana Taylor, declined to comment, saying she was unaware of any decision by the cruise line to change its schedule.

Jamaica has imposed travel restrictions on nationals of five countries - China, Italy, South Korea, Singapore, and Iran.

Non-essential travel is discouraged and personnel at all airports and sea-

ports have been sensitised, the ministry said. Jamaica has developed the local capacity to test for the virus and set up several quarantine facilities. A COVID-19 Coordinating Task Force will be appointed this week.

People's National Party President Dr Peter Phillips said on Sunday that his party was ready to be a part of a national response to the threat of coronavirus and possible economic fallout.

"We are prepared to help to manage the crisis if called upon by the Government.

"We are willing to work in every area and guide the Government through the economic crisis, crime and the corona crisis," Phillips said.

Speaking in Golden Spring at a political meeting, Phillips said that a PNP government would have moved months ago to set up a national task force and execute an emergency response.



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Amazon removes 1 million products for misleading claims, price gouging amid coronavirus outbreak

Lawmakers are calling for online platforms to be held liable for counterfeits.

Amazon has removed more than 1 million products for misleading claims or price gouging amid the novel coronavirus outbreak, the company confirmed Tuesday. "There is no place for price gouging on Amazon," a company spokesperson told ABC News. "We are disappointed that bad actors are attempting to artificially raise prices on basic-need products during a global health crisis, and, in line with our longstanding policy, have recently blocked or removed tens of thousands of offers."

In addition to the tens of thousands of offers removed due to price gouging, the company also confirmed it recently blocked or removed more than 1 million products for suspect or mislead-

ing claims as the COVID-19 outbreak fuels worldwide anxiety. The spokesperson added that Amazon "has always required sellers provide accurate information on product detail pages and we remove those that violate our policies."

The move comes after numerous media reports that the cost of face masks and hand sanitizers from third-party merchants was skyrocketing on the platform, and as Amazon was inundated with offers for health products with suspect health claims.

Facebook similarly announced it was banning ads on its platform that guarantee a cure, create a sense of urgency or otherwise attempt to cash-in on the COVID-19 outbreak.

On Monday, a group of bipartisan lawmakers also proposed a new bill, dubbed the Shop Safe Act, which would hold e-commerce platforms accountable for counterfeit goods sold on their sites.

"Consumer lives are at risk because of dangerous counterfeit products that are flooding the online marketplace," Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., said in a statement. "Congress must create accountability to prevent these hazardous items from infiltrating the homes of millions of Americans. The SHOP SAFE Act would make families safer by requiring online sellers to help prevent the sale of counterfeit products to consumers."

Hank Johnson, D-Ga., added that "counterfeit

products pose significant threats to consumer health and safety and have devastating impacts on businesses." "Platforms must do their part in ensuring that their sellers are reliable and that their products are authentic," Johnson said. "This legislation makes great strides in addressing the increasing problem of unsafe counterfeit products sold to unsuspecting consumers by encouraging platforms take steps that are reasonable, workable and necessary for keeping dangerous counterfeits out of consumers' hands."

An Amazon spokesperson responded to the proposed legislation in a statement, saying that it "strictly prohibits counterfeit" goods and has invested more than \$400 million to fight fraud and counterfeit abuse on its site.

"This past January, we committed to reporting all confirmed counterfeiters to law enforcement to help them build stronger criminal cases that can hold counterfeiters accountable," the statement added. "We are actively fighting bad actors and protecting our store and we will continue to work with brands, government officials and law enforcement."



A man wearing a face mask holds a box of the American electronic commerce company Amazon in Central district, Hong Kong, Feb. 12, 2020.

25 dead in Tennessee as tornadoes wreak havoc on towns including Nashville

A state of emergency has been declared in Tennessee.

Twenty-five people have been killed after devastating tornadoes ripped through Nashville and other areas of Tennessee, flattening homes, tossing airplanes and downing power lines, according to the governor. The tornado in Nashville was just one of three to hit Tennessee early Tuesday. Nineteen people died in Putnam County, Tennessee, officials said. Fatalities were also reported in Wilson, Davidson and Benton counties. People remained unaccounted for as of Tuesday afternoon, particularly in Putnam County, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee said.

A state of emergency has been declared in Tennessee. Two of those killed were Michael Dolfini, 36, and Albree Sexton, 33, according to Nashville police. About 47,000 are without power and dozens of buildings have collapsed, officials said. Winds reached at least 155 mph -- EF-3 tornado level -- in Mount Juliet and Donelson.

Some Super Tuesday polling stations were impacted, officials said. Alternative locations will be offered for voters. Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett said residents can call the Division of Elections toll-free at 1-877-850-4959. A judge ruled that all Tennessee polling stations will have to extend Super Tuesday hours, a Democratic Party spokeswoman told The Associated Press. Nashville resident James Duncan said sirens started in the middle of the night before "howling" winds moved in.

"Things started hitting the window, and my girlfriend and I shot out of bed and darted for the bathroom. We could hear objects slamming against the building ... it was terrifying," Duncan told ABC News. "They say tornadoes sound like a train ... they were not lying. The feeling in my head from the



A man walks past storm debris following a deadly tornado, March 3, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn. A man walks past storm debris following a deadly tornado, March 3, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn. Mark Humphrey/AP

pressure was insane. I've never felt anything like it. We were shaking."

"Then the power cut out and the noise started to fade," he continued, but he smelled a gas leak and first responders quickly evacuated the apartment to investigate the suspected leak.

"Downed power lines were everywhere," Duncan added. "We had to walk roughly a mile through the debris and wreckage 'til we could get to a zone where a friend could pick us up. I was trying to reach out to friends in the area to see if they were OK. It was chaos. It felt like we were in a bad dream." Jeremy Vaughn said he spotted "the funnel cloud" and heard what sounded like a train. He told ABC News he ran down to the first floor of his apartment building, where he huddled with his neighbors, who "were crying and screaming -- we didn't know what was going on." Outside, Vaughn added, it "looked like a war zone," with the apartment building's roof on the ground, the street littered with insulation and pieces of wood.

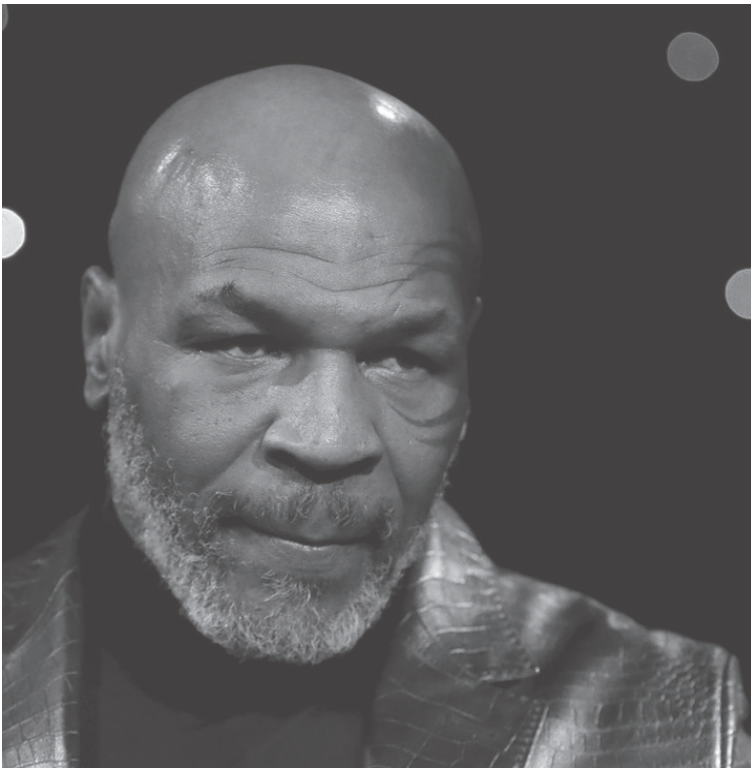
In hard-hit Mt. Juliet, 7-year-old Brock Maxwell was rescued by Mt. Juliet Fire chief Jamie Luffman in the aftermath of the twister. Brock's family took video of the moment Luffman carried him to safety across live wires in the middle of the night. The twist-ers left planes decimated at the John

C. Tune Airport in West Nashville. No one there was injured and crews from Nashville International Airport will help rebuild, said Doug Kreulen, Nashville International Airport president and CEO. President Donald Trump in a tweet pledged the federal government's support. Trump said he will travel to Tennessee on Friday.

While the "damage is devastating," residents are already stepping up to help their community, according to Nashville Mayor John Cooper. He said the website for Nashville volunteer organization Hands On Nashville has crashed three times from so many people trying to sign up to volunteer. More than 5,000 people signed up by Tuesday afternoon, he said. The damage and power outages shuttered Nashville schools Tuesday and Wednesday.

The mayor posted photos of himself assessing the severe damaging at one Nashville elementary school. Nashville is the capital of country music and stars have spoken out in the wake of the destruction. Country music singer Maren Morris tweeted that "the tornado must have missed our block by an inch." "I am so depleted looking at the damage that has happened to our beautiful city. There are so many people in the streets helping already, though," she said. "Thinking of those who lost their loved ones + homes."

Mike Tyson cries as he reveals he feels 'empty' after retiring from boxing



Tyson, a former heavyweight champion, said he is working on "the art of humbleness."

By Janelle Griffith

Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson broke down in tears during a recent episode of his podcast featuring Sugar Ray

Leonard, saying he feels "empty." During the episode of "Hotboxin' with Mike Tyson," he told Leonard, "I know the art of fighting, I know the art of war.

That's all I've ever studied. That's why I'm so feared, that's why they feared me when I was in the ring. I was an annihilator, that's all I was born for."

"Now those days are gone. It's empty, I'm nothing," Tyson, 53, said.

He said he is working on "the art of humbleness."

"That's the reason why I'm crying, 'cause I'm not that person no more. And I miss him."

Tyson, who was disqualified from a fight in 1997 after he bit a chunk out of Evander Holyfield's right ear, said he is fearful of his old self.

"'Cause sometimes I feel like a b----," he said on his podcast. "Because I don't want that person to come out 'cause if he comes out, hell is coming with him."

"And it's not funny at all," he said. "It's not cool,

like, I'm a tough guy. It's just that I hate that guy. I'm scared of him."

Tyson was convicted of rape in 1992 and served three years in prison. He retired from boxing in 2005.

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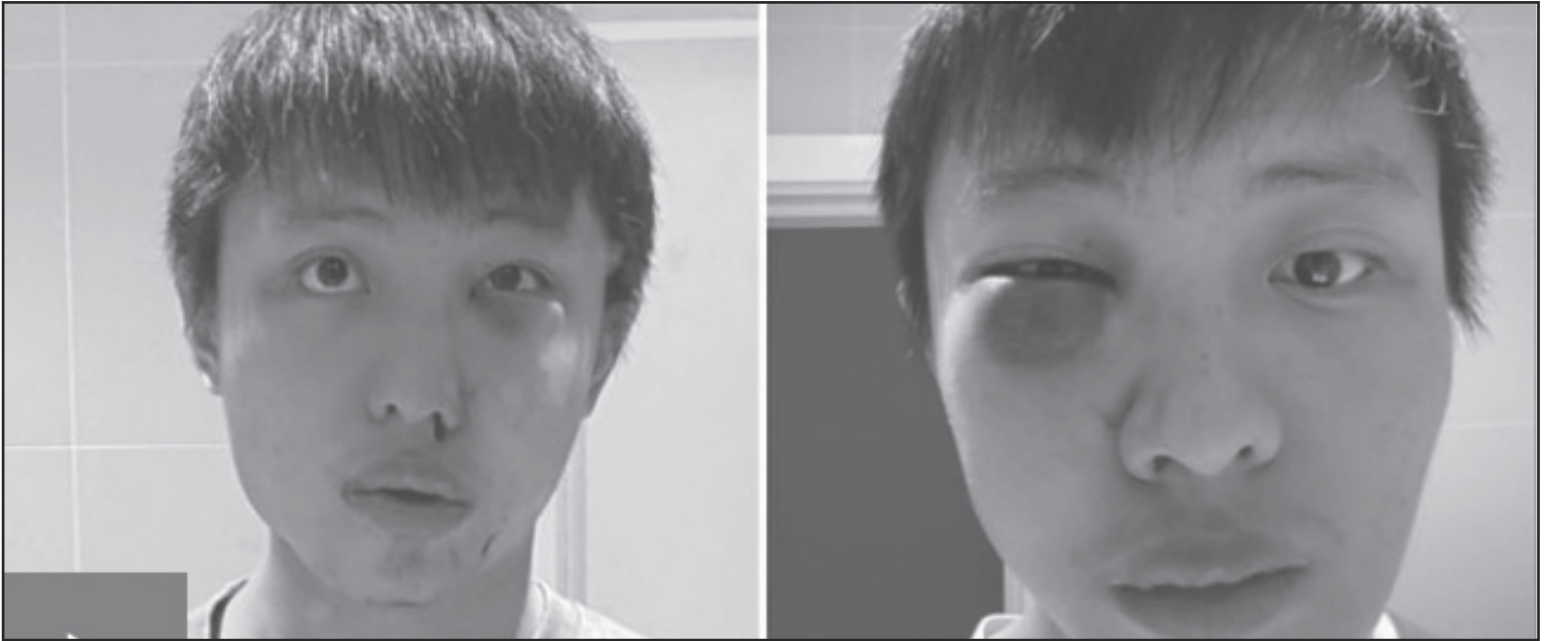
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Coronavirus: Student from Singapore hurt in Oxford Street attack



"I was attacked because of the colour of my skin"

A student from Singapore has said he was beaten up by a group of men who told him: "I don't want your coronavirus in my country."

Jonathan Mok, 23, said he was walking down Oxford Street last Monday when he heard shouts of "coronavirus".

When he confronted the four men, he said, they

launched a surprise attack that left him badly hurt.

The Met Police said it was treating the attack as "racially aggravated". No arrests have been made.

University College London student Mr Mok, who included pictures of his injuries in a widely shared Facebook post, said he was attacked at about 21:15 GMT near to Tottenham

Court Road station.

Describing the attack, he wrote: "All of a sudden, the first punch was swung at my face and took me by surprise."

Mr Mok said his face was "exploding with blood" from the attack, which left him in "daze and shock".

He said the coronavirus outbreak has been used by some as an excuse to

"further hatred for people different from them".

"I just think it's a pity to have such experiences taint the image of this beautiful city with so many nice people," Mr Mok added.

Up to a fifth of the workforce may be off sick during the peak of a coronavirus epidemic in the UK, the government has said in its latest plans.

NIGHTLY NEWS



99.1 FM RADIO

WITH **PHIL GEORGE**

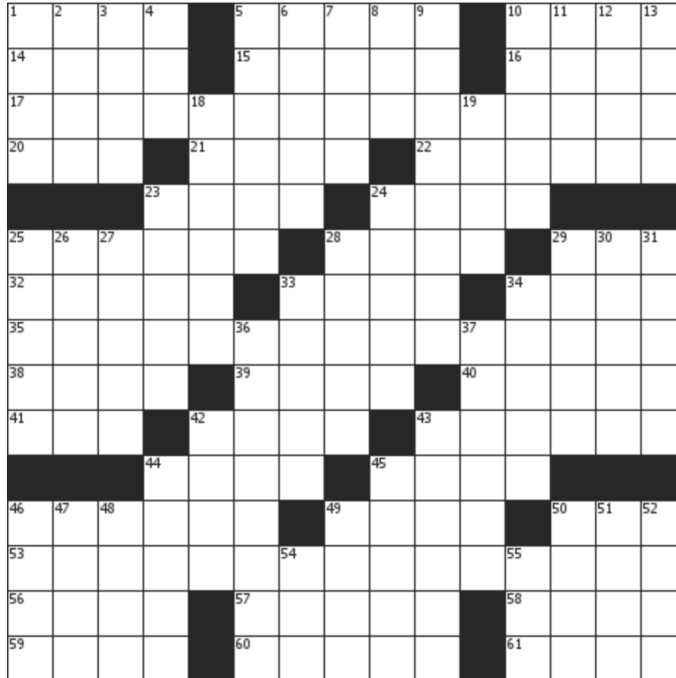
MONDAY - FRIDAY
6:30PM | 6:30AM



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Shrews
 5. Standard
 10. Ga. Tech grad, perhaps
 14. Distinctive atmosphere
 15. Part of UNCF
 16. Peeve
 17. Fodder for Freud
 20. Lengthen (with "to")
 21. Thai temples
 22. Quieted a crying baby
 23. History muse
 24. It may be checkered
 25. Handicap
 28. Classify
 29. Patty Hearst's kidnap grp.
 32. Carolers' selections
 33. Diva ____ Te Kanawa
 34. Tuftlike mass
 35. Not the best way to live
 38. Ages upon ages
 39. Pipe fittings
 40. Mountain ridge
 41. Docs' helpers
 42. Beseached
 43. Did a teacher's job
 44. Sad comment
 45. Baseball Hall of Famer Vaughan
 46. Mythical inferior deity
 49. "That makes sense"
 50. Something the picky pick?
 53. Ready for battle
 56. Bridle attachment
 57. Like Harvard's walls
 58. Costa ____
 59. Cigarette substances
 60. Shrewd
 61. K-12, scholastically



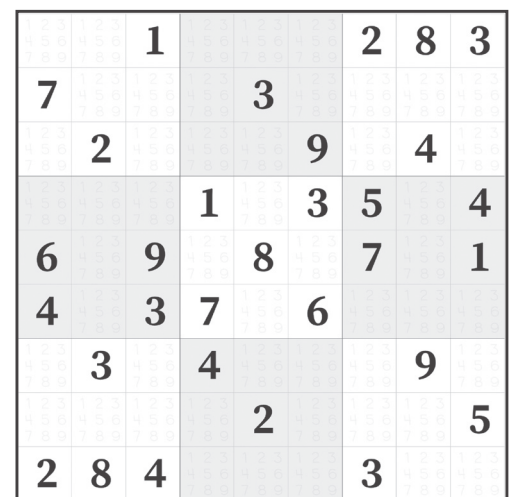
Down

1. Magellan org.
 2. First word of a famous song title
 3. Crossword puzzle part
 4. Easy mark
 5. Not just
 6. Heated argument
 7. Cries of aversion
 8. "Chances ____"
 9. Fictional ladies' man
 10. Dadaist Max
 11. Near, poetically
 12. Model airplane kit requirement
 13. Wind instrument
 18. Wise, figuratively
 19. Give the boot to
 23. Eases one's anxiety
 24. Cork and Corfu, for two
 25. Deduce
 26. Dummkopf
 27. Lowly workers
 28. Blind or broad attachment
 29. Turned on an axis
 30. Lenya or Lehmann
 31. Yearned
 33. What believers may fall on
 34. Quick raid
 36. View from the Maine coast
 37. Food source
 42. Walk heavily
 43. Excessively desirous
 44. Revival shouts
 45. Beyond the pale?
 46. Pub missile
 47. Environs
 48. Kuwaiti noble
 49. "Put ____ writing"
 50. First name among moonwalkers
 51. Sumac souvenir, perhaps
 52. Laotian's neighbor
 54. Breakfast of centurions?
 55. Before, in poesy

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Non Sequitur



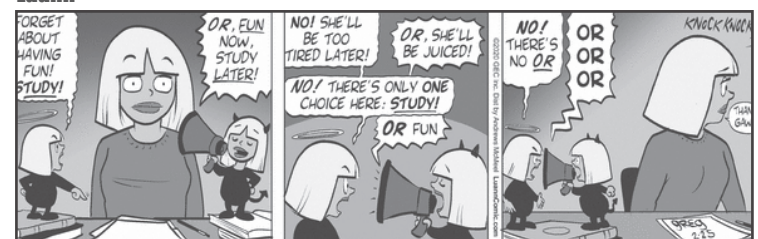
Cathy



Garfield



Luann



State College top OCS in School cricket

In the Ministry of Sports Under-19 two day competition Antigua State College rolled over Ottos Comprehensive Secondary School at Rising Sun.

Batting first ASC amassed 245 for 8 from 40 overs. Grayson Cuffy led the way with 53, while Demari Benta and Arantes Crump made 44 and 39 respectively.

Xaveek Topping picked up 3 for 64 and Francis Bowen 2 for 22.

OCS was rattled out for only 48 with Jaylen Francis grabbing 4 for 14 off 6 overs and Demari Benta 2 for 3 in

2 overs.

Batting a second time they were bundled out for 30 all out.

Jaylen Francis 4 for 2 off 5.5 overs and Demari Benta 2 for 8 off 7 overs.

Antigua State College victorious by an innings and 168 runs.



Cricket profile: Alzarri Joseph

West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph has been in outstanding form recently.

His father Alva Joseph appearing on the TIMEOUT program yesterday (Tuesday) said that he was very proud of the progress his son has been making.

The former Antigua and Barbuda opening batsman says his son has a good heart and has been contributing to young cricketers around the island.

The tall lanky fast bowler has been instrumental in acquiring equipments for the Empire Nation Cricket team, and young cricketers look forward to his return, as he makes his business to



ALZARRI JOSEPH

MOST WICKETS (ODIs)
WI TOUR OF SL 2020

BOWLING FIGURES

3/42 v SL, 22nd FEB 2020

3/57 v SL, 26th FEB 2020

4/65 v SL, 1st MAR 2020

IT'S OUR GAME. Sandals

assist them with gears.

Alva noted that, Alzari favorite form of the game is Test Cricket but he is looking forward to breaking into the T/20 set up.

The 23 year old fast bowler recently invested in a bowling machine, nets and other equipment with the vision of improving his game.

The former Empire opening batsman said he has been focusing recently on his 16 year old son Alzari Joseph who is an all rounder.

Joseph when asked about Leeward



West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph's father Alva Joseph

Islands Hurricanes says, he is disappointed with their performance and believed the time has come to invest in young talent.

The former right handed batsman says more investment is needed in facilities to assist the young cricketers in their development.

Alzari who arrived on island yesterday from Sri Lanka picked up 10 wickets in the three One Day Internationals.



Football Player profile: N. Starci Watkins

N. Starci Watkins, Cool and Smooth Empire captain, started playing football at the tender age of 8. He was introduced to the sport by former national players Micah Samuel and

Fernando Abraham.

He joined the Empire youth program at age 11 and has been with the Club since.

The team from Gray's Farm was relegated two years ago which saw a major movement of players away from the club, but Starci remained assuming a leadership role.

When asked about his future plans with the club he said to gain promotion this year and win silverware.

His favorite player coming up was Empire former player and president Lennie Quashi.

Watkins says he is confident with a few additions the young team can be successful if elevated this season.

Empire presently top Division one with 39 points and five games remaining.

The midfielder who has seven goals to date this season believes three wins in the five remaining games will see his team back in the big yard next season.



DEWS