



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 2020 | ISSUE 57 | www.pointville.ag

PRICE \$3

CONFRONTATION LOOMS IN BARBUDA

Story on Page 3

PM, Credit Unions meet



Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, is continuing his series of meetings with financial institutions designed to arrive at a consensus on a package of measures to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak and its aftermath. *See story on page 6.*

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.



Training for Security Officers

Fifteen individuals from the Antigua-Barbuda Defence Force, the Fire Department and the ONDCP have completed a refresher course in the field of Basic Donning and Duffing of their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The two-hour exercise was held on Tuesday under the guidance of Senior Advance Medical Technicians, Calvin Daley and Morvin Fiedtkou.

DAY 3/25

Max UV Index: 11 Extreme
Wind: E at 17 km/h
Wind Gusts: 22 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 40%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
Precipitation: 0.5 mm
Rain: 0.5 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm
Hours of Precipitation: 1
Hours of Rain: 1

28° Hi



Partly sunny with a shower in the area

NIGHT 3/25

Wind: ESE at 11 km/h
Wind Gusts: 18 km/h
Probability of Precipitation: 44%
Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
Precipitation: 1.0 mm
Rain: 1.0 mm
Snow: 0.0 cm
Ice: 0.0 mm
Hours of Precipitation: 1
Hours of Rain: 1

22° Lo



Partly cloudy with a stray shower

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:07AM



Sunset AST
6:19PM

Duration
12:12hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
7:01 PM



Moonset AST
7:29AM

Duration
12:28hr

Confrontation looms in Barbuda

A statement issued by the Barbuda Council seems likely to place further strain on the already tenuous relationship between the central government and the council.

In a statement issued to the media, the Barbuda Council has announced inter-island travel restrictions where strangers will not be allowed to enter the sister isle commencing Friday. It did not define 'strangers'.

Captioned, Public Health Alert, and signed by the secretary of the Council, Paul Nedd, it said the travel restrictions will be in place for 14 days and may be subjected for extension by the Council.

According to the statement the exceptions to the notification are essential flights (Emergency Medevac of patients), ACB flights, cargo vessels, fuel barge, sand barge and another emergency service sanctioned by the Barbuda Council.

Nedd said the decision was a unilateral one taken by the council without input or consultation with the government.

"We sent off letters to the Ministry of Health and copied to the Cabinet Secretary and the Minister of Barbuda Affairs, Samantha Marshall, but we have not had any response," Nedd told Pointe-Express newspaper.

He did not say when these letters were dispatched.

However, Minister Marshall said she has not re-

ceived any correspondence from the council nor did she hear from any of her colleagues regarding correspondence from the council.

"We were not notified about this. We heard it on the media like everybody else," she disclosed.

The minister, however, declined to comment further stating that she will raise the matter at today's meeting of the Cabinet seeking guidance from that body.

But Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel

'Max' Hurst says it is the Central Government that makes such a decision.

"Barbuda is not a sovereign state and the Barbudans have no authority to determine who enters the borders of Antigua and Barbuda. That is determined only by the central government," he declared. He described the move as the latest attempt by the council to create a conflict between itself and the central government in St John's.

He alleges that the council had tried to block access to

the PLH project on the island.

"They have engaged in activities that are clearly unlawful even by their own judgment," Hurst stated.

The Chief of Staff hinted that this matter could escalate into a confrontation between the council and the central government should the local government body pursue this policy of shutting out 'strangers' from the island.

"The confrontation they hope for may become their reality," he warned.

Call for National Consensus

There is a call for a national consensus on measures that the country may adopt to cope with the economic fallout from the pandemic COVID-19 crisis.

The call comes from General Secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union, David Massiah, who appeared on a special discussion programme aired on state media that focused on the economic impact of the pandemic on the tourism industry.

Massiah disclosed that some two thousand six hundred (2,600) hotel workers will be on the bread-lined because of the closure of most hotels on the island. "We have heard from our international affiliates who have warned us that the economic impact will be dire," Massiah stated.

He made an urgent call for a multi-sector coming together to devise the plan of how the country may tackle the challenges that it currently faces. "The impact of this crisis is not only affecting hotel workers. Think about the people that provide ancillary services to the sector. Some distributors are already feeling the impact of the crisis," Massiah reported.



General Secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union, David Massiah

The union executive observed that no one has been through anything like this crisis before and as such it would require out of the box thinking.

President of the Airport Taxi Association, Ian Joseph said the impact on taxi drivers is equally harsh as these men and women are self-employed who now suddenly find themselves effectively out of a job because of the drastic reduction of flights into VC Bird International airport.

"We have to look at the multiplier effect of the crisis as about 500 taxi drivers are impacted as well as their families. What about our vendors; we need to have a general conversation of the self-employed," he suggested.

Greene welcomes CCJ ruling

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) gets an enthusiastic ‘thumbs up’ from Antigua and Barbuda’s Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene for its recent ruling that sided with the country’s position on the issue of expanding the Freedom of Movement regime.

Antigua and Barbuda later joined by St. Kitts-Nevis asked to ‘opt-out’ of the decision to add new categories to the list of workers who could move and work freely within CARICOM.

CARICOM heads asked the CCJ to offer an opinion on the matter and the opinion of the court was published last week.



Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene

lished last week.

“The CCJ’s recent Advisory Opinion on whether Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis’ request to “opt out of the expanded categories of Agricultural Workers and Security Guards are lawful, is a fair, impactful and much

welcomed opinion,” Greene opined.

The Trade Minister said both he and technicians in the Office of National Coordinating Officer who advanced the Antigua and Barbuda government’s position, were confident that the CCJ would have returned an Advice in the country’s favor based on the merits of the arguments and underlining spirit of the Revised Treaty.

Additionally, he said they were equally confident of their chances based on the efficacy of their arguments and the indomitable Gaston

cont’d on pg 5

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
CLAIM NO: ANUHCv2017/0441

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

BETWEEN:

RBC ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
-and-
LARRY JACKSON
COLEEN JACKSON

Claimant
1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

ORDER

BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUSTICE ROSALYN E. WILKINSON (A JUDGE IN OPEN COURT)
DATED THE 16th DAY OF JANUARY, 2018
ENTERED THE 24th DAY OF JANUARY, 2018

APPEARANCES
Ms. Andrea SmitheN of Messrs. Marshall & Co., Counsel for the Claimant

PRESENT
Mrs. Gayle Samuel Browne, Claimant Representative
Defendant absent

UPON the Fixed Date Claim Form and Statement of Claim pursuant to CPR Rules 66.3 and 66.4 filed on the 25th day of July, 2017 with Affidavits filed in Support;


AND UPON hearing Counsel for the Claimant;

AND UPON the Court being satisfied that the Defendant was served with notice of the proceedings and pleadings by substituted service via two (2) consecutive publications in a daily newspaper circulating in Antigua and Barbuda;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Judgment is entered against the Defendants in the sum of \$326, 805.73 being the principal sum of \$211,033.63, late charges of \$2,600.00 and accrued interest of \$113,172.10 (up to the 16th day of January, 2018).
2. The Defendant shall deliver possession of the charged property being that more particularly described in the Land Registry as **Registration Section: Falmouth & Bethesda: Block# 34 2482A: Parcel #: 426** to the Claimant.
3. The Claimant shall be at liberty to sell the said charged property by public auction. Licensed Auctioneer, Mr. Trevor Santos, to conduct the auction at the reserve price which shall be no less than the forced sale value ascribed in the Valuation Report of the charged property dated the 16th day of November, 2017.
4. The Defendants shall notify forthwith their licensees, agents and/or tenants (if any) of the impending auction and shall finalise any arrangements to deliver possession of the charged property.
5. The Claimant is awarded prescribed costs.
6. The Claimant shall be at liberty to apply for further consequential orders.

BY THE COURT



REGISTRAR

Filed by MESSRS. MARSHALL & CO., Attorneys-at-Law, Ann-Rebecca House, Factory Road, St. John's, Antigua Telephone Nos. 1 (268) 462-3562/72/73/74 Fax No. 1 (268) 462-3563 email: mco@hcmllaw.com Attorneys for the Claimant whose address for service is the same.

The Search Is On

The announcement that two more people have been diagnosed on Antigua with the coronavirus, COVID-19, there's an intense search to identify anyone who may have come into contact with any of the three people now confirmed with the virus.

And according to Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, his ministry has ramped up its contact tracing programme to track down and identify individuals who may have unknowingly come into contact with COVID-19 patients.

This comes as there's heighten anxiety among residents over the presence of the virus on the island. On Monday, Joseph announced to the nation that an additional two cases added to the lone case identified a week and a half earlier.

The new cases are a 76 year-old man who travelled

from the United Kingdom and a 54 year-old who flew in from New York were the newest patients.

He explained that an important element in the fight against the spread of the virus that is also proving challenging for countries around the globe is contact tracing, locating people who may have been exposed.

Joseph said he wanted to assure the nation that contact tracing is not taken lightly and his technicians are in the community working to identify those people. "We do not slip up on contact tracing because it is one of the ways that you win the battle against this disease," he stated.

He said the team spares no effort in locating individuals who may have been in con-



Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph

tact with a patient. For example, he disclosed that one gentleman who had been on the flight from London on March 10 on which the first patient travelled to An-

tigua, was eventually found in neighbouring Montserrat.

"It's like searching for a 'needle in a haystack'; however, we are well-fortified with our team that travels wherever possible to identify these individuals. They are out there everyday in vehicles trying to find anyone who may have come into contact with those who are infected," he noted.

Meanwhile, Joseph said the ministry is working feverishly to put arrangements in place to begin testing for the virus on the island. He said currently samples from suspected COVID-19 cases are sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) for testing. The health minister was unable to give a precise time when testing will begin locally, except to say preparation continues.

cont'd from pg 4

Browne's eloquent and erudite responses to questions from his colleague Heads of Government on the matter. Let it also be clear, that it was following the Prime Minister's presentation, that Timothy Harris, the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis and then incoming Chairman of Conference joined Antigua and Barbuda's request to "opt out" of the two new categories for free movement (RTC Articles 46 and 27).

"We couldn't then, and more so now, agree to any further expansion of categories under the rubric of free movement, since all are aware that Antigua and Barbuda has done more than its fair share of accepting and allowed a significant number of our sisters and brothers from CARICOM to live and work here," Greene argued.

Greene said Antigua and Barbuda are happy that the Court sided with the rightness

that a country or group of countries can "opt out" of a Community's decision or a provision of within the RTC. The Inter-Sessional Meeting of Heads granted Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis a 5-year derogation from adopting the decision to expand the categories of free movement thereby allowing Agricultural Workers and Security Guards to enter and work within their jurisdictions.

"Interpretatively, the legal opinion makes it clear that notwithstanding that we have signed on to the Revised Treaty, if a policy proposal threatens to injure the viability of any member, that member can and should request an "opt out" or derogation. Countries should never sit quietly without objecting or "opt out" for specific reason (s). That shows democracy in its realistic sense," according to Trade Coordinator Ambassador Dr. Clarence Henry.

Local News



Prime Minister, Credit Unions meet

Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, is continuing his series of meetings with financial institutions designed to arrive at a consensus on a package of measures to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak and its aftermath.

On Tuesday, Browne met with representatives of Credit Unions and Micro Financiers for discussions on how the country can have a collaborative position on attacking the Coronavirus pandemic that is affecting the world.

Prime Minister Browne provided the representatives of the financial institutions with an update on his government's fight to prevent the spread of the virus in Antigua and Barbuda and some of the steps it has taken to lessen the effects of the down-turn in the economy as a result of the pandemic.

He requested of the financiers ideas on how they can assist in the govern-



ment's efforts and made an appeal to them to invest in projects on the islands in order to maintain a vibrant economy during this slow period. The country heavily depends on tourism, and as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic,

a number of hotels have closed their doors along with a number of business places that heavily depend on tourist arrivals.

The country's leader requested of the financiers to consider moratoriums on loan repayments and waiver of fees up to a period of six months or less. He also inquired of the institutions of their plans to protect staff employment and safety.

The financiers presented a number of proposals to Prime Minister Browne, which he said he will present to Cabinet for discussion when the body meets on Wednesday. Prime Minister Browne advised the financiers that his government will continue to engage them as the nation grapples with the Coronavirus pandemic.



New COVID-19 briefing center and guidelines for local media



The Ministries of Information and Health are this week leaping into maximum overdrive to ensure the elimination of any deficiencies in official public messaging about the corona virus crisis.

This was, in essence, the opening declaration from the Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Information Technology – Hon. Melford Nicholas – as he hosted a teleconference with the managers of local radio stations on Tuesday morning.

Referring to his previous interaction with the electronic media executives last Friday, March 21st, Nicholas recalled they had told him “there are some gaps ... in terms of information you may need to have [about] what the government is doing, such that you can join the effort in helping to stem the inclination for panic in the public.”

The Minister disclosed that he was “in the process of preparing a comprehensive briefing note to indicate all the undertakings that the government has done in relation to preparation.”

Nicholas was hopeful that the briefing note, which he expected would have been ready by Tuesday evening, would serve as a reference point for each media house to which it was issued.

He also outlined “the need for a central collaboration or coordination of all the agencies of the government that are putting out information”.

As an example, the Minister pointed out that a note was apparently issued on the morning instant by the High Commission of Antigua and Barbuda in the UK pertaining to the pending last British Airways flight out of Antigua, but that information may not have been available to all media houses, even

though it appeared on social media.

“So I have to make an attempt to get all the agencies of the government to communicate into this forum, so we can all have the same information ...,” he stated.

Nicholas also spoke of the establishment of a specialized briefing center from where information can be disseminated without the need for too many media representatives to be physically present and thereby defeat recommendations for social distancing.

He said the briefing center, housed at the facilities of the state-owned radio and TV broadcast entity, ABS, could have been available for the health ministry’s press conference on Monday, but the inter-agency arrangements for its utilization were not yet made.

However Nicholas said arrangements would be made for media representatives to visit the briefing center in order to observe the resources available.

EMPLOYMENT

SQUARE ONE LTD

“SOLID FROM THE
GROUND UP”
CONSTRUCTION
DESIGN
DEVELOPMENT

Job Opportunities

We are looking for: Carpenters
Masons
Plumbers
Subcontractors
General Contractors/Painters
Supervisors/Foremen
Project Managers
Steel Workers
Tilers

Requirements:

- Candidates must be legally entitled to work in Antigua and Barbuda.
- Candidates have to be registered with the Statutory bodies (Social Security, Medical Benefits, Board of Education & Inland Revenue)
- Subcontractors must be registered and compliant with Authorities.

Send applications by mail to **P.O. Box W1211, Woods Mall** or by email to squareone@candw.ag. Please include information of previous experiences and projects you have worked on.

Once we receive your documents appointments for interviews will be scheduled.

The Manager
Square One Ltd
Antigua & Barbuda W.I

ABDF Commits Its Assistance

The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) says it stands ready to assist the nation in whatever role it is asked to perform during this time of crisis.

The commitment from the ABDF came on Tuesday during the first formal meeting between Prime Minister,

Gaston Browne, and the new Chief of Defence Staff, Col. Telbert Benjamin.

A government statement said both men discussed a wide range of topics to include national security, the COVID-19 strategy, and the development of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force

and agricultural development

The two leaders spent some time discussing the current COVID-19 pandemic and the role the military is expected to play in protecting the nation from the spread of the virus. This includes the mil-

current fight against the Coronavirus. Antigua and Barbuda has recorded three cases of the virus and reports suggest that the individuals are recovering satisfactorily and are in isolation. The Prime Minister and the Health Minister dis-



itary playing a greater role in food security by increasing production on its farm at the Crabbs training facility.

Prime Minister Browne advised the Chief of Defence Staff that Cabinet has approved \$75, 000 towards increased production on the farm and that an additional two acres of land has been granted to increase the total production acreage to five acres. Health, Environment and Wellness Minister also joined the conversation and provided an update on the

cussed a training programme for men and women of the army in the field of nursing. This programme will be coordinated with the Ministry of Health and the University of the West Indies.

Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin advised both Prime Minister Browne and Minister Molwyn Joseph that the ABDF is prepared to play its role in the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus and in the security and development of the state.

The Licensing Magistrate
 District "A"
 Magistrate's Court High Street,
 St John's
 Antigua

We, Catherine Francis & Jefferson Reid, of Jennings Village, DO HERE BY GIVE NOTICE, that it is our intention to apply at the next ordinary session to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St John's Antigua on April 2nd 2020 next ensuring for a Retail License in respect of my premises known as The Hood Convenient Stop, located in Jennings Village, pursuant of section 11 of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

12th March 2020

Catherine Francis

Tel: 728-6003

Jefferson Reid

Tel: 723-5460

FLOW RETAIL STORES OPERATING GUIDELINES

Given the current developments with the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and guidance by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, and the World Health Organization (WHO), we have implemented some changes to our retail store operations.

The changes which are aimed at safeguarding you, our valued customers and our team members Take immediate effect as follows:

- All customer interactions will now be handled in a tent outside the Market Street (Judgement Square) and Woods Mall locations. This is to diminish the risk of direct person to person transmission in the confined store areas.
- Customers are asked to place their orders at the tents. There are committed lines for each type of transaction. A dedicated team member will relay the request to staff members inside the stores for processing where necessary.
- To ensure that we maintain the recommended social distancing practices we have clear demarcations for each queue.
- There is an increased security presence at the stores and tents; and additional customer care agents have been brought on board to help us provide you with the best possible service.
- We respectfully ask you to utilize our alternative easy and convenient transaction options if you have symptoms of the Coronavirus (coughing, sneezing, or difficulty breathing). Please note that you will not be permitted to interact with our customer care agents if you are displaying any of these symptoms.

We encourage and remind you of our easy and convenient transaction options for use where possible:



Sign up
at
flowid.co



Download
the MyFlow
App



Customer Care
Dial 100 or
1-800-804-2994



Visit us at
discoverflow.co

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

We urge you to take all necessary steps to safeguard yourself and loved ones and to prevent the spread of the virus. If you suspect that you have had exposure to COVID-19 and are displaying symptoms, please self-isolate immediately and contact the COVID-19 hotline toll free at 462-6843 (46COVID)



FLOW



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION

In light of the protocols now established, in response to the Covid-19(Coronavirus) pandemic , the Department of Immigration wishes to advise:

- Department is operational on a shift system
- Adhere to the appointment system and arrive to your schedule appointment on time .
- Extension Forms are available via email (immigrationHQ@ab.gov.ag)

For further information regarding matters related to immigration contact the numbers and email as provided below:

562-1389

562-7883

562-1010

immigrationHQ@ab.gov.ag

If you are experiencing



HIGH FEVER



**DRY COUGH AND
RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS**



SORE THROAT



HEADACHE

Contact the the Ministry of Health (COVID) Hotline : 46-COVID (462-6843)

United Kingdom citizens told to go home

The British High Commission in St John's is urging all United Kingdom nationals now in Antigua and Barbuda to return to their native land.

In a Travel Advisory, the High Commission said the advice is aimed at British people who are tourists/casual visitors in Antigua and Barbuda, rather than those who are resident here.

Residents and dual Antigua and Barbuda/British nationals are urged to follow the advice of the local authorities in their host country.

"As countries respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including travel and border restrictions, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises British nationals against all but essential international travel.

"Any country or area may restrict travel without notice. If you live in the UK and are currently travelling abroad, you are strongly advised to return now, where there are still commercial routes available," the Advisory stated.

It noted that many airlines are suspending flights and many airports are closing, preventing flights from leaving.

The Travel Advisory stated in bold language, **FOREIGN SECRETARY**

ADVISES ALL BRITISH TRAVELLERS TO RETURN TO THE UK NOW;

- All British travellers abroad, who are usually based in the UK advised to return now

- International travel is becoming highly limited with the further closure of air routes, land borders and domestic restrictions introduced daily

- British travellers should contact their tour operator or airline now. Commercial flight options are still available at present All British tourists and short-stay travellers currently abroad should return to the UK where commercial flight options are still available, the Foreign Secretary announced today.

It added that some British tourists abroad are already finding difficulties returning to the UK because of international travel restrictions and domestic policies around the world.

Accordingly, the FCO is working around the clock to support all British travellers in this situation come back to the UK.

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab said: "Where commercial routes don't exist, our staff are working round the clock to give advice and support to UK nationals. If you are on holiday abroad the time to come home is now while you still can."

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said: "This is a very difficult time for

British Citizens travelling overseas, or those with families and loved ones abroad.

"We're in close contact with airlines, who are working tirelessly to ensure British citizens travelling overseas can safely return to the UK.

"We are also working closely with other government departments, including the FCO to ensure airlines are able to operate to bring people back home."

British travellers should contact their tour operator or airline now to arrange a commercial flight.

There is an unprecedented demand on the FCO's consular services so all British tourists abroad should go online for the latest in country advice.

The evolution of road safety

EZ Eye, one of the first tinting manufacturers in the US, introduced factory window tint in a few car models, including the popular '58 Chevy Impala.

In Antigua and Barbuda the law speaks to tint grade between 25 and 35 per cent and anything higher than that is against the law. The only area that 20 per cent is allowed is six inches down from front windscreen.

CAUTION
50% Window Tinting
ILLEGAL

DRIVE SAFELY

ATB
Antigua & Barbuda Transport Board
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

If They go for Them in the Night They will come for Us in the Morning



By Lawrence A. Jardine

By Conrad Luke

Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee (LTHMC) member, and former Deputy Leader of ACLM

As the people of Antigua and Barbuda should know the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) and the Leonard Tim Hector Memorial

Committee (LTHMC) have had special relations with the Government and people of Cuba going back five decades and more. In keeping with our One Caribbean philosophy, we saw Cuba and the Cuban people as part of the Carib-

bean family. With that we showed solidarity with and support for the Cuban Revolution over the years. We called for the recognition of Cuba and yes we were delighted when in 1972 four Caribbean territories, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados took the bold step to recognise Cuba. It was a historical moment. It was a watershed moment considering the United States of America blockade of Cuba and the big stick pressure of Western Powers to isolate and ostracise Cuba.

As a result of the principled position taken by ACLM with regards to Cuba, our relationship strengthened and blossomed. The leaders of our organisation traveled to Cuba in the early seventies. As a result of our discussions Cuba in spite of its difficulties offered the ACLM scholarships in a number of disciplines then, Medicine, Agronomy, Veterinary Science and Dentistry. We saw this as invaluable but even more so an incomparable humanitarian gesture. It was in keeping however, from the very inception of the Revolution, with their spirit of International Solidarity.

We, in the ACLM, held firmly to the view that if we in Antigua and Barbuda were to achieve any real development or level of Independence we would

have to improve and add to our human resource. Our capacity to manage our affairs in our own interest would be heightened.

At that time the Government of the day here and those in the Region were vigorously opposed to the very acceptance of scholarships because of US

foreign policy in the main and the stigma promoted against Cuba. The bogey of Communism regrettably held our Governments and people in fee. The ill founded fear was patent but we persevered against all odds.

Today, thousands of Caribbean sons and daughters, who would not have been able to pursue such studies, have graduated in every discipline

conceivable. Antigua and Barbuda and the entire Caribbean are the better for it. But the Cuban Government and people did not stop there. Committed to the idea of Internationalism they have provided trained personnel in normal and not so normal times. At this very moment with the COVID-19 crisis confronting us throughout the Caribbean and elsewhere we are calling on the Cuban Government and people for their help: send so many nurses; send so many doctors. Send the antiviral recom-

cont'd on pg 13

**LEARNING
POINT WITH
MAXINE ALLEN**
MONDAY - FRIDAY - 1PM - 3PM

binant Interferon Alpha 2B (IFNRec), a leading Cuban biotechnology product, which is one of the drugs currently being used by China in the treatment of patients with COVID-19. And Cuba will respond and is already responding! This the Cuban Government and people have done not from exploiting any society or any country. They have done this not from any surplus but from the little they have. That is the revolutionary culture and spirit of Internationalism that they have developed since overthrowing the rapacious Batista regime, which was backed by powerful external forces.

We in Antigua and Barbuda and the entire Caribbean owe a tremendous debt to the Government and people of Cuba. It is one that we can never pay back. We

are duty bound and morally so as well to do all in our power as a Government and people to show respect and kindness to our brothers and sisters of Cuba. We should feel compelled to support the Government and people particularly now when economic genocide is being waged against them by America. We cannot sit idly by and allow the most powerful nation ninety miles away peddle lies about Cuban medical brigades and others and stay mute. Where are the many hundreds who have benefited here from the blood, sweat and tears of the Cuban people? Don't we tell ourselves that we should show gratitude and therefore ensure that Cubans throughout the Region feel wanted and at home. Don't we have a responsibility to ensure that

they are properly taken care of? Should we not be trying to formulate policies and programs to assist Cuba and its people in its greatest hour of need?

Cuba is not asking for hand outs and we are not in the least suggesting anything like that. We are simply saying there is something known as gratitude and with that we can reciprocate in some way. We, today throughout the Caribbean, stand on the shoulders of the Cuban people. Let us as a people, as former students, as graduates, as Doctors, as

Engineers, as professionals in various fields come together and devise ways to support the indomitable people of Cuba and its Government. The time is now and going forward. "All are involved; All are consumed."

Antigua and Barbuda Consolidates Borders

- Antigua and Barbuda has implemented travel and flight restrictions from a number of destinations in response to the global COVID-19 crisis. We have also increased health checks and screenings at centralized ports.



Office of the Prime Minister, Antigua and Barbuda



Regional News

Republic Bank defers loan payments



A lockdown imposed on 12 March in Italy has been extended

Republic Bank Limited (RBL) has announced that it will be lowering the interest rates on loans and giving parties the opportunity to defer loan payments.

Speaking on these measures recently on CNC3, Managing Director of RBL Nigel Baptiste said that the decisions made by the bank would assist with the liquidity requirements of companies.

Baptiste articulated: "The Prime Minister mentioned the deferral of loan payments. This is not a waiving of the loan payment, this is not a write off of the loan payment - this is a deferral of the loan payment."

He continued: "Again it is intending to assist in the cash flow of the company. Not for the company to

take and use otherwise but for the company to use that cash flow very wisely to see it through this crisis."

Also implementing a deferral policy was Term Finance, which announced that it would offer deferrals on employee loan payments. In a release, Term Finance indicated that it would only grant deferrals in cases where employers confirm that wages are being adversely affected.

Term Finance that it had reached out to their Corporate Partners across the region to implement these strategies.

Term Finance CEO, Oliver Sabga said: "We have strong partnerships with the most reputable organizations across the region, this decision is in line with our commitment to

treat employees with the highest level of compassion and responsibility, especially in times like these."

Term Finance added that it would begin to reorient some of its loan officers to financial wellbeing advisors.

Being a completely web-based lending institution, Term Finance said it remains open and ready to serve existing and new customers with their credit needs.

Meanwhile, Baptiste remarked that he couldn't speak on behalf of other banks but there are a number of measures that RBL has been discussing and prepared to do - such as the reduction of interest rates that are linked to the bank's prime lending rates.

Saint Lucia Announces State Of Emergency, Curfew



Prime Minister Allen Chastanet of Saint Lucia

Emergency, Curfew

Saint Lucia has announced a state of emergency with a curfew in force from 11:00 pm to 5:00 am.

The measures are the latest that the authorities here have put in place to battle the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet announced the measures hours after Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sharon Belmar-George disclosed that the Island had recorded a third Coronavirus case.

It also followed news last weekend that some individuals in a quarantine facility in the North of Saint Lucia had escaped but had been returned and reports that locals had returned from neighbouring Martinique in boats that took them to unmanned border areas.

Health authorities have also complained that persons who are supposed to be in home quarantine have been seen 'liming with friends'.

Prime Minister Chastanet explained that in order to legally implement the curfew,

Governor General Sir Emmanuel Neville Cenac issued a proclamation Monday, instituting the state of emergency.

"Under the state of emergency, because things are fluid – things are happening very quickly, we cannot rely on the typical process of getting things changed," he disclosed.

By way of example, Chastanet mentioned restricted items on the price list of goods.

"You would have to go to cabinet. You would then have to go to parliament, you would then have to go through the lower and the upper house and then also be gazetted before it becomes law," the PM stated. He told the nation that special authority under the state of emergency allows the Prime Minister to bypass the process and implement it almost immediately.

"For instance, if in fact we are not going to behave and we are seeing the kind of reckless behaviour that we have seen over the weekend, then I would have no choice but to expand the hours of our curfew," Chastanet warned.

He said the authority under the state of emergency would allow the Prime Minister to be able to do so.

However Chastanet said while the authority is exclusively in the hands of the PM, he wanted to assure all Saint Lucians that he will continue to work in consultation with NEMAC, which includes the leader of the opposition and his cabinet colleagues.

"My cabinet colleagues have seen that I don't ever act as an authoritarian – I actually value their input into these decisions," he declared.

According to the Prime Minister, earlier Monday, ahead of a session of parliament Tuesday, he shared his notes with opposition leader Philip J. Pierre so that Pierre's legal advisers could advise him in the hope for a level of collaboration between

the two men. Chastanet declared that the authority under the state of emergency is "absolutely required" to move quickly to change any orders that are necessary.

"Immediately following parliament in the morning (Tuesday) – we'll have an early parliament of the lower house at 8.30 followed by the upper house at 10 O' clock which would then allow for the gazetting of the proclamation that would be now endorsed by cabinet," the PM told the nation.

He explained that the proclamation by the Governor General is only valid for seven days. According to Chastanet, on Tuesday the administration will be seeking to increase the timeline of the state of emergency proclamation until the end of April.

"If in fact things have not improved and it will be required for us to extend it, then I will give a report to parliament and make a justification for extending it," he stated.

"But at this point we are really hoping that the actions we are taking will bring Corona under control," he said. Chastanet made an impassioned appeal to support the efforts to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, declaring that Saint Lucia is preparing for the worst as best as it can.



MOTHER DIVINE

ARE YOU SUFFERING? ARE YOU SICK?
DO YOU NEED HELP? DO YOU HAVE BAD LUCK?

MOTHER Divine is spiritual reader and adviser.
She can show you with your own eye's how
she can remove all Sorrow and sickness.

Call today 268-725-1440

Bahamas AG: 24-hour may be extended for another 30 days

The 24-hour curfew that came into effect on Tuesday to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will likely be extended until the end of April, Attorney General Carl Bethel said today.

“The medical professionals have already urged at least a 30-day extension,” he said.

“And a resolution is before the House of Assembly. The House has adjourned to the 30th with the intention that this will be the matter that they will debate and pass on the 30th.

“...The government is in full consultation with the opposition. They now appreciate the importance of adhering to the best medical advice. If that medical advice says that we need to have an extension of the curfew, then I’m sure that the House will unanimously support and implement that recommendation.”

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis on Monday night ordered a 24-hour national curfew and the closure of airports, docks, ports, and beaches throughout the country with certain exceptions.

So far there are four confirmed cases of COVID-19 in The Bahamas, but Bethel said the measures are necessary, as health officials expect a surge in cases.

He said the original night curfew, which came into effect last week, was proving insufficient as people were not practicing strict social distancing during the day.

“They advised that a surge in COVID-19 cases is expected,” he said.

“History shows us and the experience in China shows us that the only way to press down the numbers, spread them out so as to avoid the collapse of our already fragile healthcare system, is to have a lockdown and impose social distancing.

“Government sought to have a situation with voluntary social distancing. And that is why the curfew, as it originally was, was simple for during the evening hours.

“We had a meeting with health professionals on Sunday, and they strongly advised that we have a 24-hour curfew because that is the only way, they felt, that the broader society would get the message.”



Bahamas attorney general Carl Bethel

Australia warns of impending health system crisis amid surge in coronavirus cases

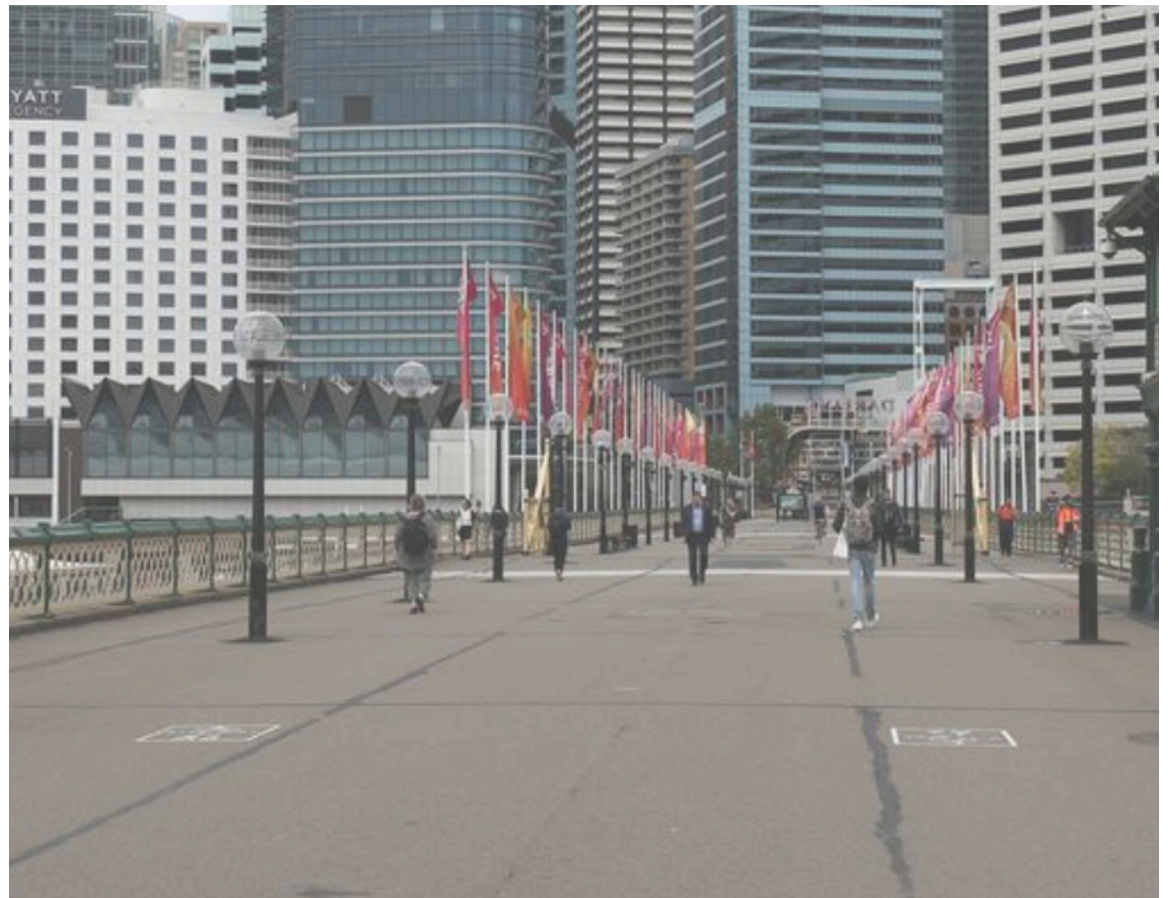
SYDNEY (Reuters) - Australia is grappling with an accelerating number of coronavirus infections that political leaders warned on Wednesday could start overwhelming intensive care units, as case numbers across the country surged past 2,250.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said on Wednesday that if the same long queues appearing outside offices of the main welfare agency, Centrelink, started occurring at hospitals, there would be fatal consequences.

"If this gets away from us, our health system will be overrun and people won't just be queuing for Centrelink payments, they'll be queuing for heart, lung machines and ventilators and intensive care beds and we know what that means - you cannot queue for intensive care," Andrews said in Melbourne.

Australian leaders have become increasingly frustrated with apparent breaches of social distancing measures that saw thousands flock to beaches and pubs in recent days before new restrictions were implemented.

Andrews said a 500-strong squad of Victorian police were checking on thou-



A general view of empty Pyrmont Bridge over Darling Harbour as New South Wales began shutting down non-essential businesses and moving toward harsh penalties to enforce self-isolation as the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) reached a "critical stage" in Sydney, Australia, March 24, 2020. REUTERS/Loren Elliott

sands of people who have returned from overseas to make sure they are obeying isolation orders. New curbs announced late on Tuesday on non-essential businesses are pushing the country closer to the stricter lockdown measures imposed in parts of Europe.

The latest restrictions limit the number of people attending a wedding to five - the couple, the celebrant and two witnesses - while

funerals will be limited to 10 guests. Around half of the more than 2,250 COVID-19 cases recorded in Australia are in the state of New South Wales, the country's most populous, which includes the overnight addition of two young children, with a two-month old boy and a seven-year old girl testing positive.

Case numbers in the state rose by more than 200 overnight, authorities said.

There have been eight deaths linked to the virus across the country, mostly in New South Wales. One passenger from the Ruby Princess, a cruise ship that docked in Sydney last week, is among the casualties. The Carnival Corp's vessel has proven to be the biggest single source of infections in Australia, with more than 130 passengers and crew subsequently testing positive to the virus.

UK calls for 250,000 volunteers as coronavirus deaths surge

LONDON (Reuters) - The number of coronavirus deaths in Britain jumped on Tuesday, the first day of a national lockdown, while the government called for 250,000 volunteers for the health service and announced a temporary hospital would open in London next week.

In a TV message on Monday evening watched by more than 27 million people, Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered people to stay at home, told nearly all shops to close and banned social gatherings including weddings and baptisms.

However, public transport in London was busy during the morning rush hour and the streets were far from deserted amid confusion over the government's advice to workers.

The death toll from coronavirus in the United Kingdom has jumped by 87 to a total of 422 - the biggest daily in-

crease since the crisis began.

Meanwhile, the economic devastation was underscored by a survey that suggested the economy was shrinking at a record pace, faster than during the 2008-09 financial crisis.

The unprecedented peacetime restrictions announced by Johnson, which will last at least three weeks, are intended to stop the state-run National Health Service (NHS), which suffers from staff shortages at the best of times, being overwhelmed.

British Transport Police said 500 officers will be deployed to train stations across the country to remind the public of the government's advice to travel only when essential.

Health Minister Matt Hancock called for 250,000 volunteers to help the NHS with tasks such as delivering medicines from pharmacies, driving patients to and from hospital appoint-

ments and phoning people isolating at home to check up on them.

He also said the government had bought 3.5 million coronavirus antibody tests so that people who suspect they have had the virus would be able to find out for sure.

Under the curbs on movement, people should leave their homes only for very limited reasons such as going to supermarkets for vital supplies or for exercise once a day.

Police, who will be able to issue fines of 30 pounds (\$35), will now be able to break up gatherings of more than two people.

Supermarkets, where shelves have been stripped bare by panic-buying in recent days, said they had begun limiting the number of shoppers in stores at any one time, erecting barriers outside, and installing screens at checkouts to protect staff.

POINTEPrintery
PRINTING AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

**INVITATIONS
BI-FOLDS
CALENDARS
POSTER
FLYERS
BOOKLETS
BUSINESS CARDS**

CALL US TODAY 268 562 4989
LOWER NORTH STREET, POINT WHARF, ST. JOHN'S ANTIGUA
PRINTJOBS@POINTVILLE.AG

ALEXANDER W.
HEAD OF ENGINEER

COMPANY NAME
YOUR FIRST ADDRESS LINE
YOUR SECOND ADDRESS LINE
JOHN.SMITH@YOURMAIL.COM
+0 723 456 789
+0 987 654 321
WWW.YOURCOMPANY.COM

Mainland China

reports drop in new

imported coronavirus cases, no local transmissions


Men wearing protective masks stand as people hike along a section of the Great Wall in Badaling in Beijing, on its first day of re-opening after the scenic site's coronavirus related closure, China, March 24, 2020. REUTERS/Thomas Peter

BEIJING (Reuters) - Mainland China reported a drop in new confirmed coronavirus cases on Wednesday, as imported infections fell and no locally transmitted infections were reported, including in central Hubei province, the epicenter of the outbreak in China.

The number of new cases totaled 47 on Tuesday, all of which were from travelers returning home, down from 78 a day earlier, the National Health Commission said.

New imported cases in Beijing, Guangdong and Fujian declined, though the daily tally of new imported

infections rose to a record 19 cases in the financial hub of Shanghai.

New cases of infected international arrivals were also reported in Tianjin, Inner Mongolia, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Jilin, Zhejiang, Shandong and Shaanxi.

The total accumulated

number of confirmed cases in mainland China stands at 81,218, with imported infections accounting for 474 cases.

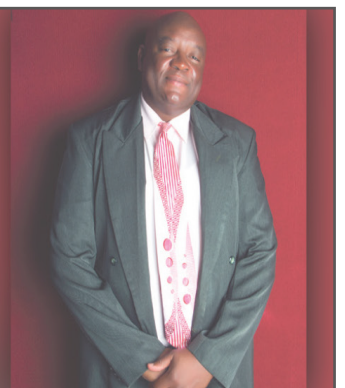
The death toll from the outbreak in mainland China reached 3,281 as of the end of Tuesday, up by four from the previous day.


99.1 FM RADIO

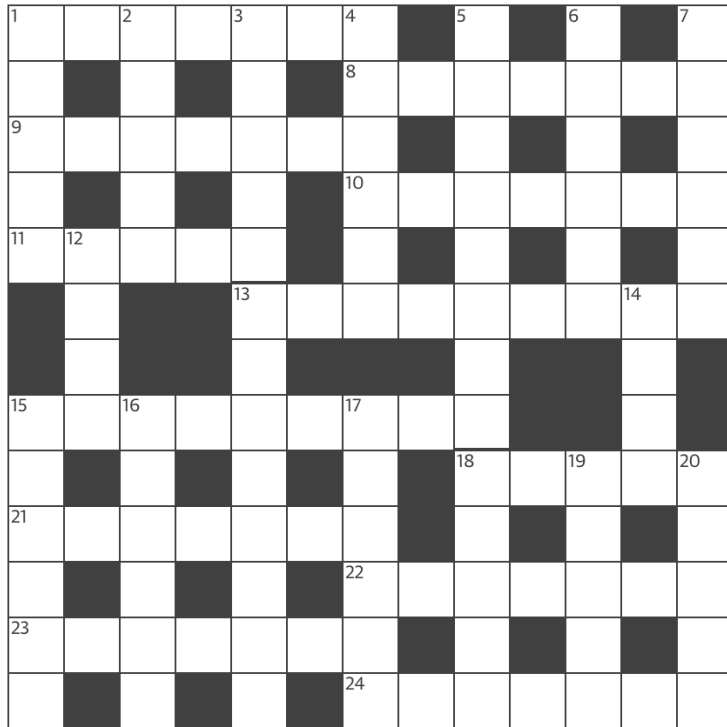
REAL TALK SHOW

WITH DAVE "BEEF" JOSEPH
& RASTAMAN KENTAE

MONDAY | TUESDAY | THURSDAY FROM 8PM - 10PM



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



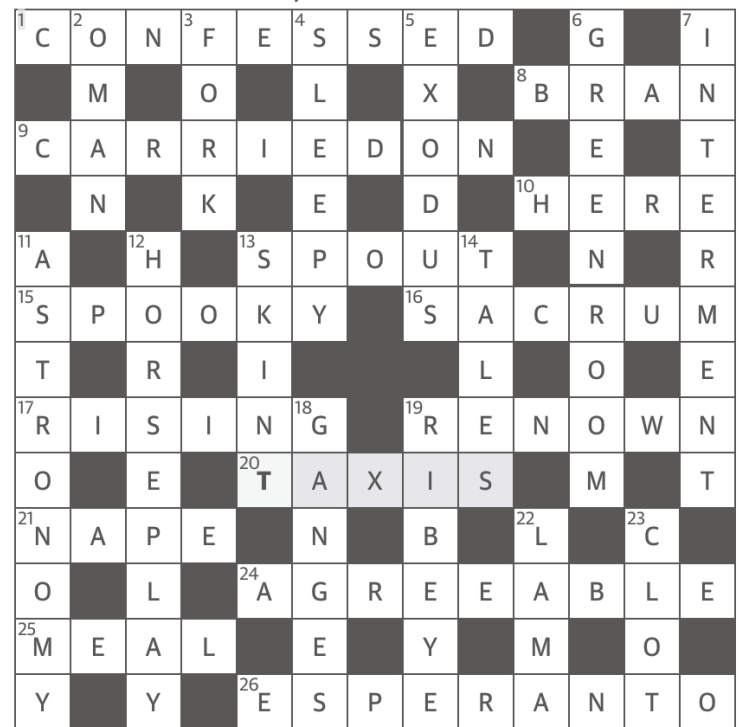
Across

- 1 Sound made by a bird (7)
 8 Mouth-like opening (7)
 9 Unexpected difficulty or danger (7)
 10 Receive from a predecessor (7)
 11 Great pain (5)
 13 Preparation for a show (9)
 15 Moved (9)
 18 Simple song (5)
 21 Root vegetables (7)
 22 Breastbone (7)
 23 Open and genuine (7)
 24 Demolish (7)

Down

- 1 Drink of tea (informal) (5)
 2 Opening passage (abbr) (5)
 3 Tables of standard numerical calculations (5,8)
 4 A West Slavic language (6)
 5 Kilt, sporran etc (8,5)
 6 Thread-like structures (6)
 7 Virgin charged with keeping alight the fire on the altar to a Roman goddess (6)
 12 Donated (4)
 14 Female relative (4)
 15 Prejudiced behaviour — Sir Mac (anag) (6)
 16 Human voice box (6)
 17 Thrown (6)
 19 Skin-cleansing lotion (5)
 20 Scrumptious (5)

21TH MARCH 2020 - NO 15,560



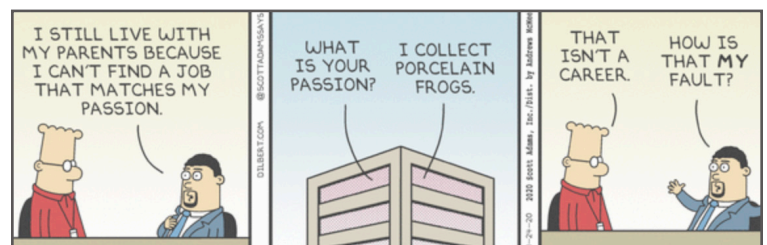
SUDOKU



daily Comics

presented by azcentra

DILBERT



POINTE TV

COMING SOON



Your Stars Foretold



Aries

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Work on your own projects may be very much on your mind today, Aries. They could involve studies of some kind or the arts. It's possible that you may be considering innovative ways of earning extra money. All signs indicate that any enterprise begun or continued today is likely to succeed, so go to it. However, it's important to give whatever you're working on a lot of thought before presenting it to others.



Taurus

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Long-term investments, especially those involving real estate, could pay off now, Taurus. If you've been thinking of buying or selling a home, this is the time to do it. All signs indicate that your patience is likely to bear fruit, so at least one of your longtime goals should bring success right now. Also, if you've been considering investing some money in your house, such as remodeling or building an addition, start planning today.



Gemini

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

Kicking ideas around with colleagues today could lead to planning social events and bringing important people together in order to ensure cooperation on ambitious projects. You might find yourself in a number of meetings, Gemini, or spending considerable time on the phone. Your mind is especially business oriented today, so you'll be operating very efficiently. However, remember the niceties. Express polite interest in those around you even if you don't feel it.



Cancer

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

A lot of paperwork, perhaps involving contracts, could lead to financial gain on the job, Cancer. You could make or save some money for your employer, which could prove important. Expect some sort of acknowledgement or recognition for your efforts from superiors, which could lead to advancement or a possible raise. However, there may be some delay with regard to the latter. Don't expect it right away.



Leo

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

Today you might want to put your innate business sense into making a success of a pet project of your own. This is a good idea, Leo, because all signs indicate that whatever you begin today, whether it's for your employer or yourself, could well lead to success. You could, however, find yourself spending a little more money than you would normally care to. Don't hold yourself back, but be careful!



Virgo

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

New discoveries that capture your imagination could find you spending most of your day sequestered in your home and learning as much as you can. All indications are that you aren't going to want to do much else, Virgo, but it's important to remember to take breaks and get a little exercise throughout the day. Moving the body and shaking out the kinks in your muscles can get your mind going as well.



Libra

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

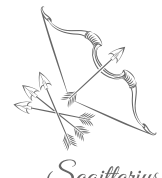
You may have plans to get together with friends, and you're probably looking forward to it. However, Libra, delays could get in the way, although you aren't likely to let them stop you. Your concentration and perseverance are both higher than usual, so it isn't likely that you'll give up on anything you start today. Therefore, this is a good day to either begin or continue projects that mean a lot to you.



Scorpio

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Your hard work on the job may appear to be finally paying off, Scorpio, as all signs indicate that a raise, promotion, or other form of advancement is coming your way. Your ambition and concentration have led and will continue to lead to significant accomplishment, which isn't likely to escape the notice of those above you in the hierarchy. Draw satisfaction from your achievements and continue as you are.



Sagittarius

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Studying in solitude may appeal to you today, Sagittarius. A new interest has captured your imagination, so you may decide to sequester yourself at home or in the library to learn about it. Your concentration is high, as is your perseverance, so anything you begin today is likely to succeed. The downside is that you might strain your eyes or give yourself headaches trying to accomplish too much at once. Pace yourself.



Capricorn

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Memories welling up today could trigger a desire to get in touch with old friends, Capricorn, or relatives you haven't seen in a long time. Some of these recollections could be bittersweet, bringing pain experienced in the past to the surface once more. Don't hang on to these ancient grievances. Work them out in your mind and then let them go. You might experience a deep-seated relief. You could even feel a little light-headed.



Aquarius

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Business-oriented social events could take up a lot of your time today, Aquarius. You could either be planning or attending them. If the latter, however, it could well be more than one. You're feeling especially outgoing at this time, so you should make a good impression and possibly even make a few new friends. However, it's also important to remember to take some time for yourself.



Pisces

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Your innate charm and good manners have brought you good relationships with both co-workers and superiors, and today you might find that this has served you well, Pisces. Authority figures may seem a little intimidating, but hang on to your self-confidence. Hard work and dedication have also brought you some corporate kudos. Therefore, it's quite possible that you might hear of forthcoming career advancement. Onward and upward!



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
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 30 TO 45 SECS ADS	270.00	1,620.00	5,508.00

MENTIONS	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
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

Table Tennis Federation alive and serving

The Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Federation is alive and serving as they continue their efforts to expand and develop the sport in Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking to Vernon Springer co-host on the TIMEOUT Program on Pointe FM President Charles Bellot says there is an organized program at the Multipurpose Center on Tuesday and Thursday's where formal coaching is available from 5pm to 7pm.

Bellot noted that a development program has been activated in some schools notably Pares, St. Joseph Academy and Antigua Grammar School with plans to expand.

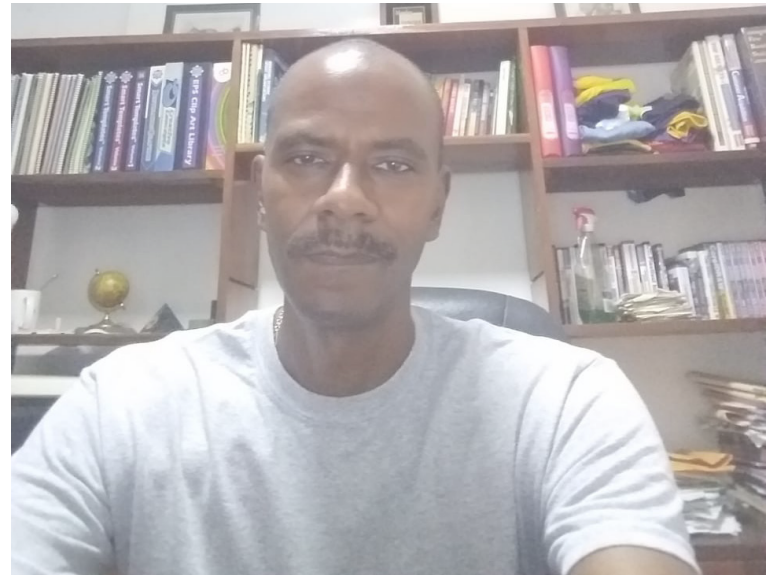
The table tennis veteran says calls have come from a number of Primary Schools wanting to be a part of the Federation development program and move to involve them will be looked at seriously.

Bellot added that there is

not a national team presently representing the country but five players who are involved in CXC has the ability to play at a higher level. But he articulated that because of exams it has slowed them making the move.

There are plans to approach the Ministry of Sports to introduce an Inter-Schools Competition.

If anyone wants to become a member of the Federation and learn the sport call 720-8302.



Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Federation President Charles Bellot

Skepple dedicates himself to development of local football

Kerry Arab Skepple who was a guest on the Pointe FM TIMEOUT Program Tuesday is dedicating his time and effort to development of football in Antigua and Barbuda.

Arab coaches at North Coast and Swetes F.C in the ABFA Premier Division.

The Former national player says he is looking to take his coaching career, as far as possible, and hope one day to become the nation Technical Director.

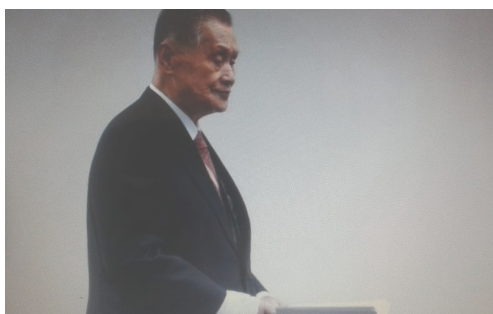
Skepple also hold hopes of coaching professionally but notes a job overseeing one of the islands Youth teams would be a good start.

Kerry is presently pursuing his FIFA coaching badge with the expectation of achieving great results.

If Kerry can produced the same results he did as a player terrorizing defenders then the sky is the limit for the ambitious young coach.

2020 Olympic Games postponed

Japan and the Olympic Movement decided Tuesday to delay this year's Tokyo Games into 2021 as the Coro-



President of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Organising Committee

navirus crisis obliterated the World's last major imminent sporting event.

It was the first time in the Olympics 124 year history that they had been postponed; through they were cancelled outright several times during the two 20th century World Wars.

After a call with the International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach, Japans Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, the July 24 to August 9 event would be rescheduled for the summer of 2021 at the latest.



Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Abe said the postponement is to make it possible for athletes to participate in the best conditions, while making sure spectators are secure and safe.

Sports

PAGE 24

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 2020

Retired with a heavy heart after a successful career

Meet Former national footballer and cricketer, Kerry "Arab" Skepple, an adventurous, hardworking, mentally tough, successful athlete, referee and coach.

He started his adventure in sports attending the Pigotts Primary School before transferring to Greenville Primary. His journey continued at the St. Joseph Academy where he became more involved in sports representing his school.

Arab as he is affectionately called first love and passion was cricket where he excelled as an all-rounder at the junior levels representing Antigua and Barbuda and the Leeward Islands at the Under-15 level.

Something happened which Skepple did want to discuss after he returned from an Under-15 tournament in Trinidad representing the Leewards where he finished with the fifth highest batting average.

Kerry said one day his childhood friend former West Indies player Sylvester Bouncing Joseph was on his way to Under-19 national



Former national footballer and cricketer, Kerry "Arab" Skepple

football training and invited him to tag along which he did.

While kicking around on the side he was approached by former national coach Micah Samuels who was attending to an Under-13 team. Micah asked Arab if he played the game which he responded no, which led to an invitation from the coach to join the set up. The Pigotts man was also invited to train with Empire who he represented for a season before moving on to English Harbour.

Things escalated fast and Kerry within a wink of the eye was part of the national senior team leading to a successful career locally, in College and abroad.

The striker who studied business is known for scoring the most important goal in Antigua football history against Haiti but things quickly went downhill after he was only used for three minutes in the return leg in Haiti.

For a player who gave his all for Club and Country it's sad that he was allowed to retire with a heavy heart for a sport he loved and still contribute to as coach of the

Swetes Football Club.

Skepple also spent two successful years in Findland playing professionally netting 9 goals in 11 appearances in his first season. During his second year the club went bankrupt failed to sell their prized asset and he decided to return home. Since then Arab has functioned as a qualified referee nationally and abroad, but says his heart was always focus on coaching.

Hopefully one day this champion will receive his flowers for his contribution and continued contribution to sports in Antigua and Barbuda.

DEWS

