



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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FIRE FIRE FIRE!

Story on Page 3



Carnival 2020 Cancelled!

Carnival 2020 has been cancelled!

The announcement comes from National Festivals Minister, Daryl Matthew, who said that Cabinet accepted his recommendation to cancel the 2020 Carnival festivities during discussions held over the weekend. This year's Carnival, dubbed the Caribbean Greatest Summer festival, was scheduled to take place from July 23 to August 4.

"Cabinet looked at the circumstances surrounding the worldwide coronavirus pan-

demic and agreed that the hosting of the activities at this time would not be in the best interest of the population in maintaining good health, the foremost priority of the government," Matthew revealed.

According to the minister the festival is also expected to be affected by the projected negative economic impact the outbreak will have on Antigua and Barbuda.

He added that it was therefore agreed to cancel the celebrations and he advised that the focus should now

be placed on the planning of Carnival 2021 which will coincide with the hosting of CARIFESTA XV here in Antigua and Barbuda.

Minister Matthew is of the view that contributing to the cancellation of the festivities is the strong belief that the public will have no interest in attending social and entertainment gatherings during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another contributing factor is the current fight to contain the disease being waged by the government which has severely depleted its resources.

"To put on Carnival in August is just impossible! Carnival requires much resources which the government does not have at this time as fighting COVID-19 is our number one priority," he told Point-

eXpress newspaper in an exclusive interview.

He said the focus will therefore be on having a significantly bigger independence celebrations later this year.

He revealed that the Festivals Commission has produced an Independence Schedule for this year which will be released when there has been official clearance that the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided.

"We will continue to plan for the Independence celebrations in late October early November in anticipation that the environment would facilitate activities of this nature," outlined Minister Matthew.

Antigua and Barbuda's Independence celebrations are expected to be held in the next six months from October 24 to November 2, 2020.

Correction

In our last issue, we incorrectly reported that the South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventist church donated 2-thousand dollars to the ministry of health for the anti-COVID-19 fight. The actual amount donated was in fact 27-thousand dollars.

We sincerely apologise to the South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventist church for the error.

DAY 3/25

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
 Wind: E at 22 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 28 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

30°_{Hi}



Partly sunny with a shower in spots

NIGHT 3/25

Wind: E at 17 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 26 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 56%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 1.4 mm
 Rain: 1.4 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

23°_{Lo}



Partly cloudy with a shower

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:58 AM

Sunset AST
 6:24 PM



Duration
 12:36hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 4:28 PM

Moonset AST
 4:39 AM



Duration
 12:11hr

Fire In Point

Three wooden structure located in close proximity to each other at the corner of St. George's Street and Whapping Lane in the Point Area have been destroyed by a fire.

One of the buildings was owned by businessman, Paddy Simon, the oral historian, the structure was the original home of his lawn-mower and small engine repair shop. One of the other buildings was owned by a woman who now lives in the United States (her name



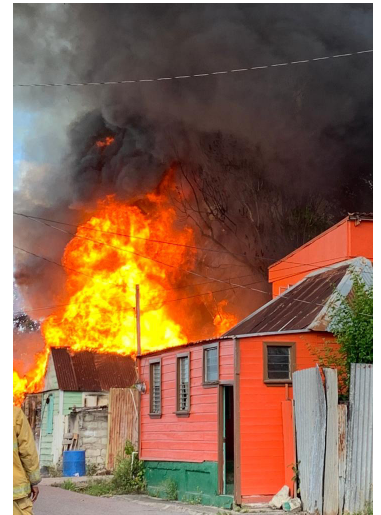
is not immediately available) and the second, by another woman who died a few years ago.

The fire started mid-afternoon Sunday, it burned for about an hour before it was eventually extinguished by fireman from the St John's fire station.

It was not immediately clear what may have caused the fire, but reports are that vagrants have occupied one of the structures and that Simon has repeatedly asked for them to be removed.

Large numbers of people from the neighbourhood came out to view the fire as large flames shot up into the air followed by thick dark smoke. As firemen fought to control the fire, a police vehicle appeared on the scene and asked the crowds to disperse, reminding them that the provisions of the curfew were still in force.

A visibly upset Simon was among onlookers at the scene watching the firemen battling the flames. At one time, the fire threatened a nearby 2-story structure,



but its concrete construction may have been one of the reasons why it survived the blaze.

At least two fire tenders were on the scene of the fire when it was finally brought under control.



Hike in Money transfer services

Not all businesses in Antigua and Barbuda are suffering under the restrictions imposed by the state of emergency.

Money transfer services are reporting a spike in business, even though they are only allowed to accept incoming funds and are not allowed to send money outward.

One of the companies re-

porting good business is Bryson's Money Transfer, one of the local agents for Western Union. Its general manager, Anthony Smith, says there has been a growth in the business since the state of emergency as people living overseas send money to their families here in Antigua and Barbuda.

"We see a large inflow of money from the United

States, Canada, Europe and even other Caribbean territories destined for family members here," he told PointeXpress newspaper.

He said these monies have been critical to many families who have run out of funds since the curfew began at the end of March.

Smith is also complimenting patrons for practicing the new social distancing

protocols when they visit the different branches of Western Union in Antigua.

Attempts to reach other money transfer services have not been successful.

Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, has indicated that the government may soon allow outward flow of funds under new more relaxed guidelines that are to be announced on Wednesday.

Tyrone 'Edimelo' Thomas: A nation in mourning

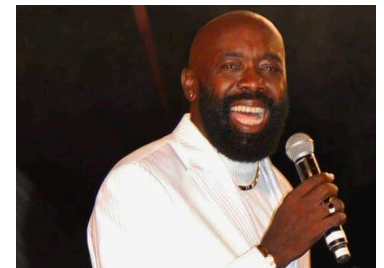
One of Antigua and Barbuda's cultural icon, Tyrone 'Edimelo' Thomas, died suddenly on Friday and as word of his passing spread across the nation, many persons revealed that they were overcome with sadness. Thomas was an entertainer extraordinaire as he possessed 'a golden voice' and a musical range that made his comfortable singing in any musical genre. He was equally at home performing soca, reggae or calypso as he was singing many of the standard ballads or the latest pop music hits.

As lead singer of the popular 1980's band, Vision, he led the group to becoming a musical force in Antigua and Barbuda churning out hits for the annual carnival celebrations. It was during this time that the band became a staple at the weekly 'party and jam session' at Shirley's Height. It is not inconceivable to say that the popular-

ity of the Sunday afternoon session had a lot to do with Vision band's popularity and musical prowess. The Vision Band was also the house band for the popular Village Pageant shows that ran from 1989 to the mid-1990's. It was while being band leader for a rebranded Vision 2000, that Thomas entered the Party Monarch competition, and while he never won the title,

it paved the way for him to enter the calypso monarch competition, which he won twice.

Thomas was a member of staff at the Ministry of Public Works for over thirty years with responsibility for securing furnishings for the many government offices and departments. As he neared retirement, Thomas decided to capitalise on his many years



of experience and established a business providing furnishings for offices in both the public and private sectors. It was at his business place that he collapsed on Friday but EMS personnel who rushed to the scene were unable to revive him.

LIAT grounds passenger services until May

LIAT, the Antigua based regional airline, has announced that it will extend the suspension of its passenger services until May 15 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Executive Officer, Julie Reifer-Jones explained that extension of the suspension was based on a review by the board of directors and the executive management of the airline. "Several destinations have extended their border closures and instituted strict travel restrictions which mean that passengers are unable to travel," she further explained.

Reifer-Jones noted that the airline was however still operating cargo flights to several destinations. In a statement, the airline said

it has issued an updated travel advisory for all affected passengers. "Passengers booked during the period of suspension will automatically have their bookings cancelled and will receive a full credit. Passengers will be able to rebook as soon as the airline resumes passenger services," according to the statement.

The airline's CEO acknowledged that this was an extremely difficult time for the airline, its employees and other stakeholders across the region. "While LIAT continues to operate with a skeletal staff," she advised, "the airline is working to resume operations across the LIAT network as soon as it was feasible to do so."

Banked up!

Households to benefit from FARM AH YAH YARD!

Bridging the gap between agricultural stakeholders, farmers and the government, the Farmers Forum organization seeks to play its part in stimulating food security in Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking with PointeXpress newspaper, Jemaul Phillip, PRO for the farming organization said, "Farmers Forum is an amalgamation of stakeholders from agro-producers to agro-processors forming a holistic endeavor to better the entire agricultural community in Antigua and Barbuda." Phillip indicated that the role of his organization is to find ways to "enable the ministers of government to make the best plan of action and decisions as they pertain to issues surrounding the agricultural sectors."

In collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and CARDI, the farmers' forum is planning to execute a massive seedling distribution programme themed "FARM

AH YAH YARD SEEDLING INITIATIVE". The aim of this is said to spur a Backyard Garden Initiative. "The true aim of the initiative," Phillip said, "is to empower residents of Antigua and Barbuda with the ability to produce at least one week's supply of wholesome food for their families."

The organizers are aiming at supplying at least 7,000 households with 10 seedlings each which include pumpkin, sweet potato, okra, cassava, and red beans.

Philip highlighted that "these particular seedlings have been selected based on their nutritional values along with their ability to withstand our harsh climates at times." According to the farming association, within an estimated 2 to 3 months families should be able to reap the benefits of their hard work once the plants are adequately care for.

Though not the first time the government has taken

a backyard gardening initiative since the upsurge COVID-19, the Farm ah Yah Yard initiative is seeking to take a different route in the distribution.

"This distribution of seedlings differs from others as it allows for us to collect, and in the future, collate necessary information through registration so that we would be able to present from a national standpoint as it pertains to our food security and implementation of measures to reduce the likelihood of food insufficiency in the fu-



Jemaul Phillip, PRO for Farmers Forum

ture," the PRO stated. Due to social distancing guidelines under the state of emergency, the distribution process will take place alphabetically through surname separation. From today, Monday, April 20, surnames beginning with A to I (i) will register and receive while on Tuesday, April 21, surnames beginning with J to Z will be conducted.



Curfew window could be extended this week

An appeal for extended opening hours to cater for employees of essential services, the elderly and those of diminished physical capacity so they can access necessities during the daily curfew window has found favor with Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

He has promised to bring the matter to his Cabinet colleagues following repeated suggestions that supermarkets, pharmacies, fuel service stations and other permitted enterprises should be allowed to open for at least one additional hour past the 7:00 a.m. to mid-day period currently granted under the country's round-the-clock curfew.

During the Browne & Browne Show last Saturday, several messages to the program's social media portals asked for special consideration to be shown to those whose duties under the State

of Emergency made it impractical and disadvantageous for them to take the long and very slow-moving lines at supermarkets and other services allowed to operate under the curfew regulations.

"Will there be any consideration for essential workers, law enforcement officials, APUA staff, healthcare workers, etc., to access supermarkets without battling long lines and crowds. When we get off work, supermarkets, pharmacies, etc., are closed," said one such WhatsApp message, representative of the others.

Via another platform, the manager of one of the country's top supermarket businesses suggested that an additional hour be tacked on to the current five-hour window "from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for care workers, nurses, police

... in gratitude for their hard work so they don't have to wait in line ... even for the elderly ... it could be called 'heroes shopping hour'."

In response, PM Browne said, "If things continue to hold steady with COVID-19, by Wednesday we should be able to even extend the hours. So we will certainly address the issue of essential workers having a window to shop and, potentially, we may even be able to extend the hours of operation. Presently there is a five-hour window. We may be able to go to 3:00 p.m., for example. Let me discuss with my Cabinet colleagues and we'll come up with a consensus and advise the nation. But I'm quite sure that unless we see a reversal in our COVID fortunes, our health fortunes, there will be some further relaxations this Wednesday."

IMF-World Bank must present concrete measures – PM Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne isn't exactly impressed with the responses he has received so far from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to his recent requests for special financing consideration to Antigua and Barbuda and other vulnerable Caribbean island states, in order to help them recover from the economic ravages of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Writing in his capacity as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Prime Minister with lead responsibility for Finance, Prime Minister Browne earlier this month

told the heads of the two premier global financing giants that the region was heavily tourism-dependent, and was therefore devastated by the stoppage of commercial air traffic and passenger cruise ships which bring in visitors – as well as the concomitant closure of hotels.

The Prime Minister requested a suspension of the per-capita-income-criteria that multilateral financiers have been using to determine that Antigua and Barbuda and most other CARICOM states do not qualify for concessional credit terms, including on the grounds that

they do not meet the classification of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).

Browne, a former banker who also holds the portfolios for Finance and Corporate Governance within the Cabinet he heads, appealed for debt relief – mainly the suspension of loan repayments and write-offs of very old loans – as well as budgetary support in the form of grants and low-cost loans.

PointeXpress newspaper has been reliably informed that both the World Bank and the IMF responded in writing to the Prime Minister last week, expressing equal mea-

sures of admiration for, and, agreement with his articulation of the challenges facing his country and the wider region on whose behalf he made representation.

IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva is said to have assured the Antigua and Barbuda leader that her institution has moved quickly to approve significant increases in access limits to the Fund's emergency financing facilities.

Georgieva is also believed to have dangled before PM Browne a carrot he has repeatedly and steadfastly re-

cont'd on pg 7

Criminal Assizes Postponed, again

The Criminal Assize court that was due to resume operations at the High Court of Justice in Antigua and Barbuda, has been postponed again; this time indefinitely.

In a press statement issued on Sunday, the court is advising all jurors who have received summons to appear tomorrow, Tuesday April 21, to ignore those summons un-

til further communications from the court.

“As you are aware the Caribbean region and the rest of the world have been paying close attention to the spread of COVID-19. In light of this, we have received communication from the Court’s Headquarters in Castries, Saint Lucia encouraging vigilance in ensuring that

all steps are taken to secure the safety of the staff and the general public who utilize the court services, the statement signed by Deputy Registrar, Kayode O’Marde said.

However, according to the release...these proceedings are likely to bring together a significant number of persons such as jurors, police officers, witnesses, prison-

ers, defendants on bail and other relevant staff of various agencies. “Under the guidelines of our current state of emergency and in light of the various advisories we have received, we do not consider it possible at this time to proceed with the opening of the assizes, specifically in relation to the conducting of jury trials,” O’Marde noted in the statement.

He promised to provide further information regarding that issue as soon as all the various stakeholders are fully consulted.

The statement gave a commitment to conclude all matters where persons may have pleaded or were found guilty and are awaiting sentencing as soon as the court is able. “We shall also be working in conjunction with the Office of The Director of Public Prosecutions and members of the criminal bar to schedule matters where pleas or discontinuations are forthcoming,” it stated

It also advised that bail applications will continue being heard via video or teleconference.

“We join with the Honourable Chief Justice Janice M. Pereira, The Honourable Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda Gaston Browne, The Honourable Steadroy Benjamin, Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs and the Government of Antigua & Barbuda in encouraging persons to remain vigilant and safe at this time,” O’Marde concluded.

cont’d from pg 6

fused: the offer of financial support via the IMF’s Stand-By Arrangement or SBA – a program which was entered into by the previous UPP administration.

Paying off the IMF and pulling the country out of that fiscally debilitating deal has been a personal and manifesto policy triumph for PM Browne since he took office in June 2014 and replaced the current UPP leader Harold Lovell as the country’s Finance Minister.

The other letter from the World Bank Group’s representative for Latin America and the Caribbean is said to have concurred with PM Browne’s assessment that the COVID-19 crisis will have a disproportionate impact on the Caribbean region. The World Bank said it is about implementing a phase of COVID-19 support to mitigate the economic and social impact of the crisis over the next 15 months.

But Prime Minister Browne noted that the COVID-19 crisis is likely to perilously drive up his country’s debt-to-GDP ratio from its last recorded level of 69 percent at the start of the year.

“Some estimates have shown that in order to fund the relief aspect as well as the recovery aspect of COVID, we could end up having a debt-to-GDP of 175 percent. Now if our debt to GDP increases to 175 percent, how are we going to pay those loans? That will present another problem for us, and that is why we have approached the international community ... to ask them for assistance, to

help us.”

Browne said that for the most part, these financial institutions “are offering some level of concessional loan support, but we think that they needed to go further ... Even though they have written back to me on behalf of some of the other Caribbean countries I represented, I’m not satisfied with their response; because, what is really necessary, we need debt write-off to create fiscal space. We need a standstill on debt repayments – in other words, a moratorium on interest and principal – so we don’t have to pay anything. And we also need ODA [Official Development Assistance], we need grants ... it’s the only way out ... so I suspect I’m going to have to write to them again.”

Browne described the responses from the apex financial institutions based in the United States’ capital, Washington D.C., as containing “a lot of platitudes” but devoid of “any effort to create new policy instruments to help vulnerable countries within the Caribbean”.

He said despite the flowery and flattering language employed in the responses to him, neither the IMF nor the World Bank Group had dealt with the specific issues he had sought to raise with them. “They have not responded definitively to any of those,” is how he put it.

As for the IMF’s standby facility, Prime Minister Browne said it made no sense to take the IMF’s money when it included conditions of austerity such as massive retrenchment of public sector workers.

MSJMC receives donation of medical supplies

Thousands of medical equipment, supplies and necessities have been donated to the Mount St John's Medical Centre by local businessman George Bahri.

The donation represents the fifth such gift that he has presented to the health institution.

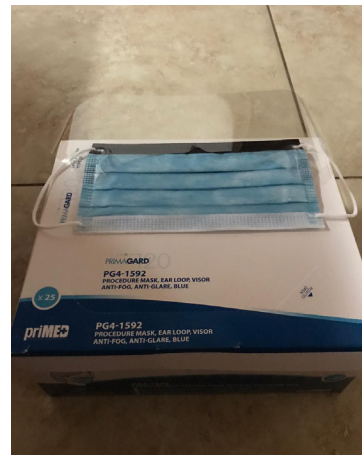
From 2006 to 2020, George Bahri has faithfully and enthusiastically organized major donations to the country's lone public medical institution through a collaboration with the Mayo Clinic's Rochester Medical Missions Group in Rochester, Minnesota.

According to Bahri, "the 1st donation was made in 2006 to the Holberton Hospital, valued at US\$50,000.00, the 2nd donation was made in 2008, valued at US\$85,000.00, the 3rd donation was made to the MSJMC in 2016, valued at US\$128,000.00 while the 4th donation was made to MSJMC in 2017, valued at US\$223,400.00."



This year marks the fifth donation that Bahri has sourced for the MSJMC from Rochester when a 40-ft container filled with medical supplies and equipment valued at USD\$200,000.000 was unpacked on March 27th, 2020.

Due to several reasons, the container which arrived on the island in 2019 was only opened in March 2020. Bahri recounts that after an accumulation of time between the container's arrival and clearance, a considerable amount of fees were racked up. However, Bahri noted that through the intervention of Prime Minister



Gaston Browne and through the kindness of the shippers, Bryson's Shipping, all fees were waived, resulting in the release of the container.

"Special thanks to Patrick Ryan and Holly Ralph of Bryson's Shipping for making this possible," the businessman stated.

While opening the container, Bahri made a timely rediscovery of much-needed items in an earlier container which still had some unused items. "Thanks to this container coming in and being cleared," he explained, "I was able to check the 2017 shipment that was still in storage, I was able to rediscover thousands of masks and gloves and 230 PPE sets."

The local businessman continued, "this rediscovery comes at a very crucial time as the country ramps up its fight against COVID-19."

Some of the items found and now donated to health officials were approximately 25,000 masks, 10,000 gloves, 230 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), 15



Local Businessman Mr. George Bahri unpacking the container.

hospital beds, 20 mattresses, 6 baby cribs, 500 pillows, 500 blankets, 2000 sheets, 400 surgery gowns, 5 arterial flow system intermittent pneumatic compressions, 100 calf cuff compression sleeves, several crutches, a dental chair and patient hoister to name a few."

As cases of COVID-19 catapult globally, the availability of medical supplies and equipment have rapidly become among the scarcest commodities on the market.

Antigua and Barbuda has also faced the brunt of this scramble for medical supplies to aid in the fight against COVID-19. However, though caught in the global fight for supplies, this rediscovery is a big help to fill the need for medical supplies for the nation.

Both Prime Minister Browne and Minister of Health, Molwyn Joseph, have expressed appreciation to George Bahri, for the timely donation of the much-needed medical supplies as the country amps up their fight against COVID-19.

Local News



Combating COVID-19: Early days yet for the Caribbean

NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY

The current moment is by far the most defining in modern history. The global community is engulfed in three major crises, which must be confronted simultaneously: the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a health crisis of enormous proportions.

As of 2 am CEST, 17 April 2020, there have been 2,074,529 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 139,378 deaths reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO). While COVID-19 is claiming lives and wreaking havoc on health systems, its impact transcends the health sector. The virus has invaded the deep crevasses of the world economy, penetrating the bloodstream of economic life. Those two interlocking crises are ongoing against the backdrop of an existential climate crisis. What is at stake are lives, livelihoods and the survival of the natural environment.

There is no one 'right' approach to win the battle against this novel coronavirus. Governments worldwide are adopting a combination of measures, in very fluid circumstances, as they seek to do what seems almost impossible: save lives and preserve livelihoods, in a context where a delicate balancing act must be

struck between the two. Some countries, such as Israel and New Zealand, opted for early border closures and required all persons entering their countries to self-isolate for 14 days. For New Zealand's Prime Minister, "We must go hard and we must go early." According to Newsroom, an independent, New Zealand-based news and current affairs site, when compared to 6 other countries of similar size, population, culture and region, New Zealand acted by far the earliest. The report argues that New Zealand has a chance to eradicate COVID-19, instead of just containing and managing it until a vaccine is developed.

Other countries, such as South Korea, focused on aggressive testing and contact tracing. This approach helped flatten the curve of infections and minimised the mortality rate, relative to the United States (US), for example. As at 17 April, 2020, there were 10,635 confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Korea and 230 deaths. Comparatively, there were 632,781 confirmed cases in the US and 28,221 deaths. Indeed, COVID-19 has exposed the contradictions of capitalism, where health-care is often viewed, not as a right, but as a privilege

for the minority who can afford it. At the federal level, the US's response didn't appear sufficiently proactive and seemingly incoherent at best. In keeping with the Trump administration's 'America First' policy, the US President invoked the Korean war-era law, referred to as the Defence Protection Action of 1950. The Act authorises the president to use loans, direct purchases and other incentives to boost the production of critical goods and essential materials. Multiple countries have accused the Trump administration of unfairly acquiring equipment necessary for fighting COVID-19. In a similar vein, even in the midst of the global pandemic, the US president withdrew US contributions to the WHO, consistent with the Trump administration's disregard for multilateralism.

On the other hand, the Government of Cuba continued its medical diplomacy, solidarity, and internationalist outlook by sending doctors as far away as Italy and nurses to several sister Caribbean countries. The Government of Venezuela too, although facing threats from the US, was able to donate testing kits and other medical supplies to some Caribbean countries.



By Wendy C Grenade

Based on global trends, it is possible that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) may become the next epicentre for the pandemic. As at 16 April, 2020, the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) reported that Brazil, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic had 28,320, 8,225 and 3,755 confirmed cases and 1,736, 403 and 196 deaths respectively. As at that same date, Jamaica had reported 125 confirmed cases; Trinidad and Tobago 114; Barbados 75; Guyana 55; Bahamas 53; Haiti 43; Belize 18 and Suriname 10. Deaths range from 1 in Suriname, 2 in Belize, 3 in Haiti, 5 in Jamaica and Barbados, 6 in Guyana and 8 in Trinidad and Tobago. Except for Antigua and Barbuda, which reported 23 confirmed cases and 3 deaths, none of the other OECS countries has reported deaths due to COVID-19. To date, Dominica has reported 16 confirmed cases; St Lucia 15; Grenada and St Kitts and Nevis 14 each; St Vincent and the Grenadines 12 and Montserrat 11. On the relatively lower spectrum, to date (17 April 2020) Anguilla and British Virgin Islands have 3 confirmed cases and no deaths (See Miami Herald, 17 April 2020).

Globally, the current debate surrounds the modalities for easing restrictions and ending lock-downs to return to some semblance of 'normality'. Public health experts are sounding caution as this novel coronavirus continues to baffle even the scientific community. For example, South Korea has reported over 100 cases where people have recovered from COVID-19 but have since tested positive for the disease again. It is uncertain whether the virus is being reactivated or if persons are being re-infected. It is also unclear whether relapse cases lead to secondary infection. The danger of opening-up prematurely can create new waves of the pandemic, which can be even more devastating. However, there could be grave economic fallout from prolonged lockdowns.

Small developing countries, such as those in CARICOM, cannot afford any missteps as they manage the transition through various phases of the pandemic. In fact, the Director of PAHO, has warned that "COVID-19 has yet to hit with full force in our region, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean." She expressed the view that following a period of social distancing, any attempt to transition to more flexible measures should be taken with extreme caution. She warned that such decisions should always be informed by disease transmission patterns, COVID-19 testing and contact tracing capacity, the availability of

hospital beds, and other objective criteria (see St Lucia Times, 15 April, 2020). I am of the view that there must be a very gradual approach to easing border controls and physical distancing protocols. Above all else, priority must be containing the virus and saving lives. The dilemma is, on the one hand, the quest to save lives may jeopardise livelihoods. Yet, on the other hand, the imperative to preserve livelihoods may cost human lives. While economies can re-bound, lost lives unfortunately cannot.

For the Caribbean, these are early days yet. There are too many unknowns about COVID-19. We are not quite sure whether we are at the beginning, the middle or nearing the end of this initial phase in the fight against this invisible enemy. There is no place for complacency. In the coming weeks, Caribbean governments should increase testing and contact tracing (they should particularly monitor those who have been reported to have 'recovered'). They should also reinforce physical distancing measures – not relax them. Those countries that have closed their borders should keep them closed (except for essential cargo or emergencies) until such time as there is some measure of certainty that the pandemic is contained globally.

Phases II and III would test the resilience of the small states in the Caribbean. As the world opens up, Caribbean citizens who were trapped overseas would re-

turn home (whether from vacation, cruise ship workers or students, etc.). Caribbean countries, particularly those overly-dependent on tourism, may be eager to invite visitors. The region would enter new phases in combating COVID-19. Additionally, in August, for instance, it is quite possible that an active hurricane season can collide with COVID-19 while the pandemic is at its peak in the region. This would be a triple catastrophic blow for already vulnerable Caribbean countries. Given the gravity of the situation and the non-discriminatory nature of the virus (i.e. it does not choose its victims based on race, class, age, gender or political party affiliation) there is urgency to democratise the response. This is no time for partisan politics. We are at our best collective selves when we confront challenges with a collective resolve. Ruling parties should have broad-based strategic teams that include health experts, opposition parties, trade unions, other civil society organisations, academics etc. There must be transparency. Information must be accurate and timely. Citizens must be reassured that decisions are being made in their best interests. At the same time, citizens should be responsible and adhere to the protocols established by the state, even as those stipulations go against entrenched social norms. In fact, freedom, not isolation/'bondage', is the foundation on which our Caribbean civilisation is

grounded. However, these are not normal times. To combat COVID-19, we need to suspend how we know how to live (enjoying our beaches, attending funerals, gatherings in rum shops and churches etc.) to ensure that, in as far as is possible, we collectively survive this deadly virus. And we will! The Caribbean has been seasoned through crises and we have developed, through time, resilience to withstand.

Finally, there is need for a regional approach. If the current global pandemic intensifies, it will be almost impossible for any Caribbean government to manage the crisis and the transition to 'normality' on its own. There is scope for dialogue and cooperation on several fronts: border restrictions, Caribbean transport, regional public health policy, procurement of health supplies and medical equipment, a multi-dimensional regional security policy (securitising health, economy, environment, food, along with national security). These are unprecedented times that require sound, decisive leadership, inclusive governance, civic responsibility and regional cooperation. Above all, hope must triumph over doubt, as we draw on our tradition of overcoming and our instinct to rebound. Wendy C Grenade is a Grenadian, who is a Senior Lecturer in Political Science and Head, Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

Welcome to the 'new normal'

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, COVID-19, first in China in late 2019, and then declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation in March this year, there have been several terminologies that have become permanent fixtures in our collective lexicons. 'Social distancing' and 'new normal' and two that immediately come to mind that are associated with the novel virus.

Health officials say the virus is transmitted in a variety of ways, but quite often it is transferred from an infected person to another without either person being aware of it. That's because there are persons infected with the virus who show no symptoms whatsoever; they are asymptomatic, another term that has crept

out of the jargon of doctors and scientists to become words used by everyday people. This is what makes this virus and its spread so insidious because someone may be spreading it to their loved ones unknowingly; the thought has put fear and dread into the hearts of people. Humans are by nature social animals. Isolation has been proven over the years to be unhealthy for a person's mental state. There are extensive writings by leading behavioral scientists on the subject. Yet, this virus has upended millennia of human behaviours by making the things that make us 'human' anathema to our very existence. Hugging, holding hands, socializing in groups, kissing each other on the cheeks are all behaviors that are now forbidden

in this 'brave new world' of COVID-19.

One of the ways that the virus is reportedly spread is simply from hand to hand contact. Someone with the disease could spread it unto his/her hand, then open a door to the house or office and the next person holding the door knob can pick up the germ on the hand and inadvertently become infected by touch his/her face, especially the nostrils, eyes or mouth. With this knowledge, one of the first things that we were all advised to do is to stop shaking hands, a very common form of greeting in many cultures/societies.

The 'new normal' is therefore touching elbows as people the world over followed WHO guidelines as well as out of an abundance of cau-



By Everton Barnes

tion/fear about catching the disease.

To be human is to be social, or as stated by the ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle: 'Man is by nature a social animal'. From antiquity to today, humans have formed societies for their mutual protection/survival and with the one thing that separates them from other animals, the possession of fully developed languages, have been able to pass knowledge and skills from one generation to another.

Yet under the COVID-19 protocols, large gatherings have been banned by governments the world over. Even human social norms such as weddings, funerals and religious worship have been discontinued, though temporarily. These gatherings are believed to be fertile grounds for the spread of the virus and curtailing them becomes part of the arsenal in the fight to contain the virus.

Practically all aspects of
Cont'd on pg 13

Bluetooth technology, which allows wireless devices like mobile phones to interact with other wireless devices at short distances, has been around for almost 16 years.

And while the first Bluetooth-enabled phone shipped in 2000, it wasn't until the mid-2000s that the craze fully took hold (remember those in-ear headsets everybody used to wear?).

These days, there's not a new device that's released without Bluetooth connectivity. From smartphones, to tablets, to even your clock radio, everything is Bluetooth-enabled.

The evolution of road safety



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

human interactions have been affected; sports, entertainment, dining, church services, including weddings and funerals, businesses, travel and recreation.

Added to this, is the official edict advising citizens to stay at home. Public service announcements by health officials that are reinforced by similar advice from popular personalities are utilizing traditional and social media platforms to get the message out. Even when people can venture out of their homes, they are asked to practice social distancing, which is a nice way of saying physical distancing, keeping six feet away from the other person. Some advice has gone as far as telling people to practice

social distancing in their homes.

Visiting family and friends that were once taken for granted is now taboo under these new regulations. Many openly display hostility to anyone who invades their 'space' as social distancing is taking to its logical limit. Imagine not being able to perform one of society's most important rituals; burying a loved one in a manner socially and personally pleasing. You are now advised to hold a 'memorial service' at a time when the pandemic is at an end.

Additionally, we are being told that it is now mandatory to wear masks, or some material to cover the nostrils and mouth whenever

we venture into the public sphere. The 'new normal'; lines to enter supermarkets etc. where patrons stand six feet away from each other wearing masks or facial coverings.

One is now left to question: when will some sense of normalcy return to several professions that may have been taken for granted for many years; barbers, hair salons, nail technicians or even home domestics. These are professions that require personal contacts! What is their 'new normal'? Can these individuals survive in the world of COVID-19, even while wearing masks/facial coverings themselves? And what about the home domestics? Will you

allow someone who is not a family member into your house in this era of the 'new normal'? What are the 'new normal' etiquettes for dining at restaurants or socializing at a bar? How should picnics and bathing at the beach be conducted under these new 'arrangements'?

These are issues that we have to ponder as a society and as a nation in this COVID-19 reality especially since we are told that full immunity from catching the virus, which is often fatal, may not come until a vaccine has been developed and that this may be one year to eighteen months away.

The 'new normal' or aspects of it, may become our new, permanent, reality!

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: April 20th, 2020

Time: 9:00AM - 11:30AM

Affected areas: Section of Liberta; Table Hill Garden

Date: April 21st, 2020

Time: 9:00AM - 11:30AM

Affected areas: Turtle Bay

Date: April 22nd, 2020

Time: 9:00AM - 11:30AM

Affected areas: Southern section of Horsford Hill

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.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Development Control Authority (DCA) will resume operations on Monday 20th, April.

ADJUSTED OPERATING HOURS
MON - FRI
8AM - 12PM

ALL CUSTOMERS MUST WEAR A MASK AND OBSERVE THE SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS

GRENADA JOINS ST.KITTS IN 6 MONTH EXTENSION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY



Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Timothy Harris pictured with Grenada's Governor-General, Her Excellency Dame Dr. Cecile La Grenade and Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. the Rt. Honourable Keith Mitchell at the 2018 ceremonial Military Parade in Grenada.

Members in both the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament on Friday agreed to extend the State of Emergency for a 6-month period, with the option to terminate or revoke it before the conclusion of the agreed time.

On 25 March, a limited State of Emergency was declared as part of measures to restrict the movement of citizens as Grenada put in place measures to combat and reduce the spread of Grenada experiencing community transmission or spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus. Grenada's Constitution provides for an initial period of 21 days without parliamentary approval but the

State of Emergency declaration will only be valid for 21 days. The Houses of Parliament must give approval for it to continue. According to the constitution all members had to give unanimous support for the resolution to be legal. "A resolution of a House of Parliament for the purposes of subsection (2) of this section and a resolution of a House extending any such resolution shall not be passed unless it is supported by the votes of a majority of all the members of the House," says Section 17 subsection 6 of the constitution.

During the voting process all members of the House of Representatives

including newly appointed Leader of the Opposition, Tobias Clement, as well as all members in the Senate, supported the continuation of the measure.

The current State of Emergency which comes with a number of regulations including a 24-hour curfew with exception for essential services workers, will expire on 20 April 2020. The regulations of the State of Emergency are done in accordance with the Emergency Powers Act and it is expected that before the end of business day on 20 April, government will gazette a new set of regulations for a continuation of the State of Emergency.

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Why Jamaica rejected Cuban COVID-19 drug

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie has said that the Government's decision to reject the use of the Cuban antiviral drug Interferon Alpha 2B to treat persons battling COVID-19 at this time was made after consultations with experts in the public-health sector.

She told the Special Select Committee on Public Health discussing developments in relation to the coronavirus pandemic yesterday that the side-effects profile of the drug as demonstrated in trials with other diseases include fever, diarrhoea, myalgia, depression, and deaths.

The CMO was responding to questions as committee members met via an online platform as part of efforts to observe physical-distancing protocols in the wake of COVID-19.

INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

A clinical working group comprising pulmonologists, anaesthesiologists, paediatricians, critical-care specialists, emergency-room physicians, pharmacists, standards and regulations personnel, among others, reportedly reviewed available material on Interferon Alpha 2B and decided against its use.

Further, Bisasor-McKenzie said that there was insufficient evidence to support the unreserved use of the drug at this time.



Jamaica Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie

She said that the administration of the drug requires nebulisation, which is aerosol-generating and, therefore, not recommended for patients suspected of or confirmed for COVID-19.

"Based on these, I think that they did take a lot of time to consider it, and based on the information that is available at this time, they have made this recommendation that I support," the CMO added.

Speaking in Parliament on Wednesday, Health and Wellness Minister Dr Christopher Tufton said that the ministry had completed its assessment of the antiviral drug, and given that it had not been approved globally, the decision was made not to use it in Jamaica at this time.

"It is not that we have not looked at it. As you know, we have been collaborating with the Cuban government in several ways, and we are

very appreciative in terms of the clinical capacity that has been added to our front line against COVID," Tufton said on Wednesday.

The antiviral drug is one of several being used by the Chinese to fight the new coronavirus and has reportedly proven effective for viruses with characteristics similar to those of COVID-19.

No NIFCA or Crop Over Festival for 2020



Barbadian superstar Rhianna, is known for attending the country's carnival festivities every year.

The Crop Over Festival and the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts (NIFCA) are the latest casualties of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, which is affecting more than 200 countries and territories across the world. Cabinet has approved a recommendation by the Ministry of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports to cancel this year's Crop Over Festival and NIF-

CA. This decision was made in light of ongoing global efforts to contain and manage the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as Government's negative short term projections for the local economy, regional and international travel and trade, and weakened public confidence in attending mass gatherings in the current environment, and immediately thereafter. Cabinet has further agreed

that the Ministry, through the National Cultural Foundation (NCF), would replace the two major festivals with a national training programme in schools and communities, and a wide-reaching campaign to both fund and produce radio, television and digital content, which would be accessible across multiple delivery channels, including the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

The Ministry of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports remains committed to its mission of creating opportunities in the cultural industries. To this end, the NCF will shortly convene a series of stakeholder consultations to discuss ways in which cultural practitioners could participate in, and benefit from, the programmes identified as replacements for the Crop Over Festival and NIFCA.

Trump's approval rating is down significantly

(CNN)Poll of the week: A new Gallup poll finds President Donald Trump's approval stands at 43%. His disapproval rating is at 54%.

Trump's approval rating is down significantly from 49% in March, while his disapproval rating is up 9 points from 45%.

What's the point: Trump received a clear boost in his approval rating as the coronavirus pandemic began to grip the country. His net approval rating (approval - disapproval) among voters shot up to its highest point since the first month of his presidency. But now, just weeks later, Trump's popularity has been dropping.

Looking at the data, Trump seems to have had one of the fastest retreats of a rally around the flag effect in modern polling history.

Trump's net approval rating stood at -10 points among voters in an aggregate of polls as late as March 11. Less than three weeks later, it got up to -4 points on March 27. Today, it's back down to -8 points.

Even at its peak, the jump of just 6 points is weaker than any well-known rally around the flag event that I know of for a president. It's only about half that of what Barack Obama got after the killing of Osama Bin Laden. It falls well short of the nearly 70-point jump George W. Bush received after 9/11.

But even if Trump failed to reach the levels of any of his predecessors, you might have thought the bump would stick



President Donald Trump.

around for a while. Even the shortest of bumps (like Bush got after Saddam Hussein was captured) had residual effects for a few months. My study of rally around the flag events since World War II found that the median one still has some effect for more than 200 days after the event occurs.

We're only about 40 days after Trump started to see his polling climb. Unbelievably, this is usually when rally around the flag effects hit their peak, not when they are almost entirely extinguished.

Now, a lot has changed since many of these rally around the

flag events took place. We're in a 24/7 news environment. Still, there's plenty of reason to think that Trump's limited bounce in terms of height and time is an underperformance.

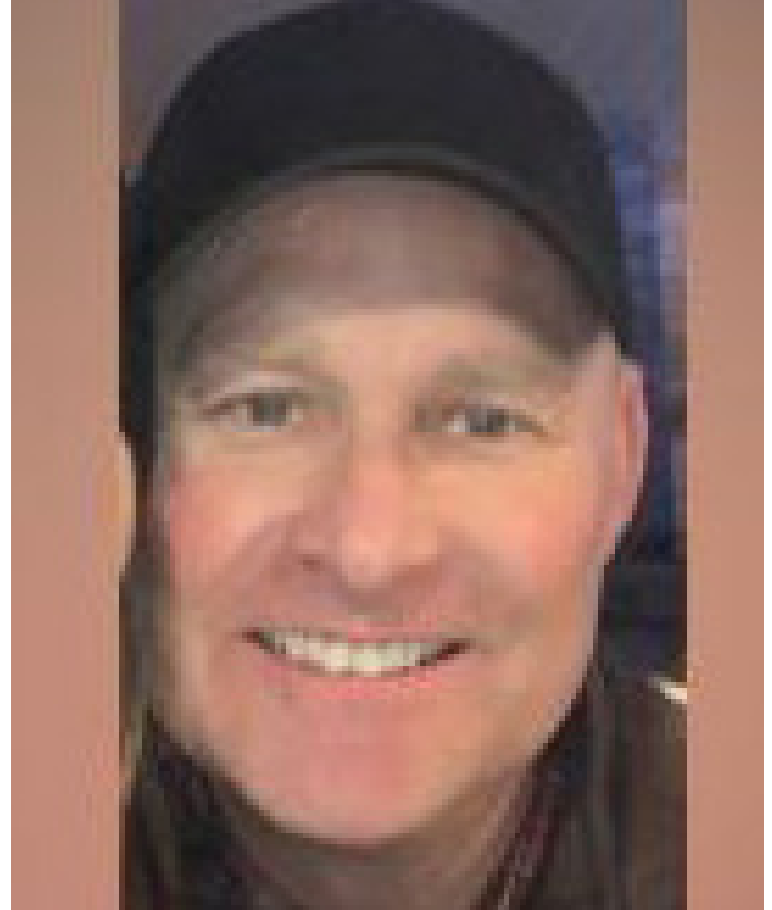
Indeed, as Trump's approval rating has declined, Congress' has gone up. Both Fox News and Gallup put Congress' approval rating at their highest since 2009. In pretty much every state poll I'm aware of, the governor's approval rating, no matter their party affiliation, is higher than Trump's. Even internationally, Trump saw a significantly smaller bounce

than other world leaders. It is possible that Trump could see some sort of secondary bounce. You can imagine that possibly happening when restrictions are lifted in states or when a vaccine is found. In terms of his reelection prospects, it should be worrying to the President that even with a black swan pandemic occurring, he couldn't get his net approval rating above 0 points. It's going to be difficult to win the election if his net approval rating is -8 points among voters on election day.

Gunman shoots as many as 10 people in rampage across Nova Scotia



Police officers prepare to take a suspect into custody in Enfield, Nova Scotia, on Sunday.



Suspect Gabriel Wortman

A gunman may have injured up to 10 people in Nova Scotia, including at least one Mountie, in a shooting rampage before he was taken into custody after a manhunt, according to a Canadian law enforcement official.

Details about the shooting spree, which spanned several dozen miles, were still sketchy Sunday. The official did not indicate how many of the 8 to 10 suspected victims had been killed.

The Canadian law enforcement official and another law enforcement source both said at least one Royal Canadian

Mounted Police (RCMP) officer was among the victims. The law enforcement source said the officer was deceased, along with the suspect.

Authorities were searching half dozen crime scenes, beginning in Portapique and stretching to Enfield, where the suspect was taken into custody, that source said.

Authorities identified the suspected shooter as 51-year-old Gabriel Wortman. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police had warned the public on Twitter that Wortman may have been wearing a RCMP uniform and driving a silver

Chevrolet Tracker that appeared to be a police vehicle. But they clarified that he was not employed by the RCMP.

Earlier the RCMP had warned residents about a shooting in Portapique -- where the rampage is believed to have started late Saturday -- and said the shooting incident involving "several victims."

As they chased the gunman, police told residents to stay inside and lock their doors, warning that he was considered "armed and dangerous."

Stephen McNeil, the Pre-

mier of Nova Scotia, called the shooting spree "one of the most senseless acts of violence in our province's history." At a media conference on Covid-19, he told reporters: "I never imagined when I went to bed last night that I would wake up to the horrific news that an active shooter was on the loose in Nova Scotia."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted, "Our hearts go out to everyone affected by the shooting," adding "we're keeping all of you in our thoughts."

Global concert raises more than \$127M for WHO emergency



Artists perform from home in worldwide benefit.

Some of the world's top stars have helped to raise nearly \$128 million for the World Health Organization during the coronavirus pandemic by performing in a concert broadcast globally.

Dozens of celebrities and musicians, including Lady Gaga, Stevie Wonder and the Rolling Stones, took part in the 8-hour show called "One World: Together At Home."

Global Citizen, an interna-

tional advocacy group that organized the event, said early Sunday on Twitter that \$127.9 million had been pledged in donations.

Following the live broadcast, Global Citizen tweeted: "\$127.9 million for COVID-19 relief. That is the power and impact of One World: #TogetherAtHome." Lady Gaga responded to this tweet, saying: "I am so humbled to have been a part of this project."

The proceeds will be given to the WHO's Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund.

The concert was divided into two parts, a 6-hour "pre-show" and a main 2-hour show hosted by Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel and Stephen Colbert.

"To all of our frontline health-care workers, we are with you. Thank you for being there for us," an on-screen caption read at the start of the show.

Solidarity in pandemic

Those who performed also added their tributes, with Lady Gaga expressing her thanks for medical workers who are "putting their lives at risk for us right now."

Other musicians also spoke about the need for solidarity during the pandemic.

Before performing "Lean on Me" in tribute to his late friend Bill Withers, Stevie Wonder said: "During hardships like this, we have to lean on each other for help."

Taylor Swift, Elton John, Paul McCartney and Jennifer Lopez were among others who gave performances from their homes. The Rolling Stones managed to perform "You Can't Always Get What You Want" despite being in four different locations.

The show, which also showed featured stories about frontline workers, was streamed live on various online platforms and was aired Saturday night on NBC, CBS and ABC in the US.

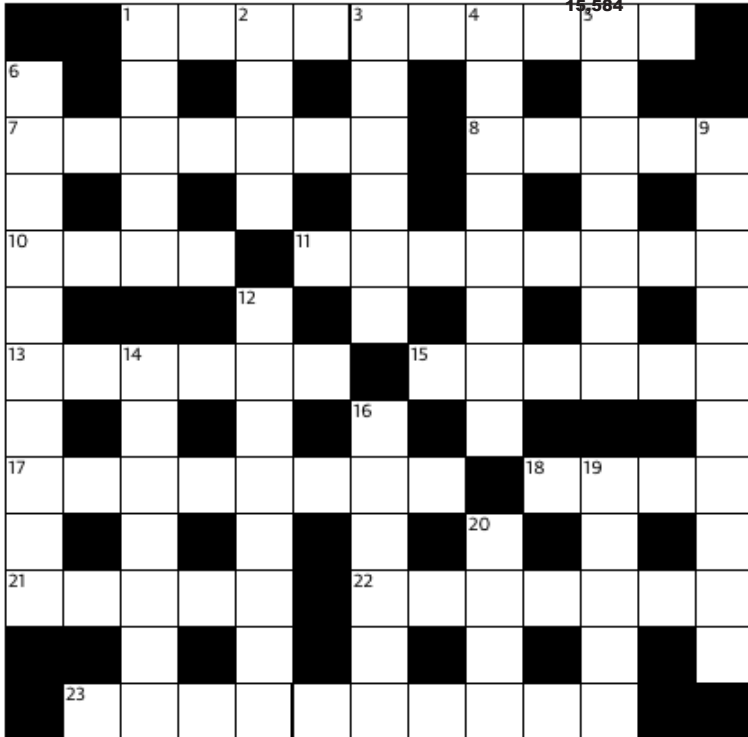
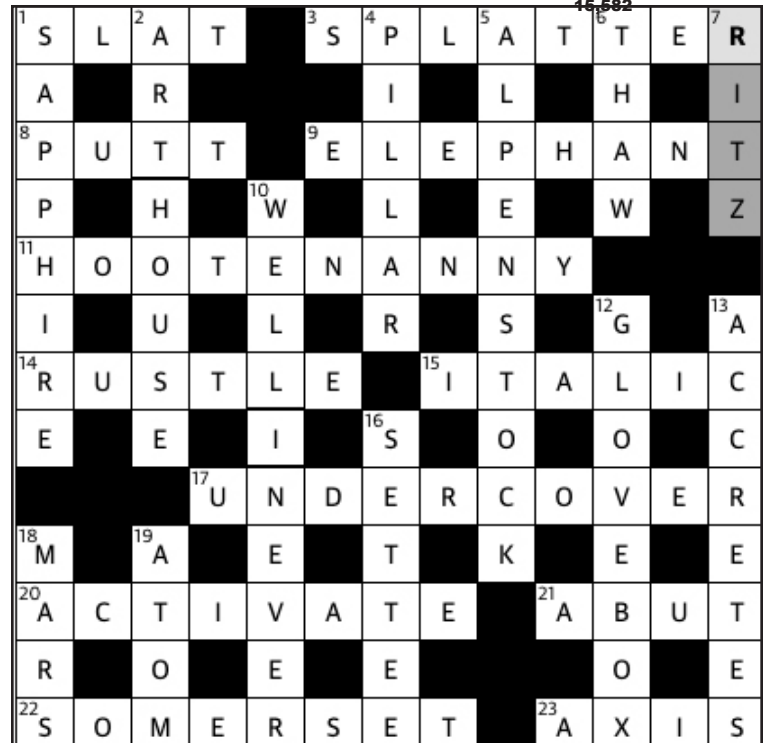
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QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No
 15 584

 Quick crossword No
 15 582


Across

- 1 Feign death (4,6)
 7 Sunshade (7)
 8 Sanctioned (5)
 10 Town crier's call (4)
 11 Political philosophy based on avoiding extremes (8)
 13 Eyrie resident (6)
 15 Immediately! (6)
 17 Unmoving (8)
 18 Equitable (4)
 21 Damp (5)
 22 Seasonal wind (south-west or north-east) of southern Asia (7)
 23 Swimming underwater without breathing equipment (4,6)

Down

- 1 Cleanse (5)
 2 Besides (4)
 3 Nick (6)
 4 Good for you (8)
 5 Smarm — balm (7)
 6 A slip of the tongue? — no promises (anag) (10)
 9 Shaken instrument (10)
 12 Not sanctioned (8)
 14 PR stunt? (7)
 16 Former students (6)
 19 In the middle of (5)
 20 Against (4)

CARTOON CORNER





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): You might end up feeling fooled if you're attracted only by someone's or something's alluring appearance. Don't forget to pay your bills on time to avoid penalties and negative marks on your credit score in the week ahead.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Your suspicions might not be groundless, but this isn't the right time to call someone out. Keep your nose to the grindstone in the upcoming week and focus on honoring your duties and obligations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your head may be in the clouds as your imagination soars, but some people may expect you to take things more seriously. Be responsible in the week ahead and take care of things that matter in the real world.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Being kindhearted and diligent may only go so far to protect you; be sure you're checking all the boxes. A loved one could be difficult to deal with in the early part of the week, but you can remain understanding and avoid a confrontation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel restrained by circumstances beyond your control as the week begins. You may be so focused on dealing with what may be wrong that you might not be able to appreciate what's right in the week ahead.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your inner critic might be amped up in the week ahead and find fault with things and people. You may justify this by saying that you're simply insisting on excellence, but you may be too exacting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Flattery is nice if you are the recipient, but it doesn't guarantee that the flatterer is trustworthy. You might be swayed by someone who butters you up with compliments or gifts in the upcoming week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Temptation is something to avoid in the week to come. Any impulsive decisions or actions might backfire in a very unpleasant way. Be forgiving if a loved one isn't as cooperative and loving as usual.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You might feel there isn't enough to go around, and your wallet may feel the pinch. The desire for material success could provoke you to take unnecessary risks or make poor decisions in the week ahead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your decisions about things in life and at work may be affected. As this week unfolds, avoid making changes, new starts or key decisions, because what appears to be the right direction could lead to a dead end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You might feel that people expect you to do all the hard work as the first part of the week passes by. Since you may feel unappreciated, your mood might not be as cheerful as you'd like. Avoid taking out frustrations on someone else.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Consider putting the pursuit of your dreams on hold until the second part of the week. It may be wise to put a new project on hold or pass up a chance to make a major purchase. Some people might be less cooperative than usual.

It was all an accident

Former West Indies Cricket Board Vice-President Clarvis Joseph described his contribution to sports administration as 'an accident'.

He told PointeXpress Sports that after attending college in Jamaica, he worked there for a while, then moved to Guyana as a teacher, before returning to Antigua following which he was invited by friends to join the Antigua Cricket Association.

"Ted Isaac, Sydney Christian and Tim Hector urged me to come on board and in

voluntary work one has to be independent financially to be effected and I guess that's why I was singled out," Joseph noted.

According to Joseph he had a few ideas and as is customary in the culture, when someone presented an idea to a group, that person is usually asked to execute it. "That happened to me a few times which led to my being involved in sports administration," Joseph articulated.

The former administrator and successful businessman also highlighted some of his



Former West Indies Cricket Board Vice-President Clarvis Joseph

memorable moments as a top executive in cricket. "These building of the Sir Vivian Richards pavilion, WIOC Double Decker stand, hosting the nation's first test match, and re-laying of the Antigua Recreation Grounds," Joseph said.

He recalled that many questioned whether the country could deliver on all three projects on time. "We were able to prove them all wrong because in perfect Antiguan fashion we started late and made all three deadlines,"

Joseph said with a smile.

Eventually, he noted that after his elevation to the executive of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board it led to an opportunity where he became the vice president of the West Indies Cricket Board, led at the time by his friend, Pat Rousseau, of Jamaica.

Joseph said the evolution of West Indies cricket came under Pat Rousseau, who was an experienced businessman with a sharp legal mind. Rousseau, who led the organization from 1996 to 2001, was instrumental in signing an international television deal with Sky sports and convincing the International Cricket Council to stage cricket world cup in the Caribbean in 2007.

Joseph worked with his friend the late Pat Rousseau developing and marketing cricket in the region as vice president for many years.

Russell named leading T20 cricketer for 2019

The Wisden Almanac, the world renowned cricket reference book published annually, known in some circles as the Bible of Cricket, has named West Indian, Andre Russell, the leading T20 cricketer of 2019.

With cricket events currently on a pause worldwide and players and fans alike craving for any good cricket news and quality cricket content, the announcement is timely.

Russell said he is deeply honored by the achievement and that he will use it as motivation while preparing for the upcoming T20 World Cup, which is currently scheduled for Australia in November of this year.

The Jamaican had a strike rate of 182, with exceptional performances in 2019 in the game's shortest format, amassing a total of 1,080 runs in 46 matches, hitting a spectacular 101 sixes.

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Better infrastructure is key

Former West Indies captain and director of cricket for Cricket West Indies Jimmy Adams says improved infrastructure and facilities at all levels are important for the development of regional cricket and to produce better players.

Appearing as a guest on Point FM TIMEOUT Program Adams noted that it is vital that the region's young players are exposed to good wickets and minimum standard facilities from an early age to avoid them playing on a good wicket for the first time when they reach the international level.

Adams was asked by co-host, Vernon Springer, about playing first class matches on more crowd-friendly venues instead of the larger test grounds and his response was that they needed to meet at

least the minimum standards.

Adams, who was first exposed to cricket playing in his lane in St. Mary's, Jamaica, and high school says he started taking the game seriously at age 16 when he was selected to play for the national youth team eventually making his way to national selection.

The left hander made his test debut in 1992 against South Africa with a well played fifty in the second innings with the regional team bouncing back from a poor start to win the game.

The Jamaican played one season for Nottinghamshire which he described as a great learning experienced and he also had two seasons in South Africa.

I had five wonderful years at Kent as a coach but presently I am in administration



Former West Indies captain and director of cricket for Cricket West Indies Jimmy Adams

and up in the air as to which direction I will choose when my role as director of cricket for CWI has ended Adams noted.

At Cricket West Indies we have a long term development plan but with an eye on success in the near future that's why we hired a world class coach like Phil Simmons and his team to create a culture of consistency.

At Cricket West Indies we realize our responsibility for the development of the game in the region and have been creating an environment en-

couraging Franchises to be economically, technically stronger leading to a broader production line of quality players the former Skipper expressed.

Adams said emphasis has also been placed on coaching development in the region.

The director of cricket said there has been focus on producing good cricket pitches and he must complemented the grounds-men in the region for improved pitches over the past three years.

Adams represented West Indies from 1992 to 2001 playing 54 Test averaging 41.26 with 6 centuries and 14 fifties and 127 One-Day international appearances (ODI). Jimmy was appointed captain in 2000 replacing Brian Lara and was head coach of Kent Club in England.

Domino Championship Postponed

The World Domino tournament scheduled for Antigua and Barbuda has been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

President of the World Council of Domino Federations, Raymond De Bellotte, said the event that was slated for August 4 to the 14, 2020, will now be held one year later; between July 21 to 31 2021 here in Antigua.

Ten Countries were expected to participate, Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, Canada, USA,

Montserrat, Guyana and St. Martin.

Host Antigua is the defending champion with 35 players who were expected to be selected from a pool of 56 players.

The tournament consists of eight disciplines, team four hand, male and female three hand, king and queen of dominoes, male and female pairs and mixed pairs.



Raymond De Bellotte

Messi the best: Beckham

David Beckham hails Lionel Messi as the greatest footballer and he insists that Cristiano Ronaldo is not at that level.

The Manchester United and England great, who played against Messi's Barcelona in the Champions League while at Paris Saint Germain, said that it is impossible that any player can come close to the Argentine's talent.

"Messi is alone in his class as a player," said Beckham, "it is impossible that there is another

er like him."

The former England captain acknowledged that while Ronaldo, in his view, is not at Messi's level, they are both, however, above the rest. Another Manchester United and England great Wayne Rooney weighed in on the topic saying Messi is better than Ronaldo. "He is a cut above the rest," Rooney expressed

According to Rooney...Messi had the ability to torture you before he kills you.

Kaila Charles Drafted At 23 in WNBA

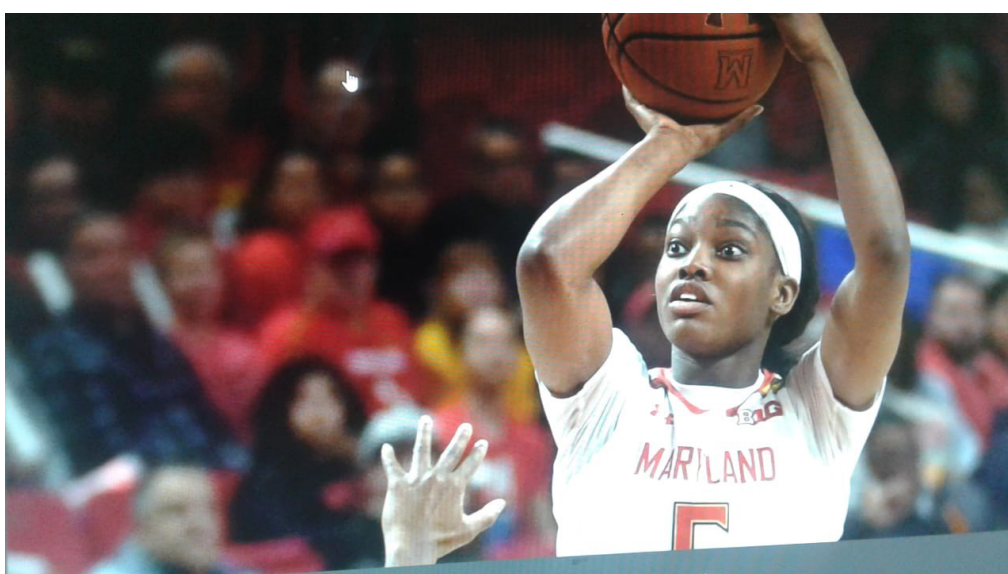


Trinidad and Tobago female basketball player of Antiguan parentage, Kaila Charles, was 23 overall pick in 2020 WNBA draft by the Connecticut Suns.

Charles, who played for Maryland University, and who led the team with 14.3 points and 7.3 rebounds, last season was their sixth overall scorer of all time in Maryland history.

Coming off an All-American season and an incredible successful career with the Terrapins, she was a prospect that many were surprised slip so far in the draft.

Connecticut head coach Curt Miller was one of these who had Charles



in his top 10 on the Sun's board. They even considered trading up to get her.

Charles is the daughter of Ruper-

ta Charles who represented Antigua and Barbuda in the 100 metres dash at the 1984 Summer Olympics.