



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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POLICE PROBE SUDDEN DEATHS

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Media
fraternity
mourns
loss of
icon

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**Page 2 - Economic Recovery
Committee meets Thursday**

First meeting of ERC set for Thursday

The first meeting of the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC) will take place on Thursday using the virtual platform, the means by which top-level government business is conducted in the COVID-19 era.

The establishment of the committee was announced in Wednesday's post-Cabinet Notes distributed widely by the Chief of Staff, Lionel Max Hurst, which also stated that the first meeting was slated for today, Monday April 27, 2020.

However, in a later dispatched on Saturday, Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, who will serve as convener as well as chairman, said the meeting will now take place on Thursday starting at 3:00 pm.

In a statement issued over the weekend, the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) had indicated that its deputy political leader, and opposition leader

in parliament, Jamale Pringle will not participate. The party cited two reasons why it was taking that decision; one, it took umbrage with the fact that the announcement of the committee and its composition, including Pringle, was communicated to the public before he was himself notified. Secondly, the party was protesting the fact that Pringle was the only person identified by name as part of the ERC.

But in response, PM Browne said the opposition leader, in his capacity as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, a constitutional position, made it inevitable that he be appointed.

"The ERC is the steering committee for the recovery efforts that we wish to undertake. Therefore, Pringle sits on that committee in his capacity as the duly elected Leader of the Opposition in the House. That does not bar the UPP leader, Harold Lovell, from serving on

any of the sub-committees that will submit reports to the steering committee," Browne detailed in a radio interview.

A copy of a letter appointing Pringle to the ERC was also released by the Office of the Prime Minister. It read in part: "As chairman of the ERC and in consultation with the Cabinet, a decision was made to invite you, Sir, to join the ERC. I am attaching the Terms of Reference of the ERC. As you would note, its object is to return Antigua and Barbuda to a period of growth and sustainability in the post-COVID era, by reliance on the leaders of business, trade unions, hotels and transport industries, the church and as broad a cross-section as possible".

On Sunday, Pringle indicated that he may reconsider the position of not attending after he received his copy of the letter of invitation.

(see complete Terms of Reference on page 14)

DAY 4/27

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
 Wind: E at 20 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 30 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}



Mostly sunny with a stray shower

NIGHT 4/27

Wind: E at 15 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 22 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 40%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%
 Precipitation: 0.6 mm
 Rain: 0.6 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1
 Hours of Rain: 1

23°_{Lo}



Patchy clouds with a shower in spots

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:43AM

Sunset AST
 6:26PM



Duration
 12:43hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 9:03PM

Moonset AST
 10:32AM



Duration
 13:29hr

Police investigate death of two males

Two males in their mid-twenties have collapsed and died within hours of each other on Sunday at the Mount St John's Medical Centre.

The police reported that Jordan Ambrose, 24, of Tanner Street was pronounced dead by a medical doctor around 10:00 am shortly after arriving at the hospital.

A few hours later, Ricaldo Phillip, 27, of Gambles Terrace was transported to the hospital by EMS around 1:26 pm and was pronounced dead approximately 10 minutes after all efforts to resuscitate him

were unsuccessful. There are no signs of foul play in both incidents. Phillip was reportedly speaking with two friends moments before he collapsed and later died.

The police said their investigations into both incidents are continuing.

In more police news, Akeem Henry, 26, of Green Bay who has been charged with the alleged murder of Keon Carr of Christian Street, is to make his first court appearance this week.

He was charged on Friday, after he was arrested and taken into custody earlier last week.



Jordan Ambrose, 24, of Tanner Street

Carr was killed on December 27, 2019, on Christian Street following a shooting incident.



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 lthmc@candw.ag

**THE LEONARD
 TIM HECTOR
 MEMORIAL
 COMMITTEE**

PRESS STATEMENT

At this very moment the entire world is faced with a health crisis resulting in the death of thousands due to the pandemic COVID-19. At this very same time also countries are stretching their hands across the waters and over land to help in whatever way they can to fight this horrendous disease.

Cuba, a small Caribbean nation although battling an economic genocidal policy carried out by the United States of America is coming to the aid of big and small countries. This they are doing in the spirit of International Solidarity, which has defined their Revolution from 1959. At the same time Cuba is displaying this act of kindness and humanitarianism the Trump Government, in a most reprehensible and deplorable manner, is calling on countries to reject the assistance of the Cuban Government and People in providing their medical brigade.

In addition to this dastardly and inhumane act on the part of the American Government, they are even threatening those nations that have already accepted the assistance as well as those which intend to accept. However some forty-five countries have requested Cuba's help. And as if this is not enough the American Government is actually preventing medical assistance to fight COVID-19 from reaching Cuba.

How much more genocidal can the criminal regime of Trump become? We in the Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee vehemently oppose these wicked and ruthless measures and call upon the National, Regional and International community to denounce these murderous actions.

The Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee strongly upholds the right of self determination of all countries. We therefore call upon the United Nations and the World Health Organization particularly at this time to denounce these policies that are diametrically opposed to what these Institutions hold to be just and fair. We say end the blockade of Cuba now, and hands off Venezuela.

COVID-19 recoveries steadily increasing

With relaxed curfew hours, and some semblance of normality returning to the lives of Antiguan and Barbudans, the Ministry of Health has announced that the latest batch of COVID-19 samples sent for testing has indicated no new COVID-19 cases.

The news broke over the weekend when a press statement coming out of the health ministry indicated that there are no additional confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country.

A piece of news welcomed by the public as the country prepares its self for economic recovery through the possible reopening of the airport in the coming weeks.

The press statement from the health ministry over the weekend stated that “the most recent results received by the Ministry of Health Wellness and the Environment from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) revealed no new laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19. The total number of persons with laboratory confirmation of the disease in Antigua and Barbuda, therefore, remains at twenty-four (24).”

Ministry officials used the opportunity to give a breakdown of the samples that were sent to CARPHA and what the results meant for the country. In the media statement, the ministry explained that “of the five samples last sent to CARPHA, three were repeat tests for persons who previously tested positive for COVID-19. One of the three

repeat tests was reported as negative. This brings the total number of persons with no symptoms and negative results to eleven (11). The other two repeat tests were positive and these patients remain hospitalized.”

Health officials explained that based on these latest results, the country now has an additional recovery from the dreaded disease moving the total number of persons recovered from COVID-19 from 10 to 11.

Though the weekend results have lessened some anxiety, the health ministry has cautioned the nation to remain vigilant. “While there has been no increase in the number of new cases, Antigua and Barbuda must not become complacent. The ministry urges the nation to maintain its defense to prevent resurgence or increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases in Antigua

and Barbuda,” the ministry’s statement read.

However, the public continues to advocate for increased public testing with fears that the number of confirmed cases may be higher. Prime Minister Gaston Browne indicated that just over 6,000 testing kits are being made available through China, Venezuela, and PAHO. Regarding pub-

lic testing, the Prime Minister said, “We recognize that that is one of the areas which we have not done very well in terms of the number of tests that we conduct.”

Local testing will likely commence this week although Antigua and Barbuda continues to collect samples and sends them to the Caribbean Public Health Agency based in Trinidad.



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COMMUNITY NOTICE

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is informing the general public that our headquarters will re-open on a limited basis commencing **MONDAY 27TH APRIL, 2020.**

OUR HOURS OF OPERATION WILL BE FROM 8 A.M TO NOON.

In keeping with strict protocols of social distancing, citizens and residents wishing to conduct business with the ministry are advised to do so via email or telephone.

Requests for immigration letters, job letters and pay slips, including detailed information should be sent to

ministryofeducationantigua@gmail.com and calls made to 268-462-0192/3

All requests will be dealt with expeditiously.

The evolution of road safety

WE WISH YOU A

Happy Birthday, April Babies!

Do you know
when your
driver's license
expires?

It's always on
your
Birthday,
but what year?







A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Public Sector Workers to be paid this week

All public sector salaries and wages for the month of April 2020 will be paid in full this week, the country's Prime Minister and Minister for Finance has announced.

PM Gaston Browne said this was notwithstanding the difficulties of an economy that continues to struggle and a significant decline in government's revenues, all caused by the massive drain on finances to cope with the COVID-19 global pandemic.

"We're not reducing salaries and wages by 10 percent, by 15 percent, by 25 percent. We're not sending home anyone.

"We will be paying every cent due to public sector workers come [this]

week and before the end of the month," he declared.

The Prime Minister said he is pleased to be making the announcement at this time saying: "That is why we have to continue to be very optimistic in our outlook and not be daunted by the pessimism coming from those who oppose us."

He explained that government was looking to a phased reopening of some of the country's economic drivers, such as the construction industry, in the hope of generating growth by the end of the year, instead of the 20 percent decline in gross domestic product or GDP that has been projected.

The Prime Minister said this would

become even more possible if the tourism sector could resume activity around mid-year. He is hopeful that even if the economic growth does not end up being achieved, at the least the decline would be minimal.

"What I want the citizens and residents of our country to understand, is that their government is fighting tooth and nail to ensure that the economy does not end up in a free fall ... We want to make sure that we balance lives and livelihoods," he stated, explaining why the authorities were easing the curfew and lockdown conditions, allowing more businesses from certain sectors to open for longer periods daily.



ANTIGUA STATE COLLEGE

2020 Registration is Open


Application Period:
27th April – 31st July 2020

Application fee: \$60

The Antigua State College will open on
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
effective Monday 27th April 2020.

The limited business hours are to facilitate the request for transcripts and new applicants. Individuals visiting the college to conduct business must wear a mask and adhere to the social distancing guidelines. New applicants are asked to visit our temporary website <https://antiguastatecollege-anu.webs.com/>, or <https://education.gov.ag/> and follow the instructions for applying. If you have questions, you can also submit your questions via the website.

PLEASE CALL THE COLLEGE 462-1434 OR THE VICE PRINCIPAL AT 780-7847 BEFORE VISITING THE COLLEGE.



NEW OPENING HOURS

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority wishes to inform its valued customers that all APUA Customer Service & Bill Payment locations will be open effective Monday 27th April, 2020 under the following revised operating hours:

APUA BUSINESS CENTER	
Bill Payments	
Mondays to Fridays	8:00am – 3:30pm
Saturdays	Closed
Customer Service	
Mondays to Thursdays	8:00am – 3:30pm
Fridays	8:00am – 2:00pm
Saturdays	Closed
VILLAGE WALK	
Mondays to Fridays	8:00am – 3:30pm
Saturdays	Closed
SOUTH MALL	
Mondays to Fridays	8:30am – 4:30pm
Saturdays	Closed

Please note that priority access for our vulnerable customers (seniors, physically challenged, expectant mothers) will continue every Tuesday. All other days are open to the public.

APUA extends gratitude to all its customers for their understanding during this time.

CBH continues fight against dengue fever

The Central Board of Health is stepping up its campaign to reduce the incidence of dengue fever in the country, despite having to participate equally in the national efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Julianne Mannix, of the Vector Control Unit, tells PointeXpress newspaper that rather than reduce its efforts, the department has intensified its fight against breeding of the aedes aegypti mosquito, which spreads the disease

through its bite.

“What we have been able to do is to focus equally in our campaign against the two dreaded diseases. We have carried out anti-mosquito fogging and spraying against the mosquito while conducting training in personal and other hygiene efforts aimed at COVID-19,” Mannix revealed.

Over the past several weeks, the department carried out an array of anti-mosquito activities that include treatment of mosquito larvae,



port health activities, fogging the city, cleaning and disinfecting as well as biological control methods such as plac-

ing fish into major drains.

In addition, the department has carried out anti-mosquito
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efforts at what it calls 'high traffic areas'. These include all fourteen clinics/health centres on Antigua as well as several government offices, department and divisions. Similar activities were also carried out at private sector entities that also high human traffic daily. These include commercial banks, the mobile companies and the bus stations. Efforts in Barbuda are carried out by an officer based on the island.

"We want to remind the public that dengue fever is still out there and we can use this down time to check our premises for mosquito breeding sites. We encourage that they be destroyed," Mannix noted. The Public Health Inspector said there are still suspected cases of dengue in the country, although she could not confirm whether or not there are any confirmed cases. "From the start of January up on until the lockdown, CBH has been receiving a weekly list of suspected dengue cases," she reported.

According to Mannix, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the nation's focus has been on the novel virus as, in the minds of many, it poses a greater threat to life.

She is urging anyone who is still exhibiting signs and symptoms of dengue fever to go to the hospital or a health professional for immediate attention.

Additionally, members of the public should not be complacent and continue to protect their surroundings. The symptoms of dengue fever are high fever, pain behind the eyes, headaches and a rash on the skin.

Meanwhile, the department was front and centre in conducting demonstrations on cough etiquette respiratory hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting of one's personal space in the anti-COVID-19 fight. Such sessions started with frontline workers such as the Immigration Department and Customs at the airport, but since have included many government offices, churches and private sector businesses.

The unit has also placed hand-washing stations in six government primary schools prior to the onset of the lockdown...it is hoping that they will continue being used when regular classes resume.



Local business donates to the needy

Businessman, Louis Nadar, has donated over one hundred food packages to the recently unemployed people along with the poor and indigent in the country.

“My brother and I have been in Antigua for over fourteen years and over this time we have made friends with people right across the island, from Old Road to Willikies and everywhere in between. This current crisis has increased the number of people in distress and we see it as an opportunity for us to show the people that we understand and that we care,” Nadar told PointeXpress newspaper.

Since Friday, the operator of Louis Mini-Mart on Market Street, has been making deliveries to the needy with the delivery of food packages.

He said the company prepared 100 bags of items, but when word got out about the deliveries, more people asked to be added to the list of beneficiaries.



Local COVID Testing, Special Facility ready this week

The Infectious Disease Center or IDC – constructed with great haste and urgency to provide critical care for persons made sick by the dreaded COVID-19 virus – is now complete.

Word of this comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne during his weekly Browne and Browne Show.

“It has been equipped with beds, with ventilators ... there’s no [patient] at the Center at this point because [at present] we only have two individuals who are hospitalized,” he stated.

The Prime Minister noted that the two hospitalized individuals – whose breathing has to be assisted by ventilators – “are doing pretty well” and should be removed off the machines “sometime next week if all goes well” and they do not develop any new or further complications.

“So the Infectious Disease Center is presently unoccupied because there is no one there in isolation or quarantine ... But all the facilities are in place, including the oxygen, and all of the furnishings are ready,” the Prime Minister disclosed.

Browne said, it is his “understanding that there will be a brief opening ceremony shortly for the IDC”, which he went on to describe as “a good asset to have as part of our health arsenal.”

Elaborating on this, the Prime Minister explained that, “in the event we end up with a second wave of COVID, even more destructive than the first, we will be in a better position to manage any increase.”

Repeated promises for imminent (and then delayed) opening of the IDC had raised questions in some quarters about how truly advanced the authorities were with constructing and equipping the facility, as well as

with preparations for in-country testing.

Browne said Antigua and Barbuda is “continuing to build our health infrastructure to make sure that we are able to treat people appropriately and bring them back to good health should they contract COVID – and even for the future, because these facilities will help us to deal with ... other diseases that may occur from time to time.”

Where COVID-19 testing is concerned, the Prime Minister admitted there had been some delays, but he explained that they were unavoidable.

“I spoke with Dr. Simon up to today [Saturday 25 April 2020] about the present situation with testing ... I know some people are anxious to see increased testing and it is the desire of the government as well ... Unfortunately, just like other Caribbean states, we have had to send samples to CARPHA (the Caribbean Public Health Agency), and there is a limited amount you can send on a weekly basis.”

He said it was because of this limitation in testing capacity and facilities that Antigua and Barbuda had to follow the protocols laid down by PAHO “to determine who gets tested”.

The Prime Minister said more persons possibly have been exposed to COVID and would have been tested, had the facilities been operational then.

“The truth is we have had all of the facilities, all of the equipment, the testing kits and so on, on-island for the last couple of weeks. The PCR equipment has been installed; training would have been done over the last week in a significant way. My understanding is that they now have some practical training to do. But that

is predicated on what they call the application training that has to take place by the individuals who supplied the PCR machine,” PM Browne explained.

Explaining further, the Prime Minister said, “about a week-and-a-half ago, we awaited a specialist out of Trinidad and Tobago who we had to fly up here on a special charter to validate the PCR equipment. That was done. Now there is another entity abroad that has to do with the application training, and I was told by Dr. Simon that the application training will be completed by Tuesday, and that Dr. Greche – who is assisting with the actual hands-on training of testing patients – that will definitely commence [this week], maybe Thursday-Friday.”

Browne said that, in this regard, the country had to keep its fingers crossed. “We have to understand that during this crisis, supply chains have been disrupted, and you also have a problem where scheduling experts is extremely difficult because they are supplying these services all over the world,” he added.

Appealing for public patience in light of these constraints, the Prime Minister disclosed that the experts tapped to provide the application training had initially said they would not be available for another week, but were prevailed upon by the entreaties of local health and diplomatic officials.

“It’s after Dr. Simon and our ambassador in Miami, Gilbert Boustany, pushed them really hard that they were able to commit to Tuesday of this week. So, if all goes well, we will increase our testing from [this coming] weekend and continuing.”

Obituaries



Timothy Payne: Dead eyes focus on photos, culture & arts

By Colin James

I wasn't envisaging penning another piece on a fallen mentor so soon after my tribute to Edimelo last week. That we have no indication when death's untimely hands would intervene, should be enough to always give God or Jah his praises.

For me, Timothy Payne will go down in my book as a mentor and motivator; a great photojournalist and a lover and proponent of arts and culture with a strong love for village, history and modern-day advancement. He was visionary; championed causes that were not popular; rooted and strong-willed his beliefs and relentless in fulfilling his ambitions.

I have been associated with Tim and worked with him (as he was fondly revered),

from since age 16 (a span of about 38 years) and I was in the process of contributing to one the projects he was about to initiate.

He nicknamed me "Sporty" and I moniker him "Tim-bolo". His schoolmates and contemporaries referred to him as "Dead Eyes", probably a reflection of his eye for a photo and his deadly accuracy when bowling.

There was also a sort of family connection with the Payne's because Tim's late sister, Elaine, who taught at Christ The King High School in the 1970s, was married to a great uncle of mine, Wilbert Richards. It's hardly unlikely that we would have met on some occasion while attending CKHS between 1973-1978.

However, the first person-

al experience, I could recall with him, would have been through a football side, aptly dubbed, Forinthians, as the only so-called 'outside' team in the Barnes Hill league in 1983.

Tim didn't play for the team but invited two of his students, Zorol Barthley, my cousin and goalkeeper (believe it or not) and, Lyndon "Sticky" Joseph, a defender a la Franz Beckenbauer, to field a team on which I managed to get a few playing minutes.

But it was off the field where we shared memorable moments with Tim, his family and friends at the Payne's family house after the matches. Those were the social interactions that gave us a real taste of village life, camaraderie and socializing.

"The after-game get-to-

gethers at the Payne's house were a bomb," Zorol remembers.

By then the Payne family was a household name for him because of his older brother, Michael (or Mikie) was a well-known voice as a sportscaster at ABS Radio/TV.

So, it was a no-brainer to seek out not only Mikie but Tim as well as who built a reputation as a deadly seamer and swing bowler and an organiser of a football competition.

Unknowing to both of us we would rub shoulders together as journalists when we were handpicked by Barry Stevens, then general manager of ABS Radio/TV and editor of the defunct Nation's Voice newspaper around

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Obituaries

cont'd from pg 10

1985. Whatever Barry envisaged in us I'm still unaware of up today because, at least, he hasn't told me and I've never asked. Tim and I co-opted to provide content for the weekly publication and Tim had the added responsibility of photography. Barry's influence on us was in more ways than one.

That stint spurred a relationship that caused us to trade-off each other as we embarked on a mission to make the newspaper number one in Antigua & Barbuda. Maybe if it wasn't for the fact it was a government-funded project, the Nation's Voice would still be a staple on the newsstand or an e-paper as it is nowadays.

The paper was a refreshing read and Tim's penchant for wit and humour enlivened the pages while his photographs told a thousand words and tales. During that stint, Tim introduced me to the art of professional photography. He mentored me about the camera, angles of photo-taking as well as the darkroom where films were "washed" for the images to come to life.

Our next association came via his Reflections Photo studio about 1987 where I availed myself of his photography services for publications I was freelancing with or for personal portraits.

I engaged his services to photograph my wedding in 1991 but his demands on that particular day were such that he gave the job to his brother-in-law, Ken Isaac, whose expertise I still utilize.

Fast forward to 1997, I'm employed at the Antigua SUN newspaper and I

moved every mountain to get Tim on staff (not just as a freelancing) to continue the partnership we started just over a decade ago.

We travelled together to cover the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia in 1998, especially to cover the historic and only advent of cricket at the event, which featured an Antigua & Barbuda team with Sir Vivian Richards as technical director, players such as Richie Richardson, Curtly Ambrose, the Benjamins' (Winston & Kenneth), and Dave Joseph as captain. (More on that in a subsequent article.) And guess who was the Chef de Mission of the Antiguan delegation. Yes, it was Barry Stevens.

We roomed together and provided unrivaled coverage of an international event unprecedented in Antigua & Barbuda's history. (As an aside, I also laboured with the 'gigantic' camera lens of another top Antiguan photojournalist Colin "Bones" Cumberbatch who unfortunately didn't reach Kuala Lumpur.)

At the SUN he wasn't limited to photojournalism, he wrote a column dedicated to the life and times of icons in his community under the caption Village Life, a "collection of humorous anecdotes" and then there was another column: House of Payne, a satire of social, political and current affairs. He described Village Life.

After I left the SUN around 2000, Tim became editor of the sports desk rising to news editor before its demise around 2011. He then inaugurated the NewsPages, a weekly publication, which graced the media landscape until it went out of circulation.

Tim and I soldiered on in different aspects of media over the next nine years or so. He laboured to set up a museum of photography and campaigned for the preservation of the Barnes Hill reservoir.

Johnny JnoBaptiste, one of the many photojournalists Tim mentored, recalled how he benefited from his courtship.

"You gave me my first job in photojournalism, gave me a few tips and tricks here and there (and made sure I got paid). You were always willing to assist in any way you can," he wrote on



his Facebook page.

"I still remember a particular piece of advice that you gave to me...because of that advice I made a good fortune...I guess age brings experience. I have to reminisce on hours we spent discussing life and current events and of course, photography. I remember how you toiled so hard with that museum, went through hell and high water to get it going and to keep it there too.

"I couldn't tell you no for any image you wanted and moreover I could never charge you for any image...because I know you would have done the same for me," he continued.

Tim was preparing Launch II, set for April 18, at the Barnes Hill Reservoir Park, before the COVID-19 pandemic intervened last month to scuttle public gatherings. It would have featured a new biography on Antiguan calypso impresario, King Short Shirt, entitled Power and Authority, his Village Life collection and Heritage Series 1, a photographic presentation of modern models depicting aspects of life in Antigua 75 years ago.

I learnt through his former St George's Parliamentary Representative and villager and media practitioner, Kenneth "Nat Moses" Francis, that he was also planning a tour of Europe with the Governor General to exhibit Antiguan historic photographs.

Farewell my dear friend, mentor, colleague, journalist, photographer extraordinaire!

I wish to extend condolences to his wife, Angela, his children, family and the entire Barnes Hill community.

Rest In Peace.



UPDATED HOURS OF OPERATION



Antigua Commercial Bank

As we put measures in place to improve our service offerings to you, our valued customers, we are pleased to inform you that effective April 27, 2020, our Head Office and Village Walk Branches will open each week day from 8am until 12 noon.

We are delighted to accommodate Senior Citizens and Differently-Abled customers from 8am to 9am each day, and offer priority access to uniformed or ID bearing providers of essential services.

Until further notice, the following services are available:

- Cheque cashing and withdrawals up to EC\$25,000
- Deposits via our ATMs and night deposit facility only
- Debit Card Collection (Head Office Branch only)
- For assistance with services not offered in branch, please email customerservice@acbonline.com or call **481-4288**

We encourage you to continue to utilize our electronic channels, including our ATMs. With our Mobile Banking you can:

- Make Bill Payments - Utility, Insurance, School Fees, etc
- Securely Transfer funds to other ACB customers
- View account transactions, and much more.

Additionally, if you require assistance with our Moratorium Loan Relief Program, please email loanqueries@acbonline.com.

Please be reminded that customers must wear a face mask and adhere to social distancing protocol of being 6 feet apart from others. We thank you for allowing us to serve you, and remain committed in our pursuit to continually provide you with the highest level of service. Let's all do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda. Please continue to Stay Safe.



Follow us to keep up to date • Contact us: 481-4288 • customerservice@acbonline.com

The Caribbean Civilization Battling COVID -19 and its Existence!

When I look on the daily statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO), reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic, I imagine that many of us who reside within the Caribbean Community, either consciously or unconsciously begin to compare our conditions with other regions of the world. It is through this comparison that we measure our socio economic standing and determine whether or not we are winning this global battle. Governments within CARICOM have been grappling with both the challenges of identifying and isolating or insulating the vulnerable groups. In this pandemic, vulnerability is not confined to elderly people, but also includes those with ill health and comorbidities. We must also include people who are inclined towards that demographic of groups, that might struggle to cope financially, mentally, or physically with this present crisis.

The other day I heard someone quoting German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche saying, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." When I looked at the global fatality versus the recovery numbers, I can quite frankly see why some policy makers believe that sentiment is applicable now! I am however of the opinion that every life is precious, especially when deaths through proper intervention

could have been avoided.

This historic, unprecedented challenge gives innovative Caribbean governments, the opportunity to implement strategies that address the pandemic and do not further marginalize or stigmatize affected communities within a combined population of over 18 million people, within the (15) fifteen states.

It is important for policy-makers to consider the risk of overlooking any health inequality that may exist. Vulnerable groups must be properly identified. WHO guidelines present an effective model for containment and eventual victory over the virus. Each CARICOM state must continually assess which members of society are vulnerable, to adequately support those at risk.

Unfortunately, there are carriers of the deadly virus who do not show the signs of the disease, and this makes them appear "safe" to family, friends and other people, who do not avoid a close relationship with them. It is precisely this dangerous situation that makes this a contagion of contact. If social distancing, isolation and targeted hygiene measures are not meticulously adhered to, then, the trail of transmission will be longer, and the number of infected people with or without symptoms will increase which will expand the time exponentially, for the eradication of COVID -19.

The important and simple slogan "Stay home" is constantly being broadcast and rebroadcast in many ways, and from different platforms. This combined with an effective home safety protocol is the only way to reduce the number of cases and, remove the presence of the virus from our Caribbean shores.

I strongly recommend that this is a unique opportunity for CARICOM countries to evoke the spirit of the 1973 treaty of Chaguaramas, and adopt a unified policy to deal with this economy shattering pandemic. The governments should immediately and collectively do the following;

1. Declare a state of emergency for a period of six months to enforce the now accepted WHO health and safety standards being universally applied.

2. Collectively engage all the banks and cooperatives within the region to have a formalize agreement on a moratorium on debt repayments, and explore what goods and services these institutions can creatively offer to stabilize CARICOM economies.

3. A coordinated agriculture strategy, led by an inter-governmental task force of professionals and specialists be put in place to ensure food security in all the member nations, led by the CARICOM secretariat.

4. A dedicated interactive website to be established by



By Clarence E Pilgrim

the CARICOM Secretariat to provide information exclusively surrounding the COVID-19 crisis.

5. All CARICOM governments immediately begin accessing resources to do both directed and random testing of the population.

6. Front line emergency workers should be given appropriate and affordable incentives and/or recognition for their continued bravery

7. Governments, as a matter of high priority, execute an emergency audit of its existing human resources capability, and quickly create a human resources strategic management plan, to appropriately deploy or redeploy the elements/stations in the public sector that will facilitate critical economic recovery activity.

Leaders will have to make difficult decisions, which will involve outlining the policies they have put in place, and following the results. The key to maintaining public support for government policies is the need for information to be transparent, science-based and authentic. The CARICOM leadership has a heavy burden at a time when its actions could be the savior of the Caribbean civilization or, perish the thought, its destruction.

Oh no, Mr. Pringle! You scored an own goal!



By Political Watcher

So even though the world, and sports in particular, is experiencing the 'Great Lockdown', Antigua & Barbuda's opposition leader Jamale Pringle, with the aid of his party leader, Harold Lovell and others, has defied the odds and logic and scored a political 'own goal'.

For those not familiar with the term, it is when a footballer scores in the goal that his/her team is defending. It normally happens when a team is trying to defend an attack by the opposite side and inadvertently kicks the ball past their own goalkeeper.

As this country, like most nations worldwide, grapples with the effects of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has fool-hardily decided to turn his back and allow his advisors to negatively influence his better judgment.

They have deceptively convinced him not to accept Gaston Browne Administration's invitation to sit on the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC) announced by the Cabinet on April 22.

The United Progressive Party, of which the All Saints East & St Luke representative is the deputy political

leader (a misnomer), said in an ill-advised statement that Pringle "is the only person who has been handpicked among six business and religious organisations" on the ERC. The fact that he was handpicked is a clear indication of the constitutional role he enjoys, but, perhaps Pringle and those of who lead the UPP are politically-blinded of this noble position he tacitly accepted when he was sworn-in. Maybe former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, once a UPP leader and the lone opposition member in the House of Representatives from 1989-1994, would have

offered better advice, having single-handedly shouldered his responsibilities admirably before present naysayers of the UPP emerged. Those were the days when the Antiguan and regional public looked forward to hearing Spencer take-on the government and shaped the debate.

It would be a tad trifling to say Pringle has found himself out of his depth and not in sync with reality, because he touted himself to have the capacity to be a politician.

They are those who would argue that Pringle would be marginalised on the committee because he's the lone opposition voice selected.

However, let me be clear, the ERC is not a political organization; its composition includes leaders of business, trade unions, employers' federation, social and non-governmental institutions.

"With the first meeting of the ERC scheduled for Monday April 27, MP Pringle says that no discussion has been held, and no invitation has been issued to him or to the UPP, whose executive and membership he represents," the UPP said. This is pure red herring. Pringle complained that the government's invitation is "disrespectful to have been so treated" and is vowing to

"channel his efforts into promoting his party's proposals for economic recovery directly to the people."

What better platform to do so than the ERC, Mr. Pringle? Not on Crusader Radio because you'll be branded partisan by your detractors. Not only on Observer Radio because they are those who will think you not genuine.

The UPP says it will engage the public via mass- and social-media avenues, given the curfew restrictions now in place" to promote its recovery plan.

Hahaha...who would read or listen? What effect would such a move have? What likely implementation suc-

cess would these ideas have?

If the writers of the UPP press release had any basic understanding of public relations how could they claim that the party's leader Harold Lovell says "(the party) is mindful of the need for collaborative planning to deal with the economic ravages of COVID-19".

And then opined that "having successfully weathered the global economic crisis of 2008-12, the UPP is well positioned to offer sound advice based on experience". If that is so, share your experience and knowledge to benefit the masses.

To hide behind the complaint that his party "is un-

willing to continue exposing its leaders and its reputation to the unabated disrespect and disparagement of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the Chairman of the ERC" is a copout. Pringle (that if he considers himself to be one) and Lovell cannot want to be leaders and then abdicate their responsibilities on the spurious notion that: "On nearly every occasion that the UPP has put aside party interests to stand with the government for the advancement of the country, the prime minister has misrepresented our efforts.

It's time for Pringle and Lovell man-up rather than conceding an own goal.



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GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Office of the Prime Minister

*Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's
Antigua and Barbuda*

*Tel. (268) 460-5100
Fax. (268) 462-3225
pmsecretariat@ab.gov.ag*

April 24, 2020

Honourable Jamal Pringle M.P.
Leader of the Opposition
Member for All Saints East and St. Luke
Office of the Opposition Leader
Parliament Building, Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda

Dear Sir:

As you are aware, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is facing perilous times, brought about by the Covid-19 global pandemic. Economic activity globally and locally has declined. In order to plan for an orderly and vital recovery, the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has determined that an ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMITTEE (ERC) shall be established, made up of a broad cross section of expertise from various sectors of the economy.

As the Chairman of this ERC, and in consultation with the Cabinet, a decision has been made to invite you, Sir, to join the ERC. I am attaching The Terms of Reference of the ERC. As you will note, its object is to return Antigua and Barbuda to a period of growth and sustainability in the post-Covid-19 era, by reliance upon leaders in business, trade unions, the hotel and transport industries, the church and as broad a cross-section as is possible.

The first meeting of the ERC is scheduled for Monday, 27 May 2020, commencing at 3:00 pm, and will take place virtually. It is now the mode of conducting government, since both Parliament and the Cabinet have met using this new technology. It assures safety and convenience during these difficult times. The technicians from the Ministry will be in touch to verify availability at the number provided before. Many thanks for your willingness to serve and to assist in bringing normalcy back to Antigua and Barbuda.

I remain,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Browne'.

Hon. Gaston Browne M.P.
Prime Minister
Chair, The ERC



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR
THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMITTEE

1. General

The Economic Recovery Committee (ERC) is established in the wake of the unexpected and severe exogenous shock of the COVID-19 pandemic to the Antigua and Barbuda economy that has eroded its significant growth and development, including its achievements in increased employment, reduction of poverty, decline in crime and expansion of national wealth.

The establishment of, and participation in, the ERC is recognition by all sectors of the Antigua and Barbuda society that the nation faces a major challenge, which it did not create but must, nonetheless, solve through collaborative and cooperative efforts by all, regardless of any affiliation of any kind.

These terms of reference set out the membership of the ERC and its sub-committees; the membership of the ERC and its sub-committees; the remit of the ERC and its sub-committees; and the reporting arrangements of the sub-committees and the ERC.

2. Appointment of the ERC

The ERC, its subcommittees and their members shall be appointed by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Corporate Governance and Public Private Partnerships who shall be the Chairman of the ERC.

3. Purpose of the ERC

The purpose of the ERC and its sub-committees is to consider the economy of Antigua and Barbuda with a view to **reimagining and reengineering** every sector therein, in response to the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ERC and subcommittees will formulate and

recommend policies and plans to stimulate the economy and promote economic growth. Specifically, the Committee's recommendations will focus on interventions to:

- a. Diversify the economy, including through new enterprises and new markets
- b. Increase productivity
- c. Maintain existing jobs and create new ones
- d. Accelerate and expand food security initiatives
- e. Promote the efficient use of energy, including cost savings
- f. Enable the efficient production of water and uses in households, health and educational institutions, tourism, and agriculture
- g. Accelerate e-commerce and cashless payment systems
- h. Increase government revenues and ensure fiscal sustainability
- i. Improve telecommunication and unlimited data access to support remote work from home for commerce, online industries, education, health, and e-payments.
- j. Recovering and strengthening the tourism industry, including targeting higher income travelers, opportunities in providing services for the yachting sector and non-taxation incentives.

4. Membership and Quorum of the ERC

The ERC shall comprise 7 members, including the Prime Minister who shall be chair. The members of the ERC shall be appointed by the Prime Minister who, in making such appointments, shall consider broad-based representation of sectors of the economy, knowledge, and experience of each of the persons appointed. A quorum shall be four persons, including the Chair.

5. The Functions of the ERC

The ERC shall:

- a. mandate sub-committees to review various sectors of the Economy and make recommendations in the context of the "Purpose of the ERC" set-out at section 3 above;
- b. receive and review the report and recommendations of each subcommittee and formulate suggestions for policies, plans and projects to be implemented with regard to those that the ERC considers appropriate; and to re-submit to the sub-committees for further review and recommendation any proposals that it considers necessary;
- c. submit its final recommendations to the Cabinet for formal approval and implementation
- d. keep the public informed of its work, through post-meetings media briefings or by statements of the Chair.

6. A Co-ordinator of the work of sub-committees

The Prime Minister, as Chair of the ERC, shall appoint a Co-ordinator who shall attend meetings of the ERC as an ex-officio member. The functions of the Co-ordinator shall be to:

- a. co-ordinate the work of each of the sub-committees, providing such assistance as they may need to carry out their functions; ensure that their meetings are held in a timely manner;
- b. ensure that officials of Public Corporations and Government Departments attend such sub-committee meetings as necessary as resource persons;
- c. facilitate attendance at meetings of the ERC of the Chairs of the sub-committees to report on activities;
- d. act as a liaison between the ERC and the Chairs of sub-committees.

7. Membership and Quorum of sub-committees.

Membership of the sub-committees should include representatives of the following organisations who shall be invited to participate and be assigned in their areas of knowledge and competence:

- a. Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- b. Employers Federation
- c. Bankers Association
- d. Hotels and Tourist Association
- e. Antigua and Barbuda Marine Association
- f. Fintech/IT Professional Sector representatives
- g. The Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union
- h. The Antigua and Barbuda Trades and Labour Union
- i. The Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association
- j. The Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers
- k. The Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association
- l. The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party
- m. The United Progressive Party
- n. Democratic National Alliance
- o. The Barbuda People's Movement
- p. The Antigua and Barbuda Taxi Association
- q. The Antigua and Barbuda Bar Association
- r. The Antigua and Barbuda Shipping Association
- s. Fisherfolk Association
- t. Antigua and Barbuda Contractor's Association
- u. Small Business Association
- v. Antigua and Barbuda Insurance Association
- w. Antigua and Barbuda Association of Accounting Professionals
- x. Representatives of Small Hotel Properties
- y. Farmers' Coalition/Farmers' Association

Each sub-committee shall comprise of seven (7) persons, including a Chair who shall be appointed by the Prime Minister from among the Cabinet Ministers. A quorum for each sub-committee shall be four persons including the Chair.

If any person misses more than 2 meetings, he/she will be replaced by another person representing the sector or organisation.

8. The Sub-Committees

Sub-committees shall be appointed for the following sectors, bearing in mind that they will each work in the context of section 3, "Purpose of the ERC" as set out above:

- a. Sub-committee on GROWING AND STIMULATING the economy, including financing
- b. Sub-committee on AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES in food security
- c. Sub-committee on BUILDING ECONOMIC LINKAGES among the sectors of the Economy
- d. Sub-committee on EFFICIENT PRODUCTION AND USE of WATER and ENERGY
- e. Sub-committee on MAINTAINING AND INCREASING JOBS and increasing productivity
- f. Sub-Committee on JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION, including through creating new enterprises and new markets, and accelerating e-commerce.
- g. Sub-committee on RECOVERING, REBUILDING AND EXPANDING tourism.
- h. Sub-committee on GOVERNANCE, Institutional and Legislative Arrangements.

Members of these sub-committees shall be drawn from the Organisations listed at section 7 above.

Additionally, officials of Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA), West Indies Oil Company (WIOC), the Customs and Excise Department, Inland Revenue Department, Labour Department, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism (ABTA) Authority, Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA), Ministry of Social Transformation and the Ministry of Finance, and such other officials as necessary, shall be summoned to attend meetings as resource persons, to provide information as required.

9. The Functions of the Sub-committees

The sub-committees shall be convened by their Chairs and shall work in a timely manner, concluding their work with attention to the urgency of submitting their written reports to the ERC in order to facilitate the drawing -up of national plans.

The Chair of each of the sub-committees, accompanied by one other member, shall attend meetings of the ERC to present the report of the sub-committee.

10. Duration of the ERC and sub-committees

The ERC and its sub-committees shall begin work immediately after the issuing of these Terms of Reference.

Sub-committees shall submit full reports to the ERC no later than 15th May 2020.

The ERC will consider the final reports of the sub-committees and issue a final report by 22nd May 2020. Cabinet will receive the report, with a view to approving the recommendations of the ERC by 27th May 2020.

11. Amendment, Modification or Variation

These Terms of Reference may be amended, varied, or modified in light of the experience of the ERC and/or its sub-committees.

Issued on 24th April 2020 by:



Gaston Browne M.P.
Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Corporate Governance and
Public Private Partnerships

Barbados: Close to 24,000 jobless claims



Barbados Minister in the Ministry of Finance Ryan Straughn

Barbados Today-

Just under 24,000 people have put in claims for unemployment benefits at the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), Minister in the Ministry of Finance Ryan Straughn said.

“The reality is that there are a number of expectations placed on all Government Departments given the immediate impact of COVID-19,” Straughn said while speaking in the lower house on the Income Tax Amendment Bill (2020).

“The National Insurance Department, up until a couple

of days ago, had received just short of 24,000 unemployment claims. Those claims have to be processed.” Minister Straughn also asked Barbadians to be mindful of the pressure being placed on Government agencies to deliver funds during the trying COVID-19 period.

“At this very frustrating time I ask persons to be as patient as possible as various institutions work through what they have to do in order to respond to Barbadians. The same way that persons are making contact with respect to the house-

hold survival programme, persons are making contact with respect to the welfare department, people are making contact with regards to the Barbados Revenue Authority (BRA) ... We are working to ensure that the technology and the technological processes are as efficient as possible. Some persons traditionally don't remember their passwords. They don't remember what they use when they sign up for TAMIS...,” he said. Straughn urged Barbadians to play their part in making the processes easier so they can be completed in a timely manner.

“Whether it is income tax, whether it is unemployment benefits or sickness benefit, [I want you] to use the opportunity to provide your banking or credit union account information so the processing of these things can be much smoother that is important. It means you don't have to wait for a cheque to come the money goes directly into your bank account so

that you would have greater access. We are trying to eliminate lines to get cash. The agencies can better manage the processing of the distribution of the funds...” Straughn praised the BRA for paying income tax returns to a large number of people who were owed for previous years. “I know that the Barbados Revenue Authority, because of the build-up taxes that was owed to them, over time is not the most favourite place for Barbadians. But we have started to repay a significant amount of those tax refund. There may still be a few persons who are owed a few refunds, which will be resolved as we go through this process.

He continued: “I want to appeal to those persons to who tax credits apply as well as the compensatory credit, to file their incomes taxes as soon as possible so that the processing of those funds can be done as quickly as possible so that we are in the best position to start to respond.”

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Amid mounting speculation, South Korea says Kim Jong Un is 'alive and well'

South Korea continued to pour water on mounting speculation about the health of North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, telling CNN he is "alive and well."

"Our government position is firm," Moon Chung-in, the top foreign policy adviser to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, told CNN. "Kim Jong Un is alive and well. He has been staying in the Wonsan area since April 13. No suspicious movements have so far been detected."

Questions were raised about Kim's well-being after he missed the celebration of his grandfather's birthday on April 15. He had been seen four days before that at a politburo meeting, according to North Korean state media, KCNA.

CNN reported earlier in the week that the United States is monitoring intelligence that Kim is "in grave danger after a surgery," according to a US official. Another US official told CNN Monday that the concerns about Kim's health are credible, but their severity is hard to assess.

It followed a report by Daily NK, an online newspaper based in South Korea that focuses on North Korea, that Kim reportedly received a cardiovascular procedure because of "excessive smoking, obesity, and overwork." It added that the leader is now receiving treatment in a villa in Hyangsan County.

After assessing that Kim's



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un

condition had improved, most of the medical team treating him returned to Pyongyang on April 19 while some of them remained to oversee his recovery, according to the news site. CNN is unable to independently confirm the report.

On Sunday though, North Korean state newspaper Rodong Sinmun said Kim sent thanks to workers who helped in remodeling the city of Samjiyon in North Korea. CNN cannot independently confirm the authenticity of Sunday's report and whether the note of thanks came directly from the leader.

It is not the first time North Korean media has reported on Kim's activities since news of his potential health issues emerged.

Train in Wonsan

North Korea tightly controls any information surrounding its leader, who is treated almost like a deity within the country. His absences from official state media often

spark speculation and rumors about his health.

North Korea has no free press and is often a black hole when it comes to the country's leadership. Analysts are heavily reliant on scanning state media dispatches and watching propaganda videos for any semblance of a clue. A website specializing in North Korean affairs published satellite images on Saturday that researchers said showed a train "probably belonging to Kim Jong Un" has been parked at a railway station serving Kim's luxurious Wonsan compound on the country's eastern coast since at least April 21.

The presence of the train does not prove DPRK leader is at the Wonsan compound but "does lend weight" to reports he is staying in the area, according to the article published by 38 North, which publishes analysis on North Korean affairs and is a project of the Henry L. Stimson Center, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

The website reported the station where the train is parked is "reserved for use by the Kim family." Satellite images indicate the train, not present in the area on April 15, arrived sometime before April 21 and continued to be at the location on April 23. By April 23, the train "appeared to be repositioned for departure," according to 38 North.

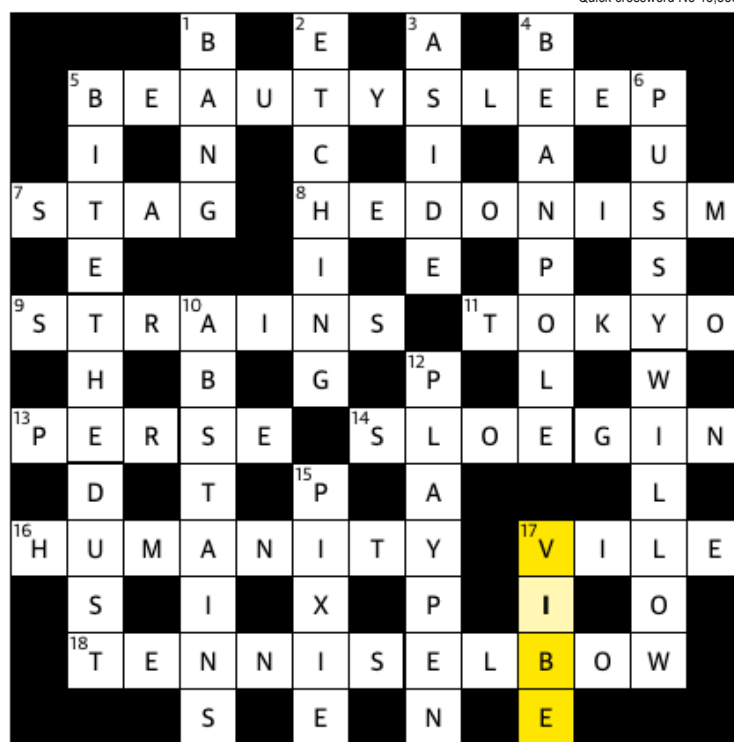
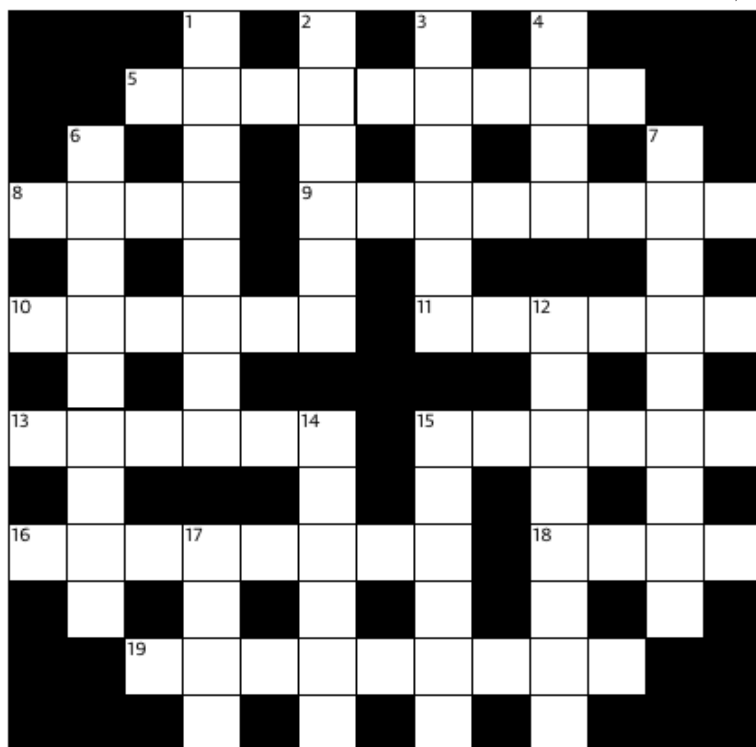
The Wonsan complex, according to 38 North, includes leisure facilities such as nine large guesthouses, a recreation center, a large building constructed after Kim came to power, a protected port, a shooting range, a recreation building, a covered dock, and a small runway converted in 2019 into a horse-riding track, a hobby of Kim's.

The beachfront area, where Kim spent summers as a child, is a place the North Korean leader is known to enjoy frequenting. Kim, however, often travels by plane or drives to Wonsan.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No 15,590

Quick crossword No 15,589



Across

- 5 Golfing knickerbockers (4,5)
 8 Strike — 1980s' pop group (4)
 9 Term that is now fashionable (8)
 10 High-ranking Ottoman official (6)
 11 Make less (6)
 13 OK, fine! (6)
 15 Spectre (6)
 16 Device for remembering things (8)
 18 In this way (4)
 19 Old gold coin (9)

Down

- 1 Low in calories (8)
 2 Line connecting points of equal atmospheric pressure (6)
 3 Heavy drinker (6)
 4 Mixture (4)
 6 Manacled workers (5,4)
 7 Grumpy (9)
 12 (At sea) deviation from the intended course (8)
 14 Braying animal (6)
 15 Classified (6)
 17 Open to argument (4)

CARTOON CORNER

LUANN



BY GREG EVANS





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Key relationships can take a turn for the better if you keep your promises. Because you are excited to make dynamic changes, you might cause someone to question your loyalty. Focus on being committed in the week ahead.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Plan on spending blissful moments of togetherness with someone who puts the “R” in romance. Your imaginative ideas might be useful in a work environment as this week progresses, although they may not bring personal benefits.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Now is an excellent time to really think out any plans you make. You could be tempted to act on emotional impulses rather than logical deductions. Your charm and attractiveness are likely at a peak in the week ahead.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In the week ahead, you may become involved in a partner’s new interests. Although you may have found it more difficult to communicate with each other lately, the two of you can work together quite well later this week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Any desire you may have for recognition could be fulfilled as the upcoming week unfolds. Try to visualize achieving what you want. You may be more enthused than usual about appearing in public and attaining career success.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This might be a day when you must simplify what you have to say to get a complicated concept across. You may have a chance to buy a beautiful item that you’ve long dreamed of owning in the week ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put inspirations into action. The people in your life can spark your imagination and help you find practical applications for your ideas. Enjoy a heightened sense of peace and understanding with loved ones this week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone could share romantic ideals or inspiring thoughts with you, but they won’t undermine practical considerations. Don’t hesitate to accept invitations or pursue the love interest of your dreams in the week ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your partner’s cheerful encouragement or a friend’s support can build a welcoming environment, making it easier to succeed at any project. As this week unfolds, some financial pressures should be relieved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may have a deep interest in a creative or personal project that interferes with a family outing or other commitment. Avoid confrontations just to have your own way. Be willing to compromise in the upcoming week.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put some more effort into your appearance. People prefer to deal with those who appear prosperous and successful. Make yourself extra attractive and appealing in the week ahead and you should be able to add to your success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Your high ideals might be compared to the giant waves of the ocean. You may continuously focus your efforts on achieving perfect tranquility this week, and friends will help. Buying more stuff may not bring satisfaction.

Courtney Walsh: Cricket's Quiet Storm

Former West Indies captain Courtney Walsh said he grew up playing all sports in Jamaica as a young boy but had a special love for cricket because he had a mother who loved and understood the game.

Courtney explained that his mother was so passionate about cricket, that she not only followed the games, she knew the players and fielding positions on the ground.

"Some of my idols growing up were Clive Lloyd, Michael Holding who played for Melbourne

Cricket Club and some of the other Melbourne players who represented Jamaica," he noted.

He disclosed that he lived very close to the Melbourne ground and he would sneak over and watch them training, eventually representing the club.

Walsh recalled that the first prize he won as a cricketer was a batting prize in which he was quite surprised. Growing up, he was knick-name 'Cuddy' as he is fondly called by friends.

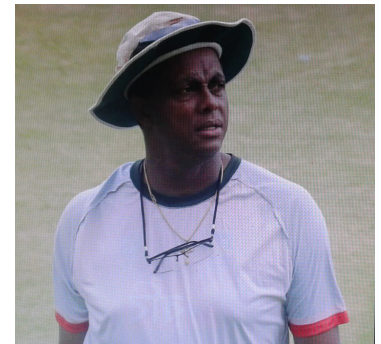
Walsh said he performed well in school cricket for

Excelsior in Jamaica which led to him gaining selection to the national youth team and people began taking notice of his talent.

The powerfully built fast bowler said he enjoyed leading the West Indies team as captain and compared it to being like the leader of the Caribbean where you are connected to all the regional leaders who would at times call you to talk cricket.

Walsh enjoys a lifelong friendship with Sir Curtley Ambrose and said from the day they met a special respect was fostered and they both have solid friendship with each other's mothers, who both love cricket.

As a former coach of Bangladesh senior team, Walsh said he wanted to contribute to West Indies cricket by assisting the younger players with their development and was high in praise for Alzari



Courtney Walsh

Joseph and Jason Holder of Barbados.

Courtney says he was a fitness fanatic during his playing days. He was constantly running and now, he is encouraging young regional players to focus on being physically prepared, train hard, focus and success will follow.

"The toughest batsman I faced as a bowler was Javed Miandad, and Steve Waugh," the Jamaican said.

Walsh bagged 519 wickets in 132 tests at a average of 24.44 and 227 in one-day internationals at 30.48

Eredivisie cancelled because of pandemic

The head of the Dutch FA says it was a "bitter day" cancelling the Eredivisie season early and he thinks it is very doubtful the Premier league will be able to complete the 2019/20 campaign.

The top two Dutch leagues were abandoned with no promotion or relegation and no champion.

Major events in Holland are banned until September because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Just Spree, president of the KNVB, said the chances of football elsewhere in Europe behind closed doors are slim.

Ajax led the table from AZ Alkmaar on goal difference with nine games left but will not be named champions.

Both Ajax and AZ Alkmaar will go into the Champions League qualifying stages, pending ratification by UEFA.

Ajax could progress straight to the group stage, depending on the outcome of this year's competition and other domestic leagues.

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Andy Roberts: He led the way

Sir Andy Roberts, considered one of the best fast bowlers of all time, said he grew up watching 'ball game', (as they called it back then), on Sundays while on route to Sunday school.

Sir Andy said in the 60's and 70's cricket was vibrant and competitive in the south with Parish League, but players from the country were sidelined as we were not considered good enough for national selection.

"Back then we played every day and we had an immense passion and love for the game," Sir Andy added.

He explained that he was



one of the first players from the south to gain selection to the national team after being scouted by the late Tim Hector and Ephraim John, both of whom ventured to the south to watch me play.

Roberts said when he made his first appearance for Antigua and Barbuda in

the Leeward Islands tournament, no one knew who he was because he had never played in town, which led to the name 'Fruti' because the few that knew him described him as 'the boy who worked for Fruti' (a soft-drink bottling company that operated near Jennings/Ebenezer).

Sir Andy indicated that he is not happy with the quality of cricket in Antigua saying St. Kitts does not have a first division cricket league, yet they are producing some of the better cricketers for Leeward Islands.

"Players need to work harder on their personal development, when I was playing I would run five miles in the morning, then bowl to one stump for two hours in the afternoons," Roberts recalled.

He noted that he is often



told that he is 'old fashioned' in his approach, but the fast bowlers today sustain injuries faster than previous ones did, so whatever the old school were doing must have some merit.

Sir Andy implied that he is impressed with the progress of West Indies fast bowler Alzari Joseph and hopes he stays focused, concentrate on his fitness and not try to bowl every ball at express pace.

"He (Joseph) has improved a lot, he is thinking more and I see a bright future for him," stated Sir Andy.

Washington State player died from accidental drug overdose

Bryce Beekman, the Washington State football player found dead at his home in late March, died from an accidental overdose, the coroner said.

The 22-year-old athlete died on March 23 from acute intoxication due to a combination of fentanyl and promethazine, Whitman County Coroner Annie Pillers said Friday.

Fentanyl is used to treat severe pain and promethazine is commonly used for allergies and nausea. It can

also be used as a sedative.

Pullman police received a call around 5:45 p.m. on March 23 about a person not breathing. Beekman had died before first responders arrived, Chief Gary Jenkins previously said.

Beekman's family said in a statement that they have many questions regarding his death and are working with police to find answers "and ultimately help prevent this from happening again to anyone else's son or daughter."



Sir Viv talks cricket, sports

Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, one of Wisden's five greatest players of the 20th century, has been relaxing during the lockdown for COVID-19, and playing some golf recently since the authorities released the restriction on the sport.

Sir Richards said he was introduced to the sport of golf by his friend Sir Ian Botham and his father in England and used it as a way of meditation and relaxing.

Appearing as a guest on Point FM TIMEOUT Richards said growing up in Ovals his parents played an instrumental role in his development in life and sports.

"Having a father who played the game, and who possessed knowledge of the sport helped me and my brothers. My dad Mal-

colm Richards, a former Antigua and Barbuda fast bowler, would bring home equipments which were big for us, but we would play around with them and visualized playing the game," Richards noted.

Sir Viv grew up playing multiple sports; football and cricket with his brother Mervyn, both playing football for Antigua Grammar School, Superstars, and finally Lion Hill Spliff. Eventually, Sir Viv, in spite of having a deep love for football, choose cricket because it was more structured, and had more opportunities to advance.

He told the story where sports legend Pat Whyte and some other cricket administrators arranged for both he and Sir Andy to travel



to England to play cricket and their careers took off from the experience. Sir Roberts made his way in the West Indies team following Nevisian, Elquemedo Toni-to Willet who had open the door which encouraged him to step up his game realizing that opportunities were now available for players from the smaller territories to grab.

Sir Viv, who scored 8,540 runs at an average of 50, in 121 Tests, credits his early football battles with Empire Football Club and aggressive fans for developing his mental toughness which made it easy for him to adjust to hostile environments in Australia and England.

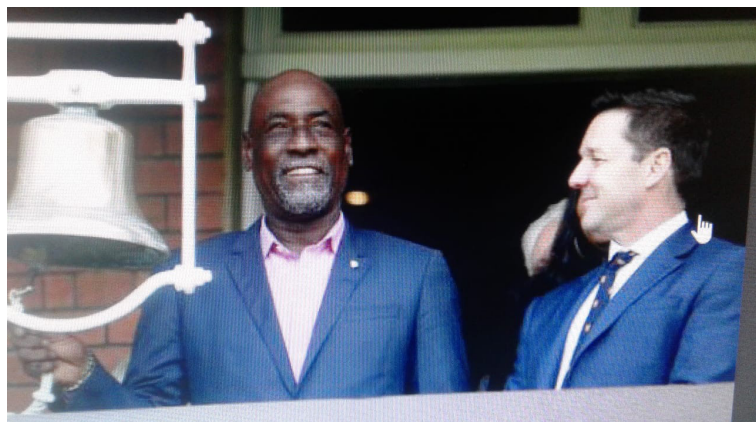
Sir Viv's favorite football Club is Liverpool with which he said he was impressed while attending games in England, listening

to the passionate fans sing 'we will never walk alone', and rubbing shoulders with players such as John Barnes and Ian Rush.

The Master Blaster's impression on the present West Indies team is that there is much talent as much as any Test playing nation in the world, but the players need to self train, work harder on their fitness, and play with more passion and determination.

"I was extremely proud watching two Antiguan, Alzari Joseph and Hayden Walsh Jr. lead the West Indies to victory against Ireland at the stadium here," he added.

He added that he has seen vast improvements in Alzari's development and production over the past year and he is happy for him because he believes that Joseph has a bright future once he stays fit and focused.



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