



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2020 | ISSUE 75 | www.pointville.com

PRICE \$3

SALONS, BARBERS

get new operation guidelines

Story on Page 3



Young Entrepreneurs
Spotlight – Page 7



- Page 4 -

**Church services
resume in June**

More donations for frontline workers

Local Business man and Chief Executive Office of Cassada Paints & Supplies Inc., agents for Sherwin Williams Paints, Huey Wiltshire, made the timely donation on behalf of Cassada Paints & Supplies Inc. and Green Earth Distributors Inc. to the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Defense Force and the Adopt a Family Soup Kitchen.

The items included 5000 biodegradable food containers, corned beef, 50 pounds of potatoes and 180 pounds of rice.

Additionally, 500 safety masks were also given to the Royal Police Force of Anti-



Cassada Paints & Supplies Inc. and Green Earth donated food supplies, Vegware bio Food containers and masks to the Adopt A Family Soup Kitchen and Security Forces of Antigua and Barbuda.

gua and Barbuda and the Defense Force.

It is the shared belief of Wiltshire and wife Anjanette

Wiltshire (CEO of Green Earth) that they are duty bound as corporate citizens to assist the essential work-

ers and most vulnerable in our society to mitigate the fallouts from COVID-19 in our twin islands state.



DAY 5/8

Max UV Index: 13 Extreme
 Wind: E at 18 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 24 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 25%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 0%
 Precipitation: 0.0 mm
 Rain: 0.0 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm

31°_{Hi}



Partly sunny

NIGHT 5/8

Wind: ESE at 18 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 28 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 25%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 0%
 Precipitation: 0.0 mm
 Rain: 0.0 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm

26°_{Lo}



Partly cloudy with a passing shower

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:38 AM

Sunset AST
 6:29 PM



Duration
 12:51 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 12:53 PM

Moonset AST
 7:32 AM



Duration
 11:32 hr

New Guidelines for Salons, Barbers and Nail Techs

As the country loosens the regulations under the state of emergency aimed at kickstarting the economy, new guidelines are going into effect for the operation of salons, barbers and nail technicians.

The Ministry of Health issued a comprehensive list of guidelines that will govern the operation of these businesses for some time to come.

“The following guidelines are intended to improve the operations of Barber-shops, Beauty Salons and Nail Salons in the context of the threat posed by infectious diseases generally, and in particular, the need to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus,” the circular issued overnight stated.

Among the new guidelines, is a provision where these businesses may request their clients undergo a temperature check prior to entering the premises.

“Salons/shops can consider use of a touchless infrared thermometer to check the temperature of employee each day and of each client who enters the salon/shop.

“Any employee or client who has a temperature of 99°F and above should be sent home immediately and not allowed to return to the salon/shop until they have no fever and no evidence of COVID-19 symptoms,” the



circular advises. These establishments are advised to follow guidelines on Taking Human Temperature.

They may also decline service from any client that exhibits signs of illness such as a fever, cough, muscle pains and shortness of breath.

Additionally, the circular notes that the salon or barber shop may reduce services and availability as well as limit people who are present within the establishment at the same time.

“Salons/shops should consider seeing clients by appointment only. Salons/shops should consider telephonic or online scheduling. Limit the number of persons waiting area in the salon/shop.

“It is recommended that clients wait outside the salon/shop in their vehicle until the hairdresser or barber is ready to serve them. It is recommended that persons

not being serviced in the salon/shop wait outside the salon/shop.

“Salons/shops are not to be used as social gathering places! The numbers of clients in the waiting area should be determined to the extent if 6ft apart can be achieved,” the circular admonishes.

In what is now considered to be the ‘new normal’, all salons/shops must now provide handwashing stations at their respective businesses. In addition, they must clear and disinfect their tools between clients.

“Disinfect machine parts and other tools in barbicide between clients. Barbicide concentration ¼ cup (2oz) concentration in 4 cups (32oz) of water. An autoclave machine can also be used for sterilization of equipment,” the Ministry of Health circular stated.

All employees in the salons/shops must now wear

masks and other personal protection equipment when attending to clients.

The Central Board of Health said it will conduct inspection of these businesses and it advises owners/operators to call to make appointments for such services.

Salon operators and barbers have welcomed the decision by the government to allow them to reopen after more than a month of being idle.

Several have said they are anxious to return to work as they have lost ‘a lot of money’ because of the closure of the country due to the pandemic.

However, as one operator said they will need time to acquire some of the things that they will be required to have such as handing washing stations and the special N95 masks.

“I am told that these masks are in short supply and as non-medical persons, it may not be easy for us to get our hands on a sufficient supply,” one salon operator who asked not to be named told PointeXpress newspaper.

She added that getting thermometers to do temperature checks may also pose a problem. However, despite the obvious concerns, the salon operator said she was happy to be able to ‘get back to work’.

Church services resume in June

Church leaders who are anxious to resume regular services in their sanctuaries/churches are meeting with the government to discuss how this can be achieved. Both sides have agreed to early June when full worship may resume in the country.

Churches across Antigua and Barbuda have had to close their doors like everything else in the country as the government instituted strict measures to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus that has caused a pandemic.

In a statement issued Thursday night, the Ecclesiastic Commission said following a decision by the Cabinet to lift the closure on churches, on Thursday, Minister responsible for the portfolio, Samantha Marshall, met with the commission and church leaders to discuss guidelines and regulations that will govern how churches would re-introduce

persons into worshipping in the sanctuaries.

“Resulting from the discussions it was decided to do a comprehensive assessment of the church buildings as well as forms of worship and to determine how they would implement social distancing based on the health guidelines, to determine how we would establish regulations to govern the church,” chairman of the commission, William Dorsett said in the statement.

He advised that churches are not open for mass gatherings and are encouraged to continue utilizing the media and virtual platforms to engage members and parishioners until gatherings are permitted.

“In the phased approach, Churches would start open services on the Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June allowing for the preparation and submission of the guidelines and regulations to the Min-

istry of Health for approval. Anyone found breaking the rules could be punished with imprisonment or a fine,” the statement cautioned.

According to the statement the schedule of multiple services, wearing of mask and ensuring hand sanitizer and/or hand washing station are easily available near every entrance were some of the items that would be in the regulations.

Dorsett said that the commission is assisting the government to help the clergy, members and parishioners return to their churches safely and that regulations are intended to be helpful and not to put an additional burden on clergy whilst at the same time, protect both themselves and others’ health. Marshall thanked the church for its prayers, support and the message of hope it has given to the government and the nation in travelling through this pandemic.

Diaspora Involvement welcomed

A suggestion that members of the diaspora community ought to be able to participate in crafting a broad-based recovering plan for Antigua and Barbuda in the post-COVID-19 period, has found favour with at least one of the persons who will head a sub-committee of the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC).

Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene, said the suggestion that emanated from US-based attorney, Ralph Bowen, has merit and he would welcome the involvement of members of the Antigua and Barbuda diaspora.

However, Greene is of the view that the diaspora community need not be members of any of the seven sub-committees of the ERC for them to participate and to be in-

volved.

“If the diaspora community is organized its members can prepare a set of recommendations and ideas and to submit these to the respective sub-committees for inclusion in their final drafts,” Greene explained.

He said he has no doubt that the diaspora community could be an important resource which the country can tap into as it takes on the herculean task of reviving the nation and economy devastated by the fallout from the pandemic.

Greene, whose sub-committee will be responsible for industries, trade and job-creation, was not so welcoming to a suggestion that Antigua and Barbuda should also rely on outside expertise to assist as well.

“I don’t have an issue with



Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene

us seeking certain expertise from external agencies, but where I draw the line is any suggestion that we should engage the services of foreign consultants,” he declared.

He added that he strongly believes that the people of Antigua and Barbuda whether home or abroad are fully cognizant of the problems that lie before them and that they have the wherewithal to arrive at effective solutions.

“I strongly oppose bring-

ing in foreign consultants. I am of the view that the skills set to fashion a home-grown solution to our problems resides among us. We must never under-estimate the quality of contribution that we possess amongst ourselves to craft our own recovery plan,” he opined.

According to the trade minister, he has already identified the individuals who will be asked to serve on his committee. The names have been submitted to the Cabinet for final approval.

“All of the sub-committees have submitted their names to the Cabinet. This is very important as it will avoid duplication in the membership. As soon as Cabinet approves the names the sub-committees will begin their work in earnest next week,” he stated.

Sir Lester chides UPP leadership

Former Prime Minister Sir Lester Bird has admonished Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle, to ignore the counsel of persons within his own United Progressive Party (UPP) who are against Pringle serving on a National Economic Recovery Committee.

The multi-stakeholder body was set up by Cabinet last month to thrash out options for reopening and revitalizing Antigua and Barbuda's economy, which was shut down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pringle, who is also the UPP's deputy political leader and its only elected Member of Parliament, was named in the April 22 Cabinet announcement and considered to be an automatic choice to serve on the committee due to his Constitutional standing as Leader of the Opposition and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

Apart from being a former

two-term Prime Minister and an elected parliamentary representative for almost 40 years, Sir Lester also held many significant ministerial portfolios such as Economic Development and Planning.

Illustrating his advice to Pringle – a first term parliamentarian – with an example from history, the National Hero drew on how his own father and predecessor as head of government, Sir Vere Cornwall Bird, dealt inclusively with the late Tim Hector, who was one of the ALP government's harshest critics.

"When V.C. Bird was alive and was the Prime Minister, Tim Hector was his major enemy with the apartheid problem. Therefore, in order for V.C. to satisfy himself as to the veracity of what was being said, he invited Tim Hector to Cabinet.

"So I want to tell Mr. Pringle, if Tim Hector could come to the Cabinet on the



Former Prime Minister Sir Lester Bird

invitation of V.C. Bird, why don't you join with Gaston Browne, the Prime Minister, who wants you to work together because the people of the nation are looking to try and find solutions? You should go!"

Sir Lester, interviewed by PointeXpress, said Pringle should not follow the lead of persons who are only interested in playing what the now-retired elder statesman described as "petty politics".

Sir Lester instead urged Pringle to act on behalf of the people he represents in Parliament, recognizing the gravity and urgency of challenges posed by COVID-19.

Sir Lester also had some words for the current UPP political leader Harold Lovell who, he says, should know better than to deter Pringle from serving on the nonpartisan Committee.

"Mr. Lovell should know better. Come on, Mr. Lovell. You have the capacity to rise above these things ... I'm asking you, and I'm saying to you, please do not allow yourself to be dragged down and not deal with the national interests ... That's the word I have for you, Mr. Lovell, whom I have a lot of respect for.

"But respect ends at the gate. We have to work together. The people of this country deserve it, and all those of us who have given our sacrifice to this country, we expect you to be able to stand above those things, and to be able to get us all together by bringing yourself within the milieu of what we are trying to do," he declared.

Money transfers resume full services

Government has removed the partial limitations on money transfer services operating in the country. These services were curtailed during the first weeks of the state of emergency. However, they were later allowed to operate but only to receive monies sent from abroad to relatives in Antigua and Barbuda.

Now under the new guidelines coming out of Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, these entities may offer full transfer services; that is sending as well as receiving monies.

"All Money Services Businesses conducting money transfers pursuant

to a Class A licence issued by the Financial Services Regulatory Commission," the government release said.

At least one money transfer business, said it is quite happy that the government is now allowing the two-way flow of money.

"It is with a joyful heart that Bryson's Money Transfer Master Agents of Western Union welcomes the lift of the restriction by the government of Antigua and Barbuda in sending monies out of the country," General Manager of Bryson's Western Union, Anthony Smith Jr. declared.

He said their customers were ex-

trremely thankful and happy as they are able to send monies to their loved ones, families and friends.

He added that the transfer of monies to and from countries plays a critical role in the society especially in these challenging economic times.

Smith explained that it has not been easy to operate with receiving only policy as money service businesses were not built to function that way. However, he disclosed that as agents of Western Union Bryson's Money Transfer was able to assist its customers with the payment of their monies even with the receiving only policy.



Parliamentary Representative for St. Peter's, Asot Michael presents centenarian Gwendolyn Reifer with gifts.

Parham resident, newest centenarian

One of Antigua and Barbuda's most exclusive clubs, the 100-years club – has welcomed its latest members - Gwendolyn Goldine Reifer who was born on May 07, 1920.

The mother of three from Parham village, who has outlived her husband as well as her siblings, describes herself as a staunch Christian with deep roots in the Anglican church. She credits her strong belief in God for making it possible

for her to achieve this remarkable milestone.

Family and friends gathered at her home on Thursday to join in the celebrations with Reifer. Among those in attendance was the constituency representative, Asot Michael, who presented her with a bouquet of flowers, a commemorative cake and an assorted fruit basket in recognition of her life and contributions to the history and substance of Antigua

and Barbuda.

She said, from childhood to this extraordinary day, she remains firm in her beliefs and she is driven by the lines of the popular hymn, 'What a friend we have in Jesus' – words from which continue to brighten her days.

Speaking in her honour on Thursday, MP Michael said it was important for stalwarts like Reifer to be recognized, especially as the world takes a pause

during the COVID-19 epidemic. Seniors such as the island's newest centenarian is considered among the most vulnerable to the disease.

"It is an absolute honour to stand before you. You are an example to us all as we push through this crisis, maintaining focus on both our history and our future. Thank you for your contribution to our country," Michael said.

The centenarian was a midwife by profession, having managed the births of many Antiguan over the decades to include the children of the late Gertrude Philip.

Despite her age and being bedridden, Reifer says she still appreciates a well-prepared rice and fish topped off with a tall cold glass of ginger beer – a treat she enjoyed thoroughly on her special day at her home in Parham. Ducana and stewed pork also topped her list of favourites, although this dish did not make Thursday's menu.

No Foul-play Suspected

No foul play is suspected in the death of a retired policeman whose decomposing body was found at his home in Lightfoot on Wednesday.

According to police spokesman, Inspector Frankie Thomas...retired corporal of police, Raymond Debellotte, was discovered dead at his Lightfoot home approximately 2:15pm on Wednesday. "His body was in seated in his home in early stages of decomposition. A medical doctor officially pronounced his body dead around 3:56pm," he disclosed.

Debellotte spent most of his time in the force attached to the traffic department. He



Raymond Debellotte

was Grenadian by birth and an amputee at the time of death.

A post-mortem will be carried out on the body to determine cause of death.

Young Entrepreneurs Spotlight

COVID-19: A catalyst for entrepreneurship Series: 19-year-old Jakobi Gilgeous Capitalizes During COVID-19

By Angelica O'Donoghue

Throughout history, a significant shift in our everyday lives has always sparked an equally significant leap in how we function. History has taught us that pandemics have helped in the development of increased access to healthcare, wars have pushed for greater technological advancement and the financial crises have birthed creative ways of doing business. From this premise, it seems COVID-19 may possibly be a catalyst for entrepreneurship, even here in Antigua and Barbuda.

As we trod through these unprecedented times, PointeXpress presents a dedicated Friday Feature on young entrepreneurs, showing up and showing out during this COVID-19 pandemic.

19-year-old Jakobi Gilgeous, is a perfect example of how COVID-19 has become a catalyst for new and innovative business in Antigua and Barbuda.

Jakobi is the owner and operator of 'Errands4You' also known as 'Errands Antigua'. A business this young entrepreneur started in January 2020, has slingshot it's way

into being a premier service provider during the country's stringent curfew period.

Errands4You is a delivery and concierge service offering a wide variety of personalized services to help maximize your free time and create balance in your life. From grocery shopping to personal shopping, prescription pick-ups, pickup, and delivery of dry cleaning, bill payments, documents, and parcels courier to even house sitting, house check-ups, and home gardening. Because of this novelty service, this young business has seen the



Jakobi Gilgeous

upside of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nascent businessman said he has always had an inclination for business. "I have always aspired to become an entrepreneur, being innovative, looking for ways that I can improve the standard of living within the country, and just to help the community," Jakobi said.

Though his business is not the only one of its kind, Jakobi developed a service of personalization and care that separated him from other concierge services. The young entrepreneur recalled that there were not many businesses exactly like his when he first became operational, however, according to Gilgeous, just after launching his startup, a few weeks later he notices there were small businesses starting to offer similar services. Nonetheless, to stay a cut above the rest, Jakobi continued to find ways of evolving his young business right in the center of

cont'd on pg 8



Obituaries

cont'd from pg 7

the COVID-19 storm.

"COVID impacted the business, I would say both in good and bad ways. Bad, because for most of the services we offered, they were not really needed anymore, the lockdown impacted them severely. Good, because it helped boost up some of the services that were not getting that much attention before, such as Grocery Shopping which increased!" Jakobi indicated.

The energetic entrepreneur went on to explain that during the national lockdown because of COVID-19, "to help out with the amount of individuals in lines waiting at supermarkets and wholesale companies, we pushed the Grocery shopping service harder, getting up early to wait in a line to shop for our clients. We also introduced a new service where we started to sell fruits and vegetables. We would buy the produce from locals or wholesale companies and sell them at a retail price and offer free delivery. A list was made of all the different fruits and vegetables with our logo at the top."

At the tender age of 19 years, starting a business may seem difficult at face value, however, Jakobi explained that it was his drive and creativity which pushed him to create his service-based business. "No financing at all was needed. I started running the errands on my own, All I needed was my mother's vehicle and a clipboard," the budding businessman declared.

Customer service and care of items are said to be the

hallmark of the Errands4You business strategy. Utilizing social media platforms through WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook, this wiz kid has managed to form collaborations with other small businesses, capitalizing on events many may not have the capacity to shop for because of curfew measures.

In speaking with PointeXpress, Jakobi indicated that he plans to continue to offer the best quality errand and concierge service to the public, with hopes of expansion through a partnership with other errand services one day.

When asked what is one advice he would like to articulate to other entrepreneurs, Jakobi said, "I would advise them to stop listening to that little negative voice in their head, think big, sometimes an opportunity only comes around once and you have to know if you are willing to take the risk as Mark Zuckerberg said 'the biggest risk is not taking any risk'.

Community icon Cheena Wanda Joseph laid to rest



*This week as we laid you to rest,
You were surrounded by a fraction of those
who loved you.*

*We mourn our loss.
For we have indeed lost,
Your presence, your light, your support.
Your never swaying, ever staying support.*

*We love you, forever and always.
Remain at peace,
Cheena Wanda Joseph
For it is well, all is well,
With your soul.*

For the **safety** of employee drivers,
their families and the communities in which they **live** and **work**.

SANITIZE
DESINFECTAR

COVID-19: Driver Safety Tips

Sanitize your phone regularly and avoid putting it near your face (use speaker function).

DRIVE SAFELY

ATB
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



IN LOVING MEMORY LADY AFAF HADEED

It is with much sadness that the Hadeed Family announces the passing of Lady Afaf Hadeed. She died on April 29, 2020. Mourning her loss is her husband for more than 52 years, Sir Ramez Hadeed, KCN, Antigua and Barbuda's longest serving ambassador. Also mourning are her brother, Riad in Trinidad and her sister, Haifa in Syria. Her brothers Aziz, Fares and Fred as well as her sister, Esther pre-deceased her.

She was sister in-law to Radwan Hadeed, Joseph and Jamileh Hadeed, Aziz and Mahasen Hadeed and Laila Hadeed-Doumith.

She was aunt to Francis and Khoula Hadeed, Andrew and Samar Hadeed Laura and Mimo Fares and Catherine Doumith in Antigua....and Nephews: Charles, John, Bernard, Francis, Riad, Ramzi, Fares, Fuad, Sean and Dominic.

As well as nieces: Judy, Jenny, Rawda, Balandia, Lorette, Wafa, Zakia and Claudia in Trinidad and Tobago. She was great aunt to Cameron, Esther, Francis, Chris, Alexa, Taylor, Aden, Sebastian Amanda, Elizabeth, Freddie and Jadon.

And aunt-in-law to Solomon and Anya Doumith, Samir Doumith, Sylvania and Issam Sabini, Samuel and Lousin Doumith, Simon Doumith and Basem Hadeed.

She had many great nieces and nephews as well as many family members here in Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States and Syria.

**DETAILS OF THE FUNERAL FOR THE LATE LADY AFAF HADEED
WILL BE GIVEN IN A SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCEMENT.**

Tied to no one's apron strings: The Caribbean in an emerging new world

(The writer is Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organisation of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own).

Developing countries, including Caribbean Community (CARICOM) states, would make a grave mistake if, in the wake of the economic crisis they now face, they decide to diminish their foreign affairs budgets.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have created huge challenges for advanced economies, but those challenges are even more daunting for small states.

In scrambling to cope with considerably decreased revenues and extraordinarily increased expenditure, governments will cut their budgets. Since diplomacy is not regarded as the guardian of their interests in the global community as it should be, the first reductions will be to their Embassies and their involvement in regional and international institutions. By doing this, governments will be depriving themselves of participation in international

decision-making, precisely when they should be fully involved in determining the kind of new world that is emerging in this epoch of COVID-19.

After World War II, when most developing countries had no voice in international relations, the victorious powers created the current major International Financial Institutions (IFIs) which they have dominated ever since, dictating the world's economic order largely for their own benefit. The policies of the financial institutions have imposed rules and conditions on developing states that have kept them financially indentured, if not enslaved.

Caribbean countries, that have suffered in the economic order which has prevailed since 1945, have an opportunity to participate in the fashioning of a new dispensation. As the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, P.J. Patterson, put it recently, "The reconfiguration of global power and the restructuring of the global economy cannot be left to the market or the dictations of a few, determined to continue to shape the future by unilateral decisions".

Mr. Patterson's summons to action is wise and irresistible. He advises, "The interests of the less developed,



By Sir Ronald Sanders

less powerful and most vulnerable will not be taken into account unless we take the decision to make our collective voices heard and our interests reflected in the new world order". However, the Caribbean cannot do so if it does not have a seat at the table. That is why, while budget cuts clearly must be made, no government should allow indiscriminate reduction in their participation in global affairs; rather they should create a leaner, best skilled and professional foreign service focussed on giving their countries the strongest voice possible in advancing their interest.

CARICOM countries also

need to settle their policy approaches in a coherent manner and set their foreign policy teams to work together, eschewing transient alliances that do not serve their fundamental interests, whatever short-term benefits they may get.

There will be a tussle for global influence between the traditional big powers – Western states, formerly led by the United States, but now fractured – and challengers from Asia of which China will be the most powerful. China is already the world's largest trading power and the United States is increasingly isolating itself from the multilateral system

Cont'd on pg 11

in an apparent belief that it can continue to use its economic and military power to achieve its government's objectives.

For developing countries, including the Caribbean, where they stand in the global order should not be a choice between holding on to the apron strings of either China or the US. There is no shortage among developing countries of intellectual capacity in a wide range of fields that propel human development. Their problem has been the inability to harness that collective power and deploy it jointly. Their collective strength as markets also remains a powerful chip with which to bargain. One certainty in any new global dispensation is that, if they fail to act together, they will remain in the backwater of human development. And, that is particularly true for CARICOM countries.

On a related matter, most CARICOM countries are now confronted with a

wall of debt. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, that wall will grow higher and more impenetrable. UNCTAD has forecast that, in 2020 and 2021 alone, debt will amount to about \$2 trillion for high-income developing countries and to almost \$1 trillion for middle- and low-income countries.

"This moment", say a group of distinguished Economists from the developed and developing world, "poses the ultimate test of the international financial architecture". The group, including Nobel laureates Joseph Stiglitz, Edmund Phelps and Carmen Reinhart, wrote on May 6, in relation to Argentina, but the basis argument holds true for all developing countries. They declared that "debt relief is the only path to combat the pandemic and set the economy on a sustainable path".

The response of the IFIs is not to write-off any portion of current debt for least

developed and low-income countries, but to increase their debt still further by offering more loans, albeit on easier terms.

With only a few exceptions, high income countries, such as Antigua and Barbuda and St Kitts-Nevis, were excluded from these loans even though they are mired in the same plight as their neighbours.

The IMF is encouraging high-income states to borrow under its Rapid Credit Facility with fewer conditionalities and faster approval processes, but these are still debts which would add to the burden which already weighs them down.

The level of debt is barely sustainable now; it will be utterly unsustainable if more of it is incurred. Paying it back will leave countries, including many in the Caribbean, mortgaged to the IFI's and the conditions that they impose in accordance with policies set by the rich countries that have the greatest

voting power on the governing Boards.

Since one of the principal conditions is that debt must be repaid first, many Caribbean countries will be left with little fiscal space to invest in economic and human development.

This problem underscores why Caribbean countries should not mistakenly reduce their participation in global affairs. They should be vigorous activists in the realisation of the new order that was already gathering steam before the effects of COVID-19.

There is need for change, including change in a system that encourages global inequality, and allows the marginalisation of small states whose repeated debt crises have been largely created by external events exported to their shores.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com


 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTE X PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

**SHARE YOUR NEWS
AND VIEWS WITH US**
CALL 268-562-4989



Cops close Trinidad PM's US bank account case for now



Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Keith Rowley

weekly media briefing at the TTPS Police Administration Building in Port-of-Spain," Griffith said.

"We have seen that most of these high-profile investigations are usually political, which means at times about half of the country may not be pleased with the results or findings. But as I said, we are not here to please anyone. And if we do not like the results, if you don't like the findings well... that's your problem. Not ours. We are here to do a job."

He said while the police do not have an obligation to give final reports on these investigations, they would do what is required to resolve all high-profile cases.

Addressing the case, acting Supt Wendell Lucas, of the Financial Investigations Branch, said the police sought the assistance of stakeholders in the Financial Intelligence Unit and foreign investigation units and could not find evidence to prove Moonilal's claim.

During his contribution in the 2018 budget debate, Moonilal had claimed he travelled to Miami, visiting banking institutions where he subsequently retained emails and documents which allegedly revealed Rowley had benefited from a transaction there. Moonilal called out banking account numbers and named Rowley and former People's National Movement (PNM) candidate for Siparia, Vidya Deokiesingh, in the matter.

At the time, Deokiesingh had been involved in the fake oil scandal which saw Petrotrin pay \$100 million for oil it never received from A&V Drilling. He was fired from Petrotrin after a lengthy investigation.

Rowley at the time denied the claim, noting he did not have any foreign bank account and instructing his lawyer to sue Moonilal after he repeated the comments outside of Parliament. The PM also wrote to Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit, Susan Francois, requesting an investigation.

Yesterday, Lucas said, "Having gathered that there is no connection between the two parties, we spoke to the commissioner, and he is of the view that pending any further or new information... that this matter should be closed."

"On our last meeting with the FIU, we were advised that there were no identifiable transactions relative to the account of subject one, from the account of subject two, for the period that was examined."

Commenting on the matter via text message yesterday, Rowley said he had already told the Parliament that Moonilal was not telling the truth.

"I told my lawyer to sue him after he came outside the Parliament and affirmed his slander. My lawyer has filed the suit against him so we will complete this saga in the courts of T&T," Rowley said.

(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN)
Commissioner of Police Gary Griffith yesterday announced the investigation into accusations made by Oropouche East MP Dr Roodal Moonilal that Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley benefited from a financial transaction connected to A&V Drilling in Florida was now officially

closed. But even as he made the comment, Griffith made it clear the T&T Police Service was not obligated to give the final reports on these matters. He also reminded citizens that as an independent organisation, "all our investigations will be independent and impartial."

Speaking during yesterday's

Tenth Special Emergency Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Via Video Conference

Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), met virtually on 5 May 2020, specifically to continue their efforts to harmonise their responses to and policies on the multifaceted impact of COVID-19.

Heads of Government welcomed a presentation from a Regional Working Group which indicated that the pandemic was largely contained in the Region due to the decisive action by Governments to put restrictions in place. They also noted the emphasis by the Group that re-opening by the Member States must be done with the health consideration being the foremost criterion.

The Group, including representation from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the University of the West Indies (UWI), and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), offered recommendations for a common public health policy.

The recommendations included parameters for the easing of restrictions in Member States that would allow for a re-opening in phases. The recommendations also included suggested criteria for a protocol on the re-opening of airports for intra-regional travel. The draft policy will be resubmitted to Heads of Government for final approval.

Heads of Government



Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Keith Rowley

recognised the need to pool their efforts at procurement of medical devices and supplies in the context of COVID-19 in order to more easily gain access to supplies and achieve economies of scale. This system would utilise the existing structures of the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Pharmaceutical Procurement Service (PPS).

The Heads of Government also endorsed the regional COVID-19 Agri-Food Security Action Plan to strengthen the Region's food secu-

rity in the face of the threat posed by the pandemic. The Plan was developed by agriculture stakeholders, including the private sector.

The need for a common protocol for the re-opening of regional airports to flights from selected third countries and the re-opening of hotels was also discussed. In that regard, Heads of Government established a sub-committee led by the Honourable Allen Chastanet, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, to have discussions with stakeholders in the tourism industry, including the hoteliers, airlines, cruise operators and

the labour unions to settle the appropriate protocols needed to ensure safety for workers and visitors upon re-opening of the sector. This would be informed by the regional public health policy.

Heads of Government stressed their determination to speak to the cruise and airline industries with one voice.

Heads of Government agreed to meet in the coming weeks to discuss the financial and economic challenges related to the impact of the pandemic.

CARPHA Urges Public To Protect *Themselves Against Mosquito - Borne Diseases*

“Countries around the world have battled the spread of COVID-19 by closing borders, placing national restrictions on population movement and integrating further social distancing measures into everyday life. This was done to ensure that our health care systems are not overwhelmed in the identification and management of COVID-19 cases. In the midst of this pandemic we must be mindful that other public health threats still exist. Mosquito borne diseases, such as, Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika, have placed an additional burden on our Region’s health care systems, and negatively impact social and economic development. As individuals and communities, we each have a role to play in preventing an upsurge of mosquito borne diseases,” stated CARPHA Executive Director, Dr Joy St. John, in observance of Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week 2020.

“During 2019, the Caribbean Region experienced another outbreak of Dengue, with many CARPHA Member States reporting an increase in the number of severe and hospitalised cases. Dengue outbreaks tend to occur in cycles every few years due to a complex interplay between population, ecological and climatic factors”, said Dr. Laura-Lee Boodram, Head of Vector

Borne Diseases at CARPHA. She further added, “While we haven’t seen a resurgence of Chikungunya or Zika within Member States in the last few years, countries in South and Central America did report outbreaks of Chikungunya in 2019 and early 2020, therefore, the Caribbean must remain vigilant.”

Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week (CMAW) was declared in November 2014 at the 17th Special Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government on Public Health Threats. It is an important reminder to the general public to take action to reduce their risk of diseases spread by mosquitoes.

For CMAW 2020, CARPHA’s slogan states, “In times of COVID – Let’s Unite to Fight the Bite!”, placing emphasis on taking preventative measures and remaining healthy during this time. As the rainy season starts, it is expected that greater rainfall will lead to a proliferation of mosquito breeding sites, build vector populations and increase the risk of transmission of diseases, such as Dengue. To counter this increase in mosquitoes and potential disease transmission, greater effort should be placed on mosquito awareness in communities and vector control activities should be intensified. Mr Rajesh Ragoo, Senior Technical Officer, Vector



Dr Joy St. John, CARPHA Executive Director

Borne Diseases, CARPHA recommends, “The best way to “fight the bite” around homes and communities, is to ensure our surroundings are clean and free of materials or containers that can accumulate water. The base of plants pots, vases, buckets and used vehicles tires are typical breeding sites. Water storage drums and tanks must be properly covered and inspected periodically to ensure that there is no breeding. It is also important to minimize individual exposure to mosquito bites.” Vulnerable groups such as infants, young children, older adults and women who are pregnant or trying to get pregnant must exercise extra caution. Personal protective measures including the wearing of long sleeved clothing and the use of insect repellents are strongly recommended.

In late 2019, CARPHA entered into a grant agree-

ment with the European Union, which supports regional prevention and control efforts against mosquito borne diseases. Focus will be placed on strengthening Member States disease surveillance systems and vector control operations, expanding community engagement, public health education and increasing partnerships and collaborations to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with mosquito borne diseases.

CARPHA has developed Mission Mosquito, an innovative information toolkit, which includes animated videos, posters and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs). The toolkit is specially packaged to meet the needs of a diverse audience, which include public health professionals and clinicians, pregnant women, and children.

Jamaica: 8-Year-Old, Teen Slain In West Kingston Attacks



Policemen patrol Dumfries Street in west Kingston hours after an eight-year-old was slain on Wednesday.

The night was heavy with grief as the mother of an eight-year-old child who was murdered at her home yesterday afternoon wailed uncontrollably in the arms of a policeman at her Denham Town, Kingston, home.

According to a police source, the child was accidentally shot as she sat on her veranda at approximately 4 p.m. This is alleged to be a reprisal shooting for the brutal killing of a 15-year-old teen by rival gun-

men in nearby Tivoli Gardens.

It is reported that the teen, Nyron Taylor, a student of Tivoli Gardens High School, left his home and ventured into Denham Town to meet his father when he was approached by gunmen and shot 19 times in the chest.

The eight-year-old girl was unidentified up to press time.

“So because of what happened earlier in the day, it appears that they came back for revenge, and were shooting at

someone in the yard, but because the little girl was on the veranda, she got shot,” the police source said.

The killing took place near a zone of special operations checkpoint in the community.

It was reported that a police officer sustained injury to his nose after being stoned by a resident when security personnel sought to urge onlookers to go inside their homes.

The cop was hospitalised in stable condition.

Two firearms were later retrieved and a man arrested in connection with the killing of the eight-year-old.

Despite the Kingston Western Police Division being declared a zone of special operations since 2017, the security forces have struggled to staunch the flow of blood.

Up to May 2 this year, murders have soared in the division by more than 52 per cent, moving from 21 to 32, year-on-year.

Justice Department drops criminal case against Michael Flynn

Washington (CNN)The Justice Department is dropping the criminal case against President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, whose lies about his contacts with Russia prompted Trump to fire him three years ago and special counsel Robert Mueller to flip him to cooperate in the Russia investigation.

The request to drop the case, filed with a federal judge in DC District Court on Thursday, is a sudden end to a protracted legal battle that's lately been fertile ground for Trump to attack the early Russia investigation and former FBI leadership he dislikes.

It's also a broadside against the Mueller investigation and the FBI, especially officials who served during the Obama administration, whom Trump has now deemed his foes. Both sought to investigate Trump campaign advisers' ties with Russia and the 2016 election and found many interactions between campaign affiliates and Russians, including Flynn's contacts.

For more than two years, the Justice Department had defended its prosecution of Flynn in court — until Thursday. The department did not brief the White House on its decision to seek to drop the Flynn case, Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said. In its latest court filing, the Justice Depart-



Vice-President Pence visited a plant manufacturing ventilators last week

ment laid out the reversal in a 20-page narrative, pointing to newly disclosed and declassified records about what happened with Flynn. The prosecutor on Thursday wrote that the investigation in 2017 into Flynn and his phone calls with the then-Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak during the Trump transition should not have happened — feeding into the President and his supporters' claims that all of the events that stemmed from Flynn's interview in the West Wing were illegitimate.

The filing drew swift criticism from former top FBI officials who had worked on the case and supported the investigation into Flynn.

The court must still formally approve the request.

Flynn twice, before two

separate judges, admitted to lying to the FBI about his interactions with Kislyak during the Trump presidential transition. But last year, he fired his original defense team that cut his deal with Mueller and waged a campaign to try to get a judge to reverse his guilty plea. Flynn faced potential jail time.

In its filing, the Justice Department condemned the FBI's work when it interviewed Flynn in the West Wing in the first weeks of the Trump presidency. The FBI's Flynn investigation was already going to be closed, they wrote, when the FBI learned of Flynn's calls with Kislyak before deciding it wanted to interview him.

In December 2016, Flynn asked Kislyak not to retaliate

against the Obama administration's sanctions and to oppose the Obama administration in an upcoming United Nations vote on Israel. Though the FBI pressed forward, the Justice Department was unlikely to prosecute Flynn for negotiating with Russia before Trump took office, the filing on Thursday said, citing interviews with the then-acting attorney general and others about decision-making in the Flynn case.

The FBI approached Flynn in the White House in late January 2017, and in the interview, he denied asking Russia for certain actions.

Flynn's legal team and Trump last week had seized on the disclosure of a handwritten note from a top FBI official outlining how agents may either refer Flynn for prosecution of illegally negotiating with a foreign government or "get him to lie" or "get him fired."

That note, and whether Flynn's lies in the interview were notable enough to bring a case, also factored into the department's dismissal request on Thursday.

The Justice Department called the FBI's counterintelligence investigation into Flynn for his contacts with Russia "a no longer justifiably predicated investigation," according to the Thursday filing.

Greece says it'll reopen to tourists on July 1 as it claims success over Covid-19



Pedestrians walk along side closed shops during the coronavirus lockdown in London, Tuesday, May 5, 2020. (AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

Greece's tourism appeal is no secret, but with most of us still in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis, the idea of spending our summer there can only be a distant dream.

Or maybe not, say Greek officials. The Mediterranean nation appears to be a rare coronavirus success story. By enforcing a strict and early lockdown, the country has managed to keep deaths incredibly low — just around 150 so far. This week, some businesses like hairdressers and bookstores were allowed to re-open for the first time. And the country's pragmatic prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, thinks it may, ever so cautiously, be a model for welcoming back some travelers this summer.

"The tourism experience this summer may be slightly different from what you've had in previous years," Mitsotakis told CNN's Nic Robertson when they sat down — socially distanced — in his office this week.

"Maybe no bars may be open, or no tight crowds, but you can still get a fantastic experience in

Greece — provided that the global epidemic is on a downward path." Opening up to tourism inevitably means opening the country up to people potentially carrying the virus, but Mitsotakis hopes current testing regimes can be enhanced to reduce the risk.

At the moment, every international traveler is screened for Covid-19 upon arriving in Athens. Before CNN's reporting team even landed in Athens this week, we were asked to complete a form on our flight from Zurich with all our personal information, as well as our seat number — presumably to allow authorities to trace close contacts should someone onboard test positive.

Upon landing in Athens, we were immediately herded into a room where everyone's throat was swabbed and catalogued.

We got our results back less than 12 hours later (negative, thankfully).

Mitsotakis is hoping for something much more comprehensive. He wants international, or at least European, standards that set

the same travel protocols for all countries. "I would assume that people will be tested before they get on a plane, not after they arrive here. 'They can only get on the plane with a negative test, or with a positive antibody test,' he said. If all goes to plan, he hopes the country can start welcoming tourists by July 1.

Given the amount of effort it will take to get here at a time when airlines — including the low cost carriers that transport most of the country's foreign air arrivals — have stopped flying most services, Mitsotakis is banking on "more high-end tourists." "Yachting, for example, where you have a fewer number of people who are on a boat, and then they go out to eat or buy provisions," he says.

"Agrotourism, tourism in smaller hotels seems to me to be better suited for this new sort of post-pandemic world." The question of when and how to open is no trivial point for a nation that's been roiled by recession and economic turmoil for more than a decade. This country's GDP is at least 20% dependent on tourism, double the global average.

With over 31 million tourists in 2019, three times its population, Greece has more than doubled its number of visitors in 10 years and billions have been invested in services and infrastructure. At least one in four Greeks works in tourism or related industries.

Early forecasts had been projecting a booming year, leading Irene Petrakou and her two brothers to invest in the hotel they run in central Athens. Opened by their parents in the 1970s, the

family business has been their main source of income. "Early bookings looked good, we decided to renovate," says Petrakou. "The current situation creates big cashflow issues for us." A recent survey by Greece's Chamber of Hotels shows that 65% of hoteliers who responded fear that they could be pushed to bankruptcy.

City hotels are expected to reopen as of June 1, with seasonal hotels expected to follow up to a month later. Yet, as Petrakou points out, there is still no clarity on when international flights will resume — a major concern given 90% of Greece's tourism revenue comes from international visitors.

"The first part of the summer is already lost," she adds. "Clients with bookings later in the season have a 'wait and see' approach, which is good." Like many in the industry, Petrakou believes that Greece's success in containing the virus early is key to the country's tourism brand surviving this crisis intact and could lead to a quicker recovery. The Greek prime minister told CNN that the sense of collective success around the country's fight against Covid-19 will be a legacy he takes away from the crisis.

"And I dare to use the word pride," he adds. "Greeks haven't been proud in a long, long time."

That pride, and what he hopes will be the relative safety of Greece's Covid-19 strategy thus far, will be a draw this summer.

"It's good to have these sentiments back. Because of positive feelings, and they will help us to address the big economic crisis that is clearly around the corner."

Pompeo changes tune on Chinese lab's role in virus outbreak, as intel officials cast doubt

Secretary of State Pompeo is leaning even harder into his attacks on the Chinese government over the novel coronavirus pandemic – even as he further walks back his claim that the U.S. has “enormous evidence” a biomedical laboratory in Wuhan, China, is responsible for the outbreak.

The change comes as an intelligence official says there is no signals or human intelligence backing up the idea, while lawmakers press the administration to turn over any evidence.

The U.S. intelligence community is investigating whether or not the virus originated in a lab, but it “concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not man-made or genetically modified,” the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in a statement last week.

While Pompeo has said he doesn't doubt the intelligence community assessment, he has boosted the unproven theory the first human infection came from an accidental or intentional release at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. He first told ABC News' “This Week” Sunday that there was “enormous evidence” supporting that unproven theory, before shifting slightly Wednesday to say there's “significant” evidence, but the U.S. doesn't have “certainty” yet.

But in interviews Thursday, Pompeo shifted again, telling a conservative talk radio host, “There's evidence that it came

from somewhere in the vicinity of the lab, but that could be wrong.”

“We've seen evidence that it came from the lab. That may not be the case,” he said in a second talk radio interview.

Republican Sen. Tom Cotton, a China hawk from Arkansas who has also boosted the lab theory, told Fox News this week that the evidence is “circumstantial,” but “points directly to the labs.” Asked about what kind of evidence the U.S. government has, Pompeo told CNBC Thursday, “One man's direct is another man's circumstantial.”

U.S. intelligence officials have been more careful, including the ODNI statement, which made clear the virus's natural origins.

An intelligence official briefed on the situation told ABC News that there is so far no signals or human intelligence backing up the speculation that the lab was the culprit. It also doesn't appear any person or neighborhood connected to the lab became sick at the start of the outbreak, the official said.

“Sometimes political figures use the general term ‘intelligence’ to include raw reports that are not finished, analyzed intelligence. Raw intelligence is rarely conclusive on a specific topic. Picking one raw report to support a position can be misleading,” said Mick Mulroy, a former senior Pentagon official under President Donald Trump and CIA paramilitary operations officer. “The in-



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks about the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) during a media briefing at the State Department in Washington, D.C., May 6, 2020.

telligence community would not rely on one report for an assessment on an issue as complex as this. Their assessment would include intelligence from multiple sources and be peer-reviewed.”

Reports from the closest U.S. allies have also cast doubt on Pompeo's statement. Known as the “Five Eyes,” the U.S., United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand cooperate and share signals intelligence, which intercepts signals like communications or radar.

“There's nothing that we have that would indicate that was the likely source,” Australia's conservative Prime Minister Scott

Morrison said of the Wuhan lab last Friday. Days later, the Australian newspaper The Sydney Morning Herald reported that the theory around the lab's role is “mostly based on news reports and contained no material from intelligence gathering,” citing Australian intelligence officials.

“The fact that Australia came out so strongly that they do not believe the line that it all originated in a lab is significant,” said Mulroy, now an ABC News contributor, because they're part of the “Five Eyes,” “generally see all our intel” and are “well-known for the capabilities in China.”

International

AROUND THE WORLD

PAGE 19

Members of Congress have pressed the Trump administration to provide evidence showing the lab's responsibility. Bob Menendez, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a letter Thursday he'd been requesting a briefing by the department for a month now on "what intelligence, if any, the U.S. government has regarding the origins of the virus."

The top Senate Republican, Mitch McConnell, wouldn't back Pompeo's statement either, telling reporters Tuesday, "I don't think we know, except we know it was in China."

Instead of providing details of the "enormous evidence," Pompeo pivoted questions Thursday to demand transparency from China, saying the Chinese government's lack of trans-

parency has halted any efforts to find out how that first transmission took place.

China still has not provided samples of the virus to other countries, instead having its scientists share the virus's genome online in January. It also shut down and sterilized the wet market in Wuhan, where live and freshly killed animals are sold and the virus might have originated, one month before World Health Organization scientists, including two Americans, were given access to the country. While some of those scientists traveled to Wuhan, neither American did.

Critics say brow-beating the Chinese government is not an effective way to get them to open up and provide WHO or other outsiders access to the Wuhan lab, the market or other possible

sites. But Pompeo dismissed that again Thursday, telling one host, "We're not raising the rhetoric. We're simply trying to protect the world from a global pandemic by sharing what we know."

He went further on The Steve Gruber Show, setting up U.S.-Chinese relations as a generational challenge between different values systems and agreed with Gruber that China is "the most dangerous adversary for the United States and for all Western governments."

"The whole world can now see that this regime, this authoritarian regime, is just different than we are," said the top U.S. diplomat. "We can see the challenge this presents to our kids and grandkids, and we're determined. We're going to do the right things by building up our military.

We're going to do the right things diplomatically."

"In the end, the Chinese Communist Party will have to decide: Do they really want to participate as a member of civilized society, the nations that work toward better outcomes for people all across the world, or are they going to do what we've seen?" he added.

This isn't the first time Pompeo has cast relations with China as a sort of clash of civilizations. He gave a major address last October when he said the Chinese Communist Party is "truly hostile to the United States and our values." But he has escalated that argument and started to hammer it more often, especially in interviews with conservative media — 28 of which he's done in the last three weeks — and near weekly press conferences since March.

POINTEPrintery
PRINTING AT YOUR FIGURE TIPS

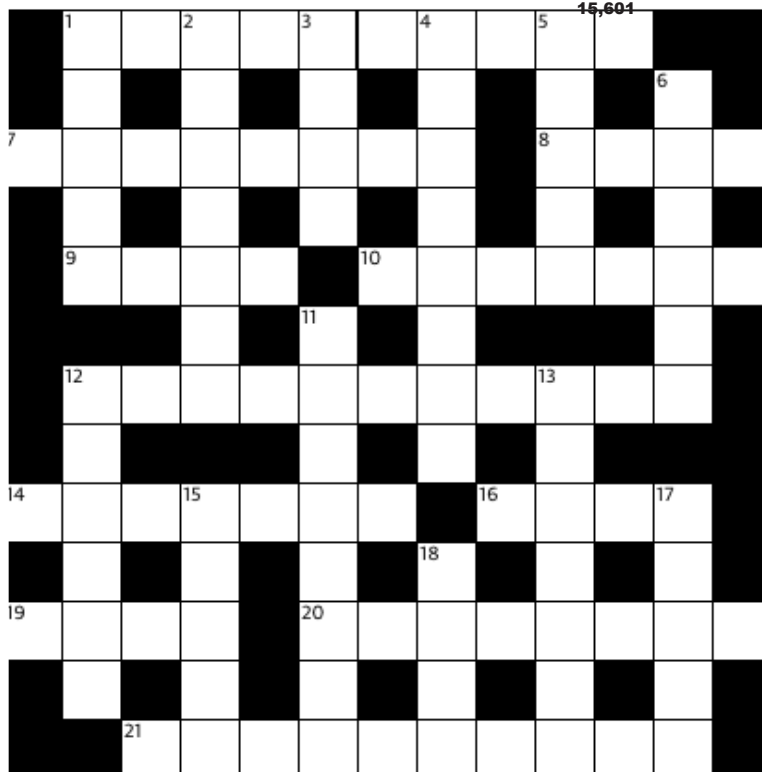
**INVITATIONS
BI-FOLDS
CALENDARS
POSTER
FLYERS
BOOKLETS
BUSINESS CARDS**

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

ALEXANDER W.
HEAD OF ENGINEER

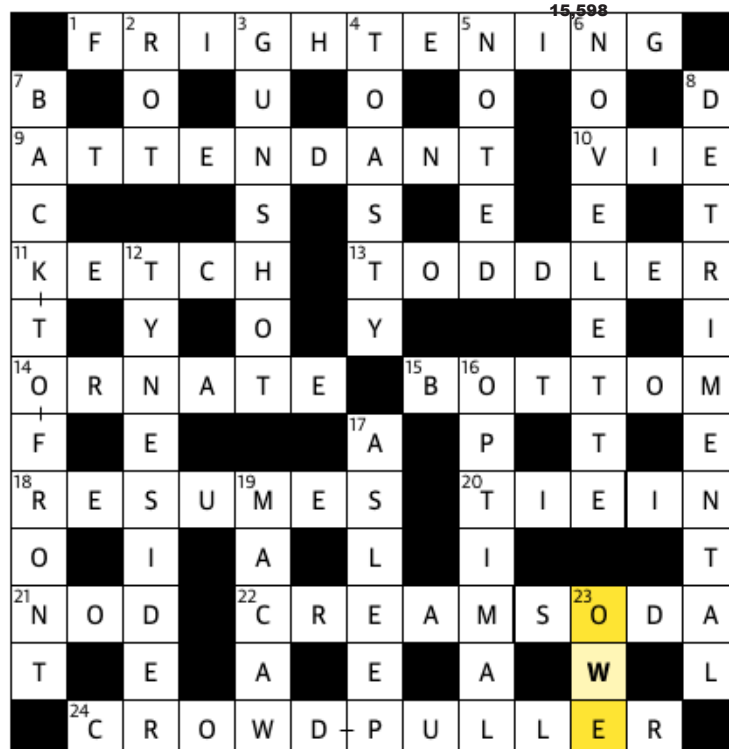
COMPANY NAME
YOUR FIRST ADDRESS LINE
YOUR SECOND ADDRESS LINE
JOHN SMITH@YOURMAIL.COM
+0 122 456 789
+0 987 654 321
WWW.YOURCOMPANY.COM

QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No
 15,604


Across

- 1 Dentures (5,5)
 7 Rid (someone) of a mistaken idea (8)
 8 No longer relevant (4)
 9 Lean over (4)
 10 Transgress (7)
 12 The worse for wear? (11)
 14 Molecular science applied to industrial processes (7)
 16 Humanities (4)
 19 Humble request (4)
 20 Judicial assembly (8)
 21 Dug in (10)

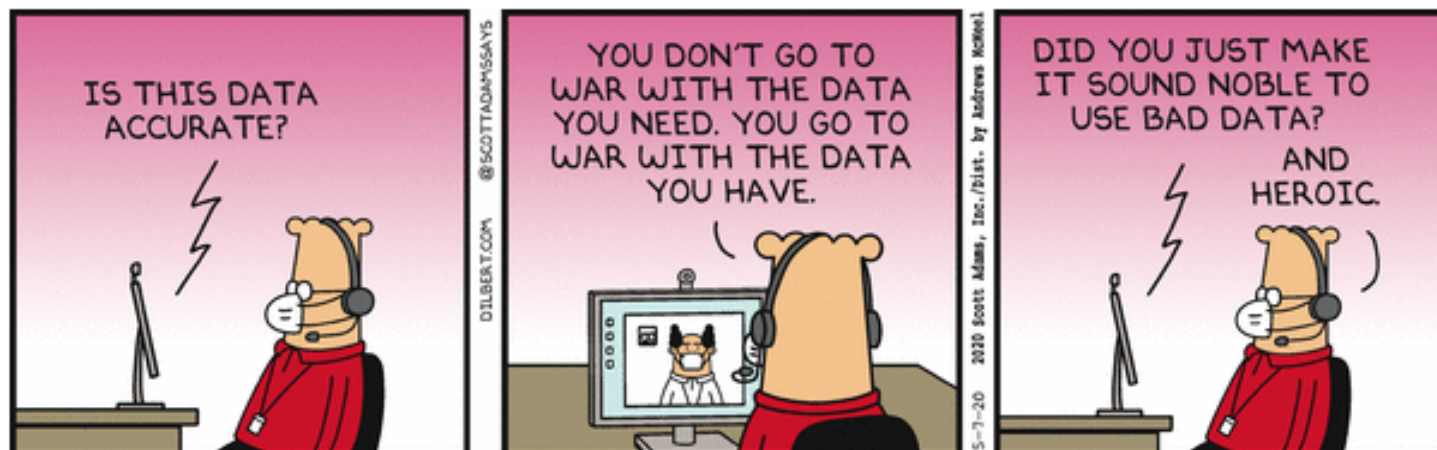
 Quick crossword No
 15,598


Down

- 1 Chat up (5)
 2 Distribute small circulars (7)
 3 Largest native Australian birds (4)
 4 Lens(es) at the viewing end of an optical instrument (8)
 5 Affected by changes in sea level (5)
 6 Tangled into a mass (6)
 11 Person nominated to carry out the terms of a will (8)
 12 Spear-like shape formed by the freezing of dripping water (6)
 13 By means of (7)
 15 Exercise in preparation for an event (5)
 17 Very conventional and dull (5)
 18 Comportment (4)

CARTOON CORNER

Dilbert





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Don't worry about changing your plans, as this might be a simple response to an imagined outcome. A loved one might remind you that there is no reason to worry about financial stability and that you have their full support.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): The Full Moon might place a spotlight on you since it occurs in your opposite sign. You might realize that you enjoy being a member of a workforce or value the friendships you've developed with colleagues.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Explore all the alternatives. You may find that ideas that have been floating through your mind are finally developing into practical goals. Some people may ignore them, but you could be in the mood to follow through on them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Every Full Moon may seem to bring your awareness of what matters most to a peak. You might be more aware of lifelong goals, but hobbies, creative pastimes or children could now be at the center of your universe.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Believe in others and they may stand by you. You might find an opportunity to come to a mutual understanding with a loved one. You may develop a catchy concept that will help you initiate a project with lasting sales appeal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Reach as high as you can envision. Virtual conferences can give you a chance to show off your ideas to a group. Your romantic aspirations can be achieved if you are hooked up with someone who appreciates your tender side.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This may be a good time to start a health regimen such as a diet or daily walk. You may experience a brief wobble in your determination to save up money for a vacation or special treat if other things seem more important.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Today's Full Moon falls in your sign and may bring a relationship issue into sharp focus. While you enjoy your friends, you truly flourish when someone special is near. Attend to tasks that need a creative touch.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your imagination might be at a peak. You may be able to apply a creative concept to a minor project and turn it into a winner. As a member of a group, even virtually, you can engage in stimulating and enlightening conversations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Showing compassion is always important. Smooth over a rough spot in a relationship by being sympathetic. Be willing to embrace your ideals and put them into action. Look for common ground when communicating with others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Follow a leader when it comes to how you handle money. Rely on friends and colleagues to help you untangle and conquer small but irritating problems. You may find they aren't as significant as you thought.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Your caring ways will likely be rewarded. You may receive favorable attention if you express sympathy towards the less fortunate of the world. Listen to your intuitions if a matter of love or money is on the table.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS & THE ENVIRONMENT

CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH

COVID-19: Guidance for Community Establishments implementing Temperature Screening

The virus that causes COVID-19, can cause illness ranging from mild to severe and, in some cases, can be fatal. Symptoms typically include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Some people infected with the virus have reported experiencing other non-respiratory symptoms. Other people, referred to as asymptomatic cases, have experienced no symptoms at all. According to the CDC, symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (i.e., experiencing fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath).

As the territory reopens, businesses are encouraged to use recognized public health measures such as hand and respiratory hygiene including the wearing of facemasks, enforcing physical distancing measures, implementing barrier mechanisms and signage, to curtail the spread of the virus. Although there is little evidence to support temperature monitoring some establishments may also want to implement it as a way of screening for ill persons. These establishments are cautioned that the assessment of temperatures must be conducted in a humane manner, should be measured by FDA approved devices and should not infringe on persons right to privacy and dignity.

These guidelines establish considerations which must be addressed when preparing to implement temperature measurements as screening for services during COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Establishments wanting to implement temperature screenings must do so with the authorization of the Ministry of Health.
2. Establishments screening visitors should also screen employees who are public facing. At all times, when persons are selected for screening it must be on a nondiscriminatory basis, applicable to all persons in that category.
3. Establishments should communicate the screening process in advance of its starting so persons will know exactly what to expect and what to do. Written notice must be posted at the entrance and screening areas informing patrons that they are subject to screening before entry.
4. Anyone refusing required testing should be denied entry into the building.
5. Screening should be performed by personnel with a medical background such as a company nurse or human resources personnel are preferred over supervisors. They should be carefully trained regarding confidentiality i.e. how to handle the temperature information. Screeners should be able to wear PPEs such as N-95 masks and should understand the use and maintenance of the thermometer to be used. Screeners must be good decision makers in order to decide whether and when persons may be sent home or need to be referred.
6. The establishment must conduct an assessment of potential risk factors and hazards associated with the screening process, determine the appropriate PPE to issue to employees conducting temperature screenings and ensure that screeners are trained in their use. The minimal PPE requirement is an N95 mask and gloves.
7. A non-contact infrared thermometer with auto-measurement is recommended for this use. The device must be FDA approved for use as a medical device or for use by a medical professional. The Thermometer must not require the screener to be within a 3ft radius for operation.
8. Screenings should be conducted before entry to the establishment. Each individual should use hand sanitizer or wash hands prior to getting in line for screening. All persons coming into the building must enter where they will be subject to screening. Those being screened practice physical distancing when waiting to be screened. The screening location must not block building exits in case of an emergency.
9. The screening area should afford some privacy and safety to those being screened. It should be sheltered from the elements while affording persons with elevated temperatures to be safely and discreetly removed for further monitoring and follow up.
10. All communications and interactions between the person and the screener are private and must not be seen or heard by any other individual. A privacy screen or other barrier may be helpful.
11. The screening process should be written, specific and easy to follow. All screeners must follow the same procedure. For the purposes of this screening a temperature over 99° F should be considered for follow up. Establishments are advised that many persons with COVID-19 may not have a fever and likewise many persons with a fever will not have COVID-19.
12. If a person has a temperature reading over 99°F upon being screened, consider rechecking the person one or two more times 15 minutes apart. If at least two checks read above 99°F, the person should be instructed to go home and call the COVID-19 hotline at 462-6843.
13. Employees are not permitted to refuse to go home. After sending the individual home, all areas in the facility the person may have touched or been present in before being screened should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
14. For those employees sent home, employers should document: (1) the person's name, position and, if an employee, the manager's name, (2) the date and time of screening, and (3) the person's best contact information (mobile phone preferred) and share this information with the Surveillance Unit at the Ministry of Health

For more information please call 462-5522 ext Surveillance Unit, Ministry of Health



England test captain, Joe Root

Root: Quality of cricket, safety cannot be compromised

England test captain, Joe Root, says the quality of cricket and people's safety must not be compromised if England are to play any international matches this summer.

A report in the Guardian has suggested an England squad of around 30 players could be quarantined for up to nine weeks in bio-secure environments in order to fulfill Test series against West Indies and Pakistan amid the coronavirus pandemic. Social distancing measures could impact how the game is played-including how the ball is maintained-and, speaking to The Cricket

Show, Root said preserving the integrity of the sport is crucial.

"If the game is compromised, it shouldn't be going ahead," Root said, "The game itself, the intensity it is played at- if you can't play Test cricket at its absolute best we shouldn't play. It's not a fair reflection of the sport."

Root said he is confident there will be Test cricket this summer and very optimistic.

"It would be a real shame if not as a number of people are desperate to see live sport back on telly," he added.

Fate of the Serie A hangs in the balance

The fate of the Serie A championship in Italy hung in the balance Thursday as state scientist huddled with football bosses in a desperate effort to save pandemic-interrupted season.

The high stakes talks come with pressure mounting from sports-deprived fans and cash-starved sponsors for Italy to follow the German Bundesliga's lead and return to action.

Serie A began to descend into chaos at the end of February as the new coronavirus swept across Italy's north—home to big teams such as Inter Milan and Juventus.

The league eventually threw up its

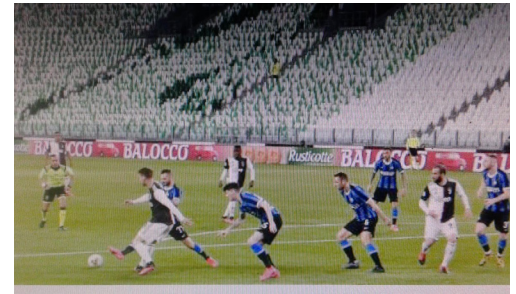
hands and suspended the championship on March 9.

Some eager clubs have already opened up their grounds to players ahead of the official resumption of organized training on May 18.

"I hope to restart football," Italy's Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora said ahead of the meeting.

But if the safety issues are not settled, the government will decide to shut things down.

Former Football federation president Carlo Tavecchio warned that Italy's top three leagues faced the threat of lawsuits if their seasons were called off.



"If the championship is not finished, the rules of FIFA and UEFA will not be respected and there will be a lot of litigation, with losses not only for Serie A but also Series B and Serie C," Tavecchio said.

He declared that football must be rescued through desperate measures.

Bundesliga football to resume in empty stadiums

The Bundesliga football season will resume on May 16 in empty stadiums, picking up right where it left off two months ago amid coronavirus outbreak.

Thursday's announcement comes one day after clubs were told the season could resume following meetings between Chancellor Angela Merkel and the country's 16 state governors.

The decision means economic survival for some

clubs, German football league managing director Christian Seifert said before noting that the virus was still an issue.

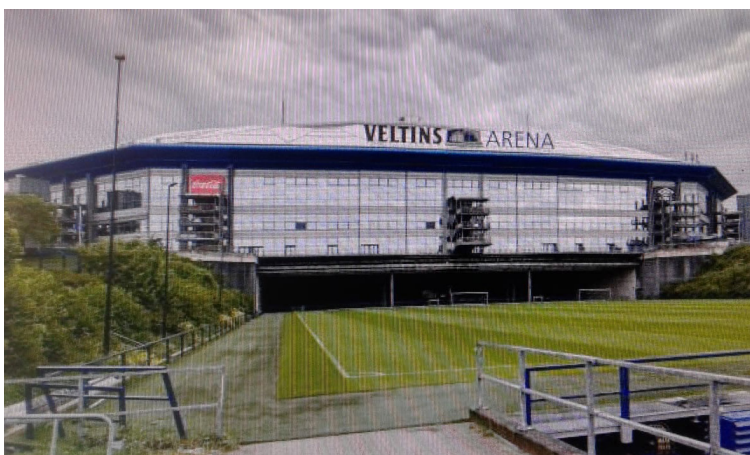
Seifert said the season will restart with the 26 round of games, including the Ruhr derby between Borussia Dortmund and Schalke on the opening Saturday. That match will test local authorities who hope to keep groups of fans from gathering around the stadium or at

bars to watch on television.

The Bundesliga was suspended on March 13 with nine rounds remaining. Seifert said the last round is now planned for the weekend of June 27-28. He said the second division will also

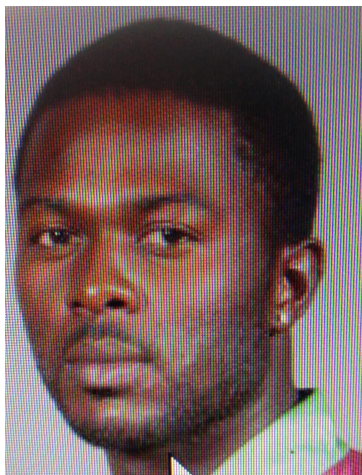
begin on May 16.

Seifert said there have been 10 positive cases of COVID-19 in the first two waves of tests among the 36 professional clubs, with another two positive cases found on the third wave.



Gavin Tonge: Never got a chance to raise my hat

Former West Indies, Leeward Islands, and Antigua and Barbuda fast bowler, Gavin Tonge, is still hurting over the way in which he was 'forced' to leave the game he loved and in which he represented both his country and the region. He complained that he never got the chance to leave the game in a respectful manner.



Gavin Tonge

"They sent me an email notifying me that I would not be considered for selection for the Leeward Islands team anymore," Gavin told PointeXpress Sports. He added that he was confused and hurt over the matter. He said he made a few calls to find out why and he was only met with attitude from the 'powers that be'.

"All I know is cricket, I trained, dreamed, watched and played cricket all my life and know nothing else but cricket. I would have retired and walk away peacefully. All I wanted to was end with 250 first class wickets, a milestone that not many

people achieved, but no one spoke to me, consulted with me I was just dumped like a dog by an email," Tonge expressed. He ended his career with 249 First Class wickets at an average of 26.78 with best bowling figures of 7 for 58 and an economy rate of 3.29.

"Where is the humanity, respect, communication after I had given my life blood sweat and tears to Antigua and Barbuda, Leeward Islands and the West Indies," the powerfully built fast bowler from Bethesda added.

Tonge revealed that he



cried because of the 'inhuman' exit he was given but he has moved on and he has gone back to school to get his cricketing license because all he knows is cricket, noting that his passion for the game will never leave his body.

Gavin said he played some cricket this season as a player/coach.

Tonge, one of the finest pace bowlers this region, has produced in the past fifteen years. He started playing cricket at a young age following the footsteps of his brothers. Gavin credits former Leeward Islands player and coach John Archibald for his development. "At

the age of 11 Archibald told me I was going to be a good fast bowler and I went home and told my dad. I played for the Leeward Islands for two years before representing Antigua and Barbuda, probably the only player to do that," Tonge disclosed.

Former Antigua and Barbuda and Leeward Islands player John Archibald is of the view that Tongue should have been afforded one more game based on his major contribution to regional cricket.

The former national coach said that Tonge was a major talent who he feels if he had spent more time on his physical fitness during his earlier years would have represented West Indies for a longer period.

 **DEWS**