



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

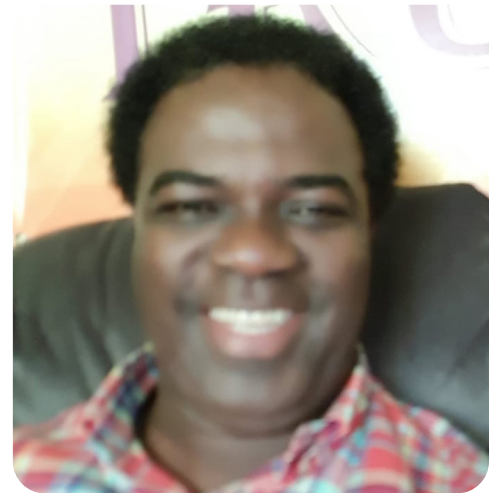
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PRICE \$3

CHURCH PASTOR DENIES INVOLVEMENT



See Page 3

New Polyclinic for Point/Villa completed



Story on
Page 8

CCB wants education tailored for special needs students

The Caribbean Council for the Blind (CCB) COVID Response Team wants Ministries of Education across the Caribbean to tailor the delivery of education to meet the unique requirements of special needs students.

The CCB's Chief Executive Officer, Arvel Grant, has said this recommendation is one of many coming out of a series of meetings held by the COVID Response Team over several months.

In a statement, Grant referred to studies which determined that in the English-speaking CARICOM countries, four in every one thousand children of school age are visually impaired, requiring special education services, while 4%, or about 240,000 adults are visually impaired and unable to use

sight in activities like reading, writing, driving, locating farm animals and recognizing facial features.

Additionally, the CCB wants governments to assure that people with special needs are adequately represented in decision making relating to COVID-19 and other emergency responses by: a) guaranteeing that all official information is provided in a format accessible to special needs people; b) the establishment of a hotline, manned by suitably trained special needs people, to answer questions and provide tactical and strategic information to persons who are blind or have other special needs as a matter of priority.

According to Grant, the CCB is also

making a case for access to service delivery systems for the visually impaired and others with special needs.

"Governments, and all relief agencies, should ensure that emergency response packages including financial aid programmes, registration processes, application forms for emergency relief support and travel apps are fully accessible to persons who are blind or living with other special needs," Grant's statement continued.

The CCB Emergency Response Team is urging the region's governments to provide fiscal incentives and statutory mechanisms which encourage employers to retain employees, especially persons with disabilities, who are at a higher risk of losing their jobs.

DAY 8/26

Wind: ENE at 19 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 24 km/h
 Humidity: 73%
 Dew Point: 24° C
 Cloud Cover: 37%
 Visibility: 10 km
 Probability of Precipitation: 40%
 Precipitation: 0.2 mm
 Rain: 0.2 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm

30° Hi



Partly sunny w/ showers

NIGHT 8/26

Wind: ENE at 17 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 24 km/h
 Humidity: 82%
 Dew Point: 25° C
 Cloud Cover: 37%
 Visibility: 9 km
 Probability of Precipitation: 53%
 Precipitation: 1.0 mm
 Rain: 1.0 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm

28° Lo



Partly cloudy w/ showers

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:53 AM

Sunset AST
 6:24 PM



Duration
 12:31 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
 1:16 PM

Moonset AST
 12:42 AM



Duration
 11:29 hr

Church pastor denies involvement

The charismatic leader of the Ministry of the Body of Christ Church, who is at the centre of the controversy surrounding the operations of Straffie's Funeral Home, is denying his church's involvement in the business.

Pastor Nana Adom, a Ghanaian who has been living in Antigua and Barbuda since 1992, said the church is not involved in the operation of the business. He has, however, conceded that several members of the church work at Straffie's Funeral Home and acknowledged that its recently deceased former operator, Elizabeth Saunders, was a member of the church.

The operations of the funeral home and the church took the national spotlight last week when the administrator of Elizabeth Saunders' estate, her daughter, Nadia Saunders, had attorneys sever the employment of all members of the funeral home's staff with immediate effect.

While some employees were eventually recalled, none of the members of the Body of Christ Church were asked to return even though a few were quite experienced having worked at the funeral home for many years.

In an interview with PointeXpress, Adom flatly

denied any involvement in the operations of the funeral home.

"The truth is the church was not involved! Elizabeth was the sole proprietor of the business and she was a member of our church and I have heard it said by some that it was Straffie's church but that was not so. She was a member. That was the rumour and I believe that it also affected the church. There was a time when it was being said that we prayed for the dead and we were dancing around dead bodies so that's how I know people were making a connection between the church and the funeral home," Adom declared.

Admitting that Saunders contributed 'tithes and offerings' to the church like any other member, Adom was firm in denying that Saunders gave excessive gifts to the church.

It has been alleged that Saunders' finances at the time of her death were 'unhealthy'.

On this point, Adom had his own explanation.

"Elizabeth made a number of investments from which she lost significant sums of money. These include a house at Hodges Bay, gold mine in Guyana and a funeral home in South Africa," he said.



Pastor Nana Adom

In fact, so poor was the state of her finances that Adom alleged that there had been a period of time when the church assisted Saunders in paying the salaries of her funeral home's staff.

"We helped her through that rough spot, not taken from her as some have suggested," he declared.

Adom expressed surprise at the developments at the funeral home following Saunders' death at the end of June.

He said Elizabeth's daughter, Nadia, attended the church for a time when she was younger and enjoyed a very good relationship with the congregation and with him, as the pastor.

The pastor further opined that the younger Saunders may have become suspicious because his wife often traveled with Elizabeth to the United States to shop. Adom explained that on these shopping excursions,

Saunders would often make purchases for his wife's business using her credit cards as his wife did not have one of her own. He admitted that Nadia was present on several occasions when this occurred and may have observed these transactions.

"What she didn't know was whenever my wife returned to Antigua she would reimburse Elizabeth. I too reimbursed her for things she may have used her credit card to purchase for me," Adom explained.

According to Adom these loans were repaid in cash leaving no paper trail.

Saunders was a devout member of the Ministry of the Body of Christ, where Nana Adom is the pastor.

On Tuesday, the terminated members of staff picketed the business demanding the payment of outstanding salaries and benefits due to them.

More income-generating skills training in St. Paul

With the negative economic fallout caused by the coronavirus pandemic Antiguan and Barbudans, and particularly those who have lost their jobs, have been encouraged to acquire new skills which will allow them to generate an income for themselves and their families.

To this end, the St. Paul constituency has implemented skills training activities to assist residents in the area and will soon launch a second income generating initiative. This time, participants will be introduced to floral arrangement in a course facilitated by Ronis Spencer, an experienced florist with more than thirty years experience.

“I wish to place on record my thanks and apprecia-



tion to Ronis Spencer for agreeing to lead this three month training stint and implore the participants to embrace this new skill set with matching passion and enthusiasm as it is being offered,” urged Member

of Parliament for St. Paul, E.P Chet Greene.

Greene expressed the hope that the programme will re-energize interest in floral arrangement which in turn may give rise to the use of more flowers.

“I also encourage the use of local flowers and plants in this era where we are promoting greater appreciation for local resources and talents. At the end of this training I am prepared to facilitate the marketing of your skills to hotels, business places and even domestic spaces,” he declared.

The St. Paul MP also disclosed that in two weeks another training programme, this one focusing on soap making, will commence.

Bookkeeping sessions are also planned to assist participants in the training sessions who intend to go into business after completing their courses.

The first course offered focused on wreath making.



Newborn screening for Sickle Cell coming to MSJMC

Starting September 1st, 2020, newborn babies in Antigua and Barbuda can be screened for sickle cell disease and its traits.

According to the Mount St. John's Medical Center (MSJMC), newborn screening is important.

"Newborn screening is an integral public health programme that tests infants shortly after birth for conditions that can cause disability or death if left undetected and untreated. These tests facilitate early detection, diagnosis and treatment of rare disorders, thereby reducing mortality and morbidity," said the MSJMC in a press statement.

Pediatrician, neonatologist, and President of the Antigua and Barbuda Sickle Cell Association (ABSCA),

Dr. Edda Hadeed, disclosed news of the new testing ability to members of the association and families battling the disease last evening.

Dr. Hadeed said, "The newborn screening for Sickle Cell Disease and Sickle Cell Trait is finally going to be a reality. Negotiations started in 2013; it took a while, and it certainly took a lot of work, but things are finally in place. MSJMC is looking to start screening on September 1st, next week Tuesday!

"This is a huge deal. Everybody will benefit, patients, of course, families and on another level, Antigua and Barbuda as a nation.

"We are extremely grateful to AUA, who will be funding the testing. Without



them, this would still not be happening. Thanks to CAREST who is facilitating the testing at Guadeloupe's laboratory at a generously discounted rate and lending their expertise. Thanks to MSJMC, who is now taking on this venture."

Dr. Hadeed is also a strong advocate for parental

testing as part of the family planning process when couples decide to conceive.

According to MSJMC, "Screening of newborns for sickle cell disease (SCD) allows early initiation of prophylactic therapy, parental education, and comprehensive management, which results in reduced mortality."

ABUT on board with changes

The Antigua And Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) has given its support to the government's decision to make changes to the regulations which apply to students in the classrooms and persons under the age of eighteen traveling alone.

ABUT General Secretary, Annetta Alexander-Hunte, said the union had some concerns which they were able to raise at a marathon meeting with Ministry of Education officials on Monday.

"We are in support of the move to adjust the requirements for students to be able to sit less than the six feet apart as mandated by the

State of Emergency declaration. We are happy that the proposed changes will give principals the flexibility to adjust as they see fit. It cannot be a 'one size fit all'," she declared.

The proposed changes will allow schools to adjust the seating from the originally proposed six feet apart to not less than three feet apart based on their school plants.

Director of Education, Clare Browne, said it was explained to the union that the ministry is following the guidelines set out by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

Last week, the government announced its intention to make the adjustment following recommendations from educators pleas from private schools operators who indicated that the distancing requirements in the previous regulations could have forced them to close their institutions.

The Parliament will convene tomorrow to consider a number of bills that were not debated at its last sitting. The change to the regulations that will enable schools to function smoothly when they reopen their doors on 7th September is on the agenda for debate.

Electric buses for school transportation

Two electric Coaster buses have been added to the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board's (ABTB) fleet of vehicles in time for the new school year.

The buses, which were donated by the Italian government, form part of a pilot programme intended to explore electric vehicle use in the public sector.

One of the aims of the programme is to collect data on transportation in order to assist Antigua and Barbuda's transition to clean technology. The data collected will be shared with other countries in the Caribbean.

During a ceremony to hand over the buses, it was revealed that the vehicles will be added to the National School bus fleet.

The arrival of the buses comes at an advantageous time as social distancing is a top priority of the government in ensuring the safe transportation of students when schools reopen next month.

Addressing the ceremony, Environ-



ment Minister, Molwyn Joseph said, "Even though we pollute little, to demonstrate our commitment not to pollute at all, we are now transitioning into electric vehicles such as we have done today."

Minister Joseph also extended thanks to the government of Italy for providing the buses.

"I would wish to say to the government of Italy. The Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea says thank you for providing us with the grant to procure these two electric busses," Joseph stated.

Network Manager at the ABTB, Arif Jonas, also articulated thanks for the



donation.

Technicians explained that the buses are as safe as fuel powered buses with the only difference being that there will be no emissions or pollution from the vehicles' exhaust systems.

According to Chief Environment Officer, Diann Black-Layne, the two donated buses will not be the last to arrive on the island. With an offer of concessional financing to the government on the table, she indicated that at least thirty percent of the government's fleet of vehicles can be transitioned from fuel vehicles to electric vehicles.

Minister Joseph handed over the keys to the buses to Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation and Energy, Edson Joseph during the ceremony at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Antigua and Barbuda is the first nation in the Caribbean whose government has begun the transition to electric vehicles.





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ECAB contributes to the School for the Deaf

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank Limited (ECAB) has partnered with the Rotary Club of Antigua to assist with the construction of two (2) new classrooms, which will allow the School for the Deaf to meet the COVID-19 safety requirements for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Michael Spencer, General Manager of ECAB, presented a cheque for \$25,000.00 to Mr. Kevin Silston, President of the Rotary Club of Antigua, and Ms. Dianne Archibald, Principal, of the School for the Deaf, on Friday, August 21, 2020.



Michael Spencer, General Manager- ECAB (left), Dianne Archibald, Principal- School for the Deaf (centre); Kevin Silston, President- Rotary Club of Antigua (right).

Mr. Spencer stated that ECAB was pleased to be associated with this initiative as “Our youth remain our most valuable resource as it is through them that our

country will continue to develop and evolve”.

In his response, Mr. Silston thanked ECAB for such a significant contribution which represents fifty

per cent of the cost of construction. Mrs. Archibald also thanked ECAB and the Rotary Club of Antigua for realizing the benefit the extra classrooms will provide in the delivery of co-curricular activities as well as a space for a sick bay.

In his handover remarks, Mr. Spencer noted as citizens of Antigua and Barbuda we must all work together, now more than ever, to protect and preserve our nation, its institutions and its youth”. The General Manager looks forward to the completion of the project and the enhancement of the students’ development.

Polyclinic for Point/Villa completed

The new ultra modern polyclinic at Blackburn Park in Villa has been completed.

The complex is a gift from the People’s Republic of China to the government and people of Antigua and Bar-

buda.

Parliamentary Representative and Prime Minister Gaston Browne led a team of senior government officials on a tour of the facilities on Monday.





Caribbean Union Bank

VACANCY

ASSISTANT MANAGER – COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

THE ROLE

Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) is seeking to fill the position of Assistant Manager – Commercial Relationships. The Assistant Manager – Commercial Relationships will, under the guidance of the Manager, be responsible for the growth and development of the Bank's commercial lending portfolio.

KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Source new commercial clients and develop new business opportunities with existing clients through proactive idea generation and selling.
- Manage the portfolio of commercial loans and contribute to the growth of the Bank's overall loan portfolio.
- Negotiate and achieve growth targets annually.
- Assist the Manager in establishing and implementing short- and long-range departmental goals, objectives, policies, and operating procedures in pursuit of the broader organizational goals.
- Represent the Bank externally to key stakeholders.
- Supervise the daily activities of staff in the department.
- Assume responsibility for the operations of the Retail & Commercial Banking Department in the absence of the Manager.

ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Banking and Finance or related discipline;
- Master's Degree would be an asset;
- Advanced knowledge of the banking industry
- Competent in the evaluation of financial statements

SKILLS/ EXPERIENCE

- 7 years' experience in a senior banking position with a lending focus
- Thorough knowledge of the appropriate functions, processes and procedures associated with the role.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and problem-solving skills.
- Critical thinking skills, strategic thinking, effective analysis of data, and the ability to analyze business plans.
- Strong organisational and prioritizing skills, the ability to successfully complete several tasks concurrently and meet deadlines.
- Adaptable/flexible
- Project Management Skills
- Keen business acumen.

APPLICATIONS

Interested persons are asked to submit applications to the Manager, HR & Employee Engagement, email: human.resource@cub.ag. Please note the deadline for applications is Friday, 28th August, 2020.

National Youth Orchestra receives instruments

The National Youth Orchestra has received a major boost with the donation of a number of new instruments.

In a symbolic handover ceremony held at Government House, the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO) accepted the donation which was facilitated by Lady Sandra Williams on behalf of the Halo Foundation.

The donation included three violas, three trombones, three French horns, three trumpets, two oboes and two bassoons.

This is the third occasion on which the Halo Foundation has arranged instruments for donation to ABYSO.

“It is extremely encouraging to see how ABYSO has progressed despite the lock down”, said Lady Williams.

“The students are pleased with the newly introduced element of virtual instruction, and in speaking to the three young players here today, their enthusiasm for distance learning is evident. The gift of additional instruments will provide opportunities for more interested students to be a part of this great musical movement,” she continued.

Director and Head of Fundraising for ABYSO, Eurileen Thibou, explained that the “Virtual Academy” will continue as a permanent and central part of the ABYSO programme.



Elysia Armstrong (ABYSO student, oboe); H.E. Lady Sandra Williams (Patron of ABYSO); Raphael McIntosh (ABYSO student, French horn); Eurileen Thibou (ABYSO Head of Fundraising); and Jeiel Charles (ABYSO student, bassoon).

SO programme.

“It’s a must have. We are still incorporating face to face instruction, as this is an irreplaceable method of teaching,” said Thibou.

“Whenever possible,” she went on, “we fly in tutors for a week or two of intense training with the students. With virtual learning, the tutors are already familiar with the students with whom they have already been working for three to six months by the time they arrive in Antigua. In fact, most of the on-line instructors have visited Antigua over the past three years.”

Many of the instructors volunteered their time and expertise for two to three hours per week over a three month period.

The four organisations represented in this kaleidoscope of tutors are the Royal Overseas League (ROSL), the Commonwealth Resounds, MusAid and the Global Leaders Programme.

There are also several local tutors who support the orchestra in the same manner.

A.B.T.B. Frequently Asked Questions Month



**YES, the
Antigua and Barbuda
Drivers Licence
Can be Renewed before it expires**

frequently
asked
QUESTIONS

Can I renew My Antigua and Barbuda Drivers Licence before it expires



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

3 MILLION IMPERIAL GALLONS PER DAY

REVERSE OSMOSIS PLANT AT WILLOUGHBY BAY IN BETHESDA

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) wishes to invite eligible parties to express interest in the construction of a three million imperial gallon per day Reverse Osmosis Plant at Willoughby Bay in Bethesda as the Authority seeks to fulfill its mandate of ensuring the provision of an adequate supply of water to meet the daily demand.

The expression of interest should make provision for an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) arrangement with APUA. It should be noted that APUA will be responsible for the civil and building works for the pumping station, product tanks, the building housing the main equipment and the electricity supply to the various equipment.

Interested parties should provide their company's background information outlining competence and experience in relevant areas including curriculum vitae of key personnel to be involved in the project and featured projects or clients. The information provided should focus on the installation of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plants, especially with capacity in the range of 3.0 million imperial gallons per day. Statement of interested parties experience relevant to supply and installation of RO Plants of similar capacity in the Caribbean, Central American, South American or relatively small markets similar to this project. Interested parties should present a general plan that includes a preliminary list of main equipment manufacturers etc.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to technical competence, qualifications and experience (especially related experience on similar projects), financial capability and existing commitments. All information must be submitted in English.

APUA reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not short-listing any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

FOR COMPLETE DETAILS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT ELIGIBLE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PLEASE VISIT THE HOME PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.apua.ag>

Deadline for the submission of Expressions of Interest is **Monday 31st August by 4:00pm.**



Scholarship recipients excel

Two Antiguan and Barbudan scholarship recipients, Tavorn George and Jeremiah Valero, have graduated with distinction as engineers from the prestigious Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts, United States.

Both George and Valero were recipients of the Robert A. Foisie Scholarship secured by Prime Minister Gaston Browne for gifted students. The scholarship allows students to attend the private university in Massachusetts, which focuses on the instruction and research of technical arts and applied sciences.

In a joint statement, George and Valero said that they look forward to contributing to the development of Antigua and Barbuda.

“As the motto of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) states: ‘WPI educates talented men and women in engineering, science, management, and humanities in preparation for careers of professional practice, civic contribution, and leadership, facilitated by active lifelong learning.’

“Therefore, as new graduates of the



Tavorn George

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, we plan to not only enhance but also innovate in our respective disciplines. We pride ourselves in knowing that we have attended such a prestigious school renowned for its engineering and project-based learning. We hope that our engineering mindsets will be put to good use in Antigua and Barbu-



Jeremiah Valero

da and hopefully inspire others to do the same.”

George and Valero continued, “We would like to thank the late Robert A. Foisie for giving us this opportunity and a very big thank you to Ms. Patti Biss for seeing us through our final years of university. Without her assistance and perseverance, we would not be here as engineers today.

“We would also like to give a big thank you to Prime Minister Gaston Browne for having the vision to develop the country’s capacity in engineering and Mr. Maurice Merchant as his diligent work from beginning to end made our university experience ever so smooth.

“Finally, we would like to thank the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for giving such a great opportunity to their fellow citizens.”

They closed with a quote from former First Lady of the United States of America, Michelle Obama: “Empower yourselves with a good education, then get out there and use that education to build a country worthy of your boundless promise.”



Stability in COVID-19, no new cases

Antigua and Barbuda has attained a level of stability in its management of COVID-19 as there are only two active cases and there have been no new cases reported.

This was revealed in the most recent COVID-19 dashboard published this week.

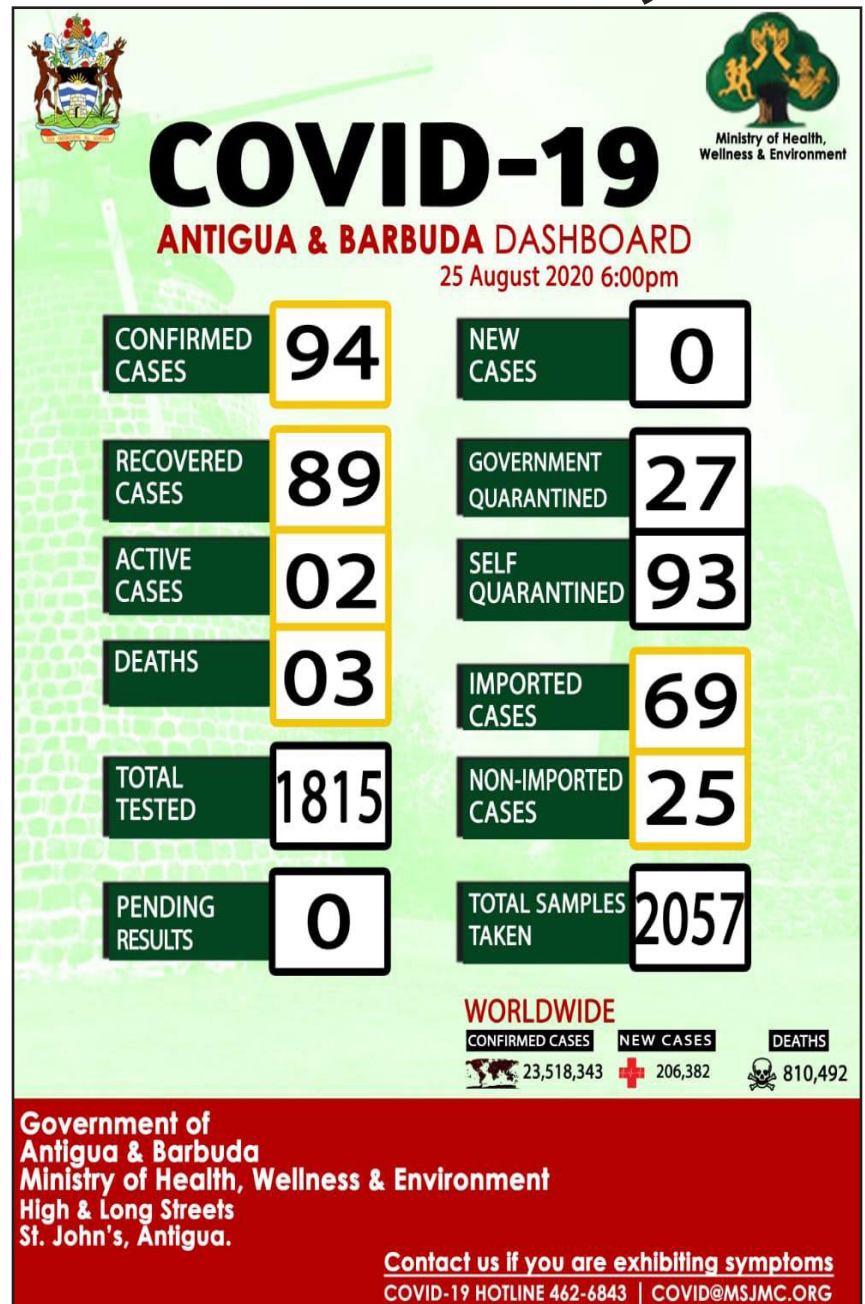
"The most recent reports received by the Ministry of Health from the Mount St. John's Medical Center and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) have revealed no new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 24th August 2020 at 6 pm.

Subsequent to the publication of the dashboard on Monday 24th August 2020 with the cut off time of 6 pm, ten samples were processed at the Mount St. John's Medical Center's (MSJMC) Laboratory which increased the pending results from twenty-two to thirty-two, said a statement from the Ministry of Health.

The health ministry explained that thirty-two (32) recent samples taken yielded negative results.

With these latest figures, the total number of persons who have had laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda stands at ninety-four with two active cases remaining.

So far, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen (1815) persons have been tested for COVID-19. There are currently twenty-seven (27) persons in government quarantine centres with ninety-three (93) persons in self-quarantine.



High Court issues new sentencing guidelines

A second set of sentencing guidelines from the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court is expected to come into effect on 1st September.

The new guidelines are:

Guidelines for Firearm Offences;

Re-issued guidelines for Drug Offences;

Re-issued Offences of Dishonesty compendium with guidelines for theft, robbery, burglary, and aggravated bur-

glary; and

Re-issued Sexual Offences compendium for rape, unlawful sexual intercourse, aggravated unlawful sexual intercourse, indecency and incest.

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court says the guidelines are not intended to achieve uniformity in sentences or to restrict judicial discretion. By employing measures which demonstrate consistency of approach

and by mandating that clear reasons are provided for sentences passed, it is expected that these guidelines will assist immensely in maintaining and promoting public confidence and transparency in the criminal justice system.

The first set of Sentencing Guidelines was officially launched on 17th September, 2019 and came into effect on 1st October, 2019.

Statement by Colin James Antigua & Barbuda Labour Representative All Saints East & St. Luke Constituency

I offer my candidacy to the constituents of ASE&SL to be the ABLP candidate in the next general elections.

Since the conclusion of the general elections in March 2018, I have been working assiduously to position myself as the leading candidate in the constituency of All Saints East & St. Luke under the Antigua & Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) banner in anticipation of contesting the next general elections constitutionally due in 2023.

I have done so by steadfastly sticking with the people of All Saints, Mathews Road, Swetes, Follies, John Hughes, Fig Tree Drive and Old Road. I have demonstrated my commitment to them by listening to their concerns and needs, assisting them with employment, providing resources for their wellbeing, representing them at various government ministries, departments and agencies, sympathizing with them in time of bereavement and making sure I take or return their telephone calls.

I have worked with the youth in education, sports, culture and health initiatives through the Helping Hand Foundation that I inaugurated in 2015. They have been the recipients of scholarships, laptops, tablets, school supplies and stationery, sporting gear and equipment, organis-

ing cultural events and stocking clinics with medical supplies.

The elderly and adults have also benefited from my Food Package Distribution before the COVID-19 pandemic and even more so during this most challenging time of human existence.

I have also caused infrastructure development such as road repairs and construction (concrete and asphalt), replacement of blown streetlights, home improvement and vehicle transactions among others. Where I may be able, or be in a position to provide immediate assistance or relief, I have used my substantial contacts to supplement. Although the outcome of the last general elections did not meet my expectations, whether they were from mistakes on my part or some voters refusing to support me, I have not held any grudges against the voters of the constituency. I have remained approachable, amenable and respectful to all.

As the ABLP looks forward to selecting a candidate for the All Saints East & St. Luke constituency, I once again offer my candidacy to the people with a firm determination and unwavering resolve to work twice as hard to ensure success not only for myself but the great organisation of Labour.



Commentary

Is HR in the Caribbean Ready for Digital Nomads?

Following Barbados' implementation of a 12-month visitor visa, Antigua & Barbuda is thinking of implementing the same to allow digital nomads to work remotely from the Caribbean. This is an effort to provide added revenue streams to supplement the tourism industry. Dr. Rochelle Haynes, a Barbadian-born, UK-Based expert in future workforce trends and remote work, believes that these initiatives are overdue.

Haynes holds a PhD in International Human Resources Management and is the founder and CEO of Crowd Potential Consulting, which specializes in helping organizations manage and engage remote workers. For the past year, she has advocated for more remote working in the Caribbean and for governments to consider digital nomads in their tourism plans. HRPAB connected with Dr. Haynes to get her insight on recent developments on remote working in the Caribbean.

Haynes stated, "I think the attention being paid to the area by Barbados and other countries is that they're finding themselves having to fight for the survival of their economy, and as a result, they're getting creative, and they're looking to more innovative methods to diversify their tourism product." Having conducted first-hand research across six different regions, includ-



ing Indonesia and Thailand, she has seen how Southeast Asian countries have been catering to these knowledge workers and what it would take to replicate it in the Caribbean. Though the trend of digital nomadism is not a new one, Dr. Haynes believes that it was something that needed attention a lot sooner.

When asked potential challenges for the Caribbean in this competitive space, Dr. Haynes referenced the cost of living, internet and social infrastructure, accessibility, safety, island-wide transportation, and more diverse long-term accommodation options and the ability to create nomad communities that go beyond co-working spaces.

When asked as to how likely it is for this idea to be implemented for any of these countries, Dr. Haynes stated that she thinks it is possible, but reiterated that it is not something that can be fixed overnight. "A public/private sector partnership would be needed to create networks

and linkages between entities that can offer specific packages that market and promote each other with reduced costs as well."

Outside of tourism, Dr. Haynes encourages organizational leaders to think about their own long-term digital transformation and how they might enable more engaged remote working, self-leadership, and trust among their workforce. "In a disruptive and rapidly changing business environment, we can no longer afford to keep doing things the way we have decades before. Our workforce should be developed to adapt and pivot quickly in these uncertain and unpredictable times."

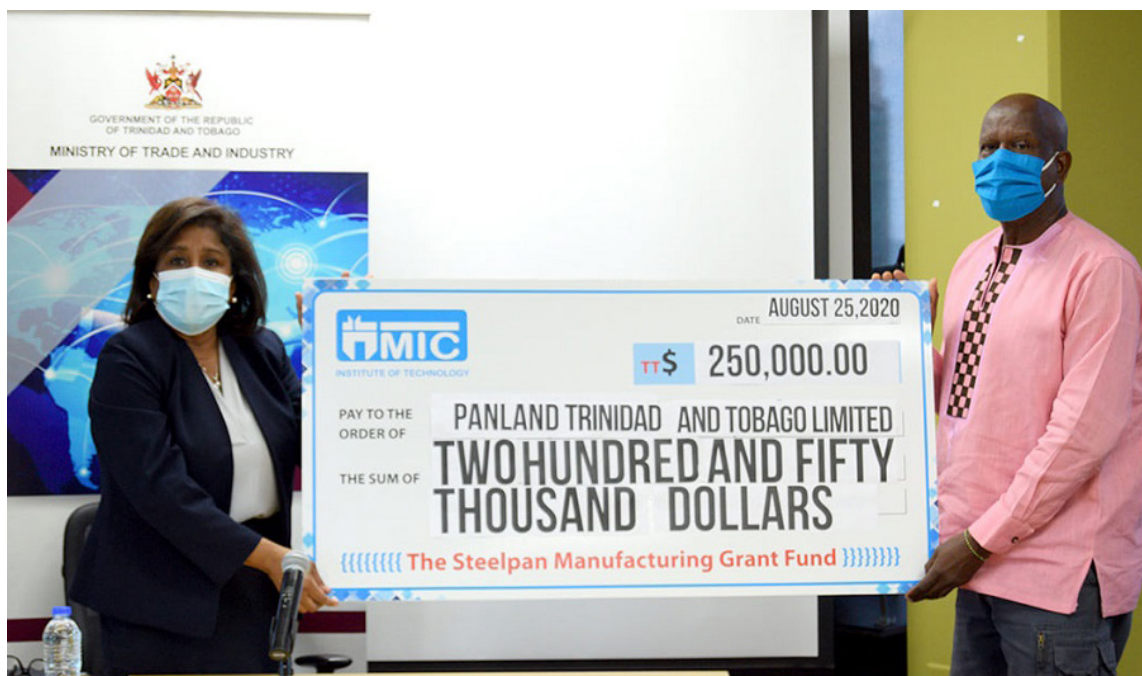
The question was also asked of the impact on the human resource elements to which Dr. Haynes stated that it is a chance for companies to begin to review the way that things have been done and innovate. She added that it is going to push HR to pivot and innovate to survive,

thrive, and move forward.

HRPAB asked if she had spoken to Prime Minister Mottley about this initiative but Dr. Haynes stated that no she had not but added that she would love to connect with her home country leader. She added that she would welcome further engagement on the subject as she believes her research and time spent in well-known hotspots could add value and provide further in-depth understanding of how to cater to these specific business tourists. Dr. Haynes believes that Barbados and other Caribbean countries have a lot to offer remote workers and that they could raise their profile in this market if they create and deliver an experience and product that meet the dynamic needs of these workers.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began assembling informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary.

Trinidad: Local companies receive funding grants from Government



Minister Gopee-Scoon presents Michael Cooper, President of Panland Trinidad and Tobago with the SMGFF cheque.

Minister of Trade and Industry Paula Gopee-Scoon has underscored the Government's commitment to provide support for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). She was speaking at a grant distribution ceremony on Tuesday. The Minister said: "the government will continue to provide support to improve capacity building and technology advancement in the manufacturing and creative industries, among others amidst the unprecedented times being experienced as a result of the Novel Coronavirus".

Gopee-Scoon identified the Grant Fund Facility as one initiative that provides funding to companies to improve productivity and competitive-

ness in some of the nation's most viable sectors.

Trinibakes Limited, a small manufacturer in the food and beverage sector, received funding in the amount of \$176,351.49. The company produces specialty frozen flour-based products such as bread and pastry doughs for both retail and wholesale distribution.

The Minister commended the company on its use of locally sourced ingredients such as flour, pumpkin, beetroot, coconut, ginger, and spinach which has created supply linkages with domestic farmers and flour manufacturers. Trinibakes Limited intends to purchase new machinery and equipment for its manufacturing process

which will allow for greater efficiency and increased production capacity to expand locally and regionally. The company's director, Kathleen Joseph, said: "Trinibakes is truly Trini. We work closely with our farmers to ensure the supply of local produce in our products". "We have done in-depth market research and have tested several markets and are confident that this grant will allow us to realise our plans and expand our reach locally and regionally."

Meanwhile, the Steelpan Manufacturing Grant Fund Facility (SMGFF) disbursed a total of \$250,000 to Panland Trinidad and Tobago, the second recipient of the fund.

Gopee-Scoon reiterated that the Government recognises

both the cultural significance and the economic potential of the steelpan industry. The SMGFF provides support to assist steelpan manufacturers and tuners in the acquisition of machinery, equipment, software, tools, raw material and training, in tranches of up to \$250,000 and not exceeding \$1,000,000 per entity. Panland has been in operation for over 25 years and offers a wide range of products which includes all sizes of conventional steelpan, accessories such as sticks, stands, cases etc and services such as tuning, blending and powder coating.

The Minister commended Panland for establishing a presence on Amazon and is hopeful that the financial support will give the company the assistance needed to boost its production capacity and re-position itself in the international marketplace in this ever-changing economic climate.

Panland president Michael Cooper expressed gratitude for the support: "The steelpan industry is ripe with possibility and potential and this funding will assist in rebuilding the industry."

Cooper also applauded the SMGFF initiative which he anticipates will bear tremendous fruit for the industry in terms of employment, career development and generation of foreign exchange.

Outbreak of dengue fever declared in St Lucia



Aedes aegypti mosquito

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has officially declared a dengue fever outbreak in St Lucia.

Speaking on NTN/GIS's Midday update on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, National Epidemiologist, Dr Michelle Francois said: "Over the last few weeks the Ministry of Health and Wellness has continued to provide updates to the public on the significant increases in trends of dengue viral infection. These increasing trend now constitute an outbreak." Dr Francois said that this means the numbers reported now exceed the numbers expected, which warrants an immediate and targeted response.

She said that as of August 9 - 15, there have been 168 confirmed cases of dengue with a 46% hospitalization rate, with no fatalities. The 5 to 14 age group accounts for 38% of the cases. Dr

Francois says that it is particularly concerning that both serotypes 2 and 3 have been recorded on island. She notes that while cases have been concentrated mostly in the northern, central and eastern sections of St Lucia, they have been recorded in the south and the west as well. "The public health impact of managing a dengue outbreak combined with adjusting to the new normal amid the COVID-19 pandemic will place a strain on the already stretched healthcare services. The direct economic cost of treatment, hospitalization, and prevention as well as the indirect costs such as the loss of productivity related to absence, disability or death and the effects on the tourism is of concern to our already fragile economy," said Dr Francois.

Dr Francois explained that dengue is a viral illness

spread by the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and, to a lesser extent, the *Aedes Albopictus*. The mosquito lives in urban habitats and breeds mostly in man-made containers. It is a daytime feeder with its peak biting periods in the early morning and the evening before sunset. There are four distinct serotypes of the virus that cause dengue (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4). Persons receive lifelong immunity against a serotype once infected with it; however, cross-immunity to other types only lasts two to three months.

This means once someone recovers from one serotype of dengue, they are immune from the other serotypes for only that short period. Beyond that, they can be infected by other serotypes.

Subsequent infections also increase the risk of developing severe dengue.

Dengue viral disease has an incubation period of 4–10 days after the bite from an infected mosquito. About 75% of dengue infections are asymptomatic or produces a very mild febrile illness which may be confused with other illnesses, such as COVID-19. Persons with mild dengue may present with fever, accompanied by rash, nausea/vomiting, pain behind the eye, muscle and joint pain.

In its more severe form, persons may progress to bleeding from the gums or nose, vomiting blood and passing blood in the stool.

They may also experience severe abdominal pain and/or excessive vomiting which may lead to dehydration. There is no specific treatment for dengue and management is supportive based on clinical presentation. The mosquito requires water to breed and so the public is asked to assist in the control of dengue by eliminating breeding sites in and around their homes. The vector is capable of breeding in the smallest of receptacles so frequent checks around the home are essential to combat the spread of dengue.

Persons are also advised to avoid the indiscriminate dumping of garbage, which also serves as breeding ground for the mosquito. Please adhere to the scheduled garbage collection days and times.

No Special Treatment For Bolt - Tufton Says Rules Apply To Everyone As Star Tests Positive For COVID-19

As the fallout continues from Usain Bolt's now-controversial birthday party, Prime Minister Andrew Holness confirmed that the matter is now being investi-

Holness said during a virtual press conference on Monday.

Bolt, who was celebrating his 34th birthday last Friday at the Football Factory in Kingston,

night and advised that the process had commenced for contact tracing. The party, which was attended by a host of local and international celebrities, includ-

protocols were later ignored. Occasional sanitisation was conducted during the party.

Quarantine Not Observed

The presence of Sterling, who last played for his England-based club on August 15 in the Champions League, and Bailey, who featured for German club Leverkusen in their Europa League loss on August 10, indicates that the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement for overseas visitors was not observed.

"I am not aware, I don't have specifics of any individual coming in and breaching the orders for quarantine, but what I will say is that we do not discriminate depending on the person," Tufton declared. "The rules apply to everyone." Meanwhile, Bailey's manager and adopted father Craig Butler accused the nation's leaders of hypocrisy and double standards. "Was it a mistake to have the party? Maybe. Was it a mistake to attend the party? How could Leon not attend and support his friend?" asked Butler.

"Who are we to judge them when our own politicians are out encouraging electoral parties and revelry? ... If you want my opinion on public figures setting examples, let's start with those that are leading us into an election right now," Butler said.

Jamaica recorded 83 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, bringing the overall tally to 1,612.



Hours after Usain Bolt tested positive for COVID-19, the health minister warned that he would not get special treatment after a birthday party he hosted has come under scrutiny.

gated by the police.

Holness warned that the sprinter, who was confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, will not benefit from any special treatment in the process.

"No one is going to be treated with any exemption, so all Jamaicans have a duty, and those who have public ear and influence in the public sphere have an even greater (responsibility),"

was tested at home a day later in anticipation of a business trip overseas this week.

The 100m and 200m world record holder confirmed on social media about 11 a.m. Monday that he had not, up to that point, been officially notified of his result.

Health Minister Christopher Tufton provided the confirmation of Bolt's result Monday

ing Manchester City winger Raheem Sterling, Bayer Leverkusen star Leon Bailey and former Reggae Boyz captain Ricardo Gardner, as well as entertainers, has been the bane of criticism after videos surfaced online showing COVID-19 breaches.

While there was temperature screening, mandatory sanitisation, and mask wearing upon entry, social-distancing and mask

Teachers urged to 'count the cost' before entering politics



President of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' Union, Oswald Robinson speaking at last week's press conference.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' Union is urging the nation's educators to "count the cost and take" note before entering electoral politics.

Union leader Oswald Robinson made the point as he noted that the government has refused to honour an agreement with the union that should see teachers return to the classroom with all benefits intact, if they fail at electoral politics. "And there some teachers now I understand going in to run, so you need to count the cost and take note of that. Because if Kenroy Johnson can't get his pension and gratuity up to now, you're punishing somebody for which they have not done anything wrong. Pay attention to that because it seems as if it is taking donkey years before you could even be considered, to obey the

court," Robinson told a press conference last week.

He called on the Ralph Gonsalves government to honour the court's ruling and pay Johnson.

Johnson was one of three teachers who resigned ahead of the 2010 general elections to contest on behalf of the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) but was not rehired, notwithstanding a collective bargaining agreement that the union had signed years earlier with the Ralph Gonsalves government. The court has since ruled that Johnson, as well as Elvis Daniel and Addison "Bash" Thomas, the other two of the "three NDP teachers" must be paid their gratuity and pension when they reach retirement age.

Johnson has reached retirement age and is still waiting his pay-out.

"It is total wickedness that the government is in contempt of the court. The court has ruled. The judge would have ruled. It's time for compensation. It's time to pay the man," Robinson told a press conference last week.

"It's not easy — you work for almost 40 years, contributing to the development of education in your community. And then because you're on another political fence, people don't want to ensure that you enjoy your property. "Pension is a property. It is enshrined in the Constitution and the judges have ruled that the man should get his property," he said, noting that Thomas and Daniel are yet to reach retirement age. "... He (Johnson) is such a humble man, would have given tremendous sacrifice and because he ran for political office, and he lost, you don't want to give him back his job..."

He noted that the government signed a collective bargaining agreement with the union, which should have preserved the three teachers' benefits but Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves later said the agreement was "aspirational".

"Who can you fool? And we have agreed that there were persons who ran for political office even before we signed a collective agreement with that clause intact," he said, adding that teachers, including Daniel, Nicola Daize, and Ruth Woods were given back their jobs after they lost in general elections. It was noted to the union that at least one current teacher is likely to become a candidate in the next general election and a retired teacher who has been declared a

first-time candidate.

Robinson had been asked if the union had a position on teachers getting involved in politics.

He said that the union does not get involved in endorsing teachers who become politicians, noting that there are teachers who support each of the political parties in the country.

"So we can't tell our teachers who vote for or we can't tell our teachers vote for that person."

Robinson, however, said there is a clause in the union's constitution that has never really been implemented.

"But let's say the authorities decide to take us for granted and the membership feels that we must speak publicly, then the union will do so if it becomes necessary. That clause says that the union can exert influence on its members on matters of national importance.

"Election is a matter of national importance. So the union can make that statement, but we have not done so and I don't think we may want to do so because it may divide the union just like in the days of Joshua and Cato, when Joshua want you to go one way, promising the increase in salary in 1975 and ... and the politicians were getting into the union..."

"But under my leadership, I am not and I've never done it. And I have no intention to say to any teacher who to vote for. That is your business. If I want to support you, as a teacher, for your policies from a party standpoint, that's my individual right to do so. But as a union, if the union wants to make a statement, the union can do so.

Africa declared free of wild polio in 'milestone'



Polio can only be prevented through immunisation

Polio usually affects children under five, sometimes leading to irreversible paralysis. Death can occur when breathing muscles are affected.

Twenty-five years ago thousands of children in Africa were paralysed by the virus.

The disease is now only found in Afghanistan and Pakistan. There is no cure but the polio vaccine protects children for life. Nigeria is the last African country to be declared free from wild polio, having accounted for more than half of all global cases less than a decade ago. The vaccination campaign in Nigeria involved a huge effort to reach remote and dangerous places under threat from militant violence and some health workers were killed in the process. Polio is a

virus which spreads from person to person, usually through contaminated water. It can lead to paralysis by attacking the nervous system. Two out of three strains of wild polio virus have been eradicated worldwide. On Tuesday, Africa has been declared free of the last remaining strain of wild polio-virus. More than 95% of Africa's population has now been immunised. This was one of the conditions that the Africa Regional Certification Commission set before declaring the continent free from wild polio. Now only the vaccine-derived polio virus remains in Africa with 177 cases being identified this year.

This is a rare form of the virus that mutates from the oral polio vaccine and can then spread to

under-immunized communities. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified a number of these cases in Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic and Angola.

Without a cure a vaccine developed in 1952 by Dr Jonas Salk gave hope that children could be protected from the disease. In 1961, Albert Sabin pioneered the oral polio vaccine which has been used in most national immunisation programmes around the world.

In 1996 poliovirus paralysed more than 75,000 children across the continent - every country was affected.

That year Nelson Mandela launched the "Kick Polio Out of Africa" programme, mobilising millions of health workers who went village-to-village to hand-deliver vaccines.

It was backed by a coalition of groups including Rotary International which had spearheaded the polio vaccination drive from the 1980s.

Since 1996 billions of oral polio vaccines have been provided, averting an estimated 1.8 million cases of wild polio-virus. The last communities at risk of polio live in some of the most complicated places to deliver immunisation campaigns.

Nigeria is the last country in Africa to have reported a case of wild polio - in Borno state in Nigeria's remote north-east, and the epicentre of the Boko Haram insurrection, in 2016.

At the time it was a frustrat-

ing set-back as the country had made huge progress and had gone two years without any cases being identified.

Outside Nigeria, the last place to have seen a case of polio was in the Puntland region of Somalia in 2014.

Conflict with the Islamist militant group Boko Haram has made parts of Nigeria particularly difficult to reach, Borno state in particular.

More than two million people have been displaced by the fighting. Frontline workers, 95% of whom were women, managed to navigate areas of conflict like Lake Chad by boat and deliver vaccines to remote communities. Widespread rumours and misinformation about the vaccine have also slowed down immunisation efforts. In 2003, Kano and a number of other northern states suspended immunisations following reports by Muslim religious leaders that the vaccine was contaminated with an anti-fertility agent as part of an American plot to make Muslim women infertile. Laboratory tests by Nigerian scientists dismissed the accusations.

Vaccine campaigns resumed the following year, but the rumours persisted. In 2013 nine female polio vaccinators were killed in two shootings thought to be carried out by Boko Haram at health centres in Kano.

It has taken decades to achieve eradication and overcome suspicion around the vaccine.

American Airlines to lay off 19,000 workers in October without new aid



American Airlines said on Tuesday it will lay off 19,000 workers on October 1, in addition to thousands more who left the company or agreed to voluntary furloughs, unless Congress offers more aid.

“Approximately 19,000 of our team members will be involuntarily furloughed or separated from the company on October 1,” American said in a regulatory filing, explaining the cuts are needed because flights have not recovered amid the coronavirus pandemic.

However, the company said the job losses could be curbed if Congress extends a program under the CARES Act rescue

package that helped airlines retain their staff through the end of September.

US carriers have faced a sharp drop off in travel as the country struggles with the world’s worst coronavirus outbreak, and American said it planned to fly less than 50 per cent of its fleet in the fourth quarter, while long-haul international service would be reduced to 25 per cent of its 2019 level.

The company last week eliminated service to 15 smaller destinations in the United States, and in a memo included in its filing on Tuesday said 12,500 people had already left the company, while another 11,000 have taken

a leave of absence in October.

“In short, American’s team will have at least 40,000 fewer people working October 1 than we had when we entered this pandemic,” according to the document signed by Chief Executive Doug Parker and President Robert Isom.

The company had in July warned 25,000 workers they could be furloughed beginning October 1.

The CARES Act was intended to blunt the blow from the coronavirus pandemic, however many of its key provisions supporting the unemployed and small businesses expired in recent weeks and COVID-19 has

remained a threat to the world’s largest economy.

Lawmakers in Congress are deadlocked with the White House on extending key provisions of the act. American said there was support from both parties in Congress for additional aid to airlines but it was tied up in the larger relief bill.

“We must prepare for the possibility that our nation’s leadership will not be able to find a way to further support aviation professionals and the service we provide, especially to smaller communities,” American said in a statement.

Hundreds of thousands flee US coast ahead of Hurricane Laura

In the largest U.S. evacuation of the pandemic, more than half a million people were ordered to flee the Gulf Coast on Tuesday as Laura strengthened into a hurricane that forecasters said could slam Texas and Louisiana with ferocious winds, heavy flooding and the power to push seawater miles inland.

More than 385,000 residents were told to flee the Texas cities of Beaumont, Galveston and Port Arthur, and another 200,000 were ordered to leave low-lying Calcasieu Parish in southwestern Louisiana, where forecasters said as much as 13 feet (3.96 meters) of storm surge topped by waves could submerge whole communities.

The National Hurricane Center projected that Laura would draw energy from warm Gulf waters and become a Category 3 hurricane before making landfall late Wednesday or early Thursday, with winds of around 115 mph (185 kph). The strengthening may slow or stop just before landfall, forecasters said.

"The waters are warm enough everywhere there to support a major hurricane, Category 3 or even higher. The waters are very warm where the storm is now and will be for the entire path up until the Gulf Coast," National Hurricane Center Deputy Director Ed Rappaport said.

Ocean water was expected to push onto land along more than 450 miles of coast from Texas to Mississippi. Hurri-



People wait in front of the Galveston Housing Authority offices to board charter busses that will evacuate them from Galveston Island to Austin in anticipation of impact from Hurricane Laura, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020, in Galveston

cane warnings were issued from San Luis Pass, Texas, to Intracoastal City, Louisiana, and storm surge warnings from the Port Arthur, Texas, flood protection system to the mouth of the Mississippi River.

The evacuations could get even bigger if the storm's track veers to the east or west, said

Craig Fugate, the former head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Officials urged people to stay with relatives or in hotel rooms to avoid spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Buses were stocked with protective equipment and disinfectant, and they would carry few-

er passengers to keep people apart, Texas officials said.

Whitney Frazier, 29, of Beaumont spent Tuesday morning trying to get transportation to a high school where she could board a bus to leave the area.

"Especially with everything with COVID going on already on top of a mandatory evacuation, it's very stressful," Frazier said.

The storm also imperiled a center of the U.S. energy industry. The government said 84% of Gulf oil production and an estimated 61% of natural gas production were shut down. Nearly 300 platforms have been evacuated.

While oil prices often spike before a major storm as production slows, consumers are unlikely to see big price changes because the pandemic decimated demand for fuel.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Laura was 480 miles (770 kilometers) southeast of Lake Charles, Louisiana, traveling northwest at 17 mph (28 kmh). Its peak winds were 80 mph (130 kph).

Laura passed Cuba after killing nearly two dozen people on the island of Hispaniola, including 20 in Haiti and three in the Dominican Republic, where it knocked out power and caused intense flooding. The deaths reportedly included a 10-year-old girl whose home was hit by a tree and a mother and young son crushed by a collapsing wall.

Jacob Blake needs 'a miracle' to walk again after Kenosha police shot him, attorney says



Jacob Blake poses with his sons, according to his attorney.

Jacob Blake, a man shot multiple times by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin, has been paralyzed and his family is hoping for "a miracle," their attorneys said.

"It's going to take a miracle for Jacob Blake Jr. to ever walk again," Benjamin Crump told reporters.

The 29-year-old Black man was undergoing surgery Tuesday afternoon, two days after police shot him at close range as he tried to enter an SUV. In the vehicle were his 3-, 5- and 8-year-old sons, Crump had said.

Blake's father described the shooting as a "senseless attempted murder."

"They shot my son seven

times ... seven times like he didn't matter, but my son matters," Jacob Blake Sr. said. "He's a human being and he matters."

Blake's suffered multiple injuries, including a gunshot wound to one arm, damage to his kidney, liver and spinal cord, said Patrick Salvi Jr., another family attorney.

"He had a bullet go through some or all of his spinal cord, at least one bullet. He has holes in his stomach. He had to have nearly his entire colon and small intestines removed," Salvi added, saying the family will file a civil lawsuit against the police department over the shooting.

The shooting has spurred

protests and unrest in the state, prompting Gov. Tony Evers to declare a state of emergency on Tuesday and the deployment of an additional 125 Wisconsin National Guard troops to Kenosha.

Ahead of an expected new round of protests, Kenosha County declared another state of emergency curfew from 8 p.m. Tuesday to 7 a.m. Wednesday. Sheriff David Beth asked "the public to stay off the streets for their safety." After demonstrators torched cars and set buildings ablaze on Monday night, Blake's mother called for peaceful protests and said her son would not be pleased with "the violence and the destruction."

Julia Jackson said the damage in the city from the unrest "doesn't reflect my son or my family."

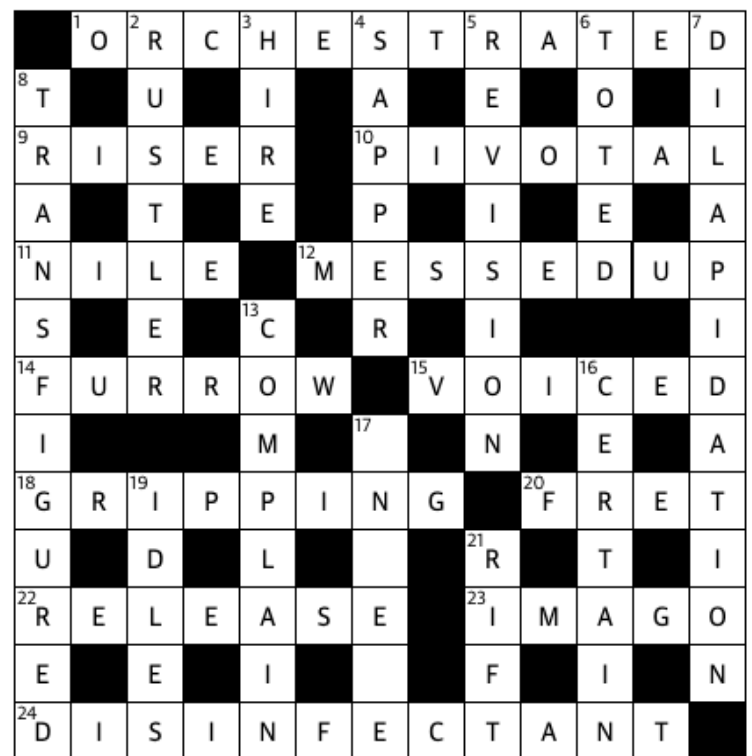
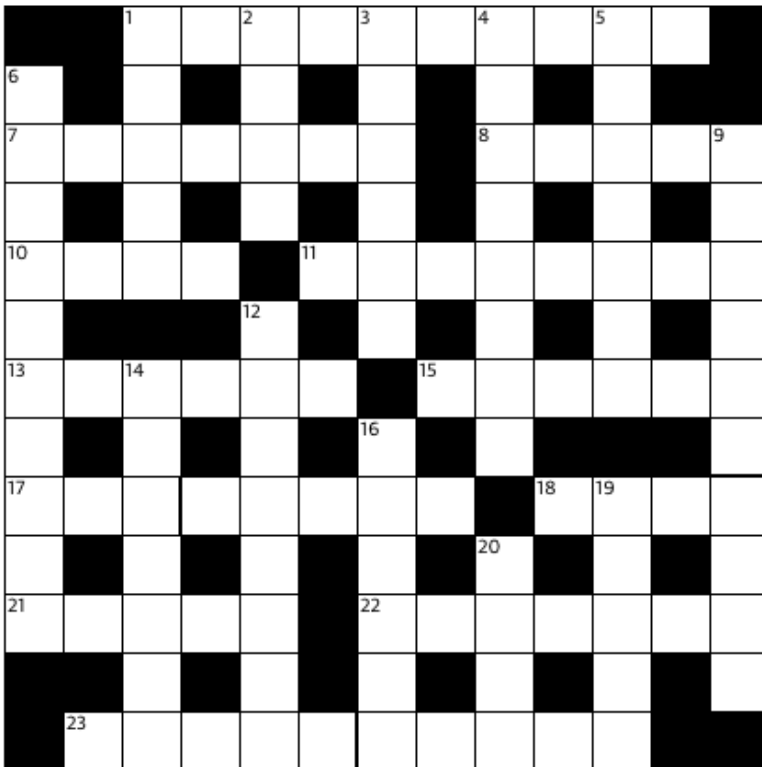
She asked for prayers not only for her son but for healing across the country.

"Clearly you can see right now that I have beautiful brown skin but take a look at your hand and whatever shade it is, it is beautiful as well," Jackson said. "How dare we hate what we are. We are humans."

"No one is superior to the other. The only supreme being is God himself. Please let's begin to pray for healing for our nation. We are the United States, have we been united?," she added.

LEISURE

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Tiny (10)
 7 Check — lizard (7)
 8 Tiny amount (5)
 10 Tall grass plant that grows in water (4)
 11 Munificent (8)
 13 Religious (6)
 15 Ship's officer looking after the passengers (6)
 17 Pursue (3,5)
 18 Couple (4)
 21 Corpulent (5)
 22 Inexpensive ornament (7)
 23 With a short distance to the target (5,5)

Down

- 1 English preacher and metaphysical poet, d. 1631 (5)
 2 Dog of mixed breed (4)
 3 Annoyed (6)
 4 Refined (8)
 5 Saviour (anag) — assorted (7)
 6 Sponsor and manager of public entertainments (10)
 9 Jerboas — British 7th Armoured Division, 1940-58 (6,4)
 12 Loss of hearing (8)
 14 Clot (7)
 16 Shackle (6)
 19 Foot-leg connector (5)
 20 Indication (4)

CARTOON CORNER

Garfield





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Your phone might ring more than usual this weekend. Find creative ways of having good times with friends. Enjoy your increased popularity but avoid taking undue risks with money.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Practical ideas and sensible solutions might flood your mind. This is an excellent time to discuss your objectives and create a game plan. You can receive sound and useful advice from relatives and professional people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Clear thinking is in play, making this a good day for frank discussions and brainstorming sessions. You and a partner can easily come to an amiable agreement about the handling of joint resources or family investments.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Demonstrate your flexibility by reconsidering old goals. Some things you have abandoned, such as a desire to put a certain idea into action, might now be possible. You and loved ones can make powerful plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your pragmatic handling of life's little problems sets you free to enjoy life's little pleasures. Be logical about facts and figures but kind and generous with people. Numbers don't care how you treat them, but people want affection.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your passion for excellence to good use by getting involved with constructive activities. Your ability to make wise decisions is enhanced this weekend, making it a good time to evaluate your long-

term life objectives.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your acceptance into new circles may put you in a position to make valuable connections. Think up several excellent strategies to complete homework or job assignments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Return to the pursuit of treasured past activities with a fresh perspective. Kid stuff can be fun even as an adult. The stars are ripe for romance, but you can make headway with career aspirations, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It may be time to analyze your banking activity. You are clear-thinking and observant about your allotment of resources, making it simple to juggle bills and expenditures. Develop a budget that offers big benefits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have the wisdom and vision to develop purposeful plans. Write down your inspiring ideas and plot a course that will make your life more fulfilling. Buy useful items that bring beauty into your surroundings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Blow the dust off the chess set or find the basketball and shoot some hoops. You may be attracted to activities that require strategy and a high level of accuracy. A family member may offer some insightful and valuable ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Think about catching up on sleep. You may rest easy once you and a partner or co-worker have come to an agreement about an important issue. Together you have better judgment than usual and will be able to make wise choices.

Konta reaches the Western and Southern Open Quarter Finals



In tennis, British number one, Johanna Konta, reached the Western and Southern Open quarter finals with a straight set win over former champion, Vera Zvonareva.

Konta, 29, produced another powerful performance to win 6-4 6-2 against the Russian qualifier, who is ranked 270th.

The eighth seed broke

three times, with her own serve rarely under threat, to triumph in an hour and 21 minutes.

Konta will face American great, Serena Williams, or Greek 13th seed, Maria Sakkari, in the last eight.

That will represent a step up in class of opponent for the Briton, although Konta should not fear either player on the evidence of her two matches in this event.

Again she hit confidently and cleanly against 35-year-old Zvonareva, a two-time Grand Slam finalist who is trying to climb back up the rankings after taking time off tour to give birth in 2016.

There are plenty of positive signs for Konta as she builds up to next week's US Open in New York.

"She is very tricky to play.

"She has been around a long time.

"I served well and I was building the points well where I could," said Konta, who is working with new coach Thomas Hogstedt in the United States.

The Western and Southern Open is usually held in Cincinnati but was moved to Flushing Meadows to create a two tournament safety bubble that also incorporates the Grand Slam event which starts on Monday.

Hero CPL to support COVID-19 good causes

The Hero Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will be supporting COVID-19 related good causes throughout the 2020 tournament. For each six that is hit at the tournament \$50 will be donated to COVID-19 causes.

Last season there were 541 Hero Maxims hit at the tournament. So far in the present season there were 115 sixes in the first 10 games, meaning that \$5,750 has been raised with 23 matches still to go.

Pete Russell, Hero CPL's COO, said, "Hero CPL takes our responsibility to give back to communities across the Caribbean very seriously and we are delighted to support these very worthy causes.

"There are amazing people from across the Caribbean and from around the world who have been working incredibly hard to help those who are most in need, and we have been touched by so many of these stories. We are hoping that we see more sixes than we did last year so the total raised is as high as possible."

Hero CPL has become known as the destination for the biggest six hitting in world cricket. This year's tournament features renowned power hitters such as Andre Rus-



sell, Kieron Pollard and Chris Lynn.

The 2020 tournament is taking place in two stadiums in Trinidad with the six teams playing 33 matches at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy and the Queen's Park Oval.

The final will take place on 10th September 2020.

Lionel Messi wants to leave Barcelona

Argentina's Lionel Messi, 33, sent a fax to the club on Tuesday saying he wishes to exercise a clause in his contract which would allow him to leave, for free, with immediate effect.

Barca were beaten 8-2 by Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarter-finals on 16 August.

The six-time Ballon d'Or winner made his debut for Barca in 2004 and has won the Champions League four times.

Barcelona, though, believe the clause has now expired and Messi is contracted to the club until 2021 with a €700 million buy-out clause.

With the board expected to meet soon, some consider the only thing that could placate Messi is the resignation of the president, Josep Maria Bartomeu, and early elections, but Messi seems determined to leave the club no matter what.

After the news broke, Barca fans gathered outside the Nou Camp to protest against the board and in support of the club's record goalscorer.



A legal battle is now set to follow between the club and the player. The clause in Messi's contract allowed him to leave for free if he informed the club of his intention before 10 June.

That date has now passed so Barca believe the clause has expired, but Messi and his team feel it should be

extended to cover the prolonged season which ran until August due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Respect and admiration, Leo. All my support, friend," Messi's former teammate, Carles Puyol, tweeted, to which current teammate, Luis Suarez, replied with two clapping emojis.

Chris Gayle cleared for IPL 2020

Chris Gayle has been cleared for participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 having returned two negative tests for COVID-19.

He is now expected to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Gayle was required to undergo testing after attending a birthday party hosted by sprint legend, Usain Bolt.

Bolt is currently in quar-



antine after testing positive for COVID-19.

Most of the franchises have arrived in the UAE

for the upcoming edition of the IPL.

The eight participating franchises will stay in separate hotels and have been asked to follow the protocols issued by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Bolt, who recently celebrated his 34th birthday, took to social media on Monday to confirm that he has tested positive for COVID-19.

Wayne Hewlett: A passion for sports management

Wayne Hewlett, the son of former national footballer and coach, Pin Hewlett, has been involved in sports management for many years and has a passion for sports.

"I am still involved because of my father Pin. He had unfinished business in sports and me and my brother, national coach, Lenny Hewlett, will keep the fire burning," Wayne explained.

Hewlett is the President of the Rising Sun Cricket Club and also as an executive member of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association. He spent several enjoyable years with the Sap Sports Club which went undefeated in his final year with the team.

On the cricket side of things, however, Hewlett said the experience was frustrating as support for the team's management was minimal.

Addressing his move to Rising Sun, Hewlett said, "I decided to move on. At first there was some resistance from the older members in the club who felt I was



Wayne Hewlett

coming to take over, but we have resolved those matters and the club has been growing from strength to strength. There have been some challenges at Rising Sun because we are not community based and it's hard recruiting players,"

He also disclosed that the club has set a goal of starting a cricket academy focusing on players between ages 12 to 15.

Hewlett said the club recently spent \$20,000EC on nets and will be directing additional energy on re-vamping its constitution.

Hewlett is the father of former national Antigua

and Barbuda youth player, Shequan Hewlett, who has represented the region at the Under-15, Under-17 and Under-19 levels.

"I am very proud of my son," the elder Hewlett beamed.

At the end of his conversation with PointeXpress, Wayne offered words of encouragement to young athletes, urging them to remain patient and stay focused.

DEWS