



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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# ROBUST DEBATE ON MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT

*Story on Page 4*



**Woman to face reckless  
driving charges - Page 2**



# Woman to face reckless driving charges

The woman whose vehicle collided with the building that once housed RBTT on lower High Street is expected to be charged by the Traffic Department.

The female driver, whose name has not been disclosed and who was the lone occupant of the minivan was taken to hospital for evaluation following the accident on Thursday morning..

According to reports, after using the parking lot opposite the building that now houses the Land Registry the woman refused to pay the \$2.50 charge.

Instead she decided to flee by breaking through the chain barring the access gate to the parking lot. The driver then lost control of the minivan which careened across High Street, destroying a lamp post, then ran up onto the side-



walk before finally colliding with the glass door of the building.

Luckily no major injuries were reported, however the front of the minivan was damaged extensively.

The attempt to escape from paying \$2.50 has now landed the woman in a situation where she will very likely be found liable for thousands of dollars in damage.

## DAY 8/28

Wind: ENE at 19 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 26 km/h  
 Humidity: 73%  
 Dew Point: 24° C  
 Cloud Cover: 25%  
 Visibility: 10 km  
 Probability of Precipitation: 25%  
 Precipitation: 0.0 mm  
 Rain: 0.0 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm

# 30°<sub>Hi</sub>



Sunny to partly cloudy and nice

## NIGHT 8/28

Wind: ENE at 20 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 30 km/h  
 Humidity: 78%  
 Dew Point: 24° C  
 Cloud Cover: 50%  
 Visibility: 10 km  
 Probability of Precipitation: 25%  
 Precipitation: 0.0 mm  
 Rain: 0.0 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm

# 28°<sub>Lo</sub>



Partly cloudy

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
5:53AM

Sunset AST  
6:23 PM



Duration  
12:30 hr

## MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
3:12 PM

Moonset AST  
2:23 AM



Duration  
11:20 hr

# Antigua and Barbuda writes off LIAT's debts

Antigua and Barbuda took another major step in its efforts to revive LIAT when the Cabinet on Wednesday announced its decision to write off millions of dollars in debt it is owed by the airline.

LIAT owes the government \$8,552,989 in taxes through ticket sales, utility bills, the airport authority and other taxes. Ticket sales taxes amount to more than \$5 million.

The Gaston Browne administration took the decision to forgive the entire debt owed by LIAT in order to ensure that the airline has an easier path to resuming operation as quickly as possible.

The airlines' Administrator, Cleveland Seaforth, submitted an account of the debts to Finance Minister Browne this week which led to the Cabinet decision to forgive the airline's debt to the government.

While St. John's based



government is hoping other shareholder governments will follow suit, Cabinet Spokesman, Melford Nicholas, said there are no guarantees as it is up to the administrator to make these overtures.

"The administrator would, similarly to what we have done in Antigua and Barbuda, make those approaches. Whether or not they get the consent and approval will be up to those governments' consideration. We are hoping that it will be because it would give LIAT a new lease on life to be able to rid itself of some of these

long term liabilities that have been the bugbear of its operations. What we are anticipating is that when the new LIAT takes to the skies, the need for that subsidy, and the old challenge of the airline not able to cover its operating expenses, would be a thing of the past," he remarked.

Nicholas also hinted that the new LIAT will have to have certain guarantees from governments to operate in territories that are not profitable.

"If LIAT is required to fly into a particular territory and it is not feasible to do

so, then load factor guarantees will have to be put in place by the host governments. Without these commitments there can't be any expectation that LIAT will fly. These will be upfront and LIAT will then be able to meet its requirements to host countries as well as its stakeholders," Nicholas stated.

According to the Cabinet Notes, every Caribbean government that LIAT owes is being asked to follow Antigua and Barbuda's lead in order to enable the LIAT to proceed, renewed.

"Although the request by the administrator, appointed by the Court under the amended Companies Act, seeks to be informed by September 25, 2020, the Cabinet has directed the Cabinet Secretary to respond immediately. Other creditors are being asked to take a 50% haircut, including LIAT staff," the Cabinet Notes revealed.

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# Robust debate in Parliament over Merchant Shipping Act

There was fiery debate in the Parliament on Thursday when its members met to discuss a number of bills, including an amendment to the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act.

The mover of the bill, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, noted that the proposed changes were ‘non-controversial’ and required little or no debate, however, Member of Parliament for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, had a different view.

Rising to make his contribution, MP Walker immediately launched a scathing attack on the government accusing it of failing to ‘practicing what it preaches’ as he claimed the government had implemented policies that have proven harmful to tugboat and other sea vessel operators.

“The government is going about attracting more ships to the jurisdiction, but there’s a saying ‘charity begins at home’. If the government is going to do that then it must put in place mechanisms to demonstrate it is serious about carving out a space for local operators,” he demanded.

He made reference to a letter sent by the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services (ADOMS) which identified several local tug operators whose vessels failed the safety tests required by the department.

Walker said while he is not against enforcing safety issues, he feels that a system should be implemented where failing or substandard vessels can be allowed to address the issues affecting their safe operation.

Making it clear that it had not been his intention to speak on the bill, Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin, said it was his duty to reply as he could not remain quiet as Walker deliberately sought to mislead the public.

Benjamin recalled that it was fifty



*MP for Barbuda, Trevor Walker*

years ago this year that the Christina ferry disaster took place in the waters between St. Kitts and Nevis in which two hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives.

“Is this what you want to happen here? Well that’s what ADOMS wants to avoid,” he stated.

Benjamin also accused the Barbuda representative of being dishonest for omitting a key point raised in one of the letters he had submitted to the Speaker of the House.

The letter highlighted a litany of violations to the Antigua and Barbuda Shipping Act which both vessels and their owners were guilty of, all of which ‘may pose a risk to the safety and navigation in Antigua and Barbuda waters’.

According to the letter from ADOMS to the Permanent secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, two of the offending vessels are registered in Togo in Africa making them foreign vessels operating in Antigua and Barbuda coastal trade.

Additionally, they were cited for several violations of local regulations. Both vessels were ordered out of the water because they were structurally unsafe to operate.

Pointing to these deficiencies and the actions taken by ADOMS, Benjamin said the body acted correctly and



*Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin*

protected lives, including those of the vessels’ operators, by enforcing internationally safety measures.

The Attorney General went on to point out other ‘deceitful’ elements of Walker’s presentation including the fact that one vessel sanctioned by ADOMS had last been registered in 2010.

Wrapping up the debate, PM Browne said while Walker’s presentation may have appeared attractive to his supporters, much of his argument was based on inaccuracies.

“The member seems to be promoting himself as champion for illegality because we all know that any form of transportation; land, sea or air, there are regulations governing their operations as well as a licensing requirement and if a vessel has not been registered since 2010 then clearly it is not licensed,” Browne remarked.

The prime minister continued that the actions taken by ADOMS are meant to protect aggregates and goods as well as the lives of those traveling between Antigua and Barbuda.

Browne expressed further surprise at Walker’s conduct as the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act had originally been passed by the United Progressive Party administration under which Walker held the portfolio of Minister of Port and Maritime Affairs.



## PM Browne provides 'Continuous learning motivational award'

Ten young constituents of St. John's City West are the recipients of 'Continuing and Professional Education Program (CPE)' scholarships awarded by the area's parliamentary representative, Prime Minister, Gaston Browne.

The scholarships will allow the awardees to pursue an accredited University of the West Indies Open Campus Antigua and Barbuda (UWI) 10-week course in various fields.

The UWI courses are set to commence on September 14th and will conclude on November 19th, with live instructions via the institution's online learning platform.

Prime Minister Browne motivated the young recipients of the scholarships in a presentation on the importance of continuing education for personal development.

"The best way to lift yourself out of poverty is through education. It has worked for me and I am absolutely sure it would work for you," Prime Minister Browne told those gathered at his office on the Queen Elizabeth Highway.

The scholarship recipients will be



able to choose a course from disciplines including Human Resource Management, Facilities Management, Effective Management and Leadership and Project management.

Sanka Riley, who was among those selected for a scholarship, said, "I am most grateful for this opportunity to further my education. Knowledge and education are the tools that I understand I need to navigate life. Thanks for giving me an opportunity, a choice. This will help me to explore more options and help with my development."

Prime Minister Browne indicated that attaining higher education gives an edge in a competitive world.

"The reality is many people are using the opportunity to educate themselves at a tertiary level, to have not only first degrees but to have post-graduate degrees to include Ph.D. The world is becoming more and more competitive. So, in order to remain competitive, I am seeking to entrench a culture of continuous learning within our community because I want St. John's City West to be the most successful, the



most competitive. Not only among your peers here in Antigua but among the region," Browne said.

As the Prime Minister passed over the 'Continuous Learning Motivational Award' to his constituents, he said, "I want to commend you for availing yourselves this opportunity and to capitalize on this Continuous Learning Motivational award. Apply yourself and complete the task ahead."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Browne's annual educational summer camp and after school programme was cancelled this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting health and safety protocols. The camp is aimed at providing a safe, fun and educational atmosphere for children within his constituency.



# Nigel Christian laid to rest

Hundreds of people turned out on Thursday to pay final respects to slain customs officer, Nigel Christian.

In a service held at the St. John's Cathedral, scores of people sat inside the sanctuary, even with social distancing being practiced, while others remained outside.

Among those paying their respects were Christian's former colleagues from the Customs

Department who marched in procession ahead of the hearse as it made its way from the funeral home to the church.

Christian was murdered on July 10. Police are now investigating the homicide.

After being forcibly taken from his home late in the afternoon, Christian was found shot to death on a roadside near New Winthorpes.



## Driver fined and jailed for speeding

The 22-year-old man who was involved in a high speed chase through the streets of St. John's last weekend was

jailed and fined when he appeared in Traffic Court this week.

Inigo Best of Cedar Valley

was sentenced to fourteen days in prison by Magistrate Dexter Wason for driving without a license and other

traffic violations. Best was also fined \$2,500 for driving without insurance.

The sentences are to run concurrently, which means he will spend seven days in jail.

Best was the driver of a Toyota Vitz motor car that was being pursued by the police along Nevis Street as a result of a traffic violation that was committed. Instead of stopping, Best sped away from the police.

The chase continued along Independence Drive and finally came to an end on Bishopgate Street when the Vitz slammed into a concrete wall.

The occupants of the vehicle exited and fled the scene on foot, but were later caught.

A number of vehicles were damaged by the Vitz during the chase.

The second occupant, who is believed to have rented the Vitz for Best, was fined \$1,000 and had his drivers license suspended for three months.

## Gov't puts aside funds to purchase COVID-19 vaccine

Government is setting aside more than US\$2 million dollars for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines when they become available, which may be before January 1, 2021.

A government statement said a procurement system, to be put in place by a regional health organization, is likely to require payment for the new vaccine in advance.

"Antigua and Barbuda is readying itself to provide the new drug to its population when it becomes available. The Cabinet reminds everyone that our good health as a nation has been dependent upon early childhood vaccination against a number of diseases that caused high infant mortality," the statement noted.

Meanwhile, the government is urging businesses which have been operating on a reduced schedule since the onset of the

coronavirus pandemic, to return to normal business operations.

The government said it is concerned that prolonged reduction in business schedules have had 'an unwanted impact on the economic well-being of the state'. The government is therefore encouraging these enterprises to return to a full schedule of services, effective September 1, 2020.

The announcement also relates to public servants who have been advised to return to a full work schedule immediately, canceling any previous authorizations and decisions by Permanent Secretaries to limit the hours of public servants.

According to the government, as schools return to a full schedule on September 7, 2020, all government employees are required to return to work with immediate effect.



## PLH to finance airport completion in Barbuda

The Peace, Love and Harmony (PLH) developers will finance the completion of the airport project in Barbuda under a new arrangement hammered out with the Cabinet.

Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, said US\$8 million was required to complete the project, including the runway which will accommodate small jets.

According to Nicholas it is the government's responsibility to complete the runway however, under an arrangement with the developers, PLH has agreed to advance the funds needed to complete the entire project.

Once the airport has opened, the loan will be repaid from revenue generated through landing and other fees.

"PLH is dependent on the runway and terminal being completed within a specific timeframe, so the government has been able to get the developers to advance certain funds in the form of a loan which the government will repay based on revenues due to it. It is therefore a win-win situation," Nicholas indicated.

The estimated cost to complete the



Information Minister, Melford Nicholas airport was submitted by the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA), which will manage the project on completion.

Nicholas also stated that there are no concerns regarding the geological stability of the area being used for the runway, an issue raised earlier by the Barbuda Council.

"All the engineering studies have indicated that where there were depressions or cavities within the area used for the runway, they have all been

treated from an engineering standpoint," Nicholas explained.

Load testing and other similar assessments were completed over a year ago to the satisfaction of the government, the developers and all concerned, according to Nicholas.

PLH clients are expected to begin arriving in Antigua in the months ahead, landing first at the V.C. Bird International Airport and then transferring to smaller aircraft that will take them to the bio-secure PLH project.

"It was agreed that an executive lounge will be prepared at the old V.C. Bird International terminal to receive those clients, who will transfer to Barbuda. There was an intense discussion around which space could better be utilized," a government spokesman stated.

Discussions at the level of the Cabinet with PLH and ABAA centered on the issue of the cost of marl which will be mined to build the roads in the project. An undisclosed amount, which will be shared between the Barbuda Council and the Central Government, has been agreed.

## New leadership is coming to the National Sailing Academy

After ten years at the helm of the National Sailing Academy its founder, Elizabeth Jordan, is stepping back from some of her duties.

Jordan has been President and General Manager of the non-profit organization

since its inception.

The NSA started its life at Antigua Yacht Club. After its first three years of operation, its growth was such that it needed new premises and so moved to Dockyard Drive, where it remains today.

Jordan said after having managed the set-up, growth and development of the academy, along with her watersports team and fellow directors, she is stepping back from her position as General Manager but will remain President of the or-

ganisation.

New general manager Alison Sly-Adams, owner of Mainstay Caribbean Ltd., has been appointed by the board. Sly-Adams, who is President of Antigua Sailing Week (ASW), will take over

*cont'd on pg 8*

# JCI Antigua, Massy join to provide \$7,000 in food vouchers

JCI Antigua has partnered with Massy United Insurance in providing thirty-five food vouchers worth \$200 each for persons in need during these unprecedented times.

The thirty-five recipients of the food vouchers were nominated based on their needs and vulnerability due to the economic fallout from COVID-19.

Massy United decided to partner with JCI Antigua because of the youth-based organization's mandate of being good, active citizens. Massy United, understanding the current economic climate and their role as good corporate citizens noted how important it is to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Due to JCI Antigua's work within communities across Antigua and Barbuda, they were able to identify and nominate the recipients of



*Kalilah Christopher and JCI Antigua President, Andrea Smithen, making a presentation to one of the recipients of the joint food voucher initiative.*

the food vouchers which are redeemable at Anjo wholesale.

In a ceremony, Office Manager for Massy United, Harry Hobson, presented the vouchers to the President of JCI Antigua, Andrea Smithen.

Hobson said, "On behalf of Massy United through

local agent, Anjo Insurance, we are indeed happy to work along with JCI Antigua in this goodwill gesture. Massy United reached out to Anjo Insurances to offer some relief during this challenging time."

Hobson expressed how impressed he was with the work JCI Antigua has done

and continues to do and encouraged the organization to keep up their important work.

JCI Antigua's President Smithen, commented on the timely nature of the joint venture as the organisation's Week of Activities Committee had been considering its next outreach initiative.

Smithen said, "JCI Antigua and the Week of Activities Committee is most elated that Massy United through their local agents, Anjo Insurance, could partner with JCI Antigua in this timely initiative that would assist those who are in need. This sustenance will go a long way."

Marketing Representative for Anjo Insurances, Kalilah Christopher, local agent for Massy United, also participated in the ceremony.

**cont'd on pg 8**

the role from October 1st, 2020.

Of the change Jordan says, "It is time to consider the next ten years of the academy. I have worked with Alison over a number of years in her role at ASW among others, and the 'Youth to Keel' programme at ASW further developed the synergies between ASW and the Academy.

"I am delighted that Alison will take over management of the academy. Her business skills and enthusiasm will be vital to the academy's future and further development of its potential."

As part of the changes, the NSA will become the new office base of Antigua Sail-

ing Week.

A separate office will have responsibility for the management of the NSA, the Secretariat of the Antigua and Barbuda Marine Association and the Caribbean Sailing Association, thus bringing key sailing and marine organisations together under one roof.

The National Sailing Academy's objective is to provide sailing for school children in Antigua free of charge as part of the National Curriculum.

To this end the NSA has a full complement of instructors who are all Antiguan, born and trained, led by Sylvester Thomas who manages the watersports operation.



# LIAT pilots file legal challenge against Companies Act, 2020

A notice has been filed with the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal by a senior LIAT pilot that intends to challenge the Antigua and Barbuda Companies Amendment Act, 2020, which has blocked a lawsuit against the beleaguered airline.

Captain Neil Cave, acting on behalf of nine pilots, filed the notice of an application for leave to appeal the August 11, 2020 decision of a High Court judge, who ruled the Antigua and Barbuda Companies Amendment Act 2020, prevents any form of legal action from being taken against LIAT.

The dissatisfied pilots are appealing on several grounds, including that the judge misdirected herself and committed an error of law in concluding that the combined effect of the automatic stay granted to LIAT on July 20, 2020 and the provision of section 564 (1) (a) of the Companies (Amendment) Act prevents the High Court trial from going ahead.

They also contend that the judge again misdirected herself and committed an error of law in determining that the claimants fall under

the ambit of “creditors” for the purpose of the same Act.

The pilots also hold that the judge’s decision to stop the trial has caused severe prejudice to the applicants and intended appellants considering the matter to be determined involves significant sums of money for the pilots and has been in the court system for more than five years. They are suing LIAT for deducting more than EC\$5 million from their salaries without their authorisation and illegally

lodging it in CLICO International Life as pension.

Captain Cave said the placement of these funds into CLICO under the guise of a pension where a trust deed or plan rules have never existed, constitutes a criminal offence under Section C 34 of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Code.

The senior pilot noted that aviation carries with it certain inherent risks and unforeseen circumstances that arise from time to time. He expressed fears about the

implications of this action considering that LIAT operates through multiple territories including Barbados.

Cave expressed extreme concern as someone who has respect for the rule of law, that citizens of these countries have no legal recourse as a result of the new Antigua legislation.

He indicated that his legal representative has advised the interpretation of the Act raises serious legal questions, including potential constitutional issues.

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



**Once your Motor Vehicle is not running, you should take your Licence Plate in for safekeeping until your vehicle is road worthy**

**What should I do if my Motor Vehicle is not running?**

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

# Spencer refuses knighthood

Just hours after it was revealed that former Prime Minister, Baldwin Spencer, was to receive a knighthood during the 2020 Independence celebrations, reports surfaced that the veteran politician declined the offer.

Spencer, a trade unionist who served as Member of Parliament for St. John's Rural West, Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and Prime Minister for two terms, retired from active politics in 2018 after almost 30 years of service.

Cabinet notes issued this week indicated that the Chairman of Cabinet, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, had commenced discussions within the Cabinet to award the erstwhile representative a knighthood on November 1, 2020, but Mr. Spencer declined the honour.

According to reports, Spencer said Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin, engaged him on the matter and he requested time to think about it. He has since decided that although the honour might very well have been earned, for personal reasons, he cannot accept it.

Reports suggest that former Prime Minister Spencer will write his successor, Prime Minister Browne to formally decline the national honour.

This is not the first time former Prime Minister Spencer has declined an offer to honour him.

In 2019, following the ABLP government's insistence that the sporting facility at Knuckle Block in Grays Farm bear his name, Baldwin Spencer turned it down stating that there were others more deserving of having the building named in their honour.



Former Prime Minister, Baldwin Spencer

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All interested applicants for the Spa Therapist / Attendant should submit their applications via email to [rm@hammockcoveantigua.com](mailto:rm@hammockcoveantigua.com) and [operations@hammockcoveantigua.com](mailto:operations@hammockcoveantigua.com) by September 4th, 2020.

### NOTICE

TO: HER WORSHIP  
The Licensing Magistrate  
Magistrate's Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. John's  
Antigua


TO: HER WORSHIP  
Magistrate for District "A"  
Magistrate's Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. John's  
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. John's  
Antigua

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS THIRTY SIX 5 BEACH BAR

I, **Keyon Hamilton**, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Thirty Six 5 Beach Bar" situated Fort James, in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

  
Keyon Hamilton  
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779-6156 KH





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# Rotary Club of St. Andrew names Sir Hilary Beckles a Paul Harris Fellow

Regional Headquarters, Jamaica — Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, has been named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation, through the Rotary Club of St. Andrew, in recognition of his “extensive work as a thought leader in the field of social justice and minority empowerment.”

Named after the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer who started Rotary International with three business associates

in 1905, the presentation of the Paul Harris Fellow recognition is the Rotary Foundation’s way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to its humanitarian and educational programmes.

Marie Powell, Assistant Governor, Rotary, Jamaica Southeast said “Rotarians often designate a Paul Harris Fellow as a tribute to a person whose life demonstrates a shared purpose with the objective of the Rotary Foundation.”

Sir Hilary said that he had long identified with the



tenets of the Rotary movement and was “honoured to be named a Paul Harris Fellow.”

He praised Mr. Harris as “an extraordinary leader whose vision has resulted in the creation of fellowship across a global network of change makers who are investing personal time, money and expertise into priorities like eradicating disease, promoting peace, reducing poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and promoting sustainable development.”

Sir Hilary is highly regarded as an economic historian, educator and social activist. Under his leadership, The UWI has achieved three top spots in rankings by Times Higher Education (THE), the globally recognized and world’s most prestigious ranking agency for higher education.

Currently, The UWI is placed among the top 1%

of universities in the Latin America and Caribbean region; top 1% of Golden Agers (universities between 50-80 years of age) and stands as the only Caribbean university to be ranked by THE.

As Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Reparations Commission, Sir Hilary is leading the region’s call for reparatory justice for the 300 years of slavery in the Caribbean, actively pursuing compensation for the native genocide and African enslavement from the former colonizing nations of Europe.

Sir Hilary joins a list of distinguished Paul Harris Fellows including former US President Jimmy Carter, former Russian President Boris Yeltsin, US Astronaut James Vogel, former United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk.

## LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7

### Rule 15

#### THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

#### IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

#### ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

#### (Probate)

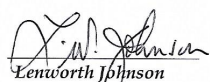
In the Estate of Luca Pozzoni late of Falmouth, English Harbour, Saint Paul, Antigua, Deceased

#### ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT SECOND PUBLICATION

**TAKE NOTICE** that an application has been filed by **Angelo Caputo** of Falmouth, English Harbour, Saint Paul, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawfully appointed attorney of Giulio Pozzoni and Gaetana Maria Basile, the father and mother respectively, of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on or around the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020



Lenworth Johnson  
Attorney-at-Law for the Applicant

Filed by JOHNSON GARDINER Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is 51A St. Mary's Street, St. John's, Antigua, email is lenworthjohnson@johnsongardiner.com and telephone numbers are 562-1378/562-6324.



## UWI Global Giving thanks CCRIF SPC for contributing over US\$100,000 in scholarships

The UWI Regional Headquarters Jamaica. Thursday, August 27, 2020. CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) has committed over US\$100,000 to The University of the West Indies (The UWI), towards student scholarships for the upcoming academic year.

CCRIF will provide eight undergraduate scholarships and six postgraduate scholarships, totalling US\$98,000.

An additional US\$11,000 will go towards scholarships for students enrolling in the CCRIF UWI course, Fundamentals of Disaster Risk Financing for Advancing Sustainable Development in SIDS at The UWI Open Campus.

Commenting on the scholarship initiative, CCRIF CEO, Mr. Isaac Anthony, himself a UWI alumnus stated, "Since 2010, CCRIF has been pledging support to The UWI for scholarships, recognising the need to increase the cadre of professionals working in disaster risk management and environmental sustainability as a means of advancing the development prospects of the region.

The scholarship pro-



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
WEST INDIES

gramme has been able to provide much needed financial resources to students for fees and accommodation, helping to alleviate financial burdens. We are extremely happy to be associated with UWI Global Giving as this initiative is proactive and dynamic, supporting tertiary level education through partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms. We are especially pleased this year to provide support to 14 students as we all continue to grapple with the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 which have been severe and swift."

CCRIF is a longstanding provider of scholarships and internships, par-

ticularly for UWI students through its Technical Assistance Programme. The programme focuses on education in areas such as disaster risk management, environmental and/or natural resources management, climate studies, meteorology, geography and civil engineering among others.

Since the CCRIF scholarship programmes were launched in 2010, the company has awarded 77 scholarships to Caribbean nationals totalling US\$1.13 million. Its internship programme launched in 2015, gives young university graduates the opportunity to gain meaningful experience in areas of climate change adaptation, disaster risk

management, meteorology, among others. Since then, the company has awarded internships to 103 Caribbean nationals with an investment of US\$320,000. Many of these interns are placed regionally in various departments across The UWI.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CCRIF has had to delay the start of its 2020 internship programme. Notwithstanding, the company partnered with The UWI Open Campus to deliver a free four-day course in disaster risk financing and parametric insurance for university students and recent graduates who would have normally applied for the internship programme.

The course accommodated 80 participants over four weeks. CCRIF also delivered a five-day, train-the-trainer workshop for UWI lecturers who will deliver the course Fundamentals of Disaster Risk Financing for Advancing Sustainable Development in SIDS at

The UWI Open Campus which launches in September 2020. These and other initiatives are part of a wider CCRIF-UWI MOU and funded work plan; the third such MOU was signed in February this year.

## BOOBY ALLEY AND ITS ENVIRONS:

By **H.D  
Anderson O'Marde**

There was a time when yellow fever was running rampant throughout the island of Antigua, almost annihilating the entire military settlement at Fort Shirley Heights, near the Nelson's Dockyard. Hundreds of soldiers died at the military settlement and things became so ominous and dreadful that the sailors and soldiers had to be buried in the sand on the beaches and the soft areas surrounding them. It became obvious that a cemetery was necessary.

The space that was eventually chosen to become the graveyard was a location in the lower Point Area, in the city of St. Johns. The demarcation was Wilkinson Cross Street on the eastern side; Mariner's Lane on the western side; Dickenson Bay Street on the northern side; and North Street on the southern side.

That area holds special historical values for the people of this nation and should be revered for what it means to our society.

It was in that cemetery that King Court and his conspirators used to meet and plot to overthrow the white planocracy, which had them enslaved. It was there that they drank the 'Damnation Oath' of "Death to the white Man". For their efforts, those revo-

lutionary forefathers were all executed. However, it seems as though their spirits still exist in that area and their determination is as vibrant today as it was then.

It was eventually determined that that low-lying, swampy area was not the ideal choice for a cemetery as there were incidents of coffins floating in flood waters when there was heavy rainfall. Subsequently, the cemetery was relocated to number ten cane field plot at the Gambles Estate. The original cemetery gave birth to dwelling houses that accommodated the poorer and more down-trodden within our society. Black descendants of slaves were allowed to settle in the unwanted, swampy and unhealthy area. It was prevalent with mosquito-borne diseases. Today, it remains densely populated, with inter-connecting alleys, in a maze-like fashion, running through its length and breadth. The area became known as 'Booby Alley'.

Despite the poverty stricken families that resided in that area, and the deprivation that they suffered, there emerged a people who have made considerable contributions to our nation, especially in the spheres of politics and culture. They have always exhibited their African heritage; portrayed their African culture, and have been instrumental in shaping our history



and determining the direction of our nation.

The 1918 riot was conceived and took form from this area. The attack was divided into two separate sections; one moving up St. George's Street while the other went up North Street and proceeded upward along Newgate Street. The intention was to challenge the colonial authorities at 'Ram's Kiddy Corner'. That riot was short lived as many of the rioters were shot down and arrested. This rejected area had produced the spark and ignition for black revolution and had provided fearless energy for

the people of this nation.

Out of this area, came the backbone of The Antigua Trades and Labour Union. It was from this union that the Antigua Worker's Union was born. Both of these unions have contributed considerably to the working class of this nation. It is from these two trade unions that separate political parties were formed, and subsequently, have been instrumental in shaping all of our governments.

The invaluable contributions made to our culture and our cultural products, occasioned by residents of this area, can never be denied.



# Commentary

**PAGE 15**

This was the area where the 'Monkey Band' started. This was where the suppressed cultural traits of our African forefathers persevered and burgeoned into some of our nation's pillars of our culture. It was in Booby Alley that the African drums and the dancing of the 'Mo-ko Jumby' raised their heads and defied the suppression that was being forced on our forefathers. This was the area that produced the 'House Coat Bands' which entertained the masses during the Christmas seasons. That area has always been replete with people blessed with creative and innovative talents. Located on Mariner's Lane was Townsend's blacksmith shop. In Mr. Townsend's yard there was an abundance of scrap iron, along with bits and pieces of metal. The men from the area resorted to making use of those pieces of scrap iron and, combined with their strong African heritage where rhythm is a part of us, they formed our first iron band. This was called Hell's Gate Iron Band, as the "raucous

din" was viewed as akin to the sound that could only be expected to emanate from the gates of hell. Of course, as was to be expected, the iron band was not permitted to play in certain areas. A 'No Play Zone' was created so that the ghetto youths from Booby Alley had to keep away from the isolated upper middle-class blacks and the whites on the island. From the corner of Newgate and Thames Streets, up to Market Street, down to the bridge at the corner of South Street, was the region designated as the 'No Play Zone'. Eventually, the iron band persevered and evolved into the 'Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra'.

Having heard reports of the steel band in Trinidad, the youngsters from that area began a quest towards creating their own. After experimenting with pan building for some time, Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra emerged, becoming the first steel band in the country. Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra has made us all proud as the band has gone on to accomplish feats far above any-

one's expectation. Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra has defied all odds and has established itself as a true and valuable component of our cultural identity. The band has been recognized as the product of consummate innovators by being the first in many aspects relating to steel band, both here and the international community. The abundance of talented and skilled pan players within the Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra was sufficient to withstand fragmentations, which saw some of its members moving away and forming two separate steel bands; the 'Harmonite's Steel Orchestra' and the 'Super Stars Steel Orchestra'. Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra's tenacity is so fierce that they still exist and are the current national steel band champions.

From the bowels of that swampy area, there has ensued, a people who have proven that they deserve better recognition for the significant contributions made by them and their fore-parents. Boasting a history brimming with positive achievements,

the residents of Booby Alley must be complimented. They must also be assisted with raising their standard of living, starting with better housing. Fortunately, a person blessed with compassion, has stepped up to the plate. Our Prime Minister, the Parliamentary Representative for that neighbourhood, has committed to improving the squalid and cramped conditions under which they still exist. In addition, we can only hope that the astronomical contributions which have been made by the earlier residents of that area will not be swept into the dust-bin of history. As part of the beautification process, a plaque commemorating some of the residents who have made positive influences to the inscrutability and mystique of Booby Alley, should find a place in a position of prominent and permanent display. There must be a determined pledge to preserve the history, the efforts and the contributions made to this nation by the people of Booby Alley and its environs.


 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTE X PRESS

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# Grenada Police body cameras will be piloted for 6 months



*Acting Commissioner of Police, Edvin Martin*

Officers attached to the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) are among the first 3 units that will be piloting the wearing of body cameras when the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) rolls out that initiative at the end of September.

Edvin Martin, Acting Commissioner of Police, made the announcement during a news conference on Wednesday, 26 August 2020. Besides the RRU, the roll-out will also involve the Drugs Squad and the Traffic Department. The

body-worn cameras will be piloted for an assessment period of 6 months.

“The effectiveness of this initiative will be monitored on an ongoing basis and a review will take place after 6 months of implementation

when a determination will be made on implementing this initiative across all departments of the police force,” Martin announced. “It is our hope, among other benefits of this initiative, that it will contribute to mitigating adversarial interactions between police officers and members of the public. It will significantly enhance our capacity to gather and capture evidence at the scenes of crimes and it will also provide a platform for investigative review if this becomes necessary.” Urging police officers to “embrace this initiative,” Martin also asked the public for support. “It is no doubt that in many jurisdictions across the world that have implemented the use of body cams, they have been effective both in holding police officers accountable as well as controlling interactions between police and members of the public.”

Martin spoke at the virtual news conference in which he provided the statistics on criminal activities for the first 6 months of 2020. Martin said that during that period Grenada had a contraction in most crimes except for murder, which by June had 10. Presently the count is 13. It must be noted that Grenada has been functioning under a State of Emergency since late March. During the period March to June, there was restriction of movement of citizens.



## BVI: Choose! Get salary increments now or keep your jobs, gov't workers told



*Premier, Andrew Fahie*

Premier and Minister of Finance, Andrew Fahie said COVID-19 has impacted government's coffers to the extent that public officers would now have to choose between getting their salary increments or keeping their jobs. He gave that indication Tuesday night while responding to questions about the outstanding increments owed to government employees. The Finance Minister said: "We have to decide if we are going to give you increments right now — which we already started when we entered office — and that was years before they had any

increments period. But, here comes COVID-19. This is harsh but I have to ask you: would you prefer a little increment and no job? Or to hold the increment and have your job and then when we get better, then you get the increments?" "That is the question that I am asking public officers because that's where we are right now," the Premier stated. "So if persons want to bombard the Minister for Finance and say 'we want our increments', I can give you the increments tomorrow. But, rest assured that once everybody gets their increments, I have to decide

now — based on what's coming in and what we just did with the increments — what we are going to do and who's gone in terms of employment and that's the reality of it." Back in January, Deputy Governor David Archer, Jr said government employees who are still owed their salary increments would be paid no later than by February 28. He said 2,892 or 90 percent of public officers received their 2016 increment and the balance of 250 officers are those who had status changes, promotions, or were awaiting new job letters. In October 2019, Fahie promised that

all remaining public officers would have received their increments by the end of November 2019.

He said he had been advised by the Director of Human Resources that on June 24 last year, the Department of Human Resources provided notice and instructions for the processing of the increments for the 2016 work year. The Human Resources Department had released the notification for the outstanding payments to be processed a few days after Cabinet approved the payments of the 2016 and 2017

# ILO: Sustainable Solutions Urgently Needed to Address Collapse of Caribbean Tourism Employment

Almost half a million Caribbean tourism workers face the prospect of decent work deficits in the form of job losses, reductions in working hours, and loss of incomes, while the worsening of working conditions and the move to informal employment appear as a concrete possibility.

A new International Labour Organization (ILO) publication describes this significant and far-reaching reduction in the Caribbean tourism industry workforce due to COVID-19.

It also advises that recovery from the adverse impact on sector jobs could be prolonged by a reversal in economic growth, and calls for a human-centered approach to resilient and sustainable solutions.

Titled *Tourism sector in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean: An overview and the impact of COVID-19 on growth and employment*, the report includes ILO guidance and data, as well as research conducted around the region to demonstrate the severity of the crisis on the sector's labour market.

On average, the tourism industry directly contributes up to about 33 per cent of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and over 52 per cent of export receipts. With approximately 30 million annual entries per year (the majority of which are cruise passengers, or from the USA), the industry provides direct employment to 413,000 workers in the Caribbean.



This figure represents, on average, 18.1 per cent of total employment. If indirect and induced employment is considered, such figures could rise to 43.1 per cent.

“While Caribbean labour force data is not yet available to determine exactly how tourism workers have been affected by the crisis thus far, studies conducted by regional organisations and preliminary national administrative data, however, have begun to paint a picture of what is happening,” explains Lars Johansen, Director (a.i.), ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean.

For example, reduced sample surveys indicate that 71 per cent of hotels had laid off staff by April 2020 to address the revenue shortfall caused by the

crisis; some 66 per cent had also reduced the work-week or hours worked; and 53 per cent had cut salaries. National-level data from Jamaica indicates that during the (relative) peak of the crisis, layoffs reached approximately 75 per cent of the total tourism workforce with the remaining 25 per cent working only two or three days a week at a reduced rate of compensation. In Belize, 30 per cent of the total beneficiaries of stimulus relief belonged to the tourism sector. These affected workers include tour guides, wait staff, kitchen staff, those in guest/customer services, housekeeping, and maintenance and upkeep.

Workers who are directly employed by businesses that rely on cruise tourism are likely to be most affected because of the

delayed reopening of that part of the sector.

Tourism is traditionally a labour-intensive industry with a higher than average multiplier effect on employment in other sectors (for example, agriculture, food processing, construction, transport, as reflected by indirect employment figures). The industry tends to benefit vulnerable categories of workers experiencing disadvantage in the labour market such as youth, women and migrants and, more generally, is capable of absorbing workers with limited skill levels.

A rise in informal employment among workers in the tourism sector who have been affected by the crisis is also a concern and may lead to exclusion from work-related social protection measures.



## St. Lucia Police morale low following murder charge of one of their own



*PWA President Travis Chicot*

The Police Welfare Association (PWA) has expressed concern as it relates to the morale of officers of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF).

The cause for concern by the PWA is being expressed following the murder charge brought against a member of the RSLPF last week.

Mitchell Vitalis was charged with murder on August 19, 2020, for the 2018 shooting death of 22-year-old Ronnie Samuel.

Samuel opened fire at a mass crowd event in Gros Islet on Au-

gust 1, 2018, injuring two people before he was shot by police.

When asked if the morale of officers was low at the moment as a result on this development, PWA President Travis Chicot declared, "Of course!"

"That is what it is. When we have those issues, persons are friends, we are a small organization, friends become brothers, brothers become family... that's what we have. It will take a lot to get back to our good days and I am sure another situation like that would destroy us and it is

just a really trying time for us as an association, as a membership and I just call for quick dispensation of justice in such a matter," Chicot said.

According to the PWA President, officers should not lose faith in the justice system.

"We have a few officers who are on suspension, currently we have another officer currently in suspension for a similar offence and its been twelve years.

The Welfare Association sometimes understands the challenges of the judicial system

and we call on our members at this point in time that we should never lose hope on the judicial system and we must at all times have confidence in the state.

We urge our members to remain professional, we know we are operating in trying times and we urge our members in providing professional service," said Chicot.

Police officers stood outside police headquarters in solidarity with officer Vitalis on August 19, 2020.

## Trump, in convention speech, to decry Biden, radical forces

With crises brewing beyond the White House gates, President Donald Trump planned to stand on the South Lawn Thursday night to accept his party's nomination for president, presenting himself as the last barrier protecting an American way of life under siege from radical forces.

Facing a fraught national moment, Trump was to paint an optimistic vision of America's future, including an eventual triumph over the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 175,000 people, left millions unemployed and rewritten the rules of society. But that brighter horizon could only be secured, Trump was to assert, if he defeated Joe Biden, against whom he was set to unleash blistering attacks meant to erase the Democrat's stubborn lead in the polls.

"We have spent the last four years reversing the damage Joe Biden inflicted over the last 47 years, Trump was to say according to speech excerpts confirmed by his campaign. "At no time before have voters faced a clearer choice between two parties, two visions, two philosophies or two agendas." The Democratic agenda, he said, "is the most extreme set of proposals ever put forward by a major party nominee."

As his speech brings the scaled-back Republican National Convention to a close, Trump risks inflaming a divided nation reeling from a series of calamities, including the pandemic, a major hurricane that slammed into the Gulf Coast and nights of racial unrest and violence after Jacob Blake, a Black man,

was shot by a white Wisconsin police officer. An incumbent still trying to run as an insurgent, Trump's political playbook rarely includes calls for unity, even in a time of national uncertainty. He has repeatedly, if not always effectively, tried to portray Biden — who is considered a moderate Democrat — as a tool of the radical left, fringe forces he has claimed don't love their country.

"The Republican Party goes forward united, determined, and ready to welcome millions of Democrats, independents, and anyone who believes in the greatness of America and the righteous heart of the American people," Trump was to say in excerpts first published by Politico. "This towering American spirit has prevailed over every challenge and lifted us to the summit of human endeavor."

The Republicans claim that the violence that has erupted in Kenosha and some other American cities is to be blamed on Democratic governors and mayors. Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday said that Americans wouldn't be safe in "Joe Biden's America."

That drew a stern rebuke from his predecessor in the post.

"The problem we have right now is that we are in Donald Trump's America," said Biden on MSNBC. "He views this as a political benefit to him, he is rooting for more violence not less. He is pouring gasoline on the fire."

Both parties are watching with uncertainty the developments in Wisconsin and cities across the



*President Donald Trump checks the stage before his speech from the South Lawn of the White House on the fourth day of the Republican National Convention, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020, in Washington.*

nation with Republicans leaning hard on support for law and order — with no words offered for Black victims of police violence — while falsely claiming that Biden had not condemned the lawlessness.

Along with Biden, running mate Kamala Harris offered counter-programming for Trump's prime-time speech. She delivered a speech a half mile from the White House, declaring, "Donald Trump doesn't understand the presidency."

"He thinks it's all about him," she said, adding that "It's about all of us... Donald Trump has failed at the most basic and important job of a president of the United States: He failed to protect the American people, plain and simple."

Demonstrations were expected Thursday night in Washington, ahead of a march planned for the next day. New fencing set up along the White House

perimeter was expected to keep the protesters at bay, but their shouts were likely to be heard on the South Lawn — and potentially by the millions watching at home.

If those chants, coming from masked faces, can be heard on the White House grounds, where more than 1,000 people are expected, it could also intrude on another illusion that the Republicans have spent a week trying to create: that the pandemic is largely a thing of the past.

Protective masks were not required, and COVID-19 tests were not to be administered to everyone. This follows the scene at Pence's speech the night before in Baltimore, where the vice president was seen offering fist bumps and handshakes to some in the crowd, not all of whom were tested.

But Trump, who has defended his handling of the pandemic, was to tout an expansion of rapid



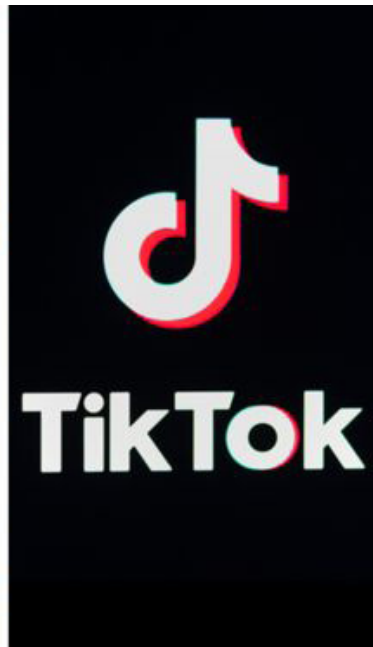
coronavirus testing. The White House announced Thursday that it had struck a \$750 million deal to acquire 150 million tests from Abbott Laboratories to be deployed in nursing homes, schools and other areas with populations at high risk.

Four years ago, Trump declared in his acceptance speech that "I alone can fix" the nation's woes, but he has found himself asking voters for another term at the nadir of his presidency, amid a devastating pandemic, crushing unemployment and real uncertainties about schools and businesses reopening. Another one million Americans filed for unemployment benefits last week, in numbers released Thursday. And the U.S. economy shrank at an alarming annual rate of 31.7% during the April-June quarter as it struggled under the weight of the viral pandemic. It was sharpest quarterly drop on record. But Trump will take the massive stage built on the South Lawn — over bipartisan complaints that he is using the White House for an overtly political moment — convinced that he's on the verge of righting the ship of his battered campaign. Most polls show him trailing Biden in both battleground states and national polling.

Trump told reporters after receiving a briefing at FEMA headquarters on Thursday afternoon that he had considered postponing his acceptance speech until next week because of the hurricane.

"But now it turned out, we got a little bit lucky. It was very big, it was very powerful, but it passed quickly," said Trump, who added he'd likely visit areas impacted by the storm over the weekend.

## Walmart joins Microsoft in bid for TikTok's US operations



The US retail giant Walmart has said it will team up with Microsoft to make a bid for the US operations of TikTok.

Walmart told the BBC it thought a deal with the Chinese video-sharing app would help it expand its operations.

TikTok has been given 90 days to sell its US arm to an American firm or face a ban in the country. Donald Trump has alleged it shares its user data with Beijing - claims it denies.

Earlier on Thursday the firm's boss resigned ahead of the impending ban.

Confirming that the company was pursuing a deal, a Walmart spokesperson told the BBC: "We are confident that a Walmart and Microsoft partnership would meet both the expectations of US TikTok users while satisfying the concerns of US government regulators." Mi-

crosoft, which confirmed at the beginning of August that it was in talks with TikTok, told the BBC it had "nothing to share at this time".

With Walmart, which owns UK supermarket chain Asda, it will now go up against other prospective bidders, including the US tech giant Oracle.

According to reports, TikTok's US operations could fetch as much as \$30bn (£22bn) if a deal is reached. Since its global launch at the end of 2018 TikTok has attracted a huge following, especially amongst the under-25s.

The app lets its followers create short videos, with the help of an extensive database of songs and wide range of filters.

However, the Trump administration has accused its owner, the Chinese internet firm ByteDance, of being a threat to US national

security. It says the data the company collects from its 800 million users - 100 million of whom are reported to be in the US - is at risk of exploitation by the Chinese government.

India's government has also banned TikTok, along with dozens more Chinese-made apps, claiming they "surreptitiously" transmit users' data.

Beijing has denied such claims, calling the US ban politically motivated.

The founder of ByteDance, Zhang Yiming, has faced criticism for his decision to sell to a US company. But in a letter to his Chinese staff he said it was the only way to prevent the app from being taken down in America. It's not the only Chinese-owned app to attract the suspicion of the US authorities - the messaging app WeChat also faces a ban.

## Hurricane Laura's winds batter Louisiana, killing four

At least four people have been killed by falling trees as Hurricane Laura battered the US state of Louisiana.

Winds of up to 150mph (240km/h) caused severe damage, with power cuts to more than half a million homes and a chemical fire from an industrial plant. But the feared 20ft (6m) storm surge was avoided as the hurricane, the state's biggest, tracked further east.

Laura has now been downgraded to tropical storm status and has crossed into Arkansas.

President Donald Trump was briefed at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) in Washington and said he would go to the area at the weekend.

He said he had been prepared to postpone his speech at the Republican National Convention later on Thursday to travel to the region but added: "We got a bit lucky. It was very big and very powerful but it passed quickly."

Laura and another storm, Marco, earlier swept across the Caribbean, killing 24 people.

Governor John Bel Edwards gave a press briefing on Thursday afternoon, confirming four deaths so far from the hurricane. The victims, killed in separate incidents by trees falling on their homes, included a 14-year-old girl in the Leesville area.

Mr Edwards said that as rescue work continued. "I'm concerned we are going to find more fatalities. I hope and pray



*More than half a million homes in Louisiana were reported to be without power*

not." He said there was more structural damage from winds than anticipated, but the water damage was less than feared.

The tracking of the storm slightly further east meant it avoided creating a storm surge in the shipping channel, he said. Power lines, roads and bridges were a big concern, he said, with many having to be repaired or checked.

A barge had collided with a bridge in the city of Lake Charles, quite close to where a suspected "chlorine chemical fire" at an industrial plant was being attended by emergency services.

Mr Edwards said people should stay off the roads where possible, as outer bands of the storm were still causing high water levels and winds.

Some 1,500 people, including National Guard troops, are being deployed in rescue and clean-up missions. Vice-President Mike Pence, who joined Mr Trump at Fema, said: "While this was a major storm with devastating impact it was not as bad as it could have been." It was one of the strongest to ever hit the US Gulf Coast, striking at category four with winds of up to 150mph (240km/h).

It made landfall shortly after midnight local time (05:00 GMT) near the district of Cameron, in Louisiana. It tracked north, just east of the Texas-Louisiana border.

Laura tracked north across Louisiana on Thursday, crossing into Arkansas in the afternoon, with maximum sustained

winds of 50mph (85km/h) at 21:00 GMT. The National Hurricane Center still warns of high water levels along some parts of the Gulf coast, and flooding rainfall and strong winds for northern Louisiana and south-eastern Arkansas.

More than 600,000 homes in Louisiana and 180,000 in Texas had lost power, according to the US tracking site PowerOutage. Lake Charles, a city of 78,000, and its surrounding areas were badly hit. Trees and electricity pylons have been ripped from the ground and vehicles overturned.

Part of the roof of the Golden Nugget Casino flew off, a CNN-affiliated reporter witnessed, and an NWS radar installation was destroyed.



## A 2nd day of NBA playoff games halted over racial injustice



An unprecedented NBA walkout over racial injustice postponed a second day of the playoffs Thursday, although players pledged to finish the postseason even as they wrestled with their emotions about wanting to bring change in their communities.

For now, the basketball courts in the NBA's virus-free bubble at Disney World remained empty. And other athletes across the sports world also said they weren't ready to resume playing.

They are still angry and emotional after the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin. NBA players considered not playing again the rest of the postseason and going home to their communities, although they decided Thursday they wanted to continue, according to a person with knowledge of the details. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no official announce-

ment had been made.

"We obviously agree that whether we play or not, we still have to do our best to make change and we still have to do our part in the community," Orlando guard Michael Carter-Williams said in a video interview with a Magic public relations official.

"It's obviously not easy, given everything that's going on. But I think that if we can go out there and do our best and also have a list of things that we want to accomplish, everything gets completed."

The NBA decided to postpone three more games Thursday to join the three that weren't played a day earlier.

NBA spokesman Mike Bass said the league hoped to resume Friday or Saturday. He added in a statement that a group of players at Disney would hold a video conference call later Thursday with representatives of the owners, including Michael Jordan, and National

Basketball Players Association to discuss the next steps.

The tennis tours had already decided they would pause play Thursday at the Western & Southern Open in New York; a number of NFL teams canceled practices; and the NHL postponed two nights of playoff games.

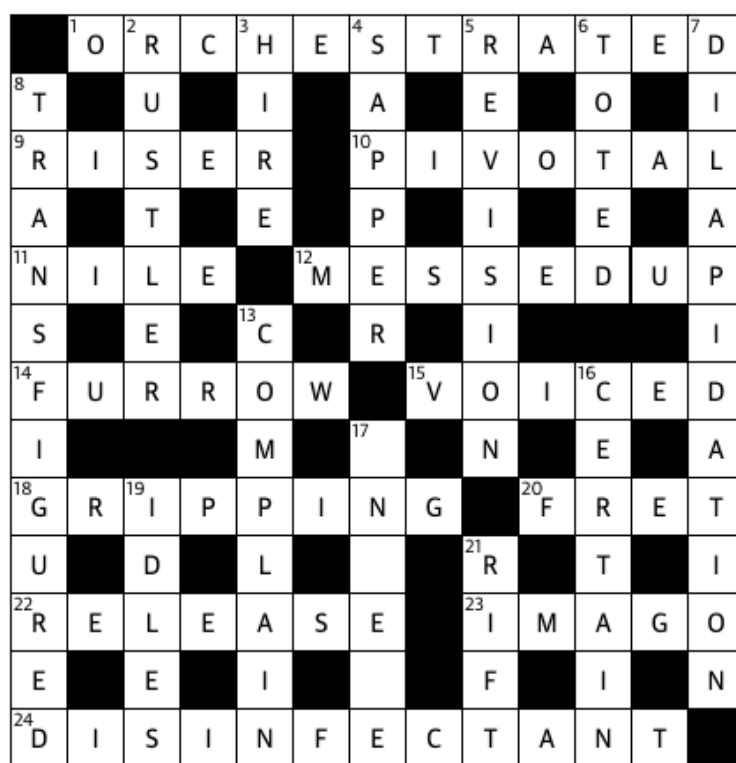
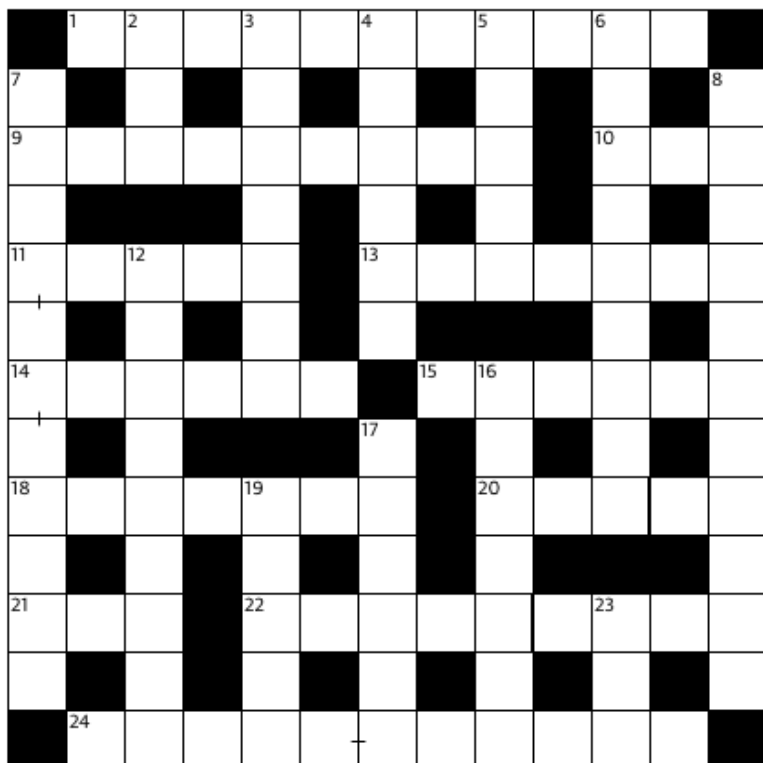
A second night of WNBA games were postponed and other teams and sports pondered whether they would play on. "This is not a strike. This is not a boycott. This is a affirmatively day of reflection, a day of informed action and mobilization," WNBA players' union president Nneka Ogwumike said on ESPN. At least four Major League Baseball games also were postponed. The sudden stoppages were reminiscent of March, when the NBA suspended its season after Utah center Rudy Gobert tested positive for the coronavirus. Other sports quickly followed until the worldwide sporting land-

scape had almost completely come to a halt. NBA players agreed to resume their season in July at Disney, making clear they intended to chase social justice reform just as passionately as a championship. But the video of Blake's shooting on Sunday left them so disgusted and dispirited that they wondered whether they should continue playing. The players voiced their frustrations in a meeting Wednesday night, then continued talks Thursday morning. As they prepared to do that, NBA referees led a march around campus to show their support in the fight against racism. Play had been set to resume at 4 p.m. with Game 6 of the Western Conference series between Utah and Denver. Boston and Toronto were also to begin their second-round series before the Clippers and Dallas met in the nightcap.

It was the Raptors and Celtics who had been most vocal about the idea of not playing, but the Milwaukee Bucks acted first when they opted to remain in their locker room instead of playing their Game 5 against Orlando on Wednesday. Kenosha is about 40 miles south of Milwaukee.

Before coming to Disney, many NBA players wrestled for weeks about whether it was even right to play, fearing that a return to games would take attention off the deaths of, among others, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in recent months.

# QUICK CROSSWORD



## Across

- 1 Scary (11)  
 9 Servant (9)  
 10 Contest (3)  
 11 Two-masted sailing vessel (5)  
 13 Young child (7)  
 14 Elaborately decorated (6)  
 15 Underside (6)  
 18 CVs (7)  
 20 Coordinate (3,2)  
 21 Gesture of agreement (3)  
 22 Vanilla-flavoured fizzy drink (5,4)  
 24 Person attracting a large audience (5-6)

## Down

- 2 Decompose (3)  
 3 Firearm's range — no thugs (anag) (7)  
 4 Warm (6)  
 5 Observed (5)  
 6 Short story? (9)  
 7 The wrong way round (4-2-5)  
 8 Causing harm (11)  
 12 Geordie (9)  
 16 Plot aim (anag) — most favourable (7)  
 17 Napping (6)  
 19 Large and showy Latin American parrot (5)  
 23 Be indebted (to) (3)

# CARTOON CORNER

## Dilbert







## DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** Stay on your toes and you could win by a nose. You love to come out on top. Fortunately, you are a gracious winner. You may become surrounded by an aura of enthusiasm and cheerfulness that others find simply irresistible.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** You can't put a monetary value on every item that you possess. You may impress people with your originality and skills rather than spending money on your appearance. Staying home might be more fun than evening outings.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Enjoy the camaraderie available to you at work and with groups of friends. You may fit well within a think tank situation but could find it difficult to understand someone's point of view in one-on-one interactions.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Learn from criticism but don't take it personally. Try to arrive on time and complete assignments to the letter, or you risk receiving negative feedback. Maintain the peace at home by being loving and kindhearted.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You may be feeling quite energetic, but don't move too fast with a business deal. Let any pending proposal or unresolved agreement simmer over the weekend before you commit yourself by signing on the dotted line.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You might be in a period of dynamic growth. Every book or article you read can add to the breadth of your knowledge. Once the pieces come together, they may trigger your creative genius and prove profitable over time.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Flights of fancy may carry you away. Be sensitive to someone's feelings if you want to fully enjoy romantic escapades. Use your good judgment about business strategies and financial matters to avoid pitfalls.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** When you are paired with the right person, you may appear especially brilliant and perceptive. It's important to employ kindness and empathy while dealing with others in pursuit of your objectives.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Consider making it your mission to indulge in entertainment and activities that spark joy. Your partner might have some unique ideas about what will be fun. Remember, you can always agree to disagree.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Something newsworthy might trigger your desire to try a new hobby. Avoid signing agreements, as the terms might not be as financially advantageous as you may think.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You might think it's important to appear businesslike, but try not to take bargaining over minute details a step too far. Make sure there aren't any unexpected strings attached to proposed projects or investments.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** It may be challenging to muster up the extra energy to deal with emotionally challenging family squabbles, but ignoring the situation could be worse. Confer with a friend who can offer worthwhile suggestions.

# FIFA gives TTFA a deadline or face suspension

FIFA has given the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) until September 16th to withdraw its matter from the Trinidad and Tobago High Court or risk being suspended from Global Football.

This was revealed in a letter the world governing body sent to Chairman of the Normalisation Committee, Robert Hadad, dated August 26.

FIFA expressed concern in the letter regarding the decision of the court and the arguments used to dismiss FIFA's application.

Earlier this year, FIFA appointed a Normalisation Committee after a fact finding mission to the island to assess, together with an independent auditor, the financial situation of TTFA. FIFA said the mission unearthed an extremely low financial management



William Wallace

methods, combined with a massive debt, which combined have resulted in the TTFA facing the very real risk of insolvency and illiquidity.

FIFA's appointment of the Normalisation Committee resulted in the duly elected President, William Wallace, and his executive being booted after just four months in office following

TTFA elections in 2019.

Wallace refused to tow the line and took the matter to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) but later withdrew his appeal, opting to take the matter instead to the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago.

FIFA appealed and Justice Carol Gobin dismissed this appeal on the basis that TTFA, as a statutory body

of Trinidad and Tobago, was unable to agree to the terms of the FIFA statutes that overrode the jurisdiction of the Trinidad and Tobago High Court.

FIFA has made it clear that all matters relating to football must be taken before the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) and they will never accept the jurisdiction of the local court in Trinidad and Tobago.

The ball is now in William Wallace's court as many local players and coaches have appealed to him to put the players first in the best interest of the sport.

Trinidad and Tobago is presently preparing for FIFA World Cup qualifying games but could see the hopes of their national players dashed if Wallace fails to withdraw the matter before the High Court by September 16 2020.

# Man United Midfielder tests positive for coronavirus

France manager, Didier Deschamps, has revealed that midfield general, Paul Pogba, has tested positive for coronavirus.

The 27-year-old will have to self isolate for 14 days.

The Manchester United player will miss France's National League game

against Sweden on Saturday 5th September and the home game three days later against Croatia.

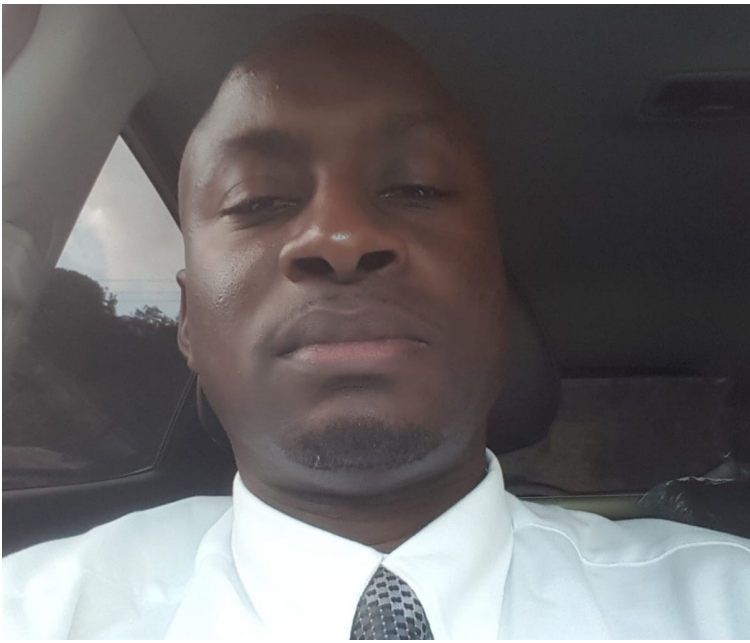
Pogba could be eligible for selection, however, for the Manchester United opening game of the 2020/21 season against Crystal Palace at Old Trafford on 19th September.



Deschamps said Pogba was in the team but, unfortunately for him, he car-

ried out a test Wednesday which returned as positive Thursday.





St. Clair Williams

## Reviving cycling through youth development

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation, St. Clair Williams, says his executive, which was elected just over a year ago, is focusing on reviving cycling through an aggressive youth development programme.

Williams told PointeXpress that the federation has secured a grant which has allowed it to obtain bikes for their junior riders, however, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the arrival of the bikes has been delayed. He continued that the federation is now working diligently to get the bikes on the island.

“COVID-19 was not favourable. We had only one race in 2020 and had to call off the season last week after discussions with the Ministry of Sports,” said Williams.

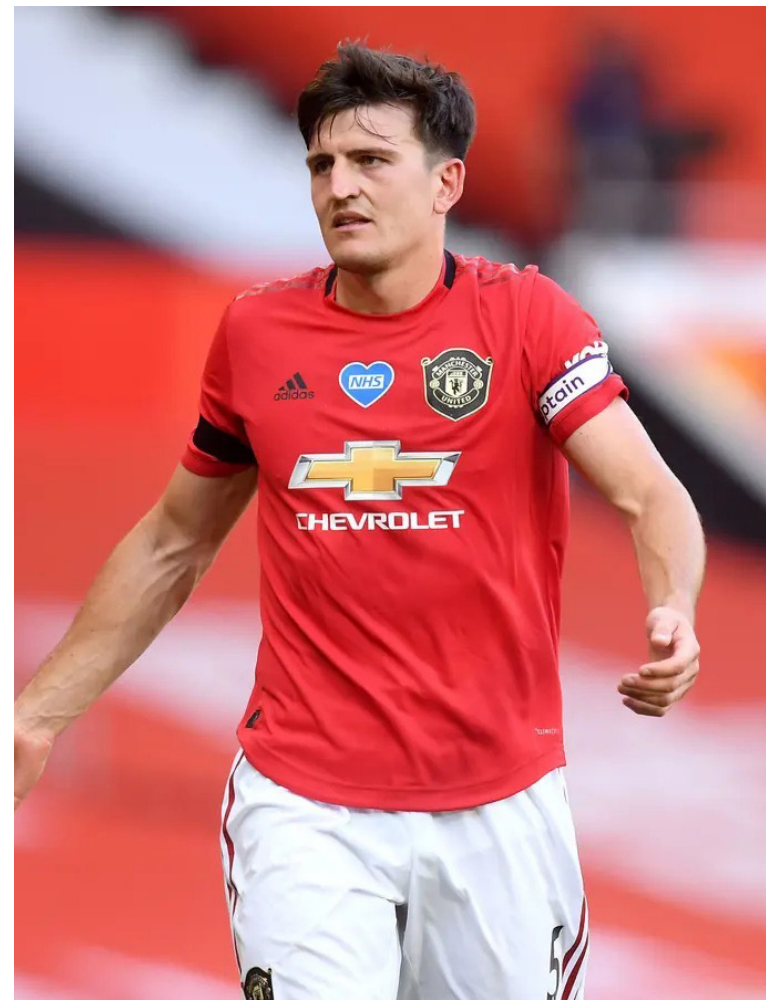
“We informed our members via correspondence

last week of the federation’s decision and we are moving towards 2021,” the president added.

Williams says the executive has begun to examine ways of improving the federation with special focus being placed on strengthening its member clubs, attracting more members, introducing more juniors and people in general to the sport and its safety elements.

“Safety is one of the most important areas in cycling and we are very serious with making sure our riders always wear a helmet and exercise safe practices on the bike,” the president expressed.

“There are five registered cycling clubs on the island,” he continued, “and we are looking forward to a strong 2021 with some exciting races and trying to attract one international event.”



## Manchester Untied Captain fearful for his life

The England International told BBC Sports Editor, Dan Roan, that plain clothes police officers who did not identify themselves, pulled over his group’s minibus in Mykonos, threw him off the bus, hit him on his legs and told him his career was over.

The 27-year-old said he tried to run away, with one handcuff on, because he had no idea who the men were.

On Tuesday, Maguire was given a suspended sentence of 21 months and 10 days in prison after his trial on the Greek island of Syros.

He was found guilty of repeated bodily harm, attempted bribery, violence against public employees and insult after arrest on Mykonos.

On Wednesday, his legal team lodged an appeal against the verdict.

In accordance with Greek law, the appeal nullifies Maguire’s conviction and there will be a full retrial in a more senior court.

## NBA players spark boycott of all major sports in US

The NBA postponed Wednesday's three play-off games after the Milwaukee Bucks called off their fixture in protest at the shooting of Jacob Blake.

Blake, a black man, was shot seven times in the back by police on Sunday in Kenosha, Wisconsin near Milwaukee.

In baseball, three Major League Baseball games were called off after teams decided not to play, and five Major League Soccer matches have been postponed.

Tennis player, Naomi Osaka, pulled out of a Women's Tennis Association match on Thursday.

She tweeted that she would no longer play her semi-final in the Western and Southern Open in New York, saying, "As a black woman I feel as though there are much more important matters at hand that need immediate attention, rather than watching me play tennis."

The US Tennis Association, ATP and WTA subsequently announced it was



pausing play at the Western and Southern Open on Thursday and would resume on Friday, adding that, "Tennis is collectively taking a stance against racial inequality and social injustice."

It is unclear whether the Japanese former world number one will now play her match against Belgian 14th seed Elise Mertens on

Friday.

After calling off their game against the Orlando Magic, the Bucks players released a statement that said: "Despite the overwhelming plea for change, there has been no action, so our focus today cannot be on basketball."

"When we take the court and represent Milwaukee and Wisconsin, we are expected to play at a high level, give maximum effort and hold each other accountable."

"We hold ourselves to that

standard, and in this moment, we are demanding the same from our lawmakers and law enforcement.

"We are calling for justice for Jacob Blake and demand the officers be held accountable."

The Houston Rockets' game against the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Los Angeles Lakers' match-up with the Portland Trail Blazers were also postponed and will be rescheduled.

It has been reported that NBA players in the bubble were to meet last night to discuss how to proceed with the play-offs.

**DEWS**

Editor : Everton Barnes, Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua Tel:-1-268-562 4989, Editor: editor@pointville.ag

Advertisement: sales@pointville.ag, Reporting: news@pointville.ag