


WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 134 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

MINISTER CONDEMNS RECKLESS BEHAVIOUR

Story on Page 3

Page 4

**Cuba
defends
medical
brigades**

Prostate Cancer

WISE UP MEN AND GET TESTED

POINTVILLE COMMUNICATIONS INC.

f i y s

Risk factors associated with prostate cancer

- AGE:** 50+
Men over the age of 50
- Ethnicity:** Men of African Caribbean and African descent
- Family History:** Hereditary prostate cancer
- Obesity:** Prostate cancer is linked to obesity. Obesity is linked to higher prostate cancer rates.

Ministry of Education to address CSEC results

The Ministry of Education will present an overview of the country's performance in the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations held this year.

Education Minister, Michael Browne, Director of Education, Clare Browne, and local CXC Registrar, Myrick Smith will address the nation in a press confer-

ence to be held on Thursday.

At the press conference, the education officials will provide statistical data on the performance of local students in the exams particularly as they compare with performances in previous years.

Results from the exams are already available to students who can access them via the CXC website by using their

registration ID number.

The overall results are, however, sent to the ministry which will conduct a comparative analysis and present its findings to the public.

This year has been a challenge as the coronavirus pandemic affected all aspects of education after the shutdown in March this year. It also caused the start of the regional examination to be postponed.



Education Minister, Michael Browne

DAY 9/23

27° Hi

Partly cloudy w/ showers

NIGHT 9/23

25° Lo

Partly cloudy w/ showers

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:56 AM

Sunset AST
6:02 PM

Duration
12:06 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
12:09 PM

Moonset AST
11:32 PM

Duration
11: 23 hr

Form RLNC 6

10:30
SEP 10 2020

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34 of the Act

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
POTTERS & BELMONT	6131890B	167

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST OR DESTROYED LAND CERTIFICATE/CERTIFICATE OF LEASE

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 10th day of Sept 2020 by MICHELLE G STERLING of JUSTICE CHAMBERS INC. of Bay Gardens, Hodges Bay, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of GOLDINE BURTON-KNIGHT (As the Personal Representative of the Estate of Jacob Burton) the Applicant herein for the replacement of Land Certificate/Certificate of Lease #1045/92 dated the 4th day of March 1992 issued to JACOB BURTON deceased, being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate/Certificate of Lease or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate/Certificate of Lease must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate/Certificate of Lease within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate/Certificate of Lease and issue a new Land Certificate/Certificate of Lease in its place without further notice

Dated the 14th day of September 2020.

Registrar of Lands

Minister condemns reckless behaviour

Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, is heading to Cabinet today with a list of measures aimed at persons who have insisted on flouting the country's COVID-19 protocols.

Dissatisfied with the level of adherence to COVID-19 protocols displayed by some persons, Joseph said that the new measures, which are intended to ensure compliance, will first be taken to Cabinet for approval and thereafter go into immediate effect.

Under the State of Emergency, the government is allowed to make certain decisions in the interest of its citizens and residents.

While most persons were generally compliant with the health protocols early on in the State of Emergency, Joseph said many have become reckless in their behavior and attitude regarding the policies implemented by the Ministry of Health.

"I am observing that the populace that was so compliant with the protocols in March, April and May appears to think, by their conduct, that this fight against the virus is over. It is not. Hence we see more reckless behavior where people are not wearing masks as they were doing back in March, April and May. We are seeing where social distancing is not being complied with. We are seeing where people who are given the privilege of self-quarantine violate

the rules of the quarantine, especially some citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda," the minister revealed.

Minister Joseph asserted that this careless behavior places the country at serious risk of domestic spread of COVID-19.

"If we have reckless behavior where people who are supposed to be in quarantine are out in the community and we get community spread, we are going to be stretching the human resource of the country. I say this in the context that we are moving into the flu season as well as the dengue season. When you combine the possible challenge of the flu with dengue and COVID then I hope the people can understand my concerns,"

he declared.

While he did not specify what measures will be tightened and whether new guidelines will be introduced, the health minister told reporters on Tuesday that steps had to be taken to prevent a spike in COVID-19 cases because of a lack of public cooperation.

He also mentioned that persons are known to be hosting private parties which increases the risk of the domestic spread of the disease.

"If people don't behave there must be sanction. You cannot have a few people in the country spoil it for the majority of the people. It is not right, there is no justice in having the health care workers putting in long hours or work tracing those



Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph

who may have come into contact with an infected individual," Joseph emphasized.

According to the Ministry of Health, its contact tracing officers worked over the last weekend in the hopes of making headway in discovering the source of infection and those who may have been exposed to the latest patient to test positive for coronavirus.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SYSTEM

BACK TO SCHOOL

Tip #5

WATCH OUT CHILDREN WALKING AND PLAYING ON SIDE OF ROAD

ABT
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Cuba staunchly defends its medical brigades

Cuba has launched a robust defense of its medical brigades who are helping to strengthen the medical services offered in many Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The Cuban doctors, nurses and other health specialists form the backbone of Cuba's assistance to many countries in the region, however, the recent successes of the medical teams and their willingness to work along-

side local medical teams in countries as far away as Europe and Africa to fight the COVID-19 virus have also attracted the renewed attention and scrutiny of the U.S government.

Cuba's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Maria Fiffe Cabreja, told PointeXpress that American politicians such as Senator Marco Rubio of Florida have launched a campaign to brand the Cuban medical

assistance programme as a form of slavery. She strongly rejects this description of the brigade and its work.

Currently, in Antigua and Barbuda, there are two teams of medical specialists; one has been on the ground in Antigua and Barbuda for several years while the other are members of the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade.

Ambassador Cabreja continued that the Henry Reeve

Brigade specializes in disaster situations and serious pathogen outbreaks, such as the global coronavirus pandemic.

Its mission is to provide humanitarian and medical assistance to the population of countries hit by natural disasters and epidemics and to contribute to their recovery.

The first deployment of the medical brigade was to New Orleans in the United States following the Hurricane Katrina disaster in 2005.

She described the basic principles of the brigades' work as the defense and the exercise of the human right to health, which entails free-of-charge universal access to health and universal health coverage for people and communities, without distinction of race, religion, political ideology or economic and social status.

The Cuban government representative disclosed that currently there are seventy-three Cuban medical specialists working in Antigua and Barbuda, including two doctors and two nurses based in Codrington.

Of that total, thirteen are members of the Henry Reeve Brigade while the other sixty are members of the brigade who were sta-

cont'd on pg 5



COMMUNITY NOTICES

NATIONAL HONOURS NOMINATIONS

The deadline for submission of nominations for the 2020 National Honours is September 30th, 2020. Forms may be collected from the Office of the Governor General Monday to Thursday from 8am to 3pm and Friday from 8am to 1.30pm. Forms must be returned by 2pm latest on the day of the deadline. Nominations may also be submitted by email. Completed and signed forms with supporting documents can be returned electronically. Call 4620002/3/5 for details. Nominations made in 2018 and 2019 will also be considered this year and do not need to be resubmitted. All persons visiting the Office of the Governor General must comply with COVID-19 related protocols.

WORK ON FRIARS HILL ROAD

Line marking work will continue in phase 1A between Cedar Grove junction to Sincere Drive from September 21 to 27. Motorists are asked to exercise extreme caution while workers carry out the line marking exercise.

ROAD CLOSURE

Road work will continue in phase 3F between St. John's Street and Cross Street. There are plans to undertake general earthworks and paving at the junction with YMCA. Local access is being maintained. Business owners, customers and residents seeking access to the area are asked to enter at the northern end of closure, the Dickenson Bay Street junction.

ROADWORK ON SIR GEORGE WALTER HIGHWAY

Road work will continue in phase 2B between Micas a Imports Ltd to Sir Sidney Walling Highway (Factory Rd) junction from Monday, September 21 to October 3, 2020. Local access will not suffer interruption. Business owners, customers and residents seeking access are asked to enter from the northern end of the closure from the Dees Service station (Rubis) junction.

A&BUT BY-ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT

Nominations for the Antigua & Barbuda Union of Teachers' by-election for the position of President MUST BE SUBMITTED by Friday 28th September 2020. The elections, which will be conducted by secret by ballot, will be held from 7am to 5pm on Wednesday 28th October 2020 at the union's headquarters on Factory Road and Teachers Lane. All COVID-19 protocols must be followed. Please 462-3750 for more information.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY NOTICES TO NEWS@POINTVILLE.AG

cont'd from pg 4

tioned here previously.

They form an integral part of the health care services at the Mount St John's Medical Centre where they offer a range of services including dental care.

Members of the Henry Reeve Brigade arrived in St. John's in late March and, after two weeks in quarantine, joined the medical team dealing with COVID-19 cases.

"Our medical brigades contribute to Antigua and Barbuda's development as we contribute to development to other countries in the region. The assistance offered by our health brigades are critical to our neighbours and further

afield. Now the US is threatening countries that utilize the services of the brigades. I am happy that Prime Minister Gaston Browne is on record stating his opposition to this policy," she remarked.

She said the new US policy has sinister intent.

"It's another attempt by the US to bring further hardship to the Cuban people but also it is aimed at dismantling the health sector of countries of the region."

In addition to the work of the Cuban medical brigades, many of the doctors working at MSJMC, as well as several in private practice, were trained on scholarships offered by the Cuban government.



Cuba's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Maria Fiffe Cabreja

VACANCY

Seeking skilled **carpenters, masons, steel fabricators and laborers to work in Barbuda.**
 Negative drug test and clean police record (no prior convictions) mandatory.
 Applications available at #55 Bendals Road until September 25th,
MON-FRI BETWEEN 10 AM-2 PM ONLY.

RLNC6
 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
 The Registered Land, Cap . 374

Section 34
 Of the Act

REGISTRATION SECTION SOUTH WEST **BLOCK** 55 1182A **PARCEL** 274

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an Application was filed in the Land Registry on the 16th day of September 2020 by MICHAEL ARCHIBALD of Phillips, Phillips & Archibald, of St. Mary's Street, St. John's, Antigua on behalf of NOVELLE JAMES the Applicant herein For the replacement of Land Certificate RL-201104562 dated the 16th November, 2011 issued to NOVELLE JAMES being the owner of the above mentioned parcel of land, which has been lost.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the Original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the second publication of this Notice inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 17th day of September 2020.

Registrar of Lands

Antigua and Barbuda included in travel bubble

Antigua and Barbuda is among nine Caribbean countries that will be included in a travel bubble following discussions held among CARICOM leaders in a bid to revive the travel and tourism sectors.

In a statement, the CARICOM Secretariat revealed that the decision was taken during a special emergency session last Friday in which “they acknowledged that the past six months have been a very challenging period globally and regionally, as countries have struggled to cope with the effects of the novel coronavirus”.

The leaders agreed that the bubble would come into effect from Friday, September 18, once the countries involved meet the agreed criteria.

On Tuesday, Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, announced that Antigua and Barbuda is among five OECS territories and Barbados that will form an initial travel bubble.

According to the Secretariat, the regional leaders noted that for CARICOM, the period following border closures resulting from the coronavirus outbreak has been particularly difficult given the high dependence in most of the economies on the travel and tourism sectors.

“In agreeing to establish the bubble, the Heads were guided by a comprehensive report from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), which provided recommendations on how the bubble would operate, and laid out the eligibility criteria for countries to participate.”

The statement said that the recommendations included that countries would be categorised ranging from those

with no cases to those which had low, medium, high and very high risk with respect to the rate of positive cases over a 14-day period.

It said that the level of risk would be determined by the amount of positive cases per 100,000 of the population within a 14-day period and “only those countries with no cases and those in the low-risk category would be allowed to participate in the bubble; and CARPHA will

assess relevant data to advise on participation in the bubble”.

The statement said that regional leaders also agreed that travellers from countries within the bubble would be allowed entry without being subjected to PCR testing prior to arrival and would also not have to undergo quarantine restrictions. Travellers may, however, be subjected to screening on arrival.



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Broadcasting from the Pointe Community



PROGRAM LINE UP
THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 2020

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ANDROID APP ON
Google

4AM TO 6AM	TRUTH AND GOSPEL WITH SEAN O'NEIL	10:30AM TO 1PM	TALKING POINT WITH SENATOR COLIN ONEAL & DR MOZARATI
6:30 AM	MORNING NEWS	2PM TO 3PM	THE ROOT KULCHA SHOW WITH JUBBA THE ARTIST AND JUSTICE CHRISTOPHER
6:45 AM	OBITUARIES & MEMORIALS	2PM TO 3PM	JAZZ FUNK
6:55 AM	COMMUNITY NOTICES	6:30PM	EVENING NEWS
7PM TO 9PM	STARTING POINTE WITH SHELTON DANIEL	7:00 PM	OBITUARIES & COMMUNITY NOTICES
9AM TO 10:30AM	DEWS TOUCH LINE SPORTS SHOW WITH VERON 'EPILUS' EDWARDS & VERNON SPRINGER	8:00 PM Until	TALK THE TRUTH WITH SPLIFF, PETER AND DEVON





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Two teenagers set a good example

The Antigua and Barbuda Humane Society has joined dog owner, Euwen Vigo, in commending two teenagers whose swift and responsible action resulted in the rescue and return to safety of Vigo’s dog, Snow.

Snow was startled by the sound of thunder and left the safety of his yard ending up in the Pigott’s playing field.

Shamaine Morris and Dexter George, both students at Sir Novelle Richards Academy, saw the dog, noticed he was wearing a dog licence tag and called the number on the tag.

The Humane Society was able to identify the owner by searching the dog registration database for the contact information.

“This is how the dog registration system is supposed to work.

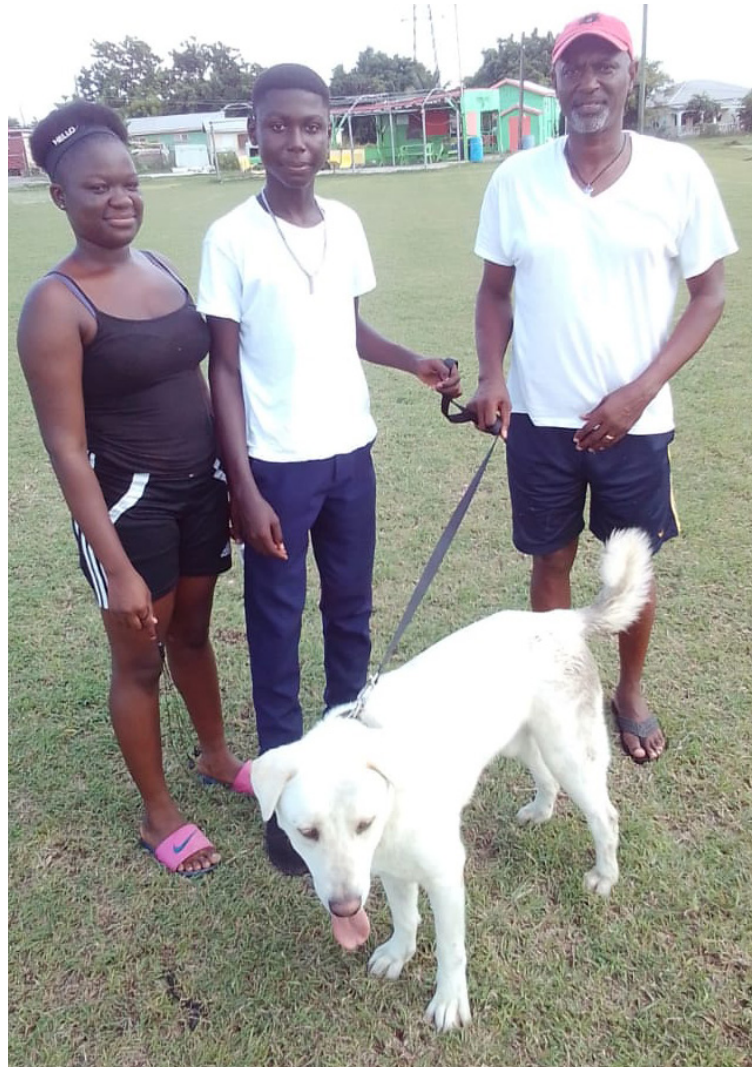
When dogs are micro-chipped and licensed, their ownership can be traced and when they are lost it is a simple step to return them to their owner.

In this case, because Snow was wearing his dog tag, as required by law, there was no need to bring him in and scan for the microchip.

His owner was able to be identified by means of the licence number on the tag,” said a statement from the Humane Society.

The Humane Society commended Euwen Vigo for following the law and registering his dog and Shamaine and Dexter for their kind and responsible action.

The Humane Society said in a statement that it hopes all dog owners will take note of this story and ensure their dogs are registered.



To: Her Worship
Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate’s Court
Gray’s Farm
St. John’s,
Antigua.


To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John’s

Re: Notice- Application for Tavern Licence

I, **Rachel Bundoock of English Harbour** with registered business situated at Gallean Beach English Harbour, Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High street, St. John’s, Antigua on 1st October, 2020, next ensuring for the liquor licensing pursuant to section (11) (5) of the licensing (**intoxication liquor**) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as “**Club Jungle**” situated at Gallean Beach, English Harbour in the parish of St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 14th day of September, 2020

.....


Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property & Commerce

24th day of August 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Clary Bar

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above-captioned Business Name was duly registered on the 24/08/2018 in the Registry of Business with the following particulars:

Name of Proprietor(s): **Ivelise Valdez De Oleo**

Place of Business: **Johnsons Village, St. John’s, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Nature of Business: **5630. Beverage serving activities Bar**

Registration Date: **24/08/2018**

Business Number: **B2223/2018**

Deputy Registrar
Conliffe Clarke

Beach Limerz gets ‘Thumbs Up’

The popular Fort James restaurant, Beach Limerz, has been singled out by the Ministry of Tourism for its innovative implementation of the national guidelines for restaurant operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ministry commented on the fact that the restaurant’s owner and general manager, Barry ‘Scorpion’ Edwards, had made notable adjustments which were in keeping with the standards set by the Ministry of Health to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

“From the new wattle and daub entrance gate, to glass and acrylic partitions and a patio extension for a more scenic dining experience, social distancing and crowd control are now achievable. Of course, hand washing, and sanitizing stations are an added feature and strict adherence to temperature checks at the entrance is a must do!” a press release from the Ministry of Tourism said.



Tourism Minister, Charles ‘Max’ Fernandez, and other tourism executives, who recently toured the restaurant and entertainment center, all returned positive impressions.

“All additions have blended uniquely well with the ambiance of the establishment and this is quite impressive!” remarked Minister Fernandez.

According to Beach Limerz’s proprietor, Scorpion, adjustments have also been made in order to direct patrons to outside seating which will allow for greater adherence to social distancing requirements for the protection of both local customers and tourists.

“We are looking to continue these precautionary measures even beyond the

COVID-19 pandemic because our local and visitor clientele experience is extremely important to us with safety being paramount at all times,” Edwards stated.

The Beach Limerz Restaurant was recently recognized by Trip Advisor as being among the top ten percent of businesses on their platform that offer the best dining experience.



TOUCH LINE
with
VERON ‘EPLUS’ EDWARDS JR.
VERNON A. SPRINGER

MONDAY-FRIDAY
9:00am- 10:30am

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
99.1 FM

POINTE FM

Antigua and Barbuda congratulates UN on its 75th anniversary

Antigua and Barbuda is offering congratulations to the United Nations, now celebrating 75 years since its official launch in October, 1945.

The congratulatory message was extended by Prime Minister Gaston Browne during a high level held to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations. PM Browne attended the virtual meeting which was held under the theme, “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism”.

“The multilateralism which defines the United Nations is embedded in the approach which has worked best for its members when achieving its goals. The UN is the anchor of multilateralism; it applies a formula fed by elements of idealism and pragmatism. The idealism of the United Nations is captured by its founders in its Charter; they believed that there was a brighter future for humanity which the United Nations could unlock,” Browne noted.

In renewing Antigua and Barbuda’s unwavering support for the principles of



Prime Minister Gaston Browne attended the virtual meeting of the United Nations.

multilateralism, the prime minister denounced what he saw as recent attacks on the principle and UN itself. “The attack in recent years on multilateralism, may only undermine critical efforts to tackle global challenges. The United Nations is an indispensable organization that will resist and overcome any actions intended to reduce its effectiveness,” he emphasized.

The prime minister added that addressing the unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic, utilizing the greatest multilateral institution created by humanity, would undoubtedly be most appropriate.

Regarding efforts to fight the spread of the virus, he warned against what he saw as ‘vaccine nationalism as the new reality’.

“The people of Antigua and Barbuda express their

heartfelt thanks to the World Health Organization and its regional body—the Pan American Health Organization—for the outstanding role which they have played in guiding the actions of governments throughout the Americas and the Caribbean.

We pledge to fight poverty, promote development, guarantee the rights of women and girls, and protect marginalized groups within states including persons with disabilities,” he stated.

PM Browne also pledged Antigua and Barbuda’s support for efforts to stop global climate change noting that there is no ‘Planet B’ nor other celestial space upon which to live.

The prime minister called on his colleague world leaders to put aside differences in a collective effort to resolve global issues.

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

POLICE HEAD QUARTERS

American Road

St John’s

Antigua

We, Catherine Francis & Jefferson Reid, of Jennings Village, DO HERE BY GIVE NOTICE, that it is our intention to apply at the next ordinary session to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street, St John’s Antigua on October 1st 2020 next ensuring for a Retail License in respect of my premises known as The Hood Convenient Stop, located in Jennings Village, pursuant of section 11 of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

23rd September 2020

Catherine Francis

.....

Tel: 728-6003

Jefferson Reid

Tel: 723-5460

Building capacity in climate resilience

The Department of Environment (DoE) has concluded an extensive capacity training of several individuals in data management and file organization techniques.

The training session was a collaboration between The Department of Environment’s GEF funded Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) and the GCF funded National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

Over several weeks, the DoE said the training was

geared to delivering an Introductory Geographic Information System (GIS) to several agencies.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), is an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, or the Convention), provides financing to country-driven climate change mitigation (CCM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) projects.



According to the DoE, “The objective of these trainings was to build the capacities of our local partners and stakeholders in collecting and managing spatial data as well as to improve their file management systems.”

“Twenty-seven individuals were trained in this first round of training with another being planned for the upcoming weeks.”

Stakeholders including the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), the Environmental Awareness

Group (EAG) and several other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) and interest groups benefited from the training.

With the introduction of these learning instructions, the DoE said, “The CCCD and NAP projects seek to address gaps in local environmental management and decision-making caused by insufficient and inadequate data collection, management, and analysis as part of efforts to promote resilience to climate change and national development.”



About HRPAB: the Human Resource Professionals of Antigua & Barbuda

Over the past few months we have been publishing bimonthly articles on topical human resources and labour issues with the hopes of assisting our colleagues or any reader that may need assistance navigating these matters.

This week, as we prepare to commemorate Human Resource Professionals' Day on Saturday September 26, we use this space to introduce ourselves to you.

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 the association was legally registered and officially launched in 2011.

The founding members who demonstrated the drive and passion to get the association going are Ms. J Arlene Martin, the Executive Secretary of the Antigua & Barbuda Employers' Federation and Ms. Desiree Edwards, a human resources professional with over twenty-five years working in the industry.

The current Executive includes our President, Mr. Laurie Louard assisted by First Vice President, Ms. Lucette James and Second Vice President, Ms.

Wendy Jackson. Our Secretary, Mrs. Nicole Edwards-Francis; Treasurer, Ms. J Arlene Martin and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Lois Johnson completes the team along with Immediate Past President Ms. Desiree Edwards.

HRPAB's goals are to promote best practices, develop professionals and advocate human resources as our country's most valuable development asset.

We aim to achieve these goals through professionalism, adoption of best practices, networking, research, and taking advantage of opportunities to participate in national development.

We contribute to the national discussion through timely articles in the local print media, and we have been very active particularly in this Covid era, sharing best practice on several related matters.

Our membership currently stands at forty-four with eight prospective members hoping to be added to our roll shortly.

Our membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development.

Some of our members serve at the national level



through service on the National Labour Board and the Economic Recovery Commission while others have regional and international experience at the executive human resource management level.

We readily accept invitations to sit on discussion panels and make our contribution to the national discourse on HR best practices and industrial matters.

One of our proudest moments to date is our partnership with the Antigua & Barbuda Investment Authority as facilitators of the Human Resource Management Course in their "*Mind Your Business*" series, designed to equip small business owners and entrepreneurs with the tools to adequately staff and manage their teams.

This course covers topics such as Recruitment, Training & Development, Key Documents & Record-keeping, Compensation & Benefits and Handling Dis-

ciplinary Actions.

Our current project involves a national compensation survey which we anticipate we will complete by the end of November 2020.

HRPAB's current affiliations include the Caribbean Society for Human Resource Professionals as well as the CaribHR Forum.

Recently, we have been focusing on wellness and maintaining a healthy work/life balance.

The challenges of the pandemic and economic downturn are wreaking havoc with employees in every way. The saying "*you can't pour from an empty cup*" is especially true for us.

We must protect and promote our own emotional wellness so we can give of our best to our profession and the teams we serve.

Human Resource Professionals' Day is designed to pay tribute to those working in HR departments

cont'd on pg 13

UWI mourns the passing of Sir Selvyn Walter

The passing of Sir Selvyn Walter represents a monumental loss of intellectual forte, cultural pride and patriotism for the nation of Antigua and Barbuda and The University of the West Indies (The UWI) community.

Sir Selvyn attended The UWI Mona Campus in the 60s and played a leading role in what at the time was an extremely successful debate team. He would regale his listeners with stories and lessons from the regional university, eternally proud to be a Pelican. Throughout his career and retirement, people continuously sought Sir Selvyn's perspective on matters pertinent to local and regional issues.

Sir Selvyn was a renaissance man. His significant contributions to his country were immense and varied, spanning culture, commerce, history, music, the literary arts and politics. He was a prolific writer, chronicling culture, folklore, history and sports in books and series. His rivalled literary collections with his collection of artefacts, making his

home a veritable museum. Sir Selvyn also built a solid reputation, starting early in life and continuing through his later years, as a newspaperman, lending his knowledge and expertise to nation building via the fourth estate. He was a teacher and motivator, generously sharing what he knew with anyone with whom he came in contact. In addition, he was an orator extraordinaire, whether he was speaking with politicians, captains of industry or keeping court with the customers to his bakery. He loved his country, he loved people and he loved to laugh.

On the political field, Sir Selvyn secured his place in history when as a young, first-time challenger he defeated a four-time and senior incumbent, Sir Vere C. Bird in the 1971 elections. He served as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism in the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) administration.

Although he stopped journeying to the media company where he last worked circa 2014, Sir Selvyn con-



tinued to write and give guidance from home for a long time afterward. In 2013, on the Nation's 32nd Anniversary of Independence, a knighthood was

conferred upon him for his contributions to the country.

The UWI community extends heartfelt condolences to Sir Selvyn's family, friends and colleagues.

cont'd from pg 12

around the world.

It is also a great day to raise awareness about the profession and share experiences on what it is like to be part of the HR community.

HRPAB's general meetings are

held on the third Wednesday of each month usually at the Employers' Federation Conference Room from 5pm.

However, since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been holding our meetings virtually.

We invite all HR practitioners in Antigua and Barbuda to be a part of our community.

Information can be found on our Facebook page and we can be contacted via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com.

Oliver Joseph: Grenada gov't is now in a financial crisis

(thenewtodaygrenada.com) Newly designated Foreign Affairs Minister Oliver Joseph has told public officers in Grenada that retrenchment is on the cards as the cash-strapped Keith Mitchell-led New National Party (NNP) administration might not be able to meet its financial obligations to them in the New Year.

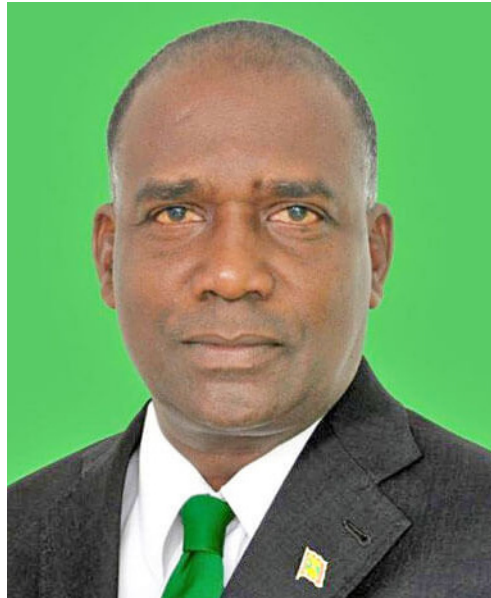
An authoritative source told THE NEW TODAY that the minister conveyed the grim news at a meeting held last week Tuesday at CAIPO Building on Lucas Street between a Government delegation and members of the Public Workers Union (PWU) and the Technical & Allied Workers Union (TAWU) and other bodies representing various public sector employees.

According to the source, Minister Joseph asked the union representatives to forego the 4% increase in salaries to take effect in January in order to save their jobs because government cannot pay them as agreed upon.

“We met Face-to-Face at the CAIPO Building last week Tuesday. He (Minister Joseph) said to us that he wanted us to forego the 4% and he wants us to come up with ideas of what we think they should do in order to raise revenue and to help to boost the economy because of the effect that is happening in all economies around the world including Grenada because of Covid-19.

“He said to us that it was either forego the 4% or send home workers because they have to look at how they could get revenue because government cannot pay, government is now in a crisis because of the fact that they have to support the other institutions within the country such as the tourist industry etc., etc.

“They are asking us to forego our



Oliver Joseph – newly designated Minister of Foreign Affairs

4% – that is exactly how the minister put it. He is asking us to forego the 4% because the government is unable to pay – they are not making the revenue collection they projected when they offered and signed onto the 4%.

“If we don’t forego our 4% they may have to send workers home. That is what the man tell us. He say is either they send workers home or we forego. That is the option that they may have to go towards”.

In recent weeks, the ruling New National Party (NNP) administration of Prime Minister Mitchell has been reporting a significant drop in revenue collection from the Customs Department and the Inland Revenue Department in the Ministry of Finance.

The union representative told THE NEW TODAY that the senior government minister indicated that government has to pump monies into other institutions on the island and cannot find additional funds to pay to civil servants and “to give the work force an increase in salary come 2021”.

He dropped hints that this issue can

become very thorny between government and the unions given the state of play in the public service.

He spoke of the unions receiving reports on a daily basis about the Mitchell-led government hiring a number of non-established workers to do the job of civil servants.

“So if you cannot pay the public workers that you already have, why are you inflating the public service and telling the public officers that are there, you have to send them home because you cannot pay their 4% – they must forego their 4% or send them home?”

The union representative accused the NNP regime of trying to create what he called “a parallel public service” and “to have a public service of scab labour just in case the unions decide no we’re not foregoing our 4% and we are going to fight it”.

“That is what it is telling us – a scab labour of persons who are not controlled by the Public Service Commission, who can carry out the will of the politicians whether illegal or not so when the politicians ask them to do something illegal they have to carry it out – they cannot question it because they are not under the public service,” he said.

The official accused the Mitchell-led government of engaging in union bursting tactics and trying to get rid of the PSC and the constitutionally guaranteed rights of public officers by its attitude to public officers.

He said: “So really it is mashing up of the Public Service institutions ... so you don’t have public servants really. What you have is people who are contracted and who don’t have to go by the rules of the Public Service Commission – they don’t have to abide by

cont’d on pg 15

CXC Registrar concerned: 48% of candidates failed CSEC Maths

(LoopSLU) Fifty-two per cent (52%) of the candidates who wrote the CSEC Mathematics examination for 2020 have passed.

And this is, in fact, “a slight improvement” over 49 per cent passes in 2018 and “a marked improvement” over 2019 when some 46 per cent of candidates attained acceptable grades, according to the Director of Operations, Examination Services Division at CXC, Nicole Manning. However, in speaking to Loop News on the sidelines of the ceremony for the official release of the July 2020 Examinations Results, CXC Registrar and CEO Dr Wayne Wesley said:

“With having just over 50 per cent or 52 per cent I think it was, we, certainly CXC would be concerned about students and their preparation for these examinations.”



CXC Registrar and CEO Dr Wayne Wesley speaking at the Official Release of the July 2020 Examination Results. He was at the CXC headquarters in Barbados on September 22

Furthermore he added: “...50 per cent would not give us the kind of satisfaction that we would want to have as it relates to the development of the human capital within the region and as such we would definitely have to do some work to increase that number.”

Way forward - Retraining

and teaching teachers to teach Math concepts creatively. He said that 2020 presented unique circumstances but from this year’s results, “what we have recognised, is that we will have to work closer with the teachers, particularly as it relates to the administration of SBAS, which is the Schools-Based As-

essment component of our examinations to ensure that the students are grasping the concepts that they are supposed to be mastering, as well as looking at the resources that we make available through our learning hub for students to have access to information and to aid their preparation.”

But Dr Wesley cautioned that improving this statistic and at the same time reducing the fail rate will not happen overnight.

“A lot will have to be done, so it’s not just with the teachers, but perhaps working as well with our Teachers’ Colleges to help with those new students coming in and the creation of seminars that will help to build and expand competencies of teachers in the delivery of these subjects.”

cont’d from pg 14

that and you can underpay them and you don’t have to give them any benefits”.

Asked if the union representatives indicated to Minister Joseph that they will have to go back to their membership for a mandate on the issue, he said: “We did not respond to him really. We have to go back to our membership and we have to deliberate with our membership and let our membership give us directive where they want us to go based on the things that we know as public officers.”

“We must consult with our membership

before we do anything because the collective will of the members must be heard,” he added. The union representative indicated that the plan is for the group to approach the issue as a united team and “to join together to deliberate on this and to determine how we go forward”.

Grenada has an estimated 5500 public sector workers who are working on contracts offered by PSC and hundreds of others who are paid by the controversial Vote 340 which is included in most government ministries and heavily influenced by the Political Directorate.

Dominica: \$10,000 grant from October for youth planning to build their homes – Adis King

(Dominicanewsonline) Effective October 1st, 2020, young people below the age of 40, who plan to build their own homes, will be able to access a \$10,000 government grant.

Minister of Youth Development and Empowerment, Dr. Adis King said during the prime minister's weekly talk show recently that the monies are already available and once the individual meets the criteria, that person will be provided with the cheque.

"I must tell you that we have been generating a lot of interest. Right now you will find over 100 letters at the ministry inquiring about this \$10,000 grant. The young people are quite excited and it is actually encouraging them to want to build their homes," she said.

According to King, applicants must be Dominican citizens and must be resident in Dominica.

"You should also be below the age of 40; that was part of what we decided. Your annual income should be less than \$100,000, you must be a first time owner of a home, so people who already have a home will not qualify under this program to help build a second home," she explained.

The minister stated that people will be assigned to verify the information provided by the applicants, including village council chair persons and Justices of the Peace.

She went on to say that the individuals must have an approved plan by the planning division, "they must have proof that they have the finance to construct the house or to purchase the house, because you can either get



Minister of Youth Development and Empowerment, Dr. Adis King

the grant if you want to build or if you want to purchase a property."

If one is purchasing a house, she said, that person must have a letter from the seller indicating he/she intends to sell to that individual.

Dr. King pointed out that there are a lot of young people who want to build, but do not have the extra push and government's decision to decrease the transfer fees and the provision of a \$10,000 grant are provided that incentive.

Meanwhile, thirty (30) families in the community of Grand Bay will receive keys to their new homes this week.

"I will be in Grandbay, I believe on Wednesday, handing over keys to 30

families and I look forward to being part of this ceremony where 30 families from Wednesday afternoon will no longer be in any vulnerable circumstance," Prime Minister Skerrit said on his programme.

Earlier this month, during his weekend programme, the Prime Minister reminded the public of the government's self-imposed mandate to build 5000 resilient homes for Dominicans and indicated that about 1500 people had already received the keys to their homes.

He said the government had also helped thousands of people to cover their roofs and expressed confidence that his administration will achieve the target of 5000 resilient homes.

Guyana: Further spike in COVID-19 cases could “break” our medical system

(Kaieteurnews online) Social distancing is one of the key tactics being pushed to combat the spread of the very contagious COVID-19 disease. So, it is no surprise that recent protests have caused much worry among those within our health care system.

The protests, mainly on the West Coast of Berbice, were spurred by the killings of teenage cousins Isaiah and Joel Henry, whose mutilated bodies were found in a Cotton Tree, West Coast Berbice backdam.

“The protest actions, especially in Region Five, were the most reckless acts thus far. While we were all aggrieved, our demonstrations were reckless and irresponsible and we only have ourselves to blame should this pandemic get out of control in Guyana,” said Dr. Bux.

Drawing attention to the possible fallout from the protests, Dr. Zulfikar Bux, a weekly contributor to this newspaper, said, “I had pleaded previously for us to not gather in crowds to celebrate or protest the outcome of the elections. My plea was because of what I knew and what I’m seeing daily with this pandemic.”

According to the Emergency Medicine Specialist, the



Emergency Medicine Specialist, Dr. Zulfikar Bux.

coronavirus causing disease is one that “loves gatherings” since this is the best medium for it to spread and quickly cause a surge in cases. Moreover, transmission in a protesting crowd can become especially easy, Dr. Bux explained, because persons may find it inconvenient to wear a mask while they try to voice their concerns. The heat of the day, the doctor noted too, can be a deterrent to adherence as well.

“Others tend to wipe their faces of sweat given the high temperatures and tense nature of the surroundings. All of these are factors that hasten the spread of the coronavirus from person to person. I worry that we will be see-

ing a surge in infections this week from the places where the protests occurred. This surge will spill over and hasten the spread of the infection throughout the country,” said Dr. Bux.

And should there be an unprecedented spread of the disease, Dr. Bux added, “I fear that it will break our medical system and many more lives will be lost.”

Of the more than 2,000 positive cases, Guyana has recorded just over 60 deaths to date.

According to the medical practitioner, with the majority of positive cases recovering it could be deduced that the country is faced with a milder form of the disease.

While most people’s immune system may prove strong enough to fight off this, there are others who may not be so lucky, said Dr. Bux. Some asymptomatic persons, he theorized, can expose their relatives and friends including “the elderly and those with other medical conditions” who could become indirect casualties of COVID-19 acquired during protest actions.

Since early August Guyana has been witnessing an alarming increase in cases suggesting an extraordinary spread of the disease.

Even as he anticipated a further surge in cases, Dr. Bux said, “It’s fair to say that everyone that gathered at the protests is now at risk of having COVID-19.”

And should a spike in cases materialize in the coming days, it could easily overwhelm the medical system, Dr. Bux has concluded.

“If we continue to destroy the environment that we depend on for our survival, then there will come a point where each and every one of us cannot thrive,” he added.

As such, surviving the disease, he underscored, is dependent on sensible people working together in a responsible way to “fight the virus”.

US-China tensions at U.N. as Trump accuses Beijing of unleashing 'plague'

(Reuters) U.S. President Donald Trump told the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday that China must be held accountable for having “unleashed” COVID-19 on the world, prompting Beijing to accuse him of “lies” and abusing the United Nations platform to provoke confrontation.

China’s President Xi Jinping struck a conciliatory tone in his pre-recorded virtual address to the General Assembly, calling for enhanced cooperation over the pandemic and stressing that China had no intention of fighting “either a Cold War or a hot war with any country.”

But China’s U.N. ambassador Zhang Jun rejected Trump’s accusations against China as “baseless” and said “lies repeated a thousand times are still lies.”

Trump and Xi, leaders of the world’s two largest economies, laid out competing visions at a time when relations have plunged to their worst level in decades, with coronavirus tensions aggravating trade and technology disputes.

Trump, facing a November re-election battle with the United States dealing with the world’s highest official number of deaths and infections from the coronavirus, focused his



U.S. President Donald Trump with China's President Xi Jinping.

speech on attacking China. He accused Beijing of allowing people to leave China in the early stages of the outbreak to infect the world while shutting down domestic travel.

“We must hold accountable the nation which unleashed this plague onto the world, China,” he said in remarks taped on Monday and delivered remotely to the General Assembly due to the pandemic.

“The Chinese government, and the World Health Organization – which is virtually controlled by China – falsely declared that there was no evidence of human-to-human transmission,” he said.

“Later, they falsely said people without symptoms would not spread the disease ... The United Nations must hold China accountable for their actions.”

The president promised to distribute a vaccine and said: “We will defeat the

man transmission. Since February, our experts have publicly discussed transmission by people without symptoms or prior to symptoms.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin told the General Assembly the WHO should be strengthened to coordinate the global response to the pandemic and proposed a high-level conference on vaccine cooperation.

China has portrayed itself as the chief cheerleader for multilateralism at a time when Trump’s disregard for international cooperation has led him to quit global deals on climate and Iran, as well as the U.N. Human Rights Council and the WHO.

Xi took an apparent swipe at Trump’s “America First” policy in a statement on Monday to a meeting celebrating the U.N.’s 75th anniversary.

“No country has the right to dominate global affairs, control the destiny of others, or keep advantages in development all to itself.

“Even less should one be allowed to do whatever it likes and be the hegemon, bully or boss of the world. Unilateralism is a dead end,” he said.

The U.S. coronavirus death toll surpassed 200,000 on Monday, by far the highest official number of any country.

“Any attempt of politicizing the issue, or stigmatization, must be rejected.”

The WHO rejected Trump’s remarks.

“No one gov’t controls us,” its communications director, Gabby Stern tweeted, adding: “On Jan. 14 our #COVID19 technical lead told media of the potential for human-to-hu-

man transmission. Since February, our experts have publicly discussed transmission by people without symptoms or prior to symptoms.”

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Outrage as Nigeria sentences 13-year-old boy to 10 years in prison

(CNN) Child rights agency UNICEF has condemned the sentencing of a 13-year-old boy to 10 years in prison for blasphemy in northern Nigeria.

Omar Farouq was convicted in a Sharia court in Kano State in northwest Nigeria after he was accused of using foul language toward Allah in an argument with a friend.

He was sentenced on August 10 by the same court that recently sentenced a studio assistant Yahaya Sharif-Aminu to death for blaspheming Prophet Mohammed, according to lawyers.

Farouq's punishment is in violation of the African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of a Child and the Nigerian constitution, said his counsel Kola Alapinni, who told CNN they filed an appeal on his behalf on September 7.

Farouq was tried as an adult because he has attained puberty and has full responsibility under Islamic law.

Alapinni told CNN he or other lawyers working on the case have not been granted access to Farouq by authorities in Kano State.

He said he found out about Farouq's case by chance when working on the case of Sharif-Aminu, who was sentenced to death for blasphemy at the Kano Upper



A team of Islamic sharia enforcers called Hisbah on patrol in the northern Nigerian city of Kano.

Sharia Court.

"We found out they were convicted on the same day, by the same judge, in the same court, for blasphemy and we found out no one was talking about Omar, so we had to move quickly to file an appeal for him," he said.

"Blasphemy is not recognized by Nigerian law. It is inconsistent with the constitution of Nigeria."

The lawyer said Farouq's mother had fled to a neighboring town after mobs descended on their home following his arrest.

"Everyone here is scared to speak and living under fear of reprisal attacks," he

said.

UNICEF Wednesday issued a statement "expressing deep concern" about the sentencing.

"The sentencing of this child -- 13-year-old Omar Farouq -- to 10 years in prison with menial labour is wrong," said Peter Hawkins, UNICEF representative in Nigeria. "It also negates all core underlying principles of child rights and child justice that Nigeria -- and by implication, Kano State -- has signed on to."

Kano State, like most predominantly Muslim states in Nigeria, practices Sharia law alongside secular law.

CNN contacted a spokes-

man for the Kano State governor for comment but had not heard back before publication.

UNICEF has called on the Nigerian government and the Kano State government to urgently review the case and reverse the sentence, the organization said in a statement.

"This case further underlines the urgent need to accelerate the enactment of the Kano State Child Protection Bill so as to ensure that all children under 18, including Omar Farouq are protected -- and that all children in Kano are treated in accordance with child rights standards," Hawkins said.

Pascale Ferrier: White House ricin package suspect in court

(BBC) A Canadian woman has been charged in US federal court for allegedly posting a letter with deadly ricin poison to President Donald Trump.

Pascale Ferrier, of Quebec, was arrested at a border crossing in Buffalo, New York, on Sunday. Officials say she was carrying a gun.

She has pleaded not guilty to making threats against the president.

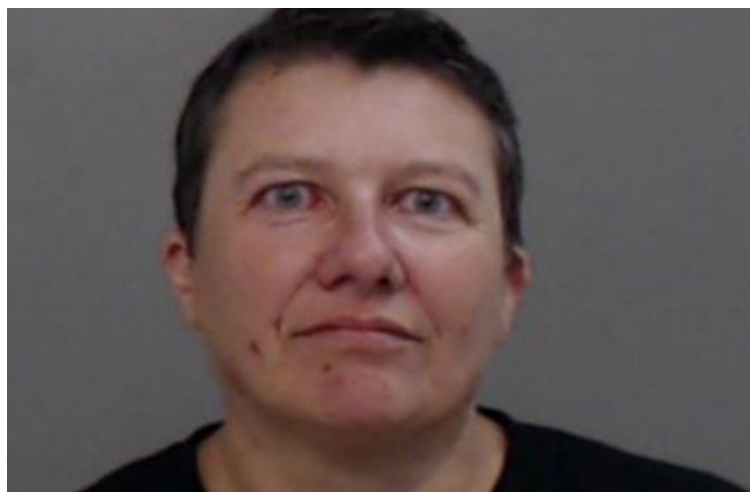
The letter she allegedly sent last week was discovered before it reached the White House.

In it, she called on Mr Trump to drop out of the US presidential race. The envelope contained ricin, a poison found naturally in castor beans.

"I found a new name for you: 'The Ugly Tyrant Clown'," she wrote in the letter to Mr Trump, according to FBI charging documents filed ahead of her first court appearance in New York on Tuesday.

"I hope you like it. You ruin USA and lead them to disaster. I have US cousins, then I don't want the next 4 years with you as president. Give up and remove your application for this election."

The letter, which the FBI says had her fingerprints on it, referred to the poisoned note as "a special gift", adding: "If it doesn't work, I'll find better recipe for another



Pascale Ferrier, of Quebec, was arrested at a border crossing in Buffalo, New York, on Sunday

er poison, or I might use my gun when I'll be able to come. "

The suspect may have also sent ricin to five addresses in Texas, including a jail and a sheriff's office, according to the court documents.

Ms Ferrier appeared in court on Tuesday afternoon in Buffalo, New York, with the aid of a French-speaking translator, according to local media.

She asked for a court appointed defence lawyer during the hearing.

That lawyer also requested an identity and probable cause hearing, to have the court determine that she is the individual named in the complaint.

The judge scheduled these next hearings for 28 September. She will be in the custody of the US Marshals until that time, as prosecutors argued she poses a flight risk.

Who is Pascale Ferrier?

Pascale Cecile Veronique Ferrier, 53, is a computer programmer who is originally from France, but became a Canadian citizen in 2015, according to Canadian media. Sources tell Reuters she retains dual French-Canadian citizenship. She was living in the Canadian province of Quebec.

In March 2019, she was arrested in Texas for unlawfully carrying a weapon and using a fake driver's licence, according to jail records.

She was deported to Canada after officials found she had overstayed her visa and committed a crime while in the US, according to the New York Times.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Secret Service are investigating the package, which was discovered at a processing facility for mail sent to the White House.

The presence of ricin was

confirmed after several tests by the FBI, authorities said.

A spokesman for the Mission, Texas, police department told the Associated Press on Monday an envelope was in the care of local officials and no-one had been hurt.

Another Texas Sheriff, Eddie Guerra in Hidalgo County, also confirmed envelopes with ricin were posted to staff there, but reported no injuries.

On Monday, the RCMP division in Quebec searched a residence in the Montreal suburb of Saint-Hubert that authorities said is linked to the suspect.

Senior US Customs and Border Protection official Mark Morgan on Tuesday said that Ms Ferrier had told border officers "she was wanted by the FBI for mailing envelopes with ricin to the White House and other locations" when she approached the checkpoint on Sunday.

Officers found a gun, knife and ammunition in her car at the time of her arrest.

What is ricin?

Ricin is a lethal substance that, if swallowed, inhaled or injected, can cause nausea, vomiting, internal bleeding and ultimately organ failure.

No known antidote exists for ricin. If a person is exposed to ricin, death can

cont'd on pg 21

At UN, Qatar emir questions world inaction on Israeli occupation

(Aljazeera) Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has questioned the credibility of the international community as it “stands by, unable to take any effective action to confront Israeli intransigence and its continued occupation of Palestinian and Arab land”.

In his video speech at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the emir questioned the role of countries and organisations for failing to uphold the resolutions against the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and its expansion of settlement building.

He accused Israel of carrying out “flagrant violation of international resolutions and the two-state solution as agreed upon by the international community”.

“The international community stands by, unable to take any effective action to confront Israeli intransigence, its continued occu-



Qatar emir accused Israel of ‘flagrant violation of international resolutions and the two state solution as agreed upon by the international community’.

pation of Palestinian and Arab land, the imposition of a stifling siege on the Gaza Strip, [and] the expanding settlement policy, among others,” he said.

“Peace can only be achieved when Israel fully commits to the international terms of reference and resolutions that are accepted by the Arab countries and upon which the Arab Peace Initiative is based.”

The Arab Peace Initiative was a plan put forth by Saudi Arabia in 2002 that called for normalising relations with Israel in exchange for an end to its

occupation of Palestinian territories, the establishment of a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as a just solution for Palestinian refugees.

Qatar’s ruler said Israel is trying to “circumvent these parameters” and any arrangements that do not take these factors into account “will not achieve peace”.

“Failure to find a just solution to the Palestinian cause, Israel’s continued settlements, and forcing a reality on the ground without being deterred, this

is what raises the biggest question about the credibility of the international community and its institutions,” the emir added.

He called upon the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to assume its legal responsibilities and “compel Israel to lift the siege on the Gaza Strip, and to put the peace process back on track through credible negotiations based on international resolutions and not on force”.

Speaking from outside the UN headquarters in New York, Al Jazeera’s James Bays said it was interesting to see many Arab states within the Arab League remain consistent in their views on Israel and Palestine - which revolves around the international consensus that there should be a two-state solution.

On September 15, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed agreements to normalise relations with Israel in a strategic realignment of Middle Eastern countries against Iran.

The ceremony was hosted by US President Donald Trump at the White House, capping a dramatic month when the countries agreed to normalise ties without a resolution of Israel’s decades-old conflict with the Palestinians, who have condemned the agreements.

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take place within 36 to 72 hours, depending on the dose received, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC said the poison - which has been used in terror plots - can be manufactured into a weapon in the form of a powder, mist or pellet.

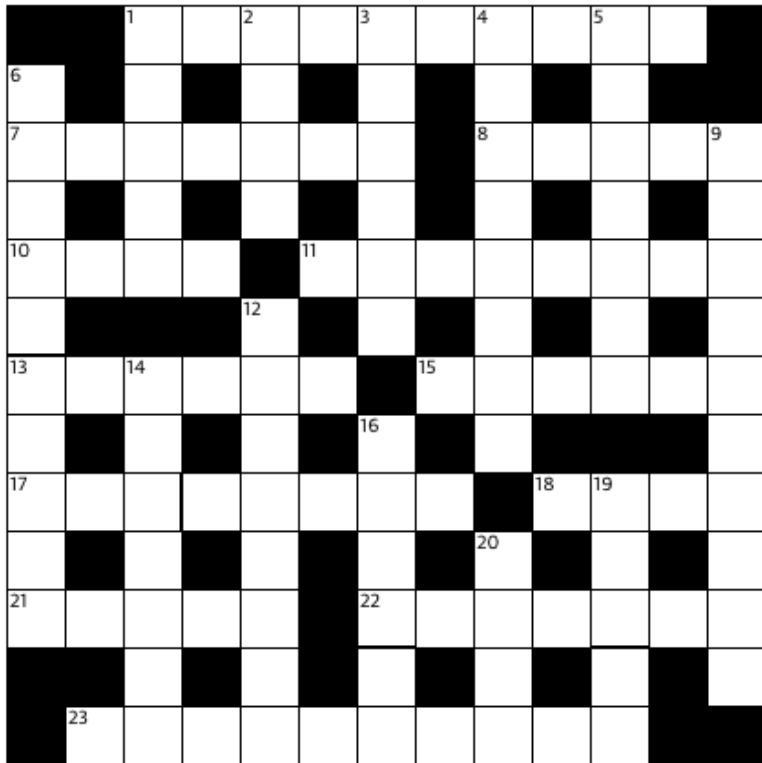
The White House and other federal buildings have been the target of ricin packages in the past.

In 2014, a Mississippi man was sentenced to 25 years in prison for sending letters dusted with ricin to former President Barack Obama and other officials.

TV actress Shannon Richardson, who was featured on the programme *The Walking Dead*, was jailed for 18 years in 2014 for mailing ricin to Mr Obama and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Four years later, in 2018, a former Navy veteran was charged with sending toxic letters to the Pentagon and White House.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

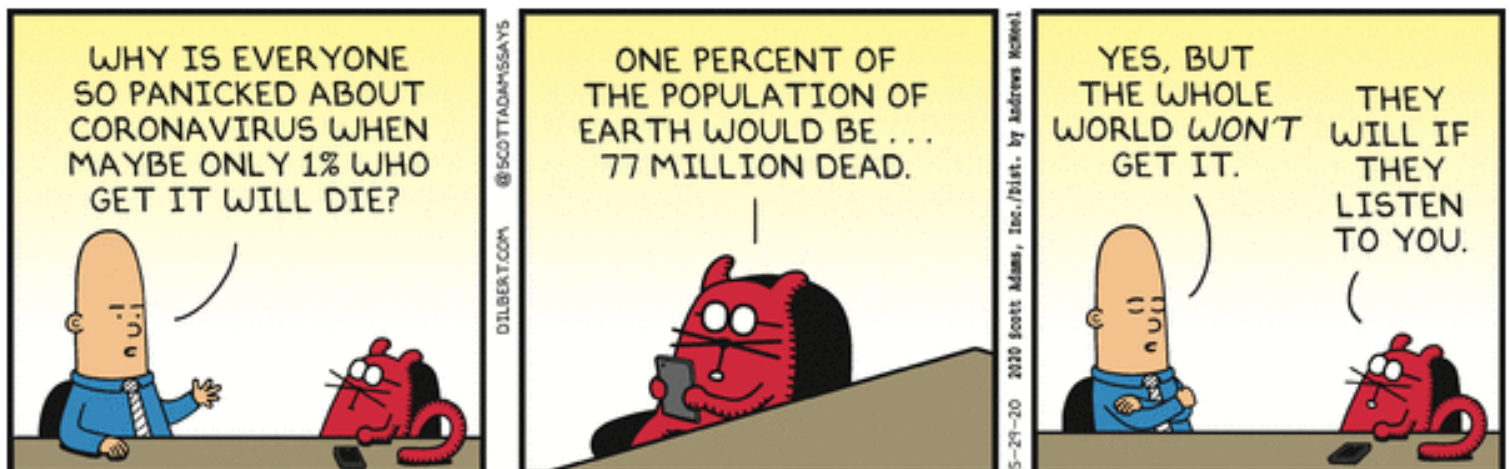
- 1 Bad-tempered person (10)
- 7 Flourish (7)
- 8 Son of Abraham, offered as a sacrifice to God (5)
- 10 ___ Bodies, Evelyn Waugh's 1930 novel (4)
- 11 Valued possession that's handed down (8)
- 13 Side roads (6)
- 15 Hostess in a kimono (6)
- 17 OK (3,5)
- 18 LSD (4)
- 21 Zany (5)
- 22 Walk wearily (7)
- 23 Observant (10)

Down

- 1 Shade of pink (5)
- 2 Bovine creatures (4)
- 3 Insectivorous plant (6)
- 4 Enclosures for birds (8)
- 5 Mountain-dwelling antelope (7)
- 6 On the level (5,5)
- 7 Take by force (10)
- 12 Slavic alphabet (8)
- 14 Greet (7)
- 16 Closely confined (4,2)
- 19 Get into trouble (3,2)
- 20 Green ornamental stone (4)

CARTOON CORNER

Dilbert





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Keep your temper on a tight leash in the week ahead even when it's tempting to let it loose. You may be happiest when working as a team with some friendly people, but be discreet and avoid being too playful.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): If you can't win a war of wits, you may try to compete with your wallet. In the week ahead you may consider casually spending money just to prove a point. Avoid the temptation to please others no matter the cost.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Handling fast-paced activities and results-driven people may deplete your storehouse of social skills in the week ahead. Take a second look at bills, emails and proposals, as you might miss the fine print.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): To make money, sometimes you must spend money. However, during the upcoming week you might notice that expenditures outweigh the benefits. You may suffer from an illusion that you are in total control.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Once you have a goal in mind, it may be difficult to stop thinking about it. Avoid any relentless quest for now, as this may offend friends or partners who feel left out of the equation. Be energetic but not headstrong this week.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In the week ahead, keep your sights fixed on achieving major long-term goals even when new ideas, desires and distractions crop up. Don't accept vague answers or ask misleading questions when money is involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Your head might not understand what your heart already knows. At some point during the upcoming week you might realize that one of your best ideas was a mere fantasy. Don't take a casual flirtation too seriously.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your warmth and friendliness are potent tonics best used in small doses as this week unfolds. Focus on finding long-term solutions to temporary financial problems. Don't be too proud to ask for advice or guidance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You probably know best when it comes to handling your resources as this week unfolds. Some people may urge you to spend today and pay tomorrow, but you have a long-term vision of prosperity to bank on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your generosity knows no bounds, but someone else may count on that. A co-worker or acquaintance may inadvertently cause you financial hardship. In the week ahead, remember "neither a borrower nor a lender be."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone in your intimate circle could rub you the wrong way during the week to come. Abrasive individuals in the workplace could put you on your guard as well. Don't take criticism personally but see the lesson.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Staging an intervention in an effective way may require all your diplomatic skills and your gentlest management. You may find yourself dealing with anger issues in the week ahead when someone doesn't get their way.

NFL coach faces coronavirus mask fine

Las Vegas Raiders head coach, Jon Gruden, said he “just wanted to communicate” when he removed his face mask in the side’s win against the New Orleans Saints.

Under the NFL’s coronavirus protocol, anyone with bench area access must wear a face covering at all times.

Gruden and Saints counterpart, Sean Payton, could face fines after being seen without masks during Tuesday’s game.

According to ESPN, three NFL clubs and their head



Las Vegas Raiders head coach, Jon Gruden

coaches have already been fined.

“I’m doing my best,” Gruden said.

“You know, I’ve had the virus. I’m very sensitive

about it, but I’m calling plays. I just want to communicate in these situations and I apologise. If I get fined, I will have to pay the fine.”

The Denver Broncos, San

Francisco 49ers and Seattle Seahawks have been fined £195,000, with the head coaches of each team having to pay £78,000 for violating rules on face coverings.

Broncos coach, Vic Fangio, 49ers head coach, Kyle Shanahan, and Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll were all seen without masks during their week two games.

The Raiders, playing their first game at the new Allegiant Stadium, beat the Saints 34 - 24 to secure two wins from two games this season.

Saurez’s Italian citizenship test investigated

Italian authorities are investigating alleged “irregularities” in Uruguayan footballer Luis Suarez’s Italian citizenship test.

The Barcelona striker took the exam last week as part of a possible move to Italian club Juventus, but the Perugia prosecutor’s office and the financial police say they are looking into how the test took place.

Judicial sources, however, have told Italian news agency Ansa that Suarez himself is not under investigation.

The player allegedly knew about subjects given in the test before he took it at the University of Perugia and had his final score agreed beforehand, according to a statement issued by the prosecutor’s office in Perugia, central Italy, and the Guardia di Fi-

nanza.

Moreover, the Uruguay national “demonstrated only an elementary knowledge of the Italian language”, according to the statement.

Five university officials, including the dean, are now under investigation.

Authorities seized documents at the university on Tuesday.

The University of Perugia, where the test took place, has denied any wrongdoing.

In a statement, the institution reiterated “the correctness and transparency of the procedures followed in the exam”.

Reports earlier in September said Suarez had agreed a deal with Juventus, but his citizenship remained an issue, as the club had no spots left in



Luis Suarez

their squad for non-EU players.

Suarez’s wife is Italian, making him eligible to apply for an Italian passport, which would have allowed him to transfer to the Turin-based club, but the 33-year-old player needed to pass a language exam, which he took at Perugia’s University for Foreigners on 17 September.

UK ditches plans to allow fans at sporting events

The United Kingdom prime minister, Boris Johnson, has confirmed that plans for fans to return to watch live sport events in England from 1st October will not go ahead.

The plans were placed under review after a rise in coronavirus cases.

The UK's COVID-19 alert level has moved to 4, meaning transmission is "high or rising exponentially".

In an address to the Commons on Tuesday, he announced new restrictions for

the country and those included halting of the phased return of fans.

"We will not be able to do this from October 1 and I recognise the implications for our sports clubs, which are the life and soul of our communities," he added.

"The chancellor and the culture secretary are working urgently on what we can do now to support them."

The prime minister also said current restrictions are likely to remain in place for the next six months.



"We have to acknowledge the spread of the virus is now affecting our ability to re-open large sporting events," said the prime minister.

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He told Guardian Media Sports, however, that consideration will be given to what's happening with FIFA internationally.

On September 11, Wallace and his team filed an injunction to block the membership for holding an Extraordinary General Meeting of the association's members, which was scheduled for Tuesday 15, which High Court Judge Carol Gobin granted on September 14.

The meeting was to vote for Wallace and his team to forgo litigation in local courts against FIFA and move the matter to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which like FIFA is based in Switzerland, and also recognise the March 27 FIFA appointed Normalisation Committee which is led by businessman, Robert Hadad, who is joined by attorney, Judy Daniel (deputy chairman) and member Nigel Romano.

Tammy Beaumont makes 62 as hosts claim 47-run win

Tammy Beaumont's eye-catching half-century helped England to a 47-run win and a 1-0 series lead over West Indies in their first international since March.

Beaumont struck 62 from 49 balls as England, despite a late innings wobble, posted 163-8, with Windies pace bowler Shakera Selman taking a fine 3-26.

West Indies limped through their response, with Deandra Dottin's 69 the only score of note as the tourists struggled to keep up with the rate and England impressed in the field.

They finished their 20 overs on 116-6, with left-arm spinner Sophie Eccle-



stone taking 2-19 as England cruised to victory.

This was the first women's match involving an International Cricket Council full member since the T20 World Cup final in March.

Then, 86,000 people crammed into the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Now, the matches took

place in a bio-secure bubble behind closed doors in Derby.

Despite the obvious differences, this was a solid performance from England and, in parts, West Indies.

The second game of the five-match series takes place on Wednesday at 18:00 BST.

Sports

WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2020

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Wallace calls TTFA membership meeting

Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) called a crucial meeting of the sport's membership on Tuesday at 7 pm to discuss the way forward in the sport in T&T.

The TTFA, which comprises the elected president William Wallace and his vice presidents, Clynt Taylor, Joseph Sam Phillip and Susan Joseph-Warrick, has until Wednesday to drop their court battle against the FIFA or else face sanctions.

The invitations appeared to have been sent out to certain delegates, as it specifically called only for invited members on the list of delegates to tune in to the virtual session, where a decision to drop the legal battle with FIFA is not specific on the agenda.

Guardian Media Sports was reliably informed that some delegates from the T&T Pro League, which has been represented by an outspoken chairman Brent Sancho, did not receive invitations while only the T&T Super League and the Secondary Schools Football League (SSFL) were among

eleven members invited.

The TTFA has been challenging a decision by FIFA on March 17 to install a Normalisation Committee as a replacement for the duly elected administration (TTFA) after just three months in office.

In a statement, Wallace assured letters will be sent out to all delegates, adding that the invitations were being extended via an online delegate chat, or by email.

"Whoever did not collect invitations as yet will receive them later today, but invitations will be sent to all. We need to hear what the members think and how they propose we move forward with the sport," Wallace explained.

Meanwhile, Osmond Downer, a vice president of the T&T Football Referees Association, which is one of the invited entities to the meeting explained to Guardian Media Sports on Tuesday that: "It is not a General Meeting. A General Meeting can only be called by the Board of Directors or fifty per cent of the membership. At present, there is no



TTFA President William Wallace

Board of Directors because that has been replaced by the Normalisation Committee and for the membership did not call the meeting and, the membership must also be given at least 10 days notice."

Downer, who was one of the architects of the TTFA amended constitution in 2015 said, "What has appended is the elected President Mr. William Wallace has called a meeting of the Delegates of the TTFA and that meeting is only for information, discussion and or opinions. No binding decisions on anybody or anything can happen."

The TTFA was given an

initial deadline of September 16th by FIFA General Secretary Fatma Samoura on August 26th, a mere two days before the FIFA Congress on September 18th, which they (TTFA) failed to honour.

While the TTFA was expected to be suspended at the Congress, the FIFA Bureau of Council instead opted to give the TTFA another chance by issuing a revised date of September 23 to drop the court case.

Wallace in a comment after the Congress said he will consider all options moving forward, and yesterday he reiterated that view by saying he will be going into tonight's meeting with an open mind.