



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

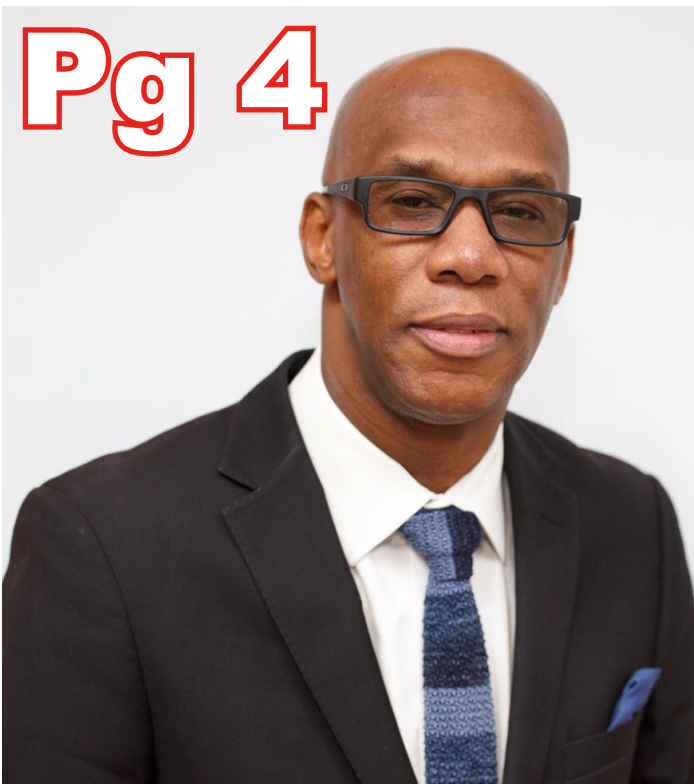
WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 136 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

ABLP TO ACTIVATE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

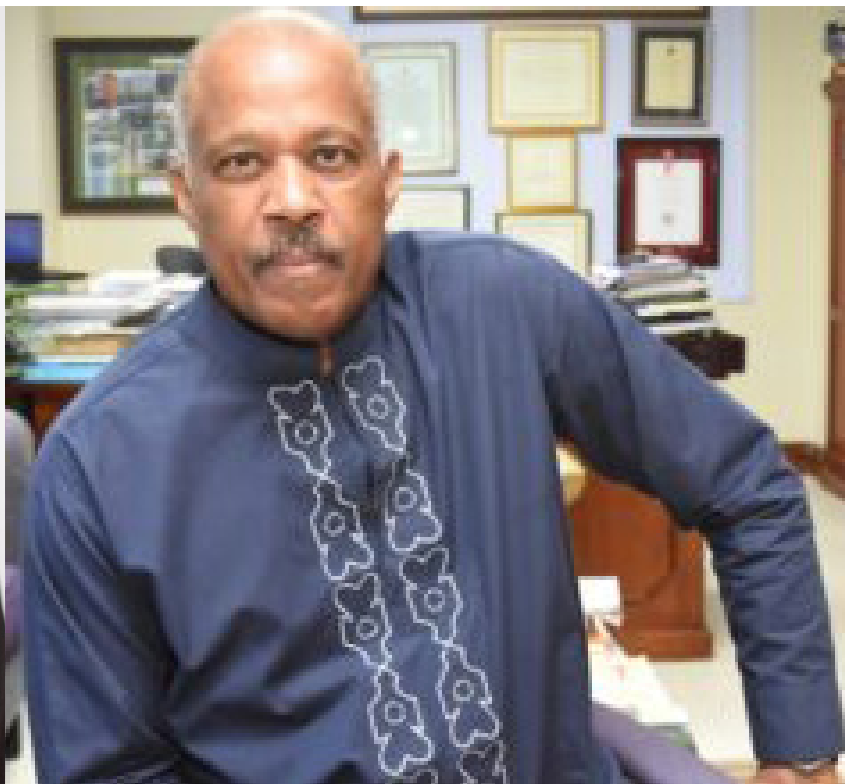
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Antigua and Barbuda welcomes CXC review

Pg 4



Director of Education, Clare Browne



Chairman of the Caribbean Examinations Council, Sir Hilary Beckles

ABLP to activate disciplinary tribunal

The ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is preparing to activate internal disciplinary mechanisms to deal with the many 'infractions' of parliamentary representative for St. Peter, Asot Michael.

In a press release issued on Monday, the ABLP's E.

P. Chet Greene said, "As Chairman of the ABLP, my attention has been drawn to several instances, over the last few weeks, of unacceptable behaviour, directed at public figures in the institutions of our country, by a member of our party. Such behaviour violates

the rules and code of ethics that guides the membership of the party and places its standing at risk."

The ABLP Chairman continued: "The party has machinery for dealing with such infractions, and this machinery will be put in motion immediately. There is no citizen of Antigua and Barbuda more privileged than another and no member of the ABLP who is more favoured than any other. In these circumstances, the party machinery will inquire into these infractions,



E. P. Chet Greene

listen to all sides, and take swift action. No individual is bigger than the party and no one is greater than the institutions of our nation."

Appearing on a radio pro-
cont'd on pg 3

DAY 9/30

31 °Hi



Variable cloudiness with showers

NIGHT 9/30

26 °Lo



Mostly cloudy and warm with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:57 AM

Sunset AST
5:56 PM



Duration
11:59 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
5:33 PM

Moonset AST
5:41 AM



Duration
12:08 hr

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
POINTE X PRESS
 TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

COMMUNITY NOTICES

WOMEN LEADERS

Young women who are interested in leadership aged 18 to 25 and living in Antigua and Barbuda, are being sought ahead of an upcoming conference. The Antigua and Barbuda Parliament in partnership with ParlAmericas will be hosting a "Young Women in Leadership" conference through October and November 2020. Visit. www.civil.org or call 462-4822 or 464-2705 for more information.

ROAD WORK ON SIR GEORGE WALTER HWY:

Road work will continue in Phase 2B between Mi Casa Imports Ltd to Sir Sidney Walling Hwy (Factory Rd) junction from Monday, September 21 to October 3, 2020. Local access will be maintained for the duration of this closure and there will be business as usual. Business owners, customers and residents trying to gain access are asked to enter from the northern end of closure from Dees Service Station (Rubis) junction.

Submit your community notices to news@pointville.ag

cont'd from pg 2

gramme on Tuesday, Greene disclosed that the Constitution of the ABLP provides for the establishment of a Tribunal to look into instances of misconduct on the part of a member.

“Article 11 of the Constitution makes provision for the establishment of a Tribunal. This Tribunal will comprise five members, two of whom should be lawyers to look into any such infractions. The Tribunal will have the power to review all the decisions taken at the constituency level on matters of discipline, investigate and decide on all matters of discipline within the party. Investigate any matter referred to it in writing by the Central Executive or investigate any matter referred to it by any member of the party,” he explained.

He continued that any officer or member of the party who is found to have infringed any provision of the constitution, regulations or code of conduct shall be subject to sanctions including censure, reprimand, fine, suspension, expulsion or any other action which the Tribunal deems fit.

The Tribunal’s recommendation is subject to final approval from the party’s executive.

“That is the process as detailed in the Constitution. I outlined this to give assurances to members of the party that



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

all that transpired over the past weeks are well documented and the process will commence immediately,” he declared.

Greene urged party’s faithful ‘not to be alarmed’ as there are mechanisms within the organization to deal with any eventuality.

Over several weeks, Michael has had run-ins with the Chief Magistrate and the House Speaker. Last Saturday in a radio appearance, he made unflattering remarks about Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

On Saturday, PM Browne said Michael ‘has gone too far’ with regard to his most recent antics.



Asot Michael



STARTING POINTE

with

Shelton Daniel

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am










POINTE FM

Antigua and Barbuda welcomes CXC review

Chairman of the Caribbean Examinations Council, Sir Hilary Beckles, has announced that an Independent Review Team will commence an assessment of the July 2020 Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) examinations.

There are ongoing protests over the results of the examination, specifically the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) because some students received a mark of 'ungraded' for examinations they wrote.

Antigua and Barbuda has welcomed, according to Director of Education, Clare Browne, who said it will serve to restore credibility to the CXC and its exams.

Sir Hilary Beckles has said that concerns raised in the public domain with respect to the efficacy of procedures and systems used by CXC in

its computation and declaration of student performance data are of great importance to the organisation.

He went on to say that the Registrar, Dr. Wayne Wesley, and his team have met with regional Ministers of Education in order to discuss these concerns and identify the underlying causes with a view to moving forward and providing clarity to stakeholders and enhanced support.

CXC, meantime, has said that it is satisfied that regional ministers have received explanations for its positions in light of the public discourse.

The Council continued that it is understood, while there might be policy and technical issues to be addressed immediately, the maintenance of public trust going forward is paramount.

There will be ongoing di-



Chairman of the Caribbean Examinations Council, Sir Hilary Beckles

alogue with regional Ministries of Education based upon the official gathering of data relevant to all ventilated concerns. All formally reported cases will be reviewed and, where remedies are required, CXC has given the assurance that they will be applied.

Despite the criticism, CXC has said that its management has been impressive in the delivery of the July 2020 regional examinations within the context of the COVID-19 logistics nightmare and crippling global doubt about revised examinations systems and procedures he noted.

Sir Hilary's also offered commendation to CXC, "for their effort to serve the best they can – the people of our region".

"Nonetheless," a statement from Sir Hilary continued, "it was anticipated that given these specific challenges a period of review and possible revisions would follow,

consistent with the regulations of the Council.

It has been agreed, therefore, that an Independent Review Team will shortly begin this work and present a report for discussion with relevant stakeholders."

Following the announcement, Director Browne said the fact that the review is being carried out by an independent team will serve two key objectives; that of fostering faith in the review process as well as the final report of the review team.

"Having a review following widespread concerns is actually a good thing as it will look at the systems and processes and determine the underlying factors that led to the problems experienced by students in so many territories," he noted.

Students from Antigua and Barbuda are among those voicing concerns over the exam results and these have been forwarded to CXC.



Director of Education, Clare Browne



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SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Non-communicable diseases remain a challenge

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION LAND AT FITCHES CREEK

Instructed by Peyton Knight & Associates Attorneys – At – Law, we shall sell by Public Auction on Thursday 1st day of October, at 11:00 AM, one parcel of land situated at Fitches Creek registered as: Registration Section: North Central; Block #12 2292B; Parcel #: 266 measuring 0.26 acre or approximately 11,325.60 square feet. It is owned by Marlon and Alice Ho – Tack.

The property consist of one parcel of land.

The auction will be held on site. Bidders must have a picture ID in order to be registered for the auction which will begin at 11:00 AM.

Further details may be obtained from Trevor “Teddy” Santos, Tel. no. (268) 562-7653/ 464-7653; Fax (268) 560-7653; Whatsapp: (268) 464-7653; Facebook: Auction Antigua; Instagram: tts_auction_antigua; Email info@go-going-gone.com Web: www.go-going-gone.com

Trevor “Teddy” Santos

Licensed Auctioneer

A recent health screening conducted by the Antigua and Barbuda Diabetes Association (ABDA) has revealed that diabetes, a non-communicable disease, remains a challenge for many nationals.

According to the ABDA, a review of the results of the screening, attended by approximately one hundred and twelve individuals, indicated that high cholesterol, overweight and obesity, and high blood pressure were of greatest concern.

Fewer participants had high blood sugar levels.

The association said on site counseling included recommendations for follow up, while those persons with abnormal results will be contacted by phone

to encourage early and appropriate intervention.

The data from this screening programme will be collated, analysed and shared with the appropriate public health partners.

President of the Diabetes Association, Juanita James, said she “was very pleased with the turnout and support from partners”.

The Antigua and Barbuda Diabetes Association extended appreciation to the Ministry of Health, the Medical Benefits Scheme, the Nurses Association, the Red Cross and the Association of Nutritionists and Dietitians for providing the necessary resources, supplies, and support to conduct the screening initiative.



TALKING POINT

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
10:30AM TO 1:30PM

DR. MASERATI **SENATOR COLIN BROWNE**

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

CHANNEL 9



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Rotary Club supports Clare Hall Secondary's Literacy Programme



The Clare Hall Secondary School has received support for its Literacy Programme from the Rotary Club of Antigua.

On Tuesday, the philanthropic organization presented supplies including stationery and technological equipment during a brief ceremony at the school's Literacy Centre.

President of the Rotary Club of Antigua, Kevin Silston, indicated that the club is very pleased to support the literacy initiative. He added that education is among the club's key develop-

ment outreach areas, therefore playing a role in improving literacy across the nation is of critical importance.

"This is a very meaningful project, with life changing potential. We are all aware of the challenges faced by some students who transition through the Universal Secondary School system and a programme like this will assist in improving literacy skills. After looking at this, I am of the opinion that such a programme can be launched in other schools, and as a club we are willing to partner with other organi-

zations in making this a reality. It has tremendous value for a lifetime," President Silston expressed.

He added that the club will continue to support the programme as necessary.

Silston also expressed thanks to Rotarians, Paper Clips, Hadeed Motors and ACT for their assistance in making the contribution possible.

Principal of the Clare Hall Secondary School, Ashworth Azille, expressed thanks to the club for its consideration and investment in the programme.

Parliament green lights APUA loan

The House of Representatives has approved an APUA loan that was negotiated with a consortium of local banks.

Minister of Finance, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, tabled the resolution.

Although the government guaranteed the loan, the banks, led by the Antigua Commercial Bank, made it a requirement that the Parliament give its approval before allowing APUA to draw down on the \$168 million.

The utility company will use the money to begin upgrades to its water, electricity and internet services and consolidate its outstanding loans.

The loan will be serviced at an interest rate of 7 per-



cent per annum for the first year and then 6.25 percent for the remaining 14 years of the loan.

It also carries an overdraft facility exceeding \$5 million at 7.5 percent.

While APUA is yet to

draw down on the loan, they have begun the process of preparing for the start of the upcoming projects.

Barbuda health and educational institutions receive donations

The two public schools in Barbuda, the Holy Trinity Primary and the Sir McChesney George Secondary, are the latest educational institutions to benefit from the collaborative effort of the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs and Scotiabank.

The donation also includes assistance to Barbuda's health infrastructure.

During a ceremony held in St. John's, Rotary Clubs and Scotiabank representatives presented the Deputy Director of Education, Ezra Jonah-Greene, with school supplies.

Greene thanked Scotiabank and the Rotary Clubs for what she described as a timely, thoughtful and

worthwhile contribution towards the further development of education on Barbuda.

"Scotiabank was pleased as a community initiative to assist the people of Barbuda with their rebuilding efforts," Suzan Snaggs-Wilson, Country Manager said.

Scotiabank, recognizing that Barbuda is still recovering from the impact of hurricane Irma, donated US\$50,000.00. Of that amount, supplies valued at US\$30,250 were provided to both schools while the Hanna Thomas Hospital received aid in the amount of US\$19,750.

The supplies for the Hanna Thomas Hospital were presented earlier.

The supplies given to the Holy Trinity school will go toward a reading intervention programme intended to increase literacy, preserving heritage by creating a music programme and nutrition for living.

The contribution to the secondary school will facilitate classroom development and teacher efficiency, office equipment, grounds upkeep and landscaping and the purchase of a sound system.

The items were purchased according to the needs of the two school plants.

Caribbean Water Treatment assisted with the storage and transportation of the items to Barbuda.

Spencer rallies support for UPP slate

The former leader of the United Progressive Party (UPP), Baldwin Spencer, is urging the party's members to support the new slate of candidates. This call from Spencer comes as the UPP has put its campaign machinery into high gear.

During the official roll out of the UPP's candidates last weekend, former Prime Minister Spencer rallied supporters to stay committed to the candidates in their quest for governance.

"As we charge these candidates with the responsibility to go out there, not for themselves, not for the UPP, but for the nation of Antigua and Barbuda and that all of us will be by their sides. All of us will be part of this great crusade for redemption and to make sure that, with God's help and God's guidance, we will be able to bring the ship safely to shore," he declared.

According to the party's former leader, every member and supporter of the UPP must realize the integral role they play in the continued development of Antigua and Barbuda.

Meantime, the current UPP leader, Harold Lovell, has expressed confidence in the new candidates, noting that already, they have garnered the interest of the electorate.

"I wonder if you recognize the importance of persons readying themselves to vote when the election is three years away.

"This feels like 2004 because everybody is sharpening up their voters' card. They have their weapons because they are ready for the change," he stated.

The UPP has spent several months selecting its slate of candidates for the next general elections which are constitutionally due in 2023.



Former leader of the United Progressive Party (UPP), Baldwin Spencer

Electoral Commission welcomes new member



Madeline Blackman

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) has welcomed career diplomat, Madeline Blackman, to its ranks. Blackman will occupy a seat on the commission's management body.

Blackman replaces Paula C. M. Lee, whose seven-year tenure as a member of ABEC came to an end in August this year. She was appointed by the Antigua and Barbuda Evangelical Association and the Antigua Christian Council.

Blackman describes herself as a practicing Roman Catholic who is deeply Afro-Caribbean and shares in the dreams and aspirations of Caribbean people.

She is a former public servant who

dedicated over forty years of service in the tourism industry. Blackman served as Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Office in Toronto, Canada and Head of the Consulate in Ontario. During this time she provided service to her country through her involvement with the Antiguan and Barbudan community in Canada and via broader international relations.

Blackman said that she is very pleased about her appointment to ABEC and sees it as an opportunity to once again engage in a public service activity which seeks to develop democracy and the electoral process in Antigua and Barbuda.

PM Browne addresses UN meeting on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Prime Minister, the Hon. Gaston Browne, on Tuesday joined world leaders in a high level meeting on financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond, co-convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, and the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica.

Speaking on the behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Prime Minister Browne said that COVID-19 has brought the world to a threshold point noting that small island developing states (SIDS) are the most severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis with economic growth expected to contract at three times the global average.

The high-level meeting brought together Heads of State and Government and representatives of international organizations, the private sector and civil society to consider options for recovering from the current crisis in the short term, mobilize the financial resources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the medium term and build the resilience and sustainability of countries and the global financial architecture in the long term.

“While the menu of options offers more than enough to pick and choose to suit individual interests, doing so will not effectively address the systemic inequities that have long held our countries back from sustainable development; and, even now, are preventing us from accessing the support we need to recover.

“We therefore advocate for a holistic approach that addresses SIDS issues



with SIDS solutions and we propose to do so in the form of a SIDS Compact,” Prime Minister Browne pointed out.

It was outlined that the SIDS Compact is premised on the special case of SIDS and therefore requires a dynamic approach to addressing recognized vulnerabilities as a cross cutting systemic issue.

In addition, the Prime Minister stated that it will require, agreeing to a multi-dimensional vulnerability index to replace the antiquated income-only measures.

“The Compact would aid in designing innovative response mechanisms and enhance existing financial instruments to guide SIDS economies through this period of crisis; our Compact would also create a responsive system where gains can be maintained,

resilience to climate change can be reinforced, and development achieved,” Prime Minister Browne stated.

Heads of State and Government during today’s Hi-Level meeting, discussed a menu of policy options developed by six discussion groups established following the high-level event on financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond, which was held on 28 May, and in the light of the outcomes of the meeting of finance ministers on the same subject, which was held on 8 September.

Participants also considered policy options relating to external finance and remittances, jobs and inclusive growth; a better recovery for sustainability; global liquidity and financial stability; debt vulnerability; the engagement of private sector creditors and illicit financial flows.

Antigua and Barbuda retains presidency of CTU

Antigua and Barbuda has retained the presidency of the General Conference of Ministers of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and will now serve an additional two year term.

Trinidad and Tobago was elected Vice-President.

The elections were held as the General Conference of Ministers, the highest decision making body of the CTU, convened its 23rd meeting by means of a video conference this month as part of the activities of ICT Week 2020.

Antigua and Barbuda was represented at the conference by Telecommunications Minister, Melford Nicholas, while Trinidad and Tobago was represented by Minister of Digital Transformation, Senator Allyson West.

Nicholas addressed the urgent need for the region to collaborate to accelerate digital transformation in the region.

“Owing to the opportunity that COVID-19 has presented, the region must recognise that digital transformation is no longer a luxury but a necessity,” he stated.

Disclosing her vision for the region, Minister West stated, “The Prime Min-



Telecommunications Minister, Melford Nicholas

ister of Trinidad and Tobago and I are very excited about the work that we propose to do in ICT. We have a bigger vision for the Caribbean to work together to materialise this vision.”

“21st Century government,” she continued, “is something that can be done, if we put our minds together and take a more aggressive and proactive approach.”

The General Conference of Ministers comprises Ministers from CTU mem-

ber states responsible for ICT and Telecommunications and meets annually to direct.

Meanwhile, Grenada’s Prime Minister and Chairman of CARICOM, Dr. Keith Mitchell, who also addressed the conference, said “The Caribbean must abandon the traditional silo approach to the adoption of ICT and e-government. Instead, we must move urgently towards the provision of integrated public services online, through one-stop platforms and other delivery channels that allow access to the full range of public services.”

He also lamented the inadequate progress made toward achieving a Caribbean Single ICT Space.

“Many countries continue to advance their national digital agendas, but if the region does not cooperate and rally behind the CARICOM Single ICT Space, we may simply be replicating efforts and wasting limited resources.”

Echoing the sentiments of Prime Minister Mitchell, Minister Nicholas, said, “COVID-19 has brought an opportunity and underlines the need for us to move swiftly forward with our agenda for digital transformation.”



WITH KHAN KC CORDICE & PETRA WILLIAMS

**TUESDAY
5PM-6PM**

Non-nationals urged to regularise immigration status

Non-nationals whose legal immigration status has expired are being urged to regularise themselves.

The call came from Foreign Affairs and Immigration Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, as he announced that the Immigration Department will, from today, be operating from the former Sealy Building on the Sir George Walter Highway (Airport Road).

Noting the decline in flights into the country due to the coronavirus pandemic, Greene said the department has used the 'down-time' to update its records, a necessary exercise as the Immigration Department forms part of the country's security apparatus.

"There's an expectation that the department accounts for all persons living within the state. It allows for

better planning and management as it is important that the Immigration Department has its thumb on everything related to matters of immigration," Greene said.

Addressing the non-national community, he continued that it is important for them to regularise their immigration status and reassured that there is no need for them to fear coming in to the authorities to do so.

"Those persons who are out of time, I wish to encourage you to regularise your status so that you can be accounted for. I don't want anyone to think that the Immigration Department is difficult or uncaring," he added.

He said only people who violate the laws of the land should be concerned.

Meanwhile, the minister revealed

that the area in the Sealy Building which the Immigration Department now occupies was retrofitted to suit its purposes. He added that air quality issues were addressed and confirmed that a report from a team of experts included several recommendations concerning the maintenance of good air quality at all times.

These, he noted, are necessary to avoid the issues that were associated with the building in the past when former staff members reported illnesses believed to be associated with poor air quality.

Minister Greene told his staff that he expects a renewed commitment to providing quality service to the public following the move to more spacious offices.



Happy owners reunited with lost dog

The Humane Society wishes to express A BIG THANK YOU to Pointe Express for publishing our request to publish a notice for help in finding this lost dog's owners.

Clinton, shown here going home with owners Hulda and Gershum Philip, had been lost for several days and because he wasn't registered there was no microchip to help the Humane Society identify his owners.

Everyone is happy now thanks to the help of Pointe Express and Shana Mitchel who originally alerted the Humane Society to Clinton's predicament.

Hopefully, dog owners will better understand the need to follow the law and have their dogs registered.

For information, call the Humane Society at 461-4957.

Nationals encouraged to participate in Bitcoin Conference

Antiguans and Barbudans are being invited to participate in a live Virtual Bitcoin SV Event CoinGeek Conference.

This follows the recent passage of the Digital Assets Business Bill in the Parliament which established the legal framework and regulations in which the growing digital currency market can operate domestically.

The invitation was extended by Special Economic Envoy to Antigua and Barbuda, Ambassador Calvin Ayre, who is internationally known as a trailblazer in the industry.

Ayre stated that the invitation is extended to the technologically savvy and

novices who are desirous of being better informed about the utility of blockchain technology, specifically Bitcoin SV (BSV).

The first-ever free, virtual CoinGeek LIVE Conference, slated for September 30 through October 2, will educate attendees on many other topics including the utility ecosystem that is only possible on BSV.

The Canadian-Antiguan entrepreneur said, "I see how Bitcoin technology – the Bitcoin SV blockchain – can empower people to create previously unimaginable innovations with this technology. It can help make our world a better place."

According to Ayre, "Coin-



Ambassador Calvin Ayre

Geek Live is more than another virtual conference. It's a three-day live discussion with some of the brightest minds from finance, blockchain, government, and technology from around the globe. My team and I have been working passionately

and with great dedication to introducing a new way to experience this industry-leading conference, through our immersive virtual platform, enhanced through our augmented reality app."

Ayre went on to state that, "This is all part of our thrust to educate people about this amazing technology."

Senator Aziza Lake, addressed the importance of the event and the impact it will have on the technology landscape of the island.

"The upcoming free virtual CoinGeek LIVE Conference is an opportunity for Antiguan and Barbudans to learn more about blockchain technology and specifically BSV – BitcoinSV," Lake said.

Senator Lake stated that her contribution to the Digital Assets Management Bill in Parliament is proof of her sincere interest in the development of the Bitcoin industry, internationally and in Antigua and Barbuda.



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Washington consolidates its position in the Caribbean

Recent statements by the US Secretary of State suggest that Washington is moving to increase its economic dominance in the Caribbean. David Jessop writes that the Caribbean would do well to consider the implications of this new and likely long-lived version of the Monroe doctrine that offers benefit, but at a price.

Speaking recently at Bocas Lit Fest, Jamaica's former Prime Minister, P. J. Patterson, observed that in recent years there has been a "deliberate attempt" to split the Caribbean.

After referencing the European Union's (EU) divisive action in relation to the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of Nations (the ACP), he went on to say, "I am afraid to say (fragmentation) is happening in CARICOM and perhaps the difference in our approach in relating to Venezuela is the best example of that."

Such divisions, he observed, are becoming pronounced, "more so when there is interest in a commodity which is being found to exist in abundance in Guyana".

He also noted how difficult it will be for the Caribbean to achieve its objectives in relation to debt, climate change, COVID-19 and participate in the devel-

opment of a new world order if others divide regional unity.

Patterson makes an important point.

Reading and listening online to the recent comments made by the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, during his recent visit to Suriname and Guyana and to members of their recently elected governments, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that Washington has, by design, sought to divide the region to obtain the support of the majority of Caribbean governments for its regional agenda.

By finding ways to divide the region into groups that might be considered 'the willing' and the 'less willing', it has, with subtlety and softer language, begun to deliver in the Caribbean a version of the Monroe Doctrine designed for the 21st century.

This is not to suggest that the support that the US is now offering is unwelcome, but to observe that with the exception of Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent, Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda, every other CARICOM nation tacitly conceded that there is no longer unity of purpose within CARICOM.

For most of its first term, the Trump administration's policy toward the region



David Jessop

has been driven by concern about Venezuela, lessening China's economic influence in the region and enhancing its own security.

In recent months, however, Washington has employed language that seeks to accommodate the Caribbean's differing views and strong defence of sovereignty by placing greater emphasis on delivering mutual economic benefit in ways that will see US corporations playing a role that more closely integrates the region with its powerful northern neighbour.

This newfound subtlety was clearly in evidence in the language used in relation to China in a recent non-attributable briefing by a senior State Depart-

ment official prior to Mr. Pompeo's visit.

In answer to a journalist's question, the official said that the US was not saying do not deal with China.

"We deal with China and other countries deal with China. They're a big economy.

"There's really no choice but to deal with them. But what we are saying is when you deal with them, make them deal on transparent, 21st century, above-board terms, not on the sort of 19th century imperialist, mercantilist, opaque terms that Chinese Communist Party and Chinese businesses owned by the – owned or controlled by the Communist Party seem to favour,"

cont'd on pg 16

Opinion

cont'd from pg 15

he said.

The senior official also urged countries to look at their security interests. Venezuela by harbouring 'terrorists and narcotraffickers' made it in "Guyana's own interest ...to try to work together (with the US) to try to resolve the crisis in Venezuela," he observed.

Washington's policy perspective on the Caribbean appears to be based on several overriding premises which will likely govern how, and with which Caribbean countries, it prefers to deepen economic relations.

Firstly, it requires all nations to be western style democracies. In one of the more interesting comments made when the former administration in Guyana would not accept the country's contested election out-

come, Mr. Pompeo said, "We have long said that we have no preference for a winning party, as long as it is selected through a free and fair electoral process that is credible."

He also warned that the US was prepared to deploy sanctions against sitting politicians who did not comply.

Secondly, when it comes to security, the US is consolidating its position as the principal provider of analysis support and training across the region, as well as deploying a much stronger multi-faceted and better integrated presence.

Its much strengthened capabilities in the Eastern Caribbean, are principally tasked against the sea air and land corridors out of Venezuela through which organised crime, with or

without the involvement of government, move narcotics, gold, arms and people north and west through the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, developing as they do so networks that corrupt and may criminally subvert other nations.

The US is also engaged in providing security support in other vital ways including in relation to the growing regional cyber security threats by a wide range of external actors.

Thirdly, and importantly for the region's future growth, the US sees the provision of support to the will coming through mechanisms such as the Growth in the Americas Initiative which, so far, Guyana and Jamaica have signed on to.

The initiative promises in part to encourage US corporate support with infrastruc-

ture for water, energy and hydrocarbons, buildings, airports, basic sanitation, information technology, logistics infrastructure, roads, railways, bridges, ports and tunnels.

Speaking in Guyana and Suriname, Mr. Pompeo said that the US will put no political pressure on countries to accept tenders from US corporations, but in Suriname and Guyana, made the point that US companies were global leaders in investment in infrastructure.

He also indicated that Washington had a significant interest in participating in the far reaching strategically important economic transformation that is beginning to take shape in the two countries.

In the world of realpolitik and geostrategic accommodation, such statements suggest that the US has developed a strategy intended to increase its dominance in the Caribbean, not just at the expense of China and Venezuela, but in relation to the EU and other global players as well.

CARICOM and the wider region would do well to determine how, as a group, it intends to respond to this new and likely long lived version of the Monroe Doctrine that offers benefit, but at a price.

David Jessop is a consultant to the Caribbean Council and can be contacted at david.jessop@caribbean-council.org Previous columns can be found at www.caribbean-council.org

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Grenada suspends payment of allowances in civil service

(CMC) The Grenada government has with immediate effect temporarily suspended the payment of responsibility and duty allowances as well as honorarium to public servants as it continues to review the economic impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the island.

According to an official circular from the Department of Public Administration (DPA), it says it is aware that ministries and government departments are sometimes limited in their human resource capacity “and will occasionally require officers to perform additional duties in conjunction with those of their substantive post, or specific duties not directly related to their substantive post.

“However, ministries/departments will appreciate that the economic impact brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic has

propelled organisations everywhere to immediately review and modify their strategies and reallocate resources to meet financial and organisational objectives,” the circular noted.

It said that “in light of this, senior government officials are highly encouraged to review their operations with a view to streamline same and maximise the performance of all officers.

“Ministries/departments are further encouraged to engage the DPA should the exigencies of the service require alternative arrangements to be made to support service delivery,” the circular said, with the DPA promising that it “will endeavour to bring speedy closure to all outstanding matters of this nature resting with us.”

In May, Prime Minister, Dr Keith Mitchell, said the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic had



significantly impacted economic growth in Grenada, even as he had remained optimistic that the phased re-opening of the economy will help negate the situation. Mitchell said then that revenue intake for April, for example, had been reduced drastically, but investor confidence in the island remained high, even as the government maintained that the country's borders would remain closed as part of the efforts to curb the spread of

COVID-19.

Mitchell said that from projections for an eighth consecutive year of growth, the government is now facing the “stark reality of negative growth, triggered largely by the significant impact on tourism, construction and education.

“This has resulted in a drastic decline in government revenue. In April, for example, the combined revenue collection by the Customs and Internal Revenue Division dropped by about EC\$30 compared to that of 2019; a decline likely to be replicated across our main revenue-generating departments over the next few months.”

He said that the government is, therefore, utilising its reserves and seeking international help to finance any deficits and bring relief to citizens, while continuing the fight against the deadly virus.

Man caught having sex with corpse of COVID-19 victim

(CMC) A 50-year-old man is due to appear in court, virtually on Tuesday, after he was caught having sex with a 56-year-old woman, who had died from coronavirus (COVID-19).

Police said that the man from Train Line, Port Kaituma, North West District (NWD), was held last Saturday after he was allegedly caught having sex with the corpse of the 56-year-old woman at the

Port Kaituma Hospital Mortuary.

The woman, a farmer, had tested positive for COVID-19, and died on September 21.

The man has since been placed in a facility for quarantine under police guard.

On Monday, police received legal advice to charge the suspect with the offence of trespass with intent to commit a sexual offence.

Four dengue deaths confirmed in St. Vincent

(iwnsvg) The number of persons who have died as a result of the current outbreak of dengue in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been confirmed as four, the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment said on Monday.

The ministry had last Tuesday confirmed two deaths, one day after saying that the mosquito-borne viral illness was suspected in four deaths.

“The Surveillance Committee of the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, following extensive investigations, can now confirm that four persons have died from severe dengue fever during this current outbreak,” the ministry said on Monday.

“As previously indicated, one adult female and one 9-year-old male who died were confirmed on laboratory diagnosis to have had dengue fever.

“A 4-year-old male who died before the dengue test could be completed, has now been confirmed to have had dengue fever from a sample taken after his death. An elderly male, who died on Friday, September 25 at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, has also been confirmed to have had dengue fever,” the press statement said.

The ministry said 432 laboratory-confirmed cases of dengue fever have now been recorded in St. Vincent and the Grenadines since the outbreak was first noted in June/July.

“The mosquito borne disease continues to affect all health districts, but most cases have been reported as occurring in persons who live in the Kingstown, Georgetown and Pembroke Health Districts. Persons in the 0-15 year age group account for the



majority of cases,” the ministry said.

It said that the Hospital Services Programme and the Community Health Services Programme continue to provide emergency care to the many persons who present with symptoms of dengue fever.

“The Accident and Emergency Department of the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital is being supported by the Kingstown District Clinic which has extended their hours of operation to 7 p.m.

“All hospitals in the public health system have reported increased occupancy, and the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital has increased the number of beds to accommodate the increased demand for admitted care. This expansion in bed capacity has been sufficient to date so that the Argyle Isolation Facility has not been used.”

The ministry said that health care providers, using a multidisciplinary approach and in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization and the Caribbean Public Health Agency, are constantly updating the

care delivered to ensure the best clinical outcomes for all patients with dengue fever.

“The Pharmaceutical Services Programme, working with consultant physicians, is currently considering the use of papaya leaf tea and α -interferon to determine their use to safely augment care for patients with moderate and severe dengue fever.

“The Vector Control Unit of the Environmental Health Department of the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment will further ramp up the Integrated Vector Control (IVC) Strategy to reduce the mosquito populations through the deployment of district teams focused on source reduction, including fogging.

“Health promotion activities, also part of the IVC Strategy, will continue with the engagement of communities, churches and other non-governmental organizations.”

The ministry said that the fight against dengue fever is a shared responsibility.

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CDB approves grant to enhance remote learning for UWI students

(Caribbean Development Bank Press Release) The COVID-19 pandemic has caused profound challenges in education, as many young people who lack technological devices and internet access are being left behind their peers in the shift to remote learning. The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is stepping in to close this gap for disadvantaged students enrolled at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

On Thursday, CDB's Board of Directors approved a USD 200,000 grant to assist with purchasing information and communication technology and other remote learning solutions for students and to expand the university's capacity to deliver remote education for all.

Division Chief of the Social Sector Division at CDB, Deidre Clarendon emphasised how the move to online learning has es-



pecially affected students from vulnerable groups, saying: "While it's been necessary to protect the wider population, evidence has shown that the sudden shift away from face-to-face lectures to remote learning has proven difficult, particularly for the most vulnerable, such as women, rural learners, students with disabilities and those from lower socio-economic circumstances.

Inequitable education delivery negatively impacts both the individuals and

the wider society, which is why CDB is supporting this project. It offers The UWI an opportunity to work collaboratively across campuses to address the challenges faced by the most disadvantaged students as it expands remote teaching and learning during the COVID-19 restrictions."

The project 'Addressing Inequities in Online Teaching and Learning at the University of the West Indies' will tackle the problem on multiple fronts, guided by data collected

from student surveys conducted by the University. The project's funding will provide 228 computing devices to be made available to disadvantaged students across The UWI's five campuses, and 70 students will be granted internet service for one semester. The project will also cover procurement of equipment which will enhance UWI TV's production and broadcast capabilities of so that it can better meet the remote learning needs of all students. Course instructors and other university personnel will also have access to training for instructional television.

The project is aligned with CDB's 2017 Education and Training Policy and Strategy which affirms the Bank's commitment to addressing inequities to educational access and participation across its Borrowing Member Countries.

cont'd from pg 18

The public is therefore urged to continue to work with the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment to reduce the risk of persons being infected with Dengue Fever by reducing their exposure to the mosquito which causes dengue by:

1. Reducing the breeding of the mosquito by discarding improperly stored water or covering properly collected water.

2. Reducing rubbish and over-

grown bush.

3. Wearing light coloured clothes with long pants and long sleeves.

4. Using insect repellents and mosquito nets to prevent mosquito bites. These actions are important to prevent further spread both to those who have not had dengue fever, and also from those with dengue fever.

5. Opening homes to allow increased effectiveness of fogging by the Vector Control Unit.

Symptoms of dengue fever include

fever, headache with pain behind the eyes, a rash, abdominal pain, vomiting and bleeding. Home treatments for dengue fever should focus on reducing the fever by using cool not cold baths, acetaminophen (paracetamol) not ibuprofen and maintaining hydration by drinking lots of fluids such as coconut water. Persons with symptoms of dengue fever are asked to seek medical care early to avoid the possible complications of delayed care.

Disney to lay off about 28,000 parks employees due to coronavirus hit

(Reuters) Walt Disney Co DIS.N will lay off roughly 28,000 U.S. employees in its theme parks division, the company said on Tuesday, as its resorts struggled with limited attendance and the continued closure of California's Disneyland due to the coronavirus pandemic.

About two-thirds of the laid-off employees are part-time workers, the company said in a statement.

Disney shut its theme parks around the world when the novel coronavirus began spreading earlier this year.

All but Disneyland gradually reopened, though the company was forced to limit the number of visitors to allow for physical distancing.



A closed Disney store is pictured in Times Square following the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York.

"We have made the very difficult decision to begin the process of reducing our workforce at our Parks, Experiences and Products segment at all levels," Josh

D'Amaro, chairman of the parks unit, said in a statement.

He cited the parks' limited capacity and continued uncertainty about the

duration of the pandemic, which he said was "exacerbated in California by the state's unwillingness to lift restrictions that would allow Disneyland to reopen."

Illicit money flows from Africa, near \$89 billion, UN study says



Africa lost billions in illicit financial flows including through tax evasion and theft: UN report

(Aljazeera.com) Africa has lost nearly \$89bn a year in illicit financial flows such as tax evasion and theft, amounting to more than it receives in development aid, a United Nations study has showed.

The estimate, in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) 248-page report, is its most comprehensive to date for Africa. It shows an increasing trend over time and is higher than most previous estimates.

The report released on Monday calls Africa a "net creditor to the world", echoing economists' observations that the aid-reliant

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World Bank seeks approval for \$12 billion coronavirus vaccine financing plan

(Reuters) World Bank President David Malpass said on Tuesday he is seeking board approval for a \$12 billion coronavirus vaccine financing plan to help poor and developing countries secure a sufficient share of vaccine doses when they become available in the coming months.

Malpass told Reuters in an exclusive interview that the initiative, part of \$160 billion in coronavirus aid financing pledged by the multilateral lender, is aimed at helping countries procure and distribute vaccines early to health care and other essential workers and expand global production. He said the board was expected to consider the plan in early October.

Global competition for early coronavirus vaccine doses is already fierce, months ahead of any ap-



World Bank Group President David Malpass attends a news conference after a meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany October 1, 2019.

provals, as wealthy countries move to secure supplies.

The U.S. government has pledged over \$3 billion to secure hundreds of millions of doses of vaccines under development by Britain's AstraZeneca AZN.L and by U.S. drug giant Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech SE

22Uay.F.

Malpass said the World Bank plan aimed to put poor and middle-income countries, where the virus is spreading most rapidly, on the same footing as richer countries by ensuring have financing to secure supplies and a system for distribution, which will encourage

drug makers to meet their demand.

Without early doses that can bring outbreaks under control, many of these countries risk economic collapse that will push hundreds of millions of people back into poverty.

"Our goal is to alter the course of the pandemic for the low and middle income developing countries," Malpass said. "This is a market signal to the manufacturers that there will be financing available for the developing countries and there will be demand. We will begin asking the manufacturers to begin creating allocations for these countries." Malpass said the World Bank also was asking wealthy countries that have "over-reserved" more doses than they will ultimately need, to release those doses to poorer countries.

cont'd from pg 20

continent is actually a net exporter of capital because of these trends.

"Illicit financial flows rob Africa and its people of their prospects, undermining transparency and accountability and eroding trust in African institutions," said UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi.

Junior Davis, head of policy and research at UNCTAD's Africa division,

told the Reuters news agency the figure was likely an underestimate, citing data limitations.

Nearly half of the total annual figure of \$88.6bn is accounted for by the export of commodities such as gold, diamonds and platinum, the report said. For example, gold accounted for 77 percent of the total under-invoiced exports worth \$40bn in 2015, it showed.

Understating a commodity's true

value helps conceal trade profits abroad and deprives developing countries of foreign exchange and erodes their tax base, UNCTAD said.

Tackling illicit flows is a priority for the UN, whose General Assembly adopted a resolution on this in 2018, and the report urges African countries to draw on the report to present "renewed arguments" in international forums.

Chinese kindergarten teacher sentenced to death for poisoning 25 students

(CNN) A kindergarten teacher who poisoned 25 children, killing one of them, after an argument with a rival staff member has been sentenced to death by a court in central China.

In its official ruling Monday, the Jiaozuo Intermediate People's Court in Henan province described killer Wang Yun's motives as "despicable" and "vicious." "She should be punished severely in accordance with the law," the ruling said.

The court heard that in the lead-up to the poisoning, Wang had quarreled with another teacher at the Jiaozuo kindergarten over how best to handle the students.

Then, on the morning of March 27, 2019, Wang added nitrite to porridge supplied by the school and intended for the other teacher's students. Wang had previously bought the nitrite online.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nitrite is toxic and a likely carcinogen used in fertilizers, food preservation and even munitions and explosives. At high levels, it can stop the human body from prop-



erly absorbing oxygen.

Wang had previously been caught trying to poison her husband, surnamed Feng, in February 2017 after an argument. On that occasion, Wang poured nitrite into a glass used by Feng, causing minor injuries.

At the time of the 2019 kindergarten poisoning, one parent told China's state-run tabloid Global Times he had received a call from the kindergarten saying his child had vom-

ited and fainted. When he arrived, his child was unconscious.

"The vomit was all over (their) pants. There were other children who were also throwing up, and they looked pale," the father, surnamed Li, said.

Wang's sentence comes amid fresh allegations of the mistreatment of children at a kindergarten in northern China.

Eight parents claimed to have found unknown needle marks on their chil-

dren's heads and bodies after they returned from Zhaojun Dingqi Kindergarten in Hohhot, in the autonomous region of Inner Mongolia, state media Xinhua said.

According to Xinhua, when asked about the needle holes, the children told their parents that their teacher stabbed them with "toothpicks" and "red needles" for not behaving in class -- and ordered them to not tell their families.

cont'd on pg 23

Hundreds of thousands of airline jobs at risk, warns industry body

(BBC) Hundreds of thousands of aviation jobs are at risk without more state aid, a global industry body has warned.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) downgraded its 2020 traffic forecasts, after “a dismal end to the summer travel season”.

The association, which represents 290 airlines, says it expects traffic to be 66% below the level it was in 2019.

The IATA estimates that it will be at least 2024 before air traffic reaches pre-pandemic levels.

A second surge in Covid-19 cases and more government restrictions meant the sector has not seen a strong rebound.

The travel industry saw a precipitous drop in business after the coronavirus developed into a pandemic.

Through the year major airlines, airports and tour firms have collectively announced thousands of job



The IATA downgraded its forecasts after “a dismal end to the summer travel season”

losses.

“Absent additional government relief measures and a reopening of borders, hundreds of thousands of airline jobs will disappear,” IATA chief executive Alexandre de Juniac said.

He called for Covid-19 tests to be routinely carried out on passengers before flights depart, to increase

consumer confidence in air travel and make govern-

ments more willing to open borders.

Airlines have already shown signs of struggle this year.

Earlier this month Virgin Atlantic announced it was cutting 1,150 more jobs, on top of 3,500 jobs it had already cut earlier in the

year.

The move, it said, was necessary for its survival, and was part of a £1.2bn (\$1.5bn) rescue plan to secure its future for at least 18 months.

Last month, the world’s biggest airline American Airlines said it would cut 19,000 jobs in October when a government wage support scheme comes to an end.

The jobs being cut make up 30% of its pre-pandemic workforce.

And earlier in the year, United Airlines said as many as 36,000 jobs were at risk. Germany’s Lufthansa warned it could cut 22,000 positions, and British Airways said it was slashing 12,000 jobs.

cont’d from pg 22

In a statement, the Xincheng district police said three women had been detained on suspicion of “torturing children under their guardianship,” although the case remains under investigation.

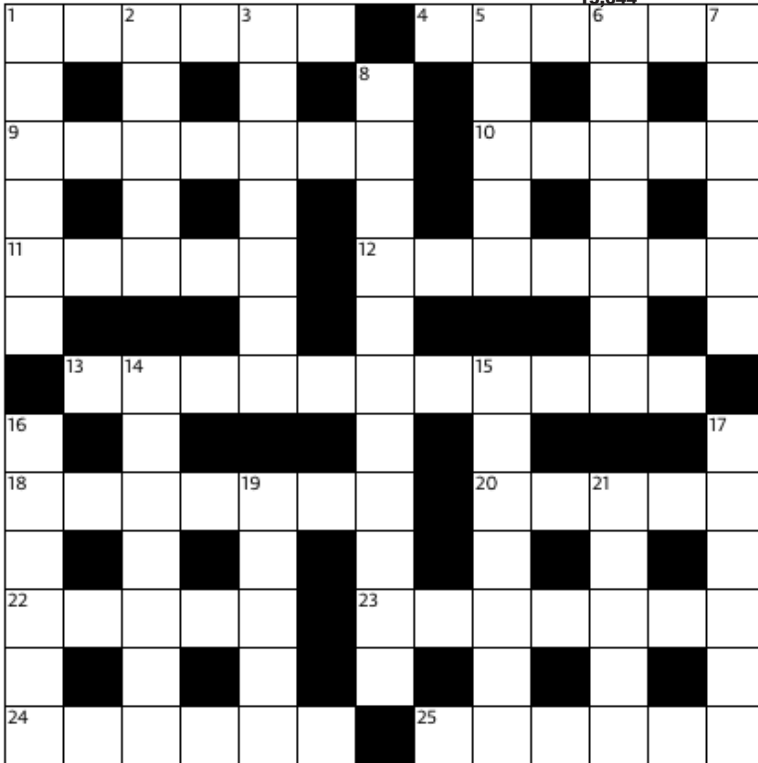
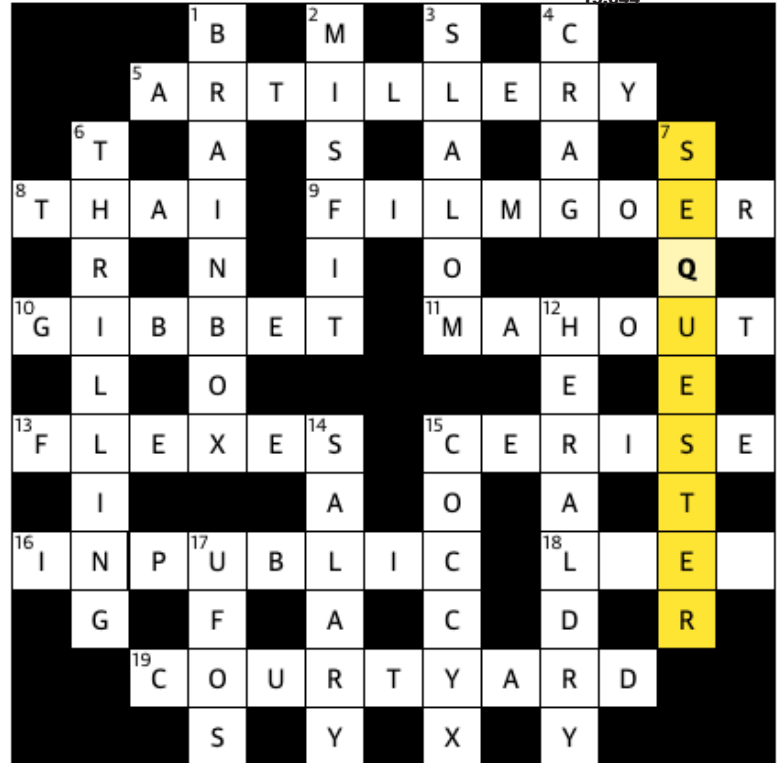
The Dingqi kindergarten said in a statement that while the school apologized for the concern and worry caused to parents, it had not yet found any evidence to substantiate the claims.

“At present, (we) have cooperated with

the police to provide relevant surveillance footage and equipment, and cooperated with the investigation by the public security department,” the statement said.

In November 2017, a Beijing kindergarten teacher was sentenced to 18 months in prison for piercing four children in her class with needles. Police said the teacher, surnamed Liu, was using the needles to “tame” children, according to state-run tabloid Global Times.

LEISURE

 Quick crossword No
 15,644

 Quick crossword No
 15,644


Across

- 1 Easter ___, 1948 film
with Judy Garland and Fred Astaire (6)
- 4 Led (6)
- 9 Level out (7)
- 10 Roofing slabs (5)
- 11 Flexible (5)
- 12 Coach (7)
- 13 Strikingly different (11)
- 18 Long-suffering (7)
- 20 Solo (5)
- 22 Between (5)
- 23 Places of business (7)
- 24 Company (6)
- 25 Condition caused by lack of

Down

- 1 Learners (6)
- 2 Retaliate (5)
- 3 Most profound (7)
- 5 Spare (5)
- 6 Small toothed whale, larger than a porpoise (7)
- 7 Win over (6)
- 8 Calculation — or tacit snub (anag) (11)
- 14 End result (7)
- 15 Deal illegally (7)
- 16 Jumped suddenly (6)
- 17 Largest of the Channel Islands (6)
- 19 Rowing crew (5)
- 21 Crop up (5)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers



"I'm glad the golf course is reopened —
I just wish they hadn't furloughed
the groundskeeper."



DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): It could be fantasy and not fate that makes things seem more complicated than they really are. Avoid misunderstandings by being willing to go along with someone's harmless flights of fancy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Make imagery count. You may be able to spin your ideas and your appearance into a more favorable look. Be a leader and set an example when morals, principles and high ideals need to be demonstrated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Sometimes you have to fake before you make it. More can be gained by speaking your mind than by brooding in silence, but be considerate of others. Search out the win-win solutions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A stalemate might stall your progress. You may yearn for more romance in your life than is possible at this time. When your expectations are unrealistic, you are likely to be disappointed when people do not meet them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Gemstones form when ordinary elements are placed under fire and your status within a group might seem important now. A careless word or change of plan might create a situation that challenges your loyalties. Reach out to a trustworthy friend or family member.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do you really need that? Watch a tendency to spend money on wild and crazy fads. The little things you buy on impulse may bring a smile to your face, but things that are useful and lasting bring more true pleasure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): When they think you're good, don't disappoint them. You may receive more positive attention from others than usual, but you must work hard to live up to that favorable opinion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may believe in the eventual triumph of good over evil, or that all fairy tales have a moral message. Since you are inspired by positive and uplifting ideas, it is easier for you to be generous and show brotherly love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your passion for achieving financial success can keep you going long after the sun goes down. Your belief that there is always a happy ending may sustain you and help you overcome minor misunderstandings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When you are open-minded and grateful, you are able to see opportunities rather than obstacles. Pure logic alone may not work when it comes to human feelings and behavior. Cultivate empathy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some people believe that there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. You want to believe that, but you are more of a pragmatist when it comes to handling your money. Encourage your friends to be more realistic.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Find your best path forward. Your social skills can give you a competitive edge, especially when it comes to making smart business moves. Fight off the urge to spend money frivolously to satisfy emotional needs.

England women thrash West Indies by 44 runs

Amy Jones helped England to another dominant victory over West Indies as they claimed a 44-run win in the fourth Twenty20 at Derby.

Jones' 55 from 37 balls, coupled with Heather Knight's 42, helped England recover from 45-3 to post 166-6.

West Indies lost Deandra Dottin to their third ball and slumped to 67-5.

Leg spinner, Sarah Glenn, again impressed, taking 2-15 while Katherine Brunt finished with 2-21 as West Indies stuttered to 122-9.

This was England's most aggressive performance with the bat so far, striking 19 fours and five sixes



against an increasingly ragged West Indies attack.

It will take something

special from West Indies to avoid being whitewashed

in the series when the final

match takes place at the same ground on Wednesday at 18:00 BST.

NBA Finals matchup set



The Los Angeles Lakers and Miami Heat are ready to face off after winning their respective conferences.

It is the Lakers first finals appearance since 2010, whereas the Heat return to the finals for the first time since 2014.

The Heat and Lakers only faced off twice this season with Los Angeles winning both meetings.

From what should be a thrilling title round, Game 1 begins tonight at 9:00 p.m.



Pigotts Sports Club remains active during forced break

The Pigotts Sports Club has remained active during the forced break due to the coronavirus pandemic which brought sports on the island to a standstill on March 13th, 2020.

President of the Club, Bakesha Francis-James says the executive has remained in constant communication through virtual meetings.

They have also been in consistent contact with both their cricketers and footballers.

Pigotts Sports Club is the defending Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) Two Day champions. Francis-James noted that the ground work was being laid to defend their championship before COVID-19 brought everything to a halt.

“We are behind the scenes pre-

paring for when the authorities give the go ahead to restart competitive sports,” Francis-James noted.

The Pigotts Sports Club has hosted a number of fundraising activities to support their work as financial assistance has slowed significantly during the pandemic.

The football club hosted a number of overseas players for the 2019-20 ABFA Premier League Competition, where they ranked fourth before the pandemic.

Francis-James outlined that they endured a challenging three month period in which they were faced with the responsibility of looking after some players who got stuck in the country after the national lockdown.

“We want to thank the business people in Pigotts, the government

and the area representative, Hon. Dean Jonas, for their assistance during this period,” Francis said.

The club was also instrumental in encouraging their young players to enroll in classes during the break and looks forward to them leading the way in the future.

Francis articulated once the young footballers continue to improve and show they can deliver the championship, there will be no need to import players.

“We want to win the championship and if we need to fill certain areas, we will,” Francis-James added.

“The senior cricketers love playing Parish league, which leads to our younger players, who are recruited by our coach, Ajarni Frederick, getting a chance to excel in the two-day competition.”

ABFA hosts 88th congress

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association will host its 88th Congress on Thursday 1st October, 2020.

The meeting will be held in an online event starting at 7:00am with a call to order. The ABFA has 62 members, with 49 active members who participated in the 2019-20 football domestic leagues.

Some of the important issues on the agenda are the President's Activity Report, presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement, the approval of the financial statements and approval of the budget.

Defending Premier League Champions, PIC Liberta Blackhawks, will make a presentation.

It is well documented within the football fraternity that Liberta is not happy with the ABFA's allocation of the funds made available through the COVID-19 FIFA Relief Programme.

The ABFA announced earlier this month that they will be releasing \$146,000 USD among the 49 active members which equates to \$8000.00 EC per club.

Other issues expected to be addressed by the membership are the 2019-20 domestic leagues, promotion and demotion, the outcome of the ABFA survey con-

ducted among the membership of last season and the way forward for the 2020-21 football leagues.





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