



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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TRAGIC WEEKEND



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Mental Health: The Village and Youth Violence

We open a new week reflecting on more young lives negatively impacted by violence, families mourning lives lost and picking up the pieces to offer support through the grieving process.

For our relatively small population, the increasing occurrence of graphic youth-on-youth violence is troubling, especially where it is perpetuated among kin who are often raised together.

Investigations into the emotional state of those involved in these very unfortunate incidents all too often reveals that there was mental trauma and/or other types of abuse that went untreated and, over time, may have played critical roles in the final major incident.

This brings to the fore the mental health of our youth.

The rather timely theme for World Mental Health Day 2020 is Mental Health: Beyond A Healthy Body.

According to the World Health Organization, around the world one in four people will suffer from a mental health disorder, yet about 60 percent of sufferers do not seek help. Half of all mental health conditions start by 14 years of age, but most cases are undetected and untreated. Further, the consequences of not addressing youth mental health conditions are likely to extend into adulthood with implications for both physical and mental health and negatively impacting opportunities for fulfilling adult lives.

Our Antigua and Barbuda

experience has largely made open acknowledgement of the mental health issues taboo and young people are particularly affected. Too often, mental health challenges are diagnosed as insubordination and/or surly behaviour and, save for the unstructured interventions, the affected youth is left to find their own way with negative consequences for the quality of life as an adult.

In times past, many of our young people were saved by 'the village'; that group of grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbors who would serve as a safety net and provide the nurturing and support necessary to cushion mental health issues.

In instances of youth-on-youth violence, what happens to the immediate family? How do the parents, biological and surrogates, address these very difficult conundrums? How do they cope with the judgement from society on their parental skills? How do they separate grief for the lost loved one from the perceived obligation to support the accused? Is there room to acknowledge that their mental health is also at risk and in need of support?

As our society matures, evolution has lessened the role of 'the village' without providing replacement social constructs to address mental health challenges particularly among youth. While we have scores of highly trained counselors and therapists, stigma and various other rea-



sons work against people's willingness to access support services as part of treatment. Stigma also forces adults to refuse to acknowledge their own mental health challenges and could result in perpetuation of intergenerational mental health disorders.

There is also the impact of mental health challenges on productivity. An unhealthy mind will impact the ability to focus on duties and responsibilities associated with work, study and social interaction.

Individuals facing mental health disorders, if left untreated, will eventually suffer from unhealthy bodies.

Has the time come for us to take a serious look addressing the poorly kept secret scorn against accessing mental health services and professionals? Is there a need for families to be educated on the signs and symptoms of mental illness which could

lead to decisions to access the expert services our nation's youth quite often need? Are we as adults aware ourselves of the need for mental health checkups and that good mental health is as important as the annual physical checkup? Are we ready to set aside the stereotypes and bullying and engage in a place which is more open, inviting and disarming?

It is clear that a broad-based approach to this issue is an urgent need. We must begin to seriously dig deep and build systems to facilitate discussions on mental health, provide systems to facilitate open discussions and provide broad-based systems that reduce the incidence of 'write off'.

We at Pointville Communications stand ready to do our part. We cannot continue to write off valuable human resources.

A family in despair

The Saturday afternoon barber-shop murder that shook the nation has plunged a family into shock and despair and not for the first time.

A dispute between 20-year old Aden Jean-Baptiste and his 16-year old brother, Kanye Jean-Baptiste over the use of a phone charger resulted in the younger brother allegedly using a sharp object to inflict a fatal wound to his brother's upper body.

The incident happened at Don's Barber Shop and Salon located on Bishopgate Street.

Aden died on the spot in the presence of his grandfather, Donald Jean-Baptiste, and his uncle, Michael Jean-Baptiste. The brothers' grandfather and uncle intervened in the scuffle in an attempt to prevent it from escalating but their efforts were to no avail.

The incident has thrown the family into despair, just eight years after the boys' father, Andre Jean-Baptiste, died tragically in a motorcycle accident on the airport road.

According to the boys' grandmother, Jean-Marie Jean-Baptiste, Manager of the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party's City West branch office, the boys who

had a difficult time coming to grips with the loss of their father, appeared to have misguidedly focused their anger and unresolved grief toward each other.

"I have tried taking them under my care for periods of time after the accident as I recognized that there was so much anger. I have provided my home as a safe haven when they wanted somewhere to stay. I just don't know what else we could have done," she remarked.

She is now worrying about the possible charges her grandson, who she described as being 'very remorseful over the incident' will now face.

"I wonder if the court will grant him bail?" she pondered aloud.

Mrs. Jean-Baptiste recounted going to the barbershop on Saturday to take some pills to her former husband only to learn when she arrived at the junction of Popeshead Street and Bishopgate Street that her younger grandson had taken the life of her older grandson and that the police were taking him into custody in connection with the death.

Shortly after, the boys' mother, Rosina 'Rose' Jean-Baptiste arrived on the scene, visibly shaken and crying uncontrollably. She was attended to by Emergency Medical Services, who were at the scene.

One counselor contacted by PointeXpress said this incident suggests that there is an urgent public need for accessible counseling services.

"Counseling is a safe way for an individual to discuss what's on his/her mind in a safe environment. Families are sometimes crying out for help and while help is available through several government agencies, they may not be aware that it is available," the counselor noted.



Aden Jean-Baptiste, deceased.

One of the drawbacks in seeking assistance from professionals has been the stigma faced by those who admit to seeking help.

This need is not lost on the police as Public Relations Officer in the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, Inspector Frankie Thomas, appealed to the public to find non-violent means of resolving disputes.

He pointed to two recent cases; one in Potters and another at McKinnons, in which deaths resulted from disputes within families.

Meanwhile, the following report has been issued by the police.

Police Investigate Bishopgate Street Homicide

Police are continuing investigations into an alleged homicide at Bishopgate Street that occurred on Saturday 10th October, 2020

The incident, which occurred at around 2:30pm, involved two brothers. It is reported that an argument ensued between the siblings, which resulted in the 16-year-old brother arming himself with a sharp object which he allegedly used to inflict a stab wound to the upper body of his 20-year-old brother.

Dr. Clarefoster Beazer arrived on the scene and pronounced the 20-year-old victim dead around 4:35pm.

The 16-year-old is in police custody and assisting with their investigations.



The scene of the crime.

Elderly man drowns at Ffryes

A recently retired taxi driver is dead after drowning at Ffryes Beach on Sunday afternoon according to police.

Ernest 'Fish' Davis of Radio Range, a taxi driver attached to the Sandals resort for many years, retired in June for health reasons.

Police spokesman, Inspector Frankie Thomas, issued a statement which stated that police are investigating an apparent drowning incident at Ffryes Beach.

The police report said Davis was 85 years old.

Thomas said the police received a report of the incident sometime around 3:50pm Sunday 11th October.

Investigations into the incident are ongoing.



Parents of Island Academy student COVID-19 free

The principal of Island Academy International has reported that the parents of the student who tested positive for COVID-19 have now returned negative test results. The news that the parents of the student tested positive led to the early mid-term closure of the school.

Despite the positive news, it will be another week before the school, which opted to utilise online lesson delivery after the news broke, will return to in person lesson delivery.

Principal Portia Moursy said the school took the decision to temporarily close and implement its Distance Learning Plan as a precautionary measure to protect the health and

safety of its faculty and students.

"It is important to note that the student of the school tested negative. The school chose to be 100 percent transparent with its entire community and physically closed for four days while the family was awaiting the results of further medical testing," Moursy stated.

She continued that subsequent government approved PCR tests on the family of the student have all returned negative for COVID-19.

Moursy added that the school is proud of the fact that it was able to resume classes at the end of August and, since then, no member of faculty or the student body of the physical

campus has tested positive.

"Moving forward, Island Academy will continue to work with the Ministries of Education and Health in strict adherence to protocols. The school will also take this opportunity to explore internal ways of managing students so that we can apply what we have learned if we are faced with similar circumstances in the future. In particular, we are examining how it may be possible to keep children and staff physically in school while adhering to all health directives," she added.

Approximately two hundred and sixty students attend Island Academy International.

UPP blasted for anti-foreigner bigotry

By *Shelton Daniel*

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has torn into persons who he believes appear bent on stirring up xenophobia and racism against Chinese and Caricom nationals who dwell in Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking on Saturday on Pointe FM, Browne said many of those promoting this anti-foreigner sentiment are doing so under the cloak of nationalism or African consciousness.

“I am proud to say that Antigua and Barbuda is more representative of Caricom than any other country in Caricom. That is a strength and I welcome all the Caricom nationals to this country. They have been here from time immemorial, especially when you look from within the OECS sub-region with the Dominicans and Montserratians and so on, and they are here to stay, that is the reality.

“They have been contributing towards the upliftment of this country, contributing to consumption, contributing to our taxes. They are well integrated into our families.”

Addressing the inconsistency and hypocrisy of those fomenting this bigotry, Browne said, “The irony of it is that the people who are cursing have grandparents who come from the different Caricom islands. I hear one lady, Mary John for example, a well known member of the UPP, cursing Caricom nationals, but to the best of my knowledge, her mother is from Dominica. You get that type of ridiculous behavior that they have Caricom roots but they’re cursing Caricom nationals. How can we sustain that type of parochial politics in which we are trying to tear down each other?”

Prime Minister Browne also casti-

gated those who are criticising Antigua and Barbuda’s relationship with the People’s Republic of China (PRC), especially the small tokens of appreciation that this country has shown to the PRC for its many costly gifts and concessions.

“China, within the last 15 years, would have invested about a billion or maybe over a billion dollars in this county,” he said.

Providing the actual breakdown, he identified the PRC’s investment of over \$200 million into the new V. C. Bird International Airport terminal.

He continued, “They are now investing \$250 million to do the cargo port. That’s \$500 million [or] half a billion. Then, they also invested, under the UPP, the \$150 million for the Wadadli Power Plant. That’s \$650 million. Let us not forget that Chinese money built the Multipurpose Centre. That’s taking you up now to about \$700 million. They gave the Sir Viv Richards Stadium as a gift, \$70 million. They have in the pipe now a housing grant of \$100 million to build properties at Booby Alley, in Bolans, in Jennings, in Barbuda, Knuckle Block which is a \$40 million project. We got that as a gift from the People’s Republic of China. The very university buildings down at Five Islands, again a gift from the People’s Republic of China. You’re talking about \$60 million.

“The clinics. They’ve just completed two polyclinics; one in Glanvilles, one in Villa, at a cost of about \$40 million. In Barbuda, when Barbuda was decimated by Irma, they were among the first responders. They gave \$5.4 million. All the solar street lights you see in this country, it’s China who made them available to the government and



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

people of Antigua and Barbuda. The Defense Force has gotten support almost on a yearly basis from the People’s Republic of China. We’ve gotten agricultural grants.”

Browne denounced detractors who he said were, “...making a fuss because the Chinese are building an embassy here and we gave them five acres of land as a gift. So after they have given us nearly \$400 million dollars in grants, and we give them five acres of land probably valued at one million dollars, if you say \$5 a square foot, and there is a big hue and cry about it?”

The prime minister also refuted persistent opposition allegations that his government sold 1,600 acres of land to Yida.

According to Browne, the Chinese investor, “...purchased the land from the Stanford receivership estate. We have not sold one square inch of land to Yida.”

cont’d on pg 6

Louis Hill to replace Codrington in Barbuda

By Shelton Daniel

Government will shortly invite the Barbuda Council to discuss a new master plan for development of Barbuda, according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

He made the disclosure during his Saturday afternoon radio programme, the Browne and Browne Show, on Pointe FM 99.1.

“We’re going into Barbuda seriously with our housing project to make sure that we build a number of homes there to empower the Barbudan people,” Browne stated.

He then disclosed that his administration was looking at a new location to serve as Barbuda’s main residential and commercial area, away from the present low-lying Codrington which borders an ecologically sensitive marine lagoon.

Browne said his govern-

ment intends to transform the Louis Hill area “into a new city in Barbuda not only to rival, but literally to displace Codrington.”

“I know Codrington may have some historical value, but Louis Hill, in terms of a new city, that is the plan. We’re going real hard in Barbuda to make sure that we put the developments for Barbuda and Barbudans.

“We have a master plan and we will call in the person who did it, Chad and the Council, so we can see how we can collaborate going forward,” Browne continued.

Prime Minister Browne went on that a meeting with the Barbuda Council will soon be convened to discuss the coming changes.

“Look, we don’t have any time to waste at this point. We have decided we’re going to develop Barbuda,

and we are inviting them to work with us. I’ll be writing to Trevor Walker and company formally to ask them to come and let’s discuss the plan. Let’s come to a consensus on the way forward,” he explained.

He added that a number of private Antiguans and Barbudans, as well as China Construction have also been invited to build properties.

“We want to accelerate home ownership,” the PM said. “In fact we’ve asked China Construction if they can invest up to US\$100 million to build homes on land that is owned by the government.”

He made it abundantly clear that the land to be developed will not go to China Construction but “will literally go to the homeowner. So we’ve asked them if they can help us to build a significant amount of homes

so we can accelerate home ownership on the island.”

Browne believes that if the Chinese firm is able to build these properties relatively inexpensively, then it will reduce the cost of the finished homes to consumers.

The Prime Minister expressed that amid a “strong demand for homes”, Antigua and Barbuda’s own National Housing Corporation “is moving a little too slow”.

He said that is why help is being sought to accelerate the number of homes that can be made available within the next two years.

“We want to build out maybe a good 1,500 to 2,000 homes if possible,” said the Prime Minister.

Asked if he was the satisfied with the uptake of a 3-year-old offer he made to grant Barbudans’ title ownership of the leased land on which their residential properties were built, for a token consideration of \$1, Prime Minister Browne responded: “Recently I came across, maybe, about 400 applications from Barbudans. Those were made to the government prior to the 2018 election. So, in spite of all the noise by the Barbuda Council members, there are hundreds of Barbudans who are just waiting to get their land for \$1.”

cont’d from pg 5

Even in opposition, and long before becoming the country’s head of government, Gaston Browne consistently opposed the rise of xenophobia in Antigua and Barbuda and castigated the then UPP government for encouraging it.

In the past as chairman and deputy political leader of the now incumbent Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) administration, Browne warned of the anti-foreigner sentiment that was being stoked following the close results of the March 2009 general elections which the UPP blamed

on immigrant communities in the country that had supposedly betrayed or turned against it.

Browne pointed out then, that the same immigrant community which the UPP targeted for post-election reprisals in the form of amended voting eligibility, had voted overwhelmingly in favour of the UPP when it won the 2004 elections.

He said then that any abandonment of the UPP by huge sections of its 2004 support base had to do with the Baldwin Spencer-led administration’s poor performance in office and overall incompetence.



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St. John's Lodge donates to Sickle Cell Association

The St. John's Lodge No. 492 E.R. presented thirty-six food packages to the Antigua and Barbuda Sickle Cell Association.

The presentation was made by Worshipful Master, Lt. Col. Edward H. Croft, accompanied by his wardens, Edward Joseph and Ato Kentish and Charity Steward, Joel Darroux.

The Sickle Cell Association was represented by Dr. Edda Hadeed, Pediatrician and President of the Antigua and Barbuda Sickle Cell Association, and other members who expressed thanks.

Dr. Hadeed remarked on the timeliness of the do-

nation since several of its members are now in rather unfortunate circumstances due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

She further expressed that the recipients will be appreciative of the packages as in addition to physical aid, it is important, especially in trying times to have the knowledge that someone cares for their wellbeing.

The presentation took place at Dr. Edda Hadeed's office at the Gambles Medical Center.

Mindful of the quote by Horace Mann, "Doing nothing for others is the undoing of ourselves", Lieutenant



Colonel Edward Croft expressed the hope that the donation will make a positive impact on the lives of persons who may have lost their jobs or have otherwise

found themselves in need.

He offered Dr. Hadeed the assurance that the lodge will always be open to helping the association and its members in times of need.

PM calls for proper mask etiquette

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has denounced the irresponsible manner in which some persons are wearing face masks under their chin.

It is mandatory for persons in Antigua and Barbuda to wear a mask once in public, however, Prime Minister Browne says people are wearing their masks incorrectly while in very close proximity with each other.

Browne said he witnessed this first hand while visiting town on the weekend.

The prime minister has advised against masks being worn under the chin, exposing the nose and mouth, as this practice increases the risk of contracting the potentially deadly coronavirus. This risk dramatically increases in situations where people who are not of the same household are engaging.

According to the prime minister,

even related persons who do not reside under the same roof should take precautions to protect themselves and others as they may have unknowingly come into contact with a person infected with the virus.

He urged the public to be more responsible since the social and economic effects of the coronavirus are far-reaching.

"[On Saturday] I was in town and I saw a few people communicating with each other. I have reasons to believe that they are not relatives and whereas they had the mask on, the mask was literally under their chin.

"They were within six feet of each other and they were speaking to each other. Now, you know I find that to be a form of negligence that we have to sensitise the people of the need to utilize these masks properly," Browne

said.

The prime minister continued while persons may be observing the six feet distancing requirement, a mask should still always be worn to protect both parties.

He also called for heightened vigilance to ensure that the country does not inadvertently advance the disease to the community spread phase of transmission.

According to Browne, the government has been working tirelessly to prevent the virus from spreading among the population to a point where contract tracing becomes difficult.

As a result he is urging persons to remain vigilant and take personal responsibility in ensuring that further socio-economic fallout from COVID-19 can be avoided by preventing community spread of the disease.

Statement from the CIU

The Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) has become aware of statements made in the media and public domain on 26th September 2020 suggesting that 175 CIP passports were given to Mr. Xiao of Fancy Bridge Limited (FBL) in exchange for shares in the West Indies Oil Company Limited (WIOC).

The Unit unequivocally denies the suggestion and or implication that it was party to any such arrangement or that the referenced event occurred.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Unit places on record the following incontrovertible facts.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda and Fancy Bridge Limited entered into an agreement in June 2015 related to the financing of the purchase of 75% of the ordinary shares held by National Petroleum Limited in the West Indies Oil Company Limited.

For a consideration amount of US\$29,400,000, the Government and investor agreed that US\$15,000,000 would be an advanced payment to the Government, while the remaining US\$14,400,000 would provide FBL with 24% ownership of WIOC. The US\$15,000,000 was advanced at an interest rate of 6%, per annum for 10 years paid up front, for 120 approved citizen-

ship applications under the National Development Fund (NDF) option.

Further, in the event FBL wished to liquidate their ownership, it was agreed that an additional 36 applications would be allowable under the Investment in Business option.

Each application would be for a minimum amount of US\$400,000. At the time of the execution of the agreement, the investment amount for the NDF option was US\$200,000.

In October 2017, subsequent to the signing of the agreement, the NDF investment amount was reduced to US\$100,000, which in effect increased the number of applications required to repay the advance.

In accordance with the terms of the agreement, all applicants under this arrangement, pay the prescribed fees for due diligence and passport processing and supply all supporting documentation as required by the Citizenship by Investment Act (2013) its amendments and regulations to the Citizenship by Investment Unit.

As is customary with all applications, the CIU conducts its own in-house due diligence review, thereafter contracting the services of internationally recognized private due diligence providers to

investigate and confirm the veracity of each applicant's claims and declarations in their submissions. Additionally, each of the applicants was subject to vetting through law enforcement databases to ensure their suitability for the grant of citizenship.

To date, the Unit has received 143 NDF applications, 114 of which have been successfully processed. Six applications have been denied and another 23 are pending review.

As such, more than 60% of the debt/obligation has been retired as stipulated in the terms of the agreement.

The Unit, as the agency charged with the management of this component of the agreement, has conducted its affairs with the highest levels of probity and in full compliance with the governing legislation.

At no time were physical passports prepared, processed or given to any person or entity for distribution where the holder of the passport would not have been required to undergo the full vetting and examination of their application.

The Unit rejects these claims which are patently false and deliberately misleading and which have the potential to irreparably damage the reputation of the Citizenship by Investment Programme.

One week mid-term break for public schools

Education officials have decided to give teachers and students a one week mid-term break.

The mid-term break is customarily one day and signals the halfway mark of the school term.

This term, however, the break will run from Monday, October 26 to Friday, October 30. Schools will reopen on Tuesday, November 3, after the Independence holiday.

This year, the Ministry of Education, Science and

Technology (MoEST) has opted to reward the efforts of teachers, all of whom have gone above and beyond the normal call of duty.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic educators must now also play the roles of caregivers, nurses and security officers.

In a memorandum dated October 9, 2020 which was addressed to principals, Director of Education, Clare Browne, applauded the work of the faculty of schools across the country for en-

suring that the education institutions were readied for the return of students for the 2020/2021 academic year.

Browne said school leaders, teachers and support staff have been working tirelessly to ensure that students remain safe.

"In the spirit of allowing for your rejuvenation for the remainder of the term, the MoEST has taken the decision to adjust the Academic Calendar 2020-2021 by extending the mid-term break to one week," Browne said.

He continued that the COVID-19 era in which we now live and work demands that educators become creative and vigilant in order to maintain a safe school environment.

He said the Ministry of Education is mindful of the efforts which principals and staff are making to facilitate this process daily.

The Director of Education concluded by relaying gratitude to the teaching fraternity for their service "rendered during this critical period."

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Today's common cosmetic dental treatment options include:

Veneers are ultra-thin custom-made laminates that are bonded directly to the teeth.

Implants are titanium bio compatible posts that are placed in the bone to which we are able to affix a natural looking tooth.

Invisalign is a thin clear Orthodontic tray that acts like a tooth brace and works to correct crooked teeth

Whitening or Tooth Bleaching is the most commonly

prescribed cosmetic dental procedure.

Gum Recontouring is a cosmetic dental procedure that raises and sculpts the gum line.

Enamel Shaping removes parts of the contouring enamel to improve the appearance of the tooth.

Bonding is an option for chipped or cracked teeth.

Full Mouth Reconstruction is for patients who have severe dental problems that often require a full-mouth reconstruction.

Porcelain Veneers

Veneers are an increasingly popular procedure. Veneers are an option for closing gaps, disguising discolored, chipped or badly aligned teeth. Veneers can also be used on teeth that did not respond well to whitening procedures. They are used to restore teeth to give patients that bright white smile they have always desired.

The process for getting veneers is as follows:

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number of veneers we use is dictated by your needs. Some people have a toothier smile than others; therefore, more veneers are needed.

We do a wax-up for you to see what your smile will look like with veneers. This step allows us to make sure we understand your desires.

If you are doing a few veneers, we suggest whitening the teeth first so that all your teeth will match.

The teeth are prepped. To prepare the teeth for the veneers, the teeth are lightly reduced on the facial aspect to allow for the small added thickness of the veneer. Usually, about half a millimeter of the tooth is removed, which may require a local anesthetic. For ceramic veneers, a mold is taken of the teeth, which is sent to the laborato-

ry for the fabrication of the veneers.

We put temporaries on your teeth to wear until our lab fabricates the permanent veneers.

When your ceramic veneers are ready, we place each veneer on the teeth to check their fit and get a sense of the shade or color. The color cannot be altered after veneers are cemented. To apply the veneer, the tooth is cleansed with specific chemicals to achieve a bond. After a special cement is sandwiched between the veneer and tooth, a light beam hardens the cement.

Spend some time in the planning of the smile with your dentist.

Understand the corrective limitations of the procedure.

Have more than one consultation, if necessary, to feel comfortable that we understand your objectives.

Veneers are reasonable facsimiles of natural teeth, not perfect replacements. It's not uncommon to see slight variations in the color of veneers upon close inspection, as this occurs even in natural teeth. Nevertheless, this procedure can greatly enhance your smile and can heighten self-esteem.

"Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy."

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COVID-19: A catalyst for entrepreneurship series:



A healthy business with El's Salad Bowls and Blends

By Angelica O'Donoghue

Worldwide, October is recognized as a health focused month, highlighting major health related issues such as breast cancer, mental health and the importance of drinking water.

This week's featured entrepreneur fits perfectly into the health-centred theme.

El's Salad Bowls and Blends by Eldica Samuel is a creative, innovative and health focused business that provides unique salads and local juices.

Eldica explained that she started her business in 2016, making local juices from fresh, local ingredients. Recently, however she has capitalised on the growing health market and expanded to provide salads created mainly from locally sourced produce.

The young entrepreneur divulged that it was the need to secure additional income to help take care of her family which propelled her into starting her own business.



"I wanted to do something to gain extra income and with a young child, working at nights wasn't an option for me because that would mean leaving her at night to work in some hotel. I sat in my office one day and threw out the idea on Facebook and my question was, 'How does making local juice sound? Would you buy it from me?' And that was it! I got my first order of six beet juices from my aunt that same day. I looked in my wallet and I had \$100 and I took it to buy ingredients and it was sailing from there!" Eldica revealed with excitement.

Unlike most entrepreneurs, Eldica didn't quite require significant finance in the startup phase but she did acquire a loan to help with the expansion of her business.

"We all need financing to put our best foot forward. I was doing exceptionally well in the first six months. Every day was another order after another. The demand was so high that there wasn't space in the freezer at home to store my drink. Within the first six months of operations, I bought a deep freezer and a juicer just from what the business yielded in such a short time. The support was awesome and I was truly humbled. I remember November of 2017 I decided to do the independence food fair selling with someone and I was sold out by 2pm with over 300 bottles. It was December in 2017 I took out a loan to do more thus expanding production and variety."

So how did she transition from mastering local juices to making salad bowls? Eldica revealed that it was her personal ambition to lead a healthy lifestyle that prompted the decision.

"I expanded my business by adding salad bowls about three months ago. I



Eldica Samuel

sat and thought about ways to do more in my brand. I am a health conscious person so I jumped at the idea of making salads. I put my menu together and asked my Graphic designer, Kalico Designs, to put it into perspective which he did. Two days later it was making its rounds on social media and the orders started to come in. I was particularly new to this arena so I wasn't so focused on who was doing the same thing, I just knew this was what I wanted to do and I am gonna make it happen! Although other salad type businesses were around, I wasn't worried about the competition. I knew my product was gonna be unique!" the entrepreneur said.

With El's Salad Bowls starting in the middle of a global pandemic, this businesswoman has proven that COVID-19 can, in some instances, be a catalyst for successful entrepreneurship.

cont'd on pg 12

cont'd from pg 11

According to Eldica, "I started Salad Bowls in the heart of COVID. Thankfully for me, I am doing extremely well, even better than I expected given the situation. How did I capitalise? I marketed myself despite it. I turned my personal social media page on my business page.

"I opened a business page, I linked all pages to my phone and I opened an Instagram page thanks to the push from Captain Lenroy Browne who has always asked more of me.

"I reached the masses and sold myself and my product. I look for ways to add new things to the menu. If the customers thought about it, I made it a reality and added it to the menu."

Eldecia went on, "To be honest, I cannot find a bad way in which COVID has impacted Bowls and Blends. The support and encouragement I get has been truly amazing and it keeps on coming.

I, however, wish I was more flexible to better serve my customers at the time they want to be served, but I think it's safe to say almost all my customers know I am employed with the government of Antigua and Barbuda and they do adjust to whatever I have put in place to serve them."

Eldica explained that she does have plans to expand in the future, however, for the time being, she is focusing on perfecting her craft.

Before concluding our "salad talk" with Eldica, she offered wise words to potential entrepreneurs.

"Target all crowds. Positively use social media. Your crowd may not be interesting in your brand but 1000 elsewhere maybe. I started my business with \$100 making six bottles of beet juice and today I have two products under my belt. It wasn't easy, it was hard but nothing beats being your own motivator. Asso-



ciate yourself with persons who may not be financially available to spend but will help you get your brand out there. Sharing is a part of supporting! Believe you can and you will!"

You can learn more about Eldica's business by following her on social media. Instagram: els_salad_bowls. Facebook: El's Bowls and Blends.

CBH PUBLIC HEALTH CORNER



Mosquito breeding sites

Aedes aegypti is a highly domesticated mosquito which breeds mainly in clean, clear water. Its larvae are almost always found in artificial containers- such as drums, buckets tyres etc. in and around human habitations. They are also found in natural containers such as coconut shells, leaf axils, tree holes, rock holes etc. Thus, all containers that can hold water, should be considered as potential breeding places for these mosquitoes.

Rawlins, S. Integrated Mosquito Vector Mgt for the Caribbean. P. 97



Central Board of Health
Upper Church Street
Tel: 268-562-9300
Find us on Facebook!

Answers for last week's Word Search 5.10.20

- *Zika *Chikungunya *Malaria *West Nile
- *Disease *Yellow Fever *Dengue *Fever

CBH FUN FACTS 411

WORD SEARCH

Topic: Mosquito Breeding sites

c	i	s	t	e	r	n	x	r	s
b	e	f	g	w	s	r	b	l	o
r	s	p	x	e	s	o	u	q	a
o	b	h	l	x	n	o	c	b	k
m	c	o	t	i	a	f	k	o	a
e	h	e	a	f	c	g	e	t	w
l	q	r	n	t	s	u	t	t	a
i	d	p	k	d	e	t	j	l	y
a	l	v	n	s	r	t	y	e	d
d	u	o	a	e	s	e	i	r	u
s	p	v	v	m	u	r	d	s	e

Mosquitoes can lay their eggs in many types of water catchments. Can you find 15 words identifying where mosquitoes can breed?



Word Search created by: **Kenya Smith; EHA**

12.10.2020

Eye On Our Economy

Under normal conditions, 2020 would have been a very strong year for tourism. This year would have continued to build on the United Nations' 2019 estimates which highlighted that export revenues from tourism supports one in ten jobs globally.

For small island developing nations like Antigua and Barbuda where tourism accounts for as much as 80% of total exports, the impact of the pandemic has been crushing. All sectors have been hit and have suffered tremendous negative impacts.

The nation's relationship with Global Ports that was expected to have started to bear fruit in terms of growth in cruise passenger arrivals with strong prospects for more visitors on the ground, crashed to a halt with no restart date in sight.

Stayover arrivals were promising a solid performance anticipating a solid showing over the three hundred plus arrivals from 2019 even as the impact

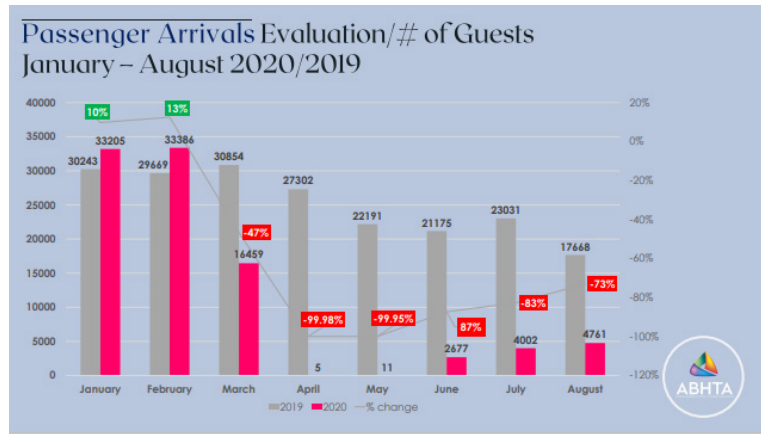
of the pandemic in source markets was felt from January onwards. By the time of the full lockdown in March, there was a 23.7% decline in stayover arrivals.

The yachting community's planned record breaking season stymied, though there were some benefits from the extended stay of the yachties who could not get out for several weeks after the global shutdown.

The loss of the tourism market has revealed the heavy dependence of practically all segments on the larger aggregate demand.

Tourists arrivals in total over the past decade have accounted for more than twice our resident population and by extension been largely responsible for the growth in many enterprises. Every sector of the economy is under strain.

Our government continues to carry the lion's share of keeping the wheels of the economy spinning through maintaining its payroll and the procurement of goods and services.



It is not a challenge any government, including ours would want to be burdened with into the long term.

Within the context of the importance of tourism to our economy it is useful to review the information available as we continue to struggle under the weight on the COVID-19 pandemic. With both cruise and yachting segments of our product on pause and stayover arrivals by air showing flickering signs of life we are still nowhere near the pre-pandemic numbers.

Globally, the projections are that revenues from tourism could fall significantly from US\$910 billion to US\$1.2trillion by the end of 2020. For our local economy data on hotel occupancy from the AHTA reveals some stark realities.

Based on data from thirty-three hotels on Passenger Arrivals Evaluation on Guest arrivals reflect the expected downward trend for all months in 2020 to date, clear evidence that COVID-19 spread in our

source market was a challenge from January onwards.

Even as we are seeing flickers of life reflected in the opening of several properties the challenge for us will be how to maximise the economic impact throughout the economy.

Are there deliberate efforts to ensure that the supply chain is grounded in sourcing from local wholesalers?

Will there be clear efforts to integrate taxi operators, encourage local spend with the vendors and other retail outlets, tour operators and the many others enterprises on tourism?

While the clear emphasis is on the hotels and airline capacity, there are so many other areas of our economy which are part of the supply chain.

The time is at hand for a comprehensive assessment and development of a plan to ensure we maximise the linkage now more than ever to the benefit of all stakeholders dependent on the tourism sector.

Passenger Arrivals/# of Guests

Evaluation Year on Year (YOY)

January - August 2020/2019

	UK	USA	Canada	Europe	Caribbean	All Others	Total
20-Jan	8158	13389	6005	2386	2753	514	33205
19-Jan	8776	11071	4802	2513	2615	466	30243
	-7%	21%	25%	-5%	5%	10%	10%
20-Feb	7821	14720	5883	2263	2327	372	33386
19-Feb	7681	11722	4752	2616	2501	397	29669
	2%	26%	24%	-13%	-7%	-6%	13%
20-Mar	4273	6784	2773	932	1489	208	16459
19-Mar	7008	13224	5404	2253	2610	355	30854
	-39%	-49%	-49%	-59%	-43%	-41%	-47%
20-Apr	0	1	0	2	2	0	5
19-Apr	6560	11709	3634	1752	3637	10	27302
	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-99.9%	-99.9%	-100.0%	-99.98%
20-May	0	8	0	0	3	0	11
19-May	5653	10093	2298	1251	2561	335	22191
	-100.0%	-99.9%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-99.9%	-100.0%	-99.95%
20-Jun	55	2085	225	149	147	16	2677
19-Jun	4561	10276	1621	1426	2932	359	21175
	-98.8%	-79.7%	-86.1%	-89.4%	-95.0%	-95.5%	-87.4%
20-Jul	267	3355	48	36	265	31	4002
19-Jul	5378	10221	1244	238	5471	479	23031
	-95%	-67%	-96%	-85%	-95%	-94%	-83%
20-Aug	889	3203	144	120	358	47	4761
19-Aug	3699	7251	1485	1215	3523	495	17668
	-76%	-56%	-90%	-90%	-90%	-91%	-73%



Financial health check: A personal experience

“The grind isn’t always glamorous. Making a living isn’t always fun.” - Daryl George

Daryl George is from a middle class Antiguan and Barbudan family of five. He holds a MSc in Consumer Psychology with Business from Bangor University and a BA in Psychology from the University of the West Indies.

He graciously granted us permission to share his story, originally published on his Facebook page, with our audience to jump start a conversation on the cost benefit analysis of education and the challenges of making a comfortable living, after university.

Daryl returned to Antigua and Barbuda in 2010 after completing his Master’s degree. He took two loans and used up every cent of his savings to cover the cost pursuing his education because, even with the valued Prime Minister’s Scholarship annual subvention worth US\$5,000, the cost to complete the programme totalled just over EC\$100,000.

It had been inculcated into him that a postgraduate degree was the minimum standard for his career path, therefore he invested his accumulated savings, all tangible items of value, save his laptop, in order to complete the programme.

“I returned to Antigua with a nice degree,” Daryl shared, “but lost everything else of value. I moved back in with my parents because I had no money.”

He returned to work where he was advised that his department would be restructured to include salary increases, but three years later 2013, the increases were still ‘coming soon’.

Despite the frustration of stagnant salary, he kept working and found oth-

er opportunities to supplement his primary income.

“The trick for me to staying alive and sane was putting one foot forward. Progress, even if minute, was celebrated. I moved out from my parents to ‘my own’ place. Ok, it was my grandmother’s converted garage, but at least it wasn’t my parents.”

To celebrate he threw a house warming party.

Moving out from his parents meant getting his own vehicle would be necessary as public transportation would not be an effective means of getting to and from his new home. To acquire even a second hand vehicle meant a third loan would have to be added to his existing student debt.

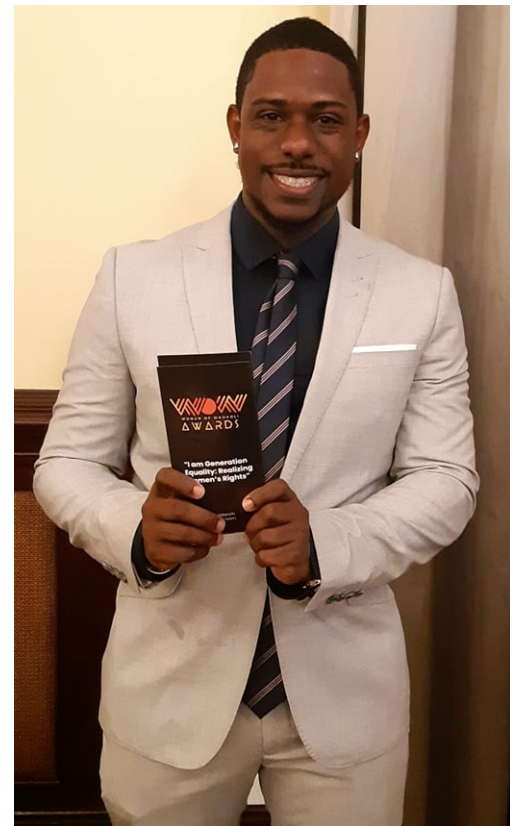
He stuck to the plan however: work, service debts, sleep, and repeat again. He recalled searching between his car seats to find any loose change with which he could pay for fuel and then, this task accomplished, calculating journeys to ensure that he could make it to his destination before running his tank to empty once again.

Daryl was definitely broke, but it was not a fact on public display.

2014 rolled around. He kept grinding and confronting new challenges head on and all the bills related to the maintenance of his vehicle including purchasing a new engine mount and a new battery.

2015 came around and the hope of his department at work being restructured was swept off the table. He was crushed. He lobbied his superiors but to no avail. The situation was out of their hands.

Notwithstanding the setback, he stuck to his plan to retire his debts. Each month, little by little, he reduced



Daryl George

the balances.

2016 brought new superiors who, though sympathetic to his plight could not offer solutions. His old expenses remained the same and new ones came along to join them. He applied for other opportunities and while these were successful, the compensation packages offered were even less than the salary he was receiving. There was no movement.

“Three loans, one small salary,” Daryl recounted. “Days I sat down and made a budget and no matter how much wizardry I tried, it always ended up the same; spending more money than I made, pinching dollars from between my car seats, meals by my parents.”

Gloomy as things were, he stuck to the important objective of debt repay-

cont'd on pg 15

cont'd from pg 14

ment, bit by bit, month after month.

2017 slowly came around and finally there was a breakthrough. A new head of department, the third in three years, with a listening ear, shocked at the paltry sum he earned, organised a small increase in salary and back pay.

The reality of his dilemma given the loose arrangement of the department at his workplace, was that there was no established system to ensure that increases linked to higher education and training would be applied.

In addition to the raise, he also secured a part time job, where he worked long hours for several years. Existing on very little sleep, the benefits, at the end of the day were significant. He was able to dedicate larger sums to loan repayment and, for the first time in seven years, save some money. He was also able to pay off one of his three loans.

By 2018 the remaining loans were repaid and his savings were growing. Daryl also benefited from an across the board salary increase of 5%. After reviewing the costs of his vehicle maintenance, he sold his car and bought another with the help of a small loan which was repaid in eight months.

Daryl transitioned to a new job in 2019 which offered a slightly better pay package.

With a sense of relief, he said, "After years of crawl-

ing, scratching, and climbing my way up, I was finally at the stage I could breathe. I finally got health insurance. Everybody should have this. I was able to travel and not penny pinch." Daryl described 2020 as 'interesting' and reported that he was finally able to leave his part time job and is far more comfortable financially.

Reflecting on his journey, Daryl shared the value of persistence. He believes that it is necessary to always push forward, set, and pursue goals despite adversity.

"Even after people tell you no, keep asking. Hard work does not always pay off immediately, but if you keep putting it in it will pay off. Be patient, count the little wins, and keep stepping forward and celebrating the little wins to stay motivated!"

Concerning the possibility of finding employment abroad, Daryl explained that he is still on bond because of his government scholarship so this, for now, is not an option. He went on, however, that in his field, regional or international opportunities are scarce and when they do become available, they are highly competitive.

Regarding whether his struggle has been worth the hardships he has endured, Daryl says he is not ready to offer an opinion. He is still exhaling from the extended period of challenges in his past and is simply looking forward to continuing his journey, now from a much more comfortable space.

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Date: Monday 12th October 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Affected areas: Liberta, Pattersons, Dimsey Hill, Table Hill Gardens

Date: Monday 12th October 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Affected areas: Section of Hodges Bay

Date: Tuesday 13th October 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Affected areas: Small section of Freetown near Halfmoon Bay

Date: Tuesday 13th October 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Affected areas: Section of Jennings near the old library

Date: Tuesday 13th October 2020

Time: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Affected areas: Section of Blue Waters near St. Nicholas primary school

Date: Wednesday 14th October 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Affected areas: Coolidge, ABDF, Free Trade and AUA

Date: Thursday 15th October 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Affected areas: Section of Jennings west of the clinic

Date: Friday 16th October 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Affected areas: Section of All Saints near the gas station and section of Clarks Hill near Midway gas station

Date: Friday 16th October 2020

Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Affected areas: Section of Halcyon Heights

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page.

Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

The 'Mind Your Business' Enterprise

The Enterprise Development Department is a department within the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority that caters to small business development. The organisation creates an environment that fosters local businesses.

For small business owners, finance is the core concern of the business. The Mind Your Business enterprise series provides the opportunity for business owners to understand that knowledge of the business should be the focal point of their business. Owners must understand how to actually make the business feasible and sustainable. They will become skilled in a series of business related components such as marketing, pricing and cost, the design of a business plan, and the understanding of managerial issues.

The Mind Your Business enterprise is a medium that provides the information needed by business owners in real time. The series consist of short, practical courses geared towards the productivity of local business endeavours by offering to owners an interactive, empiric and immediate learning experience that will allow owners to constructively mind their business. The programme is non-profit and subsidized by the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority. Jacqueline Yearwood, the Enterprise Director of Mindy Your Business explained that this does not in any way affect the quali-

ty of service the organisation is obligated to provide to its clients.

Yearwood, further explained for example, "Once the owner comes with a problem in marketing, the owner completes the marketing course which will identify solutions to the current problems faced by the owner and a platform of knowledge for future hiccups a business may experience in marketing."

The facilitators are degreed professionals with over twelve years of experience in the respective fields.

The duration of the course varies: three weeks, two days, five days or an hour.

Yearwood indicated, "There's nothing, no problem the owners can face that the facilitators haven't heard of or experienced."

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mind Your Business Enterprise offered payment plans and cost efficient bundle deals to meet the economic needs of its clients which are still available to the public. The effects of COVID-19 have slowed training because despite the relatively inexpensive cost of the courses, as the current economic constraints have proven to be unbearable for many.

The facilitators, who propose that education and formal information are important, believe that The Mind Your Business initiative is their national service.

Regarding the facilitators' contributions, Yearwood



noted, "We cannot afford to pay market rates. The facilitators do it because of the understanding and passion for services in the industry. The little stipend that we hand out, or whatever that is, is negligible.

"They do it because of the love and understanding that unless individuals are informed you cannot have the expected results on the economy. When you think about a degreed professional, they have seen, they have done, how can one pay for that?"

The pandemic also prompted the start of online courses which are held via Zoom. Facilitators and clients adjusted to the change which aided in the delivery of technological courses such as QuickBooks.

Mind Your Business programme has also extended to large companies who have had their employees take ad-

vantage of the programmes offered.

"We've had a range that extended to all walks, from housewives to business owners to professionals at differing post," Yearwood said.

The Mind Your Business enterprise has also facilitated summer programmes for young people under the Mind Your Business Juniors initiative which began two years ago. The adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, resulted in the 2020 programme being cancelled.

Yearwood expressed that one of the goals for the Mind Your Business Programme is to facilitate day classes and have a training facility to accommodate students.

Persons interested in participating in any of the programmes should contact the unit at 480-1001/2/3 or ayanana.baptiste@ab.gov.ag.

BVI losing revenue waiting on governor to assent cannabis law

(BVI News) Premier Andrew Fahie said the BVI is losing significant revenue as it waits for Governor Augustus Jaspert to give assent to the Cannabis Licensing Act, which was passed in the House Of Assembly in July of this year.

The Cannabis Licensing Act sets the framework for the establishment of a medical marijuana industry in the BVI.

In an interview with 284 Media, Premier Fahie said the government was expecting to earn millions this year as many people would have found jobs in the medical cannabis industry.

“I could only say that if it was passed already we would have already been able to move towards having the three months crop – because the planting of it takes three months and we would have already moved towards over one hundred jobs and we would have



Premier Andrew Fahie

already moved towards at least a couple millions of dollars in our economy,” Premier Fahie said.

He continued: “We are gonna wait till it is assented to. It has pushed us a little behind with that industry with the revenue that we had already projected for this year.”

The BVI constitution doesn't demand that the governor give assent to any law within a specified time-

frame.

In his interview on Friday, Premier Fahie said this is an area in the constitution that the government is seeking to change.

“It is one of the areas in our constitutional review that we have to ensure that we strengthen in the best interest of the people of the Virgin Islands,” Premier Fahie said.

He said once the bill is assented, a commission will

be set up to regulate the industry and set guidelines for locals who want to participate.

Premier Fahie also said the government is working with an investor who is expected to help the BVI tap into the export market. However he refused to name the investor.

“I wouldn't release the investor's name right now, but when the time comes we'll let them know. All I can say is that the investor will be known, it's not a secret, it's a reputable person that has come and helped us move in this direction with the industry,” Premier Fahie said.

Earlier in September, BVI News sought to determine whether the Governor had any specific problems with the bill that could cause any delay in its assent. The Governor's office responded: “He's currently considering it [and] has yet to grant assent.”



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 COMMUNITY BASED...GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
 99.1 FM

ECLAC: Crisis will be deeper and longer than expected

(CMC) The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) says the region is not likely to see a return to pre-COVID-19 growth rates before 2025.

Addressing a high-level virtual meeting, organised by the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America and the Caribbean (AACCLA), ECLAC's executive secretary, Alicia Bárcena predicted that the crisis will be "longer and deeper than expected," and given the uncertainty COVID-19 has created "it will take several years to be able to recover."

"If we consider the average rate of growth of the past decade, of 1.8 per cent, regional GDP (gross domestic product) will only return to 2019 levels in 2025," she said.

She said the private sector, particularly chambers of commerce, and regional integration must play a "crucial role" in the region's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting, entitled: "Forecast on Latin America and the Caribbean," formed part of the Annual Conference of AACCLA, which groups 23 American Chambers of Commerce (AmChams) and includes more than 20,000 companies representing more than 80 per cent of US investment in the region.

Bárcena said the pandemic has revealed and amplified the region's structural gaps, such as inequality and low productivity.

In order to cope with such effects, she said ECLAC has made a series of proposals for the short and medium term, including an emergency basic income (equivalent to one poverty line), an anti-hunger grant (for people living in extreme poverty), and a dig-



Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ital basket that would allow for bridging the gap of 40 million households in the region that do not have adequate connectivity.

Bárcena said ECLAC has proposed the deepening of regional integration and international cooperation since the fiscal efforts of national governments – which have invested four per cent of GDP on average to date and 10 per cent in credit guarantees for companies – "will not be enough."

"Globally, the pandemic is reinforcing two interrelated trends: the first is a shift towards less interdependence in production, trade and technology among the world's major economies, particularly between the United States and Europe on the one hand, and China, on the other," she said.

"The second is that world trade is less open and more influenced by geopolitical and national security considerations, with more frequent disputes and with a weakened multilateral governance," she added.

The ECLAC head said the pandemic has also revealed the weakness of intraregional trade, which "will collapse" this year, reaching just 11 per cent, the same level seen in the 1980s.

"We need to take advantage of this

historic opportunity and truly position trade as a driver of growth – but a growth that has equality and sustainability at the centre," Bárcena said.

In this regard, she said it is necessary to put emphasis on trade facilitation, infrastructure and logistics, and to promote investment in dynamic sectors, such as renewable energy and the digital economy.

"The harmonisation and homologation of technical capabilities is (are) also necessary, especially in the free trade agreements already implemented in the area of the Pacific Alliance and in Central America with Mexico," Bárcena said. "I believe we are ready to implement a major trade facilitation agreement and to move towards a regional digital market."

On digital matters, she underlined that the private sector must be included in order to close the big infrastructure gaps that still remain and that, for example, keep 32 million children in the region from being able to access tele-education.

"We must effectively ensure access to digital technologies," she said. "And that is why we have suggested a basic digital basket, which includes a cell phone, a laptop or a tablet and a broadband access plan that would enable digital access for all citizens," Bárcena said.

"This would cost one per cent of GDP. It is possible to do this, and we definitely need the private sector to join this initiative."

She continued: "We need public policies, incentives and regulation to guarantee fair development and adoption of these technologies," she continued. "The private sector will have a central role in this, especially cham-

cont'd on pg 19

Statement by CARICOM on blacklisting by European Community

(CARICOM Today) The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) deplors the ongoing unilateral, arbitrary and non-transparent blacklisting strategy employed by the European Union (EU) against CARICOM Member States.

The most recent inclusion of CARICOM States to the blacklist of alleged non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and jurisdictions identified as being deficient in the area of Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), underscores the EU's unwillingness to take into account the substantial progress made by CARICOM Member States at compliance with global standards.

Moreover, the unquestioned use of ratings from other international bodies as a determining factor in the decision to list a jurisdiction along with the absence of meaningful prior consultation with the affected States negates the spirit of partnership and multilateralism that has characterised the relationship between CARICOM and the EU.

Along with the unprecedented task of staging a post-COVID-19 economic recovery, these CARICOM States now have the added burden of being subjected to the EU's discriminatory tactics disguised as tax policy and governance.

Blacklisting severely affects the economic pros-



pects of the listed states and the Community, in general, at a time when all of our Members are already faced with the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This labelling causes significant reputational risk, erodes our competitive advantage, and discourages the investment that CARICOM States desperately need to drive inclusive

growth and build economic resilience.

The Caribbean Community calls upon the European Union to desist from this harmful practice of blacklisting small states, and instead pursue a mutually collaborative engagement towards our shared goals of effective tax governance and combatting money laundering and terrorism financing.

cont'd from pg 18

bers of commerce. We need a dialogue between the public and private sectors to achieve improved connectivity and digital accessibility.”

Regarding the stimulation of job creation to reactivate production, income and consumption, ECLAC's executive secretary noted that the organisation has proposed measures, such as co-financing the payrolls of the 2.6 million micro, small and medium-sized enterprises that have been affected by the crisis, through soft loans and extended grace periods for medium-sized companies, as well as bailouts for large companies on certain conditions, such as that they not use tax havens or redistribute earnings among shareholders.

“We must also move towards universal social protection and protecting the most vulnerable groups, such as older

people and women, who have been the most affected by the pandemic due to their extra burden of both paid and unpaid care work,” Bárcena said.

“In addition, labour formalisation is one of the drivers of growth: we have 159 million informal workers in the region (54 per cent on average), so that they can access social protection and health programmes, which are urgent at this time,” she added, stressing that the crisis is hitting the most technologically-dynamic industrial sectors the hardest, “which serves to deepen the region's structural problems.”

“This means that, unless appropriate policies are implemented to strengthen these industries, it is highly likely that a regressive structural change will ensue, leading to re-primarisation in the region's economies,” she warned.

“Chambers of commerce and busi-

ness associations have played a key role during the crisis. Businesses will also have a crucial role in the recovery process,” Bárcena continued. “That is why we must maintain a dialogue with the private sector to increase productivity, innovation and quality job creation. Moving, for example, towards clean renewable energy, the electrification of urban transport, investment in digitalisation and nature-based, agro-ecological solutions, and developing infrastructure and the adoption of new technologies with improved skills.”

She also said chambers of commerce can play “a key role” in moving towards the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals “and, thus, in recovering better, differently, in a world that is more sustainable and inclusive.”

Invasion fears heighten in Venezuela as US election nears

(Barbados Today) The political ghost of the 1983 Grenada revolution is spooking the Nicolás Maduro regime in Venezuela, and concerns are growing in the troubled South American country that the United States will invade it ahead of its presidential elections in November.

A diplomat, who contacted Sunday Gleaner two weeks ago, believes that visits to the region by United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo were “collusion” plans with “elements” in CARICOM to invade the country.

According to him, the timing was perfect as all countries were preoccupied with the COVID-19 pandemic, but the geopolitical climate leading to the 1983 invasion of Grenada is similar. He said then US President Ronald Reagan used the invasion to boost his re-election chances a year later.

“On 25th October, USA, with Jamaica’s support, invaded Grenada. That is 37 years ago and [Ronald] Reagan used the success of that as part of the campaign in his re-election. He came to your country first after his re-election, after the Grenada revolution, to say thank you for the role Jamaica played. That anniversary is days away and so is US elections,” said the diplomat.



Barbados Ambassador to CARICOM, Dr David Comissiong

“[Donald] Trump has no foreign policy success. For a long time, the US wants to control Venezuela politics and its oil. It has been planning to overthrow Venezuela since the death of our beloved commandante [Hugo] Chávez,” he charged.

The country has been politically incapacitated since the disputed elections in 2018 which returned Maduro to power for a second six-year term, with several countries recognising the US-backed Juan Guaidó as the president.

“I don’t believe an invasion is imminent. Venezuela is not like Grenada, which was a very small country,” Barbados ambassador to CARICOM Dr David Comissiong told The Sunday Gleaner, although admitting that the situation remains one of great concern.

“This is a country which is far more powerful, with a very well developed military tradition which goes back over 200 years. So any

country that seeks to invade Venezuela will pay a heavy price in terms of the military power that they would unleash,” said Comissiong.

Jersey City University Professor Jermaine McCalpin believes a US invasion would be a costly misadventure.

“I don’t believe the fears are founded. While the 37th anniversary of Operation Urgent Fury is upon us, I do not think the domestic standing of the current US government can afford such a costly foreign policy misadventure.

“While it would detract attention from domestic policy failure, I don’t see the international support for such an invasion,” he weighed in when contacted by The Sunday Gleaner.

“The election in the US is certainly consequential to the extent that, if the incumbent wins, it would be a continuation of more reckless Monrovia Manifest Destiny – to intervene in

sovereign affairs of regional states in order to fulfil the US’s own goal of aggressive control of the region,” he said.

The US has been the strongest supporter of opposition elements in Venezuela. The oil-rich country has been forced to seek buyers from outside the region, and countries with bilateral relationships have faced threats of sanctions.

Jamaica, in defending its decision to cease its oil arrangement under the PetroCaribe deal, said it was unable to pay Venezuela its share of revenue.

It has also expropriated Venezuelan shares in the Petrojam refinery, causing the South American country to sue for US\$250 million in compensation.

Michael Hylton, QC, who represents Venezuela’s interest in the case, said Jamaica has not filed a defence to the claim.

Jamaica has also closed its embassy in the country.

The Venezuelan diplomat said the US has successfully played divide-and-rule politics in the region, including CARICOM.

Citing the US efforts to dole out COVID-19 relief across the region, the diplomat said that it was not coincidental that Pompeo had visited Guyana and Suriname, which border Venezuela.

Nigeria dissolves controversial police unit accused of brutality

(CNN) A controversial Nigerian police unit accused of brutality will be disbanded, following nationwide protests demanding an end to police violence in the country.

Nigeria's Inspector General of Police announced that the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, known as SARS, will be dissolved, according to a police statement.

"IGP M.A Adamu ... has today, 11th October, 2020, dissolved the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) across the 36 State Police Commands and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)," a statement from police spokesman Frank Mba said.

All SARS officers are being redeployed with immediate effect, Mba added.

However, while the news was welcomed by jubilant protesters, they vowed to continue marching in their demands to end police brutality in all forms and make rogue officers accountable.

Before the decision to disband SARS was announced, one man died and several others were injured as police in Nigeria fired live ammunition and tear gas on young people protesting the unit.

The man has been named as Jimoh Isiaka and his death was confirmed by the governor of Oyo State, Seyi Makinde.

"I have received with deep



Protesters occupy Lagos State House of Assembly in Nigeria on Friday, October 9.

sadness the news of the passing of one of our children, Jimoh Isiaka, who was shot during the ENDSARS protest in Ogbomoso," Makinde said on Saturday. "He later died at Bowen University Teaching Hospital, Ogbomoso..." he added in the Twitter statement.

Five others were also injured in the state and taken to hospital, according to the governor.

Protesters in Nigeria's capital Abuja also reported that police were using water cannons and firing live ammunition during a march on Sunday afternoon.

The nationwide protests were a culmination of weeks

of anger and outcry online by the country's young people over claims of kidnapping, harassment murder, and extortion by SARS.

The #EndSars hashtag has been trending worldwide since Friday and people in Nigeria have been using it to share videos and images of police using water cannons and tear gas to disperse protesters.

One woman who was at the Abuja march Saturday, where tear gas was also used, told CNN the protests were peaceful until police started firing at protesters.

Ndi Kato, 31, said: "No one threw anything or did anything wrong. No one

was being belligerent, but the police kept threatening us."

Solidarity protests took place Sunday in the United Kingdom, led by the actor John Boyega, and in Washington DC, in the United States. Both countries have large Nigerian immigrant populations.

Amnesty International said it has documented 82 cases of police brutality in Nigeria between 2017 and 2020.

People detained by SARS have suffered torture methods including hanging, mock execution and sexual violence, according to Amnesty.

Trump says he is COVID-19 'immune' as he prepares for rallies

(Aljazeera) The US presidential campaign is set to gear up again this week, as President Donald Trump aggressively returns to the trail after his doctor declared him no longer a risk of coronavirus transmission.

In an interview aired on Fox News on Sunday, Trump said he no longer has COVID-19 and declared he was now "immune" from the virus, a claim that was impossible to prove and comes amid a series of outstanding questions about the president's health.

"I'm immune," Trump said in an interview on Fox News. "The president is in very good shape to fight the battles." He did not say whether he had tested negative.

The statement and tweet comes a day after Trump's physician, Dr Sean Conley, said the president had taken a test on Saturday showing he was no longer "a transmission risk to others", and there was no longer evidence "of actively replicating virus".

The White House at the time did not say whether Conley's statement meant Trump had actually tested negative for the coronavirus.

To date, the White House has also not released when Trump last tested negative



President Donald Trump has not confirmed if he has tested negative for COVID-19

for the virus before his positive test, making the timeline of his infection unclear.

Later on Sunday, Twitter flagged a tweet by Trump in which the US President claimed he was immune to the coronavirus, saying it violated the social media platform's rules about misleading information related to COVID-19.

"A total and complete sign off from White House Doctors yesterday. That means I can't get it (immune), and can't give it. Very nice to know," Trump said in the tweet.

The post was flagged by Twitter with a disclaimer.

"This Tweet violated the Twitter Rules about spreading misleading and potentially harmful information related to COVID-19," Twitter's disclaimer read, adding that it had determined that it may be in

the public's interest for the tweet to remain accessible.

A Twitter spokeswoman told Reuters news agency that the tweet made "misleading health claims" about COVID-19 and that engagements with the post would be "significantly limited," as is standard in such cases.

Trump has not travelled since he announced on October 2 that he had tested positive for the coronavirus. After leaving Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Monday, the president has remained at the White House, where he held his first event on Saturday since the positive test.

During that speech, Trump addressed Black and Latino members of a conservative foundation from a Rose Garden balcony in what was billed as official White House business, and

not a campaign event. He declared that the coronavirus, which has killed more than 210,000 US citizens, was "disappearing".

The president has repeatedly downplayed the virus since leaving the hospital and has been eager to return to the campaign trail as several polls show Biden widening his lead nationally to double digits. Biden also remains ahead in polling averages of key battleground states, with more than five-point lead averages in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Trump has rallies planned in Florida on Monday, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, and Iowa on Wednesday, despite repeated criticism that such gatherings may further spread the virus.

The Biden campaign, meanwhile, has sought to capitalise on Trump's absence, visiting Florida, Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania last week.

On Saturday, Biden, while speaking in Pennsylvania, said "the only way" he could lose to Trump was through malfeasance at the polls, an apparent reference to the Trump campaign's plans to deploy thousands of "poll watchers" to sites across the country.

The president has also repeatedly cast doubt on voting by mail, suggesting

cont'd on pg 23

Covid virus 'survives for 28 days' in lab conditions

(BBC) The virus responsible for Covid-19 can remain infectious on surfaces such as banknotes, phone screens and stainless steel for 28 days, researchers say.

The findings from Australia's national science agency suggest SARS-Cov-2 can survive for far longer than thought.

However, the experiment was conducted in the dark. UV light has already been shown to kill the virus.

Some experts have also thrown doubt on the actual threat posed by surface transmission in real life.

The coronavirus is mostly transmitted when people cough, sneeze or talk.

But there is also evidence that it can also be spread by particles hanging in the air.

It is also possible someone could get Covid-19 by touching infected surfaces such as metal or plastic, according to the US Centers for Disease Control. This is believed to be much



These results highlight the need to wash hands as well as touch-screens regularly

less common, however.

Previous laboratory tests have found that SARS-Cov-2 can survive for two to three days on bank notes and glass, and up to six days on plastic and stainless steel, although results vary.

However, the research from Australian agency CSIRO found the virus was "extremely robust," surviving for 28 days on smooth surfaces such as glass found on mobile phone screens and both plastic and paper banknotes, when kept at 20C (68F), which is about room temperature, and in

the dark.

In comparison, the flu virus can survive in the same circumstances for 17 days.

The study, published in *Virology Journal*, also found SARS-Cov-2 survived for less time at hotter temperatures than cooler temperatures; it stopped being infectious within 24 hours at 40C on some surfaces.

It also stayed longer on smooth, non-porous surfaces than on porous materials such as cloth, which was found not to carry any infectious virus past 14 days.

Prof Ron Eccles, former

director Common Cold Centre at Cardiff University, criticised the study and said the suggestion that the virus could survive for 28 days was causing "unnecessary fear in the public".

"Viruses are spread on surfaces from mucus in coughs and sneezes and dirty fingers and this study did not use fresh human mucus as a vehicle to spread the virus," he said.

"Fresh mucus is a hostile environment for viruses as it contains lots of white cells that produce enzymes to destroy viruses and can also contain antibodies and other chemicals to neutralise viruses.

"In my opinion infectious viruses will only persist for hours in mucus on surfaces rather than days."

In a paper published by the *Lancet* in July, Emanuel Goldman, professor of microbiology at Rutgers University, said "the chance of transmission through inanimate surfaces is very small".

He said studies that suggested a significant risk had been designed with "little resemblance to real-life scenarios".

Last week Monica Gandhi, a professor of medicine at the University of California, said the coronavirus did not spread via surfaces.

cont'd from pg 22

it is ripe for fraud, despite no evidence to suggest that.

"Make sure to vote because the only way we lose this is by the chicanery going on relative to polling places," Biden told supporters.

Before leaving the state, Biden later clarified that his comments did not mean he would refuse the outcome of the elec-

tion. Trump has so far not committed to accepting the results.

"I'm going to accept the outcome of this election, period," said Biden.

The former vice president will have a Town Hall on Thursday hosted by ABC News in lieu of the second presidential debate. That debate was cancelled after the Trump campaign refused plans to have the candidates participate remotely.

England to have 3-tier lockdown system amid ‘tipping point’

(Associated Press) Millions of people in northern England are anxiously waiting to hear how much further virus restrictions will be tightened in coming days as the British government confirmed Sunday that it will be introducing a new system for local lockdowns.

In response to the virus’ resurgence, Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to announce in Parliament on Monday a three-tier local lockdown system, formally known as “Local COVID Alert Levels,” for England, his office said.

Under the new system, the country will be placed into “medium,” “high” and “very high” alert levels. Johnson’s office said the government is working with local leaders to decide which areas are covered by the very high alert level, and the appropriate interventions in those areas.

Details of what is involved at each level haven’t been confirmed but the highest level is widely expected to involve the closure of pubs and restaurants and the banning of household mixing, both indoors and outside, among other measures.

The new lockdown system, which is intended to simplify the process by which local restrictions are imposed, has been widely anticipated for a couple of weeks following a sharp in-



People are out socializing in Liverpool city centre, ahead of the 10 p.m. curfew that pubs and restaurants are subject to in order to combat the rise in coronavirus cases in England, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020.

crease in new cases.

Following further discussions early Monday, Johnson will inform lawmakers of the new system before hosting a briefing along with Treasury chief Rishi Sunak and the government’s chief medical officer, Chris Whitty.

England’s deputy chief medical officer, Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, warned that the U.K. is at a “tipping point” akin to where the country was in March.

“But we can prevent history repeating itself if we all act now,” he said.

“Now we know where it is and how to tackle it — let’s grasp this opportunity and prevent history from repeating itself.”

All across Europe including the U.K., there have been huge increases in coro-

navirus cases over the past few weeks following the reopening of large sectors of the economy, as well as schools and universities. Infection levels — and deaths — in the U.K. are rising at their fastest rates in months.

Without quick action, there are fears that U.K. hospitals will be overwhelmed in the coming weeks at a time of year when they are already at their busiest with winter-related afflictions like the flu.

The U.K. has experienced Europe’s deadliest outbreak, with an official death toll of 42,825, up another 65 on Sunday.

Although coronavirus infections are rising throughout England, northern cities like Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle have seen a disproportionate increase.

While some rural areas in eastern England have less than 20 cases per 100,000 people, some major metropolitan areas have recently recorded levels above 500 per 100,000, nearly as bad as Madrid or Brussels.

As a result, national restrictions such as a 10 p.m. curfew on pubs and restaurants have been supplemented by local actions, including in some cases banning contacts between households.

In Scotland’s two biggest cities, Glasgow and Edinburgh, pubs have already closed for 16 days to suppress the outbreak.

Liverpool’s local leader has said he expects his city to face the most onerous restrictions from Wednesday.

Local leaders across northern England have vented their fury at the Conservative government over what they see as an “inadequate” wage support scheme that it announced Friday and for not properly telling them about the upcoming restrictions.

The wage plan aims to help employees in companies that are forced to close because of virus restrictions, but mayors say it’s not generous enough in paying only two-thirds of employees’ wages and doesn’t compensate those indirectly hit by any business closures, such as drink suppliers to pubs.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

VIRTUAL CALYPSO SHOW The general public is kindly reminded that registration for the Virtual Calypso Monarch will officially conclude on Friday 16th October. Therefore, all persons desirous of participating in this year's competition are kindly asked to complete their registration, as the deadline is swiftly approaching. Registration forms can be collected at the National Festivals Office (NFO), located upstairs the Cecil George-John Building on the corner of Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley. Persons can also complete their registration online by visiting the Antigua Carnival website, www.antiguacarnival.com/virtualcalypsomonarch. Tracks (music) can be hand-delivered to the NFO on a flash drive or CD, or submitted online as an attachment to their online registration form.

ROAD WORK ON SIR GEORGE WALTER HIGHWAY: Road work continues in Phase 2B between Mi Casa Imports Ltd to Sir Sidney Walling Hwy (Factory Rd) junction from. 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.

DAY 10/9



Partly sunny with a brief shower or two

NIGHT 10/9



Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:59 AM

Sunset AST
5:49 PM



Duration
11:50 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
11:45 PM

Moonset AST
1:13 AM



Duration
13: 31 hr

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS

The Labour Department wishes to inform the general public that the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has decided that until further notice, work permit renewal applications are not required to be advertised by employers. ALL new work permit applications, including change of employers, MUST be accompanied by proper proof of advertisement, copies of applications received in response to job advertisement and a proper justification for work permit application. Please be guided accordingly.

CADET CORPS REGISTRATION

Registration to the Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps for children aged 13-18 will take place each Saturday in October from 9am - 12:30pm at the Ex-Servicemen Association Building, Camp Site (opposite Sagicor Insurance, close to the Prime Minister's Office). Each child should be accompanied by a parent or guardian and should have a copy of their birth certificate, a passport picture, proof that the child is enrolled in an educational institution, including the Antigua State College, ABICE, ABITT. This proof can be the acceptance letter or school bus pass and a registration fee of EC\$25. Please wear masks and bring your own pen.

WOMEN LEADERS

Young women aged 18 to 25 who are interested in leadership 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. Submit your community notices to news@pointville.ag

FREE MATH CLASSES IN ST. PAUL'S

Another learning opportunity is being offered in the St. Paul's community. CXC Math classes facilitated by veteran mathematician, Anthonyson King. These classes are geared toward 4th and 5th form students and those desirous of retaking CXC Mathematics. You must be a resident of St. Paul. Classes commence on Wednesday 14th October and will continue every Wednesday at 4:00PM. Early registration is encouraged to facilitate scheduling.

TAKE AWAY FOOD SALE

The Cathedral Parish of St. John the Divine will be holding a fundraising Take Away Food Sale on Saturday 17th October, 2020 at the Deanery Grounds from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Tickets are on sale \$20.00 each, available at the Deanery or from members of the congregation.

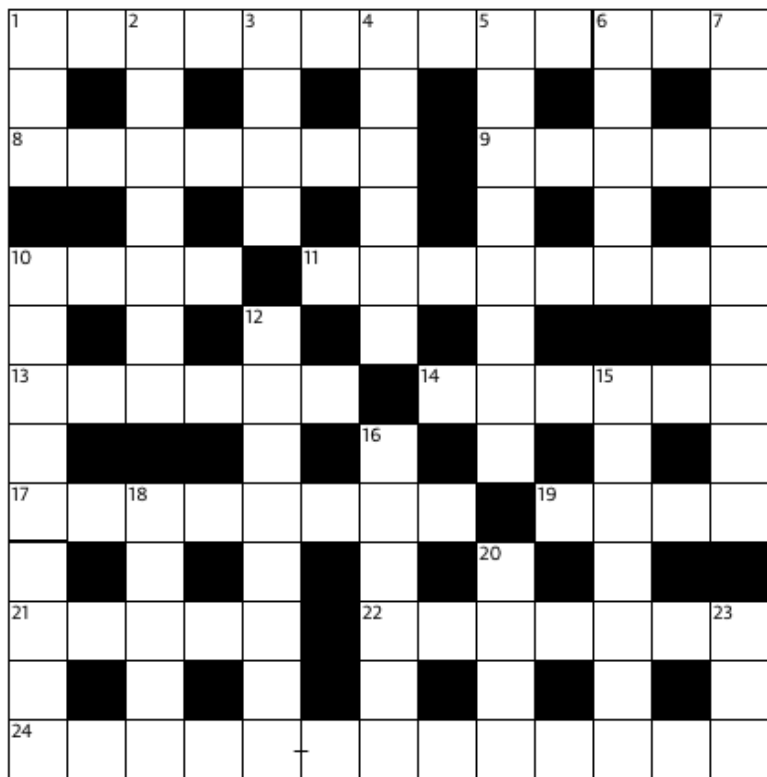
SJA INDEPENDENCE LUNCH

St. Joseph's Academy presents its annual Independence Lunch on Saturday 31st October, 2020 at the school grounds. Tickets are \$25.00 and available at the school.

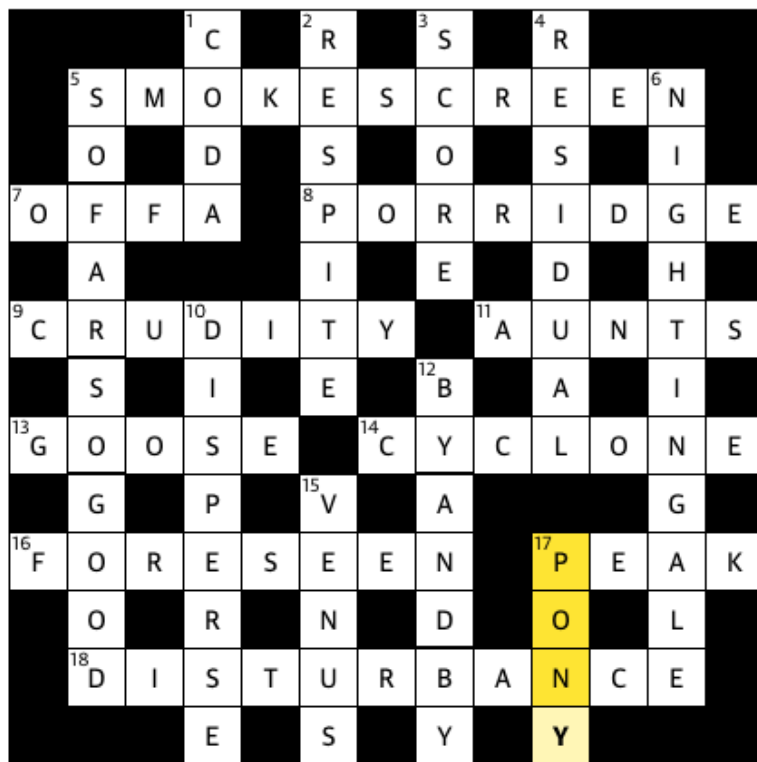
Submit your community notices to news@pointville.ag

LEISURE

Quick crossword No 15,735



Quick crossword No 15,733



Across

- 1 Pre-decimal British coin (10,3)
- 8 Done away with (7)
- 9 Scottish child (5)
- 10 Goatee location (4)
- 11 Abundantly productive (8)
- 13 Take for granted (6)
- 14 Plaster used to coat walls (6)
- 17 Loose dressing gown (8)
- 19 I don't know the answer (4)
- 21 Put up with (5)
- 22 Cure for all ills (7)
- 24 Thievish (5-8)

Down

- 1 Liquid used for preserving timber (3)
- 2 Ashes (7)
- 3 Desire to have something that is possessed by another (4)
- 4 Last — bear (6)
- 5 Aristocracy (8)
- 6 Instructions given for a task (5)
- 7 Dogged — unyielding (9)
- 10 Flexible body armour (5,4)
- 12 At hand (8)
- 15 Opportunist (7)
- 16 City of ancient Greece with an oracle (6)
- 18 Peer Gynt Suite composer (5)
- 20 Unforeseen obstacle (4)
- 23 Assistance (3)

CARTOON CORNER

IN THE BLEACHERS



In the Bleachers



DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Being straightforward and blunt might get the job done, but it won't endear you to those who prefer good manners. New information may force you to make last-minute changes and could put a promise at risk.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Some flirtations are just for fun and shouldn't be taken seriously. Just because a special person is paying attention to someone else doesn't mean you aren't cherished. Don't go on a spending spree.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your enthusiasm is in top form and keeping up with you could be a challenge. Since you seem to be in a hurry, it might be difficult for someone to relax in your presence. Physical exercise is a good way to let off steam.

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): Your people skills pack a punch. That is a good thing, because it's hard to get ahead without dealing with others. People may compete for your affections or money, or you may vie for someone's attention or business.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You might be tempted to mingle with others, but an outing or virtual meeting could cost more than you expected. Mutual misunderstandings could cause unpredictable results, so shelve a major discussion for a few days.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): An unforeseen shift of opinion could cause a change in your plans or daily routines. Your work team could become social friends, or you may become interested in homemade arts and crafts and related groups.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Drive with your fog lights on. You can't see as far ahead as you would like right now, and some signals may be cryptic or too good to be true. If you wait until a period of confusion clears up, you might find the facts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Loved ones could be so busy that all you do is go along for the ride. An apology might go a long way toward healing a breach, even if it might remind someone of a past situation that was already forgotten.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Any impulsive words or sudden changes may throw a wrench into your plans, but you might find that there's a silver lining. Use your imagination and you can take advantage of a disruptive ongoing situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Wait until there's time for a more thorough investigation before you take gossip as gospel. Don't be tempted to splurge on something new unless you're sure there is room in the budget for it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You might set a pace that others find stimulating but challenging to maintain. There may be occasions when your warmth and eagerness to be friendly are mistaken for a romantic overture or aggressive behavior.



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Government slams 'backroom deals' of 'Project Big Picture'

The United Kingdom government has strongly criticised plans, reportedly driven by Manchester United and Liverpool, to overhaul the Premier League and English club football.

A report on Sunday by The Telegraph detailed a set of proposals called "Project Big Picture" which would cut the number of teams in the Premier League from 20 to 18 and abolish the competition's 'one club, one vote' principle, handing greater power to the nine longest-serving teams in the division. That number includes all of the so-called "big six", who would have effective veto power on a range of issues, including potential new owners taking control of a rival club.

The plans also focus upon supporting the wider league system amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, with a £250million rescue package to be allocated to the English Football League (EFL) and a £100m gift to the Football Association.

EFL Chairman, Rick Parry, a former Liverpool chief executive and a key figure in the Premier League's breakaway from the Football League in 1992, has publicly backed the plans which would see twenty-five percent of the Premier League's annual revenue diverted to the EFL and lead to the EFL Cup and Community Shield being scrapped.

However, the Department for Media, Culture and Sport joined the Premier League itself in condemning the mooted changes, decrying Liverpool and United's alleged involvement in "backroom deals".

"We are surprised and disappointed that, at a time of crisis when we have urged the top tiers of professional football to come together and finalise a deal to help lower league clubs, there



Premier League

appear to be backroom deals being cooked up that would create a closed shop at the very top of the game," a statement read.

"Sustainability, integrity and fair competition are absolutely paramount and anything that may undermine them is deeply troubling. Fans must be at the front of all our minds and this shows why our fan-led review of football governance will be so critical."

The Premier League, which has come in for criticism over recent days after the announcement of a pay-per-view television model to run while fans are not allowed into stadiums, urged its members to contribute to ongoing restructuring talks "through the proper channels".

"English football is the world's most watched, and has a vibrant, dynamic and competitive league structure that drives interest around the globe," its statement read.

"To maintain this position, it is important that we all work together. In the Premier League's view, a number of the individual proposals in the plan published today could have a damaging impact on the whole game and we are disappointed to see that Rick Parry, Chair of the EFL, has given his on-the-record support. The Premier League has been working in good faith with

its clubs and the EFL to seek a resolution to the requirement for COVID-19 rescue funding."

In a statement published on the EFL's official website, Parry confirmed talks around Project Big Picture had been ongoing for some time, but insisted the financial pressures of the COVID-19 crisis had sharpened the need for transformative action.

"Now is the time to address both the long-term health of the game and the most challenging short-term crisis it has ever faced," Parry said.

"Project Big Picture provides a new beginning which will revitalise the football pyramid at all levels. This new beginning will reinvigorate clubs in the lower leagues and the communities in which they are based.

"The whole of English football has been negatively impacted by this pandemic and the English football pyramid as a whole is only as healthy as those at its base.

"Through this proposed restructuring we aim to strengthen those who need it most at a time when they need it most. This is about building on what is good and making the most of what works well in order to benefit the game as a whole, while simultaneously tackling those issues which trouble all of us.

Possible lifeline for local bodybuilders

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation, Dave George, says COVID-19 has not stopped the organisation's work and has reported that the executive has been fulfilling its administrative mandate tirelessly to keep things running smoothly.

George said the federation has been monitoring the new outbreak of coronavirus in Barbados as the 47th Central American and Caribbean Championship (CAC), originally slated to take place in

Colombia, was rescheduled to take place there.

"Barbados is monitoring their coronavirus pandemic situation locally but it seems like the championship will proceed between November 12-16," George stated.

The federation is awaiting information relating to the inspection report which highlights the details, protocols and terms and conditions that govern the championship, George said.

George, a well known and respected regional sports broadcaster, also reported

that since the reopening of gyms in June, a number of athletes have shown interest in participating in the CAC.

Regarding participation in the CAC, George athletes desirous of participating in the event must be assessed and sanctioned by the federation in order to be eligible to compete. This applies to athletes whose travel is sponsored by the federation, as well as those who opt to cover this expense on their own.

"The federation won't sanction any athlete unless they aren't in good condition so we are making preliminary arrangements to look at individuals who have expressed an interest," the president said.

The federation is also trying to establish the guidelines with which athletes must comply in order to travel to Barbados and upon their re-



Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation President, Dave George

turn home. George said the participants will have to follow all the protocols in Barbados and when they return home.

Concerning domestic challenges, George explained that the body has been hampered by the coronavirus pandemic and unable to execute its 2020 plans.

"We had big expectations and a packed calendar for 2020 before COVID-19 arrived," said George, "but we are hoping things stay stable and we can have a productive 2021."

Elections for the Antigua and Barbuda Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Federation are due in 2021, but George has not disclosed whether he will seek another term at the helm.

Narine reported for suspect action

Kolkata Knight Riders mystery spinner, Sunil Narine, has been reported for suspect action by on-field umpires according to the Indian Premier League's (IPL) Suspected Illegal Bowling Action Policy.

Narine will be placed on the Warning List and is permitted to continue to bowl in the tournament, a press release from the IPL stated.

He will, however, be sus-

pended from bowling in the tournament if he's reported once more. His action will then have to be cleared by the BCCI Suspect Bowling Action Committee to bowl again in the tournament.

The Trinidadian has been reported for suspect bowling action in the past knocking his confidence to represent the West Indies in ODI's out of fear that he may be targeted for scrutiny.

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Morgan says players' mental health is a priority

England has made a decision to prioritise players' mental health this summer says limited-overs captain, Eoin Morgan.

The series against West Indies, Pakistan, Ireland and Australia were played in bio-secure bubbles and without crowds. Players and staff were regularly tested for COVID-19 and spent several weeks living in hotels at Emirates Old Trafford in Manchester and the Ageas Bowl in Southampton.

"At the beginning when cricket looked unlikely during the strictest of lockdown



periods, we talked about playing in the bubble and the strain it would take on everybody," said Morgan.

The captain said the direction and stipulation for that was given by Director of Cricket, Ashley Giles. Morgan said Giles is a strong believer in the concept

that good relationships start from the top and filters down to everybody else.

"Ash said at the forefront all of our thinking is everyone's well being and that was key for all the players," added Morgan.

Morgan, who is currently with Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League, said his role is quite significant when it comes to mindfulness and the issue of mental health. Morgan stated there was a strong focus on players returning to fitness when full lockdown restrictions were lifted in the UK.

cont'd from pg 32

chise that showed him to to become a champion.

Bam Adebayo had 25 points and 10 rebounds for Miami, which got 12 points from Jimmy Butler — the player who, in his first Heat season, got the team back to title contention. Rajon Rondo scored 19 points for the Lakers.

With that, the league's bubble chapter, put together after a 4 1/2-month suspension of play that started March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic and came with a promise that it would raise awareness to the problems of racial injustice and police

brutality, is over.

So, too, is a season that saw the league and China get into political sparring, the death on Jan. 1 of commissioner emeritus David Stern — the man who did so much to make the league what it is — and then the shock on Jan. 26 that came with the news that Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven other died in a helicopter crash.

The Lakers said they were playing the rest of the season in his memory.

They delivered what Bryant did five times for L.A. — a ring, and the clincher was emphatic.

"You have written your

own inspiring chapter in the great Laker history," Lakers owner Jeanie Buss said. "And to Laker Nation, we have been through a heart-breaking tragedy with the loss of our beloved Kobe Bryant. Let this trophy serve as a reminder of when we come together, believe in each other, incredible things can happen."

Game 6 was over by half-time, the Lakers taking a 64-36 lead into the break. The Heat never led and couldn't shoot from anywhere: 35% from 2-point range in the half, 33% from 3-point range and even an uncharacteristic 42% from the line, not like

any of it really mattered.

The Lakers were getting everything they wanted and then some, outscoring Miami 36-16 in the second quarter and doing all that with James making just one shot in the period.

Rondo, now a two-time champion and the first to win rings as a player in both Boston and Los Angeles — the franchises now tied with 17 titles apiece — was 6 for 6 in the half, the first time he'd done that since November 2007.

The Lakers' lead was 46-32 with 5:00 left in the half, and they outscored Miami 18-4 from there until intermission.



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**TUESDAY
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LA Lakers lift 17th NBA Championship

The ultimate anguish, the ultimate joy

This season, for LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers, had it all. And it ended in the only fashion that they deemed would be acceptable, with them back atop the basketball world.

For the first time since Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago, the Lakers are NBA champions. James had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Lakers beat the Miami Heat 106-93 on Sunday night to win the NBA Finals in six games.

"Our organization wants their respect. Laker Nation

wants their respect," James said. "And I want my damn respect, too."

Anthony Davis had 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Lakers, who dealt with the enormous anguish that followed the death of the iconic Bryant in January and all the challenges that came with leaving home for three months to play at Walt Disney World in a bubble designed to keep inhabitants safe from the coronavirus.

It would be, James predicted, the toughest title to ever win.



"We have a Ph.D in adversity, I'll tell you that much," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "We've been through a

lot."

They made the clincher look easy. James won his fourth title, doing it with a third different franchise — and against the Heat fran-

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