



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2020

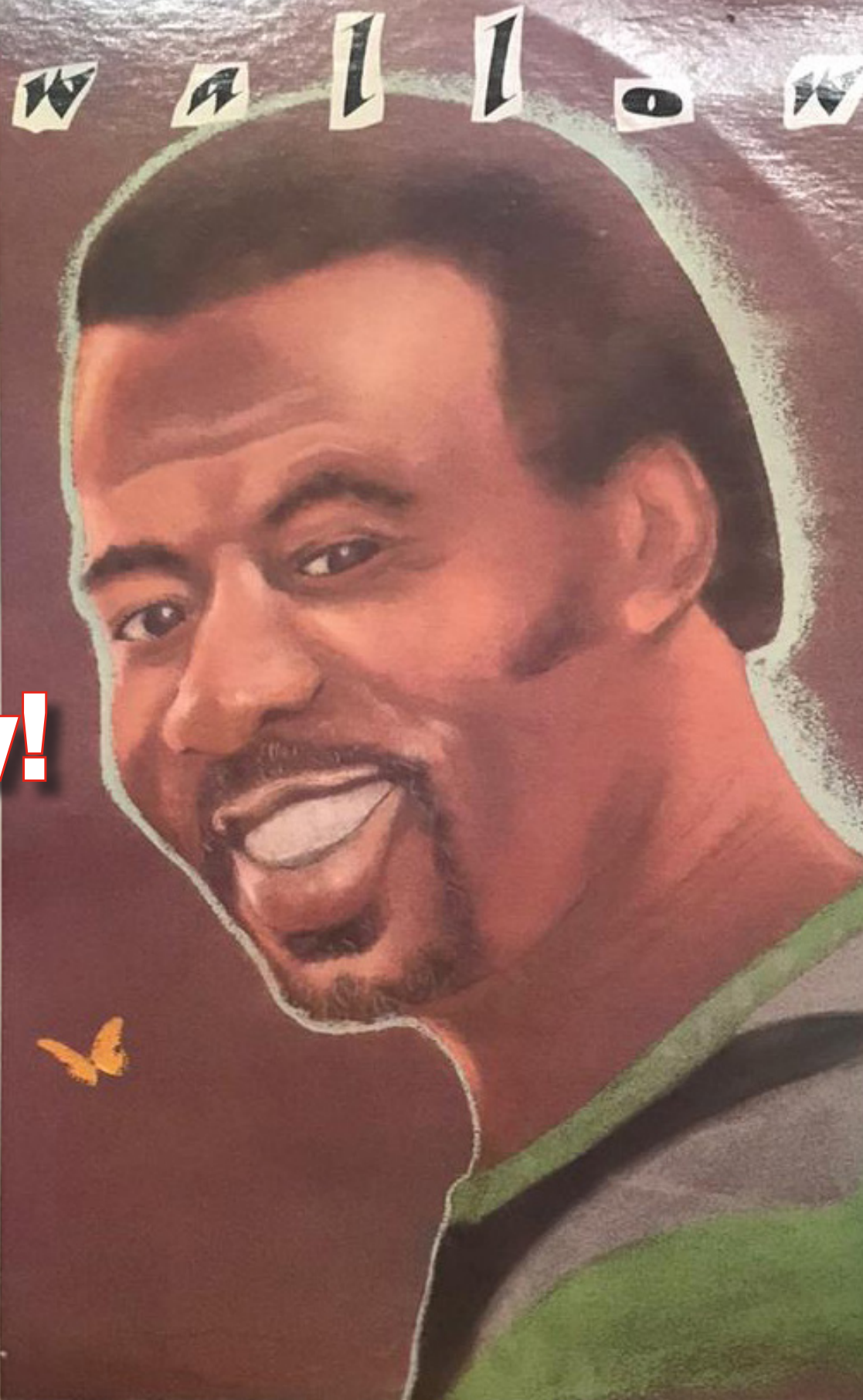
| ISSUE 145

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All Hail King Swallow!

THE HITMAN



Editorial

Everybody happy, jumping up and down in the party! The galaxy is on fire!

There is no doubt that Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo is one of our greatest sons!

He will forever be remembered as a cultural icon, consummate performer and a most creative writer having given us more than fifty years of beautiful music.

Those of us who grew up in the 70s and 80s can, without effort, join in with any King Swallow tune.

His music is part of our DNA; it tells our history, provides the basis for excellent social commentary and fodder for our political consciousness.

Swallow never truly retired, even though he had reached fine wine maturity and was no longer producing new music, his wide portfolio of timeless clas-

sics remained relevant and ready for any performance.

He always set any performance he was a part of on fire.

Impeccable attire, an eye catching presence and superb stage presentation were all synonymous with Swallow, the Man from the East!

Of the Antiguan triumvirate of calypsonians, King Swallow had the most impactful regional presence.

One only has to look at the range of tributes which have poured in since the sad news of his passing to understand the impact his music had on the region and the world.

His reach was extensive, his tours continued well into his 'ripe age' as he belted out his classics.

He was as loved and re-

vered as a person, for his contributions to calypso and his live performances.

King Swallow made his formal entry into the competitive calypso in 1962 in his native Antigua and Barbuda and placed second runner-up.

He then won Calypso King four times in 1973, 1977, 1978, 1985 and five Road March titles in 1972, 1973, 1975, 1983 and 1984.

Among his more popular tunes we remember 'Don't Stop the Party', 'Fire In The Back Seat', 'Party in Space', 'Subway Jam', 'Satan Coming Down', 'I Want To Wine On Something' and 'Soca Kingdom'.

His more resounding social and political commentaries include his most

popular, hit, 'Man to Man' along with 'Rise Antigua Rise', 'We Marching', 'Dawn of a New Day' and 'One Love One Destiny' and the unforgettable 'If You Can't Run The Country, Give It To Labour Party'.

He was also the manager and eventual owner of the oldest calypso tent in the country, the Calypso Pepper Pot which was dubbed the University of Calypso.

For these many contributions, Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo was awarded the Order of Merit (Gold) and the Grand Cross of Princely Heritage.

We celebrate the life and times of King Swallow Rupert Philo! Set the galaxy on fire until we meet again!

STARTING POINT

ON AIR

with Shelton Daniel

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am

POINTE FM

99.1 FM

Four-year-old among the latest COVID-19 cases

The Ministry of Health has reported that the number of positive COVID-19 cases has increased by six bringing the total number of people who have tested positive for the virus at 119.

According to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas, among the six new cases is a 4-year-old child. Five females and one male were among the most recent to test positive. The oldest patient is 57-years-old.

Dr. Sealy-Thomas said five of the six were associated with an earlier case of which health authorities were aware. The sixth case could not be linked to other patients and contact tracing is now underway to determine how that individual contracted the virus.

The CMO pointed out that the most recent cases were not imported as the individuals have had no recent travel history.

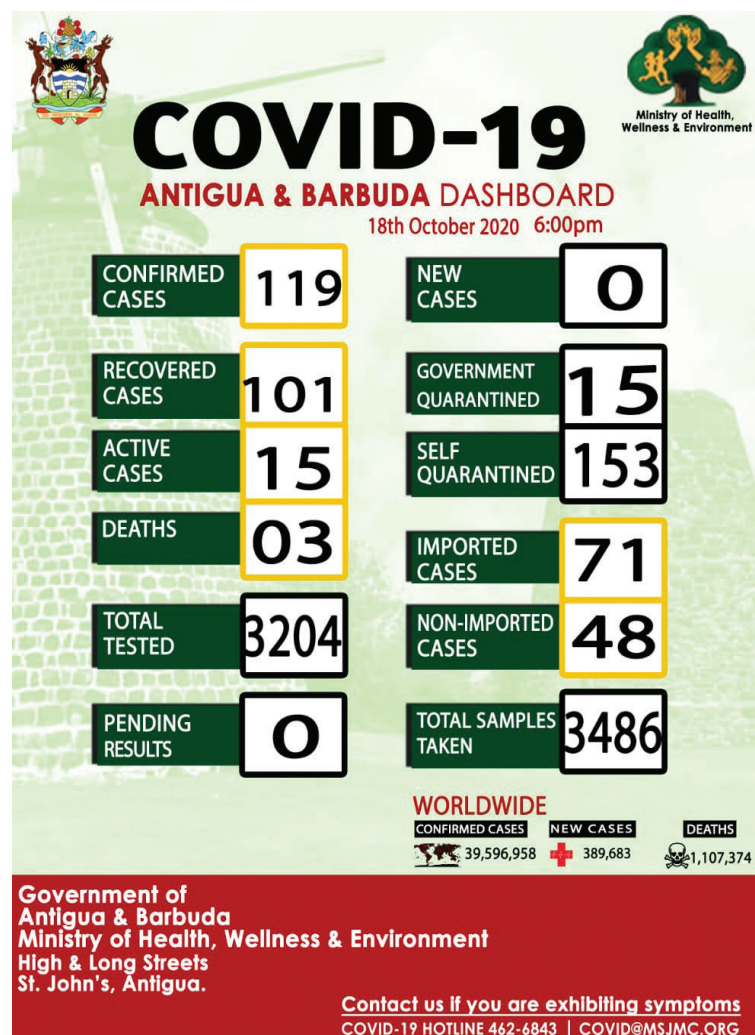
With a 4-year-old among the latest cases, Dr. Sealy-Thomas confirmed that the Ministry of Education and the school the child attends have been involved in an effort to determine whether or not the virus may have spread among the student body. Students at the school, which has not been named, will be quarantined.

This latest development has caused the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) to consider revising Antigua and Barbuda's classification as 'sporadic' to 'clusters', according to the CMO. She added that this development of the domestic spread of the virus may very well advance the country's classification to 'community spread'.

The CMO underscored the importance of persons adhering to health and safety protocols, particularly concerning mask wearing and social distancing.

She also announced plans to increase testing as the number of cases has continued to increase.

Meanwhile, the results of tests conducted up to Saturday evening revealed no new cases of COVID-19.



Eight customs officers quarantined

Eight Customs officers attached to Container Inspection have been quarantined after the mother of one member of the department tested positive for coronavirus.

A Customs spokesperson said the health department has advised that the entire department should undergo quarantine 'out of an abundance of caution'.

According to the spokesman two

members of the team have been tested and another two will be tested this week.

"So far we have not heard that any of the tests have returned positive," the spokesman reported.

Authorities from the Ministry of Health will determine when it is safe for the quarantined members of the Customs staff to return to work. The affected Customs staff were all as-

signed to the Deep Water Harbour and are mainly confined to working outside the warehouse where businesses clear containers upon arrival to the country.

Customs officials have given the assurance that the work of the Container Inspection department will not be affected by this development as other officers have been mobilised to ensure that work continues seamlessly.

25-year-old is latest road fatality

A 25-year old male has become the country's latest road fatality following a single car accident on the All saints Road on Friday night.

This brings to four the number of roads fatalities thus far this year.

Dead is Terrance Colbourne of Briggins Estate who succumbed to his injuries at the Mount St John's Medical Centre shortly after he was transported there in what was described as serious condition.

Police reports say that around 10:50pm on Friday, the Traffic Department responded to a collision on All Saints Road in the vicinity of Emmerson Drive near LICS Limited.

It is alleged that Col-



Terrance Colbourne

bourne was traveling from west to east on All Saints Road in White Toyota Corolla, A57747, when he apparently lost control of the vehicle and collided head on into a culvert on the southern side of the road

The 'jaws of life' were used to free his body from the wreckage after which he was transported to the



Mount St. John Medical Center by Emergency Medical Services.

Colbourne was pronounced dead at 11:58pm by a medical doctor.

Police say investigations into the accident are ongoing.

The police have repeated earlier appeals to motorists to exercise caution and drive with due care and attention when using the roads. Extra care, they advise, must be taken when driving on roads that are visibly wet, under repair or have loose gravel.

Weston calls for change in the nation's developmental model

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Lennox Weston, wants a paradigm shift with respect to Antigua and Barbuda, and the region's, approach development.

Addressing the Parliament last week, Weston said the 'Development by Invitation' model popularised in the 1960's by the late economist and Nobel Prize winner, Sir Arthur Lewis, is outmoded and can no longer sustain the region.

"We have always carried the burden of smallness, small market and high costs

but in the modern world we now have pandemic, we have sea level rise, we have global warming and where options for investment might reach the stage where it will be very, very difficult to continue the Development by Invitation model for much longer," he stated.

The junior finance minister noted that the region is as attractive as it has ever been, however, major investors are also more discerning when analyzing the factors determining where they will spend their money.

"We cannot continue to tie

our development to the caprice of only foreign investors, and we have to be able to approach international markets to understand modern industry and technologies, create ownership business that will not only supply the local market but to export as well. We must not just be consumers of technologies but we must also create. We must not only be workers in the hotel industry, we must build and own," Minister Weston urged.

Weston pointed to the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank's purchase of Scotia-



Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Lennox Weston

bank (Antigua) as part of the 'new' mindset regarding the deployment of local capital and intellect, both of which, he believes are critical in determining the success of the nation and region.

CSEC, CAPE students' SBA grades may have been changed

Students in Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the region who, this year, complained about low grades following the July/August Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) examinations might have had the grades for their School Based Assessment (SBA) significantly changed resulting in their final grades.

In the past, teachers were given the responsibility of assessing the SBA's and assigning a final grade, following which a sample of the SBA's would then be sent to the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) for moderation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in a scaled back examination, however, CXC opted to moderate all the projects itself to go for a more complete process.

This, according to Chairman of the CXC board, Sir Hilary Beckles, and based on a report, there were disparities in expectations, predictions and

what in fact proved to be the final outcome.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Sir Hilary explained that some students might have been under the notion that they received a top grade for the SBA based on discussions they would have had with their teachers, however, he continued, those grades might have changed when being moderated by CXC.

"So if a student had good reasons to believe within their school that I had received an A for my SBA but when it was moderated it became a B+ or a B, then that is a communication issue because that student should understand that CXC has the final mark.

"So then what they might have heard in their class from their teacher or the person who is guiding them is that this might be a first mark, a recommended mark, a proposed mark, so yes, this is the norm in all systems and that is why we speak of communications," Sir Hilary said.

He said that the Independent Review Team, which was put into place to review the modified approach for the administration of the July/August 2020 CSEC and CAPE examinations, has recommended that there be a process of work shopping the culture and the rules and regulations so that those involved (principals, student and teachers) are fully aware of them.

He says persons should become aware of the practices governing the SBA system so that there is greater clarity with less opportunity for there to be a misunderstanding in terms of what a student and teacher believe to be the final mark as opposed to the moderated mark.

"So there is need at this time looking at the eco-system for there to be training sessions, work sessions so that all of this can be upgraded to a higher level of efficiency, comprehension and understanding to reduce the likelihood of misunderstanding," said Sir Hilary.

Coronavirus 'dollar barrel' to be extended

The popular dollar barrel initiative introduced to help residents cope with the hardships brought on by the coronavirus pandemic is likely to be extended for another month.

A recommendation for its extension will go before the Cabinet on Wednesday for consideration.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who holds the Finance portfolio, said he plans to take the initiative to his cabinet colleagues

for their approval.

"I plan to recommend that we extend the programme until the end of November," Browne revealed during his weekend radio programme.

Since the initiative was introduced at the beginning of April, as of last Friday, a total of 6,231 barrels have been processed.

PM Browne said while the government has forfeited 'several millions

of dollars' worth of revenue because of the programme, he supports its extension because it has been very helpful for families affected by the pandemic.

The 'coronavirus dollar barrel' programme is identical to the Christmas dollar barrel in that persons can import barrels with food items, clothing and toiletries.

Under the coronavirus initiative, however, per-

sons are also allowed to import hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes and other hygiene products which aid in warding off the virus.

The prime minister is also appealing to nationals in the diaspora to assist their families in Antigua and Barbuda by sending care packages to assist their loved ones in coping with the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Gov't to rethink solar energy investments

By **Shelton Daniel**

The Gaston Browne administration appears to be reevaluating its investment in solar energy because of limitations in the storage technology currently available.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne at this Saturday during the Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM.

“At some point,” Browne said, “we are going to have a discussion about the efficacy of these green energy applications, because the truth is, I find that the solar energy projects that we have installed, they’re really not as effective as we expected.”

He said the government



solar installations at the V. C. Bird International Airport and at Bethesda “only operate for a few hours a day and at nights you have to go back to fossil fuel and even during the day, you have to have backup fossil fuel power just in case they go offline and if you have batteries, the batteries are so cost prohibitive that it is making the solar energy applications less efficacious.”

Browne said his government will “have to review, for the time being, whether we continue to pursue this transitioning to solar energy as fast as we are going.”

He explained that this reassessment is necessary as there is uncertainty over whether or not the full value of this investment is being derived.

“We may have to look at probably some cleaner form

of fossil fuel energy, but not necessarily to transition into solar, because, again, you don’t get any base load from it and when I look at the monies that we have spent so far, I am not sure that the savings justify the investment.”

The prime minister said he is open to being corrected, as his remarks were made based on his cursory observations as a “layman”.

PM Browne to address police force challenges

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has promised that a number of issues affecting police officers will be addressed in a timely manner and once the resources become available.

The Police Welfare Association (PWA) recently wrote to the prime minister complaining about several matters, including working conditions and the retirement age for gazetted officers.

Browne said his administration is doing everything in its power to ensure that the pledges made in June and July to rectify the varying issues will be fulfilled soonest.

Speaking to the repairs of several stations across the island, Browne said that work on the Police Headquarters, which has been neglected and left unfinished for 47 years, is continuous and

nearing completion.

Browne reminded the PWA that it is his administration has sought to correct the inequity of the 1973 structure.

The prime minister also addressed the run-down conditions at two stations - Bolans and Parham Police Stations.

Officers working at these two stations have in the past complained, and continue to protest, about the conditions under which they have to work.

In a letter to the Chairman of the Police Welfare Association (PWA) Sergeant Roosevelt Browne, however, PM Browne said the repairs at these two stations will be effected once the resources become available.

Addressing the PWA’s concerns about the retirement age for officers from 60 to 65 to fall in line with amendments to

Pension Amendment Act, Browne said an extraordinarily busy Parliamentary calendar, in which items have been moved from one sitting to another, has hampered the matter being addressed at that level.

The matter was set for last Thursday’s sitting of the Lower House, however, the order paper was amended under Public Business and the Police Amendment Bill, which addresses the retirement age and should have had its second and third readings, was expunged from the list of Bills.

PM Browne thanked the officers for their patience and “forbearance in these perilous times when the COVID-19 pandemic threatens and our economy remains confined by the strictures that have thrown many workers out of jobs.”

He also commended the lawmen for their unrelenting pursuit to have these issues addressed.

PM warns LIAT ‘bad eggs’ not to obstruct recovery

By Shelton Daniel

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has sounded a warning to people he has labeled as “some of the bad eggs within LIAT”.

Browne suggested that these unidentified elements had been “agitating and planning all kinds of strategies” amid ongoing efforts to restructure the bankrupt airline and return it to the skies.

“All I have to say to them is that LIAT is bigger than them and the aviation sector is also bigger than them. We know that there is displacement. They have to allow us to build back LIAT and as we build it back there will be re-employment opportunities for them, but if some of those bad eggs are trying to pursue certain strategies to undermine LIAT, we’re going to fight them,” he stated.

LIAT has been placed under judicial administration in order to protect it from claims by creditors, which would have likely resulted in it being dismantled to pay off debts.

Prime Minister Browne has opposed any such dissolution, arguing that with the airline’s debts and liabilities far exceeding its assets, creditors, including staff owed severance and other entitlements, would eventually have to settle for



mere cents on the dollar, if anything at all.

Speaking on Saturday on The Browne and Browne show, the prime minister said, “Ultimately we have to make sure at this point that we have a very lean LIAT, a LIAT that can sustain itself, a LIAT that can assist with the connectivity that is needed within the Caribbean area and we are not going to allow any group of individuals to undermine what we are doing.”

The prime minister added that he is aware that some of these individuals declared this distrust of him in a recently held private meeting.

“They don’t have to trust me,” Browne said, “just know that what we are doing here and what my government is doing here is in the best interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda. We’re not going to pay six, seven hundred

people money every month to maintain a bloated LIAT that we cannot sustain and then we have to collapse it.”

According to Browne, “We have to have a very lean LIAT going forward, one that can even turn a nominal profit and there is no other way that could happen. So, those of you who believe you can sit down and government sends you a check every month and pay you, it’s not going to happen.”

The prime minister underscored the fact that the interest of Antigua and Barbuda and the importance of aviation services are foremost considerations. He called on those owed severance and other terminal payments to understand that everything possible would be done to pay them.

Based on the poor financial shape of LIAT, he further disclosed that these payments would not likely

exceed 10 percent of the sums due, but the restructuring process will consider if this can be increased and, if so, by what amount.

“You’ve got to cooperate,” he told the accused agitators. “You cannot be sending threats and all your snide remarks. The bad culture that we had in LIAT, we’re eliminating that. Going forward, LIAT will be a new lean entity and we want disciplined people. All you rotten eggs who were giving trouble over the years, as far as I am concerned the [Administrator] should not take you all back. He should look into {your} background, those of you who refused to work and were on long periods of sick leave and so on, gaming the system and scheming the system. Those bad practices helped to bankrupt LIAT over the years. My government is not going to stand for that kind of foolishness, and those of you who want to fight, we are willing to fight you all.”

Browne expressed confidence in the airline’s future, saying, “All I know is that LIAT is going back into the air and LIAT will be an efficient enterprise that will provide connectivity for the Caribbean people. So I’m telling you all do not stand in the way of national development.”

Do not dread the dentist

One in five people are afraid of going to the dentist, but if you count yourself among the fearful, don't worry, fears are natural.

One in every five Norwegians is afraid of going to the dentist.

What makes some of us afraid to have a relative stranger poke around in our mouths and worse, wield noisy instruments that drill holes in our teeth?

It turns out that both biology and environment have something to do with this not-so-strange, or unusual, fear. For example, if one of your parents is afraid of the dentist, the chances increase that you will share their fear.

The more the fear, the worse the teeth

People who are deeply afraid of going to the dentist may find that it affects their quality of life because they spend a lot of time dreading going to the dentist. While some may go to the dentist now and again, they may have a terrible time of it. Others simply never go.

Not surprisingly, researches that show that people who fear dentists often have worse dental health than those who don't.

You might think that people who dread the drill would take particularly good care of their teeth so they would never have to visit the dentist, but people with phobias don't necessarily follow this logic. In fact the reason people fear the dentist also affects how they care for their teeth.

If their phobia is extremely

strong they might find it uncomfortable doing anything with their teeth all. Even brushing them can be too unpleasant and people who have toothaches from cavities can find it traumatic to brush their teeth.

But what actually makes so many people fear the dentist?

Free air passages

It's common for people to blame their fears on early experiences with the school dentist, but it is not that simple. In fact here are biological reasons why we want to keep dentists out of our mouths.

Our mouth is a vulnerable part of our body and several basic needs are threatened via the mouth, including having open air passages. We have deep biological survival mechanisms. Fear and avoidance are also naturally triggered when we experience pain.

Feeling helpless

Reclining in a dental chair can be hard enough because a prone patient is more helpless.

Some people have suffered traumatic experiences, which intensify these feelings. In particular, people who have been subjected to abuse or torture will often be left with a much greater need to feel in control.

"Bad experiences can make the 20 percent even more scared"

While numerous factors affect this fear, like many other factors that form our personalities, it could stem from our childhood traumas.

Frightened parents beget



Dr. Jammula & Associates
Antigua Dentistry

Frightened kids

As humans, we are social beings who learn from people around us.

who clearly does not fear going to the den

If you see that your parents are frightened, you may learn to take up their fears. Scared parents who take their children to the dentist can easily influence their kids to adopt their qualms.

If kids encounter pain or have other experiences that they find scary, the fear could take hold.

Thus, the very first visits to the dentist can be the most important.

We know that if children have lots of good experiences before encountering something negative at the dentist, they have a better chance of avoiding this fear.

Anxiety and fear of shots

Fear of going to the dentist can be due in part to more general anxiety or depression. Among the many reasons people procrastinate about going to the dentist is a fear of syringes.

Studies have shown that many adults refrain from going to a dentist if the treatment requires a shot of anaesthetic.

The sound of drills or pictures of a dental office can trigger the fears of people

with odontophobia.

Ask your friends

So how to find the dentists who are skilled in treating frightened patients?

The best advice is to ask someone you know, someone with first-hand experience.

Handling your fear

Once you have selected a dentist, consider the following advice:

Be honest and talk to someone about your fear.

Tell the dentist you are afraid and ask for an appointment to discuss the matter first. This enables the dentist to learn what is needed to make your treatment better.

You may find it advantageous to find a way to get more control over the treatment situation.

If you feel that having the dental chair tilted back horizontally is very uncomfortable and frightening, ask if you can sit in a more upright position.

Take someone you trust with you, who can make sure you keep your appointment, support you and do not share your fears.

Ask for an anaesthetic so that you don't feel a thing; ask for more if you begin to sense pain.

Most importantly, find a dentist you trust.

I knew Swallow before I knew Swallow

By Trevor Young

I knew Swallow before I knew Swallow and it would be remiss of me not to chronicle my awareness of him King Swallow.

As a non-national born in the village of Lauders in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, I knew Swallow as a lad growing up when he became a household name in my village.

As a politician who ran in the last general elections in Antigua and Barbuda in the Rural East constituency, I got to know him even better.

As a little boy, I can remember profoundly every August in my small village of Lauders there were constant rivalries. There was rivalry amongst the young men after a hard day's work in an exclusive agricultural production area in the countryside. They congregated on the main bridge next to the Banana Boxing Plant. Their past-times were to debate and dance to the soca and calypso music coming out of Antigua by Short Shirt and Swallow.

Also, there was constant rivalry between the two main bars in the village; Freddie's Bar and Bammy's Bar which were located on opposite sides of the bridge. These bar owners would argue about who had been the first to get Swallow's new music.

Afternoons and weekends in my village were filled with the songs of both calypsonians; Bammy's



Trevor Young

Bar would blast the music Short Shirts's music while Freddie's Bar would turn the volume on their system even louder.

What I found amazing was that the crowd dancing to Short Shirt's music at Bammy's Bar would dance their way over to Freddy's continue the merriment to Swallow's music. The bar that attracted the most dancers would sell the most drinks, and in my eyes, Freddie always seemed to attract more patrons.

This back and forth went on for years until Freddie migrated to Tortola.

I appreciated Swallow's music even more after I was old enough to attend dances and Nine Morning parties before Christmas. Nine Morning, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are celebrations which take

place, as the name suggests, in the nine mornings before Christmas. The Christmas holidays in December, therefore was another occasion St. Vincent where Antigua's calypso and soca would 'mash up the place'.

The DJs at Nine Mornings celebrations were often accused by patrons of playing either Short Shirt or Swallow's music. This caused rivalry in the dance halls as arguments would ensue, and every once in a while, a physical fight!

Amusingly enough, when these arguments erupted, DJs would begin to play the popular Swallow tune Don't Stop This Party. Almost on cue, the lights would dim and people would begin to run frantically across the dance floor searching for the partner or friends they came to Nine Mornings with. No-

body would dance to this particular Swallow song with another person's partner because this signaled the start of the groovy segment of the party. Once this song was playing no one argued because both Swallow and Short Shirt fans concurred that this was a hit. If the DJ played this popular piece until morning, everybody would be happy.

At the time, it seemed to me that there was something special about Swallow and Short Shirt's music. It was only when I came to live in Antigua in 1987 that I came to understand the complexities of the August to July carnival rivalry between these two illustrious calypsonians.

When I informed my fellow villagers that I was leaving for Antigua to join the Police Force, they were all mostly excited, moreso that I may have the chance to actually meet the Mighty Swallow.

Many of the people in my village knew him in person because, in those days, many Vincentians living in the United States and British Virgin Islands, on their way home to St. Vincent for their August vacation, would stay over in Antigua for its carnival and then come to St. Vincent.

At that time, at least four families from my village were living in Antigua who would also come and they would travel home for Au-

cont'd on pg 10

cont'd from pg 9

gust holidays. These were the families who regaled us with news of the great Antiguan, Swallow.

I can recall these holiday makers bringing home the LP records of Swallow, Short Shirt and Obstinate to sell. Swallow's records normally sold out first. Persons had record players at that time so those who were not able to grab a Swallow record; whether a 45 or 90 LP, would borrow one from their neighbours. In those days, radio cassette players were not very popular so people could not copy music for their personal use.

It was years after my arrival in Antigua that I finally had the pleasure of meeting Sir Rupert Philo in person when his daughter patronised my driving school.

I was so excited when the young lady on the phone explained to me that she was Swallow's daughter. I remember the day when I was introduced to him when he came to pick her up in a big American car. I was excited!

I got closer to Swallow when I ran in the last general elections in the Rural East constituency, where he lived. I visited his home on several occasions and found him to be a very focused and consistent person when it came to his politics.

We had some candid exchanges but at the end he would say to me, "Youngman I wish you all the best, you never know."

I was able to visit him when he came back from the US after an earlier bout of illness. While we did not discuss politics as it was not the appropriate

time, he remained the humble and contented person I had met before.

Knowing that his health had been on the decline, I was not terribly surprised at the news of his passing, however it did not change the fact that I was deeply saddened by the news.

At the end of the day, he fought a good fight and he played the part he came to play well.

He was able to impact the lives of persons all over the globe and that made his life even more fruitful and rewarding.

His family will miss him! Antigua and Barbuda will miss him! I for sure will miss him!

May God bless the soul of Sir Rupert Philo better known to us all as King Swallow.

Rest in Peace, Sir.

CBH PUBLIC HEALTH CORNER



What Happens When a Mosquito Bites You

Female mosquitoes bite people and animals to get a blood meal. The female mosquitoes cannot produce eggs without a blood meal. Male mosquitoes do not bite people and animals. When a mosquito bites you, it pierces the skin using a special mouthpart (proboscis) to suck up blood. As the mosquito is feeding, it injects saliva into your skin. Your body reacts to the saliva resulting in a bump and itching. Some people have only a mild reaction to a bite or bites. Other people react more strongly, and a large area of swelling, soreness, and redness can occur.

Centers of Disease Control. 2020.03.06. *Mosquito Bite Symptoms and Treatment.* <https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/mosquito-bites/symptoms>.



Central Board of Health
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Answers for last week's Word Search 12.10.20

*Bromeliads *Soakaway *Cistern *Roofgutter
 *Bottle *Drum *Tank *Bucket *Tyre *Drain
 *Holes *Cans *Pond *Vase *Boat

CBH FUN FACTS 411

WORD SEARCH

Topic: Mosquito related symptoms

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

When a person contract a mosquito related disease, they exhibit different signs and symptoms. Can you find 11 mosquito related signs and symptoms?



Word Search created by: *Xenya Smith; EHA*

19.10.2020

Eye On Our Economy

Inspiring Hope – Celebrating Credit Unionism and LIAT

Last Thursday, 2.64 million members and shareholders in 288 credit unions dispersed across the Caribbean joined their global counterparts in celebrating the spirit of corporatism on World Credit Union Day.

A few days later the indomitable spirit of the iconic Caribbean institution, LIAT, now 64-years-old, was celebrated.

While a part of very different industries, the impact and longevity of both credit unions and LIAT, in the context of Caribbean relations and the economic growth and development of Antigua and Barbuda, cannot be denied.

The credit union sub-sector within Antigua and Barbuda's financial services sector experienced significant growth over the last twenty-five years. Although the number of institutions grew marginal by one, the asset base of the sector expanded more than 450% while the volume of savings by members increased by close to 500%. At the same time, the total credit union membership expanded to over 43,000 by the end of 2019 from just over 17,000 in 2014.

The profile and impact of credit unions in our domestic space expanded to include wider product offerings, improved service delivery and more professional staffing to complete the improved service package.

Up until its most recent financial challenges, LIAT was the embodiment of the spirit of Caribbean people, their talent and tenacity. It had the widest network of all airlines operating in the region moving passengers for business

and pleasure. For many islands without international airports, LIAT was the gateway for tourism and for their nationals to connect extra-regionally. The airline fueled the economic growth and development of many fragile economies in the region, often at a detriment to efficient operations and without due consideration for the operational losses it would incur as a result of providing an extraordinarily important service.

Antigua and Barbuda were peculiar beneficiaries through the levels of employment generated on the ground.

LIAT's fortunes sadly turned to the extent that they became nonviable again and required a massive injection of finances in order to jump start its operations to an uncertain but optimistic future.

Credit unions, on the other hand, continue to march onward due to the continuous participation and support of their members in partnership with regulators. While some unions have faced challenges which have necessitated policy adjustments and enhanced scrutiny by regulators to include improvements to members' education to improvements to management.

In contrast LIAT has been subjected to extreme ebbs and flow due, in the main, to the lack of effective support from critical stakeholders. This lack of support, coupled with the realities of a generally fragile regional aviation industry, combined to place LIAT on a precarious edge, despite its numerous successes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant negative repercussions for

all segments of the economy. The global airline industry has been hit hard and regional carriers were not exempted from the blow. LIAT, often on a financial precipice, tottered to the point of collapse and required out of the box thinking to return it to a salvageable position.

The jury is still out on LIAT's future, but those of us whose families are dependent on the income of those employed by the company, and faithful flyers, remain cautiously optimistic.

On the other hand, reports from our largest credit unions suggest that despite the challenges facing many of their members, loan applications for mortgages and other wealth creation and entrepreneurial opportunities have not slowed pace. Even though there has been an increase in requests for payment deferrals because of the loss of income earning opportunities suffered by many persons as a result of the pandemic, most members have remained actively engaged and have kept the lines of communication open regarding their financial obligations which in turn ensures the financial viability of their credit unions.

Naturally, many persons have also had to draw down on their savings to offset personal obligations as a result of their unemployment.

Our credit unions continue to thrive and LIAT remains afloat as it prepares to return to the sky. This is a clear indication that, to borrow from the 2020 World Credit Union Day theme, Inspires Hope and reminds us to continue to invest in ourselves.

COVID-19: A catalyst for entrepreneurship series:



Oshen's Essentials - The vegan business for a healthier nation

By Angelica O'Donoghue

We continue to ride the health wave encouraging better lifestyle choices which is supported by scientific evidence which proves that there is a connection between our diet and its impact on our health.

According to health experts, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed deficits in food security and food availability. With this deficit exposed, more people are choosing to consume a healthier diet rich in plant based food, some of which is being grown at home in backyard gardens.

Oshen's Essentials is one business here in Antigua and Barbuda that is helping to pivot people's food choices in a positive direction. Oshen's Essentials provides 100% vegan food products such as vegan cheese, popsicles, ice creams. It is also the supplier of a superfood supplement called 'Flu Defense' which is designed to enhance the immune system.

Recently, we had the pleasure of meeting Oshen's Essentials, Ishawna Long, who in addition to telling us about her business, also gave me the opportunity to sample her delicious vegan cheeses.

After trying it, I can truly say, healthy eating has never tasted so good!

Ishawna revealed that she delved into this niche business mainly because of the strong influence of her family.

Being born into a family of entrepreneurs, Ishawna said she was inspired by her mother and sisters who are all business owners. Her choice of business was inspired by her own goals of leading a healthier lifestyle and encouraging her family to do likewise.

"I have been moderately health conscious for many years now. This grew as I became a mom and had the responsibility of feeding children. I quickly recognised that many affordable, healthy foods that I would feel happy giving to my children are not readily available. So, I started daydreaming about various healthy foods I wished were available. This led to the Sneaky Treats line of healthy snacks, popsicles and ice cream. The line of vegan cheeses grew from my unhealthy obsession with cheese in my teenage and earlier adult years. I remember pledging as a young adult (while savoring a chunk of Crest cheese!) that I must figure out how to make cheese



Ishawana Long

that is tasty, but healthy. Positive reviews about the cheese, especially from non-vegans, is particularly heart-warming to me. The entire business is aimed at producing healthy alternatives to tasty but not-so-healthy food choices," the entrepreneur said.

Ishawna continued, "Another key factor in the business is to make the products available at reasonable costs. I discovered pretty early that, due to the cost of ingredients necessary to make vegan alternatives, I had to adjust my expectation of having our products compete with the prices of the non-vegan options, however, we insist on providing the most reasonable prices. Our vegan cheese is the lowest cost on the island, as far as we are aware."

Her drive to pursue this novel business, however, was not based only on her own health choices.

Ishawna divulged that the COVID-19 pandemic affected her family directly as

cont'd on pg 13



cont'd from pg 12

her husband, the main breadwinner in her home, was an economic victim of the pandemic.

“My husband works in the hotel industry. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on this industry and pushed us to take my business even more seriously as my husband’s financial contribution has been lessened, due to the COVID-19 situation. This situation has also increased my zeal to see my country become a bit more self-reliant. I am also more motivated to support other local businesses,” Ishawna said. When her vegan food business started in 2019, Ishawna explained that she did not require significant financial support at first.

“Due to the small scale at the beginning, and the tremendous support from my husband, my mother, and my father-in-law, I was able to start the business without a loan, however, it is now necessary to get a loan to develop the business. We are presently putting things in place to have this done as soon as possible.”

Last week when we interviewed Ishawna, she said that one option for seeking the new injection of finances her business requires is the government’s Entrepreneurial Development Fund.

Oshen’s Essentials, which has been in operation for a little under a year, has also been able to employ two part-time employees/subcontractors.

“As the business grows, we aim to have at minimum four full-time employees within a year,” Ishawna explained.

The Oshen’s Essentials journey, while mostly successful, has not been without its challenges.

“We have had some hiccups along the way but, we are constantly working on improving quality and providing valuable products. Keeping our customers in mind we take pains to ensure that we are responsible for our practices.

“Our cheese containers are always BPA free and reusable. Although our ice cream and popsicles have comparably low sugar content and some sugar-free options, we are looking to make all of

our ice cream and popsicles 100% sugar-free,” she explained.

Just like any other business, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Oshen’s Essentials, however, she has been able to capitalise on the opportunities the pandemic has created for her business.

“I would say COVID-19 has had its impact in both a positive and negative way. Like it or not, the economy isn’t as strong as it was a year ago and that would affect how people are buying products, however, at the same time, people are becoming more health conscious and are taking advantage of our vegan alternatives. For this, we are truly thankful. We are presently offering a product aimed at boosting the immune system. This product is a concoction of various natural ingredients with antiviral compounds aimed at strengthening the body’s capacity to fight off viruses. It is packed with antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant power, to aid the restoration of physical strength, while fighting infections and reducing inflammation and pain. This product works and can be used by individuals ages one and older.

According to Veronica Fil, a food industry specialist and economist and founder of the vegan cheese startup Grounded Foods in the USA: “The alternative protein industry was already a hot market before COVID-19 hit. My prediction is that these terrifying times will propel the sector’s growth even faster. As borders are locked down, it’s imperative to explore resilient, self-sustaining and local food supply chains and for the plant-based startups who are at the forefront of innovation. Don’t let a turbulent economy hold you back. Now is the time that we need you most.”

With this in mind, Ishawna said expansion is definitely in her business’ future.

“By God’s grace, we do see this business expanding. We are now on a drive to getting our products into supermarkets around the island.

“Currently, our products are available in Epicurean on Friars Hill Road, Gour-



met basket on Sir George Walter Highway, Adventist Book Center on Nevis Street, Veggie World on Redcliffe Street, XPZ on Sir Sydney Walling Highway. More locations will be coming soon. Also, we have several other products coming soon, including other varieties of cheese alternatives and Sneaky Treats snack items. We hope to grow our customer base by offering a variety of quality products at reasonable prices, and making these products available throughout the island by next year.”

In these difficult times, Ishawna shared advice with potential entrepreneurs and new business owners.

“Put God first and allow Him to lead. Be fair to your customers by offering real value for money. Be humble and willing to learn from mistakes, failures, and criticism. Appreciate the people who support you and push you to do better.

“Don’t just think about the money. Be responsible in your approach and practices, these are just a few words of advice I would offer our up and coming business owners,” Ishawna said.

To learn more about these vegan products you can contact Oshen’s Essentials by telephone or Whatsapp: (268) 776-9025. Email: orders@oshensessentials.com Facebook OshensEssential and Instagram: [oshens_essentials/](https://www.instagram.com/oshens_essentials/) Website: oshensessentials.com/

Focus on credit unions

Credit unions have significantly expanded their footprint in the financial services sector in Antigua and Barbuda. As part of their expansion Credit Unions have invested heavily in the human resource development of their staff.

Among the elite management team across our six credit unions is an individual whose impact as a leader in the expansion of the local credit union movement is legendary, but largely unsung.

Eye on Our Economy sat with Karl Warren Spencer, General Manager of the Community First Credit Union to discuss his body of work and to get his invaluable insight into the continued growth of credit unionism.

Karl Spencer's impact as General Manager of Community First Credit Union (CFCU) is heralded throughout the OECS. He is among

the elite few in the co-operative movement across the region whose body of work results in their advice and experience being regularly sought. Karl was appointed as General Manager in 2012 and remains in the position. He is the youngest person to have received such a senior appointment.

His professional portfolio includes skills in budgeting, business planning, analytical skills, risk management and customer service. He is also a chartered director focused in governance from the Caribbean Governance Training Institute.

Spencer is Antiguan and Barbudan by birth. He was part of the millennial call of 2000 of the University of the West Indies BSc. Economics and Accounting, Upper Second Class Honours. He was confirmed as a Certified Pub-

lic Accountant in 2002.

The early years of his professional career included the National Development Foundation and the Inland Revenue Department before joining the staff of the then Antigua and Barbuda Teachers Co-operative Credit Union in 2002 as its Financial Controller.

Karl was a part of the team in place for the transition of the credit union from the Antigua and Barbuda Teachers' Co-operative Credit Union Ltd. (ABTCCU), which was established in April 1959 having been registered in January 1982 under the Co-operative Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, to Community First Credit Union in 2005.

Spencer had direct responsibility for managing the funds for the construction of the credit union's EC\$6 million dollar business centre in



Karl Spencer

St. John's. He spearheaded the introduction and implementation of Checking Account Services, Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) Services which covers seven machines, Retirement Accounts, Educational Savings Accounts, and 24-Hour Online Access for the members of the credit union.

Karl reflected that credit unions were regulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs when he was first employed. As the regulatory framework was enhanced the supervisory services moved to the Ministry of Finance then to the Financial Services Regulatory Commission. He indicated that the strengthening of the supervisory framework, which included legislative amendments 'created more confidence in credit unions attracting more members. Overtime more persons have been saving with credit unions given them more capacity to lend larger amounts, especially mortgages'.

In response to Eye on Our Economy's query concerning the evolution of credit unions in Antigua and Bar-

cont'd on pg 15

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S HERITAGE

A celebration of our islands heritage

Pepper Pot

Planters supplied slaves with weekly rations of salted fish and set small parcels of land aside for their slaves to cultivate produce and raise animals on Sundays. Slaves managed to raise fowl, pigs, vegetables, and rice.

What slaves did not use to supplement their rations, they sold on Sunday, the traditional market day and a free day for slaves.

With their earnings they purchased salted beef or pork. They then combined the meat received as rations and purchased at market with produce from their gardens to prepare a spicy creolized stew they called oglios, or pepper-pot.



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

cont'd from pg 14

buda, Spencer indicated that the larger credit unions have actively engaged more professional management in the last 20 to 25 years.

Credit Unions have engaged in a more strategic approach to the management of the institutions in terms of addressing members' needs in a more timely manner. He also noted that, "Credit unions on island in response to the results from membership surveys have expanded the range of services offered."

When asked what the main advantages are of accessing credit union services versus other financial institutions, Spencer replied it comes down the benefits associated with membership.

"All members are share-

holders and share in the profits of the credit union once there is excess in the form of dividends. The profits are returned, through dividends to the grassroots who form the credit union membership."

At credit unions members are encouraged to save, not just for a rainy days, but to build their wealth and to en-

sure a comfortable retirement through "measured, careful systematic savings products which [credit unions] make available to members."

Other advantages highlighted include the democratic processes built into the co-operative movement.

"Members get to participate in the Annual General Meetings, elect the Board of Directors from among their peers (members). There are also built in mechanisms to voice concerns," he said.

Specific to the CFCU, the largest on island with over 23, 000 members, he noted that the 2020 AGM is yet to be convened as a result of the restriction on gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic protocols.

Spencer also indicated that members also enjoy lower fees to operate the accounts than those offered at commercial banks and credit unions, as part of the covenant with their members who are also shareholders, usually absorb a higher level of risk compared to other financial institutions.

Finally, Eye on Our Economy asked Spencer to share his thoughts on the most im-

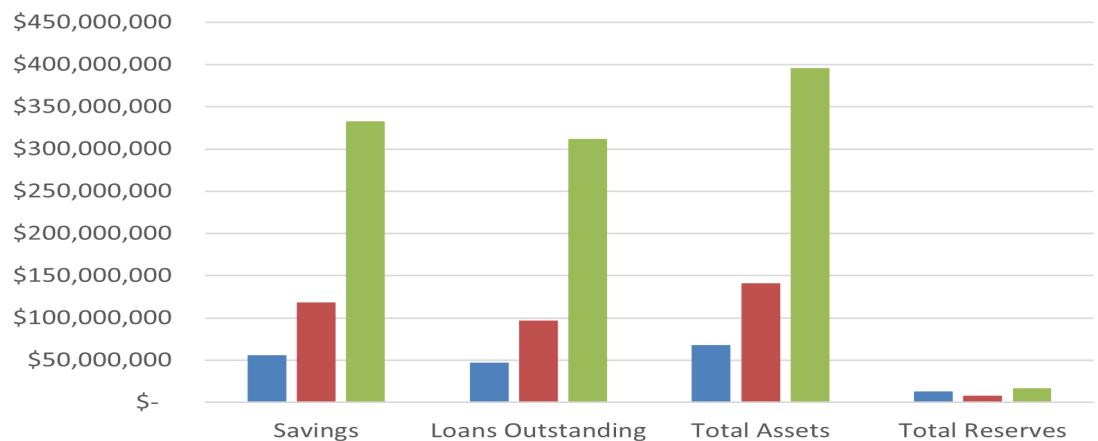
portant contribution of credit unions to national development.

Spencer replied, "Credit Unions are one of the greatest mobilisers of small savings in any society. Due to their indigenous nature, profits are spread throughout the grassroots through dividends paid and members feel less intimidated by credit unions. Members can join the formal financial system instead of hoarding money under their beds."

He concluded, "Credit Unions continue to have a place in society. The mission and vision that form part of the strategic management planning process ensure we maintain our credit unionism. My staff will tell you I always insist upon the core principles of the credit union to govern all our planning and engagement with our members."

Mr. Spencer heads the largest co-operative institution in Antigua and Barbuda with assets of over EC\$200 million and record profits for three consecutive years. He also has extensive experience in private accounting and is also an entrepreneur with two businesses under his control.

Credit Union Sector Performance 2004 - 2019



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 19th October 2020
Time: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Affected areas: Red Hill & Crawl Bay areas

Date: Monday 19th October 2020
Time: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Affected areas: Eastern section of Ebenezer

Date: Tuesday 20th October 2020
Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Affected areas: Small section of Hodges Bay

Date: Wednesday 21st October 2020
Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Affected areas: Section of Dickenson Bay

Date: Thursday 22nd October 2020
Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Affected areas: Section of Skerritts Pasture

Date: Thursday 22nd October 2020
Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Affected areas: CHAPA Housing Project in Lightfoot

Date: Thursday 22nd October 2020
Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Affected areas: Section of Skerritts Pasture; Holly Road

Date: Friday 23rd October 2020
Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Affected areas: Holberton and Police Headquarters

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.



BVI avoided \$57 million deficit

(BVInews) Premier Andrew Fahie has revealed more about the state of the BVI's economy, stating that the territory has been able to avoid a \$57 million budget deficit that was initially projected for due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking in an interview with ZBVI radio, Premier Fahie said the projected multi-million-dollar deficit first announced back in August when he presented a supplementary budget to the House of Assembly.

"I gave a state of the territory's finances in the House Of Assembly and I was utmostly surprised when I heard that the Premier is not doing so. I did that when we were doing the supplementary budget. At that time, I stated that if we



Premier Andrew Fahie

continued to collect the shortfall that we were collecting, we were on the verge of having a \$57 million deficit ... given that all industries were closed," Premier Fahie said.

However, he said based on his government's handling of the territory's stained income streams, the BVI is now positioned to "significantly and almost totally" cut down the the projected deficit.

"We have used the revised budget based on the income and ... now we are moving

towards having a zero deficit by the end of the year because of how we have been able to manage the finances of the territory," Premier Fahie said.

He didn't give a figure to indicate the territory's current deficit but he reminded persons that certain sectors within the BVI economy were struggling before COVID-19.

Fahie said one of those sectors was the financial services, which he said came under pressure because the 2019/2020 protests in Hong Kong.

"And I dare to say that there is no country in the world that can say they have survived this COVID-19 in a different way from how we are doing it. We do not want persons out there trying to insinuate that it's because of poor man-

agement. It was not in our view that in 2020, we'd have to deal with COVID-19," Premier Fahie stated.

The BVI's borders have been closed to visitors for more than seven months due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in the territory. This closure severely affected the tourism industry which contributes some 40 percent to the country's Gross Domestic Product.

A number of businesses also had to reduce their hours due to curfews imposed to prevent the spread of the virus. This has led to a rise in unemployment across the territory. With a significant drop in the number of COVID-19 cases, the BVI is scheduled to reopen to visitors on December 1.

Churches march against plan to legalise same sex unions in Barbados

(CMC) The first in a series of marches to protest against plans to legalise same sex unions in Barbados, was held on Saturday.

On Saturday morning, more than 200 church members marched through the town of Holetown in the parish of St. James, to send a message to the Government that the church is not in agreement with making same sex unions legal.

According to Dr Veronica Evelyn, the Executive Director of the Family-Faith-Freedom, the registered charity which organised the march, the gathering consisted of worshippers and leaders from different denominations.

"As you know, it's COVID time and we have to be careful so we are limited in numbers, we could not go over



Members of 49 churches across the island came out in strong force Saturday morning to show that they are standing up against the legalization of same sex unions in Barbados. Photo from Barbados Today.

250, so we are very happy with the turnout," Evelyn said.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the registered charity, Pastor Paul Leacock, said the series of marches would demonstrate the church's disagreement and request for Government to

reconsider and rescind its decisions to institutionalise same sex unions in the country.

Last month, in her delivery of the Throne Speech, Governor General, Dame Sandra Mason said a public referendum on allowing same-sex marriage will be held.

Mason stated that Barbados must have a "frank discussion" and "end discrimination in all forms" so as not to be "blacklisted" for human rights issues.

"My government will do the right thing, understanding that this too will attract controversy."

She added that the government would accept the result of the public vote.

A date for the referendum has not been set.

SVG gov't revenue continues to outperform 2019

(IWNSVG) Despite the coronavirus pandemic, government revenue in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2020 continues to be higher than in 2019, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves said this week as he released the data for September.

Gonsalves, speaking on the National Broadcasting Corporation, said that SVG has bucked the trend among its Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States counterparts.

"Declines have been, as a consequence of COVID, in all the OECS countries save and except St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a decline of between 25 and 65 per cent," the prime minister said.

"We have seen, year-on-year, thus far, an increase in our revenues at the central government and also in grants," Gonsalves said Wednesday on his weekly appearance on the National Broadcasting Corporation.

Gonsalves said at the end of August, revenue and grants had increased by 3.4% compared to the same period the previous year.

"I am pleased to report to you that by September 30, year-on-year, comparing this year with last year, total revenue and grants are up 8.5% and current revenue up 3.4%."

The prime minister said that in 2019, the figure was EC\$431 million, compared to EC\$468 million, as at Sept. 30, 2020.

Current revenue at the end of September 2019 was EC\$415 million, compared to EC\$430 million this year.

Expenditure, however, was increasing faster than revenue.

"But that's understandable because we have to put special measures in place to hold the things together in going forward," Gonsalves said.

Total expenditure had increased by 17% during the same period.

Of that amount, current expenditure went up by 6.1% and capital expenditure by 122%.

"When you hear people say they see construction going up all over the country and all kind a projects and so on and so forth, that's not election year," Gonsalves said.

"That's what had been planned in the normal course of our capital programme but we went to Parliament on April 7 with a special salvation package for COVID and you see it reflected in the outturn. It's not a mystery you know."

Total expenditure had increased from EC\$498 million from the end of September 2019 to EC\$584 million during the same period of 2020.

Current expenditure moved from EC\$451 million to EC\$479 million in 2020.

Capital expenditure moved from EC\$47 million to EC\$105 million.

"The deficit is higher this year by \$13 million, from 46 to 39 [million]. But that deficit is financed by cheap money, which we have borrowed.

"You have in the time of difficulty, you can't have austerity but what is interesting, up to last month, the current account deficit would have been 17 million more than last year. Now at the end of this month, it's 30 [million] more, and, by December, it will go down and if you notice what we have done ...

He however, warned that this does not mean that the country is "out of the woods".

"Far from it. But nobody can dispute that St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in the time of COVID, is performing better than any other country in the OECS, in the currency union, both in terms of growth performance and very much so



St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves.

in terms of government revenue."

He said there was global decline of some 5% with some of the larger economies declining far more than that.

"The airline industry is practically closed and you have to have airlines to move people, tourists, but, I repeat, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in terms of economic growth, is doing better than any other country in the OECS, and, indeed, better than Barbados, and better than Trinidad and better than Jamaica. I am talking about the numbers, the real situation, and similarly, the fiscal situation.

"So these elections were called at a time of COVID when we are holding things together, stabilising it and going forward."

Vincentians will go to the polls on Nov. 5, as Gonsalves seeks a fifth consecutive term in office at the helm of his Unity Labour Party administration.

He said that the opposition is saying nothing about the performance of the economy during COVID "and how we have held things together and going forward".

Gonsalves said that former prime minister and founder of the main opposition New Democratic Party, Sir James Mitchell had commented that the country has handled COVID well "though he says he had come up with the slogan 'Me too fed up ah Ralph'".

"Yo' fed up ah me for what? For winning all the time? That is the only reason you can be fed up, which has been a prolonged period; we hold it better than any other country in the region."

Jamaica: Females outshine men in COVID response, IDB study reveals

(Jamaica Gleaner) As the country's economy tightens under the crunch of the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, women continue to shoulder much of the growing burdens of Jamaican households, despite being stricken hardest by the disease.

Up to yesterday, 4,494 females had been infected by the sickness compared to males who accounted for 3,683 cases across the island. Females have also endured increased domestic violence in lockdowns with abusive spouses, and have endured the most job losses since March.

Yet, a recent study by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) suggests that females, particularly those in rural areas, have been holding the fort, outmanning their male counterparts in chores and evolving parental duties since COVID-19 hit.

The news is bliss for females who were celebrated by the United Nations on International Day of Rural Women on Thursday, but also a testament to the resolve of chicken farmer Juliet Barrett, a resident of Logwood, a tough rural community in St Thomas.

Barrett wakes at 6:00 each morning to begin her farm duties. When school was 'face to face', getting her son and grandson, ages 12 and 11, respectively, ready to send off to Harvest Hill Preparatory would be a breeze. Now, however, she has to execute her farming duties, while tending to customers and playing teacher and disciplinarian on the side.

"I have to stop for about an hour or two to make breakfast for them, and then I have to go back in on intervals to ensure they are doing the right thing and stick with them, explaining to them," she noted. "You can imagine I have to pay the school fee and then the teachers just send the work and I have



Chicken farmer Juliet Barrett, a resident of Logwood, a tough rural community in St Thomas.

to do the explaining. It's hard."

She continued, "My son is inside there now and I have to be checking on him because he is preparing for PEP [Primary Exit Profile] and if I don't do that, it's just pure talking. I know we can't do face to face but this online thing is very hard."

Barrett believes the teachers are not connecting effectively with her boys online, and while many teachers interviewed this month agreed, those like Lisa Bailey, vice-principal at Mountain View Primary School in Kingston, called for understanding, as many female teachers were also parents and enduring similar challenges at home.

According to the IDB study that canvassed 2,596 Jamaicans online over two weeks:

- 72.0 per cent of women reported being responsible for coordinating or assisting children with homeschooling
 - 67.8 per cent handled cleaning duties
 - 59.7 per cent had cooking duties
 - 61.8 per cent were caring for adults
- Many of female household heads

were not prepared for the ravages of COVID-19, the study suggested.

According to the report, "Household preparedness varied by pre-pandemic income level ... households that reported higher total household incomes in January 2020 were better prepared to cover immediate expenses during the pandemic. Only 14.5 per cent of low-income households reported having enough savings for an emergency expense, and only 29.1 per cent had enough savings to cover one week or more of basic expenses."

Last week's International Day of Rural Women was dubbed 'Building Rural Women's Resilience in the Wake of COVID-19'. UN Secretary General António Guterres emphasised the importance of women to agriculture, food security, and nutrition, despite the harsh systematic racism, and structural poverty that has come with their territory.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has now affected more than half the world's women farmers with restrictions on movement, the closure of shops and

cont'd on pg 19

Rallies held to support teacher beheaded in France

(BBC) Thousands have attended rallies across France in support of Samuel Paty, the teacher beheaded after showing cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad to his pupils.

People in the Place de la République in Paris carried the slogan “Je suis enseignant” (I am a teacher), with PM Jean Castex saying: “We are France!”

A man named as Abdoulakh A was shot dead by police on Friday after killing Mr Paty close to his school near Paris.

An 11th person has now been arrested as part of the investigation.

No details have been given about the arrest. Four close relatives of the suspect were detained shortly after the killing. Six more people were held on Saturday, including the father of a pupil at the school and a preacher described by French media as a radical Islamist.

President Emmanuel Macron said the attack bore all the hallmarks of an “Islamist terrorist attack” and the teacher had been murdered because he “taught freedom of expression”.

The murder comes as a trial over the 2015 attack on Charlie Hebdo - a satirical magazine that has published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad - is under way.

The Place de la République in Paris filled with people rallying in support of Mr Paty, 47. Mr Castex and Paris



One banner read: “They will not behead the Republic”

Mayor Anne Hidalgo joined them.

The square was the scene of a huge demonstration in which 1.5 million people showed solidarity with Charlie Hebdo following the deadly attack of January 2015.

One protester on Sunday carried a sign reading “zero tolerance to all enemies of the Republic”, another “I am a professor. I’m thinking of you, Samuel.”

Another told Le Figaro she was a French Muslim who was at the rally to express her disgust at the latest killing.

A minute’s silence was followed by the playing of the Marseillaise. All the protesters were wearing masks to protect from coronavirus.

Mr Castex tweeted the rendition of the anthem, along with the words “you do not scare us... we are France!”

Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer said France would succeed in defeating the enemies of democracy if it were united and that all teachers in France needed support.

Nathalie, a teacher from Chelles who was at the Paris rally, told Le Monde she was there because she had “realised you can die of teaching”.

In Lille, people carried banners and placards with the simple words “I am Samuel”.

Thousands of people also gathered in Place Bellecour in Lyon to pay their respects, with another large turnout in Nantes.

Demonstrations are also being held in Toulouse, Strasbourg, Marseille, Bordeaux and elsewhere.

In addition to Sunday’s demonstrations, there will be a national tribute paid to Mr Paty on Wednesday.

On Saturday, Tareq Oubrou, imam of a mosque in Bordeaux, told France Inter: “A civilisation does not kill an innocent person, barbarism does.”

cont’d from pg 18

markets, and disruption to their supply chains. Combined with challenges, including increased unpaid care and domestic work and rising rates of gender-based violence, rural women are bearing some of the heaviest burdens of the pandemic,” Guterres said.

“Together, we must invest in rural women so that they have access to

healthcare, social protection, and agricultural information services they need. We must close the digital divide and provide essential services to respond to the shadow pandemic of violence against women. And we must tackle the discriminatory land and inheritance laws and practices that make rural women vulnerable to losing their sources of income.”

Defiant protesters take over Bangkok streets, PM seeks talks

(Reuters) Thousands of anti-government protesters took over key intersections in Bangkok on Sunday, defying a ban on protests for the fourth day with chants of “down with dictatorship” and “reform the monarchy.”

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former junta leader the protesters seek to oust, is concerned about the spreading protests and the government wants to talk, his spokesman said.

Demonstrations have persisted despite the arrest of dozens of protesters and their leaders, the use of water cannon and shutdowns on much of Bangkok’s metro rail system in a bid to quell over three months of street action.

“Free our friends”, the protesters called out as they stood in a rain, a mass of colourful ponchos and umbrellas. Some held up pictures of detained protest leaders. Thai Lawyers for Human Rights said at least 80 protesters had been arrested since Oct. 13 with 27 still being held. Police have not given an overall number.

Prayuth’s spokesman said the prime minister feared the protests, which have spread across the country of 70 million, could be used by troublemakers seeking to instigate violence.

“The government wants to talk to find a way out together,” spokesman Anucha Bu-



Pro-democracy protesters shine their mobile phone lights during an anti-government protest, in Bangkok, Thailand October 18, 2020

rapachaisri told Reuters. He did not specify with whom the government hoped to speak.

After the arrest of many of the protest leaders, previously unknown figures have emerged to lead crowds which organise by themselves.

Police made no immediate steps to intervene as protesters took over Victory Monument and Asok, two of Bangkok’s most important transport hubs. Police said there were around 10,000 people at Victory Monument alone. A spokesman said there was no plan to suppress the protest there.

Protesters say Prayuth engineered last year’s election to keep power he seized in a 2014 coup - an accusation he denies.

The demonstrations have also become more openly critical of King Maha Vajiralongkorn’s monarchy, breaking a longstanding taboo, demanding curbs to its powers despite potential jail terms of up to 15 years for anyone insulting the king.

During demonstrations by tens of thousands of people at multiple points across Bangkok on Saturday, protesters painted a flag on the road with “Republic of Thailand” written across it. The writing was painted out overnight.

The Royal Palace has made no comment on the protests.

The government banned demonstrations in Bangkok on Thursday.

Across Thailand, demonstrations were being or-

ganised in at least 19 other provinces on Sunday. Solidarity protests were also being held or planned in Taiwan, Denmark, Sweden, France, the United States and Canada.

Protesters, who have adopted the fast moving tactics of Hong Kong activists, kept police guessing about where demonstrations would be held with a slew of social media posts.

Links have grown between protesters in Thailand and Hong Kong in a so-called Milk Tea Alliance referring to drinks popular in both places. Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong tweeted in support of Thai protesters.

“Their determination for #Thailanddemocracy cannot be deterred,” he said.

National elections loom after a brutal year for Bolivia

(CNN) It started with allegations of fraud amid contested national elections. Then came claims of a coup. An incumbent president was exiled, protests paralyzed the country, and an economy that had been a Latin American success story showed serious signs of decline.

And that was all before Bolivia's Covid-19 outbreak became one of the worst in the world.

Now, after multiple postponements, Bolivians will finally vote Sunday to choose a new president, vice president, and Legislative Assembly.

It is a contest that many hoped would have laid last year's recriminations to rest, but in reality, could further divide an already splintered country.

In the crowded race for president, two men lead the pack -- frontrunner Luis Arce, a socialist former finance minister, and the

more centrist former President Carlos Mesa.

Whoever wins will inherit debilitating protests, a beleaguered public health system, and an economy mired in recession.

When Bolivians went to the polls in October 2019, few were prepared for the bloodshed that would follow.

It was clear the contest would come down to two candidates: long-time incumbent President Evo Morales and former President Carlos Mesa.

Morales, the country's larger-than-life, first indigenous president, had been credited for a years-long effort to lower poverty and grow the economy, spearheading a campaign to nationalize certain industries that delivered positive results.

But criticism grew as his third term ended; Morales was increasingly the target of corruption allegations



and was only able to run again in 2019 after a controversial Supreme Court decision eliminated term limits.

Mesa himself has never actually been elected president. In 2003, he was serving as vice president when then President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada resigned following massive protests.

Mesa took over and lasted less than two years before also resigning amid protests. In his 2019 bid to return to the highest office, the former journalist sought to appeal to the center of a polarized electorate.

Preliminary results were released the evening of October 20, showing Mo-

rales with a slight lead over Mesa, but not enough to avoid a runoff election under Bolivian elections rules: Candidates need 50% of the vote, or at least 40% and a 10-point lead, to avoid a second round of voting.

Morales didn't appear to have either, at first.

But that night, the vote count unexpectedly halted. When it resumed about 24 hours later, Morales' modest lead surged, putting him across the threshold to avoid a runoff. He claimed victory a few days later, but Mesa refused to concede, citing a flawed vote count. Many decried the election results as fraudulent.



STEELPAN MELEE

WITH KHAN KC CORDICE & PETRA WILLIAMS

**TUESDAY
5PM-6PM**

Black officers break from unions over Trump endorsements

(Associated Press) Police unions nationwide have largely supported President Donald Trump's reelection, amid mass demonstrations over police brutality and accusations of systemic racism — but a number of Black law enforcement officers are speaking out against these endorsements, saying their concerns over entering the 2020 political fray were ignored.

Trump has touted his support from the law enforcement community, which includes endorsements from national, city and state officers' unions — some of which publicly endorsed a political candidate for the first time. He's running on what he calls a "law and order" platform and tapping into a strain of anger and frustration felt by law enforcement who believe they are being unfairly accused of racial discrimination.

There are more than 8,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., with large departments holding sway nationally. The number of minority officers in policing has more than doubled in the last three decades, but many departments still have a smaller percentage of Black and Hispanic officers compared to the percentage of the general population those communities make up.

Many fraternal Black police organizations were formed to advocate for equal-



Crystal Williams-Coleman, president of the Guardian Civic League, talks to reporters during a press conference, Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, in Philadelphia.

ity within police departments but also to focus on how law enforcement affects the wider Black community. There have often been tensions between minority organizations and larger unions, like in August, when the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers issued a letter condemning use of deadly force, police misconduct and abuse in communities of color.

While support for the Republican incumbent does not strictly fall along racial lines, many Black officers say the endorsements for Trump don't fairly represent all dues-paying members.

"We are members of these unions, and they don't take into consideration our feelings about Donald J. Trump, then they don't care about us and ... they don't care about our dues," said Rochelle Bilal, the recent past president of the Guardian Civic League of Philadelphia, calling the National Fraternal Order of Police's Trump endorsement an "outrage."

Bilal, who was elected as Philadelphia's first Black female sheriff last year, spoke at an early October news conference with other Black law enforcement groups in Philadelphia to condemn Trump endorsements and the process they say ignored their concerns over what they perceived to be racist remarks, support for white supremacist groups and a lack of respect for women from Trump.

But national union leaders say the process is designed to give everyone a voice and the endorsement represents the majority of officers. The Fraternal Order of Police represents close to 350,000 officers nationally, but does not track racial demographics.

"I am a Black American and a Black law enforcement officer," said Rob Pride, the National Fraternal Order of Police chair of trustees. "It's been emotionally a rollercoaster ride for me since the George Floyd incident. It was horrific."

Pride, who oversees the vote that leads to the organization's presidential endorsement, says the May 25 police killing of Floyd in Minneapolis and the political climate "is tearing America apart" and having a similar effect on the FOP.

National FOP leaders said they have heard from members who don't agree with the Trump endorsement — and they're open to talking over concerns — but that all 44 state Fraternal Orders of Police chapters that cast a ballot voted for Trump. Pride said the whole process starts locally, with lodges passing out candidate survey answers and ballots and then voting at a statewide meeting. State delegates then voted at the national meeting.

"We could probably have an hourlong conversation about why some folks feel President Trump is racist and why others disagree," he said. "But there are a lot of officers of all races of all backgrounds who feel he best represents and supports the interests of law enforcement."

On the local level, police reform bills driven by protests against police brutality in the wake of Floyd's killing have also stoked local unions' endorsements of candidates for state offices at higher rates this year — some issuing endorsement for the first time in decades.

cont'd on pg 23

cont'd from pg 22

While many union leaders say the endorsements aren't based on political parties, they have largely been for Republicans challenging candidates who have voted for what unions call "anti-police" reform bills.

Philadelphia's FOP Lodge 5 President John McNesby said in a statement that the group, which represents 6,500 members, did not make an endorsement in the presidential race, and deferred to its parent union's endorsement. But members said that despite being the largest lodge in the state,

they weren't given a chance to vote or be counted by the state or national delegates.

Denouncing the endorsement processes, The Guardian Civic League has asked its about 1,200 members to be prepared to withdraw their dues from the national FOP, as has the Club Valiants of Philadelphia — an organization of more than 500 minority firefighters — from the Local 22 of the International Fire Fighters and Paramedics Union. In endorsing Trump, Local 22 broke from its parent organization, which endorsed Democrat Joe Biden.

DAY 10/2

31 °Hi



Cloudy with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm

NIGHT 10/2

24 °Lo



Overcast with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
5:58 AM

Sunset AST
5:55 PM



Duration
11:57 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
6:41 PM

Moonset AST
7:15 AM



Duration
12: 34 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.

SJA INDEPENDENCE LUNCH

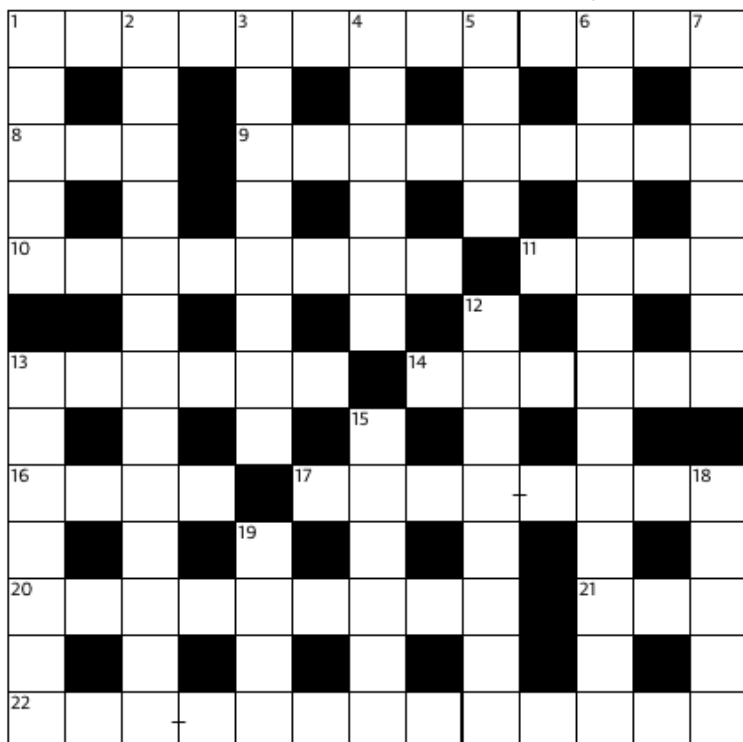
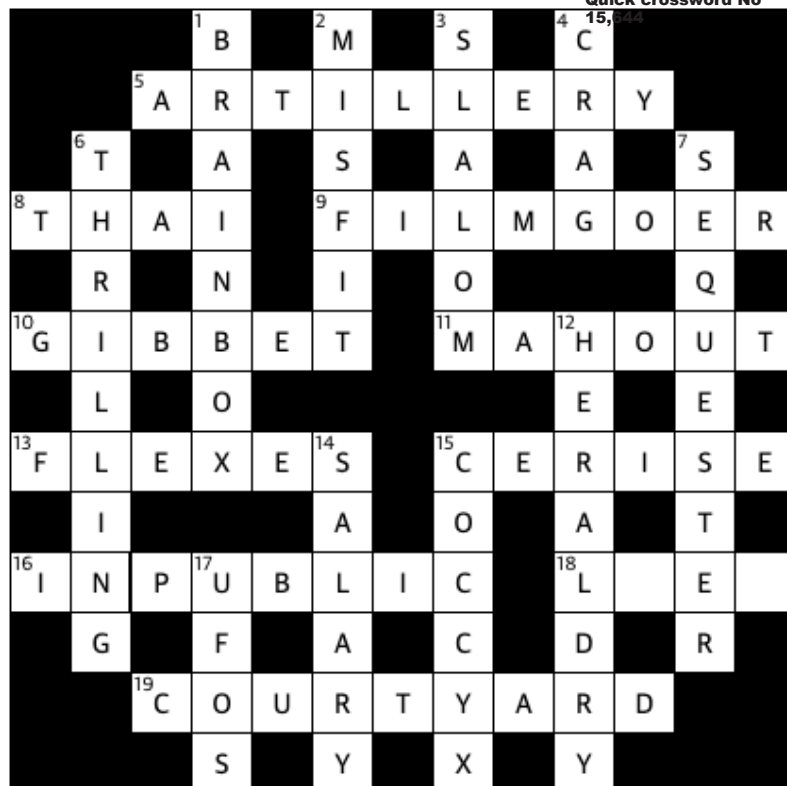
St. Joseph's Academy presents its annual Independence Lunch on Saturday 31st October, 2020 at the school grounds. Tickets are \$25.00 and available at the school.

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.

Submit your community notices to news@pointville.ag

QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No
15,649

 Quick crossword No
15,644


Across

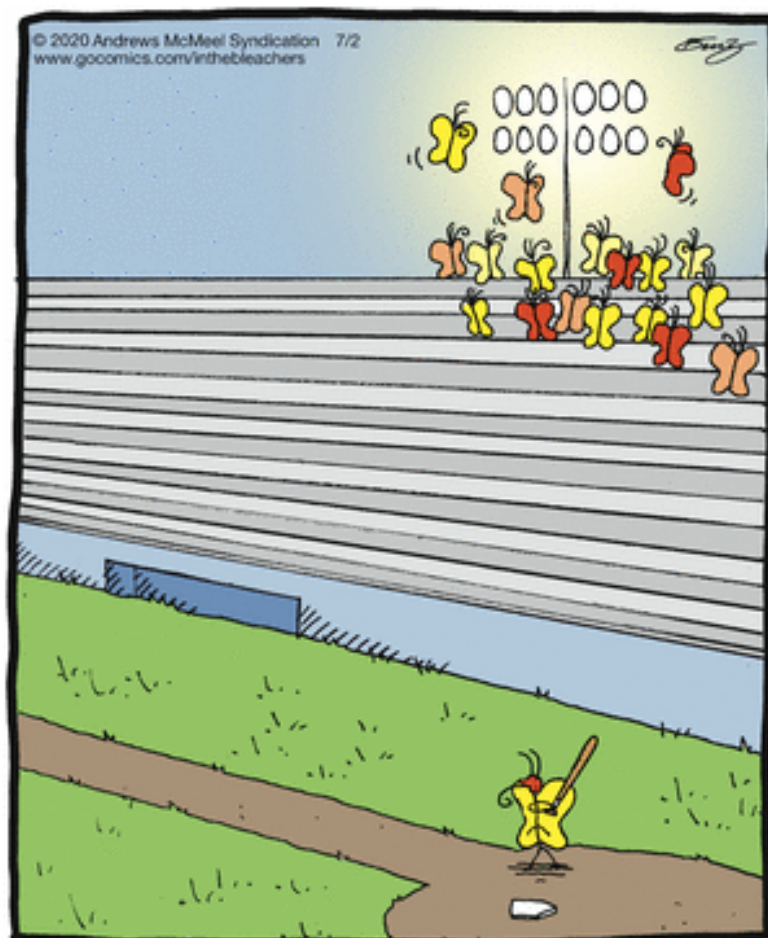
- 1 Celebrity (9,4)
 8 Fake — failure (3)
 9 Go in search of fun (9)
 10 Intense study (8)
 11 Clarified butter, used in Indian cookery (4)
 13 Communal (6)
 14 Test (3,3)
 16 Public open space (4)
 17 Kitchen deputy (4-4)
 20 Pain relief (9)
 21 A life (abbr) (3)
 22 Brief personal encounter — single performance (3-5,5)

Down

- 1 Greek underworld (5)
 2 Landing gear (13)
 3 Age when one may legally buy alcohol in the UK (8)
 4 Over the web (6)
 5 Stage (4)
 6 Miss Muffet's complaint? (13)
 7 Beseech (7)
 12 Commit a sin — spa's rest (anag) (8)
 13 Singer who aims high (7)
 15 Beetroot soup (6)
 18 Overwhelming amount (5)
 19 Unattractive-sounding fruit (4)

CARTOON CORNER

In the Bleachers





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Keep your mind on attainable objectives and don't rely on outside help for now. Rather than spending time on fantasies or wishful thinking, focus on getting organized and making your home well-run.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): You can picture how you want things to appear, but it takes effort to make it happen. You might be content with a less costly item, but consider asking a friend for advice and getting something more worthwhile.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It might seem as if a fog has lifted. You may be more clearheaded and can observe the signposts and landmarks so you know just where you are. Handle key financial affairs with common sense and good planning.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone close could have their finger on the trigger of a profitable deal. You, however, might be the best judge when it comes to the wisdom of committing to a new relationship or investment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be a perceptive operator. You might work behind the scenes to turn a problem into an asset. Your priorities may revolve around a job or business project where you can show off skills and experience you have gathered over time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sing along in harmony. A loved one could set a fine example of good manners and professional demeanor. Rather than making excuses, you are prepared to face up to your obligations and work towards mutual goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): There might be a fly in the ointment. You may focus on fulfilling your desire for a satisfying intimate encounter only to find there's a catch. Concentrate on your job, your work or money-making activities for the best results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The more you learn, the more you can earn and the more you discern. When you need to know something of importance, you'll find that helpful assistance may be readily available. Study the latest reports and data.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Perseverance can pay off whether you're in hot pursuit of a lucrative business deal or looking for something to enhance your living space. Keep your eyes open and check for potential issues beneath the surface.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Hope springs eternal, but keep your expectations realistic. Regardless of surface appearances, there could be a surprise during the reveal. Keep your equilibrium and take time to assess before making up your mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take the money and run. You and a partner or loved one can make a dynamic duo when it comes to achieving fiscal security and a bright future. Share inspiring ideas and wise techniques to empower you both.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Exercise your common sense before you act on matters of major importance. You might display creative genius while negotiating for more favorable terms and impress people with your friendliness.



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TTFA board member wants all FIFA cases dropped

A Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) board member is calling for all cases against FIFA to be dropped and the association's president, William Wallace to be removed.

COVID-19 restrictions, however, have made it difficult for President Wallace to be removed by the body's general membership according to the Trinidad and Tobago Football Referees Association (TTFRA) Vice President, Osmond Downer.

Downer, one of the framers of the TTFA constitution, explained that a request by the Eastern Football Association (EFATT) president, Kieron Edwards, for the dismissal of Wallace,



Trinidad and Tobago Football Referees Association (TTFRA) Vice President, Osmond Downer

Vice President Clynt Taylor, Sam Phillip and the rest of the 12-member board was moot.

Article 38.4 of the TTFA constitution states that 'the motion for dismissal shall be decided by means of secret ballot' but the Public

Health (2019 Novel Coronavirus No.8 Regulations) forbids gatherings of more than ten persons.

Under the circumstances, Downer said it is impossible to remove Wallace without violating the protocols, at least until prime minister, Dr. Keith Rowley, relaxes the current restrictions.

TTFA constitution does not allow a virtual extraordinary general meeting to be convened under article 29, however, a meeting was convened recently in a manner not allowed by the constitution.

On Thursday, General Secretary Ramesh Ramdhan emailed TTFA Board members requesting board ap-

proval for an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to be convened virtually at 9:00am on Sunday 25th October 2020.

Wallace, who needs six votes, along with his own, to formalise an EGM claims he has eight.

One of the items on the meeting's agenda is instructing the TTFA's legal team to discontinue any and all matters that are, or were to be presented, before the court.

The TTFA is suspended from participating in all FIFA activities until all matters against the football world governing body are removed from before Trinidad and Tobago's courts.

Van Dijk needs knee surgery

Liverpool centre-back, Virgil Van Dijk, needs surgery on a knee ligament injury sustained in the 2-2 draw at Everton on Saturday.

The 29-year-old Netherlands defender was unable to continue following a rash challenge by Toffees keeper Jordan Pickford in the first half.

It is unclear how long he will be out for with the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury.

Following a scan of his knee, a specialist confirmed the extent of the damage.

Returning to action after

ACL surgery can take many months.

Van Dijk has been a key figure for Liverpool since signing for them in January 2018 for £75m. He has

played every league game for the club in the past two seasons as Liverpool finished second in 2018-19 before winning their first top-flight title in 30 years

in 2019-20. The Dutchman was also a leading figure for the side as they won the Champions League in 2019 and Club World Cup later that year.

Sunil Narine cleared of suspect bowling action

Sunil Narine has been cleared of having a suspect bowling action and has been taken off the warning list, the Indian Premier League (IPL) said Sunday.

The Trinidadian, who is a key player for the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), had been placed on the warning list following their match against KingsXI Punjab at Abu Dhabi on 10 October.

KKR requested an official assessment of Narine's action from the IPL Suspect Bowling Committee submitting action footage in slow motion with back side angles.

The committee carefully reviewed all the deliveries of action footage sent of Narine with the naked eye and came to the conclusion that his elbow bend appeared to be within the range of permissible limits.

Ministry of Sports officials mourn Debu's loss

Director of Sports, Heather Samuel-Daley, and coordinators within the Ministry of Sports met last Friday to pay tribute to the late Rolston 'Debu' Williams.

Director Samuel-Daley explained that she was stricken with sadness and had been badly shaken by the news of 55-year-old Williams' death.

"I cried on my way home. The ministry has lost a great person and hard worker," she said.

William Richards, head of the Sports Medical Unit, is

Debu's cousin and the two grew up together in Parham. Richards, who recounted traveling with his cousin as part of the Antigua Barbuda Football national team on many occasions, said he admired Debu's passion and drive for the sport.

Former West Indies wicketkeeper and batsman, Ridley Jacobs, also reminisced on his friendship with Williams. Jacobs recalled a difficult period in his career when he was not being selected to play with the West Indies team.

During this time, on a trip to St. Thomas to play cricket, Debu offered him words of encouragement during a warm up session. Jacobs said Debu told him not to give up as he would eventually overcome the bump in his career.

"When Debu returned to Antigua to live, we developed a very good friendship because he loves cricket and sports in general," said Jacobs.

Williams' supervisor, former national coach Rohan 'Porridge' Benjamin, commented on Debu's work ethic, passion for learning and pursuit of knowledge.

"We went to many football courses and had many battles coaching against each other."



Rolston 'Debu' Williams.

Benjamin said he is happy that Debu made it right with the Lord and completed a number of projects he had committed to before he passed.

Other coordinators involved in the meeting spoke of Williams' passion, enthusiasm and love for football and other sports.

DEWS

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