



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

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## GREENE: WHERE DOES UPP STAND ON CHINA?



**Story on Page 3**

**Island Academy adjusts  
teaching format amid  
COVID-19 concerns - Page 8**

# CBH anti-mosquito campaign targets youth



Senior Public Health Inspector Julianne Mannix addressed the students at Green Bay Primary and Five Islands Primary Schools.

As part of its fight against the *aedes egypti* mosquito, which causes several diseases including dengue fever, the Central Board of Health (CBH) has launched a campaign which will target young people.

On Tuesday, teams from the CBH visited two schools as it initiated its annual anti-mosquito campaign under the theme: Toss it out, Clean it out and Keep it out.

Senior Public Health In-

spector, Julianne Mannix, said while this year's campaign is intended to resonate with the entire population, particular attention is being paid to young people as they are very effective in communicating ideas to those with whom they come into contact and putting information they receive into practice.

"What we have found over the years is that when you teach the young people

all they should know about mosquitoes and what needs to be done to control them, the children in turn take these messages home and tell their parents and guardians and what they learnt and constantly remind the adults to put the measures into practice," Mannix explained.

Additionally, she highlighted the fact that young people are generally more responsive and display a

higher level of participation in lectures. This is evidenced by their responses to questions raised following the lectures.

"We are hoping that the young people play a role in helping to change the behaviour of adults on the matter regarding the spread of mosquitoes," Mannix added.

The Central Board of Health began its Mosquito Educational Awareness Campaign Trail on Tuesday with its first stop at the Green Bay Primary School. They later visited the Five Islands Primary School.

"At both schools the children were engaged in a very interactive, educational, visual, motivational session on ways to reduce the mosquito population to prevent Dengue Fever. These educational sessions will continue for this entire month with J. T. Ambrose School and All Saints Secondary for this week," she revealed.

## 'Vampire Killer' pleads not guilty

Delano Forbes has pleaded not guilty to murdering two people.

In the High Court on Tuesday, Forbes, known as the 'Vampire Killer' because he allegedly drank the blood of his victims, entered the not guilty pleas when the charges were read to him.

He is accused of killing Lisue Samuel and Shawn Henry.

The charges were read to Forbes shortly after the findings of a psychiatric evaluation conducted on him were presented to the court.

The 25-year-old is also charged with the homicides of Wilfred 'Bongo' Williams

and Maurison Thomas. Those charges were not read to him therefore he was not required to enter a plea during Tuesday's appearance.

Forbes, who appeared before Justice Ann Marie Smith, allegedly committed the homicides between 2017 and 2018.

Last week, Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards found Delano Forbes not guilty of escaping lawful custody two years ago.

On 12th February, 2018, Forbes jumped over a cliff in Swetes Village where police had taken him to identify the area where he allegedly hid the clothing of one of his victims.

## Greene: ‘UPP, where do you stand on China?’

**By Shelton Daniel**

Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene has put the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) on the spot by calling on them to declare, unambiguously, their position on Antigua and Barbuda's relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC).

On Tuesday in a media appearance, Greene accused the UPP of being xenophobic toward the Chinese despite the immeasurable and invaluable assistance the PRC has provided to Antigua and Barbuda since 1982 when the two countries established diplomatic relations.

During its decade in office from 2004 to 2014, the UPP maintained those relations and was the beneficiary of much investment and development assistance from the PRC.

In recent times however, UPP operatives, via print, broadcast and social media, have been casting aspersions upon the current Gaston Browne-led Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) administration, suggesting that its involvement with China comes at the cost of employment and economic opportunities for locals.

Despite the presence of Chinese construction workers on huge projects granted



*Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene*

or financed by concessional loans from Beijing during its tenure, including the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium and the new V.C. Bird International Airport, UPP agents and enablers have of late advanced the narrative that Antiguan and Barbudans are unable to find work because they are being displaced by Chinese.

Known opposition figures have also sought to convince vulnerable members of the public via social media, that the recent arrival of Chinese to Antigua and Barbuda on a chartered flight were allowed to bypass both immigration and COVID-19 screenings and were further permitted to dispense with the mandatory two week quarantine.

As reported previously by PointXpress, Foreign Affairs Minister, Chet Greene, has not challenged the UPP leader, Harold Lovell, “to name his spokesperson on



foreign affairs and let that individual speak to the nation on your foreign policy.”

Greene, whose portfolio also includes International Trade and Immigration, demanded that Lovell come clear and clean on, “in particular, how you [Lovell] see the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China. You won't hide behind the curtains any longer.”

Greene, who is Chairman of the ABLP, also wants the UPP's shadow spokesperson on Foreign Affairs to clarify whether they favour the continued acceptance of grants and soft loans from China.

“What do you say about the Chinese presence in Antigua? What do you say about the building of an embassy of China in Antigua? The people of Antigua must know exactly where you stand in these matters.

Will you break the historical ties between Antigua and Barbuda and China?” Greene questioned.

With regard to the newly arrived Chinese nationals, Greene ridiculed the UPP for attempting to generate paranoia over a supposed Chinese takeover of Antigua and Barbuda in was nothing more than the routine rotation of workers employed on projects being undertaken here by the China Construction and Engineering Company (CCEC).

Prime Minister Gaston Browne recently announced that CCEC has selected Antigua and Barbuda as the location for its regional headquarters.

Minister Greene said even though Lovell had not personally uttered the baseless allegations, he has failed to show leadership by dissuading his party's supporters from propagating the politically motivated falsehoods.

# Positive COVID-19 cases increase by one

The Ministry of Health, through the Mount St. John Medical Center (MSJMC) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), has revealed one new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 5th October 2020 at 6:00 pm.

In a statement, the ministry disclosed that subsequent to the publication of the dashboard on Monday 5th October 2020 with the cut off time of 6:00 pm, twenty-one samples were processed at the Mount St. John's Medical Center's Laboratory which increased the pending results from sixty-five to eighty-six.

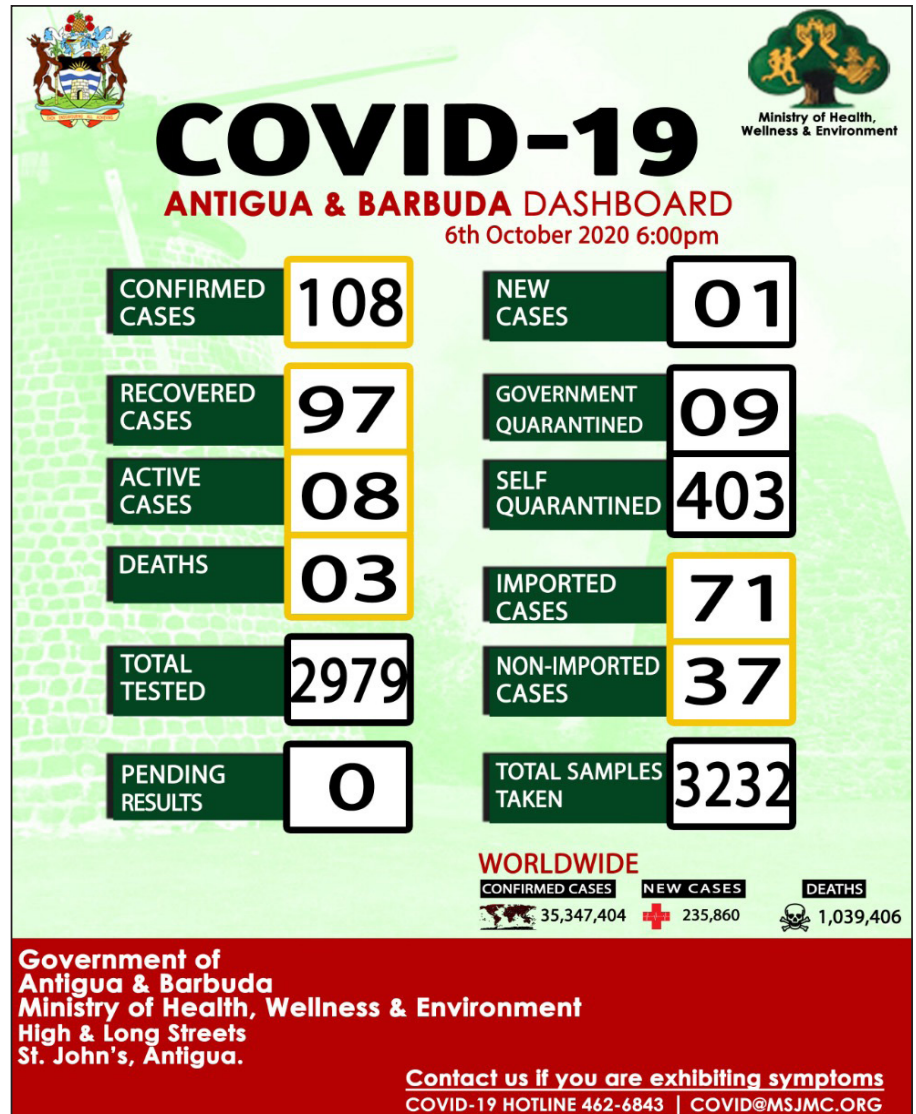
All twenty-one samples processed by MSJMC yielded negative results which are reflected in the total samples taken and total tested columns of the dashboard.

Of the sixty-five samples sent to CARPHA, one returned positive while sixty-four were negative.

Meanwhile, one recovered case has been recorded bringing that total to ninety-seven.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one hundred and eight (108) with eight (8) active cases.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.




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**COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

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## Antigua and Barbuda questions CDC's 'High Risk' categorisation

Antigua and Barbuda is questioning its categorisation by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a "Level 3 – High Risk" destination from which travelers arriving in the US will have to quarantine.

In correspondence exchanged with the headquarters of CDC, the US State Department and the Governor of New York State, Andrew Cuomo, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders, has called for an urgent review of the "true and verifiable" conditions in the country regarding its control and prevention of COVID-19.

Ambassador Sanders said the facts indicate that, at worst, Antigua and Barbuda should be categorised as a "Level 1– Low Risk" destination. More accurately, he continued, Antigua and Bar-



*Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders*

buda "should be on the list of countries requiring, 'No Travel Health Notice', since the COVID-19 risk is very low and the country's performance in preventing and containing the virus is equal to many countries, and better than others, that require no travel health cautions".

The CDC travel advisory has included Antigua and Barbuda as "high-risk", along with another 200 countries, including Canada,

many throughout Europe and the Caribbean including The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, the US Virgin Islands, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Sir Ronald argued that, "Antigua and Barbuda experienced its first laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 on March 13, 2020 and since then until today, October 5, 2020, there have been only

3 deaths and 107 confirmed cases."

He explained that Antigua and Barbuda has "neither community nor cluster spread, only sporadic cases and its situation is very stable".

"These conditions," he said, "are verifiable by the Pan American Health Organization."

In a separate letter to New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo, the veteran diplomat said that he is aware that action has been taken based on the CDC travel advisory regarding Antigua and Barbuda's classification as a Level 3 country, but Sir Ronald called on Governor Cuomo to have his own health officials "review the categorisation of Antigua and Barbuda which is affecting the people of New York State and Antigua and Barbuda without genuine cause".

## Dates for official funerals announced

Antigua and Barbuda will give official send-offs to two of its decorated sons; Sir Selwyn Walter and Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo, a week apart this month.

Former parliamentarian, Sir Selwyn Walter's funeral will be held on Monday 12th October at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium at 10am.

Sir Selwyn, the brother of the late former premier, Sir George Walter, who passed away on 14th September at his residence at the age of 84, will be accorded an official funeral.

Ahead of his funeral next week, a

viewing, which will be opened to the public, will be held on 9th October. The viewing of his body will take place at St. John's Seventh Day Adventist Church from 10:30am to 1pm.

Sir Selwyn, who represented the St. John's Rural West constituency, served in the Progressive Labour Movement administration from 1971 to 1976. During this time, he held the ministerial portfolios of Economic Development and Tourism.

In 2013, he was knighted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda during the country's Independence

celebrations.

Meanwhile, an official funeral will be held for calypso legend, Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo on 19th October, 2020 at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium.

Sir Rupert died on 11th September, 2020 at the age of 78.

King Swallow was one of the country's top exponents of the calypso/soca artform.

He became an international star having taken his jumpy soca hits and scintillating performances to countries around the world.

# Canadian diplomat commends country's COVID-19 response

Antigua and Barbuda's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has attracted the admiration of a Canadian diplomat.

Words of commendation were made on Tuesday during a virtual farewell engagement between the outgoing High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Marie Legault and Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene.

Ambassador Legault, who is wrapping up her tour of duty to the Eastern Caribbean this month, expressed admiration of the manner in which the Antigua and Barbuda government handled the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Please convey to your prime minister, my personal admiration for the manner in which his government has managed and is managing during these tough times of the COVID-19 pandemic," Greene reported the diplomat as saying.

In response, Greene hailed Canada for its approach to diversity noting that the country, whose population is approximately 37 million, serves as an inspiration for societies worldwide.

"Canada has an inclusive and respectful approach to diversity. This characteristic can be seen through Canada's present day role as a multi-ethnic democra-

cy which, I believe, serves as an inspiration to many other societies worldwide," he stated.

He also noted the fact that many Antigua and Barbuda nationals have made Canada their home.

Greene also expressed appreciation to Canada for its many years of assistance to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda and the involvement of the High Commissioner facilitating this.

Following the devastation of Barbuda by Hurricane Irma, Canada came to the country's assistance and donated US\$200,000.00 to help with rehabilitation efforts.

Since the start of the



*High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Marie Legault*

COVID-19 pandemic, Canada has donated US\$239,000.00 to Antigua and Barbuda through the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) to help with the fight against the virus and its impact.

"Under your guidance, mobile Canadian Visa Biometric Collection Service teams have visited Antigua and Barbuda to facilitate biometric collection of nationals seeking entry into Canada, thus saving them the expenses involved in having to travel to have this done," the Foreign Affairs minister noted.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has had to find new ways of fulfilling its mandate of fostering ties with the nations with whom it shares common interests, including Canada.



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# Island Academy adjusts teaching format amid COVID-19 concerns

The parents of an Island Academy student have tested positive for COVID-19, a development which has forced the school to immediately halt all in-person learning.

A statement from the school said while the student has tested negative for COVID-19, the family is now isolating and following all government advice.

“Despite the student receiving a negative test, the school felt it imperative to be 100% transparent with our entire community and has contacted all individuals that have been in contact with the student,” Island Academy said in a statement.

The school said it took the ‘difficult’ decision to temporarily close and switch to its Distance Learning Plan (DLP) whilst the student isolates and undergoes further testing.

The statement continued that this is a precautionary measure, as the risk to the school’s community is very low as no person who has tested positive for COVID-19 has ever been on campus.

Island Academy said it has always



felt well guided and supported by both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

“We have welcomed the COVID protocols and, as a school, we have committed significant resources and energy to their implementation. Certainly, these systems have significantly reduced the risk of contact between everyone on campus, but no measure

can be totally infallible,” the school noted.

Principal Portia Moursy explained since classes at Island Academy resumed in August, the week beginning the 12th October had been scheduled as its mid-term school break.

Therefore, the school has taken the opportunity to facilitate learning from home for the last three days of this half of the term to maximise the safety of its community whilst refining its Distance Learning Plan should it need to revert to it in the future.

“Closing the school is not a decision that the Administration or the Board of Directors takes lightly because of the significant disruption it causes to families.

“Island Academy appreciates the attitude of collective responsibility demonstrated by our families and encourages this healthy discourse to continue,” Moursy remarked.

Island Academy has a student population of approximately 260 and offers classes to students aged 5 years old to pre-college.





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# New UK Trade Envoy to Antigua and Barbuda appointed

The United Kingdom has appointed Darren Henry MP as the new Trade Envoy to the Commonwealth Caribbean, including Antigua and Barbuda.

The British High Commission in St. John's said his role as Trade Envoy will involve supporting British trade and investment objectives, promoting the Commonwealth Caribbean as an ideal location for UK companies to conduct business and the implementation of the new CARIFORUM-UK Economic Partnership Agreement.

Henry will be involved in virtual engagements including meetings with government ministers, hosting high level incoming visitors, meeting key stakeholders and addressing important business events.



*Darren Henry MP*

Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson, said Henry's appointment provides a prime opportunity to strengthen the UK's trade and investment relationship with the nation and wider region.

"Through our Department for Inter-

national Trade we will be helping UK businesses recognise the trade and investment opportunities that exist in Antigua and Barbuda.

"By amplifying the array of commercial opportunities here and in the wider region to UK firms, Henry will play a significant role in helping us increase on the £2.8bn in imports and exports of goods and services the UK has with CARICOM trading nations," Thompson said.

Along with Antigua and Barbuda, the other Commonwealth Caribbean markets include Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

## INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK LTD. (St. John's, Antigua, B.W.I.)

### Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2020

(Stated in United States Dollars of America)

	Note	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>			
Deposit with banks			505,465
Demand deposits		678,578	
Time deposits		76,101,879	64,809,813
Total due from banks		76,780,457	65,315,278
Accrued interests receivable		1,280,841	809,109
Total cash and cash equivalents	7, 14	78,061,298	66,124,387
Investment securities measured at amortised cost	8, 14	60,387,667	60,392,934
Loans	9, 14	1,477,251	1,621,823
Furniture and equipment, net	10	2,800	7,600
Prepaid expenses		64,268	72,188
Other assets	11	1,501,692	1,501,691
Total other assets		1,565,960	1,573,879
Total assets		141,494,976	129,720,623
<b>Liabilities and equity:</b>			
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Deposits from customers:			
Demand deposits		3,466,356	4,421,824
Time deposits		126,919,654	113,788,877
Accrued interest payable		2,733,405	3,509,935
Total deposits from customers	14	133,119,415	121,720,636
Other liabilities		497,188	451,968
Total liabilities		133,616,603	122,172,604
<b>Equity:</b>			
Share capital	12	5,000,000	5,000,000
Additional paid-in capital		10,000	10,000
Retained earnings		2,868,373	2,538,019
Total equity		7,878,373	7,548,019
Commitments and contingencies	13, 14		
Total liabilities and equity		141,494,976	129,720,623

Director

Director

The statement of financial position should be read along with the accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

## INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK LTD. (St. John's, Antigua, B.W.I.)

### Statement of Profit or Loss

For the year ended June 30, 2020

(Stated in United States Dollars of America)

	Note	2020	2019
Interest income:			
Securities		5,185,000	5,170,833
Deposits with banks		3,091,543	3,270,922
Loans		78,382	74,452
Total interest income	14	8,354,925	8,516,207
Interest expense:			
Deposits	14	5,637,002	5,771,097
Total interest expenses		5,637,002	5,771,097
Net interest income		2,717,923	2,745,110
Provision for loan losses		(29)	25
Provision for investment securities		5,287	(245,896)
Other provisions		(66)	(3,549)
Total other provisions		5,172	(249,420)
Other income (expenses):			
Commission income	14	861,556	866,619
Commission expense		(17,865)	(17,842)
Other income		5,227	4,867
Total other income, net		849,118	853,644
General and administrative expenses:			
Salaries and other personnel expenses	14	3,065,903	3,198,925
Fees and professional services		79,671	50,601
Depreciation	10	4,800	5,264
Rental		12,498	12,498
Maintenance and repairs		3,300	3,600
Banking license		44,208	43,686
Others		12,664	14,970
Total general and administrative expenses		3,223,044	3,329,544
Net income before income tax		338,825	518,630
Income tax	6	(8,471)	(12,966)
Net income		330,354	505,664

The statement of profit or loss should be read along with the accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

## CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank: 'Drive for Cure' a success

The organisers of the CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank's ninth annual cancer fundraiser have reported that this year's event was a success despite modifications which were made due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past, the cancer awareness fundraiser took the form of a Walk for a Cure, however, this year it was adapted to a Drive for a Cure outing.

"Led first by a hi-fi and police outriders, approximately one hundred vehicles moved off from the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday and wended through several communities before making their way back to the stadium.



"Here at CIBC FirstCaribbean we are dedicated to continuing our campaign to raise the awareness of cancer and to support survivors and families. A few

years

ago we lost a staff member, Kathleen Parker, to cancer. So cancer and its effects are always up front in our minds.

"Finding a cure for cancer should be a very personal cause for all because everyone knows at least one person who has died from cancer or is a survivor," Country Manager, Ladesa James-Williams, told participants in Sunday's event.

She also thanked supporters of the cause including the Red Cross, the media, Digicel and the Traffic Department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda for their invaluable support.



## Montserrat ferry makes final voyage

After sailing the waters between Antigua and Montserrat for almost five years, Jaden Inc. Ferry Services, the operators of the Montserrat ferry, made their final voyage on Tuesday.

The service was critical to the movement of people between the islands, but COVID-19 has taken its toll on the business.

According to a well placed source, the ferry, which has not transported passengers since March, has been operating as a cargo vessel twice weekly on Monday and Tuesday.

Reports also indicate that another cargo vessel will be



engaged to transport items from Antigua to Montserrat once weekly.

Jaden Sun, the vessel which ran the Antigua - Montserrat route, will return to its home port in St. Vincent on Wednesday. No

replacement has been announced.

On 28th August, 2020, the government of Montserrat wrote to Jaden Inc. Ferry Services indicating that its contract, which would have expired at the end of Sep-

tember this year, would not be renewed as it is unclear when normal travel will be able to resume given the COVID-19 pandemic.

The only option for travel between the two islands now will be via SVG Air which announced new airfares last week.

In a statement, the airline said their new and reduced airfare is EC\$170.00 per sector upon which Antigua's charges and the Montserrat departure tax will be added.

This subsidized fare applies to the period 1st October, 2020 to 31st March, 2021.

### Unicorp Bank Overseas, Ltd.

#### Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2020 (Amounts in US Dollars)

	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Deposits with banks (Notes 3, 5 and 11)		
Due from banks	3,797,998	4,635,376
Interest bearing deposits with banks	6,150,291	18,501,594
<b>Total deposits with banks</b>	<b>9,948,289</b>	<b>23,136,970</b>
Loans (Notes 3, 6 and 11)	79,668,117	77,101,937
Investment securities, net (Notes 3, 7 and 11)	39,324,835	35,729,021
Investment in associates (Notes 3, 8 and 10)	38,215,354	35,600,370
Computer equipment, net	4,380	6,094
Right-of-use assets (Note 16)	19,039	-
Other assets (Notes 3 and 10)		
Other accounts receivable	1,568,158	1,778,139
Prepaid expenses	59,057	55,348
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>1,627,215</b>	<b>1,833,487</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>168,807,229</b>	<b>173,407,879</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Deposits (Notes 3 and 10)		
Demand	26,258,850	34,388,389
Time	100,190,598	98,246,239
<b>Total deposits</b>	<b>126,449,448</b>	<b>132,634,628</b>
Other liabilities (Notes 10 and 17)	626,993	884,642
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>127,076,441</b>	<b>133,519,270</b>
<b>Equity (Notes 3 and 11)</b>		
Common stock (Note 9)	5,000,000	5,000,000
Retained earnings	36,000,037	33,955,012
Revaluation reserve for investments	730,751	933,597
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>41,730,788</b>	<b>39,888,609</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>168,807,229</b>	<b>173,407,879</b>

Director  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

### Unicorp Bank Overseas, Ltd.

#### Statement of Profit or Loss For the year ended June 30, 2020 (Amounts in US Dollars)

	2020	2019
<b>Interest Income (Note 10)</b>		
Interest on loans	1,797,027	1,869,990
Interest on deposits	632,160	818,691
Interest on investments	1,271,371	1,278,956
<b>Total interest income</b>	<b>3,700,558</b>	<b>3,967,637</b>
<b>Interest expense (Note 10)</b>	<b>4,798,977</b>	<b>4,720,918</b>
<b>Net interest expense before provision</b>	<b>(1,098,419)</b>	<b>(753,281)</b>
Reversal of provision for deposits	56	57
Reversal of provision for possible loans losses	214	1,247
(Provision) reversal of provision for impairment of investments	(8,317)	130,262
<b>Net interest expense after provision</b>	<b>(1,106,466)</b>	<b>(621,715)</b>
<b>Other Income (Expense), Net</b>		
Commission income (Note 15)	1,915,022	1,911,990
Commission expense	(24,004)	(24,686)
(Loss) gain on sale of investment	(62,734)	95
Other income	1,820	-
<b>Other income, net</b>	<b>1,830,104</b>	<b>1,887,399</b>
<b>General and administrative expenses (Notes 10, 11 and 14)</b>	<b>539,283</b>	<b>602,754</b>
<b>Income before share in profit of associates</b>	<b>184,355</b>	<b>662,930</b>
<b>Share in profit of associates (Notes 8 and 10)</b>	<b>3,964,389</b>	<b>3,986,825</b>
<b>Income before income tax</b>	<b>4,148,744</b>	<b>4,649,755</b>
<b>Income tax (Note 12)</b>	<b>(103,719)</b>	<b>(116,244)</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>4,045,025</b>	<b>4,533,511</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# What is the ABNTA?

The Antigua and Barbuda National Training Agency (ABNTA) is a Statutory Organization established by the Government of Antigua to monitor, co-ordinator, and promote Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Antigua and Barbuda.

The ABNTA will provide accredited status to training providers through the process of quality enhancement and quality assurance.

## Our Objectives:

The objectives of the Agency are to establish an awarding body for National Vocational Qualification and to facilitate the implementation of modern apprenticeship through the Antigua and Barbuda National Vocational Qualifications.

## Our Aims are to:

- Promote and coordinate technical and vocational education and training (TVET)
- Develop and maintain a national training policy
- Maintain, operate and regulate a system of apprenticeship and traineeship
- Establish and maintain standards in technical vocational education and training
- To promote and support the concept of lifelong learning through continuous education and training
- To facilitate the development of the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) in Antigua and Barbuda
- Support TVET institutions and training providers in developing their capacity and human resources to deliver high quality vocational education and training

## Our Products and Services:

- Antigua and Barbuda National Vocational Qualification (ABNVQ)
- National Occupational Standards (NOS) of competence
- Directory of occupations
- Tracer Studies
- Labour Market Surveys



CREATING A WORLD CLASS WORK FORCE

- Directory of Education Institutions and Training Providers
- Registration of Companies and Trainees for the National Apprenticeship Programme
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) career guidance

## What is an NVQ?

The (NVQ) National Vocational Qualification is the local equivalent to the CVQ which uses the regional occupational standards but are designed for the specific needs of a country in the specific area in any industry. These are equivalent to the CVQ which are regionally accepted and recognized.

## What is CVQ?

The (CVQ) Caribbean Vocational Qualification is a competency based qualification, it is awarded to persons who have demonstrated competence in reaching approved occupational standards in a particular area of industry.

## How is the CVQ attained?

Candidates must provide evidence that they have the ability to perform work activities to the standards required in Industry. Persons wishing to obtain a CVQ will be assessed against the competencies identified in the National Occupational Standards (NOS).

## What are the benefits of the CVQ?

### To Employers:

- Provides relevant qualifications that are regionally and internationally recognized.
- Can be obtained on the job and/or in a training institute.
- Individuals will come on the job with some level of training

### To Employers:

- Allow employers the opportunity to employ skilled and qualified employees suited to their needs.
- Ensure a pool of skilled adaptable and creative employees.
- Facilitate a cadre of workers who are competent to give industry a competitive advantage in the global market.

### Standards Settings:

In Antigua the National Training Agency works with industry experts, employers, training providers, and professional bodies to develop National Occupational Standards which clearly defines the requirements for effective performance in the workplace.

## What are National Occupational Standards?

National Occupational Standards (NOS) defines the competencies required for effective workplace performance. They specify what a person should know and do in order to carry out the functions of a particular job in the context of the wider environment.

Standards are agreed minimum best practice and take into account all statutory requirements.

## Mission Statement

To facilitate and promote the development of a competent workforce through a system of competence-based vocational education and training that is relevant to the needs of industry and where the qualifications are universally recognized.

The Caribbean is ready for CVQ! Are You?

**Antigua and Barbuda National Training Agency**  
**Redcliffe Street, Paul Aflak Building, St. John's, Antigua**  
**antiguabarbudanta@gmail.com**  
**Telephone No: 562-6685**

# Commentary

## Statement by Director of Education on World Teachers Day

Helen Caldicott cited, “Teachers, I believe, are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the earth.”

Dr. Ken Rowe, 2003, in speaking of teachers, argues that although children’s literacy command, overall scholastic accomplishments, behavioural tendencies and school experiences are impacted by their upbringing and intake qualities, the extent of these influences are inconsequential when paralleled with the impact of the class-teacher.

Darling-Hammond expresses it quite cogently: “Well prepared capable teachers have the largest impact on student learning and they need to be treasured ...” (Darling-Hammond, 2003, p.7).

On the occasion of World Teachers Day 2020, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology salutes all teachers in Antigua and Barbuda.

It is imperative that we give thanks to all our industrious educators for it



*Director of Education Clare Browne*

is because of your hard labour that our society is what it is today. I take this opportunity to thank all of you immensely for the part you continue to play to ensure that our students get a quality education even in a COVID-19 environment. This is indubitably nothing short of sacrificial service. Thank you for recognizing that you are the guiding force behind the Nation’s children as you continue to make the journey to success a cakewalk. Your counsel and

patience are the rays which unfold the virtues and talents latent in the hearts and minds of tomorrow’s leaders. Our children are the future and education is a primary ingredient for life and living. I urge you to continue to help our young people to realize their dreams; continue to build a nation, to mould a country.

To our retired teachers, lecturers, department heads, deputy principals and principals: for your lifelong dedication to education, for believing in young people, for guiding through example, for inspiring with passion, for living through loving, for leaving an indelible mark on the future, for touching the human soul – accept a deluge of gratitude from the Ministry of Education.

Today we remember those teachers who have departed this life, giving thanks to God for their lives and the priceless contribution they have made. We pray that perpetual light may shine on them.

Happy World Teachers Day!

**TALKING POINT**

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

**DR. MASERATI** **SENATOR COLIN BROWNE**

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

**CHANNEL 9**

## CARICOM SG congratulates re-elected Premier of Bermuda

(CARICOM Today) CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque has congratulated Bermuda's Premier Hon. David Burt and his Progressive Labour Party (PLP) on their resounding victory in the General Elections of 1 October 2020.

Premier Burt's PLP won 30 of the 36 seats at stake, up from the 24 it won in the last Elections held in July 2017.

"Bermudians must be commended for exercising their mandate despite the daunting



*Bermuda's Premier Hon. David Burt*

challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic," the Secretary-General said in his congratulatory letter to Premier Burt. "Premier, your success signifies that your citizens

are well satisfied with your performance over the past term and have therefore put their trust in you to continue the good work," the Secretary-General added.

"As you and your government embark on your new term of office, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its Secretariat wish you every success in your efforts," Ambassador LaRocque said.

"I look forward to welcoming you once again to the Conference of Heads of Government" he added. Bermuda is an Associate Members of CARICOM.

Burt is Bermuda's youngest ever premier, having taken office at the age of 38.

### St. Paul's Health Month Calendar October 2020

#### "SERIOUS ABOUT MY HEALTH"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1 OPENING CEREMONY</b> Electronic presentation on Social Media	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Health Tips aired in the churches at their services every Saturday during the month of October
<b>4</b> Health Tips aired in the churches at their services every Sunday during the month of October	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 	<b>7 WATER DAY</b> Falmouth Harbour Marina, Foreign Affairs 11:00AM, Immigration 3:00PM	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 HEALTH SCREENING</b> - Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar - General Clinic - Vision Branch Office
<b>11 HEALTH SCREENING</b> - Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar - General Clinic - Vision Liberta Sports Facility	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> 	<b>14 WATER DAY</b> Min. of Trade, Prices/Consumer 11:00AM & Bureau of Standards 2:00PM Antigua Yacht Club		<b>15</b> Liberta Primary & Cobbs Cross 10:00AM Vision Screening Grades 5 & 6	<b>17 Branch Office</b>  SCREENING
<b>18</b> Liberta Sports Facility  SCREENING	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> New Bethel, Liberta & Cobbs Cross Primary Schools Sailing Academy 	<b>22</b> New Bethel SDA Academy 10:00AM Vision Screening Grades 5 & 6	<b>23</b> <b>Greene Smoothie Day</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Walk & Breakfast 	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> Distribution of: - Oct care packages - Senior Citizens health care packages	<b>28</b> Preschools - Grace Hill, Liberty, 11 Hour, New Adventure. - National Parks - Garment Factory 	<b>29</b> <b>Donation of masks to all schools in St. Paul's</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# Guyana's telecoms sector formally liberalised, way cleared for lower prices for phone, internet services

(Demerarawaves.com)

Prime Minister Mark Phillips late Monday night announced that Guyana formally broke the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph's 30-year old monopoly on international voice and data, paving the way for fierce competition in the telecoms market ranging from cheaper phone calls to higher quality Internet and several other related services.

"It is anticipated that Guyanese will feel an immediate positive impact from the implementation of these legislation, which create a modern and competitive environment for telecommunications, and which will immediately result in greater choices, better quality of service and lower prices for consumers, while at the same time ensuring that all operators continue to enjoy all benefits conferred under the old legislative regime," he said.

The Prime Minister said government has issued Commencement Orders fully bringing into force the Telecommunications Act 2016 and the Public Utilities Commission Act 2016. He did not mention what were the issues that had to be resolved before this step was taken.

He explained that the legislation specifically address-



Prime Minister Mark Phillips

es the expansion of telecommunications networks and services into unserved and underserved areas through the institution of a new universal access/universal services programme.

Mr. Phillips said government would ensure that the "existing operators suffer no disadvantage whatsoever as they continue business in the sector."

He thanked all those involved, who were able to quickly simplify and deliver the complex task of liberalisation in the short time assigned.

Modern legislation, the Telecommunications Act, was enacted in 2016 but the minister did not sign the commencement order to bring it into force because negotiations with GTT were not finished. In fact, GTT

and the Guyana government had signed a memorandum of understanding in 2019 to settle all outstanding issues before signing a binding agreement.

Retired Brigadier Phillips said the legislation creates a clear, harmonised framework and a level playing field for the sector "that is currently lacking." He indicated that Guyanese as well as investors in the industry could now expect transparency and non-discrimination in the issuance and monitoring of licences and authorisations to use the spectrum, seamless interconnection and access between and among telecommunications networks and services.

He said prices would be regulated where required to ensure competition and

at the same time guarantee equal treatment of stakeholders, to the ultimate benefit and protection of consumers.

The Prime Minister chided the then governing A Partnership for National Unity+Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) for delaying the liberalisation process although the legislation had enjoyed bipartisan support since it had been first drafted in 2015.

"Although the benefits of the Act were well known to the APNU/AFC Coalition, for some inexplicable reason in 2018 and again in 2019, APNU/AFC only brought a few sections of the Act into force, frustrating the intent and objective of the Act by denying Guyanese the benefits flowing therefrom," he said.

He promised that the Guyana government was ready to work with all stakeholders to ensure that every Guyanese has affordable access to quality and modern services "which they so badly deserve."

When the American-owned Atlantic Tele-Network (ATN) had bought out 80 percent controlling interest in the then state-owned Guyana Telecommunications Corporation (GTC) in 1990 and

*cont'd on pg 17*

## US hands over emergency equipment towards Jamaica's COVID response

(Jamaica Gleaner) The United States Government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), today delivered the second tranche of emergency equipment to the Ministry of Health and Wellness towards Jamaica's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The equipment is part of the US\$2 million in assistance USAID is providing to Jamaica to fight the crisis.

The first handover of equipment was done back in June.

The items delivered today included 15 ICU beds, 14 satellite phones, five scanners, 40 port of entry banners and 2,000 infection, prevention and control posters.

"The United States is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic not only with delivering funds. We want to ensure that we provide expert technical assistance, training, capacity building, health systems strengthening, and life-saving diagnostics and treatment," said USAID/Jamaica Country Representative, Jason Fraser.



USAID/Jamaica Country Representative, Jason Fraser (right), presents Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Christopher Tufton, with the second tranche of COVID-19 emergency equipment from the US Government at a handover ceremony on October 6, 2020. Looking on is Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jacqueline Bisasor McKenzie.

er.

"Our critical, life-saving work will continue. We have reoriented our resources to ensure this remains our highest programmatic priority. We are adapting the way we do business amid this outbreak and ensuring we continue to support the people and Government of Jamaica."

It was outlined that the equipment will bolster the Government's COVID-19 emergency response and directly aids activities that are vital for helping to flatten the curve.

The support will also address risk communication through awareness-raising of prevention measures and good hygiene practices, op-

timising Jamaica's health system capacity to care for COVID-19 patients, and support coordination and logistics at the national and regional levels.

This assistance builds upon US investments of nearly US\$87 million in health and nearly US \$619 million in total over the past 20 years for Jamaica.

*cont'd from pg 16*

formed GTT, it had secured a 20-year monopoly on international voice and data. However, with the advent of the Internet and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services such as Skype, Vonage and more recently WhatsApp and other messaging services, the mo-

nopoly was in reality a thing of the past.

While several satellite-based Internet Service Providers have mushroomed in recent years, GTT had insisted that its mobile competitor, Digicel Guyana, must use its Internet Service to resell subscribers. Digicel had at one

time ignored that agreement and had accessed data through a wireless link from neighbouring Suriname.

E-Networks, which landed a submarine fibre-optic cable here several months ago, has also been offering wireless Internet to Guyanese customers.

# St. Lucians concerned about price increase for ground provisions

(LoopSLU) The sharp increase in the price of agricultural produce, especially ground provisions, has consumers worried.

So much so, that some say they are now forced to spend more money on items such as flour and rice.

Consumers are also complaining that while the price of ground provisions has increased, its quality has decreased.

According to them, the situation is compounded by the fact that most vendors no longer sell such produce in small amounts as they did in the past. They say the amount of ground provisions they were given for \$10 in the past, is less than what they get now.

Most of the vendors who sold ground provisions in heaps for as low as \$5 now only sell in heaps of no less than \$10.

According to the consumers, on numerous occasions, some of the produce has to be thrown away because of rot.

In interviews with a number of farmers, market vendors and street vendors in the south of the island, they attribute the soaring prices of ground provisions to climatic conditions, which they lament also affects its quality.

However, on the issue of overpricing consumers,



their opinion varies.

“Because of the sun this year and last year, there is less ground provision on the market, so the price had to go up,” Mathadouse Isidore, a farmer, told Loop News, adding that climate change is the main cause for the rise in the price of ground provisions.

He added that some farmers and vendors are taking advantage of the situation by selling it too expensive.

“There are farmers and vendors who sell their ground provisions too high. I do not support that,” Isidore said.

Fabian Victor, another farmer agrees with Isidore. She said that there is a need to increase the price

of ground provisions but said some farmers sell it too expensively.

She said at the moment, because of the climatic condition, she has not been able to produce ground provisions.

Nicholas Faisal, a farmer and exporter of agricultural produce said: “It’s an issue of demand and supply. We just came out of a dry spell. Demand is greater than supply, there is no other explanation for it.”

According to Faisal, he does not believe farmers are overcharging the customer, adding that as long the demand for a produce is high people will buy it.

“Some people just want yams and for them it does

not matter what the price is,” he said.

Another farmer said the increase in the price of ground provisions should not surprise anyone because there is not much of it on the market.

He said he does not feel farmers are overcharging the customer.

According to him, farmers have no control over of the climatic conditions which affects their productivity.

Commenting on the opinion of the Minister of Agriculture, Ezechiel Joseph that some farmers are overproducing amidst the pandemic, all the farmers who Loop News interviewed disagreed.

## Facebook says it will ban groups that openly support QAnon

(Associated Press) Facebook said it will ban groups that openly support QAnon, the baseless conspiracy theory that paints President Donald Trump as a secret warrior against a supposed child-trafficking ring run by celebrities and “deep state” government officials.

The company said Tuesday that it will remove Facebook pages, groups and Instagram accounts for “representing QAnon” — even if they don’t promote violence. The social network said it will consider a variety of factors to decide if a group meets its criteria for a ban, including its name, the biography or “about” section of the page, and discussions within the page, group or Instagram account.

Mentions of QAnon in a group focused on a different subject won’t necessarily lead to a ban, Facebook said. Administrators of banned groups will have their personal accounts disabled as well.

Less than two months ago, Facebook said it would stop promoting the group and its adherents, although it faltered with spotty enforcement. It said it would only remove QAnon groups if they promote violence. That is no longer the case.

The company said it started to enforce the policy Tuesday but cautioned that it “will take time and will continue in the coming days and weeks.”

Critics called it a much-needed, though belated, move by Facebook.

“Now that they have announced that they will treat the QAnon ideology like the very real threat that it is, we hope that they will follow up with some modicum of evidence showing how the ban is being enforced and whether it is fully effective,” said Jonathan A. Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League and one of the founders



*In this May 14, 2020, file photo, a person carries a sign supporting QAnon at a protest rally in Olympia, Wash. Facebook said Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020, that it will remove Facebook pages, groups and Instagram accounts for “representing QAnon.”*

of the Stop Hate for Profit campaign, which organized a Facebook boycott by advertisers.

But the conspiracy theory has already seeped into mainstream politics. Several Republican running for Congress this year are QAnon-friendly.

By the time Facebook and other social media companies began enforcing — however limited — policies against QAnon, critics said it was largely too late. Reddit, which began banning QAnon groups in 2018, was well ahead, and to date it has largely avoided having a notable QAnon presence on its platform.

“We’ve seen several issues that led to today’s update,” Facebook said in a blog post.

“While we’ve removed QAnon content that celebrates and supports violence, we’ve seen other QAnon content tied to different forms of real world harm, including recent claims

that the west coast wildfires were started by certain groups, which diverted attention of local officials from fighting the fires and protecting the public.”

Twitter did not immediately respond to a message for comment on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, Citigroup Inc. reportedly fired a manager in its technology department after an investigation found that he operated a prominent website dedicated to QAnon. According to Bloomberg, Jason Gelinas had been placed on paid leave after he was identified on Sept. 10 by a fact-checking site as the operator of the website QMap.pub and its associated mobile apps.

In a statement, Citi confirmed that Gelinas is no longer with the company and added that employees are required to abide by its code of conduct.

This includes disclosing and obtaining permission for outside business activity.

## White House contact tracing questioned as COVID-19 spreads

(REUTERS) The White House contact tracing program is too haphazard to pinpoint or halt a COVID-19 outbreak that was rapidly spreading in the U.S. capital city, health experts and city officials said on Tuesday.

Washington reported here 105 new cases of the coronavirus for Oct 5, the mayor's office said, the highest figure since June.

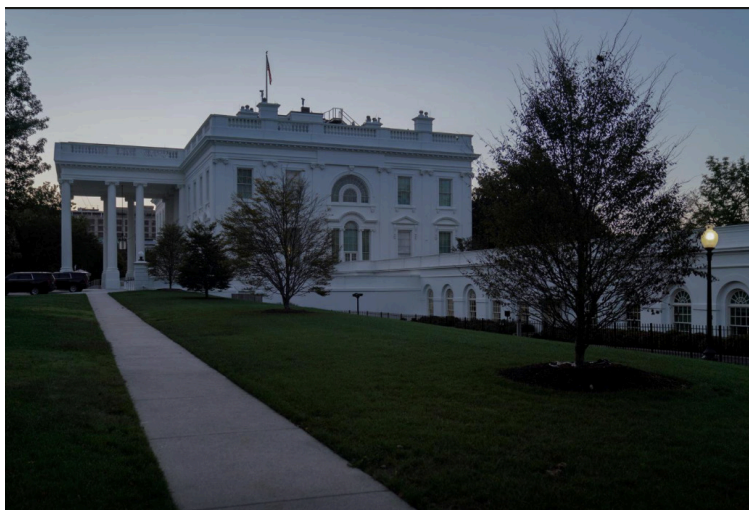
Elected officials who represent Washington and surrounding areas where many White House and other government workers live said they feared the outbreak connected to the Trump administration was "out of control."

President Donald Trump disclosed on Friday that he and his wife, Melania, were infected, and the list of people who were in their proximity or at the White House in the days before the disclosure was still growing.

A presidential military aide and a military valet were the latest to test positive for the highly contagious disease.

White House staff tests are not reported with the rest of the city's results, and local officials are concerned staff and visitors could spread it to family and friends.

"We are alarmed and dismayed by the casual disregard for the health of our community, including



*General view of the White House early in the morning after U.S. President Donald Trump was taken to hospital in the wake of his coronavirus disease (COVID-19) diagnosis, in Washington, D.C., U.S. October 3, 2020. REUTERS*

constituents who work at the White House as staff, agents or officers of the United States Secret Service, journalists of the White House Correspondents Association, and the general public," a group of Congressional Democrats who represent the city and nearby Maryland and Virginia said in a statement.

A White House event on Sept. 26 for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett was suspected of spreading infections, as was an Air Force One flight that evening with Trump.

But several staff, guests and journalists at the event or on the flight told Reuters they have not been contacted by the White House medical team.

Ideally, anyone who was at the White House the weekend before Trump said he was infected should be

quarantining, "especially in this case where there is a cluster emerging," said Jeremy Konyndyk, from the Center for Global Development think tank, who previously led the U.S. response to the Ebola outbreak.

Contact tracers should be identifying where the cluster of infected cases was at the White House, said Konyndyk, notifying anyone who was near them, and trying to pinpoint the "index case," or person who likely spread the virus to everyone else.

Then they should go backward to follow that person's movements over previous days, and notify people the spreader was with, he said.

Instead, some White House guests, visitors and reporters are taking matters into their own hands.

Reverend Paul Scalia of the St. James Catholic

Church in suburban Virginia, who attended the Sept. 26 ceremony at the Rose Garden, made arrangements for testing and quarantined as soon as he heard of the president's condition on Friday.

"The lack of masks and social distancing at that event has become a legitimate cause of concern, especially since the President's Covid-19 diagnosis and hospitalization," Scalia, the son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, said in a letter here to his church. He said White House staff told him he could remove his mask after testing negative before the event.

Other politicians are going about life as usual.

Defying airline policy banning those who have been exposed, three Republican members of Congress from Minnesota - Representatives Pete Stauber, Tom Emmer and Jim Hagedorn - flew home from Washington on Friday despite having traveled with Trump to and from a rally in Duluth on Wednesday.

Aides to the three lawmakers, who had tested negative for coronavirus, did not respond to requests for comment about whether there had been any contact tracing.

During a flight after the

*cont'd on pg 21*

# Singapore will pay citizens to have a baby during pandemic

(CNN) Singapore will offer a one-time payment to aspiring parents during the coronavirus pandemic.

The country's deputy prime minister said the incentive would help reassure people who face financial pressure and are worried about their jobs.

"We have received feedback that Covid-19 has caused some aspiring parents to postpone their parenthood plans," Heng Swee Keat told lawmakers on Monday.

"This is fully understandable, especially when they face uncertainty with their income," he added.

Heng said the payment would help parents with expenses, but he did not confirm how much would be paid out.

Despite a largely successful public health response to the pandemic, Singapore's economy has been thrown into a deep recession.

GDP likely shrank 12.6% in the second quarter compared to the same time the previous year, marking "the steepest drop on record," according to economists.

Singapore has one of the lowest birth rates in the world, a statistic that successive governments have attempted unsuccessfully to reverse.

The fertility rate now stands at just 1.14 births per woman, according to



its national statistics body.

That places it level with Hong Kong, according to the World Bank. Only South Korea and the US territory of Puerto Rico have lower rates.

For a country to naturally repopulate itself, women must have 2.1 babies on average — though most developed countries are now below that level, as a decline in the proportion of couples and the lessening importance of traditional gender roles have seen fertility rates drop globally.

Singapore has struggled to reverse the trend since the 1980s, with public campaigns encouraging childbirth and a host of financial and tax incentives unable to stop its slump.

"Like many developed countries, Singapore's key population challenges are our low fertility and an ageing population," the government wrote in a 2011 report. "Our aim is to achieve a sustainable population that supports both economic growth and social cohesion, so that Singapore remains vibrant and liveable."

The country has avoided the worst of the global pandemic, isolating suspected cases early, imposing strict lockdowns when clusters of infections became apparent, and using technological innovations to rush out a contact tracing network. Just 27 people have died as a result of Covid-19, according to Johns Hopkins University.

.....  
*cont'd from pg 20*

Sept. 26 White House event, an unmasked Trump came back to the rear of the plane to speak to journalists, including a Reuters correspondent, standing just a few feet away.

New York Times correspondent Michael Shear, who was on the flight and later tested positive for the

virus, told Axios his wife has also tested positive. "The collateral damage is going to be pretty significant, I think," he said.

No one at the White House had reached out to him to trace his contacts despite his proximity to the president, he said.

Spokesman Judd Deere said the White House has

a "robust contact tracing program led by the White House Medical Unit with CDC integration," and added it was "consistent with CDC guidelines."

There is currently no regular testing and tracing regime in place for the more than 20,000 people who work in the dozen buildings that form the U.S. Capitol

complex.

Both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi have resisted establishing one, at least partly because of the huge number of people involved, arguing that the 535 members of Congress should not cut ahead of others in more dire need of testing.

## Kyrgyzstan prime minister resigns amid election protests

(Aljazeera) Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov has stepped down after the Central Electoral Commission annulled the results of Sunday's parliamentary elections in response to accusations of vote-rigging.

Boronov and Dastan Jumabekov, the speaker of the country's parliament, presented their resignation letters at a meeting of legislators in the capital Bishkek on Tuesday.

At an emergency session on Tuesday, the parliament appointed Sadyr Zhaparov, a founder of the opposition Mekenchi party, which had lost the election, as acting prime minister.

Earlier on Tuesday, Zhaparov had been released by protesters from prison, where he was serving a sentence of 11 years and six months for taking a government official hostage in 2013.

Thousands took to Ala-Too's square on Monday to protest against electoral fraud. The riots that ensued saw the security services respond with tear gas, rubber bullets and shock grenades against the protesters, killing one 19-year-old and injuring 590.

Later that day, protesters stormed the White House, which hosts the offices of the country's president and parliament.

A video that made rounds on social media saw members of the security services



*People protest against the results of a parliamentary vote in Bishkek*

declare: "We're with you."

A group of 13 opposition parties on Tuesday formed a Coordinating Council which has temporarily assumed full responsibility for finding a way out of the current deadlock.

The mayors of Bishkek and Osh and the governors of Naryn, Talas, and Issyk-Kul regions have resigned.

While President Sooronbay Jeenbekov – who was allied with Boronov – made an appearance calling for calm, most believe his days in power are numbered.

Kyrgyzstan is no stranger to political upheavals. In the past 15 years, the country faced two revolutions – in 2005 and 2010 – against the corrupt political class and electoral fraud.

The 2010 revolution saw ethnic clashes in the majority Uzbek south of the country in which more than 400 people lost their lives and many thousands were displaced.

The regional divide between north and south has long been the most significant split in Kyrgyz society, with the 2010 revolution seen as orchestrated by the north and imposed on the disenfranchised south.

The new constitution drafted following the upheaval was meant to bring about a parliamentary democracy.

But in 2020, the vision of a democratic Kyrgyzstan, often called the island of democracy in a heavily authoritarian region, seems far-fetched.

Sunday's election saw widespread reports of vote-buying and high mobilisation of administrative resources in favour of the three main governing parties – especially Mekenim Kyrgyzstan, funded by the businessmen and former deputy customs chief Raimbek Matraimov.

"A lot of people felt that this was to be expected considering how the two ruling

parties didn't just win but won so obviously in a manipulated way," Christopher Schwartz, a Bishkek-based journalist and expert, told Al Jazeera.

"A lot of people are frustrated and disappointed and believe that the authorities have had this coming."

Schwartz said that the streets of Bishkek were mostly calm, but tense, on Tuesday, and that people are sitting tight and waiting for what is to come.

"There is significantly less violence than in the previous revolution 10 years ago but certainly nobody knows where this is going," he said.

Hopes were high ahead of the election that the vote might bring a long-awaited change in the country. But none of the opposition parties reached the 7 percent threshold required to enter parliament.

Bruce Pannier, a correspondent with US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), told Al Jazeera that in Sunday's election, unlike in other votes, a number of opposition parties put forward younger candidates who have lived most of their lives in the independent nation that followed Soviet rule.

"So there were expectations that things might be moving in a different direction. A lot of opposition parties had pretty charismatic figures," Pannier said.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

**POINTE X PRESS**  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### AGS SUSPENDS AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

In order to bring the Antigua Grammar School into full compliance with the Ministry of Education's Safety Protocols for the protection of staff and students from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the general public is asked to take note that with immediate effect and until further notice, all non-educational after hours activities on the school's premises have been suspended. This includes sporting activities or meetings of any kind. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.

DAY 10/7

NIGHT 10/7

30° Hi



Intervals of clouds and  
sunshine with a couple of showers

25° Lo



Patchy clouds with  
a shower in spots

### SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
5:58 AM

Sunset AST  
5:51 PM



Duration  
11:53 hr

### MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
9:58 PM

Moonset AST  
11:27 AM



Duration  
13: 29 hr

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

## 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.

### EAG TRASH CHALLENGE CLEANUP

Register your crew, collect your curated COVID-19 cleanup kit, download the Cleanswell App, clean up while social distancing and take photos and tag us on social media @eagantigua for the Environment Awareness Group's Trash Challenge Antigua & Barbuda #COVIDCLEANUP on Saturday, October 10. Register at <http://bit.ly/covidcleanup268> or call 462 6236 for more information.

### 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 Sagcor 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](http://www.civil.org) or call 462-4822 or 464-2705 for more information. Submit your community notices to [news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)

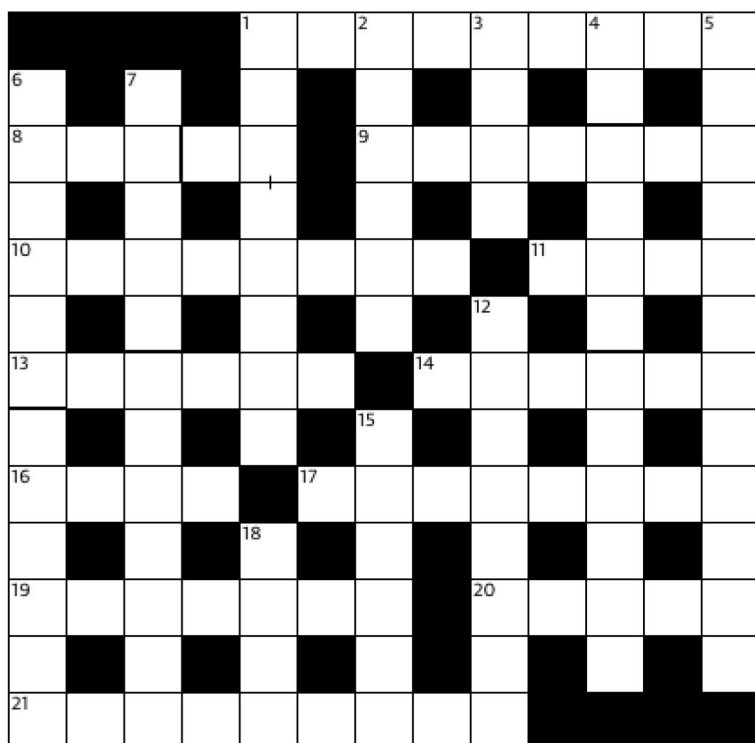
### ROAD WORK ON SIR GEORGE WALTER HIGHWAY:

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.

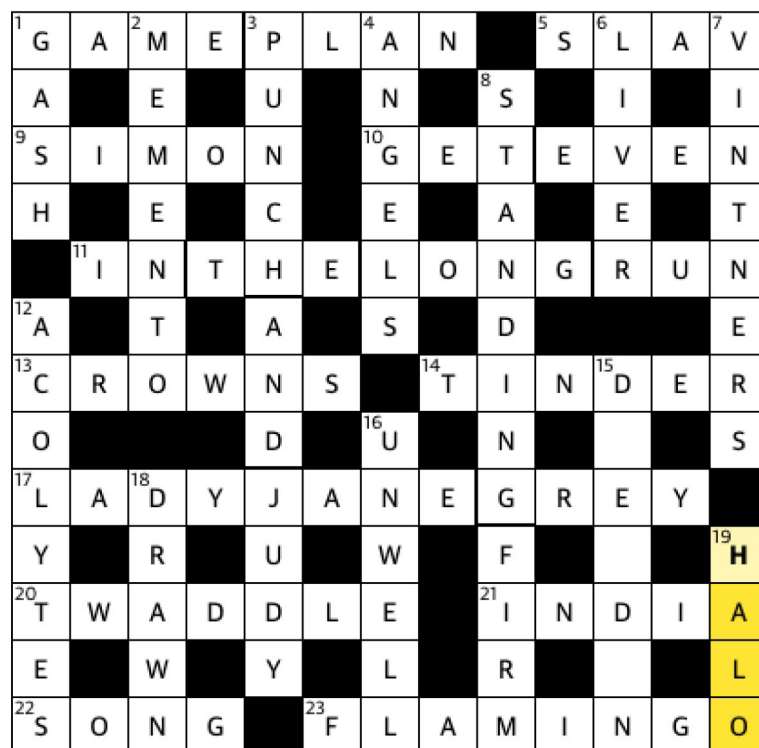
Submit your community notices to [news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)

## LEISURE

Quick crossword No 15,731



Quick crossword No 15,729



## Across

- 1 Do several things concurrently (9)  
 8 Deplete (3,2)  
 9 Blue or white cheese originally from Leicestershire (7)  
 10 Copied (8)  
 11 Unit of distance (4)  
 13 Mug (6)  
 14 Spice, mainly from Indonesia, made by grinding seeds of an evergreen tree (6)  
 16 River of the Yorkshire Dales (4)  
 17 Client (8)  
 19 Distended (7)  
 20 Lennox or Leibovitz? (5)  
 21 Unwilling (9)

## Down

- 1 Cartographer (3-5)  
 2 Diminish (6)  
 3 Part of the eye (4)  
 4 Now (2,4,6)  
 5 Nursery school (12)  
 6 Crosser of the Rubicon, 49 BC (6,6)  
 7 Author of The Hunting of the Snark (5,7)  
 12 Take away (8)  
 15 Old gold coin, worth 21 shillings (6)  
 18 Group of countries acting together (4)

## CARTOON CORNER

## The Academia Waltz by Berkeley Breathed



"Coach wants to know if it hurts too much to play."



## DAILY HOROSCOPE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Windies squads for NZ tour to be chosen next week

The West Indies are scheduled to play three Twenty20 (T20) Internationals and two Tests from November 27th to December 15th, and according to Cricket West Indies (CWI) chief selector, Roger Harper, an expanded squad of reserves will be included in keeping with the new protocols amid the novel coronavirus pandemic.

“There’ll be a T20 International team and of course the Test team and as usual now. We’ll be taking some reserve players on tour which will serve to provide backup players if needed during the tour as well as provide practice players,” Harper told i95FM Sports.

“What is likely to happen, because of scheduling, is the Test team is likely to go out first and have an early camp and some of the T20 players who are in the region will

travel with that Test team and the T20 players who are involved in the IPL (Indian Premier League) will join the team later.”

The tour is the second one for West Indies, following their historic three Test series in England last July the first to be played in a bio-secure environment due to COVID-19.

No spectators were allowed at matches and players were placed in an isolated bubble away from the general public for the duration of the tour.

New Zealand has been one of the most successful nations in managing the pandemic with 1500 confirmed infections, only 41 active cases and 25 deaths.

Despite the relatively low risk, Harper said players had been briefed on the protocols and would be given the

option to decline selection.

“There was a briefing recently where the players were informed of what is taking place, what measures have been put in place, what protocols will obtain during the tour and when we look at finalizing the squad, we’ll discuss with them whether they are willing to tour or not and get their position on that,” Harper explained.

He added: “At this point, we’ve not had a definite indication from anyone that they’re not interested in touring.”

West Indies were forced to travel without left-handers Darren Bravo and Shimron Hetmyer along with all-rounder Keemo Paul for the tour of England after the trio declined selection due to COVID-19 fears.

The tour, however, was seen as a success for the

new biosecure protocols and West Indies Women subsequently undertook a five-match T20 International series in England earlier this month.

West Indies will open the tour of New Zealand with the T20 series, the first match scheduled for Eden Park in Auckland under lights, with the last two set for Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui on November 29th and 30th.

Seddon Park in Hamilton will host the first Test starting December 3th with the historic Basin Reserve in Wellington the stage for the second Test beginning December 11th.

West Indies have not won a Test series on New Zealand soil in 25 years. Their last Test series win over the Black Caps was eight years ago in the Caribbean.

## Swimming Federation preparing for 2021

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation, Dr. Derek Marshall, says clubs around the island are actively practicing while adhering to the health protocols set out by the Ministry of Health.

“Before COVID-19, we had a lot of plans in place to participate in a number of tournaments including CARIFTA. FINA, the body recognized by the international Olympic Committee (IOC) for administering international swimming competitions, has canceled all events for 2020,” Marshall noted.

In the Caribbean, similar decisions

have been taken to cancel all tournaments for 2020. Despite the disappointments this year, Marshall explained that he is hoping 2021 can be productive as athletes have been deflated by the fact that, at least for the immediate future, there will be no competitions to look forward to.

There are five clubs on island and Marshall expressed that plans are in place to prepare the athletes going forward.

“Most of our top swimmers train and are based abroad,” he shared.

Regarding the association’s funding,



antigua & barbuda  
swimming federation

Marshall explained that they are supported by the parents of their members, the National Olympic Committee, FINA and the government.

He is also encouraging parents to join their children’s swimming clubs as it is a life saving sport.

We are surrounded by water and most swimmers turn out to be good students and productive citizens,” Marshall said.

## Drogba rejected for Ivory Coast Federation polls

Didier Drogba has been told he is not eligible to stand in upcoming elections where the next president of the Ivory Coast Football Federation (FIF) will be decided.

Along with three others, Drogba submitted papers to stand in the polls earlier this month.

The FIF's Electoral Commission ruled that the former Chelsea striker did not fulfill its long list of eligibility criteria.

His bid was rejected as two of the names he submitted as his sponsors were ruled not to have the necessary authority to do so.

Officials from the Ivorian club, Africa Sport, and a body representing ref-

erees, AMAF-CI, have backed the federation's current First Vice President, Sory Diabate.

Different officials from the same organizations had also signed Drogba's papers, with the FIF commission ruling they were not authorized to do so.

In the case of Africa Sport, a sporting club in Ivory Coast, the head of its football section had given his approval to Drogba while the chairman of the whole club had backed Diabate.

It meant that Drogba only had the backing of two top flight Ivorian clubs and not the three that FIF statutes demand.

The rejection will come as a bitter blow to football fans in Ivory Coast,



*Didier Drogba*

thousands of whom had come out to support him earlier this month when he submitted his bid to stand for the presidency of FIF.

Drogba has five days to appeal the decision.

## FIFA to pay 60K by October 15

FIFA, football's world governing body, has been ordered to pay \$60,000 to the Trinidad and Tobago Supreme Court Registrar on or before October 15.

This is in relation to a costs application filed by the United TTFA attorney, Matthew Gayle, in the Court of Appeal in Port of Spain on Monday.

If FIFA fails to pay the sum within the stipulated time, its appeal to not have the case against the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) heard in local courts will be thrown out.

FIFA removed the William Wallace-led executive from the helm of the TTFA in mid-March citing massive

debt and financial mismanagement. The sport's governing body then appointed a Normalization Committee to run Trinidad and Tobago's football affairs.

The ousted regime deemed this move by FIFA "ille-

gal" and opted to contest the matter in local courts. FIFA, however, maintains the stance that the Court of Arbitration (CAS) in Switzerland is the only recognized path to resolve such disputes.

If FIFA does not pay the money, the procedural appeal cannot go forward and cannot be heard on October 19. This means United TTFA would win the appeal to have the case heard in Trinidad.

*cont'd from pg 28*

istry of Tourism.

In a conversation with PointeXpress, Anton further explained that kite surfing has the potential to create revenue for Antigua and Barbuda through sports tourism. In support of this he pointed to the vast numbers of people from Europe and North America who travel to the Dominican Republic to participate in the sport.



*Adam Anton*

Anton, Tyson and other regularly at Jabberwock kite surfers can be found Beach honing their skills.

# Sports

WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2020

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## Kite surfing moving towards forming an association

National kite surfer, Tiger Tyson, has been flying under the radar on the sports scene in Antigua and Barbuda.

The 18-year-old, who already has a wealth of experience as a kite surfer, has been representing the nation at the highest levels on the world youth circuit. The two-time youth North American/Caribbean champion is very passionate about the sport and says, despite the setback of the COVID-19 pandemic, he continues to train since it's a non-contact sport.

"I do most of my training at Jabberwock beach or out at Green Island," Tyson stated.

In 2017, Tyson participated in the Open World Championship, where he

was ranked number. In the Youth Olympics in 2018, he secured fifth place and a year later in 2019 at the Pan American Games he finished in sixth place.

Tiger, who also competed in the 2017, 2018 and 2019 World Championships and European Championships, says he is looking forward to the 2021 Olympics slated for Tokyo, Japan.

Adam Anton is another instrumental figure in the development of kite surfing on the island. Anton says kite surfers are moving toward forming an association in order to better organise and grow their sport.

He also noted that kite surfing is a very expensive sport which may be part of the reason why there are



National kite surfer, Tiger Tyson

not more participants locally. Nonetheless, Anton is encouraging young Antiguan and Barbudans to try kite surfing which is a very exciting sport.

The cost for a startup gear costs in the region of US\$1000.00. Intense lessons lasting between

three and seven days at minimum are also required before new participants in the sport will be ready to go out to sea alone.

The community of Antigua and Barbuda kite surfers have also expressed that they are eagerly looking forward to 2021 and to the continuation of amicable relations with the Min-

*cont'd on pg 27*

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# TOUCH LINE

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**VERNON A. SPRINGER**

  
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**7:00am - 8:30am**





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