



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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LIAT FLIES AGAIN!



AN INDEPENDENCE GIFT

SEE PAGE 3

Don't Turn Your Back on Your Culture

We want to celebrate Culture! We want to celebrate our steelband music, our calypso, our rhythms, our rhymes, but in recent times, at least the feeling is that in recent times, we seem to have forgotten that we can love our own and that our own is good enough.

Imagine attending the celebration of the life of King Swallow; the man who set the trend for the soca kingdom, who practically every modern soca artist in Antigua and Barbuda credits with some part of their development, and not hearing one song of his considerable musical lexicography. Who would have ever imagined that no calypsonian would have been granted the privilege of paying their last respects?

Imagine too, that the Kirby brothers and the other founding members of the Halcyon Steel Orchestra would have to sit in the gallery and listen to Sir Selwyn being eulogised and celebrated without an opportunity for pan, the instrument he held dear, to be heard.

We are uncertain who makes the decisions concerning national ceremonial events, but someone seems bent on abandoning the things that make who we are. Our culture, our ways; all indelible parts of our story.

Antigua and Barbuda, the land of 365 beaches which appeal to tourists, is also home to some of us by birth and for others by choice.

What is it then that becomes

so twisted in our minds that we would become convinced that the time honoured traditions of those who preceded us are inadequate to celebrate us and form part of all the mores and processes established as the formal parts of our existence? Why can't we accept that our today is to a large extent the result of our yesterdays?

On one hand we deliberately opt to celebrate that the steel pan is an indomitable part of our heritage and history, while on the other it is inadequate as part of our thanksgiving. For another aspect of our heritage we choose to celebrate calypso, yet we find it difficult, near impossible, to allow the medium to celebrate one of its legends.

In essence, we are saying once there is an important occasion our cultural norms and values are neither relevant nor important. There seems to be no place in modern times for the inclusion of kaiso and pan in the celebration of life, the remembrance of invaluable contributions and other occasions of political grandeur. It is almost as if the 1950s and 1960s, in which so many fought for the right to indulge in and develop our cultural norms, are no longer a part of us.

Thankfully, all is not lost. There are a few institutional centres left that celebrate culture. The Royal Police Force Band never misses an opportunity to put some 'fire under we foot' or 'to want to wine on something' in

tribute to the music that raised us.

There are also other lesser known institutions that pay homage to the spirit of our past.

It is not too late. There is still time for those responsible for planning and executing national events to pay attention to the peculiarities of our people and carve out spaces in which we can celebrate who we are through our unique and indigenious expressions.

We are who we are! The notion that we must embrace other styles and norms does a disservice to us as a people. We are finding ways through 'Lighting a Candle' when we should be focused on how 'Man to Man' is so unjust and find creative ways to foster, preserve and showcase our own.

We must consider that it is critical to the growth and development of our nation to include the expansion of the creative industries. We must inculcate these habits so that they become the norms of society in all facets.

We must banish those who are comfortable with turning their back on our culture to 'love somebody else own'.

Don't turn your back on your culture in any space! Don't turn and leave it alone to love 'somebody else own'! Let our music and way of life be part of the things we celebrate and who we are!

LIAT back in the air for Independence!



LIAT's inaugural return flight scheduled for Independence Day 2020

By Shelton Daniel

"Welcome news that will coincide with Antigua and Barbuda's 39th anniversary of independence!"

This is how the government of Antigua and Barbuda is hailing the expected return of LIAT to the skies on November 1st 2020.

The Antigua-headquartered airline has been grounded for the past six months due to the coronavirus pandemic and its staff, at all levels, were laid off.

Already in deep financial problems, including a heavy debt burden, long before COVID-19 struck, LIAT faced what seemed to be inevitable liquidation from which staff and creditors were likely to recover very little or nothing at all, but the deter-

mination of Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne provided hope for the airline to be saved through its restructuring and reorganization. This is expected to result in a slimmed-down operation with fewer planes, personnel, overall assets and scope of service.

LIAT has been placed under the court ordered administration of Cleveland Seaforth following amendments to the Antigua and Barbuda Companies Act that protected it from forced dissolution to satisfy the claims of creditors.

During Thursday morning's weekly post-Cabinet press briefing, Information and Broadcasting minister, Melford Nicholas, disclosed that LIAT's restart

route "would be from Antigua to Dominica on a date of great symbolic importance."

He added that "beyond the first flight the regular schedule of operations, even though it is a reduced [one], will commence on the 8th of November."

Minister Nicholas noted that such a development augurs well for the economy of Antigua and Barbuda, and the wider OECS, as people in these territories will be able to resume travel between the islands.

"We are delighted because there is a travel bubble between the member states of the OECS, which will certainly give LIAT an opportunity to have unfettered travel between these member states and,

of course, Barbados as well," the minister added.

Asked what arrangements had been made to facilitate LIAT's return to operation, including arrangement for staff to man the airline, Minister Nicholas replied that Cabinet did not have all the details. He explained that "much of this information would fall within the scope of the administrator who had, by invitation, briefed Cabinet on these developments during its weekly meeting on Wednesday".

"From my own understanding, there is significant work being done from an HR standpoint in terms of some of the measures that have to be done. To my understanding, legally the administrator would have to go back to court to seek the court's consent to be able to deal with the type of separation and rehiring at different rates of all of these issues where they will have to deal with the issuing of different contracts."

With its restart imminent, LIAT stands to benefit from the fact that it has been granted permission to fly into the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) and Puerto Rico which are potentially lucrative markets.

Ministry of Information launches COVID-19 website

The Ministry of Information has embarked on launching a user friendly COVID-19 Website.

The new website <https://covid19.gov.ag> which is the sole repository of COVID-19 Coronavirus Health information in the country provides up-to-date local, regional and global statistics.

The ministry's communications officer, Jaquis Browne, said the website is expected to assist persons to stay informed with links to the latest health guidelines, regulations and travel advisories. "All of

us have to stay aware of the latest COVID-19 information by regularly checking local sites such as this one and local public health authorities," she noted.

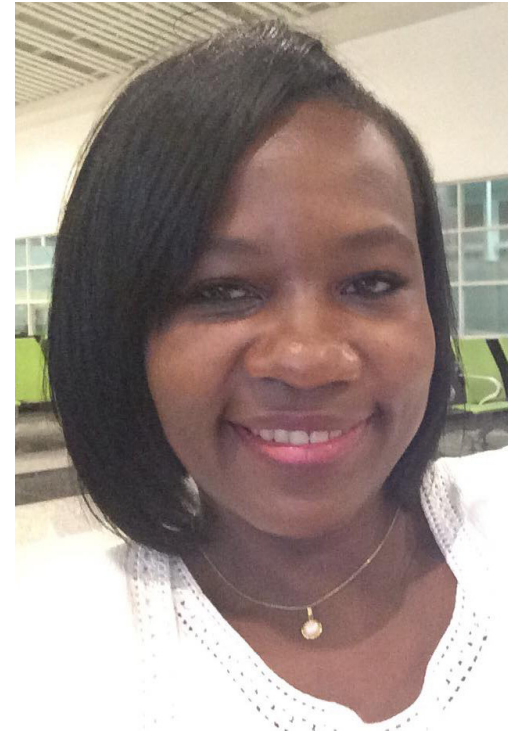
The website also features links on the wearing of masks, physical distancing, and the washing of hands. Key Insights from the World Health Organization (WHO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) are also shared on the website.

There's also a Contact Us tab for persons to contact the Quarantine Authority, the

Mount St. John's Medical Centre, the Ministry of Health, the Central Board of Health and the Ministry of Tourism & Investment.

Meanwhile, the most recent report received by the Ministry of Health from the Mount St. John's Medical Center (MSJMC) has revealed no new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 21st October 2020 at 6pm.

Subsequent to the publication of

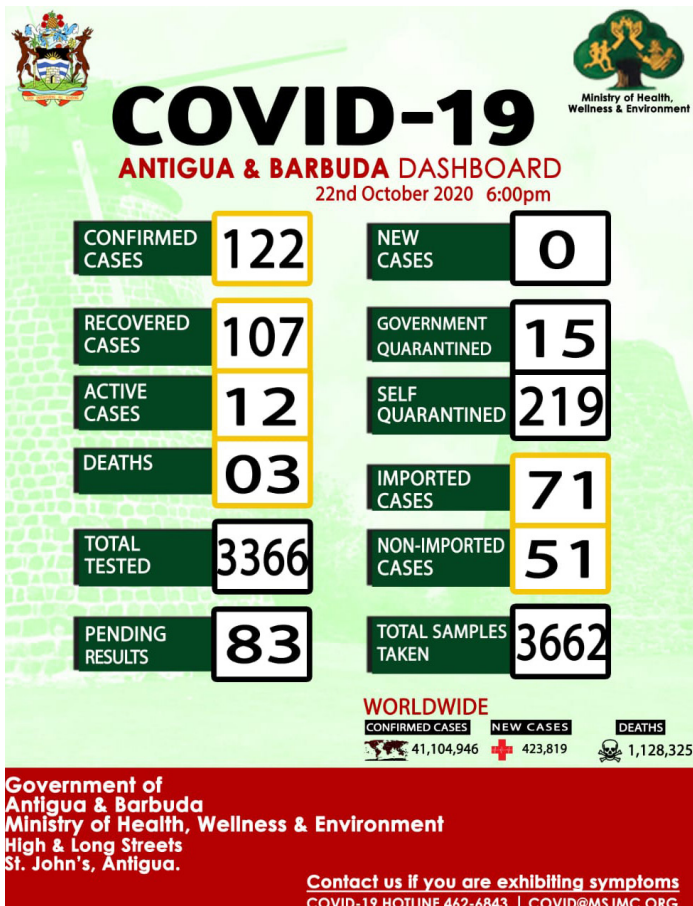


Jaquis Browne Information and Communications Officer, Minister of Information, Broadcasting and Information Technology

the dashboard on Wednesday 21st October 2020 with the cut off time of 6pm, ten samples were processed at the Mount St. John's Medical Center's Laboratory which increased the pending results from zero to ten.

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

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda remains at one hundred and twenty-two (122) with twelve (12) active cases.



UNESCO to fund mammoth Cultural Heritage Project



Antigua and Barbuda, through the Department of Culture, has secured just over a quarter of a million dollars from the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to undertake a major cultural mapping project.

In a statement, the department said the amount of EC\$264,185.07 will be used to conduct an inventory, pro-

mote and safeguard important elements of Antigua and Barbuda's cultural heritage.

The 19-month project entitled "Strengthening Capacities for the Implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Antigua and Barbuda" will commence in 2021.

According to Cultural

Advisor and the project's manager, Dr. Hazra C. Medica, the project was formulated after eight months of consultations with representatives from the private, public and civil sectors.

Dr. Medica revealed that the project is a mammoth undertaking that will collect data from every parish and Barbuda for the country's first ever national living heritage inventory. She noted that the project will also include two pilot safeguarding activities – a warri programme and a traditional boatbuilding programme – as a trial for future safeguarding of inventoried elements.

"The warri programme will teach interested youth and adults the history and skills of the game. Selected youths will also be trained in the

making of warri boards for local purchase. Moreover, tree-planting exercises will be undertaken to increase the number of *Caesalpinia Crista* trees, the source of the seeds used in warri," the release stated.

Young people selected to participate in the boat building exercise will be trained in boat building by one of the country's few remaining traditional boat builders. In the long term, the boat building programme will be used to elaborate localised occupation standards, certification and curricula in the field and widen the maritime skills and opportunities among youth. The programme, which will produce a tradition-inspired vessel, is also hoped to facilitate the rebirth of

cont'd on pg 6





Jahfari Joseph-Hazelwood

Antigua and Barbuda is abuzz with excitement and a national outpouring of support for Jahfari Joseph-Hazelwood who is among eleven finalists in the Commonwealth Composition Challenge (CCC).

In a competition which attracted participation from hundreds of applicants, there are three awards at

A&B musician in Commonwealth competition finals

stake: the 2020 Commonwealth Composition Challenge, which will be decided by the panel of adjudicators; the Young Adjudicators Award; and the CICA Audience Award which will go to the piece receiving the greatest number of online audience votes.

The CCC is organized annually by Commonwealth Resounds and serves to connect musical cultures and promote musical initiatives and partnerships in Commonwealth countries. It also aims to support and participate in cultural projects.

Jahfari Joseph-Hazelwood said he is extremely excited to be the only finalist from the Caribbean in the 2020 Commonwealth Resounds.

When Pointe Entertainment caught up with him, Jahfari said, "To be the only

one from the Caribbean is definitely something I am very proud of. [I'm] still trying to wrap my head around it."

Jahfari has participated in previous Commonwealth Resound competitions. In 2019 he participated in the Antigua Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra's (ABYSO) summer composition workshop with the Commonwealth Resound and was recognised for his piece entitled 'Mori'.

Music became a part of Jahfari's life very early on. He began formal music training at four years old.

"The earliest memory I can recall of being involved in music is enjoying myself at steelband practice at La Chateau Dor Academy during the days when I first started there about thirteen or fourteen years ago," he reflected.

cont'd from pg 5

the local boat building industry.

Other components of the 19 month long project include the publication of a short book on our cultural heritage, capacity building workshops for selected residents, teaching students traditional toy making using recycled and indigenous materials and cultural exhibitions.

Minister Culture and the Arts, Daryll Matthew, expressed gratitude to UNESCO for its timely investment in the country's culture. He describes the project as an apt response to long standing public anxiety that important elements of the nation's culture will eventually vanish with the passing of the holders of the knowledge and skills associated with them.

Minister Matthew also com-

mended the project for components that will equip young people with knowledge and skills designed to enhance their earning opportunities and marketability.

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is rolling out another initiative to benefit its customers who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A recent statement issued by APUA said the organisation recognises that many people have faced challenging economic constraints due to the coronavirus pandemic. The utilities provider pointed out that it has already established a series of measures to assist customers to navigate these difficult times.

"APUA has reduced the fuel variation charge, increased the

discount percentage to 15% for payment of electricity bills paid in full on or before the due dates and temporarily halted the disconnection of all utility services provided by the Authority for the past seven months."

Now, APUA is encouraging consumers who are experiencing difficulties maintaining their accounts to call its Credit Control Department and speak with a representative to discuss manageable payment plans.

APUA also commended their business and residential customers for their continued efforts to make payments to their accounts even during this difficult time.

Stubborn people fueling coronavirus spread

By Shelton Daniel

Too many Antiguan and Barbudans are slack in their adherence to the prescribed safety measures for preventing the transmission and spread of COVID-19.

No words were minced concerning this issue as it was addressed by Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas, on Thursday morning's post-Cabinet press briefing.

He revealed that the widespread carelessness and nonchalance regarding the coronavirus is a source of tremendous worry to the Cabinet of Ministers and health authorities.

"The major concern that came out of Cabinet was the alarm raised by the Ministry of Health in respect of the conduct and the behavior of some members of the society - whether or not it is born out of a sense of comfort because of the way we have managed the COVID crisis to date - where persons have lowered their guard and have not been operating based on the description from the Ministry of Health and the quarantine officials."

Nicholas served a reminder that when it comes to management of the pandemic vis-à-vis the reopening of the country's borders and economy, "A lot hangs on what we do individually as citizens. It's not going to be entirely up to the government."

He observed that the "necessity to rekindle the economy and ensure that everyone who was working before COVID could return to work" has "increased the level of risk to the health of the country".

Nicholas said there is therefore no reason "for anyone to feel complacent and not practice the type of protocols that we have so well developed".

He continued, "So the call is going out once more for residents and citizens to pay attention and not lower their guard, and to maintain the social distancing and other protocols that are so important in helping us to manage the spread of COVID."

"The Ministry of Health has expressed alarm that because of lax tendencies, we have now seen the spread in the

domestic population. In a number of cases where persons have become careless, if not reckless, much of the focus has been placed on persons who have gone out and have had some degree of relaxation and social interaction at bars, restaurants."

Nicholas stressed that there is nothing wrong with people patronizing these establishments, but in the course of doing so they must avoid clustering that could facilitate the transmission of the virus.

He said Cabinet is calling on law enforcement to increase their checks on these businesses where violations of social distancing and other protocols appear to be most prevalent.

He added that as part of "the element of greater control that now has to be exercised" by the authorities, "within the next two weeks we will be equipped with the tamper-proof bracelets that we have been touting for a very long time. We are looking as well to strengthen the fines for persons who wantonly violate quarantine conditions."

The Cabinet notes said that as of yesterday, 12 active cases were being treated. One of those patients is receiving care at the Infectious Diseases Center located at the Holberton Hospital.

277 persons are in self-quarantine while 15 are quarantined in a government run center. A total of 3,260 persons have been tested, 122 have been confirmed positive, 107 have recovered and 3 have died.

In March, when the first case of coronavirus was detected in Antigua and Barbuda, seven persons tested positive. 18 tested positive in April and only 1 in May. In June, when the country's borders were reopened to international travel, 44 persons tested positive including 21 returning nationals from Santo Domingo and 19 who came in from the US aboard an American Airlines flight. July brought 22 more positive cases, but August turned up only 3.

There were 12 positive cases in September and 15 so far for the month of October. These most recent infections have all occurred through domestic transmission.

Credit union dismisses social media rumors

Community First Co-operative Credit Union (CFCCU) is denying reports that several of its staff are in quarantine.

On Thursday, a Whatsapp message that later went viral, claimed that more

than twenty CFC-CU employees are in quarantine as a result of one of their colleagues testing positive for COVID-19.

CFCCU later issued a statement in which they said, "We have been made aware of

an inaccurate social media broadcast that has been circulating about our institution regarding the status of our operations at our Old Parham Road Branch. All branches of our operations are open for busi-

ness to our membership and stakeholders and members are free to conduct business as usual. We continue to maintain our COVID-19 protocols, as advised by the Ministry of Health, when you conduct business.

Breast cancer awareness charity event this Saturday

Cure. The car rally will depart JSC Sports Complex at 4:00 pm and end at the Five Islands playing field.

Breast cancer survivors and an oncologist will speak at the end of the drive bringing messages of endurance, survival and the vital role of support and timely health care.

The cost to participate is \$25 per vehicle, with no more than four people permitted per automobile, in keeping with COVID-19 protocols. Masks are mandatory. Registration may be done at Montgomery Chambers on All Saints Road. Proceeds raised in the event will

be donated to Breast Friends.

Entertainers, Ibis the Livest and Claudette "CP" Peters will also participate in the event.

In addition to observing Breast Cancer Awareness month, the breast cancer initiative is close to Senator Christian's heart. Christian has friends and associates who are survivors and she has expressed the desire to offer them public and tangible support.

A key objective of the charity event is to advocate for health vigilance and emphasize the fact that early cancer detection improves outcomes and survival.



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ENTERTAINMENT BY: IBIS THE LIVEST & CLAUDETTE "CP" PETERS

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PROCEEDS IN AID OF BREAST FRIENDS

A new not-for-profit organization, Odyssey Inc. Antigua and Barbuda, is combining its first public outing with the ongoing campaign to bring awareness to

breast cancer.

The brainchild of Senator Gail Christian, Odyssey Inc. will, on Saturday 24th October, hold a Pink-A-Thon Drive for the

Special opportunities for former LIAT workers



LIAT staff who are not rehired when the airline returns to operation next month are being encouraged to pool their skills and resources to offer aviation services to the airline.

Well known businesswoman and owner of Antigua Hangers Inc. which owns and operates on Runway 10, Makeda Mikael, has announced that she will use her resources to enable these employees to turn their years of aviation experience and skills into services LIAT will need.

"When LIAT returns to the sky, the airline will be operating as a very lean operation and it will not be able to rehire many of the over five hundred employ-

ees, however, it is likely that as part of the business plan, LIAT, in its desire to be as lean as possible, may find it necessary to outsource many of the services that it will need. I believe that these employees could take up these opportunities and start businesses that provide these services," Mikael told PointeXpress.

Among the services that could be offered are maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO). Other outsourced services could include reservation booking and ground handling.

Mikael said while the opportunity is targeted primarily at LIAT's employees, it is open to any Antigua and Barbuda national who may

wish to get involved in this business venture. She is of the view that some of the LIAT employees may be able to utilize funds from their severance packages to invest in the ventures. Additionally, she is suggesting that these investments could be-

come part of the packages negotiated with the employees.

"LIAT employees and Antiguanians with vision are invited to invest in businesses which could support the newly revolutionized LIAT of the future," the businesswoman declared.

Independence Calypso finalists named

Ten finalists in the 2020 Independence Calypso Monarch competition have been named.

This year, the show will be held virtually on Saturday 24th October. The performances will be aired on ABS Television and its social media platforms.

The finalists are Destroyer Snr., Drastic, Epic Byke, Island Prince, King Young Destroyer, Peetron, Redding, Richie Francis, Sahara and Supa D.

The winner of the Independence Calypso Monarch Competition will receive \$10,500.00.

Hotels seek local investors for expansion



Andrew Michelin, who has successfully owned and operated several hotels in Antigua and Barbuda, is now inviting local investors to partner with him as he undertakes the expansion of two of his properties.

In a media release the hotelier who is the principal of Alpha Hotel Investments, described the offer as 'a rare investment opportunity'. He is seek-

ing EC\$130,000.00 to undertake the investment. The investment, it said, will allow interested persons to be part of the evolution of two of Antigua's most popular accommodations.

"COCOS Hotel and the Keyonna Beach Resort will add thirty new cottages as part of an expansion project to begin in 2021. Ten cottages will be allotted to COCOS Hotel while the other twenty will be to Keyonna Beach Resort."

The release stated that the cottage style experience began as a five cottage project, a simple eight table restaurant and a mahogany tree. The aim was to enhance guests' dining experience and

support their need to feel completely at ease within our Caribbean setting.

The Keyonna Beach Resort expansion includes the addition of 600 feet of beachfront property, previously known as Blue Heron.

Michelin said, "The addition of these thirty cottages will increase employment opportunities, assist local farmers and contribute to the

cash flow in the economy as restaurants and businesses in the area will also be supported by visitor traffic."

Despite the effects of the pandemic, Michelin reported that "revenue for COCOS Hotel has been better than the same time in 2019". He added that "the surplus in demand clearly shows, now is the best time to re-energize and expand".



Monitoring bracelets due in November

The tracking bracelets that people entering quarantine will be required to wear will be introduced by early November.

Concerns over residents and visitors breaching quarantine rules and putting the population at increased risk of contracting COVID-19 led the gov-

ernment to find a method of strengthening its monitoring programme.

While the bracelets will also have the capacity to store a person's health information, focus is being placed on their tracking capability.

The implementation of the bracelet initiative is one of several measures intended to ensure

that people comply with COVID-19 regulations crafted for their safety and that of others.

Penalties are also in place for those breaking the rules. Police have been issuing tickets with attached fines to persons who are found in public places not wearing a mask.

Information Minister,

Melford Nicholas, says discussions are being held to consider increasing the penalties placed on persons who violate quarantine orders. He too has called on police to increase their surveillance of activities around the country where persons may not be complying with COVID-19 protocols.

The Inn receives BA Customer Excellence Award

The Inn At English Harbour has received a British Airways Customer Excellence Award for 2019.

The winner of this award is selected from unbiased customer reviews and is designed to showcase hotels that impress guests the most.

Inn At English Harbour received an overall score of 9.0/10.

British Airways Holidays is one of the UK's leading tour operators. As part of its commitment to providing high quality holidays, British Airways uses customer feedback to find its top rated hotels.

British Airways Holidays works with Reevo, an independent and impartial third-party company, to collect reviews from their customers. Reviews

are only collected from genuine British Airways Holidays customers, who are asked to score hotels based on location, service, cleanliness and sleep quality. Participants also give the hotel an overall score out of ten.

British Airways Holidays has gathered over 102,000 independent hotel reviews this year. In 2019, British Airways awarded close to 650 Customer Excellence Awards across the globe to recognise their top-rated hotels.

"Inn At English Harbour has been distinguished by British Airways Holidays customers for delivering a superior customer experience. We are delighted to confirm that you are one of our top-rated hotels for 2019," said Claire

Bentley, Managing Director of British Airways Holidays.

"We want to thank you, British Airways, for taking the time to recognise the hard work and dedication which we as a hotel have put in the industry. We are humbled by the level of appreciation of the loyal guests who visit us and we are happy to know that we made a difference as holiday makers. Our entire staff and all our team members are elated to receive this prestigious award. We thank you for your



support and pledge our continued commitment to you especially in these difficult times," a statement from The Inn said.

PM promises improved roads, facilities in Parham

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has promised residents of Parham Town relief in areas that require urgent attention, including infrastructure.

The commitment was made during a tour of a number of facilities in Parham Town on Thursday.

Prime Minister Browne, who was accompanied by a community activist, Robert "Bubbla" Young, said that the community had deteriorated badly and

gave the assurance that his government will focus on renewing its infrastructure.

"There are a number of roads that need to be addressed and a number of public buildings to include the Parham police station. We have made arrangements to lease the building that the late Quartz Frederick occupied at North Sound and use that as the temporary police station. We will also move immediately to demolish the

current police station and a building adjacent and reconstruct the facility into a more modern structure," PM Browne said.

The country's leader also visited the community clinic and gave a commitment to retrofit the facility with a suitable waiting area to accommodate patients who visit there from as far away as Willikies.

Prime Minister Browne also visited the community's fisheries complex and

market, both of which he said are in need of a major clean up.

"I was surprised by the condition of the fisheries complex in particular. There is a significant quantity of garbage at the facility, so we will ask National Solid Waste to do a significant clean up of the area soonest," he said.

Prime Minister Browne also spoke with residents of the community who shared their concerns with him.

Meet The Root Kulcha Band

Most of us are familiar with Ras Juba the artist, many of us may not be quite as familiar with the youthful talent who support his act. A group of talented young adults have come together to provide the pulsating sounds that will shortly become a part of our daily musical palette, The Root Kulcha Band!

Pointe Entertainment visited a band rehearsal on the eve of their participation in the Jamaican Buds and Brushes Virtual Concert where we asked about their choice of name, The Root Kulcha Band. The members were unified in voicing that the name represents their combined spirit. They pointed to a famous quote by Marcus Garvey, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

This, they said, speaks to the reality that our true 'kulcha' (culture) has been hidden from us for too long, in an apparent attempt to wipe it out from the pages of history.

The band's message is in their music which is connected to the 'root of our kulcha', hence TheRootKulchaBand.

The Root Kulcha Band, formally known as The Good Vibez Band, was formed in 2016. The age of the members at the time ranged from 14 to 20 years. As the members became more enlightened,



The Root Kulcha Band

and with the introduction of new members, the decision was taken this year to change their name to The Root Kulcha Band which better reflected their mission and values.

The mission of the members remained the same as before; to spread good vibes and positive energy to the people.

Lead singer, Ras Juba explained, "We realised that there was a lack in the culture and arts department where positivity, motivating and uplifting the younger generation was concerned. We are currently in the process of creating platforms and workshops with the "Heart Beat Sessionz"

school programme to contribute to the development of our young colleagues.

More information will be released to the media regarding the Heart Beat Sessionz project.

The Band has an impactful and impressive performance portfolio including Digicel's 2016 School Tours, ID Land in 2016 and 2017 and the One Nation Concert in 2020.

For bookings contact Naeem Richards on +1 268 727-1496 or email echoedpotential@gmail.com or jubamusic268@gmail.com

'The Homegrown Experience' premieres on Pointe FM



Lawrence M

Pointe FM, a member of the Pointville Communications Media Group, is excited to partner with Lawrence M., whose Facebook based show, 'The Homegrown Experience' will now be aired in a syndicated show on Pointe Fm radio.

Lawrence Mason, who resides in the United States, has remained firmly committed to Antigua and Barbuda's music. His tangible commitment is evident as he has used a variety of platforms, the internet in particular, to share the music of his homeland with the world.

His most recent initiative was born during the COVID-19 lockdown in March this year. Finding himself at home with nothing during the lockdown, Lawrence M decided he would pass the time by playing music to entertain his Facebook friends. His first programme had just fifteen live views, but this grew to almost 800 views just a few days later. The positive response motivated him to increase the number of shows to five days per weekly. After

retuning to work however, he reduced his show to a more manageable twice weekly schedule.

Lawrence's focus at the moment is his Saturday afternoon programme, 'The Homegrown Experience' which features the music of Antigua and Barbuda only. Over two hours of the show, the music of one selected Antiguan and Barbudan artist is featured.

Given Pointville Communication's commitment to providing a variety of programmes to celebrate the work of our local artists, partnering with renown Antiguan broadcaster, Lawrence M. to feature 'The Homegrown Experience', is ideal.

'The Homegrown Experience' will air exclusively on Pointe FM radio each Saturday from 2pm to 4pm.

**home
grown
experience**
WITH LAWRENCE M
SATURDAYS 2PM - 4PM
SYNDICATED ON POINTE FM 99.1

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

Ibo Fyah's 'Feel The Vibe' trending

Conscious reggae recording artist, Ibo Fyah, is generating a massive online buzz with the single, 'Feel The Vibe', which is now trending on the music platform, Audiomack.

"It is a positive uplifting song which is needed in times like these. People need to hear music like this to find inspiration," Ibo Fyah said. a

The song was produced by 12to12 Muzik on the Rockers Riddim with other artists including Charly Black, Delly Ranx and Ikaya. The tracks released on the Rockers Riddim are available on all digital platforms.

Ibo Fyah said he is very excited to know that people all

over the world are listening to his music and added that he is elated at the wonderful feedback he has been receiving.

"When you check the summary, it shows many countries tuned in and listening, so it's a great feeling and as I always say, the journey never stops."

Ibo Fyah is known for songs such as, 'My Joy', 'Bright World', 'Hungry Days' and 'Holding On'. He is currently in the studio working assiduously on new projects. The singer is on the verge of turning up promotions for the rest of this year into 2021, with collaborations with 12to12 Muzik and other well known international producers.



Conscious reggae artist Ibo Fyah

These follow his last major releases, 'Journey Never Stop' mixtape, Gateway EP and a number of singles.

Commenting on the coronavirus pandemic, Ibo Fyah encouraged his fellow Jamaicans and people the world over to exercise caution and to keep safe in these tumultuous times.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S HERITAGE

A celebration of our islands heritage

The Coal-Pot



Breaking bread has been a hallmark of family life in cultures across the globe for millennia.

Ask the elders in Antigua and Barbuda for their memories of communal meals in days gone by and many will recall with fondness the times spent sitting around a traditional earthenware pot, heated by hot coals, as the evening meal cooked.

While Amerindians are known to have used ceramics for cooking, some of the varieties which persist today are likely to have their roots in the customs that Antiguan's ancestors brought with them from Africa.

For some Antiguan and Barbudans all cooking was on a coal-pot until the early 70s.

The time-honoured practice makes for a unique taste too. Coals or wood are placed inside the bowl of the structure used to support the "jabba" which sits atop it.

The jabba's cousin - the "yabba", a flat, tray-like vessel - is used for roasting cassava bread, known locally as "bamboola", among other things.



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



Opinion

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OAS General Assembly failed the people of the Americas

(The writer is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the U.S. and the Organization of American States. He is also a senior fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto)

Anyone who followed the 50th regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), would be forgiven for believing it was held to discuss Venezuela and Nicaragua.

The assembly was held virtually on October 20 and 21, ostensibly to deal with "Facing the challenges of COVID-19" and seeking a collaborative approach "to address vulnerabilities and build resilience". That theme got scant attention. Reference to it by some ideologically bent countries was cursory. The representative of one powerful state did not even mention it.

The meeting concluded with no collaborative approach to deal with vulnerabilities and resilience. The key issue now confronting the developing member states of the Organization was shunted aside.

For the richer countries, their principal concern was Venezuela. Their overriding purpose was to secure positions

that bolster their efforts to get rid of the Maduro government and force acceptance of Juan Guaidó.

They used all their coercive power to achieve that objective, at the expense of dealing with the most injurious crisis that is devastating nations everywhere.

No wonder Ambassador Anton Edmunds of St Lucia declared that this "almost singular focus on one country within our region, a country with issues we are well aware of, is starving many of us of the support that we need at this critical time - be it security based or otherwise".

That poignant observation fell on deaf ears. So, too, did a cry from the Ambassador of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Lou-Anne Gilchrist, that the organization "re-focus and become more inclusive in its approach toward development".

Those who control the OAS appear to have little interest in the issues of survival that confront developing states. Increasingly, the Organization is becoming a weapon to advance their political interests solely. In that regard, its relevance to developing countries, which has always been questionable, is now becoming increasingly more pertinent.

CARICOM countries did



By Sir Ronald Sanders

manage to get through a resolution on Climate Change. But it is significant that the excellent draft, proposed by Barbados, was diluted at the insistence of a few richer countries. One of them rejected it to the end, even though it cannot be better known that Climate Change poses a grave threat to all OAS members regardless of their size or economic power.

In my own presentation, I urged that "the OAS should be a unified voice in advocating for strong and decisive action on climate financing, not as a concession, or an act of generosity, but as a moral, political, and environmental responsibility. OAS member states should also be a unified voice for the renegotiating and rescheduling of foreign debt; and for

cont'd on pg 16

Opinion

cont'd from pg 15

the affordable procurement of vaccines for all when one is found to counter COVID-19".

For the record, rather than because I expected any positive response, I said: "Integration and collective action in the OAS should not be an option, or a choice; it should be an imperative for all – rich and poor, large, and small".

But the governance of the OAS is fatally flawed. Only power prevails, not reason. And, the Secretary-General, Luis Almagro, who, in my view is capable of much better, has allowed himself to become part of that flawed governance. Repeatedly, he has caused the OAS to appear to be enflaming conflicts even ones, such as between Azerbaijan and Armenia, that are far removed from the Americas.

Consequently, the Assembly had to experience the indignity of allowing representatives of Azerbaijan and Turkey to speak, demanding that Mr. Almagro keep out of their regional affairs. He had issued a statement, without the knowledge of any official body of the Organization, accusing Azerbaijan of "aggression and escalation" of a complex conflict with Armenia.

In the event, the Mexican Government, through the voice of Maximiliano Reyes Zúñiga, Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, minced no words when he called out

this "worrying pattern".

He said: "We note the configuration of a worrying pattern of action of the General Secretariat, consisting of using its administrative powers to make political decisions that impact the direction of the Organization, without previously submitting them to the consideration of the membership.

Such decisions lack legal support and the necessary information that allows knowing their motivation and objectives. Such is the case with the appointment of a special advisor on the responsibility to protect. This matter should have been consulted and discussed exhaustively within the Organization". (Note: I raised this issue in my last commentary and at the Assembly).

Many double standards exist in the governance and decision-making of the OAS. These double standards, which serve the political interests of a few, were especially obvious in resolutions on Venezuela and Nicaragua.

Let it be clear. Both Venezuela and Nicaragua pose concerns on all sides, regarding free and fair elections, independence of the judiciary and detention of persons. But effectively addressing these concerns is undermined in the OAS by those who employ tactics of bullying and exclusion.

The resolutions were both drafted and settled by an exclusive group. Yet, the resolution called on the govern-

ment of Nicaragua to support "inclusive and timely negotiations". The contradiction of applying a standard to Nicaragua that they ignore for themselves is either lost on them, or, self-righteously, they don't care.

The Venezuela resolution was drafted by an exclusive group which included the representative of Juan Guaidó. Not surprisingly, it required all OAS governments to accept Guaidó's agent as the representative of Venezuela, thereby pushing them into implicit recognition of Guaidó, as the so-called interim president of Venezuela, regardless of their own respective national interests and policy.

Additionally, it employed language of belligerence likely to widen divides, worsening the situation in Venezuela. This was less about democracy in Venezuela and more about the imposition of one political class and ruler over another, when the choice of a leader of any country is a matter for that country's people alone.

The 50th General Assembly of the OAS failed to tackle the important theme set by its 33 legitimate member states. Sadly, it also failed the people of the Americas who continue to be plagued by COVID-19 and are looking to governments to find a solution collectively.

Responses and previous commentaries:

www.sirronaldsanders.com

Battle rages for SVG's ganja vote

The battle continues between the main political parties for the vote of marijuana farmers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with opposition politician Roland "Patel" Matthews saying he is the only candidate who has been a ganja farmer, and therefore, best understands the issues.

"I am telling you that when I was called as a young man to come to teach, I was a ganja farmer so I looking out for the interest of all ganja man because I know the struggle, I know the frustration and that is why I am fighting for the ganja man," Matthews, incumbent MP for North Leeward told a New Democratic Party (NDP) rally in Owia on Sunday.

Matthews restated that an NDP administration would legalise two ounces of the plant for recreational use and that traditional farmers must benefit from any changes in the law,

but two days later on Tuesday, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves presented Matthews' proposal as reckless and called on the major Christian denominations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to voice their opinions on it.

Gonsalves went further, suggesting that vendors would offer marijuana outside schools and children would consume it during school time, although that is not the case with tobacco cigarettes and alcohol, both of which are legal but, considered by some, to be more dangerous than marijuana.

The country's international money transfer arrangements would also be affected, Gonsalves said.

At the event in Owia, where the NDP presented its slate of candidates for the November 5 polls, Matthews said that agriculture has been the mainstay of the economies

of areas such as North Leeward. He said, however, that what exists under the ULP in the constituency, as well as the rest of the country, is an insult to the farming community.

"But I have good news for you tonight, that when you elect Dr. [Godwin] Friday as your prime minister, when you elect NDP as the next government, we are going to change that. We are going to change that. You know why? Because when you vote on November 5, you are going to get rid of the Unity Labour Party."

He told marijuana farmers that the NDP recognises the importance of ganja and that the world has had a change in attitude to the plant since it was found to have medicinal value.

Matthews noted that the NDP supported in Parliament, in 2018, laws brought by the ULP to reform the nation's ganja laws.

Buju tells Jamaicans not to wear masks



Buju Banton

Reggae icon, Buju Banton, has come in for public backlash after he made calls for people to stop wearing masks in videos circulated on social media yesterday. Banton, who also has an international following, shared the videos to Instagram this morning.

"Wi waa done with this mask wearing b#\$*%@t in Jamaica. Who fi dead a go dead and who nah dead haffi just live. Wi tired of you intellectual fools trying to tell us how to live our lives. You are so smart, why you haven't found the cure for cancer?" Banton said in the first video.

He continued to accuse policymakers of causing the Jamaican people to be in abject fear and of driving people into poverty.

"What have you done for all those who you have laid off and mek dem business close early? Jamaican people need to wake up. Mi nah wear nuh mask. Mask nuh mek fi man," Banton added.

The artiste was last month

photographed in studio with American rapper Kanye West who flew into the country for one day. Neither Banton nor West were seen wearing masks.

The artiste reportedly has branded COVID-19 masks for sale on his website.

His daughter, Abihail Myrie, has since tweeted, "So anyway y'all wear your masks!!!"

But several members of the public are expressing disappointment with his comments.

"I cease to be a fan until further notice," one Twitter user said.

Another wrote: "Guys, please do not listen to this beautiful man. COVID is no joke. For about 4 weeks now it's been kicking my ass.

When a nuh chest pain, a belly pain, or joint pain, or weakness. Body burning up as soon as mi lay down fi sleep, cyan breathe... listen. Wear yuh damn mask please!"

Another user tweeted, "This is so ignorant. I hope no one listen to this man. Buju is a musician, he's not a doctor, he's not a scientist, he doesn't know how viruses work. Wear your mask, listen to experts, actual doctors and scientists working on the virus not famous people."

Some users disregarded his comments saying, "Rich people always a talk bout 'who fi dead ago dead' because dem know seh dem and dem family and friends nah go inna di set a people weh a dead."

FFOS slams CARICOM, OPEC countries silence on FSO Nabarima



The Fishermen and Friends of the Sea (FFOS) is calling for CARICOM, as well the other nations that depend on the Caribbean Sea including Latin American and the French and Dutch Caribbean territories, to meet urgently to discuss the implementation of a regional plan of action to address environmental disasters such as the one created by the FSO Nabarima vessel.

FFOS issued a statement on Thursday, as the environmental watch group continues to monitor the vessel that is currently sinking in the Caribbean Sea.

"We all mutually depend upon the Caribbean Sea and in the 21st Century it is appalling that there is no binding agreement to facilitate an emergency response plan with an inventory on standby, including human and intellectual capital and infrastructural mechanisms, to respond in the event of a disaster like this."

The group noted that images obtained from Sky-Truth and reports circulat-

ing in global media claim a Venezuelan oil tanker, the ICARO, has approached the FSO Nabarima and is transferring some of the oil within. This has afforded an opportunity to assess the listing, however, FFOS said the vessel remains a threat.

"This does not mean that the Caribbean is out of deep waters nor can we breathe a sigh of relief. There are insufficient measures in place to contain any spillage that may occur during the transfer especially since the FSO Nabarima is unstable."

The NGO said Venezuela's state oil company, Petroleros De Venezuela (PDVSA), must have necessary oil spill containment equipment around the vessel should the worst occur. Furthermore, it said PDVSA should make public its contingency plans in the event of a spill.

Meanwhile, FFOS slammed CARICOM nations and member states of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which include

Venezuela, for remaining silent on the issue.

"This is unacceptable and is compounded by the fact that the report of Trinidad and Tobago's team of independent experts is yet to be released."

According to the body, this fiasco has also underscored the importance of renegotiating the Bilateral Oil Spill Contingency Plan (1989) that exists between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

"Despite the existing agreement, it took the Trinidad and Tobago gov-

ernment in excess of a month to get an approval to simply send a team of experts to inspect the vessel. This inordinate delay is unacceptable and could have led to the greatest environmental disaster in the Caribbean's history. As a matter of immediate priority, the Trinidad and Tobago Government and the Maduro regime should make adjustments to this agreement to facilitate a quicker and more transparent response to future situations."

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CXC Report points to irregularities including attempts to inflate grades

Fraudulent School Based Assessment (SBA) submissions from teachers and leaked examination questions are among a number of potentially damning infractions emerging from an independent review of this year's controversial Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) exams.

An Independent Review Team (IRT) assembled to investigate this year's Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Exam (CAPE) results has however concluded that there is enough evidence of discrepancies on the part of the CXC to justify a full remarking of the papers.

On Thursday, the regional body released a 46 page review that examined a modified approach to this year's examinations, the moderation of SBA grades and an adjusted grading model among other issues. It also proposed 23 recommendations for the improvement of CXC's operations in the short, medium and long term.

The team, headed by Professor Emerita Hazel Simmons-McDonald, was assembled by CXC Chairman Sir Hilary Beckles amid Caribbean-wide complaints from students, parents and teachers. Among them were concerns that the CXC moderated SBA grades had fallen well below teachers' grades. Meanwhile the overall grades of many students had also fallen below teacher-predicted grades. Amid persistent frustration questions have also been raised about CXC's process for reconciling overall scores after omitting the Paper Two component of the exams, which usually accounts for 50 percent of overall grades.

The IRT in its report concluded that the review and regrading of the grades was warranted based on four major factors including the fact that CXC's preliminary results are subject to change, evidence of grade shifting

within the grading formula, evidence of subjectivity in the determination of subject grades and wide variance between teachers' and moderator scores.

CXC's decision to grade SBAs using a moderation approach instead of the traditional random sampling approach was identified as a major factor contributing to students receiving lower grades than those awarded by teachers. At the same time, it was also credited with producing more "thorough" and "reliable" grades.

Even more concerning in the report was evidence of major "discrepancies" identified by the moderation method including attempts by teachers to inflate their students' grades and in some cases even award full marks in sections where the appropriate responses to questions were "non-existent".

There are also suggestions that this year's higher-than-average multiple choice scores were linked to "leaked" examination questions that gave some students very specific information to assist their preparations.

"The team is anxious that security issues surrounding the Paper 1 be thoroughly examined with the view of obviating leaks in the future and to ensure that increased dependence on electronic examinations will result in the implementation of impregnable 'firewalls' that will provide the protection of examination papers administered and stored electronically for use in the future," the report said.

Overall, the modified approach to this year's exams was deemed an "adequate" method of assessing the profiles and modules in the various subjects. The IRT however noted that more extensive communication between CXC and relevant stakeholders would have clarified lingering misunderstandings about the altered approach.

The adjusted grading model used to determine the profile and subject

grades was identified as the "least disruptive" of the issues, but certain limitations to the approach, including a shift in the distribution of grades were also uncovered.

"Some subjects had low correlation coefficients between the overall subject scores and the profile scores. The cut points for the grades were determined by using the median values of the distribution when it is unclear how the cut points in previous years were determined," the report revealed.

"At the technical level, the limitations of the grading model and the extensive moderation used in the SBAs could have resulted in less-than-expected performance in some subjects at both CAPE and CSEC levels," it further acknowledged.

The IRT warned that the highlighted issues bear implications for the 2021 exams and, along with the 23 recommendations issued by CXC, merit "urgent attention".

"The challenges described were most likely amplified by constraints imposed by the Coronavirus which disrupted normal school routines and communities of learning in which most students feel secure," the report suggested.

"It is possible that the imperative of working in isolation to avoid the risk of infection may have had an effect on many. That the expectations of success, unrealized in the preliminary results announced by CXC would have had a deleterious effect on some students is understandable," the document added.

Along with Professor Simmons-McDonald, the team comprised Michael Browne, Minister of Education in Antigua and Barbuda; Francis De Lanoy, President of the University of Curacao; Andrew Downes, Professor Emeritus University of the West Indies and Harilal Secharan, retired Chief Education Officer in Trinidad and Tobago.

Nigeria's president warns protesters; fails to address shooting



Protesters chant and sing solidarity songs as they barricade the Lagos-Ibadan expressway to protest against police brutality

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari spoke to the nation about the unrest that has gripped the country in recent days without making any mention of the deadly shooting of peaceful protesters that prompted international outrage.

Buhari called on Nigerians to stop demonstrating and engage with the government in a short televised speech on Thursday. The shootings have been widely condemned, but he did not speak of them at all during his address.

"I would like to appeal to protesters to note and take advantage of the various well thought-out initiatives of this administration designed to make their lives better and more meaningful and resist the temptation of being used by some subver-

sive elements to cause chaos with the aim of truncating our nascent democracy," said Buhari.

"For you to do otherwise will amount to undermining national security and law and order... Under no circumstances would this be tolerated."

He called on Nigeria youths "to discontinue the street protests and constructively engage the government in finding solutions. Your voice has been heard loud and clear and we are responding".

Gunfire rang out in the affluent Ikoyi neighbourhood of Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos on Thursday with witnesses saying assailants attacked a detention facility in the area that is home to government offices.

Smoke was also seen rising from the direction of Ikoyi correctional facility, and trucks carrying police were seen heading towards the prison. The wreckage of a dozen cars smouldered in the upscale Ikoyi neighbourhood and two official buildings were ablaze.

"The Ikoyi prison is mainly surrounded by government buildings and security establishments. Residents said they saw hoodlums armed with clubs and then gunfire was heard and the fires and smoke were later seen," said Al Jazeera's Ahmed Idris, reporting from the capital Abuja.

Other accounts suggested the gunfire resulted from an attempted jailbreak by prisoners. It was unclear if any inmates escaped.

China and Germany heading for superpower status as US influence wanes, says Putin

The era when the United States and Russia decided the world's most important questions is in the past, President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday, adding that China and Germany are now heading for superpower status.

Addressing a meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club, Putin suggested that the role of the United States had waned, along with that of Britain and France, while Beijing and Berlin - in terms of political and economic weight - were heading for superpower status.

If Washington is not prepared to discuss global problems with Moscow, Russia stood ready to have that discussion with other nations, said Putin, who was speaking via video link.

He said Washington could no longer lay claim to exceptionalism and questioned why it would want to.

Ahead of the US presidential election on November 3, Putin said he



Russia's President Vladimir Putin speaks at a meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club via a video conference call at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia October 22, 2020.

hoped the new administration would be ready for dialogue on security and nuclear arms control.

Washington last week rejected a Russian proposal for an unconditional one-year extension of the last treaty limiting

US and Russian strategic nuclear weapons deployment, calling the suggestion "a non-starter."

The New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) accord, signed in 2010, is due to expire in February. It restricts the numbers

of strategic nuclear warheads that Russia and the United States can deploy as well as the missiles and bombers that carry them.

Despite their differences, Moscow and Washington appear to be moving closer to a deal on New START.

 A promotional graphic for the radio show 'Talking Point'. It features two men, Dr. Maserati and Senator Colin Browne, sitting at a radio desk with microphones. The background is a warm, reddish-orange color. A logo for 'POINTE FM 99.1' is visible in the center, with the tagline 'BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY' and 'COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE'.

TALKING POINT

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

DR. MASERATI **SENATOR COLIN BROWNE**

Pope Francis supports same-sex civil unions



Pope Francis' statements are a departure from previous comments about LGBT rights

Pope Francis has said that he thinks same-sex couples should be allowed to have "civil unions".

He made the comments, which observers say are his clearest remarks yet on gay relationships, in a documentary directed by Evgeny Afineevsky.

"Homosexual people have a right to be in a family," he said in the film, which premiered on Wednesday.

"They are children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out or made miserable over it. What we have to create is a civil union law. That way they are legally covered."

He added that he "stood up for that", apparently referring to his time as Archbishop of Buenos Aires when, although opposing same-sex marriages in law, he supported some legal protections

for same-sex couples.

The film *Francesco*, about the life and work of Pope Francis, premiered as part of the Rome Film Festival.

As well as the Pope's comments on civil unions, the film also shows him encouraging two gay men to attend church with their three children.

Pope Francis's biographer, Austen Ivereigh, told the BBC he was "not surprised" by the latest comments.

"This was his position as Archbishop of Buenos Aires," said Mr Ivereigh. "He was always opposed to marriage being for same-sex couples. But he believed the church should advocate for a civil union law for gay couples to give them legal protection."

Under current Catholic doctrine, gay relationships are referred to as "deviant behaviour".

In 2003, the Vatican's

doctrinal body, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said that "respect for homosexual persons cannot lead in any way to approval of homosexual behaviour or to legal recognition of homosexual unions".

The remarks have set tongues wagging among Vatican-watchers - and they mark Francis's clearest support for the issue since becoming Pope, but is this really a fundamental change by the pontiff - or more an off-the-cuff statement by a leader of the Catholic Church who has been known to flirt with liberal sentiments in the past, only to fall back on traditional doctrine when push comes to shove?

As archbishop of Buenos Aires before becoming Pope, he was a staunch opponent of gay marriage, which was legalised in Ar-

gentina in 2010, and instead advocated civil unions for homosexual couples.

This is his first vocal backing as Pope - and will undoubtedly be welcomed by many on the more liberal wing of the church and criticised by the conservatives, but any significant doctrinal change on such an issue would typically be presented in a more formal way and after much internal debate. There is, for now, little sign that either is imminent.

The Pope's comments are the latest in a series of sentiments he's expressed about LGBT rights - voicing some support, but not a full endorsement.

In 2013, in the book *On Heaven and Earth*, the Pope said that legally equating same-sex relationships to heterosexual marriages would be "an anthropological regression".



COMMUNITY NOTICES

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RELOCATION

The general public is advised that the administrative offices of the Central Cotton Station and the Plant Protection Unit have been moved to a temporary location at the Longford Jeremy Building on Upper Corn Alley. The telephone numbers remain the same.

PARHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL TAKE AWAY LUNCH

The Parham Primary School will host its 50th Anniversary take away lunch on Thursday 29th October from 12 noon to 3pm. There will be delicious BBQ chicken and tasty fish meals for you to choose from. Tickets are only \$15 and are available at the school. Proceeds are in aid of school development. Please do support this event.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

PANACHE PAN ACADEMY

Panache Steel Orchestra is pleased to bring back the Panache Pan Academy where you can learn to play the steel pan and the fundamentals of music! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, classes will be separated accordingly with a maximum of ten (10) students per class. At Panache, we have strict protocols and guidelines in place for our safety and yours.

Registration is \$30.00 for the 2020/2021 academic year. Registration takes place on Saturday 24th October, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Classes are free and pan sticks will be on sale. For more information, please contact Robin Margetson: 764-5043, Maurisha Potter: 773-5494, Malik Smith: 789-0030.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

The Halo Foundation Inc is again hosting its annual Christmas card competition which is open to youngsters aged seven (7) to eighteen (18). All entries should be 'Caribbean Christmas' themed. Deadline for submission is December 11, 2020. Call 562-5193 for more details. Prizes to be won.

FREE MATHS 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 registrations are encouraged to facilitate scheduling. All COVID-19 health protocols will be strictly enforced.

RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS

The Labour Department wishes to inform the 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 the 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 ExServicemen 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.

Submit community notices to news@pointville.ag

DAY 10/23

NIGHT 10/23

30° Hi



Partly sunny with a shower in places

26° Lo



Partly cloudy and warm with a passing shower

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:02 AM

Sunset AST
5:40 PM



Duration
11:38 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST
12:50 PM

Moonset AST
12:14 AM

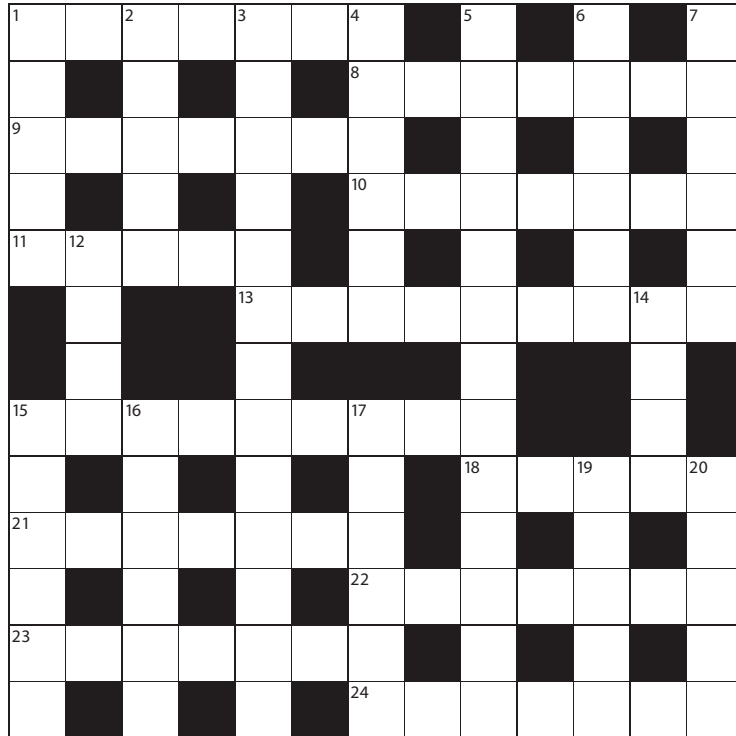


Duration
11:24 hr

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword

no 15,651



Across

- 1 Sign up (7)
- 8 Single out (7)
- 9 Highly critical (7)
- 10 Psychological problems (4-3)
- 11 Eat away (5)
- 13 Infectious intestinal disease (9)
- 15 Tigers or sharks, perhaps (9)
- 18 Leg bone (5)
- 21 Straighten out (7)
- 22 Small graceful woodland animal (3,4)
- 23 Mock orange shrub (7)
- 24 Lend a hand (5,2)

Down

- 1 Long narrow hilltop (5)
- 2 Small role for a well-known actor (5)
- 3 International peace organisation, founded 1945 in San Francisco (6,7)
- 4 Item of hosiery (6)
- 5 PM's address – enters, got wind (anag) (7,6)
- 6 Muck (6)
- 7 Full of spirit (6)
- 12 Work schedule (4)
- 14 Indian flatbread (4)
- 15 Aerosol foam used in hair styling (6)
- 16 Plants, animals, landscapes etc (6)
- 17 Frame —stitch up (6)
- 19 Tree (with green or copper leaves) (5)
- 20 Paved area where aircraft are parked (5)

CARTOON CORNER

Dilbert



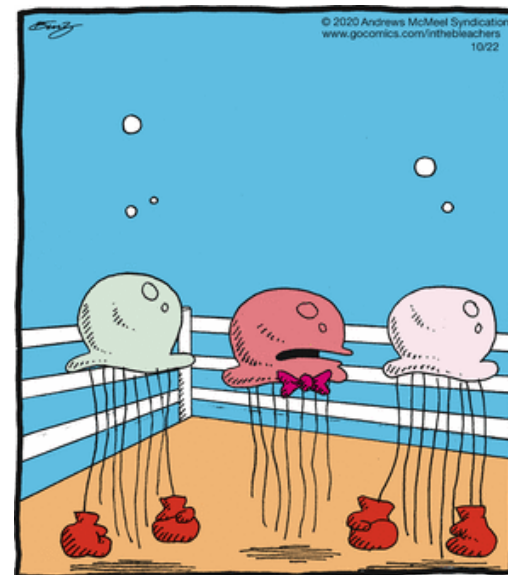
Garfield



Cathy



In the Bleachers



"And remember: nothing
below the rhopalial lappets."



DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): You are doing very well, balancing your emotions with the emotions of others, and it's going to pay off in a big way. Focus on that flexibility today, and get ready for the give and take of negotiations.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): Your fiery enthusiasm for what you believe in is powerful. You can always make things happen with your emotional conviction. But today, rein in that power and keep it to yourself. Experiment by taking an impersonal point of view.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you're put on the spot today, try not to act out of character. Don't do anything without thinking first. Watch the transitions throughout the day and enjoy an unusual perspective.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Prepare yourself for an indecisive phase. A lesser mortal would let such confusion shake their confidence, but you should see it as an opportunity to appreciate how difficult everyday choices can be. Instead of fighting your tendency to look at all aspects of a problem, just go with it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you've been losing confidence in your intuitive powers, don't! Your faith is about to be restored by an unusual development. You are getting back in the saddle of defining your own destiny.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Whether you consider yourself to be an intellectually curious person or not, you shouldn't be afraid to delve into complicated ideas now. Help others see things that they don't understand, and you'll learn a lot along the way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sometimes you have to think of your life like a business. How are you managing your output and input? Get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and give yourself some free time to eliminate the day's accumulating stress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your vision has been partly cloudy over the past few weeks, but today it's definitely going to clear up. You can clearly see what you need to do today and in the coming weeks and months.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Endurance isn't always fun. Staying with something (or someone) until it's over isn't quite as enjoyable as sticking with something (or someone) because they truly fulfill you and make you happy. Focus on making things last. Later, you can figure out how to make them fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There could be a clash today, so keep your head down and mind your own business. Getting caught up in a power struggle between two giant personalities isn't going to be a good move.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Working on advancing your career can be a lot more fun than you think. Making social connections can often lead to making business connections, although you do need to keep a stern eye on where to draw the line.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Every storm ends. If today starts to get rough, remind yourself of that fact. Today is not the day to make major moves or attempt significant transformations. It's better if you just hang on and ride this out.

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Cancer and the Various Symptoms and
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Dr. Dwayne Thwaites
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*Diplomat of the American Board of Urology
Antigua and Barbuda*

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Dr. Jackie Bender
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*Cancer Rehabilitation & Survivorship Program
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*

Prostate Cancer in Canada:
The Need for Race-Based Data



Dr. Aisha Lofters
Family Physician
*Research Scientist & Associate Professor
University of Toronto*

Many Manly Men Avoid Their Prostate -
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Dr. Andrew Matthew
Senior Staff Psychologist
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

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43% of EPL players racially abused

A new report into the extent to which professional footballers are attacked online has produced damning and disturbing findings, as 43% of English Premier League players surveyed reported experiencing "targeted racist abuse."

The study was carried out by England's Professional Football Association in partnership with data science company, Signify Group, using machine learning systems to analyze messages sent publicly via twitter to 44 high profile current and former players.



Manchester City's Raheem Sterling

During the last six weeks of last season, Signify analyzed 825,515 tweets directed at the selected players and identified over 3000 explicit

abusive messages, 56% of which were racist.

"I don't know how many times I need to say this, but football and the social media platforms

need to step up, show real leadership and take proper action in tackling online abuse," said Manchester City and England forward, Raheem Sterling, who has been abused on several occasions.

"The technology is there to make a difference, but I am questioning if there is the will."

Sanjay Bhandari, Chairman of a leading anti-discrimination charity, Kick It Out, said the report confirms the long known fact that social media can be a battleground of hate with few consequences for abusers.

West Indies anticipate exciting New Zealand tour



CWI CEO Johnny Grave

Cricket West Indies' Chief Executive Officer, Johnny Grave, says the West Indies are looking forward to an exciting and tough tour of New Zealand later this year.

The Caribbean team are slated to fly out of Barba-

dos this month to London before traveling to Dubai then to Auckland where they will be met by medical officials for coronavirus testing. They will then board a chartered flight to Christchurch where they will undergo a 14 day mandatory quarantine supervised by the New Zealand government.

Grave said the team will spend the first three days confined to their rooms with meals being delivered.

On day four and five the players will start training in small bubbles of no more than 15. Three bubbles have been or-

ganized for the players and coaching staff who will leave the Caribbean. After day six, once everyone tests negative for COVID-19, the bubbles will be increased to 20 persons and the number of groups reduced from three to two.

Unlike the bio-secure bubble the players were subjected to in England, once they have completed their 14 day quarantine they will be allowed to move around New Zealand freely.

Players participating in the Indian Premier League (IPL) will fly directly to New Zealand from the United Arab Emirates.

The West Indies are scheduled to play two warm-up matches in Queenstown.

The Test team will be

led by Jason Holder and features Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer, Keemo Paul, Jermaine Blackwood, Kraigg Braithwaite, Shamarh Brooks, Roston Chase, Shannon Gabriel and Chemar Holder. Also included are Alzari Joseph, Rakeem Jimbo Cornwall, and Kemar Roach.

The Twenty20 squad will be led by Kieron Pollard with assistance from Dwayne Bravo, Fabian Allen, Andre Fletcher, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Rovman Powell, Keemo Paul, Shimron Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran and Osane Thomas. Also, in the lineup are Hayden Walsh Jr., Kesrick Williams and Fabian Allen.

West Indies will play two Tests and three Twenty20 matches between November 27 and December 15.



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International cricket to return to the Caribbean



CWI President Ricky Skerri

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ABDRA experiencing rough patches



The Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association's (ABDRA) acting president, Denelle Richards, says the organisation is going through some rough patches. Richards the organisation, which has fallen victim to COVID-19, is examining innovative ways of keeping its members engaged.

"We are presently planning some closed session testing and are looking at ways to cover the cost," Richards stated.

ABDRA hopes they will be able to host some spectators, who will be required to remain seated in their cars on the mount. The association has already written to the Commissioner of Police to request permission to host the event.

"Testing will be done on October 31st giving the members an opportunity to see how

their cars are working in preparation for when the go ahead is given to restart competitive racing."

In the meantime while they continue to monitor the coronavirus pandemic, Richards said ABDRA is organising its 2021 calendar of events.

ABDRA's elections are due in 2021 and Richards has confirmed that he will seek to become president once the members continue to show confidence in his leadership.

"We Can Hardly Say We Have A Sport Industry"



NOC President, Cliff Williams

Secretary of the National Olympic Committee (NOC), Cliff Williams, is of the view that sports should have already resumed following the suspen-

sion of all sport events in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Appearing on Pointe FM's Touchline programme Williams said, "People are being allowed to train, but not play competitively. You are free to go on the fields, the road and train and play, but not compete. I don't understand why the authorities have not put the athletes back in the hands of the federations and hold them

responsible for managing the protocols."

Williams said all sports are suffering the loss of a number of administrators and athletes because some young people in particular have begun to lose interest in participating.

"I don't know why sports is the last industry to open and when I read the Cabinet minutes I see no plan or discussions for the handover of sports to the federations and how it will be executed."

In light of this, Wil-

liams continued, "We can hardly say we have a sports industry presently."

Williams also noted that during a recently held virtual meeting, the NOC expressed confidence that the next Olympics to be held in Tokyo will take place as the International Olympic Committee has given that assurance.

According to Williams, most of the athletes who will represent Antigua and Barbuda at the Olympics are presently training abroad.

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