



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEX PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2020

|

ISSUE 149

|

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG



HELLSGATE ANNIVERSARY BLOCKARAMA

On Tuesday, despite the restriction on public gatherings, the Hells Gate Steel Orchestra treated Antiguans and Barbudans, at home and abroad, to a virtual Blockarama from the Point area complements Steelpan Melee on Pointe FM 99.1.

WANTS, NEEDS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Satisfying key stakeholders must be the hardest task for most leaders. In practically every institution there is always an abundance of needs on one hand and limited resources on the other.

Many not-for-profit institutions are faced with countless requests for their services, but their capacity to serve is dependent on the funds available to them, be it from money they have raised or through donations.

Within family circles, there are wide ranging demands, but parents unfortunately in many cases have a limited capacity to deliver.

On an even broader scale, there are limitless calls on the public purse, with restrictions on the availability of resources, for governments to deliver.

In such situations where there is a gap between wants, needs and the resources available to satisfy them, there is a need for decisions to be made regarding the allocation of resources to satisfy the majority. The challenge intensifies when there are issues such as natural disasters, which further erodes the availability of resources, or where matters such as partisanship cloud the development of one overarching policy governing resource allocation.

Then there is the question of whose need or want takes priority when determining how to allocate scarce resources. Do the needs of the majority outweigh that of the minority? What are the conditions that will determine which need or want will be satisfied? What is the significance of any of

these questions?

Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were a plethora of needs chasing a finite resource base. In our current circumstances, needs have been magnified as more people are unable to earn and look after themselves. Resources are even more limited as many of the usual income generating sources have dried up.

It is a most interesting conundrum, there is growing discontent with longer wait times for services and payments given the fact that there has been a significant reduction in resources available to meet these needs. It is almost as if persons are living in a parallel universe where it is accepted that things are not as they used to be financially, yet others must continue to maintain the flow of supply as though there was no change in that group or individual's circumstances.

Yes, individual needs do not evaporate simply because of a pandemic or other natural disaster. In fact, experience demonstrates that needs are magnified under difficult circumstances. In our national economic circumstance, the capacity to meet the needs are spread thin.

How then do we seek to reconcile this core issue of scarcity, where the needs and wants outweigh the resources available?

Some components of the answer may not sit comfortably with the masses, as we revisit the question of the needs of the majority outweighing those of the minority.

The minority could be armed with the resources required to right-size supply. For example the demands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order for the government to assess financing, the demands for Foreign Direct Investors (FDI) in return for their investment, or even local investors who may wish for their concessions and other exemption as part of their investing in the economy.

We end up with a chicken and egg scenario. Do we satisfy the needs of the minority over the majority, when looking through a mirror of long term considerations? Do concessions today result in sufficient job creation across the economy, or just an opportunity for an investor to milk profits? Is engagement with an institution such as the IMF worth it when the likely hardship that will accompany this decision, even if short to medium term, worth it? Who is positioned to make these decisions for the masses? What institutions do we hold accountable for acting in the best interest of the masses?

As we close another chapter of political independence, we must do more to educate and empower ourselves in terms of the realities of managing our limited resources. We must apply rational thinking to assess the consequences of various actions grounded in the reality that we are not in possession of unlimited resources. Ultimately, we must develop consensus for a national action agenda to prioritise and maximise that which is available to us.

Social Security calls for patience as COVID-19 batters the nation



David Matthias, Superintendent of the Social Security Scheme

By Shelton Daniel

The Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Scheme is appealing to the public for patience and understanding, as it navigates, what its director says, is a period of transition brought on by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

David Matthias was a guest on Monday's edition of Pointe FM's Starting Pointe.

He admitted that the challenges which Social Security has been facing in meeting its monthly obligations to pensioners are likely to continue into the foreseeable future, but gave the assurance that the state agency would do everything

conceivable to meet its obligations..

"We do ask, and we do appreciate, your forbearance and patience, and together we will get through this. It should be no secret to persons, currently, what they would be seeing from Social Security is the extension of its payment cycle. We are moving from one payment period into another payment period in terms of being able to discharge our full responsibilities to our beneficiaries and to our staff," he explained.

These beneficiaries, short and long term, include those who receive pensions, sickness and maternity benefits, but Matthias said the contributions from which these payments are made "have declined by as much as 50 percent" as of mid-October.

He said once the month end arrives, payments then due would have to be deferred "by as much as two weeks into the following month and in some instances by as much as three weeks."

Matthias said this trend is "expected to continue for some time, probably till the end of the year, where - hopefully - there is enough of an uptake with regard to travel and tourism arrivals".

This uptick, he said, is projected to be just a little more than 5 percent however, this is a small help as there has been an almost 17 percent decline in Social Security revenues in 2020.

"The fact that we have less persons working means it has affected our ability to make timely payments," Matthias emphasised.

Asked how much longer Social Security would be able to bear up

if the situation did not improve, or worsens, he said: "We will continue to go as long as persons are actively employed and contributing to Social Security. So, there should be no shut off point for Social Security. As more and more businesses begin to reopen and there is a sense of normalcy, we would be able to continue discharging our functions."

He stressed, however, that "some level of patience" will be required.

Matthias also directly addressed those persons who have sought to offer analyses of the scheme's financial health.

"Social Security has been in this precarious position, not now, but since 2009 onward. So we would have been extensively utilising our reserves; that is, actual cash in hand."

He repeated that Social Security's ability to function in the future would depend on a return to economic normalcy and explained while Social Security owns a lot of land, the challenge lies in converting this to a steady stream of cash with which it can meet its recurring payment obligations.

"It's a buyers' market at the moment, so even though you ask for the book value of the land you own, it doesn't mean that is what the market will [pay]," Matthias explained.

He said discussions have begun within the OECS sub-region between Social Security bodies and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) about the need to establish unemployment insurance in the future.

Police officers threaten to boycott PWA meeting



Minister of Public Safety, Attorney General Hon. Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin

A number of police officers will not turn out on Wednesday 28th October to a Welfare Meeting called by the Police Welfare Association (PWA).

The PWA is tasked with addressing

issues which affect members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

This meeting has been set to address a number of issues including concerns over the dilapidated condition of the Parham Police Station.

Reports are that two Friday ago, during a downpour of rain, the roof of the run down building began to leak. According to a source, water ran down the police station's walls onto a filing cabinet and cupboard. The leak was concentrated in an area of the building dense with electrical wires.

At Wednesday's meeting, the PWA is also expected to address the matter of the mandatory retirement age. The retirement age has been changed from 60 to 65, however, some officers want to be able to leave service at age 60.

This has caused a fraction between lower ranking and more senior officers, as senior lawmen are mostly in agreement with the increased retirement age.

These gazetted officers have reportedly presented a document to the government asking that the re-

tirement age stay at 65. They are concerned that if they leave at 60 they will be unable to obtain their Social Security pension.

This move led to a Bill, which sought to revert the retirement age for police officers to 60, to be pulled from the Parliamentary order paper two weeks ago.

A petition was presented to the government, however, with more than 65 percent of the force's membership signing in favour of the retirement age being returned to age 60.

The PWA will also update its membership on the outcome of a recent meeting with the Minister of Public Safety, Attorney General Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin, and the police hierarchy.

Some of these issues were addressed during a similar PWA meeting in June. Prime Minister Gaston Browne gave the officers assurances - both verbal and written - that all these matters will be addressed once resources become available.

Based on the law, police officers are prohibited from taking protest action and are obligated to attend meetings called by the PWA.



STARTING POINTE

with

Shelton Daniel

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am

ON AIR

POINTE FM



99.1 FM

CMO concerned about coming flu season



Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Rhonda Sealy-Thomas

Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Rhonda Sealy-Thomas, O) has said that she is very concerned about the upcoming influenza season in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sealy-Thomas said the flu season occurs annually and added that its symptoms, which are similar to COVID-19, include fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath.

According to the CMO, she foresees that clinicians will be challenged when faced with determining whether a patient has influenza or the coronavirus.

The CMO is urging the public to get vaccinated against the flu in order to assist healthcare professionals in diagnosing the flu and COVID-19.

"Flu is seasonal and every year there is a different flu vaccine and if persons would have been vaccinated against the influenza then clinicians would more than likely be convinced that symptoms being exhibited are

related to COVID-19. So what we have planned to do and started the process is to increase the amount of influenza vaccines that we get into Antigua and Barbuda, and try as much as possible to vaccinate most of the population so that they would be immunized against influenza, so if a person shows up with symptoms of the flu or COVID then clinicians would be able to differentiate if it is flu or COVID," Sealy-Thomas said.

She is encouraging persons to continue to follow the protocols which have been put in place to protect against the coronavirus. These include hand washing, making sure surfaces are clean, wearing masks and physical and social distancing, all of which protect against the influenza virus as well.

"But we are encouraging you more now as we get into the flu season to do that even more," the CMO advised.

Baby Grace passes away

Baby Grace Goodwin's parents have been plunged into mourning as they try to come to grips with her passing.

Grace's father, Terrance Goodwin, 28, said he is trying to remain strong for his wife, Natassia, 23, who has not taken the news well.

The couple was called to the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) on Tuesday morning when Grace's condition began to deteriorate. Upon arrival at the hospital, however, they were met with the heartbreaking news that their daughter had died.

Baby Grace passed away at approximately 6:30am at MSJMC where she had been on life support since last

Friday when her condition worsened.

At the time of her death, Grace's parents were trying to raise funds to get her to Barbados before December.

Grace was diagnosed with a heart murmur as a result of a cyanotic congenital heart defect. The grim diagnosis was made one day after she was born on July 9.

Her mother said she was taken off life support at least twice, but had to be resuscitated after her heart stopped beating each time. On the first occasion, Grace's heart stopped beating after two minutes; on the second occasion after 15 to 20 minutes.

Grace had a two-year-old sister.





Julienne Mannix, Senior Public Health Inspector

The Central Board of Health (CBH) will resume its fogging exercises next week as part of efforts to stem the local dengue fever outbreak.

Antigua and Barbuda has two confirmed cases of the mosquito-borne illness, which can be deadly.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Julienne Mannix, said despite the resumption of fogging, residents should continue to ensure that their homes do not become the breeding ground of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.

Householders, she said, often take the mistaken position that eradicating mos-

quitoes is solely the job of the Central Board of Health and Ministry of Health.

Mannix disabused this notion and added that the fight against disease spreading mosquitoes is the duty of the entire nation.

"So we want people to check their premises every two to three days to make sure you eliminate all platforms because, as you realise right now, we are in the rainy season. So you know with having the rainy season any eggs which may be about in different containers, they will hatch," Mannix said.

The Senior Public Health Inspector explained that these catchments allow mosquitoes to breed prolifically during the wet season.

Mannix said the disease is endemic in Antigua and Barbuda as there are always active cases, however, the local spread is never as severe as that being experienced now in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines where hundreds of persons have been impacted and dozens have died of the disease.

The CBH official continued that

the aim of health authorities is to keep the infection rate at a minimum to avoid the healthcare system becoming overburdened.

"We don't want that situation to happen here in Antigua and Barbuda where we find we are dealing with COVID-19 and dengue fever [because] that will be a strain on our healthcare system. So we want people to take it seriously because we all have to fight dengue together," said Mannix.

Mannix said that there is a regulation in the Public Health Act under which persons can be charged for having mosquito breeding sites on their property.

"We have been educating the public about the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, about dengue fever, so the public does know about the mosquito and dengue fever, but what we find when we ask persons are you checking your premises every two to three days? Are you trying to eliminate mosquito breeding sites? You would not have everybody saying, 'Yes this is something that I do,'" Mannix said.

Organisers: Breast cancer awareness event a success

The organisers of the last weekend's breast cancer awareness event - Pink-a-Thon Drive for the Cure - are describing the event as 'very successful'.

It was the culmination of Odyssey Inc. Antigua and Barbuda's campaign to raise awareness of breast cancer. The proceeds of the event will support the group, Breast Friends.

Oncologist at Mount St. John Medical Centre, Dr. Hanybal Yazigi, urged women to be proactive about their health. His recommendation is that women begin monthly breast examinations at

age 20. Women above 40, with no history of breast cancer, should have biennial mammograms, while those previously diagnosed should do so annually.

Dr. Yazigi noted that the survival outcomes are positive for people whose cancer is detected in the early stages - 1 and 2. He then presented the sobering fact that in Antigua and Barbuda, most women are diagnosed at stages 3 and 4.

"More needs to be done for early detection," Dr. Yazigi said.

In a space where touching oneself

can be taboo, breast cancer survivor, Heiki Goodwin-Carbon encouraged women to love themselves enough "to feel up" their breasts. She discovered her lump one day when her hand rested on her breast as she watched television.

"We must love ourselves and love our bodies," the six-year survivor said.

Goodwin-Carbon, too, encouraged self-checks and annual exams. She also issued an urgent appeal for women to avoid procrastinating about seeking medical intervention if they feel that something is wrong.

cont'd on pg 7

cont'd from pg 6

She credited her family, especially her husband and two children, and her friends for seeing her through the difficult period in her life from diagnosis and treatment to better health.

Goodwin-Carbon warned against suffering through a cancer diagnosis and treatment alone as it is difficult and unfair to loved ones.

The message of savouring each moment was one of the four key points made by the first speaker, Dr. Jacqui Quinn.

Dr. Quinn, an eight-year survivor and

the first woman elected to Parliament in Antigua and Barbuda, was a minister of government at the time of her diagnosis. She told the audience that her world crumbled with the stage 3A diagnosis, but she was eventually and deliberately able to pick-up the pieces.

Dr. Quinn told women battling the disease "to fight with all (their) might", because breast cancer is not a death sentence. She, too, urged health vigilance and regular check-ups.

The speeches followed a car ral-

ly from the JSC Sports Complex to the Five Islands playing field.

Claudette "CP" Peters and Ibis the Livest were a part of the event and used their popularity to encourage the celebration of life while raising cancer awareness.

Principal of Odyssey Inc. Antigua and Barbuda, Senator Gail Christian, has declared that Pink-a-Thon will be an annual event.




Heiki Goodwin-Carbon



Dr. Jacqui Quinn



Claudette 'CP' Peters



EVERY **WEDNESDAY** | 4pm-6pm

WE ARE THE ONES


WITH PETRA WILLIAMS

LIVE RADIO INTERVIEW

WITH






BOBBY GEORGE

28TH OCTOBER 2020



POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BASED.....GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Tourism outlook optimistic but uncertain



Charles 'Max' Fernandez, Minister of Tourism

The return of two international airlines to Antigua and Barbuda in the span of a few days has filled Tourism Minister, Charles 'Max' Fernandez, with optimism regarding the country's economic recovery amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fernandez said he welcomes this week's return of Virgin Atlantic from Heath-

row Airport in the United Kingdom as a significant filip to the economy.

Virgin Atlantic's return comes seven days ahead of Air Canada's on November 1.

"This represents the fruits of all the hard work that the government, and in particular the Ministry of Tourism, to have the international flights

return to Antigua and Barbuda. It required intense negotiations because we had a situation where the hotels did not want to reopen unless the airlines returned and the airlines did not want to come without hotel rooms for their passengers," Fernandez explained.

The tourism minister said most hotels should reopen by the end of November as the industry works to return to normality. So far, hotels have been booked at about fifty percent occupancy.

According to the minister, the pandemic has impacted bookings.

"What is happening is that people are not making long term bookings because of the uncertainty of what is happening in the source markets – the United States, Canada and the UK – with the coronavirus or even here in Antigua and Barbuda," Fernandez said.

He identified this uncertainty as an area of concern for his ministry and the government but added that LIAT's November relaunch brings a welcomed spark of

hope.

"The international carriers such as Virgin Atlantic are telling us that they welcome LIAT's return as they can be assured that their passengers can land at Antigua, for example, and travel to other destinations."

Fernandez said the government's desire to see Antigua and Barbuda serve as a hub for international flights, cruise passengers and cargo is moving closer to becoming a reality.

With respect to the cruise industry, the minister said he anticipates the return of cruise ships by December and confirmed that Antigua and Barbuda is on the itineraries of major cruise lines. He revealed that discussions are ongoing with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) concerning the restart of the cruise industry. He added that the FCCA is awaiting approval from the United States' Center for Disease Control to allow ships to return to operation.

The current cruise travel ban comes to an end at the close of November.

Virgin Atlantic: A welcomed sight

Virgin Atlantic has resumed flights to Antigua and Barbuda following the border closures forced by the coronavirus pandemic.

The airline made another flight into the V. C. Bird International airport earlier this week.

Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Authority, Colin James, said Virgin will operate two flights per week on

Wednesday and Saturday.

He said he is particularly pleased that the flights are operating out of Heathrow airport which provides a direct connection for travelers from continental Europe.

"We are excited because it means people coming from cities such as Frankfurt or Rome can now make connections at Heathrow to Antigua.

We are happy, the hoteliers are happy. It's good news for everyone," James declared.

On Monday, a Virgin flight landed at the V. C. Bird International Airport carrying 78 passengers. Upon its return from Grenada, thirty persons boarded the flight back to London.

Today's service has been described by tourism officials as the airline's 'official' return.

New hours for the Police Canteen

New hours of operation have been announced for the Police Canteen following public outcry over what has been interpreted as different rules for the police.

A memo from Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, titled: State of Emergency Operating Hours for the Police Canteen said, "I hereby inform that in accordance with Section 65 (b) of the Police Act (Chapter 330) and due to public safety and public health, the Police Canteen,

with immediate effect, will operate during the state of emergency in the following hours as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mondays to Thursdays: 6:00 am to 6:00 pm

Fridays to Sundays and Public Holidays Closed.

Commissioner Rodney also advised that during the state of emergency, only police personnel are to visit the canteen. He has urged all officers to strictly adhere to the new guidelines.

Several complaints

have been made by the public on radio talk shows and social media about the extended operating hours of the canteen during the state of emergency. Several persons have claimed that the canteen operated long past the 11:00 pm close off time stipulated in the emergency regulations.

Observers believe that Commissioner Rodney's decision is meant to put a rein on the canteen's operators.

**MS. JOCELIN
SAMUEL-CHRISTIAN**

**LEFT MY HOUSE IN
PIGGOTTS VILLAGE
ON THE 11TH DAY
OF OCTOBER 2020
OF HER OWN
VOLITION.**

**I AM NO LONGER
RESPONSIBLE FOR
HER OR FOR HER
AFFAIRS**

**WITH
EFFECT FROM
THE DATE OF
HER DEPARTURE**

HUGH CHRISTIAN

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S HERITAGE

A celebration of our islands heritage

The Bull Bud

Many Caribbean parents adhere to the biblical teaching to not "spare the rod and spoil the child," and feel that "children should be seen and not heard."

Spanking, flogging and other physical affronts is a long standing and legal method of keeping children in line. There is no age limit to this discipline or safe space to escape the whip: children as young as two years of age are as vulnerable as those in their teens in homes.

In Antigua and Barbuda parents have driven fear in children for generations with the threat to use the "Bull Bud" (A sun dried stretched out cow's penis) to hit them.



Happy Independence, St. Paul's seniors



Scores of seniors in the St. Paul constituency were treated to packages from their Parliamentary Representative, E. P. Chet Greene, as part of the Health Month activities.

Starting in English Harbour, Greene and his team presented two packages per household; one containing food items while the other contained independence souvenirs.

"This year, we are combining our Independence and Health Month activities and that's why we are focusing on our seniors. With the theme 'Serious About Our Health', we are demonstrating to those who

are in retirement after giving yeoman's service to our country that they are not forgotten," Greene said.

Included in the packages were thermometers, face masks, a water-bottle, a pill box and t-shirt.

Approximately 150 packages were distributed on Tuesday. Other visits are scheduled throughout the week.

"This speaks to the bond that I have with seniors in the area. It may have been influenced by the fact that I grew up with my grandmother so I have a natural proclivity to draw near to our seniors," Greene said.

Oct 28 - Nov 2

LIBERTY MENU



MEDIUM DRINK
\$3.00



3 WINGS SPICY & BISCUIT
(BBQ FLAVORED SAUCE AVAILABLE)
\$9.99



9 PIECES & 2 FRIES
\$39.00



TWISTER
\$13.00





MEGA BOX
(4 PIECES, BURGER, CORN FRIES, BISCUIT, COOKIES)
\$39.00

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE



ONE

Purpose
Vision
Nation

#KFCANU #SOCIALDISTANCING #MADEFRESHEVERYDAY

FOR DELIVERY

775-4621 / 775-4622



QUICK SERVE



KEEP ANTIGUA CLEAN

Concretising a plan for LIAT entrepreneurs



By Makeda Mikeal

In order to revolutionize the New LIAT into an entrepreneurial enterprise for its 500 Antiguan employees, emphasis must be placed on converting severance and other money owed to them into an inclusive component of the airline which allows them to earn a living and contribute their well honed aviation skills to rebuilding the carrier.

The time has come for togetherness where the different departments get involved, table their skills and join to determine how their skills can be sold to LIAT in an outsourcing business arrangement.

The MRO plan, which is expected to take a financial load off the carrier especially in its reduced state, can be turned into a revenue centre as an independent company affiliated with LIAT through a shareholding and a Shared Management Agreement which allows the MRO to offer service to the 40+ ATRs in the Caribbean, thereby reducing LIAT's operational cost, and ultimately creating revenue from a regional client base.

LIAT aircraft are all maintained and repaired locally, but overhauls have always been outsourced. The costs of flying aircraft overseas are many and burdensome as they include fuel, pilots and their accommodation plus the actual overhaul operation work, which could also include spare parts and other operational costs.

There is the Marketing and Sales Department which could easily be separated from the core airline operation and outsourced to a small unit of former LIAT employees.

Caribbean Airport Services, a JV between LIAT and Seawell Air Services of Barbados (now Massey), needs to be revisited and a bid made to relieve Massey of their share component, which we understand would be desirable, and the Ground Handling company built up to include an FBO component thereby addressing the two FBO licensees accorded by government to be operated by one foreign investment (Signature Flight Operations) and CAS the local FBO operator.

Clearly, FBO services in Antigua and St. Kitts and Nevis which were pioneered by a local woman should not be replaced by two foreign investors, but CAS should open up the investment possibility to its employees.

The maintenance, repair and control of land based equipment for use in the business of the airline will need its own mechanics outside of the MRO and could easily be outsourced to the staff who usually do that work.

Operating an all inclusive labour cost small airline cannot begin to break even, much less clear a profit, and one like LIAT whose humanitarian uses pre and post hurricanes, COVID-19 and the disasters which haunt developing small island states, is programmed to lose money.

Government must subsidise LIAT as a vital Essential Service!

Antigua Hangars Inc. is poised to assist the LIAT staff get what they are entitled to, using their skills to achieve it in a working environment of aviation entrepreneurship which, incidentally happens to be the path our government has established as the way forward for its people.

Call it what you will, Entrepreneurial Socialism(?) or Democratic Entrepreneurialism, or even the right to work and eat, LIAT could be just the inspiration needed to move this country forward as a small business miracle.

The emphasis for LIAT this time must be Each Endeavouring and All Achieving!

Practical Advice on Policy Drafting



Human Resource Professionals, as chief draftspersons of organizational policies are getting a workout during this pandemic. Most progressive organizations have developed a plethora of policies aimed at keeping employees and customers safe. Today, HRPAB delves into practical advice to consider when drafting a new policy. Specifically, we provide guidance on establishing a temperature screening policy.

Policies should not be written to correct the behavior of a few and must be beneficial for all employees. In this case, while temperature screening will not detect possible Covid-19 infections in asymptomatic persons, a high temperature is one of the initial and continuing symptoms of a Covid-19 infection. Temperature screening, therefore, when conducted at the entry point of the premises, is a useful measure in reducing the possibility of an infected person entering the company's premises. Establishing such a policy communicates to valued employees and to the public that the company is concerned about the health and well-being of its employees and is willing to implement measures to keep them safe, once the cost of doing so is not prohibitive.

In the case of the temperature screening policy, useful information can be sourced from the ILO (International Labour Organization), WHO (World Health Organization), CDC (Centers for

Disease Control), CARPHA (Caribbean Public Health Agency) and the local Ministry of Health and the Environment. Drafters often reach out to organizations such as HRPAB for guidance on best practices, or to companies who already have similar policies in place.

While one can never cover every possible contingency even in the best written policy, drafters should review asking 'what-if' questions to ensure the policy addresses a wide scope of scenarios. The drafter should consult with all stakeholders: management, employees and their representatives, and the Labour Department or customers where appropriate to strengthen the policy. In the case of the temperature screening policy, the company could include the temperature screeners (security personnel) when drafting the screening procedures. The final draft of the policy should have input and revisions from all stakeholders.

Now your draft policy is ready, how do you implement it? How do you communicate it to all stakeholders? First, discuss and share the policy with employees' representatives/unions where they exist. After this meeting, the way would be clear to proceed with the implementation of the policy.

The nature of the policy determines how one should communicate it to the employees. In the case of the temperature screening policy, the company may choose to communicate it in an all-staff meeting. Management should communicate the reasons it was introducing the policy, why it was necessary, the procedures for the screening process and the consequence for failing to comply with the policy. This mode of communication allows for employees to ask questions to gain clarity and to express their feelings on

the matter. Concerns may be raised by those employees who are uncomfortable with their temperatures being registered on their foreheads. Allowances may be requested for employees who may have a high temperature reading due to heat exposure and not due to illness. At every step, management should assure employees that the screening procedure would be carried out safely, and with courtesy and empathy. Following the all-staff meeting, the policy should be made available to employees and updated to the company's policy manual.

It is also sensible to expect teething pains when any new policy is implemented. Seamless transition is the exception not the norm. Management must remain open to tweaking the policy where necessary to achieve its stated goal. Most of all, Management must ensure that they are always seen to comply with the procedures. Following the introductory period, Management must formally evaluate the new policy to ensure it is achieving the desired outcomes.

HAPPY DRAFTING!

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary.

ASP Glenroy Weekes: 40 years of sterling service to the RPFAB



ASP Glenroy Weekes celebrates 40 years of unbroken service in the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda

Working for 40 years with one organisation does not come without its challenges, but Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Glenroy Weekes, says he is privileged to be working as a member of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB).

Weekes has been attached to the Fire Department since joining the RP-

FAB on October 19, 1980, on the invitation of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The St. Vincent native recounted that there was a void in the force in the past as many Antiguan left the force to find work in the revitalised tourism sector.

18-years-old Weekes, who had just

graduated college where he studies in building construction and joinery, jumped at the opportunity to come to Antigua where he could pursue his passion for serving others.

His training to become a police officer began in Antigua at the Police Training School, which is now known as the Sir Wright George Police Academy. One month into his training, however, he asked to be transferred to the Fire Department.

The fire officer said his decision was motivated by his love for the work of the fire department and its mandate to help people.

"It's (fire fighting) more of reaching out to help people who are in distress and that is what I wanted to do-to help people. I wanted to be able to have an impact on people's lives and so that is why I wanted to do that (become a fireman). On the other side- with the regular (police officer) it would have been more taking people to court and arresting persons rather than reaching out to them," Weekes said.

His first post was at the V. C. Bird International Airport where he served for seven years. He then returned to the Police Training School in 1987 as an instructor where he imparted his knowledge to many officers just joining the service, including former Commissioner of Police, Wendel Robinson.

After four years, it was time to move on, but instead of returning to active fire duty, Weekes was assigned

cont'd on pg 14

cont'd from pg 13

to work as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), where he would remain for four years. This period, he explained, was fraught with challenges.

"This was when the Holberton Hospital was running the ambulance service. I received training in CPR and the Fire Department was asked to man the ambulance service which I did and I was one of the persons responsible for the ambulance service for four years.

"That was a big challenge again too; it was getting to people, homes, bringing them to the hospital, tending to them, looking after them and that is down my line that I wanted to help," Weeks said cheerfully.

The ASP said his 40 years as a member of the Fire Department had been interesting and fulfilling as he was able to complete his mandate of helping people.

Over the years, he has helped many people in distress including those who experienced the devastation of losing everything in a fire. On one rare occasion, he was called upon to help a loved one who had befallen tragedy.

Weekes recounted an incident in which he was called to assist two officers who were trying to calm a mentally ill woman who had set her home ablaze. When help arrived, she threatened the two armed officers with a knife. Weekes was at his Fort Road home preparing for a shift when a villager sought him out to give aid to the officers.

He freely admitted that he was frightened for his life as the woman was armed and not of a sound mind, however, he managed to gain her trust and talk her down. This allowed

authorities to safely transport her to the mental hospital where she could receive treatment.

"She kinda gave in a little bit until I was able to get up close to her and to take away the knife from her and get her into the police vehicle to take her to get her medication. I then rushed into the fire and threw out all the clothes out of the house, which she had set on fire and sealed the home. That was something that I think my life was threatened because she could have stabbed me because I did not have anything to protect myself. I had to tell her don't focus on them, focus on me," Weekes said.

He also shared one of his most cherished moments as a member of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda. Weekes said it had been an honour to bear the coffin of the late Father of the Nation, national hero, Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr, in 1999, to his final place of rest. He said this is a memory which he will always cherish as Sir Vere touched his life when he first came to Antigua as a young recruit. Being able to bear his remains over a four day period, according to Weekes, was a small way in which he could return Sir Vere's kindness to him.

Weekes recalled that Sir Vere visited the Police Training School and Coolidge Fire Station welcomed him to Antigua and Barbuda.

"For that I have been very grateful and he said to me if you have any problem at all don't be afraid to come to me. For a prime minister to take such an interest, because I did not consider myself to be that important for a prime minister to take time out of his busy schedule to come and just to see me on training

and to talk to me, and to give me an encouraging word was something that I was grateful for," the ASP said.

Weekes is also an avid sportsman who represented the Fire Department in cricket and football. During his very first week in Antigua, he was selected to play for the police football team.

His talent in cricket took him to England in 1996 and 2004, Barbados in 1998 and South Africa in 2007.

Always one to share his talent and experience, Weekes also participated in First Class and Parish League cricket and as a member of private clubs.

"I tend to want to branch out and help the weaker teams and so I joined the Swetes Cricket Team. I played for Swetes Cricket Team for over 10 years. I left the Swetes Cricket Team and went and played for Freetown Cricket Team. I helped them to win two championships. Presently I play with Urlings Cricket Team. So I want to share my talent with the community. I also play football in Liberta," Weeks revealed.

ASP Weekes now manages the affairs of the All Saints Fire Station and has also worked at St. John's Fire Station. In fact, Weekes has been stationed at every outpost in the country with the exception of Barbuda.

Weekes said it was always his plan to retire after giving 50 years of service to the force. He added that there is no better or more rewarding job than being a firefighter for persons who have a passion to serve others, help those who are in distress and make a tangible difference in the lives of all they come into contact with.



**POINTVILLE
COMMUNICATIONS INC.**



INDEPENDENCE SPECIAL

\$500

**1 QUARTER PAGE AD
4 30sec RADIO COMMERCIALS
3 MENTIONS PER DAY FOR A WEEK
1 BANNER AD ON WEBSITE**

\$1000

**2 QUARTER PAGE ADS
8 30sec RADIO COMMERCIALS
3 MENTIONS PER DAY FOR A WEEK
1 BANNER AD ON WEBSITE**

\$1500

**2 HALF PAGE ADS
10 30sec RADIO COMMERCIALS
4 MENTIONS PER DAY FOR A WEEK
1 BANNER AD ON WEBSITE**

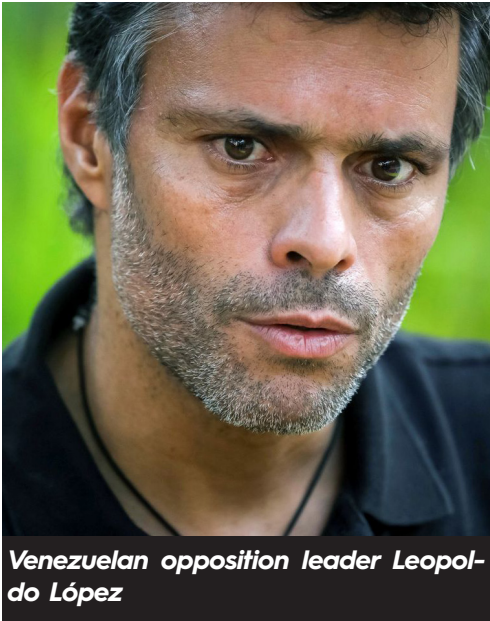
\$2000

**2 HALF PAGE OR 1 FULL PAGE AD
10 30sec RADIO COMMERCIALS
4 MENTIONS PER DAY FOR 2 WEEKS
1 BANNER AD ON WEBSITE FOR 2 WEEKS**

**CONTACTS US AT: 268-562-4989
EMAIL US AT: SALES@POINTVILLE.AG
FOR OUR REGULAR RATE SHEET.**

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Opposition Leader Leopoldo López Flees Venezuela for Exile in Spain



Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo López

The Venezuelan opposition leader, Leopoldo López, fled the country Saturday after spending the past six years in jail, house arrest and diplomatic asylum, his political party said.

Mr. López, 49, went to Spain after leaving the Spanish Embassy in Caracas, according to Spain's Foreign Ministry. He had sought refuge at the Spanish ambassador's residence after he helped lead a failed uprising against the government in April 2019.

A charismatic U.S.-educated former mayor with a piercing glare, Mr. López has for years been one of the most

radical opponents of Venezuela's authoritarian president, Nicolas Maduro, whom he sought to overthrow through street protests and increasingly desperate palace plots. His maximalist tactics, however, have backfired, leaving the opposition dismantled and increasingly irrelevant to the struggles facing Venezuelans amid one of the deepest economic recessions in modern history.

Mr. López came nearest his goal in early 2019, when his protégé, Juan Guaidó, a young lawmaker, with the backing of the Parliament, declared himself the country's interim president, citing Mr. Maduro's fraudulent re-election. The United States and most European and Latin American countries swiftly backed Mr. Guaidó, cutting the government off from the global economy.

Mr. Guaidó and Mr. López called on the military to help them take power, but it largely stood by Mr. Maduro.

Mr. López now becomes the latest opposition leader to leave for exile, leaving Mr. Guaidó increasingly isolated. Mr. Guaidó's term as the speaker of Parliament, on which his claim to the country's leadership is based, expires in January, threatening to leave the opposition without its last base of

support.

Mr. López's party, Popular Will, said its departed leader had pledged his unconditional support for Mr. Guaidó and would continue fighting against Mr. Maduro.

"Like other Venezuelans, Leopoldo López is not fully free, as long as there's a dictatorship that violates human rights of the people," his party said in a statement Saturday.

When Mr. López arrived in Madrid, he was "reunited with his family," Spain's foreign ministry said.

Spain's foreign ministry said in a statement on Sunday that Mr. López had taken the "personal and voluntary" decision to leave its embassy in Caracas.

After Mr. López fled, the Venezuelan police detained a security guard working at the Spanish embassy.

Spain's foreign ministry said on Sunday that it condemned acts committed by Venezuela's government against people working at its embassy, including detentions and the raiding of homes, which it said amounted to violations of international diplomatic conventions.



TALKING POINT

DR. MASERATI

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

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

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

US warns Jamaica against Chinese 5G



Ambassador Donald Tapia

The United States has fired a shot across the bow of the Jamaican Government in relation to the installation of fifth generation (5G) mobile technology infrastructure, saying that any

decision to engage China or a Chinese firm poses several risks to the island, particularly to the financial sector.

America's top diplomat in Jamaica, Ambassador Donald Tapia, made Washington's position known in an exclusive interview with the Sunday Observer last Friday following an article published by the newspaper last Sunday reporting Spectrum Management Authority (SMA) saying that Jamaica is far advanced in preparing the regulatory and monitoring regime for the proliferation of 5G services in the island.

While advancing his preference that Jamaica goes

with other models of 5G architecture, Tapia made the point that the island's financial sector would be hit hard if the Government engages 5G technology from a Chinese source.

Making it clear that his problem with China rests with the totalitarian nature of its Government, Tapia said his country has national security concerns with 5G technology developed by Chinese companies such as Huawei and ZTE.

Declaring that these companies have been found wanting on data security issues, Ambassador Tapia produced US State Department information outlining myths and facts about 5G

security and Huawei.

Included in the information is a declaration that no American company currently offers 5G end-to-end network solutions. "Security concerns expressed by the United States are truly about ensuring our shared security," the State Department states.

It adds that alternative suppliers of end-to-end solutions are headquartered in democracies that offer rule of law and judicial protections to prevent government overreach. The document lists those suppliers as Ericsson in Sweden, Nokia in Finland, and Samsung in South Korea.

PM Gonsalves: "I'm greedy this election. Ah want all 13."



Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, St. Vincent & the Grenadines

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves says his Cabinet will this week approve a statutory rule and order declaring a time slot for persons in quarantine to vote as he predicted that his ruling Unity Labour Party (ULP) would sweep all 13 seats on the mainland in the November 5 general election.

Gonsalves told supporters at a public meeting in Biabou, a village on the east-

ern part of the island, that once ULP supporters go to the polls, the NDP "will get a massive licking in this election as though they have never had".

"They are on track to lose support in every single constituency. And I am expecting us to win all 13 constituencies on St. Vincent," Gonsalves, 74, said.

"I want to say to you that also in the Grenadines they are losing support. I know the majorities, percentage-wise, are high against us in the Grenadines, but we are making progress, but I can tell you on the mainland, be prepared to win 13 seats. I'm greedy this election. Ah want all 13.

"I want you to make sure you know where your polling station is. Look it up, check

it out and if you don't look it up yourself, ask a friend to look it up for you. And on Thursday, the 5th, you go to the polls early at 7 o'clock in the morning. Polls would close regularly at 5.00 pm (local time)," Gonsalves said.

Gonsalves also told supporters that the government is moving to ensure that all persons in quarantine for the coronavirus (COVID-19) would be able to cast their ballots.

"We are seeking to ensure that toward the end of the day, either the last half hour of the regular polling or we put on an additional half an hour by statutory rule and order that will be finalised this week, for those persons who are in quarantine or in isolation will attend the poll for that last half an hour,"

Gonsalves said.

"It means, therefore, that you don't have to worry that during the course of the day that anybody from quarantine or isolation is going to be in the line with you. So you can go and vote without any inhibition, without any concern whatsoever," the prime minister said.

He said that the ULP is making sure that, as a political party, it has masks for voters in the line "to make sure that you and everybody in the polling station would be protected in all the circumstances".

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recorded 74 cases of the coronavirus virus since it was first detected in China last December. There have been no deaths.

Philippines: Typhoon leaves 13 missing, displaces thousands



The remains of a house is surrounded by floods in Pola town on the island of Mindoro, central Philippines.

A fast-moving typhoon blew away from the Philippines on Monday after leaving at least 13 people missing, forcing thousands of villagers to flee to safety and flooding rural villages, disaster-response officials said.

The 13 people missing from Typhoon Molave included a dozen fishermen who ventured out to sea over the weekend despite a no-sail restriction due to very rough seas. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The typhoon was blowing west toward the South China Sea with sustained winds of 125 kilometers (77 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 150 kph (93 mph). It roared overnight through island provinces south of the capital, Manila, which was lashed by strong winds but escaped major damage.

At least 25,000 villagers were displaced, with about 20,000 taking shelter in schools and government buildings that were turned

into evacuation centers, the Office of Civil Defense said, but officials added that some have returned home in regions where the weather has cleared.

"Villagers are now asking to be rescued because of the sudden wind which blew away roofs," Humerto Dolor, governor of Oriental Mindoro province, told DZMM radio.

Dolor said pounding rains overnight swamped farming villages in his province then fierce winds toppled trees and power posts early on Monday, knocking out power. Authorities were clearing roads of fallen trees and debris in some towns after the typhoon passed.

In the eastern province of Catanduanes, the 12 fishermen were reported missing after they failed to return home from a weekend fishing expedition, officials said.

A yacht sank off Batangas province, south of Manila, and the coast guard said it managed to rescue

seven crewmen but was still searching for another crewmember. A passenger and cargo vessel also ran aground on Bonito island off Batangas as the region was pounded by fierce wind and rain early Monday. The coast guard said its personnel were on the way to the island to pick up five crewmembers and tow the vessel back to coast.

More than 1,800 cargo truck drivers, workers and passengers were stranded in ports after the coast guard barred ships and ferry boats from venturing into rough seas, officials said. Some of the ports were later reopened as the weather cleared.

About 20 typhoons and storms annually batter the Philippines, and the Southeast Asian archipelago is seismically active, with earthquakes and volcanic eruptions making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.



THE PULL UP

SHOW

FRIDAY
7PM-9PM

POINTE FM 99.1

MENACE|ADRIAN|MYÁ|ERIC|WALLY



ASK MENACE

Barrett confirmed as Supreme Court justice in partisan vote



Amy Coney Barrett whose nomination drew controversy, confirmed to the Supreme Court on October 26, 2020.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed to the Supreme Court late Monday by a deeply divided Senate, Republicans overpowering Democrats to install President Donald Trump's nominee days before the election and secure a likely conservative court majority for years to come.

Trump's choice to fill the vacancy of the late liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg potentially opens a new era of rulings on abortion, the Affordable Care Act and even his own election. Democrats were unable to stop the outcome, Trump's third justice on the court, as Republicans race to reshape the judiciary.

Barrett is 48, and her lifetime appointment as the

115th justice will solidify the court's rightward tilt.

Monday's 52-48 vote was the closest high court confirmation ever to a presidential election, and the first in modern times with no support from the minority party. The spiking COVID-19 crisis has hung over the proceedings. Vice President Mike Pence's office said Monday he would not preside at the Senate session unless his tie-breaking vote was needed after Democrats asked him to stay away when his aides tested positive for COVID-19. His vote was not necessary.

With Barrett's confirmation assured, Trump was expected to celebrate with a primetime swearing-in event at the White House. Justice Clarence Thomas was set

to administer the Constitutional Oath, a senior White House official said.

"This is something to be really proud of and feel good about," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said during a rare weekend session Sunday ahead of voting. He scoffed at the "apocalyptic" warnings from critics that the judicial branch was becoming mired in partisan politics and declared that "they won't be able to do much about this for a long time to come."

Democrats argued for weeks that the vote was being improperly rushed and insisted during an all-night Sunday session it should be up to the winner of the Nov. 3 election to name the nominee. However, Barrett, a federal appeals court judge from Indiana, is expected to be seated swiftly, and begin hearing cases.

Speaking near midnight Sunday, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., called the vote "illegitimate" and "the last gasp of a desperate party."

Several matters are awaiting decision just a week before Election Day, and Barrett could be a decisive vote in Republican appeals of orders extending the deadlines for absentee ballots in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

The justices also are

weighing Trump's emergency plea for the court to prevent the Manhattan District Attorney from acquiring his tax returns. And on Nov. 10, the court is expected to hear the Trump-backed challenge to the Obama-era Affordable Care Act.

Trump has said he wanted to swiftly install a ninth justice to resolve election disputes and is hopeful the justices will end the health law known as "Obamacare."

During several days of public testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Barrett was careful not to disclose how she would rule on any such cases.

She presented herself as a neutral arbiter and suggested, "It's not the law of Amy." But her writings against abortion and a ruling on "Obamacare" show a deeply conservative thinker.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, praised the mother of seven as a role model — "a conservative woman who embraces her faith." Republicans focused on her Catholic religion, dismissing earlier Democratic questions about her beliefs. Graham said Barrett is "unabashedly pro-life, but she's not going to apply 'the law of Amy' to all of us."

At least 100 arrested as Angolans Demand Better Living Conditions



Thousands of protesters flood the streets of the Angolan capital Luanda, demanding a new date for elections

At least 100 people were arrested following violent anti-government protests in the Angolan capital Luanda, a senior government official told

local media Sunday.

Demonstrators are demanding a new date for local government elections that were due this year, but have been de-

layed due to the coronavirus pandemic, as well as to demand jobs and better living conditions.

Riot police fired tear gas and beat protesters to break up demonstrations involving about 2,000 people.

Demonstrators erected barricades along the roads using dumpsters, rocks, tree trunks, and burning tires. Others set a national flag on fire.

The authorities said that protesters were violent – throwing stones, burning tires, and dam-

aging a fire engine.

Interior Ministry Secretary Salvador Rodrigues told state television that 103 people, including members of the main opposition party UNITA, were arrested and six police officers were injured.

In a statement issued on Sunday, UNITA accused the police of using excessive force to quell the protests and demanded the “unconditional release” of all those arrested.

CONGRATULATIONS!



BDO Eastern Caribbean is pleased to recognize the achievement of Denicia Camacho on the successful completion of her ACCA Examinations. Denicia, who is currently an Assistant Audit Senior, is now an ACCA Affiliate having completed the ACCA Program which is a significant step in her educational achievements and professional development. We congratulate Denicia on her achievement arising from her hard work and determination and we look forward to her continued contribution as a valuable member of our Assurance team.

Assurance | Advisory | Tax

BDO Eastern Caribbean
Cnr. Factory Road & Carnival Gardens
St. John's Antigua
Tel: 268-462-8868
www.bdoecc.com





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

VIRTUAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY FUNDRAISER

Jennings Ebenezer Connection presents a Virtual Independence Fundraiser Party on Friday October 30th. Time 7 – 9pm EST. Featuring DJ Tuffis and Solo Christus. Guest DJ Black Joker from Holland. Live Streaming via the Jennings Ebenezer Connection Facebook page. Proceeds in aid of community development.

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.

AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDERS INVITED TO VIRTUAL MEETING

Do you or someone you know operate in the Agriculture Sector within Antigua & Barbuda? Don't miss the opportunity to share feedback about your needs and learn about how persons and businesses will be able to access - Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance. Meeting Dates: Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th and Friday 30th October 2020 at 7:00 pm. Learn more and register at <https://agriculturenetwork.app>

MEDICAL BENEFITS VIRTUAL MEETING

The Medical Benefits Scheme invites you to a virtual discussion on Breast Cancer this Thursday 29th October at 5:30pm. Log on to the Medical Benefits Scheme Facebook Page or YouTube Channel to receive invaluable information on breast cancer prevention and detection, get your questions answered and listen to the story of a breast cancer survivor. Message us your questions on our social media page or call 481-6361 for more information.

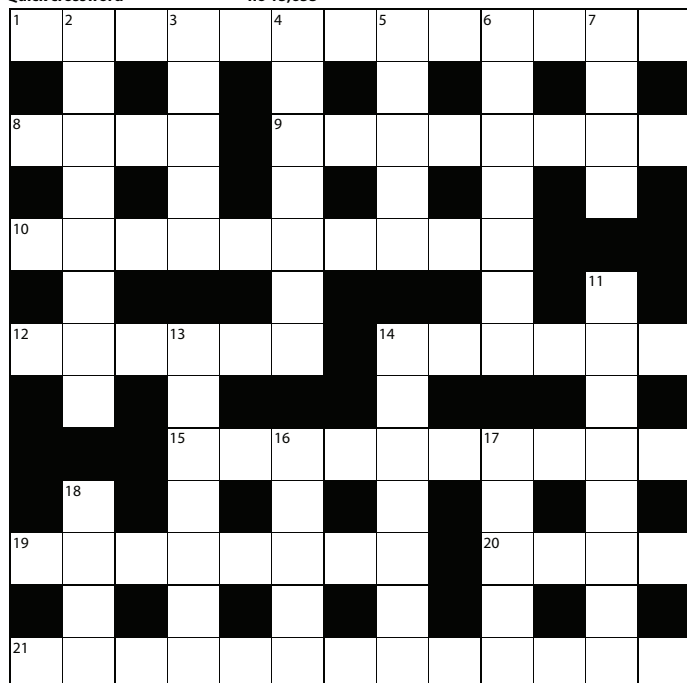
Submit community notices to news@pointville.ag



QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword

no 15,653



Across

- 1 Selfish (13)
 8 Reddish-brown colour (4)
 9 Give up (8)
 10 Not ideal (6,4)
 12 Solid (6)
 14 One who holds forth (6)
 15 Solo (10)
 19 Merchant (8)
 20 Winding spool on a fishing rod (4)
 21 Group that does each other favours — not rowdy bloke (anag) (3,3,7)

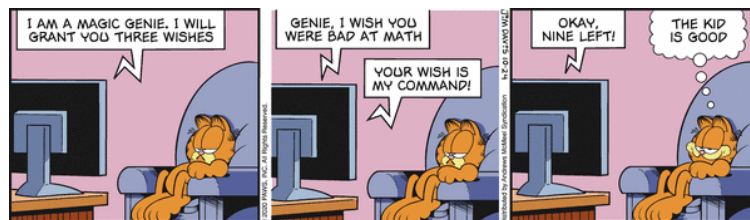
Down

- 2 Disgust (8)
 3 Go one better than (5)
 4 Support (5,2)
 5 Dimwit (5)
 6 Boat racing event (7)
 7 Farewell (informal) (2-2)
 11 Ancestor (8)
 13 Leafstalks usually cooked, sweetened and eaten in puddings (7)
 14 Abide by — watch (7)
 16 Soothe (5)
 17 The Turn of the ___, 1898 Henry James horror story (5)
 18 Legendary Swiss crossbowman and folk hero (4)

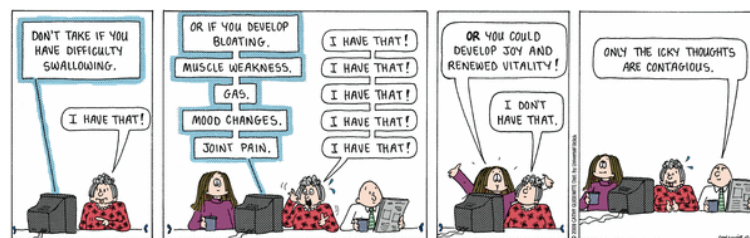
Dilbert



Garfield



Cathy



In the Bleachers





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): You need to slow down. You need to take a walk, put things into perspective, and get a reality check about your place in the world.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): It's time for you to have some new adventures in cooking! Grab your partner or a good friend and plan a culinary trip. It doesn't have to be ambitious. Even a visit to your local farmer's market could give you the jolt you've been looking for.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This week starts off with a lot of opportunities brewing. Who knows what could change in your life over the next few days! This week starts off with a lot of opportunities brewing. Who knows what could change in your life over the next few days!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your inner type A personality might not feel like coming out today, but you could really use its help! There could be a certain amount of chaos in your day, and you're going to need to get a handle on it if you want to stay on task.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Try not to postpone your big plans any longer. You could be starting a bad habit that will be very hard to break later on. If you don't move forward with things now, some important people might get the idea that you aren't totally sure about what you're doing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Try not to postpone your big plans any longer. You could be starting a bad habit that will be very hard to break later on. If you don't move forward with things now, some important people might get the idea that you aren't totally sure about what you're doing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Just because someone from your past is suddenly back on the scene doesn't mean that you're going to have the same kind of relationship with them that you once had. Keep your mind open and you'll be rewarded with a pleasant surprise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your self-control is strong right now, but you need to make sure that you're using it at the right times. Resisting temptation isn't good to do just for its own sake. You can't say no to something unless you know it's the wrong thing to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You could be blessed with a chunk of free time today, so start thinking about what you will do with it! You could be blessed with a chunk of free time today, so start thinking about what you will do with it!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): They say that friends are the family you choose for yourself, and today you will be reminded yet again how well you have chosen! When someone backs you up in a sticky situation, make sure you let them know how grateful you are to have them in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If someone is telling you that you need to add more discipline and structure into your life, they're probably projecting their own needs on to you, so take what they say with a grain of salt.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You have friends in high places who are just itching to reach down and give you a hand up the ladder, whether it be corporate connections, a great stock tip, or just some "been there, done that" advice that could really put you over the hump.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE



ONE Purpose
Vision
Nation

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**SUNDAY,
25TH OCTOBER
4:30 P.M.**

Independence Thanksgiving Service
St. John's Pentecostal Church

**MONDAY,
26TH OCTOBER
10:00 A.M.**

National Heroes' Day Ceremony
Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway

Virtual Solo Dance Competition
Presented by the Department of Culture

**TUESDAY,
27TH OCTOBER**

Golden Age Celebrations
Various communities
in Antigua and Barbuda

**FRIDAY,
30TH OCTOBER**

National Dress Day

National Youth Day
Presented by the
Department of Youth Affairs

Virtual Film Festival
Presented by the Motion Picture
Association of Antigua and Barbuda

**SATURDAY,
31ST OCTOBER
8:00 P.M.**

**Independence Virtual
Calypso Monarch**

Virtual Film Festival
Presented by the Motion Picture
Association of Antigua and Barbuda

**SUNDAY,
1ST NOVEMBER
5:30 P.M.**

**Independence Ceremonial
Parade & National Awards**
Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium

Virtual Film Festival
Presented by the Motion Picture
Association of Antigua and Barbuda

**MONDAY,
2ND NOVEMBER**

Barbuda Day Activities

Photo credit Shaz Expressions

Pogba to take legal action over fake retirement reports



Manchester United and France midfielder, Paul Pogba

Manchester United and France midfielder, Paul Pogba, says he will take legal action after "total fake" reports said he was to quit international football.

Pogba, 27, was reported to be quitting the France national team over comments made by the country's president, Emmanuel Macron, about Islam.

World Cup winner Pogba, who is Muslim, has 10 goals and 72 caps for France.

"Absolutely 100% unfounded news about me are going around, stating things I have never said or thought," he said.

Writing on Instagram, he said he was "appalled, angry, shocked and frustrated" at some media "using him to make total fake

headlines" and "adding the French national team and my religion to the pot".

He added: "I am against any and all forms of terror and violence. Unfortunately, some press people don't act responsibly when writing the news, abusing their press freedom, not verifying if what they write/reproduce is true, creating a gossip chain without caring it affects people's lives and my life."

"I am taking legal action against the publishers and spreaders of these 100% Fake News."

TTFA membership hopeful of Gold Cup, World Cup play



Trinidad and Tobago's senior footballers can resume training in preparation for Gold Cup and World Cup play with both qualifying tournaments set to take place next year.

The Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) membership hosted an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) Sunday with 38 of the 47 members who were present voting to have the FIFA appointed Normalization Committee, led by Robert Hadad, resume the management of local football.

TTFA president, William Wallace, and his group who were elected last November before being removed in March by FIFA, did not attend the EGM after losing their high court case against FIFA.

Richard Ferguson, who

chaired Sunday's EGM, later penned a letter to FIFA through the Normalization Committee's Chairman Hadad, which basically apologised to FIFA for the nine month long legal battle.

Hadad responded on Monday that he received the letter, which had been delivered via email and hand delivered to his office. Hadad said he will await a response from FIFA before moving forward.

Antigua and Barbuda were positioned to take Trinidad and Tobago's spot in the Gold Cup tournament if they did not withdraw their case against FIFA from the local court.

With this development, Trinidad and Tobago's return to international football appears to be imminent.



ANTIGUA'S #1 MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERSHIP
www.hadeedmotors.com



Way of Life!

Unlock your
FUN
SIDE



UNLOCK YOUR FUNSIDE WITH A NEW 2020 SUZUKI D-ZIRE.
CHOOSE YOUR COLOUR, YOUR STYLE, YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

DZIRE
starting at
\$49,500

>>> UPGRADED FEATURES

- Power Windows
- Reverse Camera
- Touch Screen
- Bluetooth
- Parking Sensors
- Automatic AC

INCLUDES

- Free Licensing and Insurance
- Registration and Plates
- Gas And Service

*On The Spot Financing Available

- Automatic Headlamps



located on
Old Parham Road

contact us
Tel: (268) 481-2500

follow us on
f Facebook & @ Instagram

Plans for Sailing Week 2021 progressing



Two vessels competing on the high seas during Antigua Sailing Week

Alison Sly-Adams, who is a member of the Sailing Week organising committee and manager of the Sailing Academy, says despite the cancel-

ation of the 2020 event due to the coronavirus pandemic, plans for the 2021 event are steaming ahead.

Adams said when Sailing Week

2020 was cancelled, the committee immediately sent notices to persons who had registered to participate and inquired concerning their interest in being a part of the 2021 event.

"We have continuously been in contact with our stakeholders and there are sixty-nine entries presently for the event with the numbers expected to rise."

Adams said the committee will engage in regular dialogue with the Ministries of Health and Tourism as the safety and health of nationals and visitors are priorities.

"Safety is front and center of the event and some events will have to be cancelled with the present protocols at 25 persons at gatherings. The handing over of trophies, prizes and other events might have to be done virtually. Sailors and visitors arriving for sailing week will have to follow all the protocols of the local authorities," Adams explained.

Next year's Sailing Week is scheduled for April 24 - 30.

Russell among five stars to miss NZ T20's



Andre Russell opted out of the T20 International tour of New Zealand due to COVID-19 concerns

Powerful all-rounder, Andre Russell, along with openers Lendl Simmons and Evin Lewis, have opted out of the Twenty20

International tour of New Zealand, Cricket West Indies (CWI) has confirmed.

The trio were not part of a 14-man squad named

for the three-match series from November 27-30, with embattled off-spinner, Sunil Narine, and veteran superstar, Chris Gayle, also missing the trip next month.

"Lendl Simmons declined the opportunity to tour at this time after discussions with his family," convenor of selectors, Roger Harper, told a media conference.

"Evin Lewis, the same as well as he says he still has an injury that is troubling him, and Andre Russell said that he wasn't really handling the whole thing (playing during the COVID-19 pandemic) very well and needed some

time to clear his head and get himself together. He's been going from one [bi-osecure bubble], so to speak, to another."

Narine, meanwhile, who was last week reported for a suspect bowling action during the Indian Premier League (IPL), was overlooked for the tour along with Gayle, who made his first appearance in a competitive game in 10 months on Thursday in the IPL.

Despite their absences, Harper said both are still in the plans of selectors going forward, especially with the T20 World Cup on the horizon.

Warner, Severin frustrated over slow development of boxing



Anthony Severin, owner of Uprising Boxing Gym

National boxer, Carl Warner, is deeply frustrated with the development of boxing in Antigua and Barbuda and he is accusing the sport's local administrators of neglect and incompetence.

Warner was introduced to boxing relatively late at age 27 by the owner of the Uprising Boxing Gym, Anthony Severin. Warner explained he was passionate about skating as a young-

ster, but was invited by Severin to give boxing a try.

"I decided, one day, to visit the gym and was immediately impressed by the discipline and athleticism involved in the sport."

The athlete has since gone on to win more than nine medals regionally having fought in St. Lucia, Grenada, Martinique, St. Martin and Barbados.

"There is a lot of talent in Antigua and Barbuda, but

the lack of proper administration and dissemination of information from the regional and international bodies have arrested the growth of the sport locally and frustrate local athletes," explained Warner.

"There are many young athletes drawn to the sport, but they get frustrated with the lack of opportunities available."

Warner, obviously dejected and angry, told PointeXpress that ten years have expired since the association's last election. Local boxers and enthusiasts have written to the Ministry of Sports, and other authorities, seeking help in normalising the sport.

"The local boxing administrators have failed, and it's time they move on and hand the reins over to individuals who love boxing and have a passion for young people," Warner noted.

Former national boxer and coach, Anthony Severin, also chatted with PointeXpress. He is intensely dedicated to the sport and

often transports his athletes to and from the training sessions. He also invests personal funds heavily in the upkeep and modernisation of his gym's equipment. Severin said he stays focused despite his disappointment with the administration of the sport.

"I have to tell my athletes the truth when they join the gym that things are slow in the sport and they will need to remain patient and focused."

Severin said keeping them motivated is challenging, but he remains hopeful that some resolution can be brought to the non-performance and lack of attention boxing receives from local administrators.

"I am passionate about boxing and have been involved since I was a teenager, and after retiring from active boxing at the age of 34, decided to turn my attention to coaching.

Severin is employed by the Ministry of Sports as a boxing coach.