



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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BARBUDA: NATURE'S PARADISE

Happy Independence Antigua and Barbuda

PG 10 TONY DEYAL COMES TO POINTE XPRESS

PG 13 ENTERTAINMENT

SEARCHING FOR THE SAME DESTINY

Legally thirty-nine years but together since forever!!! The fights, the love, the growth, the trials and tribulations, the make-ups, we go way back!!!!

Centuries ago, we were forged a part of the globe known as earth. Our history before the Ciboneys lost a part of the archeological past never to be regained. We know smidgen of our Waladli and W'omani era, the Arawaks and Caribs our indigenous people the first people who came for our historical records.

Then there is that first named tourist and his crew, Christopher Columbus who 'sailed the ocean blue in 1492' and named us Antigua and Barbuda in honour of his legacy. His adventures five centuries ago set in train the series of events that brought us to this auspicious celebration.

That first visitor caused the demise of our first set of indigenous Antiguan and Barbudans. That first visitor established the building blocks for colonialism, slavery, indentureship and all the trappings. That first visitor in his quest for his economic salvation provided the platform for our today.

The jury is out for many on the failing or successes of Christopher Columbus. After all that to the centuries long insatiable quest to satisfy European consumption, African peoples were enslaved under a most evil and demeaning system, robbed of all rights in the service of wealth creation, simple - a means to an end. And when the free labour was no longer economically viable, it was put out to pasture without compensation to fend, with only an outside look to imitate the very system that enslaved. Columbus' adventures also brought indentured East Indians and other ethnicities to Antigua and Barbuda land. Though not as mentally and physically debilitating, they too had to learn to thrive and survive in new socio-economic circumstances.

Under these conditions the people of the twin-island of Antigua and Barbuda were forged. The peoples of African descent, Mid-Easterners, sprinkling of descendants of those who enslaved us and profited, all left together with preset political framework, little central resources, no economic policy to guide our development. We were presented with a hodgepodge of crudely shaped institutions and protocols and left to find our way in the era of Independence.

Thirty-nine years later the process continues. Many of us quite often forget that we are on a journey which will be one of continuous evolution. Centuries old, significantly larger nations with a multiplicity of natural resources face tremendous challenges as they seek to service the needs of their people. Even the nations of our early tourists with the wealth legacy built on our backs, face tremendous challenges despite all the trappings of First World status.

Too often we sit envious of their successes forgetting that our forefathers bore the cost for the strong foundation on which their societies were built. We expect similar results immediately and without sacrifice without appreciating the history of those countries, the scores of years over which they built their nations' foundation and the impact free, exploited labour had on their development trajectory.

The nation of Antigua and Barbuda stands 39 years strong, having to painstakingly allocated precious limited resources to cover every aspect of our development. We are a 'work in progress' repairing and upgrading the broken legacy gifted to us in 1981 many aspects enshrined in legislations and institutions dating back to the early 1900s. Considering the economic value we added to our colonial masters we received

token sums to inject into our development and have had to make our own way in an era where everything we attempted have been considered a threat to the development of larger economies. Our unresolved gaming issue is an obvious reminder.

Thirty-nine years later, tourists are still key to our development. However, this time we are positioned to retain the value added and be more than simply the exploited. We must continue strengthen our position to capitalize on the fastest growing global industry up to the covid-a9 pandemic and the one likely to be the key to global economic recovery.

Thirty-nine years later we must instill in each and every one with our DNA that despite family squabbles and rancor, we will always be one family with a common purpose and destiny. As such, as some time our leadership must become solutions driven to take all citizenry to the next level. We must remember that even though those of us who are descendants of enslaved people are in the majority, we are not the only ones with rights as citizens. For us to move in the right direction our national anthem remains 'Each endeavouring, all achieving'.

Our Nation, Antigua and Barbuda stands on the eve on another year of political independence ready to be renewed and inspired. We the sons and daughters must stand at the ready to lock hands and hearts and boldly face the challenges ahead, to think outside the usual in these particularly challenging times and move forward.

'One people, one history, one heritage, searching for the same destiny' Calypsonian Solo

Youth parliament discusses COVID-19



Members of the National Youth Parliament convened a special session on Thursday to discuss, primarily, issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sixteen members of the parliament met in the session where the proposed bill, an Act to provide for the Government to bear the Cost of the Vaccine when it becomes available, was debated.

The activity formed part of the independence celebrations and Youth Day activities.

“Ordinarily this Youth Parliament would have taken place during Youth Week in September, but due to covid and the opening of school we had to delay until Independence when the schools are on mid-term break. Several public and private secondary schools across Antigua and Barbuda were represented,” Trainer and Mentor to the programme, Senator Shenella Govia stated.

During the session, the participants

assumed Cabinet portfolios and were addressed as “Honourable Ministers’. The Speaker of the House was Lasheka Hodge, who was Antigua and Barbuda’s representative at the ParlAmerican Youth Party in Trinidad last year.

Serving as Clerk of Parliament was Deborah Ryan, who is also a former youth parliamentarian.

From this session, two persons will be selected to be the country’s next representatives at the upcoming ParlAmerican Youth Parliament in Tortola.

Coordinator of the Youth Parliament is Youth Coordinator in the Department of Youth Affairs, Rushell Ellis.

There were no representatives from Barbuda due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Tourism Authority launches independence cocktail



Jacqueline Thomas, Owner and Chef at the villas at Sunset Lane.

This year, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission and Premier Beverages, is inviting Antiguan and Barbudans and the nation’s well-wishers to celebrate the country’s 39th Year of Independence on November 1, with the ‘After 5’ daiquiri.

The official “Independence cocktail” was launched on October 29 and features a myriad of Antigua and Barbuda-based flavours.

Crafted as a modern variation of the Old-Fashioned Rum Punch with an Anti-

guan twist, the cocktail uses English Harbour 5-Year-Old Rum as its base, and includes fresh lime juice, orange bitters and nutmeg. The use of agave nectar, taken from the flower of the Dagger Log, Antigua and Barbuda’s national flower, adds a wonderful sweetness to the cocktail.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority’s Social Media team hosted a Facebook LIVE demonstration of the ‘After 5’ cocktail featuring Calbert Francis, Global Export Manager at Premier Beverages.

Jacqueline Thomas, owner, and chef at the Villas at Sunset Lane created saltfish cakes with an Antiguan black pineapple dip as the perfect appetizer to pair with the cocktail.

Veteran banker retires after 34 years of sterling service



Glendina Jacobs, who has been an employee of CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank for over 34 years, is being hailed for her outstanding service to the institution.

Jacobs is retiring on 4th November, 2020.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne joined the management and staff of the bank in recognising Jacobs for her three decades of excellent service. He lauded Jacobs for her contributions to banking, education and community development. He said al-

though the invitation he was extended only requested his virtual participation, he opted to attend in person.

"Glendina was a school mate whom I have known for over forty years. She was always a natural leader and someone who motivated me with her high intellect and intelligence. She had the capacity to do anything she wanted, but chose banking," PM Browne said.

Also speaking during the ceremony was the bank's country head, Ladesa James-Williams, who observed the significance of occasion as it was the first time that a company retirement function had been attended by a sitting prime minister.

She commented that Jacobs is an exemplary and excellent employee who has always been approachable and humble.

Jacobs joined the bank in 1986 and has worked in numerous roles, partic-

ularly in lending and in a supervisory and leadership capacity. She will take her leave having last held the post of Client Credit Management Analyst.

In 2014 she was adjudged the bank's regional Amazing Employee of the Year from a field of eleven nominees. During Antigua and Barbuda's 38th Anniversary of Independence, she was honoured with the National Award of The Most Illustrious Order of Merit (MM), for distinguished contribution in the fields of education and community service.

For the past 20 years, she has hosted free lessons and provided snacks to students of her community of Buckley's Village and beyond.

Also in 2019, she received the Inet Hero of the Year Award for her work in education and community development.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S HERITAGE

A celebration of our islands heritage

The Madras

Madras was a very popular material in the post-emancipation period. The material was used to make outfits worn by market vendors and cake makers in Antigua and Barbuda as far back as 1834. The madras used in our National Dress designs was chosen for its symbolism: the red, gold and green represent the dynamism of our people and our African heritage.

Fashion icon Heather Doram made use of the madras to create Antigua and Barbuda's national dress which is still worn with pride today.



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PLEDGE to
DRIVE
SAFELY

Trade Minister wants local products to reach a global market



Minister of Trade, E.P. Chet Greene

Trade Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, is calling for greater partnerships between small manufacturers and creative industries in order to get local

products onto the international market.

Some small business owners have, in the past, complained about the restrictions and the cost associated in exporting their products.

While Greene admitted that there are challenges which local manufacturers face, he continued that it will take joint creative measures to overcome them.

He said the export market is not very friendly to small businesses in micro states.

"The standards in some instances have posed a challenge. On another hand, there is the issue of conveyance. How do you move these goods from source to market at rates which make them competitive?" Green said.

The trade minister also said it will be a challenge for local manufacturers to export cost effectively if they continue to ship small quantities as opposed to container loads at a time.

As an example, Greene said that it is not practical for persons to ship

containers at less than full capacity to the destinations as far off as the USA. Therefore resourceful methods must be found to address this issue.

"And so it is a real challenge. We maybe have to look at amalgamating products or producers, manufactured goods enclosed in the shipment so that the scale changes and the shipping costs would become more affordable.

"It is not a unique problem to any single importer. What I am suggesting is that we find creative ways of getting around these things. We do not own the means of conveyance—that is the shipping lines and the aircraft, we do not own those," he said.

Greene said the government would have to find a means of ensuring that items produced in Antigua and Barbuda make their way into markets such as North America.

Antigua and Barbuda observes World Stroke Day

Two senior government officials issued separate statements to mark Antigua and Barbuda's observance of World Stroke day on Thursday.

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, a medical doctor, and Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, both stressed the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle as part of a programme of wellness which can help to reduce the likelihood of stroke which often leads to permanent physical disability or death.

"The negative impacts of heart diseases and strokes can be quite significant and often render the patient unable to work. This in turn places a greater burden on other family mem-

bers and the nation as a whole. Since a nation's health is a measure of a nation's wealth, it is imperative that we all work together to reduce the occurrence of heart disease and stroke in our population," Sir Rodney remarked.

He advised that in a world where fast and convenience foods are readily available, many choose quick options without paying enough attention to the high levels of unhealthy fats, salt, sugar, preservatives and low nutrient content in the things they consume.

"Additionally, in today's age of restrictions occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is a lot easier to live a sedentary life and not engage in the required

daily physical activity for a sustained period of at least 45 minutes," he added.

He indicated once more people pay attention to the quality and quantity of their food intake and regularity of sustained physical activity, the burden on families and the nation as a whole will be diminished.

In his message, Minister Joseph noted that stroke and other non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes are the leading cause of death in the world.

"These NCDs continue to be a major concern of the Ministry of Health and by extension, the Government

cont'd on pg 6

Barbuda development ready to be launched



By Shelton Daniel

The physical development plan for Barbuda, which the Gaston Browne administration has signaled determination to implement, is not new as it was initially the plan as far back as 2006 when the United Progressive Party (UPP) held the reins of government.

Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, highlighted this on Thursday morning when he hosted the weekly post-Cabinet press briefing.

Nicholas was responding to inquiries about the level of the central government's engagement with the Barbuda Council about its plans for land use zoning on the sister isle.

"Yes, we do intend to have ongoing engagements with the Council," was his reply.

The Barbuda Land Use and Development plan is the brainchild of Chad Knight Alexander (CKA), who

presented an updated version of the document to Cabinet on Wednesday.

Elements of Alexander's proposals include building new homes away from the shoreline and on ground that is 15 feet above sea-level at Louis Hill, where the Sir McChesney George Secondary School is already situated.

"We did a refresh yesterday," Nicholas said. "It was an important rejoinder for us to refresh ourselves with that plan. We would have had, shortly after Hurricane Irma, a similar engagement with Mr. Chad Knight Alexander."

Nicholas said "two features came up" during the Cabinet's deliberations. These were "in response to climate change and the hurricanes, and the fact that the [Codrington] lagoon has been breached".

With these in mind, the minister said, "The risk remains that should there be any large or significant sea swell, the lower coast line and lower coastal areas of which Codrington is smack-dab in the middle of it, would be exposed to the movement of water across the bay and into Codrington as well."

Apart from residential homes, the CKA plan includes locating government offices and hurricane shelters to Louis Hill. The Prince's Foundation has proposed building 100 homes in the area and is reportedly ready to proceed. Nicholas said the government

has given its approval.

The People's Republic of China has also agreed to build 100 homes on Barbuda as a gift to the twin island state. It has already been determined that this grant housing development will be concentrated on higher ground to mitigate against any flooding that develops during hurricanes and other adverse weather events.

"There are about 1,000 acres of land in that [Louis Hill] area. The first demarcation is about 250 acres that includes the school district where the secondary school is now located and adjacent to where we intend to locate the new primary school that has been promised by the Dominican Republic (DR)."

Nicholas disclosed that Prime Minister Gaston Browne has communicated directly with the new DR president, Luis Abinader, "to ensure that, notwithstanding the change in government, the offer they made to us back in 2017 [for construction of a new primary school on Barbuda] would be fulfilled."

The development of the seaport at River in Barbuda has also been taken into account, in addition to land and space allocations for agriculture and recreation.

According to this week's post-Cabinet briefing notes, "the complex [CKA] plan is included in the [final/complete] E.R.C. report which will shortly be made public".

cont'd from pg 5

of Antigua and Barbuda, not only because of the increased mortality but also because of other complications such as physical disability, seizures and incontinence," he declared.

According to the World Stroke Orga-

nization, 1 in 4 adults over the age of 25 years will have a stroke in their lifetime.

"The recognition of World Stroke Day is very timely. It is being observed as the government is taking steps to amend the Medical Benefits Scheme Act to

enable all beneficiaries to engage in cost-free annual medical checkups. This will facilitate the early detection of Non-Communicable Diseases and will go a long way in stroke prevention in Antigua and Barbuda," Joseph said.

Quarantine breakers face increased fines

By Shelton Daniel

Some persons have not been complying with mandatory 14-day periods of isolation or quarantine intended to determine their COVID-19 status. This is increasing the risk that the virus will spread which in turn frustrates carefully conceived measures that have been established to contain the spread of the disease by preventing or limiting new infections.

This concern was repeated this week in the post-Cabinet briefing, where Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, addressed a recent excursion to Bird Island attended by scores of residents in search of an unrestrained party.

Nicholas said this

was one of the reasons why Cabinet “has welcomed the inclusion within the task force of a special detachment of the Royal Antigua and Barbuda Police Force to assist with enforcement”.

He said he had personally “given the Cabinet an update as to where we are with regard to the bracelets that are going to be necessary to facilitate the contact tracing”.

He explained that the authorities reported being in possession of monitoring devices.

“We did receive some prototypes a few weeks ago, but those prototypes did not meet the requirements we were looking for. Within the next 7-8 days we would be in receipt of the specific bracelets that we require; bracelets that, for all intents and purposes, are tamper-proof and will allow those persons who have been quarantined - particularly those persons who have been quarantined in their own home and in their own facilities - for the quarantine authority to be able to monitor their movements and ensure that they do not break the [quarantine] conditions.”

Nicholas then turned his attention to the Bird Island incident.



Cabinet spokesman, Melford Nicholas

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FUTURE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Businesswomen launch mentorship programme



Marcella Andre CEO of Nia Comms (left) and Jamilla Kirwan (right)

A mentorship programme designed to assist women in business, has been launched by local entrepreneurs.

Chief Executive Officer of the communications consultancy, Nia Comms, Marcella Andre, is collaborating with her long-time friend and colleague, Jamilla Kirwan, to launch the NIA Mentor

Award which aims to empower, support, and provide financial and strategic assistance to female entrepreneurs.

In a media release, Nia Comms said through the programme one female entrepreneur will receive an EC\$7,000.00 cash prize, an invaluable amount of experience via coaching from seven established women in business, and the opportunity to support another female entrepreneur or cause she deems worthy.

"For many years, both women have imagined tangible ways of contributing to nation building and specifically of creating opportunities for women desirous of becoming entrepreneurs or who have started their entrepreneurship journey but lack adequate resources and guidance. Having learned through much trial and error along their own career paths, Andre and Kirwan recognized the lack of dedicated mentorship opportunities for female entrepreneurs," the release stated.

Andre and Kirwan attribute their personal strength, capabilities and competence, in great part, to wom-

en who knowingly or unknowingly served as examples and provided essential support and guidance along their individual journeys.

Among the women they singled out were Keva Margetson, Ingrid O'Marde, Roberta Williams and Dame Bridget Harris. Each year, the award will pay tribute to one woman whose service has made a difference. This year the award will honour Dame Bridget Harris.

The colleagues hope this award will motivate women to do the work required to realise the possibilities of which they dream, to research and learn about other women who have made great strides and to imbue in them the desire to serve.

Interested women can apply via the Facebook page "The NIA MENTOR Award". The application process begins on October 30, 2020 and ends on January 15, 2021.

To ensure transparency during the process, all applicants will be given a number so that they remain anonymous to the assessment board.

Air Canada delays return

The local tourism industry is suffering a minor setback as Air Canada has announced that there will be a delay in its return to Antigua.

The Canadian carrier was due to arrive at V.C Bird International Airport on Sunday for its first flight since the border reopened. The arrival of the airline would have served as a significant boost to the rebounding tourism sector.

The country will now have to wait until December for the return of Air

Canada.

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin James, told PointeXpress, "Canada still has a 14-day mandatory quarantine with all countries when you return to Canada and that is a real deterrent for people coming on vacation. As such, it is hard to generate bookings," he noted.

Additionally, James pointed to the spike in COVID-19 cases globally which has put a damper on consum-

er confidence.

James confirmed that Air Canada's return service is now scheduled for the first week in December.

Meantime, on Sunday, the Antigua-based airline, LIAT, will return to the operation with service to Dominica.

LIAT has announced that it will shortly announce the destinations included in a limited schedule, how to purchase tickets and how persons can use their credits.

Donated EMS minibus already in 'full service'

Antigua Cruise Port and Global Ports Holding (GPH), which recently donated an Emergency Response Vehicle to the Antigua & Barbuda Emergency Medical Services, has said they are happy that the vehicle has already been put into full service.

The Toyota Noah was purchased from local auto dealer, Harney Motors.

"The addition of this emergency response vehicle to our emergency fleet is vitally important," said Shawn Greenidge, Director of the Antigua & Barbuda Emergency Medical Services.

Dona Regis-Prosper, General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, said, "We're very proud to donate this



emergency response vehicle. The health and safety of our community is one of our top priorities, particularly during these unprecedented times. If we do not have proper access to essential services, we cannot function properly as a society. By reducing life-threatening delays in emergency

care, we are supporting the delivery of quality health care services to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. At the end of the day, we believe that our community comes first."

Regis-Prosper continued, "Antigua Cruise Port recognizes the importance of its role as a private sector partner and remains committed to working with the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda to address local

challenges."

The general manager said while the vehicle was originally intended to be used at the port, since the port facilities are closed, the EMS has placed the vehicle into service, particularly at the airport where there is a need.

Oct 28 - Nov 2

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

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October 29, 2020

The Editor
Pointe Express
The Pointe Community
St. John's
Antigua and Barbuda

The Police Welfare Association (PWA) wishes to inform this news portal of its dismay and disapproval of a most disturbing headline on Wednesday 28 October 2020. Such reads, "Police Officers threaten to boycott PWA meeting."

It is unthinkable that the membership would have been naïve and senseless as to communicate to this news portal that a meeting called to discuss matters affecting their welfare was of no interest or importance to them.

It is instructive that such should have been published, as efforts were being made to cause improvement in the conditions of service.

The Executive and membership viewed such headline as reckless, callous and mischievous. It shall also be told that the Association viewed this as a grossly irresponsible act. Not only that, it also saw it as far removed from professional and unbiased journalism and clearly intended to deceive and mislead the public.

Moreover, the offending headline was only a calculated attempt to discourage attendance, but also speaks to an underlying motive designed to provoke distrust and disharmony among the Association's Executive and its membership.

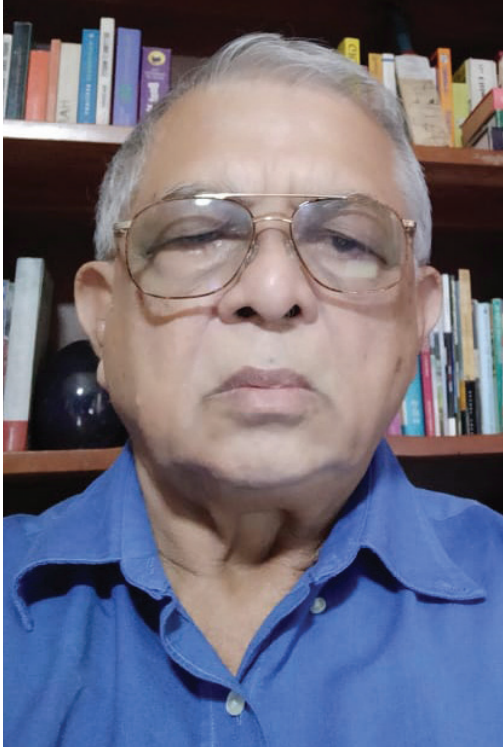
Then there was the existing environment that is void of conduciveness in building morale. This as every public administrator knows, is partly due to physical structures or workplaces that have been perennially begging for repairs or relocation or have become irreparable and intolerable.

The professional journalist may have visited those structures and accordingly, published his/her findings that the citizenry and health and labour officials may have a better understanding and appreciation of the everyday plight of the Police Welfare Association (PWA) and by extension the Police Service.

We urge this news portal to treat this response, equally as it has been treated in its publication of October 28, 2020.

Yours faithfully,

Marilyn N. Harris
Police Corporal
Vice Chairman and Public Relations Officer



By Tony Deyal

The major difference between Antigua and Trinidad is that if the famous Nelson's Dockyard was in Trinidad, its name would be Nelson's Yard Dock and instead of lasting fifty years it would be caught, curried and served with rum that would have people walking as if one-eyed, one-armed and one-legged like the Admiral.

Initially, my earliest visits to Antigua were not "to", but "through" it. BWIA flights not just stopped over but over-stopped there for what seemed to be eternities. Because passengers were not allowed to disembark, we all had to stay in the plane wondering why whatever was happening was taking so long, and whether it was as long as the immigration line that we would meet when we arrived in Trinidad and, worse, the line-up at Customs.

Flying over Antigua, though, gave us a glimpse of a truly beautiful country. While, as one of my Guyanese colleagues said, from about 200 feet in the air you could see the whole of Barbados below you, Antigua had "real scenery". I had just joined PAHO, set up a regional Health Journal-

THE BEST OF TIMES & PLACES

ism competition, become part of a 16-country Dengue project, and while I learnt that Antigua had some good journalists, I also discovered that it had more *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito that spreads dengue, than scenery.

But I loved the country and the people. This is why, even having gone to Belize on a Climate Change project and being quite happy there, I was prepared to pack up and move to Antigua to become the Corporate Secretary and Communications Manager for the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB). I rented a house almost opposite the main police station in St John's and when one of my Trini friends from my youth heard that, he said loudly, "You brave yes boy! Suppose the Trinidad police send them ah dossier?" He is the same "friend" who, after a few years in the US as an illegal immigrant returned to Trinidad with a "Yankee" accent and some greenbacks to flash. He met my mother and asked for me. She replied nicely, "He not home but I could give you his cell number?" "Miss Margaret", he said to my mother, "I always know that boy woulda make ah jail."

Far from it, Antigua was as close to both a haven and a heaven in many ways. I was involved in the game I loved from childhood and had even coached - cricket - and was living among friendly neighbours on a street where, even with a four-foot concrete fence with space between for a Rottweiler to pass through, none ever did. Unlike Trinidad, nobody ever tried to jump the fence and steal anything or stage a holdup. We had breakfast, barbecues and lunch under a bower

of neem trees. Neem is a species of mahogany and is famous for its medicinal properties. It is also supposed to be a contraceptive and spermicide but that knowledge came to me four children too late.

What remains deeply embedded in my memory, is one Father's Day under the neem trees. My son Zubin helped his mother with the fry-bakes and even carved "Dad" on one to stop his absent-minded sister, Jasmine, from eating it. The bakes were really the receptacle for the main meal- saltfish - sauteed with garlic, onions, tomatoes, hot-peppers, chadon beni (culantro) and chives. My love for saltfish is legendary and (as some say) evident in my fathering four children.

Initially, we did not do much by way of reaching out to our neighbours. I was trying to cope with the pressures of a new job and lifestyle, the kids were settling down in school and preparing for the Common Entrance, something unknown in Belize, and Indranie into trying to put all the bits and pieces of life and furniture together. Because we had moved from Barbados to Trinidad, then to Belize and had arrived in Antigua for what, we envisaged, would be a long time, we decided to follow our habit of using familiar objects and events to make our two kids feel at home. For Christmas in Trinidad and Belize, we ran strings of lights, a spectacle the children and neighbours enjoyed enormously. However, the Hindu festival of Divali comes before Christmas (this year on November 14, two weeks from now) and although we are not Indians, but a West Indian family with one Guyanese, one Trini and two Bajans, we put our small, lighted clay pots in front of, and under, the house in Belize and when our curious neighbours enquired, we explained the meaning, purpose and significance of the lights. Belizeans are a mix of races, refugees and immigrants, including Indians past and present, so our neigh-

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Commentary

cont'd from pg 11

bours in Belmopan, the capital city, took our differences in stride.

Not so Antigua, at least not at first. We put our little lights flickering in the strong Atlantic breeze and realised that people walking along our street crossed the road and some were even crossing themselves. This was not just obeah, but foreign "Indian" obeah at that. However, Antiguans, too, understand that while the past is a foreign country, if we understand it we can learn from it and, unlike so many other civilisations, we will not be condemned to repeating our errors. Fortunately, our neighbour across the street was Sir Reginald Samuel, a former school-teacher who designed the Antigua National Flag. Despite the handicap of a stroke he had suffered which made walking difficult, Sir Reginald dashed across the road in joy and great won-

der, "Divali?" he asked me his eyes lighting up as much as the deyas. He had read and heard about Divali and always wanted to experience it and here it had come home to him in Antigua. We were all overjoyed.

From then on it was plain sailing. Our neighbours' kids and mine played together. Jasmine and Zubin learned to swim in 2003, the year we arrived in Antigua and were representing the country the year after. Zubin had started playing Under-19 cricket from the time he was eleven years old and our yard became a cricket pitch. The kids found friends and pets, starting with one shivering, brownish, little pup we named Crix, to four in all. As in Belize, the Antiguan birds found out that Indranie was a food-basket and when she was not punctual enough in serving their breakfasts, they knocked on

the kitchen or bedroom windows. We did not leave Antigua until 2015 but I still have residency there and hope to return. While Antigua is very special, I have found that wherever we go in this world, because we go there in peace, love and a willingness to learn, we have found those same qualities among the people. We in the Caribbean have much more in common than we have differences. Divali in Trinidad, Antigua or Belize, Baptists, Shango, Pentecostals, Church of the Nazarenes, Hindus, Moslems, Christians and Atheists, wherever I have gone, as the spiritual says, "Somebody touch my soul."

*Tony Deyal was last seen saying if there is a moral in his story, it is that we all have to try to make the best of what we have. It is the lesson of the neem tree. It is the neem of the game of life.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ONE PURPOSE ONE VISION ONE NATION

Congratulations to our twin island nation of Antigua & Barbuda on its 39th Anniversary of Independence. We urge one and all to stay safe and to live in a better State of mind.

Mrs. M. Lyndell Francis Butler
CEO



ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2020



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HEATHER
The Muralist

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Entertainment correspondent: Mya Spencer

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There is absolutely no need to introduce Heather Doram and her work as an artist. She is a household name in Antigua and Barbuda, and across the Caribbean, for her work as an artist and an actress.

We focus today on her work as an artist, specifically in the area of murals.

As part of her expansive artistic portfolio, Heather has created several murals which can be found at several prominent locations around the island.

Pointe Entertainment spoke with Heather one day after she unveiled her latest mural at the Digicel Corporate Head Office on Friars Hill Road. The excited artist was happy to share more about her latest project as she treated us to a tour. Her latest work consists of two murals located in the stairwell of the Digicel office which is a high traffic area for both staff and customers.

Heather expressed her gratitude to Digicel for allowing her complete artistic license over the project.

"How often does an artist get a commission and then be left to decide what the design is going to be! That excited me more than anything else. It was an awesome project because I got to choose the design and do whatever I wanted," Heather beamed.

She told us that as soon as she saw the space, she knew exactly what she wanted to



do.

She completed both murals in less than a week as she was under some pressure for them to be completed in time for the office's opening. Both pieces, in Heather's well known style, are bold, vibrant and incorporate the colours of the newly launched company products.

While her artwork is not usually large scale, Heather said she enjoyed the oppor-

tunity to work on a larger project that would increase the value of the space and contribute to a more positive environment.

Cherisse Adams, Head of Marketing at Digicel, expressed complete satisfaction with the murals adding that Heather's work exceeded the company's expectations. She explained that the company decided on custom artwork instead of the usual company branded



life size wall mounts, in order to add to the quality of the work environment for employees and customer experience. Adams welcomed Heather to the Digicel family and gave a commitment that the company will support her future projects,

Heather's coming projects include murals in St. John's.

Other murals Heather has completed can be found at the V. C. Bird International Airport, the banquet hall at Jolly Beach Resort and the Ms. Universe Antigua/Barbuda Pageant.

Pointe Entertainment leapt at the opportunity to visit the home of the prolific artist, which, expectedly enough, was alive with art and more colourful murals.

Heather observed that there is more than sufficient room to allow art to become a part of our daily existence. She added that she is hopeful that the day will arrive when other corporations actively engage local artists to create pieces that can be featured prominently. She expressed disappointment that many businesses she visits proudly display cheap, mass produced prints which bear no relevance to Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean and our way of life. She was emphatic that 'corporate citizens who rely on the local population to purchase their services should use the opportunity to incorporate the work of visual artists in their offices'.

Entertainment



Mural at V.C. Bird International Airport



Mural at Starfish Jolly Beach Resort



Mural at Digicel Antigua Corporate Headquarters



SESSIONS BY Soothe

Pointe Entertainment caught up with Gemma Hazelwood recently who, along with his associates, is continuing a successful run of developing entertainment products that support freedom of expression, predominantly through music and spoken word.

The highly anticipated event, SOOTHE, fell victim to the national shutdown in March. Disappointed, but undaunted, the team began exploring options to continue to expose their Neo-Soul: Jazz rhythms “Spoken words to the audience”.

Hazelwood told Pointe Entertainment more about his group’s latest series “SESSIONS by Soothe”.

“[It] ‘was an idea that Taslim and I had for quite some time now. It’s a concept and idea that we’ve been

discussing, but never executed until the lockdown. What COVID-19 did was allow us the opportunity to revisit and execute that idea.”

The idea was inspired by the atmosphere present during rehearsals for the annual SOOTHE event.

According to Gemma, “From the inception, the rehearsals for SOOTHE have been such an inspiring space to be in that we’ve always felt like it would be great to share this with our patrons. SESSIONS by Soothe is our way of sharing some of that. Sessions strips away all of the extra flares of a show or major event and gives the audience a more intimate connection with the artist and that’s what we get when at the SOOTHE rehearsals.”

The team envisages that “SESSIONS by Soothe” will be an important and continuous platform which highlights the artistic talent that exists in Antigua and Barbuda and the region.

The initiative, which is a labour of love of the organisers, is welcoming commercial partnership.

SESSIONS by Soothe’s indepen-

dence feature acts are Vince “Kazi” McCoy and the Soulful band and The AntiBuda Jazz Project, featuring Abi McCoy, who will perform on October 30, 2020.

All SESSIONS can be viewed on the official SOOTHE YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXecY7zGZITcTNxv2-sPBjQ>.



WHAT'S ON?

Calypso will take center stage in the 2020 Independence celebrations on Saturday 31 October when the virtual Independence Calypso Monarch Competition is held.

The competition will include a calypso newcomer and two artists who will make their competition debuts.

Mandy 'Sahara' Hudson decided to convert her love of writing songs and 'long overdue passion for the artform' from the status of spectator to active participant. She penned the song *'Antiguan to My Fist'* which is arranged by Kevin Watkins. The piece reflects her fierce loyalty to Antigua and Barbuda and her deep sense of patriotism.

Gospel and operatic artist,

2020 INDEPENDENCE CALYPSO MONARCH COMPETITION

Peetron Thomas, is another calypso first-timer. He wrote and arranged *'Paradise in Antigua and Barbuda'* after being encouraged by his grandmother to follow his curiosity, passion and strong sense of patriotism into competitive calypso.

Thomas said he is encouraged by the overwhelming support he has received. His participation is tinged with sadness, however, as he explained that many in the religious community who have not given their support to his decision to use his talent in

patriotic duty.

Art 'Drastic' Philip, who is best known for his soca and reggae songs, has also thrown his hat into the 2020 Independence Calypso Monarch Competition. *'Sweet Antigua'* which he wrote and co-produced with Taj Martin, was written in 2019 when he initially considered entering last year's Calypso Monarch competition but later decided not to.

Concerning his decision to enter the competition now, Drastic said: "I said why not since I just have the song

sitting down from last year and it's a great opportunity."

The other competitors include **Island Prince**, the youngest competitor, singing *'Wise Up'* written by Guy Yearwood & Island Prince and arranged by Dalton Dyer Folk Gomes; **King Young Destroyer**, *'All Hands on Deck'* written by Destroyer Snr.; **Richie Francis**, *'Defend we Independence'* his own composition, **Destroyer Snr**, also singing his own composition, *'Two Islands One Nation'*, **Glenroy 'Epic Byke' Joseph**, *'National Pride'*, **Redding**, *'Cherish Our Independence'*, all arranged by Jagger Martin; **Supa D** complete the finalists, with his rendition, *'Happy Independence Antigua'*.



WHAT'S ON?

MEET THE AUTHOR

The Best of Books celebrates Independence by honouring Antiguan and Barbudan authors with a **'Meet the Author'** event. Organiser, Barbara Arrindell, updated Pointe Entertainment on the authors schedule for the two-day event.

Friday 2pm - 4pm: Koren Norton and Janice Sutherland

Saturday 10am - 12pm: T. Lerisa Simon

Saturday 12pm - 2pm: Brenda Lee-Browne, Carolyn Nation and Stansel Roberts

Saturday 2pm - 4pm: Joanne C. Hillhouse, Farida Isaac and Blondina Howes Jeffrey

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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)

A bizarre moment at the 50th session of the general assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), on October 20 and 21, was a claim by the outgoing Foreign Minister, Karen Longaric, that her government had brought democracy to Bolivia.

It was the people of Bolivia who had brought democracy to Bolivia – and everybody knew it. Ms Longaric was one of those who had helped to deny it.

Most Bolivians, resentful of Ms Longaric and her party that had assumed government one year ago with the help of the military, turfed them out through the power of the ballot. On November 11, 2019, the commander of the armed forces, Williams Kaliman, announced that “we ask(ed) the president of the state (Evo Morales) to renounce his presidential mandate”. It was hardly a request that Morales could refuse with the armed forces arrayed against him.

The military instruction to Morales to renounce his Presidency and leave Bolivia came after Presidential elections were declared fraud-

ulent by an audit team from the OAS. The team’s findings were hotly disputed, including by the New York Times which, on June 7, 2020 said that, “a study by independent researchers, using data obtained by The New York Times from the Bolivian electoral authorities, has found that the Organization of American States’ statistical analysis was itself flawed”.

Recalling this event at the OAS 50th general assembly, Maximiliano Reyes Zúñiga, the Mexican representative, placed responsibility for the “flawed” analysis directly in the hands of Luis Almagro, the OAS Secretary-General. He stated, “Mexico suggests to Mr. Luis Almagro that he submit himself to a process of self-criticism of his actions against the OAS Charter and for hurting Bolivia’s democracy, to determine if he still has the necessary moral authority to lead this organization”.

In any event, in November 2019, the Bolivian military installed Jeanine Añez, a member of the Civic Community party, as President. She pledged to hold fresh elections within three months in February 2020. That pledge was also given to the member states of the OAS at a subsequent meeting of the Permanent Council. But the February date became May, and then September and finally October, amid growing violence in the country, including atrocities against the indigenous people who are the



By Sir Ronald Sanders

main supporters of Morales party, Movement Towards Socialism (MAS).

No effort was made in the OAS to hold Añez’s government to account because, hypocritically, it had become an ally of powerful governments in their campaigns to target selected countries, particularly Venezuela and Nicaragua. Only increasing agitation by the Bolivian people eventually led to elections on October 18, 2020.

88.42 percent of Bolivia’s seven million voters turned out at the election, giving Morales’ successor as the leader of MAS, Luis Arce, 55.18 percent of the vote in the first round. There was no room for the OAS, or any elections observation mission, to claim fraud. For many, this overwhelming number served to reenforce the view that Morales had also won the 2019 elections and had been wrongfully denied it.

cont’d on pg 20

cont'd from pg 19

Despite MAS' convincing win, all is not well in Bolivia. Luis Arce, the President-elect, will not be sworn-in until November 8. In the meantime, much mischief can be made, and there are those who are agitating it.

On October 27, crowds were organized outside military barracks in four areas of Bolivia, calling for the armed forces to intervene to overturn the result of the October 18 general election. The ethnic group, who had ruled the country for decades prior to Morales, and who grabbed power for a year under Añez, is angry at having to relinquish control. Among the organized crowds were far-right militia

groups, threatening violence if the result is not overturned.

However, the military is keenly aware that the large number of MAS supporters would not tolerate another installation of a government they did not elect. These supporters are already demanding action against the military for killing protesters opposed to the removal of Morales last year. They want Arce to punish those responsible, something he is unlikely to do, given the impracticality of it. Therefore, an uneasy truce is more likely with the troops staying in their barracks, and the commanders maintaining their constitutional role. At least for now.

Bolivian society is riven by deep ethnic divisions. Racist discourse,

religious bigotry and regional rivalry have long been a feature of the country's politics. The hostility has re-emerged in a nation divided between a wealthier, more European-descended lowland east and a more indigenous, poorer, highland west.

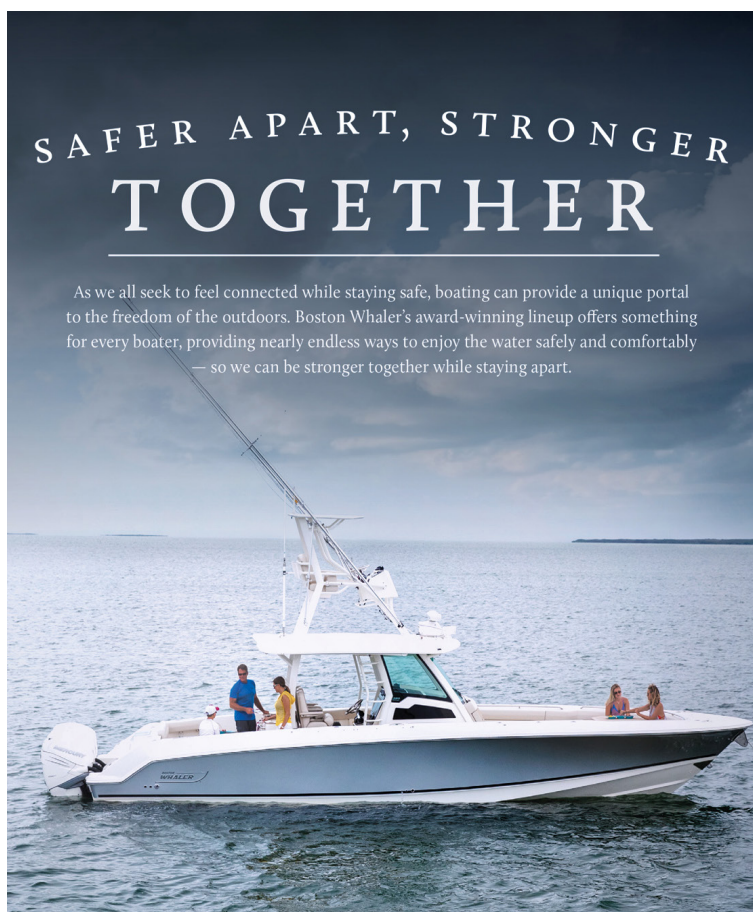
priority are a minority, they comprise the far-right which is given to violence, and have links to other far-right, ideological groups in the hemisphere. In seeking reparations for slavery, CARICOM countries have made it clear that they also want reparation for genocide against indigenous people. That is why shortly after Añez's government took office, Ambassadors representing the 14 independent CARICOM nations at the OAS, produced a resolution, taking a strong position against discrimination and violence toward the indigenous people in Bolivia. It was adopted by a majority vote of only one vote to the vexation of governments at the OAS, allied to the Añez government.

Fortunately, on October 21, with no shred of doubt surrounding the will of the majority of the Bolivian people in the 2020 elections, the US government declared that it "looks forward to working with the new, democratically elected government on matters of mutual interest".

Nonetheless, unease remains among some hemispheric nations ruled by a particular ethnic and rightist elite. Consequently, the situation in Bolivia will now have to be watched carefully for attempts to undermine Arce's government by forces inside and outside the country.

Democracy is not guaranteed by elections alone. Nations that care about democracy will have to help safeguard it.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanderson.com



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regional rivalry have long been a feature of the country's politics. The hostility has re-emerged in a nation divided between a wealthier, more European-descended lowland east and a more indigenous, poorer, highland west.

This situation will call for careful handling by the new Arce government. While those opposed to his government on grounds of ethnic supe-

B'dos Central Bank Governor issues stern warning



Barbados Central Bank Governor Cleviston Haynes

Barbadians need to be put back to work soon, otherwise there is a risk that a number of people will become unemployable.

Central Bank Governor Cleviston Haynes gave this assessment yesterday, noting that Government's Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST) plan was vital not only for re-engaging tourism in-

dustry workers, but if successful, would positively impact employment in other sectors.

The Central Bank reported in its third quarter economic review that the re-opening of the economy in July permitted some people to return to work, but unemployment in the key tourism and hospitality sector remained high.

"Some workers are working shorter hours and layoffs persisted into the quarter as the private sector adapted to the altered economic environment. The spike in unemployment insurance claims led to over 32 000 claims being paid between late March and September," the report stated.

"However, given the combined impact of the re-engagement of some employees and the statutory termination of unemployment insurance for others, the number of persons expected to draw on unemployment insur-

ance will decline in coming months."

Responding to a question at his third quarter press conference, the governor said "getting that [BEST] programme under way, getting the hotels reopened, getting the restaurants reopened, is very important in being able to start the process.

"But [it] . . . is going to be a gradual process. It is difficult to have everybody back at work at once immediately, but that's why we have to work on the things like the capital works programmes, because those are things that can generate jobs," he said.

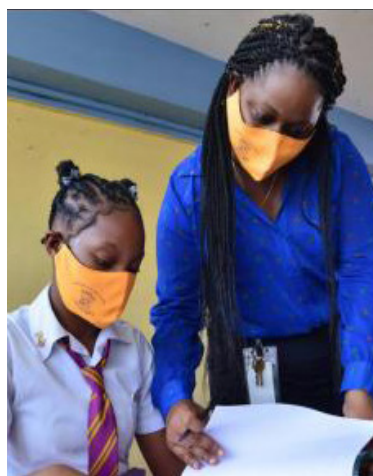
"The agriculture, for example, can also help to generate jobs, and then the spill-over effects of getting our tourism back on track. It's going to be a gradual process, but we just have to work through this so that we can get as many persons engaged as soon as possible." (SC)

Limited reopening of schools in Jamaica

Nearly 6,000 students from 17 schools in nine parishes are to return to face-to-face learning on a phased basis as more than 50 per cent of the country's pupils have difficulty accessing online education amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The digital divide has wreaked havoc on the educational sector, with Prime Minister Andrew Holness expressing fear that inequality in accessibility disproportionately marginalised poor children.

"The aim was to get children back into the classroom safely," he told the country during a press



briefing at Jamaica House on Wednesday night.

The limited reopening represents an ultra-conservative tiptoeing towards normality, Education Minister Fayval Williams said, citing empirical data culled

from geoinformatics and demographic analysis indicating that 73 schools, with an aggregate population of 58,000 students, had hurdled the bar of low-risk indices that would validate the resumption of face-to-face learning.

The 17 institutions, which represent 20 per cent of the allowable 73, include 12 primary and five secondary schools.

The parishes that will form the pilot are Clarendon, Manchester, Portland, St Ann, St Elizabeth, St James, Westmoreland, St Thomas, and Trelawny. The pilot will run from November 9 to 20.

All students must wear a mask, and schools are forbidden from turning back students who are not wearing safety gear bearing school colours or insignia.

"The important thing is that students show up in masks, and if a student does not show up in a mask, one should be provided," said the education minister.

Williams said that her decision was guided by recommendations made by Dr Parris Lyew-Ayee's team at the Mona Geoinformatics Institute at The University of the West Indies and the E-Covid Education Task Force that examined risk factors.

Regional groups lobbies governments for more inclusion regarding cannabis



The Fair Trade in Cannabis Working Group (FTCWG), emanating from a workshop in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in November 2019 and comprising traditional cultivators, activists, academics and researchers, has produced a Position Paper which will be presented to Caribbean governments today. We ask the CARICOM governments to be bolder and fairer in their reforms on cannabis, by recalling several of the recommendations made by the Regional Commission on Marijuana in 2018.

The Position Paper "For inclusive business models, well designed laws and fair(er) trade options for small-scale traditional cannabis farmers" aims to contribute to the debate

on finding sustainable and realistic solutions to the challenges posed by the developing cannabis industry, with a special focus on traditional and small scale farmers.

The position paper discusses the legal reforms that occurred in a number of CARICOM member states, most of which fail to address underlying social justice issues, while the emerging medical cannabis industry should provide opportunities for those that bore the brunt of the harsh repression that prevailed before: "We need real meaningful change, not cosmetic and pretentious while pushing out the real traditional growers. I wish Jamaica would go beyond paying lip service to this

stated objective", says Vicki Hanson, member of the FTCWG.

With the exception of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines none of the CARICOM envisages a model that involves traditional cannabis farmers into the industry, in the words of another Working Group member, Patrick Cottle Junior: "While, in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, there is a certain level of protection for traditional cultivators within the legal framework of medical cannabis and the amnesty, we would like to see a further deepening of the process towards legalization".

The position paper makes suggestions on the path forward, not just taking a next step in the reform process to be more

inclusive and just, but also integrate marijuana into a regional market that could economically benefit all, and not just the big cannabis companies coming from abroad. "The cooperative that we growers have set up here in St. Lucia, helps us protect our local interest, while using local expertise and knowledge about the cannabis plant as a medicine", says Andre d'Caries, a St. Lucia based FTCWG member.

For the Rastafarian community reforms are long overdue, and the historical criminalisation of its members needs to be overcome once and for all: "Provisions for use as sacrament in Antigua and Barbuda are now included into law, but still there is an urgent need for an inclusive regional cannabis market and have our community benefit from the emerging industry" according to Tashawn Browne, another Working Group member.

The working group is aware that the UN drug control conventions restrain individual countries from a full legal regulation of the cannabis market, but also that this status quo is currently under challenge. The FTCWG urges Caribbean governments to become actively involved and participate in the UN deliberations on drug control in general and on cannabis in particular.

Merkel warns of 'long, hard winter' as lockdowns return



German Chancellor Angela Merkel has warned of a long, hard winter ahead as she defended the reinstatement of a national lockdown.

Mrs Merkel was heckled by right-wing MPs as she outlined the new measures in parliament.

Rising coronavirus infections and deaths are triggering tougher restrictions across Europe.

France restores a lockdown on Friday, ordering people to stay at home unless for essential work or medical reasons.

President Emmanuel

Macron said the country risked being "overwhelmed by a second wave that no doubt will be harder than the first".

Daily Covid deaths in France are at the highest level since April. On Wednesday, 36,437 new cases and 244 deaths were confirmed.

German health officials said on Thursday that another 89 people had died in the past 24 hours, with a record 16,774 infections.

Germany's new measures, which come into force on Monday, are not as far-reaching as in France, but they include the closure

of restaurants, bars, gyms and theatres, Mrs Merkel said.

The UK reported a further 24,701 cases on Wednesday, and a further 310 deaths. In England, a new study shows almost 100,000 people are catching the virus every day, putting pressure on the government to change policy from a regional approach.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the continent was "deep in the second wave".

"I think that this year's Christmas will be a different Christmas," she said.

Three dead as woman beheaded in attack in French church



A knife-wielding attacker shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) beheaded a woman and killed two other people in a church in the French city of Nice on

Thursday.

A defiant President Emmanuel Macron, declaring that France had been subject to an Islamist terrorist attack, said he would de-

ploy thousands more soldiers to protect important French sites, such as places of worship and schools.

Speaking from the scene, he said France had been attacked "over our values, for our taste for freedom, for the ability on our soil to have freedom of belief".

"And I say it with lots of clarity again today: we will not give any ground."

A police source told Reuters the assailant was believed by law enforcement to be a 21-year-old Tunisian national who had recently entered France from neigh-

bouring Italy. His identity was still being checked.

In Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, state television reported that a Saudi man had been arrested in the Red Sea city of Jeddah after attacking and injuring a guard at the French consulate. The French Embassy said he was in hospital after a knife assault though his life was not in danger.

Within hours of the Nice attack, French police killed a man who had threatened passersby with a handgun in Montfavet, near the southern city of Avignon.

Labour suspends Jeremy Corbyn over reaction to anti-Semitism report



Former UK Labour Party Leader, Jeremy Corbyn

Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has been suspended from the party and has had the whip removed.

A party spokesman said: "In light of his comments made today and his failure to retract them subsequently, the Labour Party has suspended Jeremy Corbyn pending investigation. He has also had the whip re-

moved from the Parliamentary Labour Party."

Mr Corbyn had reacted to a damning report into antisemitism by saying in a statement that the number of complaints made during his tenure were "dramatically overstated for political reasons".

The Islington North MP, who stepped down as party leader after last December's general election defeat, then gave a news conference in which he doubled down on his stance, insisting: "I'm not part of the problem."

Mr Corbyn also said he would not quit Labour, add-

ing that he is "proud to be a member of the Labour Party", which he joined when he was 16, and said: "I've fought racism all my life, and I'll fight racism for the rest of my life."

He has vowed to "strongly contest the political intervention to suspend me". Mr Corbyn said in his earlier statement: "I've made absolutely clear those who deny there has been an antisemitism problem in the Labour Party are wrong.

"It's also undeniable that a false impression has been created of the number of members accused of an-

tisemitism, as polling shows: that is what has been overstated, not the seriousness of the problem.

"I will continue to support a zero tolerance policy towards all forms of racism. And I urge all members to stay calm and focused - while this problem is resolved amicably, as I believe it will be - to defeat this awful government, which is further impoverishing the poorest in society."

An emergency shadow cabinet meeting was called for 4pm, Thursday, headed by current leader Sir Keir Starmer.

Happy
INDEPENDENCE DAY
1st November to the government and people of
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ANTIGUA
CRUISE PORT

Chicago store security attacked for enforcing mask protocol



Jayla (18) and Jessica Hill (21) charged with first degree murder for stabbing security guard 27 times and hitting him with a trash can

Two young sisters stabbed a security guard at a Chicago athletic store 27 times and hit him with a trash can after he demanded they put on masks and use hand sanitizer before entering. Their lawyer argued it was self-defense.

Jayla and Jessica Hill (18 and 21, respectively) have been charged with one count of attempted first-degree murder each and were ordered to be held without bail on Tuesday following their arrest. The incident, which was caught on surveillance camera at the Snipes athletic store in the Chicago suburb of Lawndale, happened on Sunday as the store was about to close.

Older sister Jessica is accused of stabbing the store's security guard 27 times with a "comb knife" while her younger sister

Jayla held him by the hair to stop him from moving. Both the store manager and the guard himself reportedly pleaded for the young women to stop attacking the guard, to no avail.

The unnamed man was treated at nearby Mount Sinai Hospital, where he was listed in critical condition even though he did not require surgery for the wounds on his neck, back and arms. The sisters, too, were treated for "minor lacerations" at St. Anthony Hospital.

The women were stopped by the security guard as they attempted to enter Snipes around 6pm on Sunday and became confrontational when he asked them to put on masks and use hand sanitizer. Jayla took out her phone to start filming and can reported-

ly be heard on the footage inviting someone (presumably her sister) to "kick his ass" as the 6-foot 5 (1.96 meters), 270-pound (122.5 kg) guard attempted to grab the phone from her.

The sisters were then asked to leave, and one can apparently be seen on surveil-

lance footage hitting the guard in the abdomen. Jessica took out her weapon and started stabbing him. Other outlets have reported one of the girls punched the guard.

The Hills' lawyer has argued they acted in self-defense, reasoning that Jayla filmed at least part of the incident and no one planning a murder would go out of their way to create video evidence of the crime. The girls are also bipolar, the attorney told the court. Both recently graduated from Chicago Public Schools, and local media described them as "college-bound."

SAVE THE DATE

NOV.01-21,2020

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Community Notices POINTVILLE PRESS



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.

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>



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 and a proper justification for the work permit application. Please be guided accordingly.

RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS

The Prices & Consumer Affairs Division is reminding traders of the temporary relief of the ABST on the following items: Antiseptics, Wipes, Sanitizers, Toilet Paper and Paper Towel, Aloe Vera Gel, Vitamin C and Multivitamins. Prices being displayed on these goods should not include the ABST, nor should ABST be reflected at the checkout point.

TEMPORARY RELIEF OF ABST ON SELECTED GOODS

The Prices & Consumer Affairs Division is reminding traders of the temporary relief of the ABST on the following items: Antiseptics, Wipes, Sanitizers, Toilet Paper and Paper Towel, Aloe Vera Gel, Vitamin C and Multivitamins. Prices being displayed on these goods should not include the ABST, nor should ABST be reflected at the checkout point.

Traders who have questions or need clarity regarding the goods to which the temporary relief of the ABST applies, are asked to contact the Division at 462-0834 or 562-8749.

Submit community notices to news@pointville.ag

DAY 10/30

30° Hi

Clouds and sun with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm

NIGHT 10/30

24° Lo

An evening shower in spots; mostly cloudy and warm

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
6:05 AM

Sunset AST
5:36 PM

Duration
11:31 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

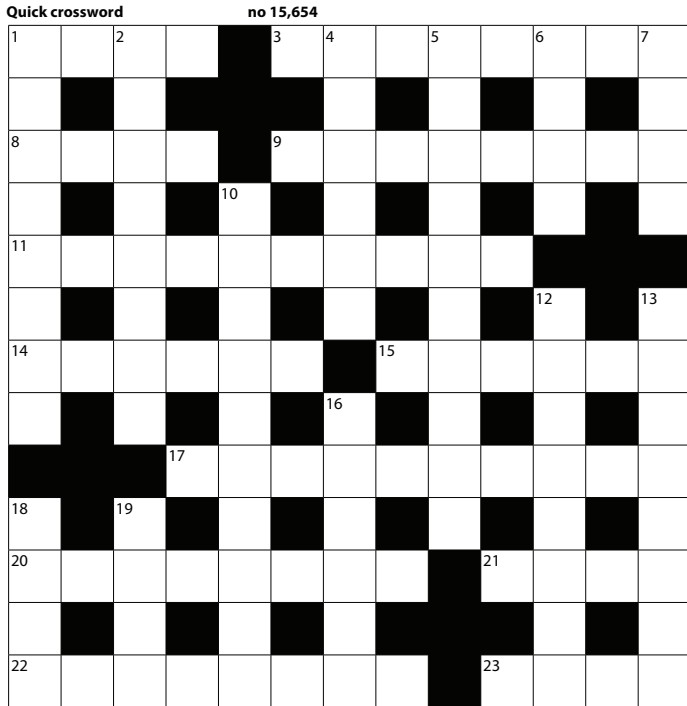
Moonrise AST
5:17 PM

Moonset AST
5:59 AM

Duration
12:42 hr

QUICK CROSSWORD

CARTOON CORNER



Across

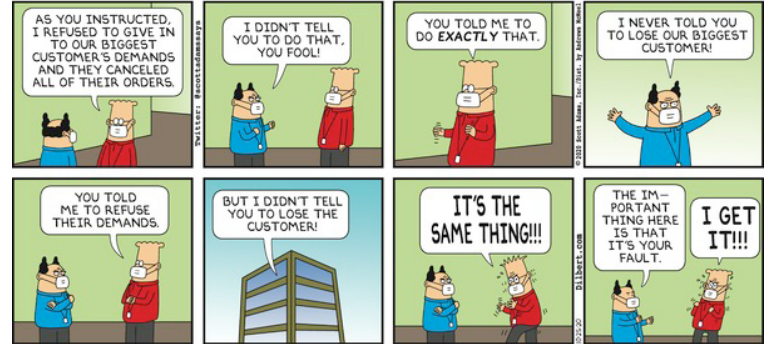
- 1 Gather—food(4)
- 3 Paid regularly (8)
- 8 Hebridean island, where in 563 St Columba founded a monastery (4)
- 9 Nemo's vessel (8)
- 11 Aidtogettingdressed(10) 14 They can usually manage — old horse-dealers (6)
- 15 Statement(6)
- 17 Volumebooster—he'llairduo (anag) (4,6)
- 20 Banana-like fruit (8)
- 21 FoundingqueenofCarthage(did next to nothing!) (4)
- 22 Cheapest accommodations on old passenger ships (8) 23 Gets older (4)

Down

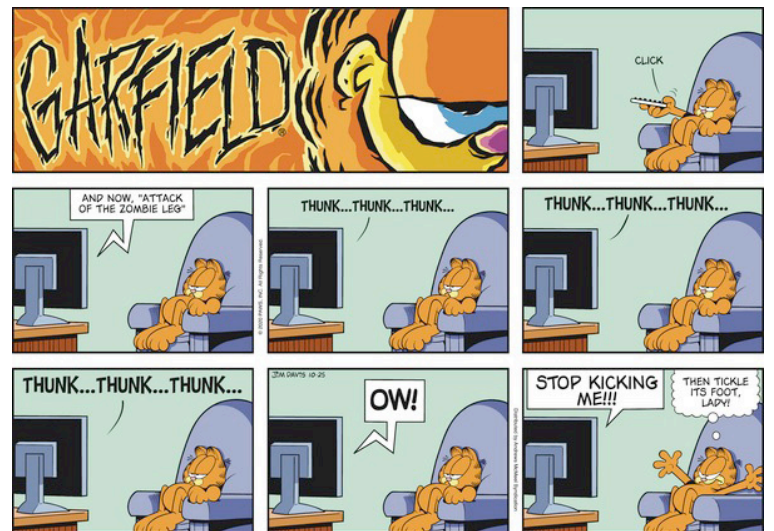
- 1 Trafficjam(8)
- 2 War memorial (8)
- 4 Lack of interest in things in general (6)
- 5 Design style used by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, say (3,7)
- 6 Out of work (4)
- 7 Sprinkle—powder(4)
- 10 Imposing item of bedroom furniture (4-6) 12 Bulge(8)
- 13 Splendid(8)
- 16 Border (6)
- 18 Mimics — primates (4) 19 Jar for cut flowers (4)

DILBERT

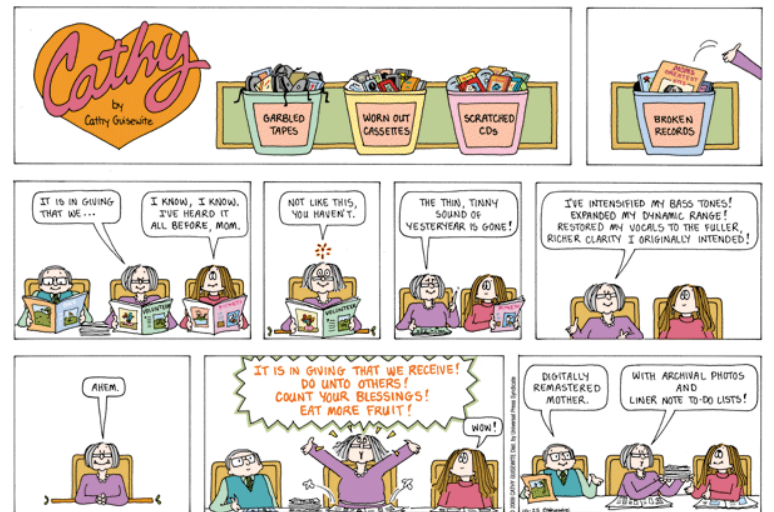
BY SCOTT ADAMS



Garfield



Cathy





DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): Don't be afraid to step up and take on a new responsibility or two. Adding a few more ambitions to your life isn't an invitation to failure. Being perfect is never possible, but that should not stop you from trying to be better than you are right now.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and you are living proof of it. Some weirdness in other people could catch your attention, and you might find yourself attracted to them because of it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Celebrating has become a bit of a foreign concept to you, and you have to make sure that comes to an end! You now have everything at your disposal to create a special event for a group of your friends, so make it happen even if it has to be virtual.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is a great time to step up to a bigger role. You have the grace required of a good leader, and you're able to get along with everyone else. That means you can create an environment full of harmony.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Everything is right in front of you, waiting for you to just reach out and grab it. Listen to your cautious side now. Don't get caught up in the moment. Map out your plan of action. Listen to your cautious side now. Don't get caught up in the moment. Map out your plan of action.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen to your cautious side now. Don't get caught up in the moment. Map out your plan of action. Do an experiment and try to avoid deliberation. Consider your options and then decide immediately.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): You're going to want to watch the action from the sidelines now. You need to avoid getting too involved in the games people are playing. Even if the main players want your insight, you don't have to share more than you're comfortable sharing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An idea that seemed like a radical notion could suddenly seem totally reasonable now. New information has come your way, and you are finally ready to take the plunge! Dive in deep with abandon and you'll be rewarded with a huge payoff.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone has a few new ideas that they'd like to share with you, and you need to make the time to listen. Try to slow down your normal routine long enough to hear from the people who don't normally have enough influence to bend your ear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone has a few new ideas that they'd like to share with you, and you need to make the time to listen. Try to slow down your normal routine long enough to hear from the people who don't normally have enough influence to bend your ear.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The projects you've been working on have been so easy that you're starting to get a little complacent. What you need is a good, old-fashioned challenge! It's the quickest and most effective way to get you feeling like you're back at the top of your game.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): If you're looking for a good way to spend the day, stop. Sometimes change only comes when you stop looking for it! Don't be proactive about creating the day you want to live. Let it all unfold around you naturally.

Marlon Samuels makes headlines over foul tirade



Former West Indies cricketer, Marlon Samuels

Former West Indies batsman, Marlon Samuels, is in the news for a recent foul tirade on his cricket enemy, England all-rounder, Ben Stokes. The behavior came after

Stokes recently revealed his difficult experiences in New Zealand quarantine, which he insisted he would not wish on his worst enemy, not even Marlon Samuels.

Stokes and Samuels have been part of a long feud that dates back to 2015, but the level of Samuels' response caught cricket fans and players by surprise.

The Jamaican responded on his Instagram page to Stokes comments calling him a "bitch" and a white boy and also made suggestions regarding the player wife.

Legendary Australian cricketer, Shane Warne, who has had few tense moments with Samuels in the past, responded to his

outburst claiming that the Jamaican had no friends in cricket and even his past teammates never liked him. The Australian urged Samuels to get help.

Warne continued on his Twitter feed, "Not because you were an ordinary cricketer means you must behave like an ordinary person. Get help son!" Warne said.

In criticising Warne, Samuels brought up an alleged incident involving a girlfriend of the Australian and claimed he was "begging jobs" in cricket.

TTFA withdraws its appeal of FIFA suspension from CAS



On Wednesday, Deputy President of the Court of Arbitration for Sports Appeals Division, Dr. Elisabeth Steiner, ruled that the appeal between

the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) and FIFA was terminated and removed from the court's roll.

Wednesday's order

was given without cost, except for the court office fee already paid by the TTFA.

On Monday, the TTFA withdrew its appeal which was filed on September 25. This withdrawal follows Sunday's Extraordinary General Meeting, at which the majority of the TTFA membership voted to accept the Normalization Committee appointed by FIFA in March.

In response to TTFA's withdrawal, TTFA board member, Brent Sancho, said he believes this may

be a positive step towards having T&T's suspension lifted before December 18. Sancho also knocked TTFA President William Wallace, and his United TTFA slate, for sinking T&T football to its lowest point.

The former 2006 World Cup defender remains optimistic although still suspended that the ban will be lifted before December 18 allowing the Trinidad and Tobago national team to participate in the Gold Cup and World Cup qualifiers next year.



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High praise for CWI medical team



Cricket West Indies (CWI) has praised its medical team for their outstanding work in collaborating with Cricket New Zealand to execute the upcoming tour amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The West Indies, who left the region on Tuesday, will play three Twenty20 Internationals and two Tests under strict bio-secure protocols from November 27 to December 15.

Cricket West Indies Chief Executive Officer, Johnny Grave, said intense planning had been key to ensuring a

“safe environment”.

Grave said the itinerary and schedule took a lot of detailed planning and CWI is grateful to everyone who played a part in putting the tour together.

“In the present COVID-19 environment, everything requires great attention to detail and the medical and logistics team have been working closely with their counterparts in New Zealand to ensure everyone would be in a safe environment which is also conducive to exciting and entertaining cricket.”

West Indies is undergoing a two week quarantine in New Zealand before starting training and playing warm-up matches in preparation for the series.

For the Caribbean team this is their second tour this year after their historic three tests series in England last July.

Following the West Indies series, New Zealand will host Pakistan, Australia and Bangladesh.

Cabinet gives ABCA clearance to resume cricket



The Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) have received clearance from Cabinet to resume competitive cricket.

The local cricket fraternity met with the nation’s leaders on Wednesday to discuss the way forward for the sport. The resumption of cricket was discussed and presentations were made by representatives of the Leeward islands Cricket Board and Cricket West Indies focusing on the benefits of hosting the Regional Super-50 Tournament early next year.

Following the meeting, President of the ACBA, Kuma Rodney, said the green light was given for competitive cricket to

resume. He added that the ACBA is expected to present a draft of their planned protocols based on the CWI model in place for cricket in the region.

“Hopefully we will have some cricket in December with a Ten10 competition,” Rodney said.

The ACBA has also started a programme in which its members have received funding, once resources are available, to assist with their projects.

PointeXpress visited Gray’s Farm where our reporters witnessed the Empire Nation Cricket Club, a beneficiary of the programme, installing two cricket nets.

Rodney said while not all members have applied for assistance, there is still time to make representation for aid.

Sylvester Thomas calls on locals to take up sailing



Sylester Thomas, Sailing Manager at National Sailing Academy

Sylvester Thomas, Sailing Manager at the National Sailing Academy, wants to see more Antiguans get involved in sailing.

Thomas, a former baker, said he became involved in sailing when he requested a raise from his former em-

ployer whose curt response was that he should “put the yeast in the flour and watch it rise” because that was the the only raise he could expect to get.

This was a turning point in his life as he hopped on his bike and headed to

the former Sunsail hotel, in search of new employment.

“I filled out an application and was told to await a call which I received a week later and the journey started,” Thomas said.

Thomas, who is also a former basketball player and soca artiste, said his new career started with him working as a beach assistant, after which he was promoted to training instructor then waterfront trainer and finally Beach Manager.

“There are many opportunities in sailing and since my journey started. I have never been out of employment. My dream is to start sailing schools around the island and I would love to

see more locals direct their children to sailing, Thomas said.

He explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a drop in participation at the academy. The staff’s workload has also been reduced drastically, however, Thomas said that the academy’s work with schools has continued. He is also encouraging more locals to take advantage of the academy’s free programme each Saturday.

“Antigua and Barbuda is marketed as a marriage destination. Why not a sailing destination?” said Thomas, who added that boats continue to visit the country daily.

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