



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA AWARDED FOR ITS ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY POLICIES

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Getting ready for the vaccine

Over the past week, there have been several announcements regarding the development of vaccines to combat the COVID-19 virus. This has been the development the entire world has been waiting for since the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic in March this year.

The world has had one of the most severe shocks in over a century with the global outbreak of the coronavirus. Countries have been forced to close their borders, economies have been brought to a screeching halt, millions have been affected, and sadly, more than a million people have died.

The virus has proven to be the invisible enemy we all feared. It has upended our lives in ways that a mere ten months ago seemed impossible. Yet for our own safety, the protection of our families and societies, we now wear masks, wash our hands constantly and keep social gatherings at a minimum.

There have been no picnics. Carnival and the accompanying fetes

were cancelled. So too, were major regional events such as the 2021 CARIFESTA.

Many have lost jobs as business activity has slowed significantly particularly in the areas of hospitality, food and beverage, aviation, ground transportation and entertainment. As a result, the government's revenues plummeted. This has been reflected in the reports of a number of statutory bodies, the Social Security, Medical Benefits and Education Levy.

Therefore the news that there are at least two vaccines that have displayed efficacy of over 90 percent is understandably being welcomed as the light at the end of a very dark tunnel.

Russia has announced that they too have developed a vaccine dubbed 'Sputnik' and Cuba has announced that it is very close to developing its own.

While news of the vaccines is welcome, there are two important issues which must be considered:

1. The process of developing the vaccine to ensure its efficacy and

safety and

2. Distribution.

Already, large countries have been accused of 'hoarding' the vaccines long before they have come to the market. This, unfortunately, is one area in which the inequality of the current world order will rear its ugly head.

Small island developing states, such as ours in the Caribbean, cannot possibly compete with the larger and far better resourced nations if competition for the vaccines occurs. We do not have the populations nor financing to compete.

In the past, the Caribbean could rely on the United States and other developed countries to come to our assistance, but with the US facing its own challenges with the virus, it is highly unlikely that it will prioritise the needs of its small southern neighbours in the Caribbean.

Two countries have so far indicated that they will assist the Caribbean: China which is putting up US\$20 billion to assist the Caribbean and Latin America to acquire adequate supplies of the vaccine and

the United Kingdom which has committed to help its former territories.

Antigua and Barbuda is participating in a programme organised through the WHO that aims at ensuring that developing countries have access to the vaccine when it becomes available. The Ministry of Health was required to make a deposit to ensure the first batch of vaccines, however, with the government's pandemic related challenges means that it is likely that additional assistance will be required to ensure that the entire population of Antigua and Barbuda can be inoculated.

There is a strong case to be made for the fact that the size of our pocketbooks should not determine the value of our lives and our place in line to receive the vaccine.

The region needs to begin a campaign to bring its unique challenges to the fore of the discussion on distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Waiting is a luxury we cannot afford. The time to act is now!

Curfew violators appear in court

Sixteen people appeared before the St. John's Magistrates' Court this week facing charges of violating the country's 11 pm curfew.

A number of regulations, including the implementation of a national curfew, were put in place to protect against the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

Police conducted a stop and search initiative last Friday which resulted in the curfew jumpers being caught in the American Road operation. The operation began at about 11 pm when the curfew commences nightly.

Seven people appeared before the chief magistrate on Monday while the remaining nine attended court yesterday.

The penalties they received included fines and reprimands for two people who were then discharged based on their explanation to the magistrate.

Errol Henry was stopped by officers for being on the road after 11pm. He was convicted and fined \$200 or serve one month in prison.

Henry and his girlfriend reportedly went to the pharmacy to collect her prescription. After doing so he dropped her home, but was called back to the house after the woman realised she had forgotten her medication in the vehicle.

Henry was stopped by the police while on his way home at about 11:05 pm.

Abaraham Alkhoury was ordered to pay the court \$500 or serve one month in prison. Alkhoury is tasked with driving home workers from the restaurant where he is employed. The business place reportedly closes at 11 pm, therefore Alkhoury is normally still on the road after curfew begins.

Jason Browne was also fined \$500, which he has until November 20 to pay, or he will face imprisonment for three months. Browne did not provide a reasonable explanation for why he was out past curfew.

Amis Pennyfeather, meantime, was fined \$200 or one month in prison after he told the court that he was taking his friend to the hospital. He said his female friend has been suffering from depression and is not working. Pennyfeather said the woman has also not been eating. He told the court that he took something for the woman to eat, but she was not feeling well and he decided to take her to the hospital. He was stopped and ticketed for breaking curfew on his way to the hospital to seek treatment for her.

Cory Richards was also caught in the stop and search exercise. He was ordered to pay \$500 or serve three months in prison after he failed to provide a plausible excuse for being away from his home after 11 pm.

Stacy Chambers, who blamed heavy traffic for causing her to be out late at night. She was convicted and fined \$300 or will serve one month in prison. Chambers initially pleaded not guilty, but later changed her plea.

Chief Magistrate Walsh ordered that the fines be paid right away for those who could afford it. The others were given until this Friday to make their payment.

Meanwhile, another nine persons appeared in court yesterday for violating the curfew.

They too fell into the police's stop and search exercise snare.

Phil Gillis, who was driving Samuel Canoniere, Arry Simon, Ketetia Thompson and VeKash Khan from a bar located in the Potworks Dam

area, was convicted and fined \$500 or three months in prison. The sum must be paid by November 20. Reports are that Gillis and his companions left the bar about 10:30 pm but had to make stops in Herbert's, Bolans and Coolidge.

Khan was also fined \$500 or three months in prison. His fine was paid immediately, however, Thompson and Simon were each ordered to pay \$250 or one month in prison, while Canoniere was fined \$500 or three months behind bars.

Taxi driver Eujesie Bentick was convicted and fined \$250 or one month in prison after pleading guilty to the charge. His passenger, Shawn James, was also fined. His penalty is \$500 or three months in prison.

Meanwhile, Wanda Berdoma and Brian Phillip, were the only two who appeared to receive reprimands and discharge.

Both offered reasonable explanations which the magistrate took into account and extended mercy.

Berdoma experienced a flat tyre and was unable to have it repaired before the curfew commenced, as she finished working at 10pm.

Phillip was on his way to work when he was stopped. The officers accompanied him to his workplace, but still ticketed him. Phillip, an essential worker, said he applied for a curfew exemption pass, but has not yet received it.

Atiya Bass also appeared in court yesterday and was fined \$250 forthwith or one month in prison. Bass was unable to provide the court with a reasonable explanation for being on the road after curfew.

The country has a 5am to 11pm curfew which is implemented under the State of Emergency that runs until the end of this year.

Antigua and Barbuda awarded for its environmentally friendly policies

The online travel guide, Lonely Planet, has named Antigua and Barbuda among its 'Best in Travel' award recipients this year.

A statement from the Ministry of Tourism announced that Lonely Planet named the twin island nation *2021's Emerging Sustainable Destination of the Year*.

"Unveiling a radical reimagining of its much awaited Best in Travel picks for 2021, Lonely Planet is looking ahead to the important changes taking place globally, from sustainability to diversity, and shining a light on the future of travel. This year, Antigua and Barbuda has been heralded out as one of the destinations who are transforming the travel industry," the release said.

Antigua and Barbuda attracted the world's attention from several policies including banning single-use plastics to establishing a "Green Corridor" of environmentally friendly businesses. Through these policies, Antigua and Barbuda has made sustainability a priority.

Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez, said that the islands are incredibly proud to have been recognised by Lonely Planet's Best in Travel Awards.

"As a nation, we are constantly striving to ensure sustainability is at the forefront of everything we do. Although we are a small country, we are pioneering initiatives to ensure that the beauty of our islands is preserved and nurtured for generations to come. The Sustainable Tourism de-

partment has made this a priority in Antigua and Barbuda, and within a short five year period, we are very proud of the progress that has been made and the example we have set."

CEO of the Tourism Authority, Colin C. James, said, "The Authority is excited to celebrate this win with the Ministry of Tourism. This is an amazing accolade to receive as we continue to promote Antigua and Barbuda as a safe and responsible tourism destination."

The twin island nation has introduced several sustainable initiatives over the years, which include:

- The Green Tourist Initiative, also known as the "Green Corridor". This initiative aims to assist businesses in reducing the negative aspects of tourism on the environment by improving the efficiency of their operations. Under the "Green Corridor" initiative, Antigua has introduced the "Green Fins Programme", a UNEP certification programme that provides support and guidance to snorkellers and divers – the only country in the Western hemisphere to have done so.
- Antigua has introduced the Mapping of Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites to create awareness of tourism assets and attractions sites, to assist with the management of cultural and natural heritage. So far, 64 sites have been mapped out with their true histories be-

ing shared with tour guides, locals, and visitors alike. Under the Management of Historical Sites, Antigua continues to work with the Sustainable Tourism Unit to restore and develop Betty's Hope as a sustainably managed historical site.

- Antigua seeks to maintain and enhance select communities under its Community Empowerment Project, to create a new tourism product that will create alternative livelihoods for members of those communities. Antigua has also introduced a Waste to Craft Management Project, to create further awareness among artisans and craftsmen on how waste can be reused in the accommodation sector.
- Under its Destination Sustainable Tourism Monitoring Programme, Antigua aims to work with its residents to ensure satisfaction with the development of Tourism products. This is to ensure that residents feel they are a part of the process and are benefiting from Tourism. Antigua has also introduced the Destination Stewardship Committee, to engage leaders from government, the private sector and NGO community through a collaborative process to embed wise policies and practices into all levels of tourism planning, development, and management.

Schools receive additional handwashing stations

Schools receive additional handwashing stations

Several handwashing stations have been installed in schools across the country through the efforts of the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown and the Consulate of Switzerland in Antigua and Barbuda.

In a statement, the Rotary Club Sundown thanked Honorary Consul Patricia Gyger of the Consulate of Switzerland in Antigua & Barbuda and the Embassy of Switzerland in the Dominican Republic, for supporting its goal of installing handwashing stations in several of the nation's schools.

During an inspection of the

Ottos Comprehensive School and St. Joseph's Academy, President Julian Wilkins and Honorary Consul Patricia Gyger were given a firsthand view of the installed units.

USD\$20,000.00 was provided by the Embassy of Switzerland in the Dominican Republic to facilitate the project. The units were made locally and were installed by Caribbean Water Treatment.

So far, the club has installed 49 units in 8 secondary schools and 11 primary schools. By the end of the project, the goal is to install a total of 70 units.

The handwashing station installation project complements

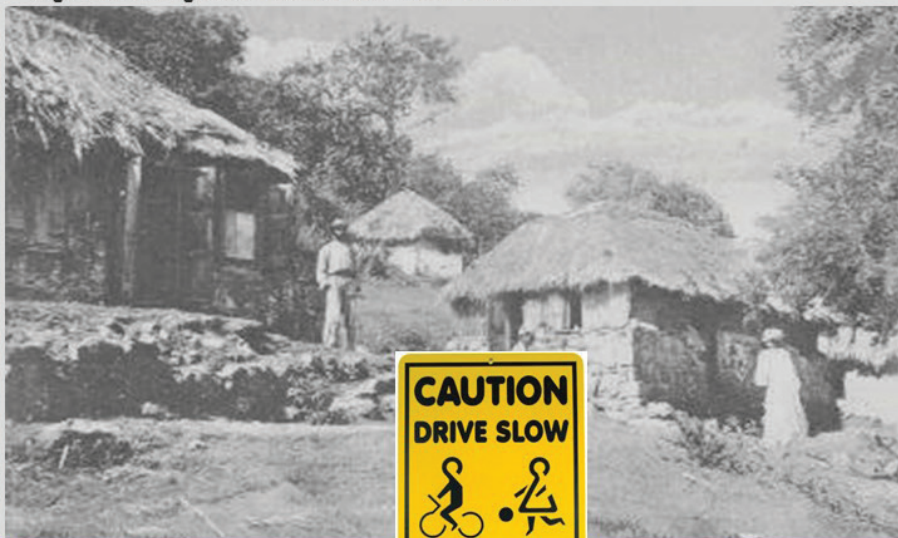
two of Rotary International's areas of focus "Disease Prevention & Treatment" and "Water, Sanitation & Hygiene".

Over the years, the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown has enjoyed a thriving relationship with the Consulate of Switzerland in Antigua and Barbuda and together they have executed several major projects.

During the inspection, Honorary Consul Gyger expressed her government's delight at being able to facilitate the project. She further pledged that her government will continue to support the work of the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S REFLECTIONS

A glance through our Nation's Rear View Mirror



Free Villages A Brief History

At Emancipation the slaves immediately set up 68 'Free Villages'; however through various disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes many villages became unlivable and the former slaves returned to the plantations to work and live.

However, today about 32 villages remain. **Liberta** is the largest with a population of about 3,000. Its first inhabitants bought their own lands to establish their village. The other older free villages are **Freemans Village, Freetown, All Saints, Bendals, Old Road** and **Johnson's Point** in the south which were formed mostly by runaway slaves who inhabited the mountainous southern region of the island.



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



Authorities hope recent flood has reduced Giant African Snail population

Dr. Janil Gore-Francis, Antigua and Barbuda's Chief Plant Protection Officer, is hoping that some of the giant African snail population was eliminated during last week's flooding.

Various methods have been employed to rid the country of the invasive species. A task force was also established to deal with collection and eradication of the snails.

Dr. Gore-Francis said, however, that it is likely that some of the snails escaped the flood waters by climbing into trees which prevented them from being washed away.

"What we suspect and hope is that a good few of these snails would have been drowned in all that water because they can't really survive if they are submerged, but one of the things they do to han-

dle water is to go up into the trees. So if there are trees or if there are buildings in the vicinity, you would more than likely find them on the trees and walls at this time, but we are hoping that a lot of the water, the torrents, would have drowned a few of them," Dr. Gore-Francis said.

She advised that eradicating the snails from Antigua and Barbuda will require effort, but can be achieved in three to four years with the assistance of all stakeholders, including members of the public.

She noted that the Plant Protection Unit has embarked upon several critical campaigns to help rid the country of the snails in the hope of avoiding a worsening situation.

"Well you see we have to exercise patience when it comes to the

giant African snails because we just have to accept the fact that for us to get rid of them it has to be a concerted effort over at least three years; continuously picking them up when you find them," Dr. Gore-Francis said.

The Chief Plant Protection officer continued, "Because they can persist, they can go into a resting phase, they can hide if conditions are not right. They come out, then after that, lay their eggs."

According to Dr. Gore-Francis, based on the biology of the snails, people cannot expect a miracle unless a natural predator of the snails were to be introduced to control or eliminate them.

Giant African snails have caused destruction to crops and have invaded homes across the island.

'Below Deck' Season 8 set in Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda will receive additional exposure in the United States and beyond when it becomes the backdrop of Season 8 of the Bravo network's reality show, 'Below Deck'.

More than one million people who view Below Deck each week will have the opportunity to see Antigua and Barbuda's stunning coastal scenery as the show chronicles the lives of the crew members who work and reside

aboard a mega-yacht during charter season.

Season 8 of the show premiered

on November 2 and this coincided perfectly with the start of Antigua and Barbuda's yachting season.

The episodes aired so far have featured Antigua's south coast and the Jolly Harbour. Fans of the show have also been able to see English Harbour, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Nelson's Dockyard, Catherine's Café and the Antigua Yacht Club.

Later episodes this season will feature Barbuda and Green Island.

COVID-19 in the country is also highlighted as this season of the show was filmed early in 2020.

Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez said, "Antigua and Barbuda has lots of space on land and water for social distancing. The destination is open and we are inviting visitors out on the water to explore Antigua's 95 miles of indented coastlines and Barbuda's secluded harbours."

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism officials and the Antigua and Barbuda Marine Association released yachting protocols for the sector in September. These protocols can be viewed on www.visitantiguabarbuda.com



Dr. Raj K. Jammula, BDS
Dr. Poornima Jammula, BDS
Dr. Jammula & Associates
Antigua Dentistry

Importance of taking care of your teeth and gum health!

Can Dental Care Reduce Your Risk of Alzheimer's Disease?

We all know we need to see a dentist, but what you may not know is that dental care is not only about your teeth and gums. Your mouth is the gateway to the rest of your body. Poor dental health has been directly linked to the development of other health issues, such as rheumatoid arthritis and heart disease. Taking care of your teeth plays a direct role in your long-term wellness.

Recently, a few studies pointed to yet another

issue that could be related directly to poor dental health: Alzheimer's Disease. It's a finding that may completely change how we view this form of dementia, and could also play a role in what we can do to both treat it and prevent it.

The Link Between Dental Health and Alzheimer's

Gum disease is caused by a buildup of bacteria in between the teeth. One of those bacteria - *P. gingivalis* - is responsible for gingivitis, the first stage

of other more serious forms of gum disease. That bacteria, *P. gingivalis*, is also the same bacteria that is found in plaque over the brain found in Alzheimer's patients.

These results were seen in multiple studies. Follow up studies were able to confirm this in rats, showing the pathway that the bacteria was able to take in order to eventually reach the brain, and that rats that had this bacteria in their brain also experienced a similar form of mem-

ory loss.

Oral Healthcare May Be a Key Factor in Disease Prevention

Your teeth and gums are important. Dental pain is one of the most severe forms of pain in the body, and poor dental hygiene can lead to tooth loss, staining, cavities, and other issues. But what these studies show is that taking care of your teeth isn't just about avoiding cavities and making sure your teeth are healthy. Though more research is needed, it's possible that dental care may help you prevent diseases like Alzheimer's as well. That's why it's so important to care for your teeth, by:

- Brushing
- Flossing
- Eating Healthy
- Seeing a Dentist

Most people know how important it is to see a dentist for their oral health. But now, there are even more reasons to believe that dental care is important.

We at Dr Jammula's Antigua dentistry give you the best possible dental care with the best advice. We can be reached at 562 4972 or 5972.

Alzheimer's Symptoms



Asot Michael goes to court over ABLP Tribunal

The High Court in St. John's is hearing arguments from the Parliamentary Representative for St. Peter, Asot Michael, that the Tribunal set up by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) has no authority to deliberate his dispute with the organisation.

Mr. Justice Rohan Philip is hearing the matter in which Michael, through his attorney, Hugh Marshall Jr., has brought suit against the General Secretary of the ABLP, Senator Mary Clare Hurst and the head of the tribunal, Lionel "Max" Hurst.

Michael contends that the ABLP did not hold a convention in the two years preceding the charges being brought against him, therefore under the ABLP's constitution, the tribunal, the party's disciplinary body, has no authority.

According to Michael,

the tribunal "could not be a valid instrument of the party" therefore he is petitioning the court to intervene and put a stop to the proceedings.

Michael is accused of violating the ABLP's Code of Ethics across at least three incidents this year.

The rules of the party outline five possible actions, ranging from censure to expulsion from the party, that the tribunal could impose on Michael if he is found guilty. The two party officials are being represented by attorney, Dr. David Dorsett.

The case was adjourned until Friday due to the late submission of documents by the defense.

Lionel Hurst said it is the tribunal's contention that Michael's legal argument is simply 'wrong'. Until the case is resolved, however, the party has been asked



MP Asot Michael Parliamentary Representative for St. Peter

to put its proceedings against Michael on hold. Williams-Grant, Barry Knight, an investigator, Veron Johnson and Bishop Charlesworth

The other members of the ABLP Tribunal are Senator Alincia Browne.



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A year of **Exceptional Progress & Service**

COVID-19 may have affected our plans to serve visitors to Antigua throughout most of the year, but it also brought us many opportunities to serve our community and to support each other. In the midst of great despair, our dynamic team has risen to the occasion time and again, completing our first year of operations with a stream of noteworthy accomplishments that have positioned Antigua & Barbuda for a strong restart of the cruise tourism sector. We are grateful for the hard work, talent, and energy of our team as we face the challenges of doing business in this era with strength and determination.

We also thank the Government of Antigua & Barbuda, the Heritage Quay Retailers, ship agents, taxi drivers, tour operators, and you, the members of our community, for your ongoing support and partnership as we strive to make Antigua Cruise Port the best in its class.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Project

- Finished construction of the Fifth Berth, a new pier that can accommodate cruising's biggest ships – the Oasis class vessels, carrying over 6,000 passengers

Operations

Finished construction of the Fifth Berth

Completed High-Level Security Certifications including:

- ISPS Training
- Security Officer and Fire Safety & Prevention Training by the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda
- Celebrated the excellent performance of 21 Antiguanians hired to form the GPH Antigua Team

Finalized Heritage Quay beautification project



Port Community Service

- Donated a new Emergency Response Vehicle to Antigua & Barbuda Emergency Services
- Hosted the successful "Inspiring the Restart of Cruise Tourism" public webinar
- Launched monthly "Quay Updates" newsletter for the Heritage Quay Business Community
- Hosted several successful webinars for Heritage Quay Business Community Including:

Quay Business Community Including:

- o COVID-19 Business Survival Webinar
- o Marketing Strategies for Tomorrow Webinar



CONGRATULATIONS
WINNER OF THE **MANAGER'S CHOICE AWARD**
Ms. DIANNE RICHARDS
CUSTODIAN SUPERVISOR



The US and the Caribbean: Time to seize the moment

By David Jessop

The election of Joe Biden as the next President of the United States holds out the hope of a much improved and less divisive Caribbean relationship with Washington. David Jessop writes that if the Caribbean is to benefit, it must engage now to make the case for the policy changes that will help it most.

It is easy to share the excitement felt across the Caribbean at President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the US polls.

However, a calmer voice within suggests that while the outcome will bring some short-term, big picture policy gains for the region, the extreme political polarisation the election highlighted does not bode well for the country that matters most to the region.

That said, and despite Mr. Trump's apparent interest in a confused and vindictive transition process, Mr. Biden is already advancing plans in several policy areas of general significance to the Caribbean. These relate to climate change, addressing COVID-19, the rollout of a vaccine, and stimulating the US economy.

In the case of climate change, Mr. Biden will reverse the Trump administration's withdrawal from the 2016 Paris climate change accord and seek a significant role in the delayed COP 26 global climate summit, now to be held in Glasgow in November 2021. The US president-elect has already said that he will 'listen to science', that it is his intention the US achieve net zero carbon emissions by the middle of the century through radical reform measures and will integrate climate

change targets with US foreign policy.

The incoming administration is expected to rejoin the World Health Organisation, establish a new COVID-19 task force, and allocate US\$25bn for vaccine development and distribution. It will probably also support the WHO's COVAX facility that will benefit most Caribbean nations by providing at reduced cost significant quantities of vaccines as they become available.

Assuming Congress can agree, the region also stands to benefit indirectly from the Biden presidency's intention to deliver a package of domestic measures aimed at stimulating post pandemic economic growth. This and a possible vaccine should enable the Caribbean, two years out, to see the return of significant demand for US travel to the Caribbean.

Of almost as great importance to the region will be a change in US government values in the form of a commitment to multilateralism, an end to the induced polarisation in organisations like the Organisation of American States, the reassertion of ethical values on black lives and gender equality, and respect for and support for allies.

Although easy to overstate, given the global pressures they will face, Mr. Biden, his wife and Ms. Harris all know and understand what motivates and matters to the region. In addition, the often underestimated importance of the expert advice and analysis provided by long-suffering career service officers in the Caribbean and in the US is now expected to be better heard.

On trade and investment policy the tone and approach of the Biden presidency will be different and linked less transactionally to the US's security and political concerns. However, there is little reason to believe that the new administration will do anything other than continue to secure the hemisphere as an integrated special trading partner in order to lessen Chinese influence, stimulate nearshoring, and continue existing policies that support a central developmental role for the US private sector.

In contrast, the coercive and regionally divisive approach taken by President Trump in seeking a coalition of willing Caribbean states prepared to trade off an improved economic relationship against meeting US trade, political and security objectives, is expected to end. Despite this, the pressures in relation to Chinese 5G and other emerging technologies will continue, albeit based on a common Western approach to investment screening.

On security, the US's regional and hemispheric concerns and support are unlikely to alter. However, of particular significance to the Caribbean is an awareness in the Biden camp that the vacuum created by isolating Venezuela and Cuba has created a destabilising refugee crisis, citizen poverty, and instability, offering geopolitical opportunity to Russia, China, Iran and Turkey.

Specifically, on Cuba, the Biden team made clear before the election that it wants to restore a working relationship over time but that this cannot be the same as existed under President Obama.

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

As in the case of Venezuela, this may involve a negotiated step by step approach that seeks to ease tensions, addresses the US's border refugee crisis, establishes on a multilateral basis support for the Cuban people, and slowly restores travel, trade and limited forms of cooperation.

What this caution reflects is concern among Democrats that the Cuban American vote in Florida and voter perceptions of 'socialism' impacted to their detriment in what was once a swing state. Although Cuba has yet to say more about the election outcome, one interesting commentary in the state media has suggested that misplaced political perceptions about a relatively small group of Cuban-Americans in Florida may determine future US-Cuba policy. 'By focusing on that tiny vote, in national terms, both parties are unaware of the

position of broad sectors of US voters who favour the most normalised relationship possible with Cuba and who have specific interests in business, science, culture, academic relations, health and other sectors', Cuba debate wrote.

More generally the Biden presidency is expected to continue the process of strategic reorientation begun under President Obama that recognised that the US would over time cease to be the sole global hegemon and that it needs to address China's rapid technological advance.

Caribbean leaders have congratulated President-elect Biden and in private are now looking forward to a period in which many of the economic and political issues that matter most to the region will receive a more sympathetic, less transactional hearing in Washington.

However, it is far from clear, even

with a friend in the White House, whether a divided and poorly integrated Caribbean still struggling to overcome the pandemic has the energy and leverage to successfully prosecute its case.

Beyond the good news, the region urgently needs to end its graduation out of concessional financing, needs a well-supported multilateral post-pandemic recovery package, and to convince Washington that fairly achieved US, Chinese, European and other investment all have a future place in the region. It needs to engage now.

David Jessop is a consultant to the Caribbean Council and can be contacted at david.jessop@caribbean-council.org Previous columns can be found at www.caribbean-council.org 15 November 2020

SAVE THE DATE

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NATIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

BANNED ITEMS

Once again it's the Christmas/ Dollar Barrel season which is scheduled to run from October 29th - December 31st, 2020. The public is being reminded that no banned/prohibited item should make its way onto the shores of Antigua and Barbuda in accordance with the Litter Control and Prevention Act No. 3 of 2019 section 26 #1.



BANNED ITEMS

- Single use shopping plastic bags
- Expanded polystyrene (styrofoam) including bowls, plates, cups, cup lids, straws, forks, knives & spoons.

NON-COMPLIANT INDIVIDUALS WILL BE ISSUED A FINE

For further updates please visit our Facebook page @ The National Solid Waste Management Authority or scan the QR code provided.





ANTIGUA POWER COMPANY LTD

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Tel: (268) 460-9461 • Fax: (268) 460-9462

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our contracted Venezuelan Engineer. He arrived on November 6th, 2020 from Miami with a negative PCR test result. We followed all the necessary protocols and obtained the necessary government permissions to allow the engineer to carry out his duties at the power plant which provides an essential service to the nation of Antigua.

The engineer arrived in Antigua to attend to our fuel and lube oil system that are critical to the reliability of our plant operations and also to investigate the recent fire at the power plant's booster unit so that we can correct the situation as soon as possible to avoid any interruption of electricity.

He completed his work on Tuesday November 10th, 2020 and was scheduled to leave on Wednesday November 11th, 2020 and was informed that he needed to complete a COVID test before travel. He then traveled to Dr. John's facility where a positive test result was received. The necessary government authorities were immediately notified and he was taken directly to the government isolation facility, another COVID PCR test was done and a positive result was indicated. The Government Health authorities immediately took control of the situation and did their contact tracing which resulted in employees being placed in 14-day quarantine and they are constantly being monitored for symptoms.

During his stay in Antigua, the engineer was staying at a private residence in Blue Waters. He had a strict travel schedule from the residence to the power plant and vice versa. At the power plant we have strict protocol measures in place including wearing of masks, sanitizing and social distancing. Employees were also informed of the engineer's visit and reminded to follow the protocols put in place which included the wearing of masks, social distancing and sanitization.

During the last 24 years, this engineer has provided valuable assistance and training to the power plant employees and worked diligently with the staff and management to ensure the optimal performance of our facilities. This is a great loss for our institution and our prayers and thoughts are with his family in this trying time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government Health officials for their prompt attention and support as regards to this issue.

bpTT retrenches workers

(Trinidad Guardian): bpTT on Monday retrenched more than 40 workers in what is expected to be an exercise in which close to 100 employees will be let go from the company this week.

Guardian Media has learnt that the first set of workers to get their pink slips were those involved in the production of the company's gas and condensate and on Tuesday, another set of workers were sent home as part of bpTT's restructuring plans.

The company insisted on Monday that it is doing its cuts in the most dignified way possible and offering assistance to those impacted by the retrenchment and restructuring.

"We are providing ongoing support to staff through our EAP provider and we are committed to managing these changes with the

utmost respect, dignity and care for our employees," bpTT said in a statement to Guardian Media.

This effectively means that scores of high paying jobs in the local energy sector will be lost and is in keeping with what has been a brutal time for workers in the crucial sector.

Since 2018, thousands of jobs in the energy sector have been lost, from Petrotrin's closure to the virtual decimation of many small and mid-sized service contractors to now, bpTT, the country's largest energy producer.

For months, bpTT employees have been worried about whether they will lose their jobs and Monday saw relief for those who are being kept on and sadness for the dozens sent home.

Guardian Media has been told that all departments will be impact-

ed and at all levels, meaning that even some management positions will be made redundant.

On Monday, the company was asked the following questions:

Can bpTT say how many people were retrenched from the production department today?

Can bpTT say how many people are going to lose their jobs by the end of the week?

What measures are in place to counsel those who are being sent home?

What kind of packages are those being retrenched receiving?

The company declined to give details instead, reminding that the retrenchment is part of its overall plan to restructure the company in keeping with the new direction of BP PLC, its parent company headquartered in the United Kingdom.

Statue of Lord Horatio Nelson relocated

(Barbados Advocate): The statue of Lord Horatio Nelson no longer stands tall in National Heroes Square, the City. It has been relocated to Block A, the Garrison.

The decommissioning of the statue occurred Monday, the day designated by the United Nations as the International Day for Tolerance. During its removal, there was loud applause and cheers from many in attendance, who used cameras and other devices to capture the historic moment.

The evening's event also featured a cultural presentation, which included performances by entertainers, the Mighty Gabby and Nikita, narration by Cyndi Celeste and the unveiling of a painting created during the proceedings by artist, Safia Stoute.

In her address, Prime Minister the Hon. Mia Amor Mottley reminded the gathering that the removal of the statue was merely a symbolic act. She further said this act "is first and foremost a symbol that we are

ready to take other steps in the development of our nationhood and in the building of our people to be that proud set of persons who can take on the world without having the historic scars pulling them back to that previous age".

She additionally reminded that the conversation about identity and culture needs to continue. Also, the conversation around new forms of slavery and discrimination needs to take place in order for progress and greater unity.

"I ask us equally to recognise that the work must continue, but the greatest battles are no longer in Parliament, no longer at the level of our head of state, no longer in the physical infrastructure that we will put in place to remind you of what happened and what we must do not go back to."

The relocation of the Lord Horatio Nelson statue follows many appeals by individuals and groups over the years for its removal. Back in August, there was a peaceful protest



Statue of Lord Horatio Neslon in Barbados

in the City where several persons voiced their disapproval of the statue being situated in the country's capital.

Tax Administration amendment nothing to do with Road Traffic amendment

(Now Grenada): Transportation Minister Norland Cox has refuted claims that recent amendments to the 2016 Tax Administration legislation will provide for drivers who choose to go to court over fixed traffic tickets instead of paying the ticket to get a criminal record.

In recent days, the trending topic has been the claim that challenging a traffic ticket in the court would create a criminal record, if the claimant chose to have a magistrates court settle the matter.

Garth Woodroffe, President of the Grand Anse Bus Association, in a news conference last Sunday said that to the best of his knowledge, a fixed penalty is normal for traffic offences.

"We need clarity about this Tax Administration bill."

Minister Cox addressed the matter during Tuesday's post-Cabinet briefing and said the issue of the

Tax Administration Bill has nothing to do with the Road Traffic Amendment Act.

"They are separate and apart. The only thing that speaks to an offence in the Traffic Amendment Bill is if someone was to arbitrarily increase bus fees and taxi fees that will become an offence."

The Tax Administration Bill was approved in the Senate on 10 November 2020, the same day that parliamentarians approved an amendment to the Road Traffic legislation. That amendment provides the legal mandate to establish a Transport Commission which will replace the Transport Board.

The board acted in an advisory capacity to the Minister for Transportation. The Transport Commission will be a statutory body which will regulate road transportation.

The Tax Administration bill was presented by Senator Winston Gar-

raway who informed the House that the government is introducing a new format of paying tax by issuing tickets to those who have accepted that they have violated the existing tax regulations, but will accept a fine to conclude the negotiation. The new option, Garraway explained will be like the ticketing system used by the Traffic Department.

"So, what we have in the traffic as the ticketing system, a fixed penalty ticketing system, this is what Clause 4 seeks to introduce," Garraway told the Parliament.

"This is to ensure a form is brought into the sphere and the fixed penalty system can be introduced to persons who, for one reason or the other, are not complying with the regulations and have admitted guilt but may not want to go to court. They can pay a fixed penalty and move on," he said.

Mottley calls for debt relief to be extended

(Barbados Nation) Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley has joined the call for debt relief to be extended beyond the poorest countries to middle-income countries.

Mottley expressed this view on Monday during a virtual address at the launch of the 'Debt Relief for Green Recovery' Report.

She said middle-income countries were making sacrifices every day in choosing sustainability and resilience over the cheap and easy and suggested that global support and cooperation were needed.

The prime minister continued: "Most of the world decries global warming, but too many slink away when it comes to making their sacrifices. The promise that was made to the developing world to back the Paris Agreement, that mechanism remains empty and toothless. We cannot do this as middle-income small island states on our own.

"We therefore join the call today for debt relief to be extended, beyond the public to the private sector and beyond the poorest to middle-income countries, highly vulnerable to pandemics and to the climate crisis. And we urge the incorporation of objective, international measures of vulnerability to be included in the assessment criteria of who is eligible."

Mottley noted that some of these same countries were placed on a blacklist for not conforming to rules which were invented with "dubious criteria", which some rich countries did not necessarily apply to themselves.

"Can you imagine that in Barbados, a country with exchange controls, a country that poses zero threat to international finance, that our leaders must take time out of dealing with COVID, unemployment, or preparing for the next hurricane season, to explain why there is no

fundamental basis for Barbados to be on a money laundering blacklist today, a flawed list, arbitrarily and illegally composed and picking up a number of countries across the Caribbean, across the Pacific and across Africa.

"It is well accepted that most money laundering in the world takes place in countries that are not even on the list that has been published," she stated.

Mottley told her audience that more development bank finance was needed. She said Barbados was doing much to help itself, including employing innovative finance.

"We use catastrophic insurance facilities, and we are the world's largest issuers today of bonds with natural disaster clauses. We urge others to follow and development banks to put natural disaster clauses in the loans that they issue us in recognition of our reality."

Cuba could be on the brink of a revolutionary COVID-19 vaccine, but US sanctions are slowing it down

By Alan Macleod

Cuba is already a medical powerhouse, and if it can successfully navigate the minefield of US sanctions, it could supply much of Latin America with a COVID-19 vaccine.

Cuba has announced positive and promising results for a number of separate COVID-19 vaccines it is currently developing, but U.S. sanctions against the small island nation are hampering the development and rollout of the potentially life-saving treatments.

Two candidates, named Sovereign 1 and Sovereign 2, have generated antibodies blocking infection in animals and are showing similarly encouraging signs in tests on human subjects. Meanwhile, a separate vaccine, based on a protein from the hepatitis B virus, is unique in that it is delivered through the nasal tract and does not require a needle to administer.

Should any of these efforts ultimately succeed, the Caribbean nation – already a medical powerhouse that has developed a lung cancer vaccine and methods to stop mother-to-baby HIV and syphilis transmission – will likely become an important supplier to other Latin American and developing countries who have been effectively shut out from purchasing COVID-19 vaccines from Western companies, as rich nations have already begun hoarding coronavirus medicines.

Dr. Helen Yaffe of Glasgow University, author of “We Are Cuba!: How a Revolutionary People Have Survived in a Post-Soviet World” was impressed and heartened by the news, telling MintPress: “Cuba now has four COVID-specific vaccine candidates under clinical trial. The fact that a small Carib-

bean island can achieve such a remarkable feat is testimony to its state-owned biotech sector, which is directed towards public health demands and integrated into its healthcare and education systems. After years of being told that only the market can lead to efficiency and innovation, Cuba’s socialist planned economy demonstrates what is possible when there is political will, good coordination, organization and the priority of social welfare.”

However, Cuban immunization developments are being seriously hamstrung by the actions of the U.S. government, primarily due to the decades-long blockade on the island, something which the Cuban government estimates has cost it over 750 billion U.S. dollars.

As Reuters reported, cash-strapped Cuba cannot afford to buy the raw materials necessary to upscale its vaccine development to help other countries. Hospitals face huge obstacles importing lifesaving equipment from abroad due to the blockade, while the sanctions force the country, which imports the large majority of its staples, to spend far more on food than other nations. As a result, almost one third of young children suffer from anemia due to the monotonous and sub-par nutrition available, according to the World Food Program.

The blockade also forces Cuba to continually repair its crumbling infrastructure and halt the importation of vehicles, even leading to a return of horse-drawn carriages on the island. Food production is hampered; with little petroleum available for agriculture, the country instead went back to relying on human or animal labor. The blockade also led to the

forced development of a domestic pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector, which has grown to become among the most advanced in the world.

Last November, the United Nations voted 187-3 in favor of ending the blockade (with the U.S., Israel, and Brazil voting “no”). Almost two-thirds of Americans support an end to the action as well. Despite this, the Trump administration has, in fact, intensified the pressure on Cuba, as Yaffe explained.

“Cuba has been subject to an additional 46 sanctions and new measures to tighten the blockade, to scare off foreign investors, to create scarcity, to create difficulty for Cuba to access raw materials, including for its biotech sector and for its pharmaceutical industry.”

One example of this, Yaffe notes in her new documentary, “Cuba and COVID-19: Public Health, Science and Solidarity” is that the island can no longer purchase ventilators or parts for existing machines because the Swiss company it dealt with was purchased by an American one and fearing potential reprisals, it halted any contact with Havana.

A more positive, but nevertheless difficult, challenge the Cuban government faces in testing its new vaccines is the lack of COVID-19 patients on the island, which has the highest proportion of medical professionals per capita anywhere in the world. To date, the country has recorded only 7,639 cases and 131 deaths. U.S.-backed conservative neighbors such as Brazil, Ecuador, and until last week, Bolivia, that had expelled Cuban doctors working inside their borders, have fared far worse.

cont'd on pg 16

St. Kitts & Nevis PM clarifies tax information, denies changes in personal, corporate taxes



Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of St. Kitts and Nevis Dr. Timothy Harris

(St. Kitts-Nevis Observer): Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. Timothy Harris, has reaffirmed that the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has no intention of introducing Personal Income Tax or increasing Corporate Income Tax.

The Prime Minister made this statement during the November 17 sitting of the National Assembly in

response to misinformation being circulated surrounding the tabling of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

Prime Minister Harris said the Amendments to the Bill seek to clarify the application of taxation to ensure full compliance with international good governance standards.

"Specifically, Mr. Speaker, the Amendments will ensure that we meet our commitments to the EU and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and avoid the reputational damage and consequential financing costs which come with blacklisting," said Dr. Harris.

"As a responsible government and highly respected member of the international community, my government cannot shirk from our obligations even when they are inconvenient."

The prime minister noted that this is not the first time legislative amendments are being made in St. Kitts and Nevis in response to changing international regulations and practices.

"Over the last 20 plus years, the country's National Assembly has had to make amendments to a range of Tax regimes that were deemed inconsistent by the EU or OECD," said Dr. Harris.

"At the level of the Nevis Island

Assembly, it too has had to respond with amendments to the Nevis Business Corporation Ordinance and the Nevis Limited Liability Company Ordinance in order to ensure compliance with international tax good governance principles.

"Our efforts over the last four years to act in a timely manner led to St. Kitts and Nevis in February 2020 being removed from the EU's list of non-cooperative jurisdictions," Dr. Harris added. "The records will show that his Team Unity administration over the last five years has managed the country well, achieving unprecedented surpluses year after year, without introducing one single new Tax measure.

"We are a Government disposed to keeping taxes low," he said. "The record is also pellucidly clear that for the last five years my Team Unity Government has not introduced any new taxes. Instead, we have reduced the tax burden of our people by removing VAT from all food items, educational supplies and funeral expenses. Mr. Speaker, we went even further and more recently, as part of our stimulus package in response to the negative impact of COVID-19, we have instituted a series of tax breaks for the benefit of taxpayers large and small."

cont'd from pg 15

Under Trump, the U.S. also led the world in the theft of medical equipment and personal protective gear, confiscating shipments, and diverting supplies away from other countries to keep for itself, and at the height of the outbreak in Iran, the government was unable to buy or import lifesaving gear due to American sanctions, as no nation was willing to risk

the wrath of Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, who threatened harsh sanctions on anyone willing to do business with Iran.

Finally, the World Health Organization directly intervened, gifting Iran supplies, sparking the Trump administration to leave the WHO, among other reasons.

TENDER'S NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

***Construction of a Two-Storey Science Lab Building with Civil Works
Sir Novelle Richards Academy School***

Basic Education Project II (BEP II)

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

in conjunction with

the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

The Tenders Board of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, in conjunction with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), invites interested vendors to submit a bid/proposal, for the supply of works and or services related to the **Construction of a Two-Storey Science Lab Building with Civil Works to include Site Drainage and Sanitation**, at the Sir Novelle Richards Academy School.

The **Scope of Works** and **Supporting Documents related to this tender**, can be accessed through our **e-Procurement Platform**, via the following link:

<https://goab.easibuy.com/advertisements/1303?token=f4c5904fe270f8d411031da5>

The e-Procurement Platform for this tender is hosted by EASiBUY. Should you require any assistance in accessing the platform, please feel free to contact Mr. Daniel Knight at **Daniel.Knight@ab.gov.ag** or Jamal Barnes at **Jamal.Barnes@ab.gov.ag**

Please be advised that the eligibility of your bid/proposal, is subject to the **completion of a Vendor Registration Form** which can also be accessed from the site.

Bid/Proposal for this tender, must be uploaded to the e-Procurement Platform, no later than **12:00 noon** on **Tuesday, 15 December, 2020**. Queries or Clarification Request regarding the specified requirements of this tender, must be directed and delivered to: **Chairman, Tenders Board (tenders.board@ab.gov.ag)**. Please note that the **final day for considering queries** related to this tender, is **2:00 PM** on **Thursday 03 December 2020**.

Ethiopia Tigray crisis: Abiy issues 'ultimatum' as civilians flee fighting



Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

Ethiopia's prime minister has said a military operation against rebel forces in the northern Tigray region is entering its "final phase". Abiy Ahmed said a three-day deadline given for Tigray's forces to surrender had now expired.

Hundreds of people have reportedly died in nearly two weeks of clashes between the rebels and the federal army. At least 27,000 people have fled to Su-

dan.

The UN has said a "full-scale humanitarian crisis" is unfolding.

Getting information from Tigray is hard as there is a virtual communications blackout.

In a Facebook post, Mr. Abiy said the operation by the federal forces was nearing a conclusion.

"The final critical act of law enforcement will be done in the coming days," the prime minister

said.

He thanked TPLF fighters who, he said, had taken advantage of the deadline to switch sides but he did not give a number. Mr. Abiy added that his government was "ready to receive and reintegrate our fellow Ethiopians fleeing to neighbouring countries".

Meanwhile, TPLF adviser Fesseha Tessema, a former Ethiopian diplomat, told the BBC that civilian sites in Tigray's main city, Mekelle, were being bombed by federal forces.

"[The people of Tigray] haven't done anything wrong, they are in their own homes, churches," Mr. Fesseha said.

The federal government has denied targeting civilians and said that air attacks are aimed at the Tigrayan military.

The UN's refugee agency, the UNHCR, has said that "a full-scale humanitarian crisis is unfolding" and thou-

sands have been fleeing the fighting.

The agency was "on stand-by to provide assistance in Tigray when access and security allow" spokesman Babar Baloch said.

"There may be massive displacement inside Tigray and that is of course a concern and we try to prepare the best way possible," Jens Laerke, spokesman of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said.

The UN fears the numbers fleeing Ethiopia may be just a fraction of those forced from their homes by the fighting, but for the moment aid agencies have no access to the Tigray region.

Regional powers Kenya and Uganda have called for negotiations to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The Ethiopian government has, however, ruled out talks with the TPLF.

REAL TALK

With

**BEEF | RASTAMAN
KENTAE & BERNARD**

**MONDAY & THURSDAY 7pm-Until
TUESDAY 9pm-Until**



States plead for more federal help as virus outbreak worsens

(Associated Press) - With more shutdowns looming and a vaccine months away from wide distribution, governors across the U.S. are pleading for more help from Washington ahead of what is shaping up to be a bleak winter.

Renewed restrictions on indoor businesses, the coming end of unemployment benefits for millions of Americans and overloaded hospitals have led governors to paint a dire picture of the months ahead unless the federal government steps in with more money and leadership to help them shore up their damaged budgets and beat back the resurgence of the coronavirus.

Between now and June 2022, state and local governments could be facing

a shortfall or \$400 billion or more by some estimates.

Casey Katims, federal liaison for Washington Governor Jay Inslee, said there is a "dire and urgent need for congressional action to support workers and families." He said the state is facing a significant budget shortfall because of the pandemic and can't wait until President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in on January 20.

"We need help by the end of this year," Katims said.

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed a budget over the summer with a \$5 billion deficit, which he and lawmakers assumed would be covered by a second federal coronavirus relief package that has not ma-

terialised.

"Every state, every city is suffering from failure of revenues because of COVID-19," said Pritzker, a Democrat. "The federal government is really the only resource that we all have to turn to."

On Tuesday, Pritzker was scheduled to join other governors of Great Lakes states - Democrats and Republicans alike - in calling for help with testing, contact tracing and hospital staffing, in addition to more money for businesses, schools and the unemployed.

The cost of distributing tens of millions of doses of a vaccine in 2021 is also emerging as a major concern for governors. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers

and the Association of Immunization Managers have called on Congress to provide \$8.4 billion for vaccine distribution.

A new infusion of federal money does not appear to be on the way anytime soon. A lame-duck session of Congress and a presidential administration on its way out have chilled the prospects for a deal.

Congressional Democrats and Republicans generally say a new stimulus bill is needed, but they disagree on the scope of it. Some Republicans are opposed to another round of checks directly to most taxpayers, and some don't want Washington to "bail out" state and local governments that had financial struggles before the pandemic.

Hurricane Iota: Category four storm hits Nicaragua

A powerful hurricane has brought torrential rains and strong winds to Nicaragua's Caribbean coast, two weeks after another devastating storm hit.

Iota made landfall as a category four storm near the town of Puerto Cabezas, where patients had to be evacuated from a makeshift hospital after its roof was ripped off. Residents are in shelters, and there are fears of food shortages.

The storm has weakened and Honduras was

expected to have been hit late on Tuesday.

The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said Iota was now a category two storm, but warned it could bring life-threatening storm surges, catastrophic winds, flash flooding and landslides.

Iota struck Nicaragua on Monday evening with sustained winds of nearly 155mph (250km/h), the NHC said. It strengthened at sea to a category five storm but it weakened as it made landfall.

In Puerto Cabezas, also

known as Bilwi, the storm damaged wooden homes, flooded streets and cut off electricity. Residents said the wind ripped away the roofs of houses "like they were made of cardboard".

"I haven't eaten. I don't know where I'm going to sleep here," 80-year-old Prinsila Glaso told AFP news agency.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. Nicaraguan officials said around 40,000 people had been evacuated from areas in the storm's path.

"[Iota] is the strongest hurricane that has touched Nicaraguan soil since records began," said Marcio Baca, director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Earth Studies.

The hurricane is forecast to move inland across the country before hitting southern Honduras. The effect of the rains could be particularly devastating in areas already drenched by Hurricane Eta. Iota made landfall just 15 miles (24km) south of where Eta hit on 3 November.

Pentagon to cut troop levels to 2,500 in Iraq, Afghanistan



Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller on Tuesday announced plans to reduce U.S. troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying the decision fulfills President Donald Trump's pledge to bring forces home even as Republicans

and U.S. allies warn against a rash withdrawal.

The new plan will accelerate troop withdrawals from Iraq and Afghanistan in Trump's final days in office, despite arguments from senior military officials in favor of a slower, more methodical pullout. Trump

has refused to concede his election loss to Democrat Joe Biden, who takes office Jan. 20, just five days after the troop withdrawals are slated to finish.

Miller, who refused to take questions from reporters, said the plan will cut the number of troops in Afghanistan from more than 4,500 to 2,500, and in Iraq from about 3,000 to 2,500. Miller added that the U.S. remains ready to respond if conditions deteriorate.

"If the forces of terror, instability, division and hate begin a deliberate campaign to disrupt our efforts, we stand ready to apply the capabilities required to thwart them," he said in a roughly eight-minute statement to reporters in the Pentagon briefing room.

The withdrawal plan falls short of Trump's oft-repeated vow to end America's long wars. It also runs counter to his guidance that troop withdrawals be based on the conditions on the ground, not a date on the calendar.

In Afghanistan, in partic-

ular, military and defense leaders have consistently said the Taliban has not yet met requirements to reduce violent attacks against Afghan government forces. U.S. forces have remained in Afghanistan since they invaded in October 2001.

The decision has already received a cool reception from some Republican leaders on Capitol Hill, and a somewhat uncharacteristically blunt critique from NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Trump's national security adviser Robert O'Brien said the president is keeping his promise to the American people to get U.S. troops out of war zones. "By May, it is President Trump's hope that they will all come home safely and in their entirety," O'Brien told reporters at the White House shortly after Miller made the announcement at the Pentagon.

"I want to reiterate that this policy is not new," O'Brien said. "This has been the president's policy since he took office."

THE

PULL UP


SHOW

MENACE|ADRIAN|MYÁ|ERIC|WALLY


FRIDAY
7PM-9PM

ASK
MENACE

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

WED 11/18  **29° Hi** **DAY** Partly sunny with scattered showers
26° Lo **NIGHT** Partly cloudy and warm with scattered showers

Sunrise 6:14 AM	Sunset 5:31 PM	Moonrise 9:44 AM	Moonset 9:04 PM
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THU 11/19  **29° Hi** **DAY** Partly sunny with a shower
25° Lo **NIGHT** Partly cloudy and warm with scattered showers

Sunrise 6:14 AM	Sunset 5:31 PM	Moonrise 10:41 AM	Moonset 10:04 PM
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YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You are correct to think that today is a great day to start a new project, but try to pace yourself. Don't run out and try to tackle everything all at once. There is plenty of time to do what you want to do.

TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Foreign influences can have a very positive impact on your life right now, so it's a great time to reach out and explore a different culture. Wrapping your mind around the customs, foods, and music will enlighten you.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Try to take good care of your money with better budgeting and investing. Spend a little time meditating on where you see yourself in the future, the kind of life you hope to have. Start to make a plan to actually achieve it.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

An opportunity you thought was no longer available to you could be still ripe for the picking. But now it's going to be an even more attractive option than it was before. You should take it, especially if you're afraid of doing so.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Creating your own happiness is easier when you're with people who are fun to be around. It's even better when you can all get together and be active. Plan something to do with a group of your friends.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Try to fit some culture into your day. Your emotions are in a highly susceptible phase, and you'll be greatly rewarded by seeing, hearing, reading, or otherwise experiencing great art.

LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Looking good is important, but if you focus too much on the aesthetic aspect of people, you'll lose sight of who they really are deep down inside. You might be working through some insecurities of your own.

SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Things have been going so smoothly lately that it would be easy to go on mental autopilot, but that might not be such a good idea. Letting your mind wander now and then is totally acceptable, but turning your mind off is not.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

When a friend asks you about your hopes and wishes, don't just give them the perfunctory answer you always give. This time, think long and hard about what you truly want. Ask yourself what your life is really missing.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today is perfectly suited for doing some work on your career. You have the time and all the clarity you need to focus on your work goals. If you believe in yourself strongly, there is really no way you can go wrong.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your mood is great today, in part because you're feeling inspired by a recent win or success. This is a great time reach out to new people. You're a good person, and your good intentions will register with anyone.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

If you're dealing with stress in one area of your life right now, you need to try to make all the other aspects of your life as stress-free as possible. Distract yourself from any financial worries. You deserve a break.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Lions Club of Antigua will be hosting their annual Takeaway Thanksgiving Dinner November 19th, 2020 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Venue: Lions Den on Cross Streets. Tickets are \$25. Please walk with a bag to collect your dinner. COVID19 protocols will be followed including the mandatory wearing of facemasks.

SATELLITE OFFICE RE-OPENED

The English Harbour Satellite Office has re-opened. Employers can now make all statutory payments (Medical Benefits, Social Security, Education Levy and Inland Revenue) from Monday to Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm and on Friday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Drop Box service is also available. Other services offered include acceptance of claims by the Medical Benefits Scheme and Social Security. Member and employer registration are also offered by the Medical Benefits Scheme.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

LSA and Virtual Stage along with 268 Dadli shine presents a fundraising car wash|BBQ|Fish Fry every Saturday beginning Saturday 14th November, at the School Bus Parking Lot from 7:00am. Proceeds in aid of equipment purchases and virtual stage production.

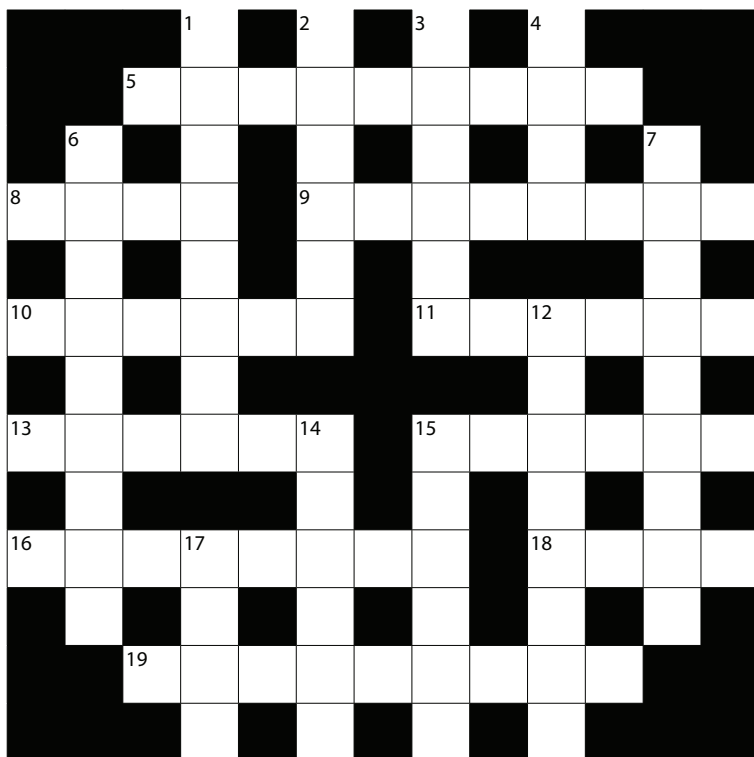
DIABETES SCREENING

In recognition of World Diabetes Awareness Month, the A Charge To Keep Foundation, under the auspices of Jermaine P. Lewis, will be hosting a Diabetes Screening in the constituency of All Saints East and St. Luke. Dates: Saturday 21st November at the Irene B Williams School and Sunday 22 November, 2020 at the Charlesworth T Samuel Primary School from 9am to 2pm. Early registration is required due to space availability. Contact: Ms. Jermaine P Lewis at 786-7327 or Mrs. Doreen Thomas 771-0918.

Tell us what's happening in your community.

Submit community notices to news@pointville.ag

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

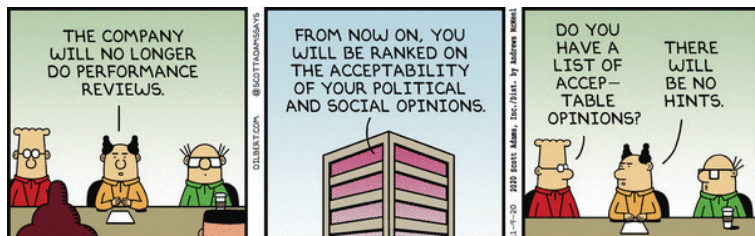
- 5 Thickening agent in cooking (9)
- 8 Sterile (4)
- 9 Delinquent (8)
- 10 Playful (6)
- 11 Gloomy(6)
- 13 Twitchy(2,4)
- 15 Purge(6)
- 16 Lethargy — not in CIA (anag) (8)
- 18 People (4)
- 19 Haphazard (3,2,4)

Down

- 1 Flute or oboe, for instance (8)
- 2 Seize — fragment (6)
- 3 Habitually (6)
- 4 Scottish island — mountains on the French-Swiss border (4)
- 6 Conspicuous (9)
- 7 Give up (9)
- 12 Henry VIII's warship that sank in the Solent (8)
- 14 Inventor with over 1,000 US patents to his name, d. 1931 (6)
- 15 Canal or hat? (6)
- 17 Copy without acknowledgement (4)

DAILY COMICS

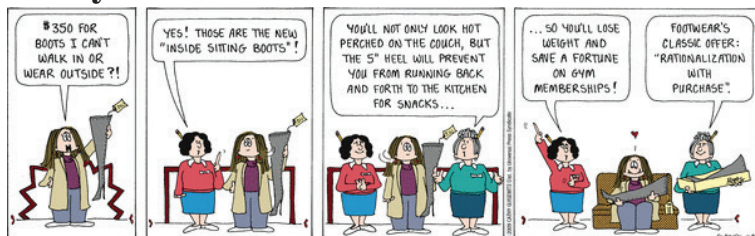
Dilbert



Garfield



Cathy



SUDOKU

			9	3	4			
3				7	2			
5		9			2			6
6		1				3		
	4				9		1	
4			1		6		7	
		3		4			8	
1		5		9				

			1		7		9	
	8			2				
5				4			8	
				4	9	3		
3	1			7		6	5	
	4	5	3					
7				6			4	
				3			8	
6		2			5			

How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.



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A & B Draughts Association remains focused during the pandemic

The Antigua and Barbuda Draughts Association (ABDA) has been proactive during the COVID-19 pandemic as it has continued to host training sessions at its headquarters at the Ottos Youth and Development Center on Joseph Lane.

President of the association, Trevor Cranstan, says the organisation has been conducting training sessions with an emphasis on the new recording system instituted by the World Draughts Federation at international tournaments.

The training is being facilitated by local champion, Bernard Willock, and teammate Anthony Gomes, both of whom represented Antigua and Barbuda at the World Draughts Championship in Curacao last year.

Willock finished 24th and Gomes 44th among the 65 players in attendance despite being unfamiliar at the time with the new recording system.

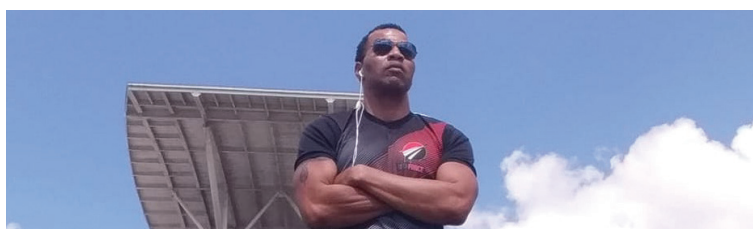
Cranstan noted, however, that the association is ensuring that moving forward all its players are trained in

the new method for better results at international tournaments.

He continued that his executive will be drafting protocols which will be presented to the Ministries of Health and Sports and the Cabinet with a view to resuming competitive tournaments in 2021.

"We had to stop our youth development programme at the Greenbay Primary School because of the coronavirus, but will be looking to restart in the new year while adding Potters Primary," Cranstan said.

Vacant T&T head coach position attracts foreign interest



Coach Mervyn Dillon

The vacant position for head coach of the Trinidad and Tobago national cricket team has attracted foreign interest.

Applications to the board have arrived from coaches in Pakistan, South Africa, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board has appointed a committee to handle the interview process for the post. They will begin their work today an official of the board told Guardian Media on Monday.

Two locals have also shown interest in the job

including incumbent coach Mervyn Dillon who has re-applied.

T&T Red Force has not won the regional four-day tournament since 2006. Red Force is better known for its prowess in the shorter version of the game. It dominated T20 cricket in the region before the advent of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

The Red Force represented the region in four Champions League Tournaments and has won 13 titles in the regional 50 overs tournament.

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Former Test Cricket umpire John Holder

Former international umpire accuses ECB of racism

Former Test umpire, John Holder, is calling for an independent inquiry into the lack of non-white match officials in England cricket and has accused the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) of institutionalised racism.

Holder, a resident in Britain for almost three decades and a professional umpire, expressed concerns that no non-white umpires have been appointed to the first-class list since 1992. The Barbadian also claimed there has never been a non-white Pitch

Liaison Officer, Cricket Liaison Officer, Match Referee, Umpires mentor or Umpire Coach.

Holder accused the ECB of years of racism and called for an independent Queen's Counsel-led investigation and an investigation by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Former Barbados and West Indies fast bowler, Vanburn Holder who retired at the end of the 2010 season, was the last non-white umpire on the ECB First Class list. He was also the last appointed to that list

since 1992. Numerous non-white candidates have expressed an interest in the profession including high profile figures such as Devon Malcolm, but none have progressed.

The ECB issued a statement in response to Holder's allegation which read: "Today's group of professional umpires don't reflect the diverse ECB we are determined to be. We want to see more BAME representation among our officials and recognise we still have a long way to go to achieve this."

James Harden wants to move from the Houston Rockets

Houston Chronicle has reported James Harden wants out of Houston and is interested in playing for the Brooklyn Nets.

The interest appears to be mutual, but no trade talks have begun. The Rockets have been telling teams they are planning to bring back their stars which makes the trade look hard to accomplish.

Harden, one of the NBA's top 10 players, has been increasingly uneasy about the Rockets' ability to compete for an NBA title and has been considering the possibility of playing elsewhere before

his contract expires, sources said.

Considering the two sides haven't had any actual discussions about a deal, nothing is imminent, but things change fast around the NBA.

Brooklyn Nets all-star Kevin Durant, and Harden, past teammates at Oklahoma City Thunder, have recently discussed the possibility of playing together again.



NBA Star James Harden Point Guard and Shooting Guard for Houston Rockets

Domestic cricket to restart with ABCA 10 Splash



Kuma Rodney President of the ABCA

The Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) has been given the greenlight to restart competitive cricket and they are

wasting no time as the 10 Splash tournament is right around the corner.

President of the ABCA, Kuma Rodney, who was a guest on the Pointe FM's Touchline on Monday, said the organisation is pushing forward with the 10 Splash at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium with ten teams in two zones from December 5 to the 20.

Two top teams from each zone will advance to a round robin with the leading team on points taking home the championship.

No prize money is being offered, but each team will receive a EC\$1500 participation fee.

In dialog with each team, Rodney said the request was made for the teams to work diligently with the ABCA to make the return of competitive cricket a success.

The ABCA has also provided more than over EC\$70,000 EC dollars to seven clubs to assist with the installation of nets around the

island.

The fortunate Clubs are Empire Nation, PIC Liberta, New Winthropes, Jennings, Bethesda, Johnson's Point and Rising Sun.

Rodney said the clubs who received aid were the ones that reached out for assistance.

The former national coach said the association is expecting to host fans in the stadium after they complete a final meeting with the Ministry of Health.

Rodney pointed to the recent funeral of former Technical Director of Football, Rolston 'Debu' Williams, which took place at the stadium and said this location will allow social distancing to be properly observed due to its size and layout.

"We are not expecting 10,000 people but with the anticipation of a few hundred for each game we don't see a problem hosting fans following all the protocols," Rodney added.

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