

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2020

ISSUE 159

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

NO OECS TRAVEL BUBBLE

SEE PAGE 3

EDITORIAL: Preparing ourselves for the vaccine



Preparing ourselves for the vaccine

Last Saturday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced that he is prepared to be among the first to take the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available in Antigua and Barbuda.

The announcement by the prime minister is important as there will very likely be resistance in some quarters by people who are unwilling to accept the vaccine. His decision, it would seem, is designed to broaden the appeal of the vaccine among the Antigua and Barbuda population.

This move is also the hallmark of a responsible leader who is prepared to take charge of the domestic aspect of this international crisis from the front.

Beginning the campaign for public acceptance of the vaccine may appear unnecessary to some, but given the abounding conspiracy theories regarding the coronavirus we can only reasonably conclude that the importance of this campaign is all the more critical if there is to be a general willingness of people to be inoculated.

Antiguans and Barbudans have for years been consumers of a steady diet of American news and other information. With a great

number of Americans still convinced that the coronavirus is a hoax, there are also those among us here at home who likewise reject the need for a vaccine and it appears that there is very little anyone reasonable voice can say that will sway the position of these people.

It is shocking the number of Antiguans and Barbudans who subscribe to the coronavirus conspiracy theories, most of all because these are the people who are likely to be the most vocal opponents of the inevitable inoculation campaign.

The undisputed fact is that Antigua and Barbuda, and the rest of the world, has welcomed the news of the development of at least two vaccines which will become available worldwide by the first quarter of 2021.

We also welcome the announcement from Cuba that it too is near to launching its own coronavirus vaccine. Despite its relatively small size Cuba, which has the highest number of medical practitioners per capita in the world, has established itself firmly as a leader in international humanitarian efforts, especially in the medical field.

Therefore it is almost guaranteed that Cuba will make their vaccine available to its neighbours in the region at affordable prices.

Cuba has warned, however, that the US's six decade long economic blockade of the island is hampering its progress towards finalising the vaccine.

With Antigua and Barbuda's economy being so heavily reliant on tourism, the country is anxious for the arrival of the vaccines so that life may return to normal.

We need our hotels and sea ports to reopen to tourists so that our our family and friends can go back to work.

Our hope is that when the vaccine becomes available, society by then will be better educated on the subject, abandon the conspiracy theories and welcome the return to normalcy. By doing so we will all play a critical role in protecting ourselves, our families and our economy.

The prime minister has signaled his willingness to take the first vaccine if necessary. It is now the time for other community leaders and influencers to step up and do the same.

Our political leaders,

athletes, media personalities, religious leaders and educators should partner with our medical practitioners to ensure that the wider community appreciates the importance of being vaccinated.

Last weekend, dozens of people were arrested by the police for violations of the curfew. Most people accept the need to establish and maintain the curfew and health protocols in the fight against COVID-19, however we also appreciate that after more than eight months in a State of Emergency more than a few of us are suffering from 'COVID-19 fatigue'.

Humans are social creatures and adhering to the protocols has minimised the social interactions we are accustomed and often take for granted.

The desire for a return to normalcy should serve as an incentive for everyone to accept the vaccine. This one of the surest ways of ensuring that life, as we once knew it, will return to normal.

The responsibility lies with us, individually and as a nation, to take the vaccine when it becomes available. Doing so is in our collective interest.

OECS member nations fail to set up travel bubble

Leaders of the member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have failed in their latest attempt to establish a travel bubble among the grouping.

In a virtual meeting on Thursday during the 4th Special Meeting of the OECS Authority, the leaders were unable to arrive at broad consensus on the details of the travel bubble.

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne, offered to start the travel bubble with those countries that had initially agreed, with others joining later on.

Unfortunately, his suggestion did not receive the support needed to move forward.

Sources close to the meeting indicate that the leaders could not agree on the minimum standards that must be met to allow entry into their territories.

The OECS member states have had very different experiences in their management of the COVID-19 pandemic. St. Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda have recorded over one hundred positive cases each. In stark contrast, the British Virgin Islands has recorded no cases.

The meeting centered around a proposal from Ecolog to operate rapid testing in airports in OECS member states for incoming travelers and for outbound travelers in tourism source market countries. This proposal was designed to facilitate an OECS 'travel bubble'.

Dr. Sean Matthew, who had been appointed by the authority to head up OECS negotiations with Ecolog on an agreement, gave an update to the meeting.

The Caribbean leaders decided, however, that further tweaks to the agreement need to be made prior to signing.

The agenda for the meeting focused largely on COVID-19. It included talks on the way forward with respect to a classification, system, testing solution and the procurement of antigen tests:

• The OECS System

 OECS School Protocol Sequence

As a result of the pandemic and the resulting closure of the borders of OECS countries, intra-OECS travel and trade have been severely affected due to the almost complete halt of the movement of people.

More than 500 homes affected by the flood

Approximately 500 homes were affected by flooding last week that was caused by torrential rainfall over two days.

This is more than double the figure that was identified in a preliminary assessment of the damage caused that was submitted to Cabinet last Friday by Director of the National Office of Disaster Services, Philmore Mullin.

At the weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Mullin addressed the body on the demands NODS faces and the resources which it has available to respond to the rainfall.

As officials continue to assess the damage, the number of homes is likely to further increase.

"That number is under review, but already it is trending upwards of 500 at this stage. The assessment that is done and the reviews that are conducted would ensure that the Level l's, which are the most severe cases, would have ticked up and more people are under consideration. One of the conservations the Cabinet had with Mullin was, given the fact that there was a direct impact of the weather system and rising water affected their furnishings, including beds, this was the initial level of response," Minister Nicholas stated

Families have been identified who are in need of assistance and beds have been distributed to several people who lost their furnishings. More funds have been allocated to assist those who were directly impacted.

"An additional one million dollars was allocated to NODS and it is anticipated that for the remaining month of the year, and into the first quarter of next year, we will be assisting homeowners where there [are particular] needs. This would include raising houses and other interventions as we are determined not to leave any resident behind," he declared.

According to Minister Nicholas, the flooding highlighted the need to assist people who are living in 'chattel houses'.

Government to launch pro-vaccine campaign

An awareness campaign aimed at sensitising the public on the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine will soon begin as Antigua and Barbuda awaits its share.

Government has paid a sum towards an initial supply of 20,000 doses of the vaccine which will be acquired through Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Cabinet has agreed that emergency first responders, teachers, doctors, elected officials, police officers and others who serve the public will be among the first to be inoculated.

Accepting the vaccine, however, will not be mandatory.

While it is expected that most people will welcome and receive the vaccine, there are others who remain warv of it.

Cabinet Spokesman, Melford Nicholas, said recently that the government is cognizant of the importance of public education regarding the coming vaccine. He said the recent media appearance of a medical doctor who addressed the efficacy of the vaccine will not be 'a one shot' as there are plans to launch a major awareness campaign.

"We certainly will lead a spirited campaign and much as we have done with COVID I hope the media will help educate the public as we traverse this issue. There is also going to be a panel of private and public health personnel to determine the best way to distribute the vaccines once they become available," he added.

Women in leadership conference opens in St. John's

Antigua and Barbuda is hosting an important conference that focuses on the role of women in leadership roles locally and across the Caribbean and Latin America.

It is the first time that Antigua and Barbuda is hosting the conference which is organised by ParlAmerica, a regional body whose mandate is finding ways to encourage women's participation in leadership roles in politics and civil society.

The 'Young Women in Leadership' conference opened at the State Insurance conference room on Thursday with several female parliamentarians from both sides of the aisle in attendance.

"The 'YWiL Initiative' has been designed with a goal of encouraging young women's interest in public leadership. It seeks to provide training and education on political leadership, encourage consideration of leadership and service from a transformational perspective, and create a space to foster supportive communities of women and other allies," the conference document stated.

It said through virtual and in-person training, as well as participation in a special sitting of the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda, YWiLAB will support young women leaders from Antigua and Barbuda in growing their networks, gaining new skills and knowledge and engaging with political, community and academic leaders and experts on issues related to governance, national development and gender equality.

The conference moves to the Parliament today where participants will discuss the topic 'The Finance (Variation Of Appropriation) Bill, 2020'.

Three female members of the Senate were among those who moderated sessions on Thursday. They are senators Bakesha Francis-James (Independent), Shawn Nicholas (UPP) and Shenella Govia (ABLP).

Other participants included, former parliamentarian and minister of government and communications specialist, Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro, Public Relations Officer, CIWiL Antiqua and Barbuda National Chapter, Chaneil Imhoff and Representative from Intersect, Mickel Brann-Challenger.

Head of the ABDF joins **Caribbean military** leaders in UK discussions

Staff of Antigua and vided an opportunity Barbuda, Colonel Telbert Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Trevor Pennyfeather, met with on strategic priorities the United Kingdom's Chief of Defence Staff, Caribbean militaries. General Sir Nick Carter and other Caribbe- said that the forum an Chiefs of Defence was very informative (CHODS) for a Conference for CHODs in nificant benefits for Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, and other islands across the region on Monday.

The two-hour virtual forum, hosted by ABDF and the devel-

Chief of Defence General Carter profor high level engage-Benjamin, and ment between the UK and regional defence chiefs, with a focus on advancing discourse between the UK and

Colonel Beniamin and will result in sigthe military in Antigua and Barbuda and across the region.

"The outcome of this forum will ensure the advancement of the



opment of our officers and other ranks, particularly in the fields Benjamin stated.

of training and mutual cooperation," Colonel



Dr. Jillia Bird links prolonged electronic device use during the pandemic to an increase in styes

Optometrist, Dr. Jillia Bird, is reporting that her practice has been treating a number of patients for blocked eyelid oil glands, which can cause a stye to develop on the eye.

A stye forms as a result of a bacterial infection involving one or more of the small glands near the base of the eyelashes and, according to Dr. Bird, not blinking enough can contribute to developing the condition.

She added that the increase in blocked eyelid oil glands may be indirectly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the start of the pandemic, people have become more reliant on electronic devices to conduct business and to communicate with each other. Schools have also implemented online learning as a method of administering lessons to students.

Dr. Bird said that she does not anticipate an end to the new model of communication and doing business.

The optometrist said while the novel coronavirus manifests itself in many different ways, she believes that the prevalence of styes is a side effect of the disease.

"One of my top diagnoses during

this COVID-19 shutdown has to do with eyelid oil alands cloaging up because we are staring at devices all day for Zoom meetings, Zoom classes, playing games because we can't go out to meet friends, checking COVID-19 statistics. A month ago [we were] checking US election count numbers, you name it, and when you stare at a device for extended periods your blink rate drops - the rate at which you blink your eyelids - and people are clueless to how important blinking eyes really [is], and so the oil glands are getting clogged up," Dr. Bird said.

To drive home how severe styes can become, she shared the story of an 18-year-old patient whom she treated recently who developed a blocked eyelid oil gland that turned into a hardened stye. This stye will have to be surgically removed.

Dr. Bird said she is seeing styes developing in patients as young as two-years-old.

The optometrist said people should develop the habit of taking short breaks while using their electronic devices and use the opportunity to blink their eyelids which is important

for good eye health.

"Well we have a 20-20-20 rule. So we say every 20 minutes you have to take a 20 seconds break and look 20 feet away from your computer, but I am extending that to 20-20-30. Twenty seconds is not enough to rest the eye muscles and resume function of the tear cells. It's too short. So COVID-19 has caused me to change my 20-20-20 rule. It was a cute tool because 20-20 is excellent vision, so doctors latched on to that, but 20 seconds is not enough to look away from your device.

"Everybody is in agreement with this. It started like way up in March when my US colleagues were writing into groups that we are a part of asking if people had seen a preponderance of styes, and all of us said that's true, you know, and then when we sat down to think about it, it was in the heyday of the COVID onslaught - the first wave," the optometrist said.

Dr. Bird said that the 5 am to noon curfew which was in place earlier this year resulted in more people being on electronic devices during a 24-hour period.

Cashew Hill man remanded on gun, ammunition, drug charges

A 25-year-old Browne's Avenue man is expected to return before the court on November 25 after he was remanded to Her Majesty's Prison on gun and drug charges.

Tyree Smith appeared before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh in St. John's

Magistrates' Court this week on charges of possession of an unlicensed 9mm firearm and the possession of 12 matching bullets.

Smith has also been slapped with a charge of possession of 1,049 grammes of cannabis and possession of cannabis with intent to transfer the drua.

He was not required to enter a plea to the charges at this stage.

Smith was arrested and taken into police custody on November 13 after officers discovered the illegal

items during the execution of a search warrant on his Cashew Hill home.

Smith, according to the police, was present when the search was carried out.

The gun, ammunition and the drugs were seized by the police.

ADOMS improves its human resources



The Management of the Antiqua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) has embarked on a capacity building programme, by equipping young nationals with the necessary skills and competencies, to carry on its 34 year maritime service operations.

Historically, ADOMS has employed expats from within the international and regional maritime industry. However, it is attempting to change this, as evidenced by the fellowships that were offered to two young Antiguans, to further their tertiary education in maritime related fields.

ADOMS is proud to now have Mr. Xavier Perry of Mount Pleasant, Antigua as part of their Technical Division. Xavier was first employed at ADOMS on an internship programme during his college years, undertaking administrative work until he was awarded the opportunity to attend the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) in Jamaica for three years and an additional six months at sea, as a cadet seafarer.

He is now a marine inspector, having taken up the role in October 2020, owing to the foresight of Ambassador Dwight Gardiner, the Director/Registrar-General at ADOMS. Perry said his journey to becoming a maritime inspector started when "Mr Gardiner asked me if I wanted to go to the sea, so we went on the oil tanker here for a little bit and I liked it so he sent me off to school". "I think in third form I wanted to be a chef ", he recalled, noting too, that later on in life he wanted to follow his grandfather's footsteps who was an aviation engineer with the regional airline LIAT.

Perry has been training

continuously since 2014, working as a chief engineer on a number of yachts and now shares that the marine industry is "a good field to get into".

The 27 year old said that during his studies he returned to Antigua each summer where he would apply his theoretical skills and gain further practical training with ADOMS. He believes that a lot more students would be excited to join the industry once exposed to it.

Another scholarship recipient, 29 year old Mr. Jace Spencer from Parham Town is now also a marine inspector at ADOMS. His induction into the marine industry was borne from the successes of Perry, who has been his friend since high school. "While he was in Jamaica studying, he was working on ships and told me about it and I grew an interest in it", he shared.

Spencer then interned at ADOMS and later he received the opportunity to study marine engineering at CMU in Jamaica and graduated in 2019 with a BSc in Marine Engineering. He went on to get his practical seagoing experience before returning to ADOMS.

"What I do here is exactly what we would learn in class. So, when you can put a practical visual to it, it makes it a bit easier for you", he said, recalling his summer internship experience, while at school. Spencer is immensely grateful and thanked ADOMS "...for the opportunity of attaining my bachelor's degree... and creating a pathway for career advancement. He also went on to state that "...ADOMS have immensely shifted my life for the better...".

The man who leads the new inspectors is Mr. Darion Lake, who was also a recipient of a fellowship through ADOMS and later attended the World Maritime University (WMU) in where he re-Sweden, ceived a Master's Degree in Maritime Affairs . Lake initially worked at the Antigua Port Authority as a marine pilot, from where he was recruited to work with ADOMS in 2007. He was later appointed as a government Senior Port State Control Officer at ADOMS (Marine Surveyor).

His job is a bit more technical but continuous training, he said, has helped him to achieve this milestone. "I benefited from a lot of training leading up to and even after obtaining my Masters Degree. It covers a wealth of topics to include international legislation. It benefits your iob profile whereby you are able to articulate yourself in a different way as you mature in the job".

"The department saw it fit that you should ensure that individuals who will be interacting with the international community are properly trained and if it wasn't for ADOMS it would not have been achieved", he explained. Lake is now 41 years old and leads the domestic vessels side of the operations, certifying local vessels and helping occasionally with the international fleet.

Flow raising funds for diabetes awareness

Employees of Flow Antigua and Barbuda are observing Liberty Latin America's (LLA) Annual Mission Week in a partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Diabetes Association on several fundraising and other initiatives designed to raise public awareness about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

From November 16-20, employees across all the LLA markets will celebrate the company's annual Mission Week tradition of giving back to the communities in which it operates through volunteer activities guided by the company's four pillars of corporate social responsibility: learning, environment, access, and disaster relief.

"Our communities are so much more than locations for our business. It's where we live, where our families grow, where we celebrate and connect. With our company-wide volunteering initiative, Mission Week, over 1,000 employees are coming together to make a positive impact in the areas of learning, environment, access, and disaster relief. When our communities thrive, we all win," Michael Coakley, VP Communications, Liberty Latin America, said.

This year, employees at Flow Antigua chose to align with World Diabetes Day (WDD) which was celebrated globally on November 14th. Their first initiative involved planting an organic fruit and veg-



etable garden at Flow's Clare Hall compound. Harvested produce will be distributed to local charities to promote a healthier lifestyle by encouraging the incorporation of more fruits and vegetables into people's diets.

Additionally, a raffle will be drawn on Novem-

ber 30th the proceeds of which will go to the ABDA to assist in their efforts to combat the disease. The prizes for the raffle include a Samsung 820 handset, dinner for two at the Hodges Bay Resort and Spa and a \$200 shopping voucher redeemable at the Epicurean.

cont'd from pg 7

Marine Chief Surveyor, Mr. Thomas Robinson shared that "Darion has been here a long time and he has worked on the operational issues that affect ships on our international ship registry, so he covers from that side if I'm not available, similarly I can cover of the small crafts side if he's not available". Robinson, came to Antigua more than five years ago, as a graduate Naval Architect, having worked for the UK maritime administration for many years. In addition to providing technical support to the international fleet he also

worked on developing the Antigua & Barbuda Small Craft Regulations, which came into force in 2017. This now means that more than 500 small vessels in Antigua and Barbuda, under 24 metres in length, both commercial and pleasure, require a safety certificates and licence to operate.

The Small Craft (Control) Act created the job of a marine inspector, for which both Perry and Spencer are now well trained. "Now that the small craft legislation is in place and being enforced, it's allowing me to step back a bit and focus more on the international ship register". "It's bringing on local talent, local skills and developing them to provide the required technical staff for ADOMS going forward", the Chief Surveyor said.

The Management of ADOMS, as part of its succession planning, envisages that, in time, they will be in the position to draw on other local talent for technical maritime expertise. This will be achieved through the educational and practical training of Antiguans and Barbudans interested in the maritime sector, as well as drawing from the pool of staff within the department.

The maritime industry requires the expertise and input of highly specific personnel and, it is with this realization, that Ambassador Dwight Gardiner saw the need to embark on sensitizing young nationals to the maritime industry and the job opportunities within this sector, by starting summer internship placements. Ambassador Gardiner acknowledges that "the fellowships offered to these young nationals would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda".

A Caribbean-Central America alliance for Climate Justice

(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 Universitv of Toronto)

Governments in Central America are calling for "Climate Justice" after the devastation of their countries by Eta and lota as both tropical storms and hurricanes.

The Central American countries are echoing a call previously made by Caribbean governments whose countries are repeatedly ravaged by hurricanes.

The response of the international community to the plight of Central America has, so far, not been different to the way they respond to the Caribbean. Typically, that response is much public handwringing, miniscule immediate contributions, and then tough negotiations over conditions on which any meaningful concessionary loans would be made to help affected countries recover.

If any of the countries are regarded as 'high-income' like Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, and St Kitts-Nevis, they will get no concessional financing unless they are already in an IMF balance of payments support programme.

Yet, the situation in Central America and neighbouring Colombia is catastrophic. Thousands of people face a lack of drinking water, food and basic supplies after Eta and lota slammed the region, destroying homes, hospitals and other critical infrastructure and piling one disaster on top of another. Many have died, many are missing, tens of thousands are homeless. On top of the dreadful human suffering, the infrastructural wreckage runs into hundreds of million of dollars.

The demand for 'climate justice' by

Caribbean governments, and now hemispheric and global cooperation Central American leaders, is for compensation for massive damage caused to their countries by Climate Change in whose creation and ballooning they are least to blame. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean notes that Central America's total CO2 emissions represents only 0.2% of the global total; the Caribbean's is even less.

International help, so far, for Central America indicates a slow response. The US Agency for International Development announced \$120,000 each to Honduras and Guatemala, and \$100,000 to Nicaragua. The European Union (EU) did better, pledging \$1.83 m to all Central American countries. But the sums are small given that the US and EU countries are amongst the largest contributors to Climate Change. The silence of other big polluting nations is also alarmina.

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration authorised \$1 m in non-reimbursable funds for Honduras and Nicaragua, but its resources are relatively small. It is to International Financial Institutions (IFIs), such as the IMF, World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, that these countries will look for significant resources.

Like the Caribbean, the Central American countries are facing extraordinary costs to fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in circumstances where their revenues are dwindling. The havoc wreaked by Eta and lota adds to their burden of human suffering.

This is why 13 CARICOM countries, (Haiti was the exception) joined the nations of Central America, Mexico and Colombia in sponsoring a Declaration at the Organization of American States (OAS), on November 18, calling for urgent support to the affected countries, "through

to address the most pressing needs



By Sir Ronald Sanders

for recovery and reconstruction". The sponsoring countries sought a 'declaration' rather than a 'resolution' which would have been a much stronger instrument, binding on the organization. But Central American and Caribbean countries knew well that some powerful states in the OAS would have pushed against such a binding resolution.

The governments of these same powerful countries are among those who make policies for the IFIs that disgualify small and vulnerable states, such as Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados and St Kitts-Nevis, from access to concessional financing because of the false criterion of 'high per capita income'. Making my contribution to the OAS' meeting, I said the following:

"Those who make policy for the international financial institutions and multilateral development banks have to stop pretending that the economic and financial circumstances that existed in January 2020 are still the same in November 2020. They are not. The world has altered, and significantly.

POINTE PRESS FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2020

LOCAL NEWS PAGE 10

cont'd from pg 9

The reality is that while many countries - including my own - are denied access to concessional financing and debt relief on the basis of the wrongful measurement of high per capita income, that per capita income has been reduced by as much as 40% because unemployment has more than tripled. The time has long come for policy makers to admit the reality of the changed situation and to amend the policies of financial institutions to address it.

Similarly, while Paris Club members continue to demand debt repayment without debt restructuring,

they too should face the reality that countries cannot pay what they do not have. Debt default is what will occur with little prospect of repayment unless a balance is struck now.

lf these circumstances continue to be ignored, or the usual placebos are administered rather than the financing vaccines that exist and can be applied, this pandemic of economic disaster and human suffering will plaque our hemisphere irreparably and irreversibly for decades to come".

Given the Caribbean's increasing exposure to external shocks (hurricanes, pandemics and recession in North America and Europe) the region must increase the volume and heighten the intensity of its advocacy on debt which is a tightening noose around its neck.

In the present circumstances, the nations of Central America are the Caribbean's natural allies to make common cause on this issue in the international community. CARICOM countries should initiate a strong diplomatic effort with Central America to build such an alliance.

As a first step, Central American and Caribbean countries should agree to follow the pattern of Barbados and Grenada to include a "hurricane clause" in their bonds, stipulating an immediate, if temporary, debt moratorium if the country is struck by another natural disaster. Such a clause should also be part of all external debt. If Central American and Caribbean counties insist on it collectively and strongly, they have a chance to succeed.

The two sub-regions, representing 20 nations, can turn the crises of this season of hurricanes, tropical storms, and COVID-19 to advantage. But they must act together.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

PROBATE
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7
Rule 15
THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (Probate)
In the Estate of ZELYN BARNES late of Barnes Hill, St. George's,
Antigua and Barbuda, Deceased
ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION
TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by SYLVANUS RONIE BARNES of
Barnes Hill, St. George's Parish, in the state
of Antigua and Barbuda for a Grant of
Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the deceased, the
deceased having died intestate on the 4th
day of December 2016.
Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the
Applicant shall file an objection within
fourteen (14) days of the publication of
this Notice.
Dated this 18th day of November 2020
SYLVANUS RONIE BARNES
Filed by Peyton J. V. Knight of Peyton
J. V. Knight & Associates, Attorneys-at-
law whose address for service is Upper
Newgate Street, P. O. Box 131,
St. John's Antigua, and pknightlaw@gmail.com
and (268)-562-1653.

PROBATE LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7 Rule 15 THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (Probate) In the Estate of DOROTHY DERRICK late of St. Phillip's Village, St. Phillip's, Antigua and Barbuda, Deceased **ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION** TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by DANE EUSTACE KNIGHT of St. Phillip's Village St. Phillip's Parish, in the state of Antigua and Barbuda for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 7th day of October 2018. Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice. Dated the 16th day of November 2020 DANE EUSTACE KNIGHT Filed by Peyton J. V. Knight of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates, Attorneys-atlaw whose address for service is Upper Newgate Street, P. O. Box 131, St. John's Antiqua, and pknightlaw@gmail.com

and (268)-562-1653.

PROBATE LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7 Rule 15 THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (Probate) In the Estate of ETHEL ALBERTHA C. **KNIGHT late of Prince Klass Street, St.** John's, Antigua and Barbuda, Deceased **ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION** TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by DANE EUSTACE KNIGHT of St. Phillip's Village St. Phillip's Parish, in the state of Antigua and Barbuda for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the nephew of the deceased, the deceased having died testate on the 18th day of April 2019. Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice. Dated this 18th day of November 2020 DANE EUSTACE KNIGHT Filed by Peyton J. V. Knight of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates, Attorneys-atlaw whose address for service is Upper Newgate Street, P. O. Box 131, St. John's Antiqua, and pknightlaw@gmail.com and (268)-562-1653.



By Tony Deyal

"Mrs. Brown," the doctor said to the young lady he had just examined, "I have some good news for you." "I always welcome good news," the lady said. "However, I need to point out that I am 'Miss' Brown and not 'Mrs' Brown." "In that case," the doctor said, "Miss Brown, I have some bad news for you." Then there is the time when a man heard a knock on his door, opened it, found a policeman standing there who said, "Sorry sir, it's your wife. I have some bad news. Looks like she's been hit by a truck." The man replied, "She takes great care of the kids and has a fantastic personality though."

I love "good news - bad news" They mirror life where few jokes. pleasures are without pains and upsides come with downsides for which you cannot always blame either the back- or front-sides. Sometimes, rarely, both sides of the coin come simultaneously but are not greeted with the same pleasure, enthusiasm and delight that accompany other such bed- and earth-shaking moments. For instance, when I was young one of my friends came to me and said abruptly, "I have two pieces of bad news for you." I told him, "Best combine them." He paused and then said, "Your airlfriend is cheating on

BREADCRUMBS, SHEEPLES AND OTHER MASKHOLES

both of us." There are also the "Doctor" jokes like the Miss Brown one but with other variations. The Doctor hands the patient some tablets and tells him, "Mr. Jones, the bad news is you're going to have to take one of these tablets every day for the rest of your life." He paused, "The really bad news is that you only have to take three in all." I consoled myself with the good news. Even Moses had problems taking his tablets. When he reached the bottom of Mt. Sinai, he told the large and anxious gathering, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is that I got Him down to ten. The bad news is, adulterv stavs."

Which brings us to Donald Trump. The good news is that he was instrumental in getting the Warp Speed project going and so expedited the production of anti-COVID vaccines. However, the scientific head of the operation, Moncef Slaoui, may have "punknowingly" vowed that "he will quit if politics trumps science." The bad news is that in the meantime Trump and his initial condemnation of masks, his refusal to wear and support them at all times, his lies about guaranteed cures, and his refusal to concede the election to the overwhelming winner, Joe Biden, have been (and will be) seen as the cause of millions more people getting infected and many of them dying. In many waysTrump has already Trumped science and the previously sacrosanct. On Wednesday this week, November 18, there were 11,698,124 registered or known COVID cases in the US with about two percent of them dying. There were only about 7 million recoveries. Nature Medicine predicts that by the time Joe Biden takes over on January 20 and hopefully settles in by February 28, 2021, at least 511,373 US citizens would have died from the virus.

Despite this, what continues to amaze me is how we humans use humour to cope with issues like COVID which, initially, was only bad news and now, even the good news is taking a while and will continue to lurk in the wings until Trump removes himself or is removed from office.

Natale Frank, a Clinical Psycholoaist and writer, has shared in Mental Gecko some of the Good News-Bad News about COVID. The good news is that those with cold symptoms just want to stay home in bed. The bad news is that those who think they have the virus decide to go gambling in Reno, enjoy the California beaches, take public transit just to get out and shop in every open business they can find. She points out that the good news is that it's a Leap Year so there was an extra day in February. The bad news is that March turned out to be 600 days long and there's no telling how long April, May or June will be. It was bad when she wrote this in April this year, but worse now since it seems to be an eternity before Trump leaves or the vaccine arrives and is used in the Caribbean.

What people all over the world have done is create new, relevant and sometimes funny words to, not just cope, but also describe some of the experiences, events and fears that COVID has inflicted on us. Not all of them are funny "ha-ha". Some are funny "weird" and understandably strongly supported by Trump diehards. The worst of these is "Follow the breadcrumbs", started by the anonymous "Q". It means to follow the clues in the QAnon conspiracy the same way that Hansel and Gretel left a trail of breadcrumbs to find a way back home. While many people believe, and predict, they will lead its followers into rabbit holes, QAnon's claims that Trump is waging a covert war against a cabal of Satan-wor-

COMMENTARY PAGE 12

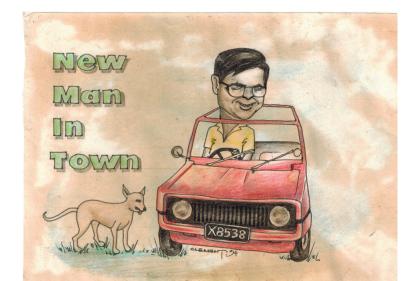
POINTE PRESS FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2020

shipping paedophile elites are strongly supported by his fanatical followers and cultists. Those who are hooked on "Q" are "Sheeples" and already have the wool pulled over their eyes. They include "Plandemics" who believe that COVID-19 was planned by the elite. In Russia the equivalent is the "Blue Lobby" which is a secret cabal of LGBTQs supposedly conwhich trolled the country in Soviet times and is the reason Vladimir Putin is so actively homophobic.

At the commonplace level there are a bunch of "Maskholes" around, people who refuse to wear masks. They are part of the "Covidiot" crowd which also includes grocery-store hoarders and people who insist on shaking your hand every time you meet. Corona has been shortened to "the 'rong" and when the dumb idiots who reject the need to take precautions succumb, they have "Fattened the curve" of the "Moronavirus". "Doomscrolling" or "Doomsurfing" is when you have an insatiable appetite for news about COVID and other issues including the US

Presidential election and its aftermath, or just the maths about the number of deaths. "Quaranteam" are the people you hang with in these days of confinement, and together you might have a Martini or other cocktail ("Quarantini") during the "Locktail hour". "Working from home" is "WFH" and home-stuck teens have their "Corona Baes," they date virtually. They are "Coronials". Positive news about the vaccine has created a bunch "Apocaloptimists". of sometimes forget what day it is so it's a "Blursday". The one I find simultaneously funny and weird is the use of British Cockney rhyming slang in a new nom de plum for the virus. It is true the name they chose does rhyme with "Virus", but I think there are people who, like me, have found it much more trouble than COVID. Would you believe "Miley Cyrus"?

*Tony Deyal, was last seen saying that while Trump is definitely a "Maskhole", given how guickly his face gets red from his uncontrolled anger, he is also a "Damask".



TIGUA & BARBUDA VELOPMENT BANK

Employment Opportunity for the Position of CSR Supervisor

The successful candidate will report to the **Operations Manager and supervise a small** group of operations staff. The CSR Supervisor is responsible for overseeing and ensuring all payment processes, cash management, control procedures, record keeping, operational and verification functions are in accordance with established standards. The individual also will ensure the delivery of excellent customer care and satisfaction at all times on the services of the bank and should possess the following:

- A Bachelor's degree in Banking and/or **Finance, Management or Business Related Studies**
- **Banking Certification and working** knowledge of Anti-Money Laundering Policies will be an asset
- At least two (2) years banking experience at a supervisory level
- Strong customer service orientation
- Excellent analytical, problem-solving, detailoriented and communication skills
- A high level of computer literacy and proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications
- Organization and time management skills
- Effective internal relationship building and communication skills
- Team oriented
- Ability to work in a dynamic environment

Interested persons should forward a letter of application and CV with two character references to:

> **General Manager Antigua & Barbuda Development Bank** 27 St. Mary's Street St. John's, Antigua

Fax: 462 0839 or E-mail: info@abdbank.com Deadline for receipt of applications is November 26th, 2020

only suitable applicants will be acknowledged



CELEBRATING A CULTURAL ICON - AN UNSUNG HERO

PAGE 3

WHAT'S ON? THE MUSEM OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DURING COVID-19

PAGE 14

POINTE TV

PAGE 5

KES THE BAND WILL NOT FILE SUIT AGINST APPLE AND WOLF OVER HELLO



A Point 'State' Funeral

CELEBRATING A CULTURAL ICON - AN UNSUNG HERO



The Bendals and Point and Villa communities came together to celebrate the life of James Michael Thomas, who was also known by 'Obashuba', 'Moushay' or 'Pops'.

Thomas was given a traditional Point 'state' funeral which included cultural musical tributes.

A number of community and national legends of arts and culture were also in attendance to pay their final respects.

Very early in life, 'Pops' distinguished himself because of his affinity to learn, and often master, many of the interests he took up. According to his brother Dr. Veron 'Solo' Benjamin, "From childhood, my brother was a great apprentice. He learnt how to cook, wash, dance, sing and make and play his own instruments among other things.

"Moushay or Obashuba also joined the 1st Antigua Scout movement under the leadership of Scout Master Theodore George of Martin's Village. He enjoyed camping and all of the activities that Scouting offered. This included the blowing of a wind instrument. This was the tuba. When he brought home the instrument it was much bigger in size than me. I tried to lift it up and almost tumbled over.

"James or Obashuba also beat the big drum in the 1st Antigua Scout's marching band. I also remember that he made a sardine tin guitar and played it at the back of our Sunday school class at Mission Church in Gray's Farm."

He was also a talented tradesman and carpenter, however, when tourism became Antigua and Barbuda's main industry, he joined the staff at the Jolly Beach Hotel where he was a bartender. Many years later he took employment at Jumby Bay where he remained until his retirement.

Obashuba was also a gifted wire bender; the traditional carnival costume method of costume making. For many Carnival seasons, he worked with George 'Tassa' Hunte of Showcase Mas Troupe and Arising Mas troupe as a costume builder.

Moushay's love affair with Point began when he began a joinery apprenticeship with his godfather at Mr. Browne's Workshop. He went on to start a family there in which he fathered two sons and at the community level he made a musical connection through his association with the Point and Villa Iron Band and the Hells Gate Steel Orchestra.

His relationship with the Point and Villa Iron Band would last 25 years. He was the band's captain for over 20 years until he yielded the position to his son after his health deteriorated. During his period as captain, iron bands experienced a resurgence and became a more organised business operation. Pops was responsible for the establishment of the Iron Band Cook Shop which was a main source of revenue for many of the band's trips overseas and its other projects. His tenure as captain also saw the standardisation of



PAGE 15 **ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

the performance fees for the band and many of its members were able to earn a living from the band's gigs.

He also played a pivotal role in building a strong business relationship between the band and the Vitus Mas Troupe.

His commitment to the communi-

ties he called home and his family, friends and coworkers remained strong until his passing.

Moushay left behind his wife of 27 years, Brendalyn, his children, grandchildren and numerous family members.

PointeXpress Art & Entertainment

pays tribute to a man who was of and for the people, who willingly gave his skills and talent to the cause of the upliftment and preservation of the traditional cultural art forms of Antiqua and Barbuda.

We will never forget you Pops!

HELLS GATE PAYS TRIBUTE TO 'POPS'

as affectionately known rolled into a cylindrical as "Pops" was a member of the Hells Gate an Afro pick. Pops was Steel Orchestra for always upbeat and almany years and was ways encouraged the an integral part of the players to practice and rhythm section. Pops to get better. He also played the scratcher,

shape and played with operated a cook shop A long Aluminum sheet a few feet away from

James Michael Thom- punched with holes the bandhouse (on be- Orchestra Band) that the members would patronize. Pops never passed up the opportunity to play be dearly missed by the members of the

especialhalf of the Point Iron ly those that played with him in the rhythm section at Panorama time. Thank you Pops for your contribution with the band once he to the artform and to was able to. He will the Hells Gate Steel Orchestra. Continue to sleep in peace.









WHAT'S ON? The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda during COVID-19

As residents and visitors explore new entertainment options in a vastly different landscape, the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda has proven to be an option worth exploring.

The Board of Directors and Management has used the time during the COVID-19 pandemic to fast track several initiatives and introduce others which have served the institution well since it reopened to the public.

Pointe Entertainment's recently visited the museum on a trip which offered insight into the improvements that have allowed it to continue to serve the public during the pandemic. There were devices alongside many of the exhibits which offered visitors an enhanced digital experience in addition to fixed exhibits. This also eliminates the need for a guide to walk visitors through the tour.

The museum has also upgraded its website and offers research services to the public. The research services are not new, however, physical distancing protocols means that people are no longer allowed to come in to carry out their research, Rather, they are encouraged to email their requests to the museum where a member of the museum's staff will complete and return the final research piece.

Digital Technologist, Mark Philip, introduced our reporter to the museum's digital platforms and elaborated on the extensive work being carried out to digitize all the contents of the museum. He explained that the museum has embraced the digi-



tal age which has improved the quality of the exhibits and made the overall experience more user friendly.

Another innovation is the introduction of a survey to capture feedback from the visit as opposed to having visitors only sign the very popular guest book.

Michele Henry, the museum's curator, said the survey has provided qualitative information which is being used to improve the museum's level of service and diversify its historical displays.

Even though the museum has lost its major traffic, cruise passengers, there has been an uptick in the number of stayover guests to the country who now visit. Some have even returned for several visits. Visitors are also spending more time enjoying the exhibits.

The slavery exhibit remains the most popular attraction.

Some of the new products to be rolled out soon include a partnership with the Historical Society to develop hiking tours



that showcase the archaeology and the history of hiking trails.

The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda is a treasure trove of our history.

For further information on the museum visit https://www.facebook.com/ABMuseum or http:// www.antiguamuseums.net/

FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2020 POINTE PRESS



Pointe TV is getting set to provide a full suite of edutainment programming when we launch on December 1, 2020. Team Pointville Communications has been working diligently to create unique original content, to bring you a diverse portfolio for your viewing pleasure.

Join us for a preview of our exciting and entertaining linup beginning this weekend.

Tune into CTV Channel 9 and sample our natioional, regional and international program lineup. We look forward to serving our audience will on several platforms.

Pointville Communications inc continues to expand our media platform to ensure timeky and diverse access to information. Knowledge is power. Please feel free to share your feedback with us. Contact us if you have original content for wish you need a platform or for advertising.

ensure For more informadiverse tion call us at (268) mation. 562-4989 or e-mail: power. sales@pointvile.ag



The Weekly Savage will present the weekly news with satire and feature comedic re-enactments of the high points of the week. Comedy will be used to breakdown political and social issues to its purest forms, which can be digested by the general public.

The show will be completely scripted and feature a main host and a slew of guest hosts. All public figures will be welcomed with the understanding that a sense of humour is a prerequisite.

The objective of the Weekly Savage is to inform and educate the general public on issues through entertainment.







Kes the Band will not file suit against Apple and Wolf over 'Hello'

Trinidad and Tobago's Kes The Band will not pursue a lawsuit against tech giant, Apple, or US artist, Remi Wolf, according to a statement issued by the band on Wednesday.

Earlier this week, news broke that Kes The Band would take legal action against Wolf over the similarity between their song 'Hello' and Wolf's track 'Hello, Hello, Hello' which Apple used in their recent iPhone 12 ad campaign.

According to the band's management, the familiarity of Remi Wolf's lyrics to the Kes The Band song caused some fans to send congratulatory messages to the T&T group.

Remi Wolf is an American solo artist who debuted in 2019. "Hello, Hello, Hello" is a single on her recently released album.

"While we have noted the similarity, we do not intend to take legal action against Apple, Wolf or Island Records. However, we do wish to use this moment to call attention to the global renaissance of soca music. Interpretations of our



music have often gained access to promotion and corporate investment that is simply not afforded to our own musicians, producers and songwriters," the statement from Kes the Band stated.

The band says they hope that people from all over the world will recognise the calypso and soca genres for the treasures that they are and lead people to appreciate their influence in other genres.

Kes the Band released "Hello" ahead of the 2018 Trinidad Carnival. The song went on to become an international mega hit. It is one of the most streamed soca songs of all time with over 70 million views across YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music and Soundcloud.

A, crossover version of the song was released by Kes The Band in August 2020 on their live album 'We Home'.



TENDERS NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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

Basic Education Project II (BEPII) Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in conjunction with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

The Tenders Board of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, <u>on behalf</u> 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, <u>must be uploaded to the e-Procurement Platform</u>, 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**.

POINTVILLE COMMUNICATIONS INC.

SPECIAL

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

2 QUARTER PAGE ADS

\$500

\$1000

\$1500

\$2000

8 30sec RADIO COMMERICIALS

- **3 MENTIONS PER DAY FOR A WEEK**
- **1 BANNER AD ON WEBSITE**

2 HALF PAGE ADS

10 30sec RADIO COMMERICIALS 4 MENTIONS PER DAY FOR A WEEK 1 BANNER AD ON WEBSITE

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

CONTACTS US AT: 268-562-4989 EMAIL US AT: SALES@POINTVILLE.AG FOR OUR REGULAR RATE SHEET. ECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Private sector launches 'discover St Lucia' drive

diverse group of Saint Lucia's private sector agencies and business people have joined hands to help rally citizens, companies and communities to accelerate recovery from the economic and health effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This initiative is driven by the need to apply innovative and adaptive responses to living and doing business in the new normal.

Says Chairperson, Karen Peter, who is also head of the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, "...Now, more than at any other time in our history, it is critical to face the challenges ahead as a united nation, where all segments of society contribute to getting our beloved country back on a stable footing..."

It is with this goal in mind that the initiative, aptly titled RECOVER SAINT LUCIA, will support the restoration of the country's physical and economic health.

"We recognize that the path to recovery is not one dimensional," says Noorani Azeez, Chief Executive Offi-

(St. Lucia News Online) – A cer of the Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association (SLHTA). " ... The champions of this bold, new initiative all agree that a multi-faceted approach is necessary to protect the lives of citizens while also helping to secure the jobs that sustain livelihoods and families...".

While securing and sustaining the nation's major industry is very important, RECOVER SAINT LUCIA is looking beyond tourism to engage and encourage citizens, companies and communities to be more responsive, resilient, and committed to their own economic recovery, growth and prosperity. Besides mobilizing resources and expertise, the success of RECOVER SAINT LUCIA will rely on the deep sense of patriotism and love of country that unites Saint Lucians the world over.

The intention is also to Enhance national capacities to coexist, to grow and to prosper in the current health and economic environment. Further, it will Expand collaborative opportunities for employment, recovery and growth.



Researcher: Justice system failing victims

Nation): Veter-(Barbados an criminologist and senior research officer at the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit, Kim Ramsay, is warning that disjointedness within this country's criminal justice system is presenting some serious challenges for victims of crimes.

Speaking on the issue during a webinar held by the unit, Ramsay torneys, Ramsay argued that the

explained that despite being interrelated, the agencies in some cases operate oblivious to the roles of the other, leaving victims to fall through the cracks.

In her research based solely on interviews with people from the relevant state agencies, which included judges, prosecutors, police officers and defence at-

pain of victims continues to be exacerbated by a system that has failed to prioritise victim support and restorative justice.

She argued that at times victims are often left to fend for themselves, having to feel their way around in the dark with regard to their rights within the court system. (CLM)

Go-Invest anticipates multimillion-dollar investment

(Guyana Chronicle): OCEAMAR, a leading Mexican offshore service provider has turned its attention to one of the world's newest petroleum states, Guyana, with the aim of making a multimillion-dollar investment.

Guyana, with a Gross Domestic Product (GPD) of around US\$4 billion, is pegged to grow tremendously in the coming years because of its new-found oil wealth. And the anticipated growth has already attracted several international companies, many of whom are interested in investing in the nascent oil-and-gas sector.

Oceamar is among the latest investors which have set their sights on Guyana. The company, according to its website, focuses on meeting the needs related to the maritime and oil industries, offering a comprehensive and specialised service. It operates in all the ports of the Gulf of Mexico.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Guyana Office for Invest (Go-Invest), Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, has said that Oceamar, while being a large oil-support company, focuses on many components such as logistics, food management and so forth. The company offers air, land and maritime support.

Dr. Ramsaroop and his team met with a delegation from Oceamar and Mexico's Ambassador to Guyana, Jose Omar Hurtado Contreras, on Monday.

"The discussions are still in the preliminary stages, but we outlined the local investment opportunities to the company," said the CEO during an interview with the Guyana Chronicle on Wednesday. When asked how much money

the company is looking to invest in Guyana, Dr. Ramsaroop said discussions have not reached that stage as yet, but, considering the types of service Oceamar offers, he foresees the investment running into hundreds of millions of GYD.

In addition to Oceamar, the CEO said a number of other oil-support companies are looking to establish local operations.

With a projected GDP growth of 26.2 per cent for 2020, Guyana, being one of the only countries in this hemisphere expected to see positive growth, is seen as the ideal investment destination.

And it was already reported that the Government of Guyana is actively encouraging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and offering tax concessions for priority projects through Go-Invest.

PIOJ says Jamaica to bounce back faster from COVID-19 than 2008 recession

ALTHOUGH the fallout from the novel coronavirus pandemic is more austere than that fuelled by the 2008 global economic recession, head of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Dr Wayne Henry is projecting that Jamaica is, at this time, poised to bounce back faster than it did then.

Speaking yesterday during the quarterly press briefing to review the country's economic performance for July to September this year, Dr Henry said the island has been "managing the pandemic fairly well".

He said the projections have been given "in light of the assumption of a continued fairly effective management of the pandemic".

"When we compare the COVID-19 impact so far, the fallout since March, it is much more severe than what we saw in the 2008 financial and economic crisis," the PIOJ head said, noting that that crisis lasted until 2012 before recovery began to be experienced in the United States.

"For Jamaica, we saw some 90,900 jobs lost, and it took us maybe 11 years to recover in terms of gross domestic product (GDP), and maybe some eight years to recover in terms of employment. But, in this current context, we see, maybe in a four- to five-month period, 135,000 jobs being lost, and so compared to almost 91,000 over a three-year period... that tells you the severity of the impact of COVID-19 relative to the global economic and financial crisis," he pointed out.

But Dr Henry had "good news".

"We anticipate a shorter time for recovery. In terms of restoration of GDP, we anticipate maybe three to four years, as against 11 years, and a shorter time for recovery of employment, maybe two to three years, to recover those jobs as against the eight years of the global financial crisis, largely because Jamaica, going into the pandemic, was in a stronger macroeconomic context facilitated by and afforded by the types of reforms we had engaged in for the previous six or seven years before," he explained.

Dr Henry said, though, that a risk would be if Jamaica were to experience another surge in the number of COVID-19 cases like that experienced in August, when the island saw a second wave of the virus resulting in an unprecedented spike in confirmed cases and deaths.

"We have since been containing, we can continue to do that in an effective way," he said, noting, "that remains a general concern".

Death toll from lota slowly rises in Central America amid ongoing rescue efforts



TEGUCIGALPA/ MEXICO CITY (Reufrom storm lota is another major hurrislowly rising in Cen- cane that killed doztral America as au- ens of people in the thorities on Thursday region. said thev'd recovbodies ing, ered more buried in landslides thorities raised cattriggered by astrophic that swept through members of two famthe logged region earlier children, were killed this week.

were rise as rescue work- der with El Salvador. reach isolated ers communities. Most of a total of 18 peothe deaths have occurred in Nicaragua firmed dead, rescue and Honduras.

on record to hit Nic- north of the country aragua, lota struck killed eight people, the coast late on with more missing. Monday as a Category 4 hurricane. It ly dissipated over El inundated low-lying Salvador on Wednes-

areas still reeling from the impact two ters) - The death toll weeks ago of Eta,

On Thursday morn-Honduran authe death toll to 14 after flooding confirming that eight already water- ilies, including four when а landslide Nearly 40 people buried their homes in killed across a village in a moun-Central America and tainous region popu-Colombia, and the lated by indigenous toll is expected to Lencas near the bor-

In Nicaragua, where ple have been conefforts continue af-The strongest storm ter a landslide in the

While lota larae-

day, authorities struggled to cope with the fallout from days of heavy rain.

Numerous from northern Colombia to southern Mex- struction caused by ico saw record rain- the fall swell rivers and 2020 hurricane seatrigger Cities like the Honduran industrial hub of San Pedro Sula region, which is copwere also hit hard, with the city's airport completely flooded and jetways looking more like docks, video posted on social imposed earlier this media showed.

Some 160,000 Nicaraguans and 70,000 Hondurans have been forced to flee villages to shelters.

Experts say the deunprecedented mudslides, son in Central America could spur more migration out of the ing with insecurity and an economic crisis triggered bv coronavirus pandemic-related lockdowns vear.



VACANCY – SERVICE ADVISOR

Auto Dealership seeking a Service Advisor to join its team.

Minimum Requirements

- Certificate or equivalent with at least three years experience in auto industry or 2 years as an auto-mechanic/technician.
- Must be proficient in the use of computers.
- Capable of writing technical/mechanical reports.
- Must have excellent communication skills.
- Knowledge of auto parts would be an asset

Deadline for application is Friday 20th November, 2020.

Please address applications to: Service Advisor Vacancy P.O. Box W2049 or email to cteas268@gmail.com

Brexit: Top-level talks suspended after positive Covid test



EU chief negotiator Michael Barnier

(BBC): The EU and UK chief negotiators have stepped back from post-Brexit trade talks after a member of the EU team tested positive for Covid-19.

The EU's Michel Barnier said his UK counterpart Lord David Frost had agreed to suspend negotiations between them for a "short period".

Mr Barnier added their teams would

continue discussions in "full respect" of safety guidelines.

They are locked in talks as the clock counts down to a December deadline.

Both sides are seeking an agreement to govern their trading relationship once the UK's post-Brexit transition period ends in January 2021.

Fishing rights, competition rules and how any deal would be enforced remain key areas of disagreement.

On Thursday, Mr Barnier tweeted that a member of his negotiating team had tested positive for the virus, as talks over a deal continued in Brussels.

"With David Frost, we have decided to suspend the negotiations at our level for a short period," he added.

In reply, Lord Frost said he was in "close contact with Michel Barnier about the situation," and "the health of our teams comes first".

BBC Brussels correspondent Nick Beake said he had been told Mr Barnier would now self-quarantine following the team member's test result.

Our correspondent added it was not clear how long the pause in top-level talks would last, or if top officials would have to self-isolate.

Suspension of talks between the chief negotiators will come as an unhelpful development, with just five weeks remaining before the 31 December deadline.

EU leaders are holding a video conference later on Thursday and could discuss the latest developments - although it is not officially on the agenda.

On Sunday, before the latest round of talks began, Lord Frost said there had been "some progress in a positive direction in recent days".

But he warned the two sides "may not succeed" to strike a deal, with "significant elements" not yet agreed.

He added that any deal would have to be "compatible with our sovereignty," and allow the UK to "take back control of our laws, our trade, and our waters".

Pompeo makes unprecedented visit to Israeli settlement in West Bank

(BBC): Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has toured a Jewish settlement in the Israeli-occupied West Bank - the first such visit by a top US official.

The trip to Psagot came a year after Mr Pompeo said the settlements did not contradict international law, reversing a longheld US position.

The declaration outraged Palestinians, who oppose settlements on land they claim for a future independent state.

Mr Pompeo will later

pay a similar visit to the occupied Golan Heights.

President Donald Trump last year officially recognised Israeli sovereignty over the strategic plateau, which Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed in 1981.

Mr Pompeo arrived in Israel on Wednesday for what is likely to be his last trip to Israel before leaving office in January.

On Thursday morning, he held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

At a joint news conference, Mr Pompeo announced that the state department would declare as anti-Semitic the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which campaigns for a complete boycott of Israel over its policies towards the Palestinians.

Israel says that BDS opposes the country's very existence and is motivated by anti-Semitism. BDS rejects the charge, saying Israel is using it as a cover for its actions.

Mr Pompeo also told reporters that "for a long time the state department took the wrong view of settlements" in the West Bank.

"It took a view that didn't recognise the history of this special place and instead now today the United States department of state stands strongly to the recognition that settlements can be done in a way that's lawful and appropriate and proper," he added.

Nearly 5,000 jobs at risk as UK fashion chains face closure

5,000 jobs are at risk after the owner of British fashion chains Peacocks and Jaeger said Thursday it had failed to find a buyer for the troubled businesses, which like others in the sector are reeling from the coronavirus pandemic.

The two chains, which are owned by the struggling EWM retailing empire, have been put into a form of bankruptcy protection after a two-week deadline to find a buyer passed.

A spokesperson for EWM said the deterioration of

LONDON (AP) - Nearly the retail sector during the current, second lockdown in England had made the sale process "more complex" than hoped. During the lockdown, which is due to last until Dec. 2, all shops selling items deemed as non-essential, such as clothes and books, have been required to close.

> As a result, the spokesperson said the company could no longer extend a so-called standstill arrangement that Britain's High Court first imposed six weeks ago and allows the chains to carry on doing business.

"Therefore, as directors, we have taken the desperately difficult decision to place Peacocks and Jaeger into administration while those talks continue," the spokesperson said.

The administrators put in charge of the chains remain hopeful that a deal can be secured.

"Jaeaer and Peacocks are attractive brands that have suffered the wellknown challenges that many retailers face at present," said Tony Wright, joint administrator and a partner at insolvency firm FRP Advisory. "We are in

advanced discussions with a number of parties and working hard to secure a future for both businesses."

Cardiff-based Peacocks operates 423 stores with 4,369 staff, while Jaeger runs 76 stores and concessions and employs 347 staff.

The administrators said no redundancies or store closures have been confirmed yet.

EWM Group had already placed its Edinburgh Woollen Mill and Ponden Home businesses into administration earlier this month.



BROWN AND BROWNE PRIME MINISTER HON. GASTON BROWNE SATURDAYS 4P SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

CIUN CHANNEL 9

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

(Y) ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Feeling a little bit bored with your social life lately? To get a sense of renewal in your life right now, you should let other people take charge of things. Keep things fresh in your life by handing over the reins.

TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Your popularity is surging right now, so when teams are chosen today, you're going to be one of the first picks. Don't be intimidated by the extra attention you'll be getting -- soak every drop of it up.

(I) GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Someone you thought you knew inside and out will surprise you today. Their feelings might reveal some shocking things about their philosophies of life, but that doesn't have to alter how you feel about them.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

Big things are coming up soon, but today you are still in somewhat of a holding pattern. While you wait, be careful not to get your hopes too high. Letting your eagerness get the best of you is a big mistake.

(d) LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

You should seek out stability today -- take a break from frivolous events and flaky people and head for home. Spend more time with the family members and friends you know inside and out.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

All that lighthearted and flirtatious banter you've been having with that super-cute someone has been fun, but today you should follow your urge to take things to the next level.

LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Sometimes it's the quietest moment in your day that carries the biggest impact -- you won't need thunder and lightening to tell you that you've come upon a huge revelation, today. Don't hesitate to start down this new path.

SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

You've got a lot of ideas germinating, right now, but it's going to take a great deal of concentrated effort to shape any one of them into something that you can actually make happen. Don't let this frustrate you, though.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You should fight your urge to be shy and hide in the background when all the hoopla gets going, today. You will have so much more fun if you're loud (and even a bit obnoxious!). Make an impression.

(Yo) CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Friendship can mean different things to different people, so be very careful that you are not making too many assumptions about what a new friendship is all about. An unexpected comment could catch you off guard today.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your sense of who you are has been growing slowly but steadily, and you are already seeing the rewards of being more self-assured in your social life. Your feelings about ambition have been ambivalent lately.

H PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

That warm and fuzzy feeling someone gives you is starting to grow into a decidedly hotter vibe -- and not necessarily in a good way. There is some real friction going on between you two.

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.

SATELLITE OFFICE REOPENED

The English Harbour Satellite Office has reopened. 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.

CLOSURE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT

The Quality Assurance Unit within the Ministry of Tourism will be suspending operations from December 15th, 2020 to January 15th, 2021. All small and large property owners/operators are asked to take note as no hotel inspections and Covid-19 certifications will be executed during this period. For more information contact the department at 468-4061/4003.

We we look forward to serving you with increased commitment and fervor in 2021.

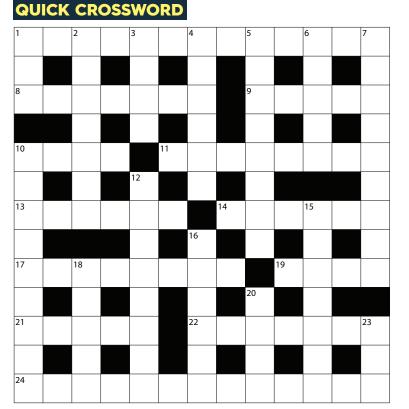
DIABETES SCREENING

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

FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2020



DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



Garfield



Cathy



Across

- 1 Grit sweeper on? (anag) it makes driving easier (5,8)
- 8 Sincere humourless (7)
- 9 Tree with orange-red berry-like fruits (5) 10 Peak (4)
- 11 Savaged (4,4)
- 13 Hergé's adventurous young Belgian reporter (6)
- 14 Put the ball in the net (6)
- 17 Branch of mathematics (8)
- 19 Substance taker (4)
- 21 Excuse (5)
- 22 Treating badly (7)
- 24 In a lackadaisical fashion (4-9)

Down

- 1 Fruit or meat dish (3)
- 2 Labourer (7)
- 3 Regrets (4)
- 4 Italian painter of the Venetian school, patronised by Philip II of Spain (6)
- 5 Wife of Orpheus (8)
- 6 From Des Moines? (5) 7 Explosive invented in 9th-century China (9)
- 10 Signature (9)
- 12 Accompaniment at mealtime (4,4)
- 15 Quash (7)
- 16 Misprints in a book (6)
- 18 Type of bay window (5)
- 20 Sculpture ruined (4)
- 23 Writer of The Beggar's Opera (3)

SUDOKU

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

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.



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

INCLUDES

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

*On The Spot Financing Available



Power Windows

Bluetooth

located on Old Parham Road

9,500

>> UPGRADED FEATURES

Reverse Camera

Parking Sensors

Automatic AC

Touch Screen

contact us Tel: (268) 481-2500 follow us on (f) Facebook & ((a) Instagram

Automatic Headlamps



DZIRE

starting at

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

Unlock your

POINTE PRESS FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2020

FIFA lifts TTFA suspension

FIFA has lifted the suspension on the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA).The announcement was made by the sport's world ruling body on Thursday.

FIFA suspended the TTFA indefinitely in September for pursuing a dispute through the country's High Court in contravention of the world's governing body's statutes.

"After taking note of the recent decision of the Trinidad and Tobago Court of Appeal and the express wish of the members of the to take part in international com-TTFA for all associated legal claims brought by the parties purporting to act in the name of the organisation to be terminated, the Bureau of the FIFA Council has decided to lift the suspension of the TTFA with immediate effect FIFA statement said.

"This means that all of the TTFA membership's rights have been reinstated and TTFA representative and club teams are again entitled

petitions.

The TTFA and FIFA had been at loggerheads since March after FIFA dissolved the executive of the cash strapped association. FIFA installed a normalization committee after it concluded the TTFA's former leadership had "engaged in various acts of serious mismanagement".

This was opposed by TTFA president William Wallace and contested in court.

cont'd from pg 32

being produced both during and outside of the tournament with all the major social media platforms showing significant advances in audience engagement levels.

Hero CPL's COO, Pete Russell, said: "We are delighted to have seen such a massive jump in viewership for 2020, and passing that 500million figure is a huge landmark for us as a tournament. The interest in Hero CPL has never been higher and that puts us in a fantas-

tic position moving into 2021 and beyond. The tournament has grown in stature and reputation every year and we are certain that will continue to be the case. We are delighted with the linear television and streaming

numbers as well as the fantastic growth we are seeing across our digital channels and are excited about our upcoming plans for this year to make our content even more accessible and engaging."



SAFER APART, STRONGER GETH

e freedom of the outdoors. Boston Whaler's award-winning lineup offers something very boater, providing nearly endless ways to enjoy the water safely and comfortably — so we can be stronger together while staying apart.





CALL US TODAY! 268-562-71 sales@paradiseboats.com

PAGE 31 SPORTS NEWS



Barcelona Captain Lionel Messi

Lionel Messi: "I'm tired of being the problem"

at Antoine Griemann's former representative who suggested the Barcelona captain has played a significant role in the France star's struggles at Camp Nou.

Griemann's ex- adviser, Eric Olhats, last week alleged to France Football that Messi, whom he claimed, "has power over everything" at Barca, objected to the signing of Griemann and "made him feel unwelcome".

Messi returned to Barcelona on Wednes-

Lionel Messi hit back day having represented Argentina in a pair of World Cup qualifiers and was asked about the comments as he left El Prat Airport. Messi said he is tired of being labeled the problem for everything at the club.

The Argentina superstar has been under scrutiny this season after failing to force through a move away from Barca, where his contract is set to expire at the end of the season and appears unwilling to suffer any criticism he deems undue.

Olhats added that Messi is as much the emperor as a monarch and he didn't take kindly to the signing of Antoine.

"His attitude has been deplorable and last season when Griemann arrived, Messi didn't speak to him and didn't pass him the ball," Olhats noted.

Griemann, who was signed from Atlético Madrid for \$120 million in July 2019, has scored only 11 goals and supplied five assists in 42 La Liga appearances.

Jay-Z and Novak Djokovic team-up



Rap mogul Jay-Z and tennis superstar Novak Djokovic invested in fitness startup CLMBR

Rap mogul, Jay-Z, and tennis superstar, Novak Djokovic, have reportedly invested in a new fitness start-up.

The world number one player, who has a \$220 million fortune, and the rapper, who is worth \$1billion, are said to be

investing in CLMBR, a rival to the fitness platform Peleton, which Jay-Z's wife Beyonce recently partnered with.

According to TMZ, CLMBR is about to launch vertical climbing machines in partnership with Jay-Z's longtime fit-

ness consultant, Marco Borges, and Youtube co-founder Chad Hurley.

CLMBR replicates virtual climbing and features worldfirst machines with touchscreen displays, and classes with instructors.

Jay-Z has proved to be a savvy businessman. His previous investments include a \$70 million stake in Uber, a \$100 million stake in streaming service Tidal and stakes in Armand de Brignac champagne and D'Usse cognac, valued at \$140 million.

The reported investment with Djokovic comes as his Beyonce joined forces wife with fitness platform Peloton to create a series of themed workouts for students during homecoming season.

S DOOLLS ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA POINTEPRESS TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2020 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG PAGE 32

Hero CPL sees massive audience increase to over **500 million viewers**

Premier League (CPL) saw an incredible 67% in Television, increase Streaming and Digital viewership in 2020, reaching viewers and passing half premier events in world a billion for the first time in the tournament's history. The research was independently compiled by YouGov Sport, a division of SMGInsight, one of the world's largest and most respected research firms.

The 2020 Hero CPL was the first franchise T20 tournament to take place since the lockdown and travel restrictions resulting from COVID-19, with in Asia.

The Hero Caribbean all 33 matches played in a secure bubble at two venues in Trinidad & Tobago. Since the tournament's inception, the Hero CPL has long been 523.5million regarded as one of the cricket and this leap in viewership shows how popular the tournament has become in all corners of the globe. Key drivers include a big linear viewership increase in India of 81% to over 74.9m, growth of 62% in the UK as well as significant increases across the Caribbean, South Africa and in other key markets

> As well as the major broadcast deals in key crick-



Hero CPL COO Pete Russell

eting markets, games Facebook and YouTube, meaning no matter where you were in the world you could follow the Hero CPL.

The innovative Hero were also shown live on CPL social media channels also helped drive this year's audience growth with engaging content

cont'd on pg 30



Editor: Everton Barnes, Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua 1(268) 562-4989 Editorials: editor@pointville.ag, Advertising: sales@pointville.ag, Reporting: news@pointville.ag