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Photo caption: JCI Co-Chairpersons of the YEP Committee, Samara Emmanuel and Derrica Watson and 2020 JCI President, Ms. Andrea Smithen-Henry, pose with the 10 2020 YEP Award recipients.

Belt tightening measures on the horizon

It should not be too difficult to explain the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world economy, and more so, the economy of Antigua and Barbuda to even the so-called 'man-on-the-street'.

Every facet of the economy has been hit hard by the fallout of the pandemic. We see it every day; thousands of people have been unable to return to their jobs in the hotel sector, drivers sit idle at taxi-stands in the city and even the once bustling Vendors' Mall now seems to be moving in slow motion.

The pain that many have experienced this year is real. Many people, once proud of their ability to take care of themselves and their families, now reach out to charities in the hope of finding assistance to make ends meet.

The government has reported that its revenues have declined sharply and statutory bodies have not been exempted as the Social Security Scheme, upon which thousands of elderly depend for a monthly pension, has also suffered tremendously.

The government has

been creative in trying to come up with ways to minimise the effects of the pandemic on the economy. Unfortunately, with many of the far reaching implications of the pandemic out of the hands of the government, it has been powerless to affect change.

As if the impact of the pandemic was not enough, two weeks ago Antigua was deluged by unusual rainfall from an anomalous weather system which eluded the predictive capability of meteorologists. It caused widespread flooding in many parts of the island, particularly in the low lying communities in and around St. John's and in West Palm Beach, Bolans which has been long known as a flood-prone development.

The island is still counting the cost of the damage to property and to the agricultural sector. Early estimates indicate that more than 500 homes have been affected by the floods. When the final tally is in, the cost of the recent weather system to homeowners, agriculturalists and the government may very well approach \$500 million if lost productivity is

also factored in.

The COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the freak storm of November has been a double whammy for Antigua and Barbuda, both events whose severity no one could have predicted.

As with the pandemic, the government has had to turn to its very limited resources toward helping people affected by the flood. Homes must be repaired, new furniture sourced and people made to feel safe again.

Many of these homeowners were without insurance, therefore they turned to the government for help. No caring government could turn its back on people in dire need and so the government went to work providing whatever assistance it could.

It came as no surprise, given the current circumstances, when the prime minister announced that the government has been forced to consider austerity measures which will be implemented in 2021. This is less of a surprise too, when the forecast that the decline in revenue this year will be close to half a billion dollars.

No one likes to hear the term austerity, but we all have to be realistic. There is no way that things can go on the way they have given the reduction in government revenue.

The measures that are being contemplated have obviously been subjected to a great deal of thought and consideration and at a glance, it appears that their impact will not negatively affect the average person.

One expects that the government will introduce these measures and calculate their effects long before more stringent measures that will impact a greater cross section of the populace are introduced.

At this point, we are all hopeful that the vaccines that have shown so much promise will be widely available in as short a time as possible. This in turn, will pave the way for life to return to some normality.

Only when travel returns to the pre-COVID-19 era will we see economies such as ours in Antigua and Barbuda resume growth and expansion with the attendant benefits to us individually and collectively.

Government considers austerity measures for 2021

The government is seriously considering introducing several austerity measures in the new year as the economy continues to suffer the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Gaston Browne, said the proposed measures have become necessary as the country has seen a sharp decline in revenues since the pandemic brought economic activity to a virtual standstill.

On this week's Browne and Browne show, the prime minister said revenue generated in the first quarter of 2020 were set to set a national record, but the arrival of the coronavirus in the country at the end of March and subsequent lockdown crippled economic progress and slowed revenue generation significantly.

According to the finance minister, revenues for the first quarter of this year outstripped revenues for the same period in 2019 by approximately \$200 million. By the end of September 2020, however, revenues were \$200 million less than in the corresponding period last year.

"What this means is that there has been a \$400 million turn around in our revenues and while we fully anticipated that revenues will amount

to over \$1 billion by the end of the year, we will be happy if we are able to collect about \$750 million by December 31," he explained.

He noted that at the end of September revenues amounted to just \$562 million against the \$765 million collected during the same period last year.

"We were on track to record one of the best years ever for the economy, but unfortunately due to COVID all our gains have since been eroded and this has been a severe strain on the level of government's cash flow," Browne explained.

Faced with the harsh reality of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world's economy, and the possibility of further losses until a vaccine is widely distributed by the middle of next year, the prime minister said that the Cabinet considered the matter.

"We have no choice going into 2021 but to realign revenues with our expenditures. Last Wednesday, Cabinet looked at some options that we are contemplating to adopt into the upcoming year. There are no final decisions yet on these measures, but I feel that it is important to alert the public on these possibilities," he stated.

PM Browne said whatever measures are put in place, they will not affect government bond holders as he is keen to ensure that confidence in the government's security remains high.

Similarly, arrangements with local banks will not be affected.

The measures include the following:

- Reducing real estate rentals by government from an average of 3 to 5 percent to 3 percent over the next 36 months.
- Reducing the rate of rental of heavy duty equipment, backhoe and trucks etc., to 33.33 percent.
- Strengthening property tax collection by ensuring that all properties are captured. This is expected to significantly increase the yield.
- Enhance the collection of all taxes. Focus on AnB properties ensuring that they pay their ABST
- Reduce supplier-creditor credit by 50 percent including converting a portion to government bonds.
- Consider swapping government lands to write off some debts in some cases.



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FEATURING A CALYPSONIAN EACH WEEK!!!
MONDAYS | 2pm-3pm

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



More people seeking assistance from PDVCAB's social support programmes

There has been a slight increase in the number of persons seeking assistance through the PDV Caribe Antigua and Barbuda Limited (PDVCAB) programme, according to Operations Manager Laurie Louard.

The programme, which is a subsidiary of the Petro-Caribe agreement between Antigua and Barbuda and Venezuela, provides a number of benefits to pensioners including a "Utility Subsidy Programme" that contributes \$100 monthly towards their utility bill.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic many people, including pensioners, have experienced difficulties meeting their financial obligations.

Louard said that many people are now expressing an interest in the food subsidy programme, especially by the unemployed many of whom worked at hotels which were forced to close down their operations due to the pandemic.

"PDVCAB is still rolling along. We are of course seeing a slight increase in numbers of persons coming in requesting assistance.

Well this would be persons not registering so much but visiting the office asking how the assistance goes, how can I participate in the programmes offered by PDV Caribe," Louard said.

PDVCAB's food subsidy programme, which is commonly referred to as the "Peoples' Benefit Programme", provides approved beneficiaries with just over \$200 monthly which can be redeemed for food and personal items from authorised vendors.

"Now so far, since I would say about May or June, there has been a slight increase. It's noticeable for persons coming in asking for assistance for, like I said, basically or primarily through the food subsidy programme and we have persons who would have lost their jobs, most of them in the hospitality sector as you would imagine because that is our main industry, and we have a few other persons as well who are coming in wanting to apply to the food subsidy programme - checking to see if they would qualify to receive assistance for the "Food Subsidy Programme".

So we have seen an increase since, I would say, about June or so of persons coming in requesting assistance," he said.

Louard also disclosed that people who were on the programme before, but came off because their situations improved, are returning for assistance.

Meanwhile, the operations manager said that registration of new pensioners to the 'Utility Subsidy Programme' is underway.

Registration commenced on November 3 and is expected to run until the end of the month.

Pensioners who have registered with the Social Security Scheme and have received their pension cards are eligible to apply for the programme. Registration may be done at Social Security's Long Street office between 9am and 2pm Monday to Friday.

"We have also seen some persons now that we are registering for the Utility Subsidy Programme who did not. They have been pensioners for a few years now and they didn't take up the offer before, but they are

coming in now based on everything else that is happening. Since COVID, persons in the household are either on reduced hours, or they have been laid off, or some have lost their jobs up to this point and so they are seeking assistance with those bills so they are registering with the 'Utility Subsidy'.

"Previously, even though they would have been a pensioner for years now, they are coming in now to register to participate in the 'Utility Subsidy Programme,'" Louard said.

Presently, there are 1,950 persons registered for the 'Food Subsidy Programme'. 7,200 have signed up for the 'Utility Subsidy Programme'.

There is also an LPG subsidy programme which operates in Barbuda.

Each month, PDVCAB spends just over one million dollars on social programmes in Antigua and Barbuda.

Petro Caribe was created by the late Venezuelan President, Hugo Chavez, as a means of sharing his country's oil wealth with its neighbours in the Caribbean and Latin America.

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

DR. MASERATI

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

ERC investor forum planned for Thursday

A major investor forum is taking place on Thursday as the government rolls out its policy plans for the development of three areas in which it hopes nationals will assume lead roles.

The hybrid forum will be held virtually in part while participants attending at the Sandals Grande Resort will receive in-person facilitation.

The forum is a joint undertaking of the government and the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC) which together will guide Antigua and Barbuda out of the economic morass brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This forum will highlight the investment opportunities available in three major areas of development in Antigua and Barbuda: the Dredge Bay

Development, now renamed the Paradise Bay Development; the Willoughby Bay project and the Entrepreneurship for Development," the ERC stated.

It said the government recognises the need to make investment opportunities available in order to build and develop the national economy.

Member of the ERC sub-committee planning the event, Paul Ryan, said the committee is very aware of the economic costs that many people have had to bear due to no fault of their own. He highlighted the loss of jobs in the hospitality and travel industries as examples. With this in mind, Ryan said reviving the economy and giving nationals the opportunity to reap greater rewards from development in

the country has been one of the main concerns of the committee.

Making specific reference to the Willoughby Bay Development, Ryan said the plan involved the development of three thousand acres of land into a thriving urban centre with amenities including hotels, banks, insurance companies, supermarkets and a marina. There will also be green areas, walkways and areas for parking.

The businesses that will be prioritised include agriculture and agro-processing, tourism and hospitality, property rentals, light manufacturing, commercial services and entertainment.

Developed with technicians from key government departments playing lead roles, the

plan will be developed in stages over a period of ten to fifteen years in what is known as Transit Oriented Developments (TOD's).

The development will start with one specific area with the other areas added over time, however, at the heart of the development is the central role of nationals.

Thursday's investor forum will allow the committee to present their plan to would-be investors and the public who will be able to view on a number of live streams.

The Paradise Bay project calls for development of several attractions to complement the expansion and redevelopment of the St. John's Harbour. There, opportunities will be available for individuals to set up businesses.



TUESDAYS

**STEELPAN
MELEE**

WITH KHAN KC CORDICE & PETRA WILLIAMS



4PM-6PM

Only proven, effective COVID-19 vaccines will be imported

By Shelton Daniel

The COVID-19 vaccines that have recently been developed and are showing tremendous promise against the current pandemic are not exactly new, according to a local medical practitioner.

Dr. Courtenay Lewis, who appeared on Pointe FM's Browne and Browne Show on Saturday, explained that coronavirus vaccines have been under development, trial and use for a very long time since that family of viruses is well known to medical science.

Dr. Lewis was explaining why Antiguans and Barbudans should not be fearful of taking the vaccines developed by Pfizer and others once they are cleared for clinical use and become available in Antigua during the first half of next year.

"People are skeptical about this particular vac-

cine because it's new, because the illness is new and they are scrutinizing the time it took to actually develop it because we did not have a global pandemic until earlier this year.

"So how is it that within a year you can have a vaccine ready for distribution?

"This vaccine isn't new because we've been trying to develop vaccines against other types of coronaviruses in terms of treating SARS [severe acute respiratory syndrome] and the Middle Eastern variant, MERS, etc. All they had to do was take the existing technology that they've had so far, use the global attention that the illness is getting right now to spearhead getting as many labs as possible, as many professionals as possible, as much funding as possible, to help in moving forward the process of getting the vaccine finished," he explained.

Health authorities here have already pre-ordered 20,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in the first instance, through the World Health Organization (WHO). It was also announced that the vaccine will be administered only to those who volunteer for inoculation and no one will be compelled to accept it.

Dr. Lewis pointed out that all vaccines must go through a rigorous process of testing and trials before they are approved for clinical use. This means that they are administered only to willing patients under strict medical evaluation and supervision.

"What's important for the population to know as well, we're talking about the Pfizer vaccine or the Moderna vaccine, because these are the people who are at the forefront of being ready for distribution. They are by no means the only ones that are making

a vaccine. There are hundreds of vaccines in development right now, because there's no shortage of funding to produce one. They've all come to see the economic benefits of making a vaccine, so they're all trying to develop one as soon as possible.

"A vaccine doesn't get produced just because it can be monetarily productive for a company. That's not how it works. This vaccine has to go through a lot of scrutiny, a lot of trials, a lot of tests. There's a conversation going around in our population right now that we're going to be guinea pigs and they're going to be testing out this vaccine on us. That is not true, and no leading body, no leading organisation, no government, no leader in their right mind who is not psychopathic, would want their population to be guinea pigs."

EVERY WEDNESDAY | 4pm-6pm

WE ARE THE ONES

WITH PETRA WILLIAMS

LIVE RADIO INTERVIEW WITH

DR. NATASHA LIGHTFOOT

25TH NOVEMBER 2020

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

Court to rule in Asot, ABLP matter on Wednesday

The High Court will deliver its ruling on Wednesday in a matter brought by Member of Parliament for St. Peter, Asot Michael, against the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP).

The ABLP activated its Tribunal, its disciplinary committee, to hear and render a decision regarding several instances in which Michael is accused of violating the party's Code of Ethics.

If Michael was found guilty by the tribunal, a number of dis-

ciplinary actions, from a reprimand to expulsion from the party, could be recommended.

Michael, however, turned to the court to intervene as he contends that based on the Constitution of the ABLP, the Tribunal is operating without authority as the party has not convened a normally biennial convention in over two years.

Michael's attorney, Hugh Marshall Jr., has argued that the Tribunal has no legal standing and is therefore incapable of

deliberating the issues related to his client before or handing down a decision.

Michael identified ABLP General Secretary, Senator Mary Clare Hurst and head of the Tribunal, Lionel 'Max' Hurst as the respondents in his claim. They are represented by Dr. David Dorsett.

Last Friday Judge Rohan Philip heard arguments that lasted 90 minutes. The judge agreed to submit his decision on Wednesday at 9:00am.

Three men Cashew Hill on the run from police

WANTED



From left to right, Elijah Ofari Lewis-aka 'Bloop', David O'Brien Fallen, aka 'Poochie' and Mathew Ricordo Edwards

The Police have issued a wanted bulletin for the immediate arrest of Elijah Ofari Lewis, David O'Brien Fallen and Mathew Ricordo Edwards, all of Cashew Hill.

The three men are wanted in connection with allegations of aggravated robbery and other criminal offences.

Police say the men should be considered armed and dangerous.

The bulletin was issued on Friday and up to Sunday, law enforcement indicated that the men remained on the run.

According to police, there has been a positive response from the

public who have provided useful information, however authorities have not disclosed the specific nature of the information they have received. The Police are asking anyone with information on the whereabouts Elijah Ofari Lewis, David O'Brien Fallen and Mathew Ricordo Edwards to contact the nearest police station or the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 463-3914 without delay.

The police have also

appealed for the men to surrender at any police station accompanied by an attorney or a family member.

NOTICE

3RD NOVEMBER, 2020

REGISTRATION SECTION
SOUTH CENTRAL

BLOCK#
15-1978B

PARCEL#
92

A LABOUR WELFARE PROPERTY LOCATED AT BUCKLEYS VILLAGE BEARING THE ABOVE MENTIONED PARTICULARS WAS PREVIOUSLY TENANTED BY MR. ALFRED JOSEPH (DECEASED) OF BUCKLEYS VILLAGE. ANY PERSONS HAVING ANY CLAIMS TO HIS ESTATE ARE ASKED TO CONTACT THE CENTRAL HOUSING AND PLANNING AUTHORITY TO REGULARIZE THE MATTER. CHAPA WILL TAKE REPOSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY IF NO CONTACT IS MADE BY 30TH DECEMBER, 2020. THE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT LOWER ALL SAINTS ROAD, ANTIGUA OR CALL 462-2033, 462-0169 OR 562-2307

Immigration chief projects improvements into 2021



Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood, is projecting that her department will establish itself as the leading immigration department in the Caribbean as it continues to grow and improve its services.

Speaking at the opening of the department's new headquarters in the Sealy Building on the Sir George Walter Highway, Yearwood said this is achievable as Antigua and Barbuda is both a travel hub in the Caribbean with a unique demographic.

"There is no other Caribbean country like Antigua and Barbuda in terms of our demographics. We will also have first will equipment at our borders in

terms of E-gate, Kiosks, and other equipment that will enable us to better detect fraudulent documents. Additionally, we are moving to have seamless movements through our ports of entry," she stated.

Since she assumed the office three years ago, Yearwood said her focus has been on improving staff competences through intense training and introducing incentive programmes to improve morale.

During her tenure, the department added three new departments: Intel which focuses on gathering information on persons visiting the country; the Rover Unit which removes persons deemed unsuitable to remain

in the country and the NDR programme which will oversee the Nomad Residency programme.

Yearwood also wants to expand the use of technology to improve the overall efficiency of the department. This includes moving to a paperless operation over time.

It is also her intention to collaborate with international agencies to provide additional training for her staff in several key areas.

Also addressing the gathering was minister responsible for Immigration, E.P Chet Greene, who underscored the key role of the department which is to provide a service. He admitted to chiding the depart-

ment in the past over reports of subpar service, but on this occasion offered compliments to the department in recognition of their noticeable improvement.

"I wish all to be aware of the premium that we place on the service that we provide to the public. It is the raison d'être of our very existence," he declared.

He recalled that the department was transitioned from the police to a civilian operation in 1998 by former Prime Minister Sir Lester Bird in the hope of providing a 'softer' touch to the country as its reputation as a tourism destination grew.

This, Greene said, has been achieved.

Access to Cooks Landfill impeded by recently heavy rain

Daryl Spencer, the general manager of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) says difficulties are being encountered getting to the Cooks Sanitary Landfill to dispose of bulk and household waste.

Spencer said this difficulty is the result of the heavy rain experienced two weeks ago.

Once the weather holds, however, he said it will become much easier for trucks to maneuver the area.

"It has become rather difficult to traverse the roadways at Cooks. So there is some difficulty in moving both the bulk waste and residential

waste into the landfill site, but as the weather holds conditions are improving," Spencer said.

Spencer said that a long term solution would be the resurfacing of the road which leads to the landfill. In the short term, however, the landfill manager has made arrangements to have the road to the disposal site improved.

According to Spencer, the waste material generated by the tyre shredder, which is located at the landfill, have been used to improve the integrity of the road and areas where there is slippage.

"That has assisted quite a

bit. We have also used the landfill equipment to prop up the roads, to clear it, to remove the excess clay and that kind of stuff and that too has assisted.

"The conversation of improving the roads at Cooks is an ongoing conversation and I am sure within short order we should have some very definite responses as to how we will move forward with that one," Spencer reported.

He further confirmed that discussions on correcting access issues to the landfill have been taking place at the technical and policy levels.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S REFLECTIONS

A glance through our Nation's Rear View Mirror

'Qarkoo'

Old fashion Public Announcements

John 'Quarkoo' Thomas, was Antigua's street crier and his lyrics from the 1920s to the 1940s were nearly synonymous with benna, though his style was purely his own..

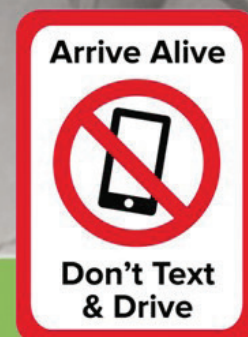
He sold small items and his printed songs through the streets of St. John's, as he announced sales or events, everything that radio does today.

He not only advertised for a small fee, but he entertained as well – singing folk songs and Benna.

...He was fearless, full of satire, often relating the latest gossip, he even landed himself in jail for slander!"



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



ABSIP to spearhead development projects to improve street vending

Antigua and Barbuda will enter into a project with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Development (DFATD) under the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) project to improve street vending operations.

The project is a key recommendation made by the Subcommittee for job creation and economic diversification. It includes creating new enterprises, new markets, and accelerating e-commerce to enhance street vending operations and increase innovative productization.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda observed that since COVID-19 there has been a proliferation of street vending with many persons selling fruits and vegetables, and other commodities. The practice has become a double edge sword, on one hand, the increase in vendors contributes to food security by ensuring adequate provision of fresh produce with

high nutritional value, on the other hand, the method of a tray in the hot sun open to the elements leads to several issues including overcrowded streets of vendors, traffic congestion with patrons, phytosanitary concerns and expose vendors to harmful health concerns. As a result, the government sought the assistance of the international community and has secured a quarter-million-dollar project to begin addressing this situation.

Using a phased approach, the initiative will take place in the following phases:

Phase 1 will see a number of activities aimed at assessing the street vending operations in and around the city area of St. John's, to determine the number of vendors plying their trade, the type of products being sold, the main areas utilized for vending activities, etc.

Phase 2 will see 25 vendors identified for

participation in an investment forum and exhibition. The vendors will get an opportunity to not only showcase their products but will also get exposure and opportunities for investment.

Phase 3 will see the commencement of several capacity building and development sessions, starting with a two-day workshop for at least 25 vendors that will take the form of a soft introductory session, introducing key areas such as health and safety, costing and pricing, and customer service.

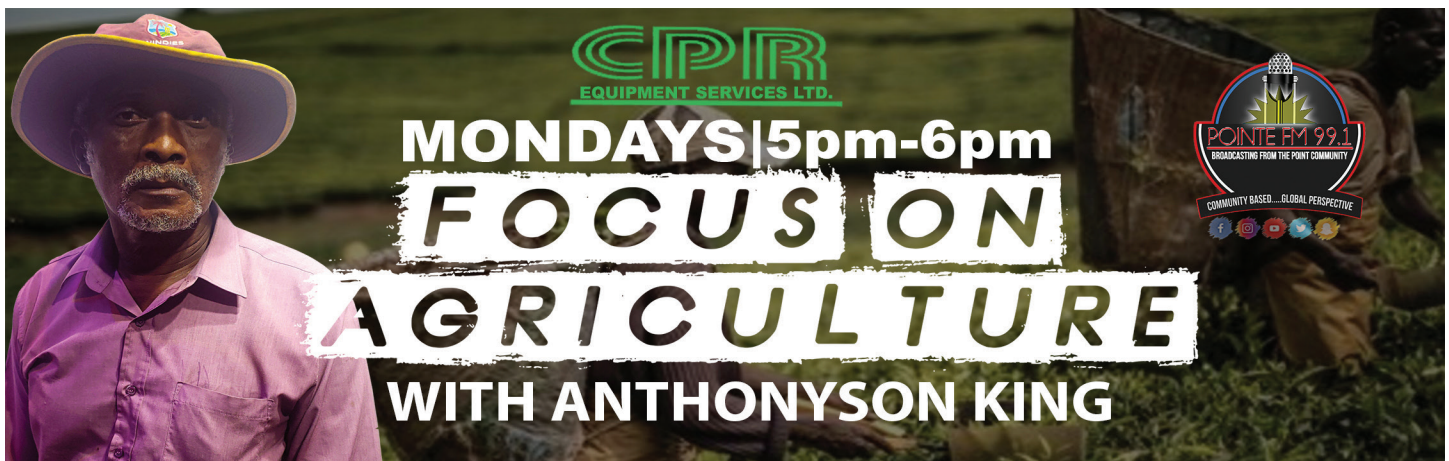
Following the workshop, there will be at least three training sessions held on different topics to include packaging, presentation, and export. It is envisaged that at least 100 vendors will be fully trained on operational efficiency by the end of the project.

Phase 4 will see the procurement of kiosk/stalls to improve vending operations to include standardization of vend-

ing structures to ensure phytosanitary conditions, alleviate the burden vendors' face in transporting goods back and forth daily, and improve the presentation along the major highways to make for better optics.

The final phase of the project will focus on supporting the facility at Dunbar's designed to conduct product testing, sample creation, research, and development to support agro-processing initiatives.

The Antigua and Barbuda Science Innovation Park (ABSIP) will serve as the main steering body for the project, providing support to the implementing entities as needed. ABSIP will work with key stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Antigua, and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA), and the Department of Analytical Services (DAS) and the Development Control Authority (DCA) to ensure efficient implementation of activities.



JCI Antigua awards 10 young entrepreneurs in 2020 YEP Awards



On Saturday evening, ten young Antiguan and Barbudans were awarded JCI Antigua's Youth Empowerment Program COVID-19 Entrepreneur of the year.

The fourth annual event, due to COVID-19 health protocols, took a slightly different approach.

The gala took place in a mixed virtual setting with only the awardees and production team at the Office of the Prime Minister while over a thousand viewers and supporters tuned into the live feed on Facebook.

According to Co-Chairpersons of the YEP Committee, Samara Emmanuel and Derrica Watson, despite the difficulties caused

by the pandemic, the annual event was a pivotal endeavor for the committee.

"This year, the awards meant so much more because we have all recognized the resilience of our young people across the island. And what better way to recognize them, than to join with the corporate community to award these entrepreneurs," Emmanuel said.

Watson continued, "The 10 Entrepreneurs awarded that night, the young professionals in Antigua and Barbuda who, despite these unpredictable and unprecedented times, have managed to put their entrepreneurial skills to use

during the COVID-19 pandemic, we say to them, continue to blaze a trail that will inspire others to follow."

The ten awardees were all between the ages of 18 and 40. A 19-year-old was the youngest recipient. According to committee members, however, the highlight of the gala were the stories of trial and triumph told by the awardees.

The awardees included Clara Lewis, the 29-year-old owner of 'What's The Scoop?', a homemade ice cream business launched in June 2020.

"I started my business a few months after losing my job as a chef at a local hotel due to COVID-19. I

was running low on funds and having a child to support. Starting a business was always a dream of mine, but I never thought it would have become a reality, especially during a worldwide crisis such as this," Clara shared.

"I stopped selling Mangoes by mid-May and by faith used my last \$100 to buy ingredients needed to make ice cream."

Eldica Samuel of El's Bowls & Blends, which opened in July 2020, also received an award. Although employed by the government, Eldicia said she needed to find ways of augmenting her income to help support her family.

The youngest awardee

cont'd on pg 12

cont'd from pg 11

that night was 19-year-old Jakobi Gilgeous who saw the restricted movement of people because of COVID-19 as an opportunity to launch 'Errands4You', a delivery and concierge service provider which started on the cusp of the pandemic in January 2020.

Twenty-year-old Javhone Miller, also received the auspicious award as he started his retail business, 'TopBrands268' in August 2020. Javhone admitted that running a business has not been easy, but it is quite rewarding.

Mother of two, Kishma Joseph-Dupuis of 'Kishee's Treats and Things' which started in June 2020 went into business after she recognised the importance and sustainability of retailing snacks and household items at an affordable rate.

Brandon Matthews of

'Bridged Ideas' graphic design became a financial victim of the pandemic after his place of employment was forced to close for several months due to COVID-19.

Brandon, the COVID-19 Entrepreneur of the year, said this downtime finally gave him the opportunity to create his own business which was launched in August this year.

28-year-old Kesra Pelle of Ray of 'Sunshine Garlic Butter' was also a victim of the economic fallout of COVID-19. After losing her job at a hotel, Kesra decided that she would begin to produce garlic butter to fill this void in many local supermarkets due to import issues. Since launching in August 2020, Kesra's product can now be found in over fifteen retail stores across the island.

Kesra also received the COVID-19 Entrepreneur of the year.

Also receiving the award was Tomeka Cole, the 28-year-old owner of 'To-Meeks Retail Outlet' which started in May.

Sharieta Charles of 'Shae Organic Soaps' shared the most emotional testimonial.

"For several years, particularly throughout my school life, I was scorned and looked at differently because of my skin. I used several products and soaps in an attempt to help to no avail. Thus, in June 2020, although met with several challenges and being unemployed, I decided that I would be the best person to get my skin where I wanted it to be!"

Unlike many of the other home based businesses who were awarded, 29-year-old Tiffany Ja-

cobs-Eugene of 'Nene Candy Frozen Treats' opened a physical store when she opened her ice-cream doors in August 2020. This bold move secured her the highly regarded YEP Youth award of COVID-19 Entrepreneur of the year.

The virtual gala was treated to live performances by King Vicious, a past YEP awardee and Renegade Sound.

JCI Antigua 60th president, Andrea Smithen-Henry offered remarks.

Sponsors of the awards included, The Halo Foundation, Happy Kids, President Andrea Smithen-Henry, Delicieux Cafe, JCI Senator Adrian Zachariah, Vice President Calvin H. Thornhill, JC Renata Thomas and JCI Antigua Past Vice President Chinoir Ijeh.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday November 20th 2020

Francis Trading Agency Ltd, an Antiguan owned business in operation for the past 48 years, is proud to announce the opening of its new headquarters. All departments currently located on High St., including the FedEx department, MY BOX U.S. Mailbox department and the Ocean Freight department will be closed to the public on Thursday November 26th & Friday November 27th. Offices will be re- opened in the New Nevis St. Headquarters on Monday November 27th.

Francis Trading Agency Ltd is thankful to its customers, employees, stakeholders, and the Government of Antigua & Barbuda for ensuring a smooth construction process and office transition during these times.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: info@francistrading.com

Tel: (268) 462-0854

Facebook: [@francistradingagencyltd](https://www.facebook.com/francistradingagencyltd)

Instagram: [@francistradingagencyltd](https://www.instagram.com/francistradingagencyltd)

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 (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**.



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SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Caricom to assist Caribbean countries with environmental concerns

Caribbean News Now - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) will assist 79 Caribbean nations to tackle environmental concerns in the period of five years.

In a release, CARICOM said that the Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cartagena Convention, along with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) are jointly implementing the five-year programme in an effort to strengthen the response and to enhance capacities to fully engage in the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) implementation.

"This programme will support and guide Caribbean countries as they address the challenges associated with the sound management of chemicals and waste, marine pollution, coastal erosion and loss of biodiversity."

Funded by the European Union the programme is entitled Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP Coun-

tries Phase III (ACP-MEAs)

"The MEAs play a critical role in achieving sustainable development; they guide national and regional action on environmental issues and provide a legal basis at the global level to address ecological concerns. The coherent implementation of environmental treaties contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and environmental targets established by countries in the region. However, transforming these commitments into tangible on-the-ground results remains a challenge for many Caribbean countries. This is due to a lack of adequate financial and human capacity to address the scientific and technical issues that have become increasingly complex."

CARICOM likewise said although progress has been made to address environmental threats and conserve terrestrial and marine ecosystems, the momentum has not been enough in the Caribbean to reverse the continued trend of environmental degrada-

tion and loss of critical biodiversity.

"As a community with islands identified as the world's top biodiversity hotspots, these changes impact our unique species and increase habitat loss and vulnerability of extinction of valuable ecosystems for goods and services. Consequently, despite all our advances, we will always remain dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy."

CARICOM emphasized that through the ACP MEA Phase III Project, Caribbean countries are being supported in their efforts to strengthen their regulatory processes, and mechanisms to influence environmental actions and outcomes including local, national and regional institutional capacities to meet these goals and secure a sustainable future.

Some of the priorities for the Caribbean under the project include the effective integration of environmental concerns addressed in MEAs into national and regional

policies and laws.

This also comprises strengthening regional negotiation skills, awareness-raising, support to the development of information systems, environmental assessments, the establishment of marine protected areas and sharing of relevant experiences.

"In addition, the better management of coastal areas and oceans; carrying out measures for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity; and effectively implementing the related regional seas conventions. In order to substantially reduce marine litter levels, it will be essential to develop appropriate programmes and measures to stop waste from entering the marine environment, both from sea-based and land-based resources."

Along with the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and FAO, CARICOM said it will continue to empower key stakeholders to address environmental challenges and achieve improved environmental management at the national and regional levels.

Trinidad & Tobago deports 16 Venezuelan children moments before court hearing

Trinidad Express - Minutes before an emergency court hearing on Sunday at 12.30pm, 16 Venezuelan children were forced to board two pirogues to take them back to Venezuela.

Attorney Nafessa Mohammed said it is an inhumane act to place these children in an uncovered pirogue and speedily shuttle them back to Venezuela in full knowledge that an application had been made to the court on their behalf.

She said this is an abuse of power, authority and total disrespect for the court process.

On Saturday Mohammed appealed to the authorities to not deport 16 Venezuelan children, including a four month old baby, on a boat from Cedros.

She made an emergency habeas corpus application to the court on Sunday to stop the deportation.

Despite this, orders were given to bring in the pirogues and the children were taken from the Cedros police station to the treacherous seas and rainy weather.

Mohammed said there is need for an investigation on who gave the

orders for the children to be shipped back to Venezuela mere minutes before the court matter.

The 16 children came to Trinidad a week ago and were held by police in Chatham. They were taken to the Erin police station where they have been for the past week.

On Saturday, they were transported to the Cedros police station where arrangements were being made to put them on a boat and send them back to Venezuela.

Mohammed said these children have relatives in Trinidad who are registered and have Trinidad and Tobago registration cards.

She said they were all tested for COVID-19 at the police station and the results were negative.

She pleaded for authorities to have a heart as these children have already endured the trauma of surviving a treacherous sea journey to Trinidad and then detained at a police station for days.

Mohammed's plea fell on deaf ears as the children were deported from the country on the pirogues on Sunday afternoon.



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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, detail-oriented 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

Barbados Hotel & Tourism Authority: "Tourism can't survive without workers"

Barbados Nation - The Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) will not tolerate members who do not conform to proper industrial relations practices.

Chief Executive Officer, Senator Rudy Grant, said no business could be successful without its workers.

"All persons must adhere to good labour relations practices and where that does not occur, we will take the necessary action. We will not endorse, nor will we embrace any situations where members do not conform to the best labour practices. It is critical and important that in this very challenging pandemic environment that we are all able to work together," Grant said.

He was speaking during a joint press conference with officials from the BHTA, the Barbados Workers' Union and the National Insurance Department that was hosted by Prime Minister Mia Mottley at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre on Saturday.

Grant said the Ministry of Tourism and the Barbados Tourism and Marketing Inc. would be working with the BHTA to expand the staycation offerings for locals.

He noted there were some Barbadians who did not believe they were able to participate as they would like and tourism officials should use this opportunity to make it inclusive and beneficial to all Barbadians.

Meanwhile, BHTA chairman Geoffrey Roach said they identified employee welfare as an issue and concern, because tourism could not survive without the workers in the industry.

He said they also recognised some hoteliers were not following good industrial relations practices to "ensure a climate of harmony is maintained" not only between the worker and employer, but the BHTA and the BWU. He said it was in this vein that scheduled meetings were held with the BWU to address issues that might arise.

Roach said it was only in a spirit of collaboration that tourism could move forward out of the "crisis" now affecting the industry.

St. Kitts and Nevis records first COVID-19 case since October 31 border reopening

St. Kitts Nevis Observer - St. Kitts and Nevis has recorded a new case of COVID-19. This takes the total number of confirmed cases to 20, 14 in St. Kitts and six in Nevis, since the first case was reported in late March.

The individual is in a stable condition and is the lone active case of COVID-19 in the Federation.

The 20th case arrived in the Federation on a charter flight on November 8, announced Chief Medical Officer Dr. Hazel Laws on November 21, during a special briefing of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC).

The individual has been in quarantine since arriving on the island and is now in isolation.

Dr. Laws said that the travel health and safety measures designed to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus are working.

"We want to assure the general public that the protocols have been followed along the corridor of containment between the airport and the arrival of the individual at the accommodation site," she said.

Dr. Laws announced that health authorities have conducted supplemental/ refresher training sessions with the staff of the accommodation site where the individual is housed. The training took place earlier today on November 21.

"We underscored all the protocols that are to be followed as they host international travellers," said Dr

Laws.

Similar training sessions are being offered to staff at other quarantine sites as health authorities work to flatten the curve of any new cases that may be imported into the twin-island state.

St. Kitts and Nevis reopened its borders to regional and international travellers on October 31. All travellers must submit a negative RT-PCR test three days prior to their travel date before being allowed to travel to the Federation. They are then tested on arrival and placed in quarantine. Depending on the length of stay, they will be tested again at least once before being released from quarantine. Each person must have a negative PCR



Dr. Hazel Laws Chief Medical Officer St. Kitts and Nevis

test before being released from quarantine.

The last two cases of COVID-19 in St. Kitts and Nevis were announced on September 18. No deaths have been recorded in St. Kitts and Nevis as a result of COVID-19 infection.

Americans could get COVID-19 vaccine in early December

BBC News - The first Americans to receive a COVID-19 vaccine could get it as soon as 11 December, according to the head of the US coronavirus vaccine programme.

Dr. Moncef Slaoui told US network CNN the plan was to "ship vaccines to the immunisation sites within 24 hours" of a vaccine being approved.

The comments come amid a surge in coronavirus cases across the country.

The US has recorded more than 12m cases and 255,000 deaths, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

These are the highest tolls registered anywhere in the world.

American pharmaceutical company Pfizer and its partner BioNTech submitted an application on Friday for emergency authorisation in the US of their COVID-19 vaccine. Data from an advanced trial showed the vaccine protects 94% of adults over 65.

Pfizer hopes to produce up to 50 million doses in 2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses in 2021. Each person needs two doses.

A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) vaccine advisory committee is set to meet on 10 December to discuss whether to authorise the vaccine.

Dr. Slaoui said the vaccine could be rolled out "maybe on day two

after approval, on the 11th or the 12th of December".

He said the vaccine would be distributed based on each state's population. States will be responsible for deciding who gets the vaccine first, but it is recommended that priority be given to those most at risk, like front-line workers and the elderly.

Dr. Slaoui said that by May, the country could achieve "herd immunity" with 70% of the population vaccinated.

US officials earlier granted emergency authorisation for an experimental antibody treatment, developed by Regeneron, given to President Donald Trump after his COVID-19 diagnosis.

Ethiopia crisis: Ethiopia troops to 'encircle and shell' Tigray city

BBC News - The Ethiopian army has told residents of the northern region of Tigray to "save themselves" as government troops advance on the capital, Mekelle.

The military plans to encircle the city - home to 500,000 people - with tanks and fire artillery, Col Dejene Tsegaye, a military spokesman, told state TV.

"Free yourselves from the junta... there will be no mercy," he said.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which controls the mountainous region, has vowed to keep fighting.

TPLF leader Debretsion Gebremichael told Reuters news agency that his forces had managed

to stall advancing federal troops.

"On south front, they couldn't move an inch for more than one week. They [are] sending waves after waves but to no avail," he added.

The government said its troops took over some key towns last week, however, information is difficult to confirm and claims cannot be independently verified because phone and internet connections have been down since the beginning of the conflict.

The conflict has reportedly killed hundreds and displaced thousands in recent weeks.

The UN has warned it could trigger a humanitarian crisis.

On Friday, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as the African Union Chairperson, announced the appointment of three former presidents to lead talks to end the conflict, but Ethiopia has rejected the offer because it sees the operation as an internal "law enforcement" mission.

"We don't negotiate with criminals... We bring them to justice, not to the negotiating table," Mamo Mihretu, a senior aide to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed told the BBC.

The conflict is rooted in longstanding tension between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the powerful re-

gional party, and Ethiopia's central government.

When Mr. Abiy postponed a national election because of coronavirus in June, tensions escalated. The TPLF sees the central government as illegitimate, arguing that Mr Abiy no longer has a mandate.

On 4 November the Ethiopian prime minister announced an operation against the TPLF, accusing its forces of attacking the army's northern command headquarters in Mekelle.

TPLF has rejected the claims.

Its fighters, drawn mostly from a paramilitary unit and a well-drilled local militia, are thought to number 250,000.

Guatemala protesters set fire to congress as violence erupts over controversial budget



Fiery protests break out in Guatemala

Sky News - Hundreds of people have broken into congress in Guatemala and burned part of the building amid growing protests in the Central American country.

It happened on Saturday as around 10,000 people gathered peacefully at the National Palace in the capital, Guatemala City. They were protesting over the passing of a controversial budget that increased debt but cut education, health, justice and human rights spending.

Protesters say it was negotiated in secret and approved before dawn on Wednesday while the country was distracted by the COVID pandemic and the fallout from several hurricanes.

The extent of the damage at congress is unclear, but offices rather than the main

hall are believed to be affected.

Police fired tear gas and about a dozen people were hurt as around a thousand gathered at the building. Protesters also set fire to some bus stops.

Referring to the anger over the budget, student Mauricio Ramirez said: "I feel like the future is being stolen from us. We don't see any changes, this cannot continue like this."

"We are outraged by poverty, injustice, the way they have stolen the public's money," added psychology professor Rosa de Chavarria.

President Alejandro Giammattei tweeted that anyone involved in "criminal acts will be punished with the full force of the law".

He said people were entitled to protest but destruction of proper-

ty was unacceptable, adding that he had been meeting various groups over changes to the budget.

Anger boiled over after politicians passed measures such as the tens of thousands of dollars to pay for meals for themselves, while cutting funding for coronavirus patients and human rights agencies.

Protesters were also expressing their discontent over what they say are attempts by the Supreme Court

and attorney general to undermine the fight against corruption in the country of 17 million.


Vice president Guillermo Castillo offered to resign if the president did the same "for the good of the country".

He also proposed vetoing the budget and firing government officials.

President Giammattei, who only came to power in January, has not responded publicly to the proposal.

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G20 leaders promise fair access to coronavirus vaccines

AlJazeera - Leaders of the world's 20 biggest economies have said they would ensure an affordable and fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, drugs and tests around the world so that poorer countries were not left out, according to a final summit communique which, however, gave few specifics.

As the coronavirus pandemic rages - having so far infected 58 million people globally and killing 1.3 million - the club of the world's richest nations adopted a

unified stance on the challenges ahead during the virtual gathering hosted by Saudi Arabia.

In Sunday's communique, the G20 countries said they supported a global project for vaccines, tests and therapeutics - called Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator - and its COVAX facility to distribute vaccines.

"We have mobilised resources to address the immediate financing needs in global health to support the research, development, manu-

facturing and distribution of safe and effective Covid-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines," the statement said.

"We will spare no effort to ensure their affordable and equitable access for all people."

After a weekend of "digital diplomacy", however, their closing communique lacked details on many of the issues dominating the meeting.

"Some of these commitments were made earlier in the year, they are not new," said James Bays, Al Jazeera's diplomatic editor.

"There were some very specific demands coming from the aid sector, from charities, from international aid groups and the UN itself," he added.

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres had said another \$28bn (£21bn) was needed to develop vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, including \$4.2bn before the end of this year, but the final communique made no mention of these sums.

While richer na-

tions plan their vaccination programmes - with the United States expecting to launch in mid-December - experts warn that developing countries face hurdles that could deny billions the first proven protection against the virus.

On Sunday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed concern that no major vaccine agreements had been struck yet for poorer countries.

"We will now speak with (global vaccine alliance group) GAVI about when these negotiations will begin because I am somewhat worried that nothing has been done on that yet," Merkel told reporters in Berlin after the virtual G20 meeting.

The G20 summit's final communique was approved unanimously by all countries, but Turkey wanted its "voice to be heard", according to Saudi Arabia's Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan. A separate statement from Ankara detailing its views towards the communique was expected to be released later.

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Date: Monday 23rd November 2020

Time: 8:30AM - 11:30AM

Affected areas: Section of All Saint Road, Otto's New Town & Martin Village

Date: Wednesday 25th November 2020

Time: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Skerritts Pasture near Scrabbler's Mechanic Shop

Date: Thursday 26th November 2020

Time: 8:30AM - 11:30AM

Affected areas: Blue Waters and Boon's Point areas

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page.

Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.





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CUB IS MAKING CHANGES

Customers have come to expect the best and easiest banking experience from Caribbean Union Bank, and we have worked hard to deliver on that expectation. Over the years, we have developed some of the best electronic and remote banking services available to customers today and customers have responded by using them more and more each day. To continue to meet our goal of delivering better rates and lower fees to all customers, as well as maintaining the state-of-the-art banking products you deserve, we have made a decision to close one of our locations. With the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, we have decided to redirect these resources to better benefit all of our stakeholders.

We wish to advise that effective November 30th, 2020, we will be permanently closing our Jolly Harbour Branch. Customers currently using this branch can still bank in person at the following convenient locations:

- ***Our Main Branch at Friar's Hill Road;***
- ***Our Factory Road Branch in the Starling Business Centre.***

Both branches are open Mondays to Thursdays 8:00am to 1:00pm and Fridays 8:00am to 2:00pm.

Customers can utilize both branch locations to make deposits and withdrawals, loan payments, credit card payments, cash advances and more. Additionally, our Friar's Hill branch offers a drive-through option for your convenience as well as a night depository facility. Our Factory Road ATMs offer 24-hours deposit facilities. All customer files will be transferred to either of the named locations in a seamless transition.


Additionally, we advise of a temporary disruption to our ATM service in the Jolly Harbour area effective December 1st, 2020. This maintenance period will enable us the opportunity to relocate the ATM to a new, convenient location within the complex in the shortest time frame possible.

PLEASE CONTACT US AT CUSTOMERSERVICE@CUB.AG OR CALL US AT 481-8278 AND WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU DURING THIS TRANSITION.


LET US ALL CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE. #CUBCARESBANK ON US!



LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

MON 11/23  **29° Hi** DAY Mostly sunny with scattered showers
25° Lo NIGHT Partly cloudy and warm with a late-night shower

Sunrise 6:17 AM	Sunset 5:31 PM	Moonrise 1:35 PM	Moonset 1:35 AM
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TUE 11/24  **29° Hi** DAY Sunny and nice
25° Lo NIGHT Partly cloudy and warm

Sunrise 6:17 AM	Sunset 5:31 PM	Moonrise 2:10 PM	Moonset 2:21 AM
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YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Try talking to someone you'd never have considered talking to before. You don't have to have a long conversation. Just saying hello is all it takes for you to open up your attitude about different cultures and different beliefs.

TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Putting effort into minimizing your risk doesn't always pay off. Sometimes you just can't avoid it no matter how hard you try. You could be paralyzing yourself by focusing so much on what could go wrong.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

It looks like one of your more casual friendships is moving to a much deeper level. This is wonderful, but some of your older friends might be getting a bit jealous that this newer person is taking up so much of your time.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

Your energy flow looks nice and easy now. You're perky when you need to be perky and mellow when cooler heads need to prevail. This is the perfect time to just relax and go with the flow.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

A vibrant and good energy is coming into your world, and it could once again ignite your urge to travel. If you're able, take the opportunity. This is a wonderful time to go out and explore new cultures, foods, and vistas.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Despite how much you love your family, you might have to let go of a family obligation today. There simply isn't enough time in the day. They love you, so they'll understand. But try to make sure it doesn't happen again.

LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Being idealistic isn't the same as being naive. Don't be afraid to hope for the best and wish for a more peaceful world. When you focus on making things better, you influence other people to do the same.

SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Today, an impulse could be your saving grace. In the midst of any action, you might have an urge to make a different choice or go another way. And if you do, you should obey that urge. Switch your lunch order if the mood hits.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Fulfill your responsibilities as early as you can and then spend the rest of your time exploring the things that interest you, whatever they may be. Being happy should be a priority today.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

No one is perfect, and that includes you. So why are you holding yourself to such an impossibly high standard? You think that anything is possible if you just persevere, but that simply isn't the case.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Despite the negative attitude of a more uptight friend, you're loving your favorite people more than ever right now. Even that grouchy pal seems amusing to you. You love everyone's foibles just as much as their charms.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

There is a heightened level of sensitivity around you today, which means that your words carry extra weight. Be aware that what you say will have a bigger impact than you may intend. It's a good skill to master anyway.

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.

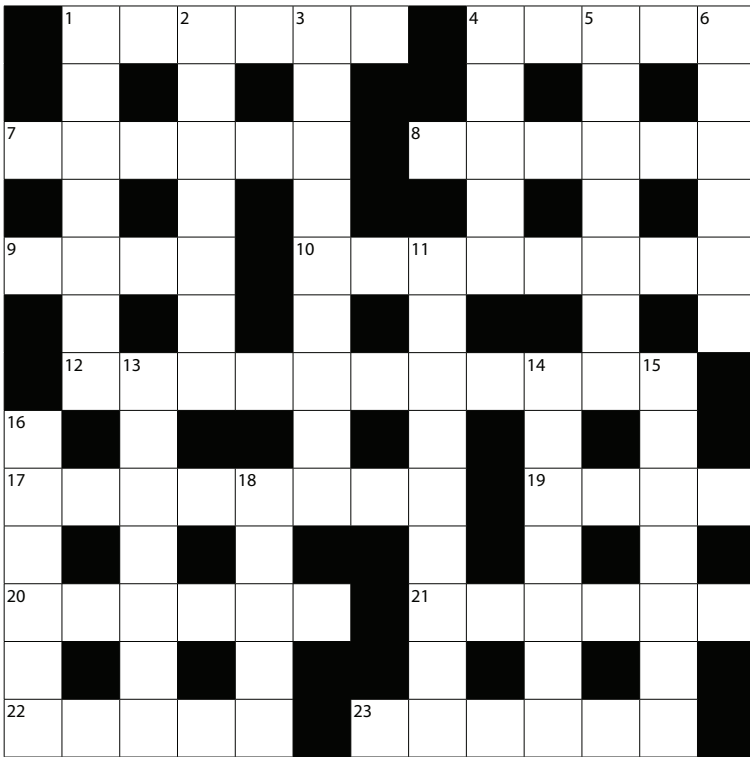
DIABETES SCREENING

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

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

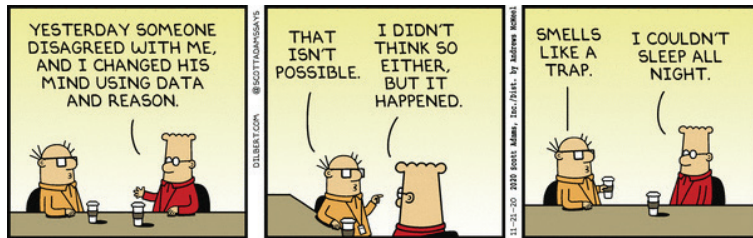
- 1 Weak person (informal) (6)
- 4 Confused sounds (5)
- 7 Film star in The Iron Lady, b. 1949 (6)
- 8 Small fry (6)
- 9 Europe's highest active volcano (4)
- 10 Wipe out a large number (8)
- 12 Thrilling in effect (11)
- 17 Italian aristocrat (8)
- 19 Proverbially, brass can be found beside this (4)
- 20 Not dressed (6)
- 21 Hard to understand (6)
- 22 Choose (5)
- 23 Resist (6)

Down

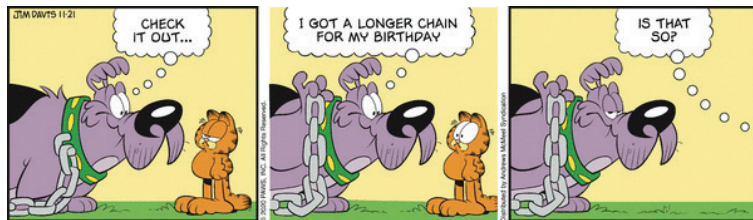
- 1 Changes into something else (7)
- 2 Get ready (7)
- 3 Speeds up (9)
- 4 Pancakes served with sour cream (5)
- 5 Brightly coloured neckerchief (7)
- 6 Modest — restrained (3-3)
- 11 Thrilled to bits (4-1-4)
- 13 Distinctive elegance (7)
- 14 Pain in the lower back (7)
- 15 What, say, Howard Hughes became (7)
- 16 From Liverpool? (6)
- 18 Precise (5)

DAILY COMICS

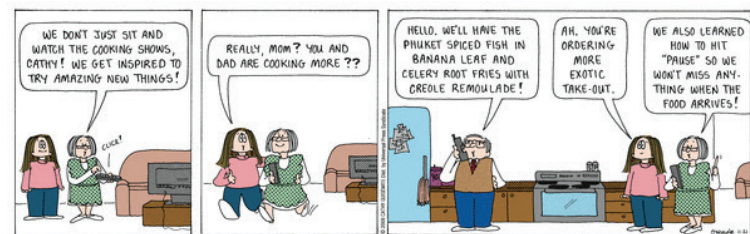
Dilbert



Garfield



Cathy



SUDOKU

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

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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Defending NBA champions LA Lakers beef up their roster

Reigning NBA Sixth man of the Year Montrezl Harrell has signed a two-year deal with Lakers.

After winning the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year Award with the Los Angeles Clippers, Harrell agreed to a two-year, \$20 million deal to play for the Lakers, his agent Rich Paul of Klutch Sports, told USA TODAY Sports.

The animosity between two intra-city rivals just took a dramatic turn because of Harrell's move.

The move elicited a response from Clippers guard Patrick Beverly, whose post on twitter, which featured face-palm and cursing face emojis accompanied by the word "What" captured his emotions well.

Beverly added in a follow-up tweet that he was "happy for" Harrell.

The Lakers acquired a player that posted career highs in points (18.6) and rebounds (7.1) last season with the Clippers. It is understandable that the Clippers would be a bit surprised by Harrell's move to the Lakers.

Haiti Football federation president banned for life



Haiti football president Yves Jean-Bart

Following accusations of systemic sexual abuse of female players, Haiti's football president, Yves Jean-Bart, was banned from the sport for life on Friday.

Jean-Bart was found guilty of "having abused his position and sexually harassed and abused various female players, including minors, by a FIFA ethics committee.

Jean-Bart, who was also fined one million Swiss francs (US\$1.1 million), has denied the allegations, which involved national team players.

The accusation was first brought to light by British newspaper, The

Guardian, in April.

The country's national training center funded by FIFA named Croix-des-Bouquets, where the abuse is said to have happened, was also known as "The Ranch".

Jean-Bart wielded huge power with high level connections into government, political legal systems as the head of Haitian football since 2000, Human Rights Watch said.

The players affected have complained of being intimidated and threatened and Haitian state authorities have been urged by advocacy groups to investigate the claims.

cont'd from pg 28

closed that the executive is completing the process of gathering information which will be presented to the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) in an effort to secure financial assistance toward the club's upgrades.

The ABCA recently as-

sisted Liberta, Empire, Jennings, New Winthropes, Bethesda and Rising Sun with money to purchase and install nets valued at over \$60,000 ECD.

Francis-James said she is enjoying her senatorial role and the opportunity it gives her to assist people in her community with

their various needs and particularly as it allows her to encourage women to continue educating themselves.

The senator has also been busy assisting the government in distributing food packages to those in need.

Francis-James, who suf-

fered a severe case of food poisoning in 2019 from food she had purchased at a local restaurant, also made an appeal to restaurant owners practise good food handling and hygiene and to be vigilant for rodents and other disease carrying vectors.

West Indies and New Zealand A training match drawn

West Indies and New Zealand A tour match in Queenstown ended in a draw. batting first New Zealand A posted 308 for 3 declared.

Ravindra played well for 112 off 187 deliveries with support coming from Conway and Carter who posted 46 and 41 not out respectively.

Alzarri Joseph, Chamar Holder and Reifer pick up a wicket each. In reply West Indies lead by the returning Darren Bravo accumulated 366 with the Trinidadian showing early form scoring 135 off 214 deliveries.

Kraigg Brathwaite added 47 and Shamar Brookes 42. Duffy bagged 3 for 49 and Tickner 2 for 66.

Scores: NZ 308/3d. W.I 366



West Indies and New Zealand draw in A tour match in Queenstown

Jay-Z's Roc Nation agency partners with Leeds United



Founder of Roc Nation music and sports agency Jay-Z

Premier League newcomers Leeds United have marked their long awaited return to the top flight by signing a new partnership with

Jay-Z's Roc Nation agency. In doing so they join the likes of global music superstars Rihanna, Alicia Keys and DJ Khaled on its roster, as well

known footballers Kevin de Bruyne and Marcus Rashford.

The partnership unveiled on Saturday in the form of a mural depicting homegrown Leeds and England mid-

fielder Calvin Phillips, alongside club legends Lucas Radebe and Albert Johansson in Leeds city center.

Roc Nation, a leading music and sports agency aims to "support the growth of the Leeds United brand in key markets of the USA and Asia".

"It's partnership that shows where Leeds United are now and the ambition of the club will continue to grow," said the club's sporting director, Victor Orta.

Pigotts Sports Club planning for 2021

President of the Pigotts Sports Club, Senator Bakesha Francis-James, says the organisation is planning for 2021 despite the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Francis-James, who appeared on Pointe FM's "Touchline" programme, said the organisation has put its football academy on hold and has rescheduled the planned launch of its grassroots cricket programme.

She continued that the Pigotts Sports Club is planning to resume some of its activities in January, including its football and cricket youth pro-

grammes, the installation of cricket nets, the relocation of the player's pavilion, and an upgrade of the grounds.

Senator Francis-James also addressed the club's overseas football players, who are mostly from Haiti and Cuba. She said they have kept in touch with the club and have expressed an interest in returning when it is possible to do so.

Francis-James, said however, that in 2021 she would prefer for the club to place more emphasis on local talent, but that decision will be made after further discussions with the club's executive and coach.



Senator Bakesha Francis-James President of Pigotts Sports Club

"I am enjoying my tenure as President and would love to add the ABFA Premier football title and more cricket trophies before my reign is complet-

ed," she said.

Presently, Pigotts Sports Club is the reigning two-day cricket champion.

Meanwhile, Francis dis-

DEWS

cont'd on pg 26

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