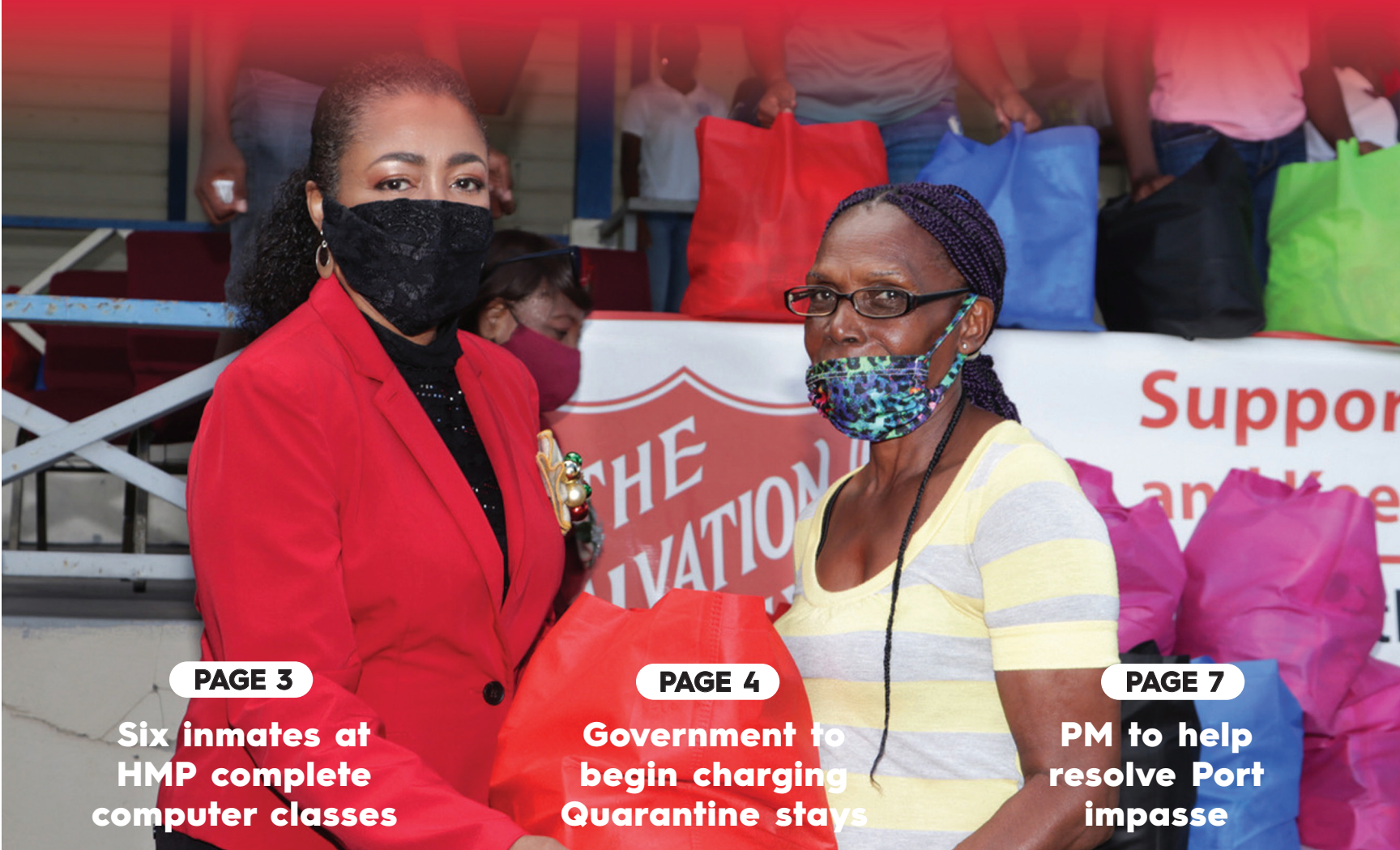




DECEMBER 28 DECLARED A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

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PAGE 3

Six inmates at HMP complete computer classes

PAGE 4

Government to begin charging Quarantine stays

PAGE 7

PM to help resolve Port impasse

Photo caption: Lady Sandra Williams makes a donation of a Christmas package as part of the Salvation Army's annual programme of assistance to families in need.

GUEST EDITORIAL

HUMAN RIGHTS AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA PT. 2

J'Moul Francis BA Law, LLM, (EU Law, Competition Law, and International Law); Commonwealth Scholar, Legal Commentary Blogger at www.francisobiter.org

Also, we have witnessed reoccurring issues regarding the prison and the conditions in which prisoners must subject themselves to undesirable situations whether in physical form, i.e. the inhumane facilities or intangible form, i.e. procedures all within, ironically, the justice system. Here, the prohibition against inhumane and degrading treatment takes into account the duration of the treatment, its physical and mental effects, along with the sex, age, and state of the person's health arising from the detention conditions.

Inhumane and degrading treatment need not be deliberate, it could stem from omissions, however, we must remember that human rights prevent us from stripping away the sinews of one's existence as a human being even though convicted by a court. This issue is controversial and requires widespread dialogue and the development of a consensus across society on how we should treat even those who are punished for breaching law and order.

Another controversial issue is the treatment of LGBTQ+ persons in society and the discrimination they face day in and day out. Although there have been significant strides regarding the respect given



J'Moul Francis BA Law, LLM

that respect given is void of accepting one's identity, which leads to tacit or indirect discrimination. Relevant here is the prohibition of discrimination and the protection of the individual and their right to express themselves and their identity as a human being, inclusive of their gender and sexual orientation. Many LGBTQ+ persons also face inhumane and degrading treatment, i.e. acts, policies, and institutional mechanisms which make one feel less than human often inflicting actual mental and physical harm.

Also, persons face the erosion of their right to private life, resulting in fear, harassment, and attacks on their physical and mental integrity, intellectual freedom, and honour and reputation. As a people, however, we must

legitimate role and business of the state or any group to regulate what happens in someone's intimate life, for what purpose and to what end.

Lastly, there are discussions currently centred around the protection of the environment and the need to balance economic development. This is an issue faced by all countries, developed and developing, however, in the context of human rights, the rights which are fundamental to one's dignity, identity, diversity, and sustainability should not be compromised in negotiations.

Also, in relation to the pandemic and with vaccinations on the horizon, human rights can ensure that no person is barred from inoculations on the grounds of race, sex, gender, creed, or nation-

ality since the pandemic affects us all equally.

Given these issues, particular nuances frame the way persons in our society view human rights. Generally, there is a lack of understanding and appreciation for the substance and benefits of human rights. Coupled with this reality, there is no prioritising per se of human rights within every-day life in professional, business, and social spheres. Moreover, given that the constitution provides and guarantees human rights while many human rights issues go unaddressed, law enforcement institutions and stakeholders of the rule of law must ask themselves whether they are doing enough to bringing about the universality and indivisibility of human rights for persons in Antigua and Barbuda.

One final point is the role and influence of the church in society and other civil society groups. Many of the biblical teachings and institutional doctrines of the church are more or less incompatible with human rights and significantly influenced how their members view the LGBTQ+ community, the equal and equitable treatment of women, freedom of expression, freedom of association et al.

cont'd on pg 3

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Although historians proved that throughout the ages the bible has been edited to reflect prevailing norms at each junction, there comes a day of reckoning when churches and other religious groups in society should give up promoting dogmatic teachings and doctrinal attempts to erode the aims, objectives, and benefits of human rights. This objective, however, requires an honest dialogue and an appreciation for a plurality of views and interpretations to co-exist peacefully for the greater good.

We all must play an in-

strumental part in planting human rights at the centre of our lives and livelihood and more so at the core of our socio-economic development as a people. It must start with the media's role in facilitating discussions on human rights issues through radio and television shows, publications, documentaries, and use of digital and social media platforms.

Also, advocates on social and other issues need to get more involved in actually assisting those who they advocate for rather than facilitating endless and meaningless

talk-shops. By this, advocates need to engage more directly with policy-makers; conduct substantial research and transform those findings into actionable and practical initiatives; and regularly interact with those whose rights are affected while providing more assistance where necessary.

There must also be legal reform to eliminate antiquated norms and principles that are incompatible with a modern and progressive society.

The time has come for us to embrace the full gamut of human rights and place it at the heart

of our development as a people. Although human rights are guaranteed in law, the reality is that in fact, human rights are not effectively enjoyed by all across all spheres of life and society. Positive action is required to prevent their erosion and further enhance the quality of the rights enjoyed. Hence, particularly for Antigua and Barbuda, recognising, guaranteeing, protecting human rights means realigning our values, our perception, and even our identity as a people if we truly want to become a modern, forward-thinking, and developed society.

Six inmates at HMP complete computer classes

Six inmates at Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) have successfully completed a three month introduction to computer training programme.

Prison Superintendent, Col. Eugene Phillip, said the graduation was held at HMP this week at the course's close.

The training was facilitated by Abraham of Computer Reset.

The inmates graduated with an average of 89 percent.

Col. Phillip revealed that this is the second group of inmates to graduate from the programme.

"The programme is designed to equip inmates with skills that will make their transition to society much easier when they complete their time at the penal institution," he remarked.

He also bemoaned the high rate of recidivism among inmates at the prison.

"There is one inmates who we released just last week. That was the 34th time that he has been released from the institution. I want to help these guys be better able to function on the outside. Many lack basic reading and writing skills and that account for their continued involvement in criminal behavior," he observed.

In the new year, an intermediary class will be added to the introductory computer programme now being offered. The superintendent also revealed that a current inmate will assist in teaching reading and arithmetics to his fellow inmates.

Col. Phillip added that in 2021 there are plans to partner with people who can facilitate training for the inmates in plumbing and electrical as part of the prison's expanding education programme.

NOTICE

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Her Worship
 The Licensing Magistrate
 District "A"
 Magistrate's Court
 Perry Bay
 St. John's
 Antigua

December 7th, 2020

We, Catherine Francis & Jefferson Reid, of Jennings Village, **DO HERE BY GIVE NOTICE**, that it is our intention to apply at the next ordinary session to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St John's Antigua on January 7th, 2021, ensuring for a Retail License in respect of my premises known as The Hood Convenient Stop, located in Jennings Village, pursuant of section 11 of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Catherine Francis - Tel: 728-6003
 Jefferson Reid - Tel: 723-5460

Government to begin charging quarantine stays

Changes are coming to the way the government operates its quarantine centres.

In the past, people required to quarantine in government centres were provided with three meals per day at the expense of the government. This arrangement is coming to an end.

Government spokesman, Melford Nicholas, said the government will soon charge persons required to stay at these facilities \$100.00 per day. This comes on the heels of the announcement that the Halcyon Hotel, which has served as the government's quarantine centre for the past three months, will begin renovations shortly and must be vacated.

The government has since decided that it will use the Jolly Beach Hotel, which is closed, as its new quarantine facility.

As part of the new policy changes, Nicholas said greater emphasis will be placed on having people quarantine in government operated facilities instead of at their homes.

"You would notice from the dashboard that we now have more people quarantining at home rather than at a government facility. This changed from what it was in the beginning when there [were] more people in the centre and not at home. When we announced the regime in the first instances we stated that we wanted people to pay \$100 to pay for their meals. There was

a push-back to that so the government relented. Providing free meals has cost the government over two million dollars and we cannot carry the cost any longer," he declared.

This new policy will largely affect nationals returning from abroad who must stay in the quarantine facility as the government moves to strengthen the management of this process.

As part of the quarantine process, individuals will also be required to wear a bracelet that will monitor their movements to ensure compliance.

The bracelets are programmed to sound an alarm at the Command Center whenever a person wearing the device breaches defined perime-

ters.

According to the Cabinet, as the number of people arriving in the country increases, so will the need for people to be quarantined. This in turn will result in the need for improved ways of ensuring compliance with the terms of a 14 day quarantine.

"The object is to prevent the spread of the coronavirus within the communities principally where family members of the visitors reside. The largest threat of contagion faced by the nation has come from returning nationals who disobey quarantine conditions and who then mingle with friends and family members before the 14 day quarantine period has ended," Minister Nicholas stated.

Terry 'Jahz' Lewis Releases Latest Single 'Love's All'

Terry Jahz Lewis is back with his latest song from 'Rise Up Universe', as he brings a quality team with him on 'Love's All' (ft. Robert Ball, Jeremy Ledbetter and Dave West).

The new single is like a bright buoy in the stormy seas of 2020. The passionate piano rhythm revs you up and gets you in the mood for a cold beverage and the comfort of the special person in your life.

Love is really all we need to be happy. While so much of the world is made up of indecision and unnecessary distractions, this marvelous song



brings a truthful perspective and forces the listener to ponder what life and love really entails. One's access to money, power and gadgets are of no

consequence when measured against simple moments looking into the eyes of someone you love all night, laughing and smiling at each other. It's about complete honesty and support which bind the trust and energy that transfix souls together as one.

'Love's All' (ft. Robert Ball, Jeremy Ledbetter and Dave West) from the exu-

berant talent of Terry Jahz Lewis is such a blessing after this cold and dark year.

This is a beautifully crafted song, full of glorious vocals, a piano section and intimate guitar.

Stream this song and the full album on Spotify plus find out more on Facebook.

Reviewed by Llewelyn Screen

Terry Jahz Lewis, a son of the soil making waves as a composer/performer in Toronto, Canada. You can find more info about Terry Jahz Lewis on the website (www.komfomusic.com). Check it out!

Antigua and Barbuda claims top tourism awards

Antigua and Barbuda emerged with three top awards at the 7th annual edition of The Our Caribbean Travel Awards.

The awards are made across 20 categories compiled by Caribbean Journal, an online publication.

The publication named Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez as the **Caribbean Tourism Minister of the Year**.

Explaining its choice of Fernandez, Caribbean Journal noted that Antigua and Barbuda was one of the first destinations to reopen for tourism, a decision that was not taken lightly as it did not come without risk.

"But the calming hand of Minister Charles Fernandez helped steward the country toward what has been one of the region's exemplary tourism relaunches, thanks in part to an exacting set of health and safety protocols for the island's hotel sector."

Caribbean Journal went on to say that Fernandez was instrumental in securing the country's position as a surging hotel development destination.

The award for **Caribbean All-Inclusive of the Year** went to Curtain Bluff resort located in Old Road.



Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez named Caribbean Tourism Minister of the Year

"The definition of all-inclusive has been constantly changing, but Curtain Bluff has always transcended the label, with an elegant, glamorous, charming character that has made it one of the region's most beloved beach resorts for nearly 50 years. And after several years of renovations and upgrades, it's a historic property that's harnessed of the design cues and hospitality innovations of the greatest luxury hotels," the publication stated.

The third award for Antigua and Barbuda

was won by Hammock Cove as the **Small All-Inclusive of the Year**.

"When Hammock Cove opened last year in Antigua, it was a standard-bearer for the hottest trends in the all-inclusive sector: private plunge pools, standalone accommodations, butler service. Now, all of these concepts don't seem trendy — they seem prescient. What Elite Islands Resorts Chairman Rob Barrett has cultivated is the ultimate getaway for the age of social distancing — one that happens to also be a

terrific all-inclusive resort," according to Caribbean Journal.

The publication pointed out the Caribbean's heavy reliance on travel and tourism trade and added that it is the essential and indispensable backbone of the region's entire economy.

"That's why in early June, the Caribbean, which had already mounted an admirable offensive against the pandemic, began reopening its borders for tourism and in six months, the Caribbean has largely set a global example for how to reopen in a careful, focused, safe manner — providing its signature sanctuary for travelers and an important injection of economic energy."

Caribbean Journal described the Caribbean as the most beautiful and resilient place on earth thanks to its people who have proven time and again that nothing can stop them.

Congratulatory messages have been offered to Minister Fernandez and both winning properties from several places including social media and the Office of the Prime Minister. Global Ports (Antigua) Ltd. is among the entities dispatching congratulations to Fernandez.

Closed companies owe Social Security millions

Concrete evidence of the significant negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Antigua and Barbuda's economy has been revealed in new data from the Social Security Board (SSB).

On Wednesday, Director of the SSB David Matthias and Deputy Director Geoffrey Joseph addressed Cabinet on the compliance of firms that are required to pay contributions deducted from the wages and salaries of the nation's workforce.

"The Cabinet learned that 926 companies have closed their operations since the onset of COVID-19. 426 of these companies are still owing the SSB deductions totaling \$9,000,000.00 approximately," the Cabinet Notes disclosed.

Matthias said there are over 4,300 companies

operating in the country. About half of those businesses are operated by self-employed people.

"We need more self-employed persons to come and register their businesses but we are aware that during the current pandemic this may be difficult," he stated.

Matthias said the high rate of business closures can only be reversed by increased economic activity in an improving economy.

While there have been closures, the SSB director noted that many new businesses that have opened during the pandemic.

"There is still hope!" he declared.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Notes revealed that the Barbuda Council owes the SSB \$21,000,000 for deductions made from wages and salaries but which

have not been paid over. Matthias said he spoke with the parliamentary representative for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, on Thursday in which he indicated a need for the talks on the matter.

According to Matthias, the outstanding amount dates back more than thirty years.

The SSB director further announced that a compliance team will be dispatched to Barbuda to encourage contractors working on the housing programme there to register with the scheme.

The Cabinet Notes also provided clarity regarding the government's standing with SSB.

"The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has been paying its required contribution in full and has provided additional amounts to meet the

shortfall in revenue caused by the layoffs in the private sector."

In order to ensure greater compliance with payment requirements, ten geographic zones have been created to which an equal number of Compliance Officers have been assigned.

"Construction workers, fisher-folk and some farmers, the self-employed, tend to pay nothing into the SSB. Upon reaching old age, many discover that they cannot pursue their accustomed livelihoods and are plunged into poverty. Their current contributions to SSB are therefore an investment which will bear fruit in their declining years. The SSB plans a series of radio and television series to inform and to nudge these self-employed workers to make regular contributions," the Cabinet Notes said.

December 28 declared a public holiday

Antiguans and Barbudans are in for a long break next weekend as the Christmas holidays approach.

The Cabinet decided on Wednesday that it will ask the Governor General to declare Monday 28th December a public holiday. This is because December 26, Boxing Day, will fall on a Saturday this year.

Cabinet's request has effectively extended the holiday weekend from Christmas day, which falls on a Friday this year, to Mon-

day, December 28.

Cabinet spokesman, Melford Nicholas clarified that the law only addresses what happens when Boxing Day falls on Sunday but is silent regarding what happens when it falls on Saturday.

Under those circumstances, the Cabinet took the decision that it would ask the GG to issue a proclamation declaring December 28 a public holiday.

Nicholas also addressed the close of business ac-

tivities on Christmas Eve.

"The Cabinet reiterated its policy, embedded in law, to bring an end to all commercial activity on Christmas Eve at 8:00 pm. Only essential services may continue past that hour. Gasoline stations and pharmacies are the essential services that may go beyond 8:00 pm," he explained.

Churches are allowed to continue their worship services past midnight on Christmas Eve and Old Year's night but must end

in time to allow worshipers to return home by 1:00 am.

"Private parties are limited to ten persons only and are to end before 1:00 am on Old Year's night/New Year's Day. Beaches are open on the holidays for limited hours from 5:00 am to 1:00 pm on the three holidays that are on the calendar, to wit: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day. Some consideration is being given to expanding the hours to maybe 3:00 pm," he stated.

PM to help resolve port impasse

Prime Minister Gaston Browne will use his office to help bring resolution to the current impasse between Antigua Port Authority's (APA) management and its employees over bonus payments for 2020.

PM Browne has invited the APA's management team and representatives of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) to a meeting on Monday to discuss a resolution.

Both sides are at loggerheads over the

payment of 2021 bonuses which is part of the collective bargaining agreement. There is mutual agreement between the two that the bonus should be paid based on productivity.

Port manager, Darwin Telemaque, told **PointeXpress** that based on the sharp decline in APA earnings this year, the decision to forego paying bonuses is in order. He revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a 30 to 40 percent reduction in the operation of the

port as it has handled less tonnage. He also disclosed that the port saw a reduction in activities in every month this year except March.

Additionally, during the early months of the pandemic, the port deployed only 25 workers in a bid to ensure that the operations at the port did not come to a complete stop.

During that time however, the port's more than 240 workers were paid their full wages or salaries.

ABWU Assistant Gen-

eral Secretary Chester Hughes has been unwilling to accept that productivity at the port declined in 2020 due to the pandemic and resulting slowdown in economic activity. He contends that there is no agreed measurement of productivity at the port.

Hughes has said the union suggested a respected regional authority to consult with APA on the matter, however, APA has not acted on its suggestion.

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NOTICE

To: Your Worship
 St. John's Magistrates Court
 Gray's Farm
 St John's
 Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
 Police Headquarters
 American Road
 St. John's
 Antigua

Re: Application for Liquor License

Dear Sir/Madame:
 I, Khaalil Quincy T. Moses Francis and Kyle I. K. Nicholas of English Harbour, with registered business situated at English Harbour St. Paul's Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Garrot Blacks Bar & Lounge" situated at English Harbour in the Parish of St. Paul's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 11th day of December, 2020

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
 St. John's Magistrates Court
 Gray's Farm
 St John's
 Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
 Police Headquarters
 American Road
 St. John's
 Antigua

Re: Application for Bottle License

Dear Sir/Madame:
 I, Rudaïn Horan of Marble Hill, with registered business situated at Redcliffe Street in the parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor license Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday, 7th January, 2021 next ensuring for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "R.R.'s Pita Shack" situated at Redcliffe Street in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated 16th day of December, 2020

OAS seats Venezuelan opposition representative despite Antigua and Barbuda's protest

Antigua and Barbuda forced a vote at the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) concerning the representation of Venezuela by the spokesperson for Juan Guaidó who is recognised by only 50 countries as the 'Interim President' of Venezuela.

Antigua and Barbuda is of the view that the representative of the Venezuelan opposition leader ought not be allowed to speak in the councils of the OAS.

"Juan Guaidó's agent was foisted on the OAS in 2019 by a bare majority of 18 countries even though he is spokesperson for only one political party in Venezuela," said Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador, Sir Ronald Sanders.

In a formal note to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Sanders said, "Allowing the views and positions of only

one political party to be expressed in any forum of the OAS is contrary to natural justice and democratic principles since it denies a similar opportunity to other political parties in opposition and government in Venezuela."

The ambassador said that in calling for a vote, "Antigua and Barbuda was standing up for democratic principles and the Charter of the OAS which some appear to have sacrificed on the altar of narrow political objectives that questions the credibility of the OAS.

"When the vote was taken, only 17 legitimate country representatives, along with Guaidó's agent, voted in favour of him making a presentation to the Council. This means there was not even a basic majority of 18 countries anymore."

This means that the move failed and Guaidó's representative was allowed to speak.

Antigua and Barbuda pro-

tested the decision to allow the representative to participate in the vote.

CARICOM countries were divided on the vote.

The Bahamas, Haiti and Jamaica voted with Guaidó's agent while Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines voted against. Seven CARICOM countries abstained and two were absent.

Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua did not vote with Guaidó's agent.

Venezuela formally withdrew from the OAS in 2019, having given two years notice in keeping with the rules of the Charter of the Organization. Since then, the OAS has been divided over the seating of Juan Guaidó's representative who has no authority to speak for or act on behalf of the government or other political parties in Venezuela.

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HOSTED BY JESSIE FYAH



SEN COLIN JAMES

OAS accommodation of Guaidó attack on Trinidad and Tobago wrongly allowed but rightly resisted

(The writer is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the U.S. and the Organization of American States. He is also a senior fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto)

Events at the Organization of American States (OAS) continue to reveal that, notwithstanding the efforts by some of its 33 member states, the Organization is the handmaiden of powerful governments which control it through various methods, including coercion.

Nothing symbolises this more glaringly than a presumptuous assault on the Government of Trinidad and Tobago by the agent of one small political party, purported to be the Government of Venezuela. The sordid event occurred in the OAS Permanent Council on December 16.

Some background is necessary. For various reasons, linked to the ambitions of political and business elites in certain countries, Juan Guaidó was selected as "Interim President" of Venezuela. The people of Venezuela had no say in Guaidó's selection or in his adornment with the title of "Interim President". Guaidó and his party cannot deliver any basic function of a government. They do not have the capacity to sell a one cent stamp to a Venezuelan, or to respond to governments that need to engage with the authorities in Venezuela.

Factually, Venezuela is not a member of the OAS. On 27 April

2017, the Venezuelan government properly notified the OAS Secretary-General of its withdrawal from the Organization in accordance with its rules. Consequently, the Charter ceased to be in force with respect to Venezuela whose membership of the Organization ended on 27 April 2019.

However, determined to exercise power over Venezuela, in April 2019, 18 governments - some willingly, others out of fear or by coercion - imposed Guaidó's agent as the representative of Venezuela at the Organization, by a bare majority vote. In effect, a small political party was given equal standing with sovereign governments - an unprecedented and alarming event. The other 15 governments rejected this imposition, making clear that they would be bound by no declaration or resolution which is adopted by a majority that included the Guaidó agent. Further, they made it pellucid that no attention would be paid to anything he said in the Organization.

The OAS is a house divided against itself. It is also financially bankrupt, in large part because, despite being regarded by a few member states and the Secretary-General as the 'government' of Venezuela, Guaidó's group has not paid a cent of the \$3.3 million in membership fees for 2019 and 2020. The recording of these monies as due from a country that is not a member of the Organization is another of the fallacies of the OAS.

Against this background, when



By Sir Ronald Sanders

Guaidó's representative requested - on his own and with none of his patron governments - the placement on the agenda of the Permanent Council of a presentation by himself on "Venezuelan Migration and Its Recent Tragic Consequences", the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda objected. The presumptuousness of the request to place any item on the agenda of the Permanent Council by an agent of one political party in a country, and the precedent it would set, had to be resisted.

The agent's intention was to escalate an attack on Trinidad and Tobago, launched by Guaidó on November 24, regarding the recent deaths of 16 Venezuelans who had left Venezuela illegally in a boat that appeared to have capsized. In a public statement Guaidó stated: "The cruel treatment to which they (Trinidad and Tobago) subject Venezuelans who have been forced to migrate as a result of the dictatorship is pain-

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ful and inhuman", and then he threatened, "Parliament will initiate an investigation and the world is watching the events in Trinidad and Tobago".

Consequently, Antigua and Barbuda told the Permanent Council that, apart from the fact that Venezuela is not a member of the OAS, "the purported representative of Venezuela is merely the spokesperson for only one of many political parties in Venezuela. Allowing the views and positions of only one political party to be expressed in any forum of the OAS is contrary to natural justice and democratic principles since it denies a similar opportunity to other political parties in Venezuela". Despite the efforts of the Chair to ignore a call for a vote on the matter, one was forced under the evident rules of the Organization.

The Guaidó supporters barely secured a majority of 18, including the vote of Guaidó's agent. Had Guaidó's agent not been allowed to vote (as he should not have) on

a matter in which he had a vested interest, the bare majority of 18 would not have been attained. Unfortunately, the representatives of three CARICOM countries - Bahamas, Haiti and Jamaica - were part of the 17 states that supported this abuse. Nonetheless, what was established is that support for the Guaidó farce is weakening as more countries opted to divorce themselves from the obvious abuse.

In his presentation, Guaidó's agent made baseless accusations against Trinidad and Tobago, claiming that "there have been abuses and mistreatment of Venezuelans in Trinidad" and demanding that "Trinidad and Tobago allow access to its territory and provide protection to people coming from Venezuela, observing due process and the principle of non-refoulement".

The Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago, Anthony Philips-Spencer, made a dignified and robust response that did not recognize Guaidó's agent, but rejected all his remarks. The Ambassador

was clear that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights had stated that the incident in which 16 Venezuelans had lost their lives had occurred "within Venezuela's jurisdiction". He pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago - a small island State - has compassionately taken the unprecedented step of officially registering and facilitating over 16,000 migrants from Venezuela to live and work in Trinidad and Tobago. This hospitality continues even as our economy faces significant challenges that have affected all of our own people." There should have been many shamed faces at the end of the Ambassador's response to the remarks by an agent with not one shred of authority to speak for the people and authorities of Venezuela.

This event reflects a perverse OAS no one should want, and which ill-serves the people of the Americas.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



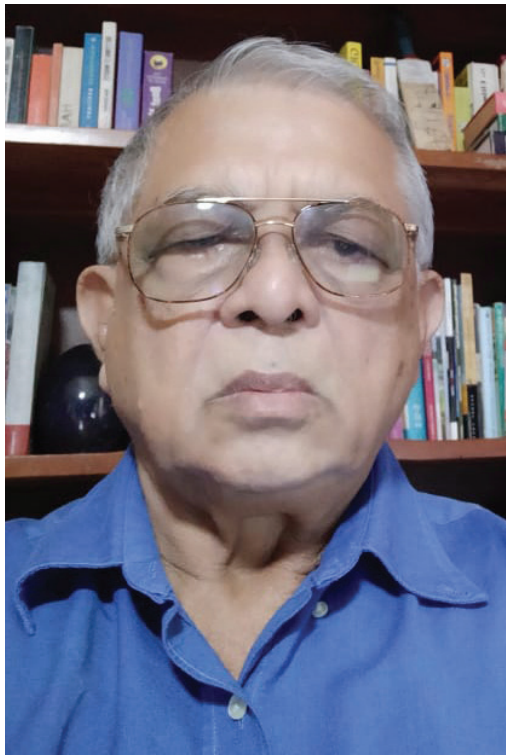
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LET THERE BE LIGHTS

By Tony Deyal

When Polonius asked Hamlet what he was reading and Hamlet replied, "Words, words, words" he wasn't joking at all. There are some words that do double, triple and multiple duties and, like body builders full of supplements, they have homonyms (words with identical spelling and pronunciations but with different meanings) and even homographs (same written word but different meanings). One common example is the four-letter word "love" which we apply to any object, emotion or event from spouses to cars, animals and the latest object of affection that catches our fancy. The Bible tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves but in tennis, love-all is a tie, something that I get every Christmas. Some of us love life itself and, as one of my teachers said to me a very long time ago, "Deyal, you really love to play the arse you know." And I replied, "Holy Mother of God, bray for our sinners now..." and made things much worse for myself.

There is a category for words with multiple meanings in the

record for the word which tops the charts in this group was set by the Oxford Dictionary and it is the word "set". According to Guinness, "The word with the most meanings in English is the verb 'set', with 430 senses listed in the Second Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, published in 1989. The word commands the longest entry in the dictionary at 60,000 words, or 326,000 characters." If you want to know some of the applications of "set", get ready, on your marks and get set. You could put something on the table so you set it down or you glue it and it is set, sometimes for life. Or it could be part of a movie set or the house in which you finally settle down. You can even set it in emeralds as a fancy bracelet or, like this article, set it in Times New Roman 12. If the 12 Old Romans ever get to find out I prefer the new ones, there will be a terrible set-to and that could set-up a war. My wife, Indranie, sets countless plants and when she tries to get me involved, I set off on some urgent business, setting an example that our daughter Jasmine sometimes follows but I really set the record, not straight, but when her face sets up at my first mention of having to go out, I leave before Indranie makes a set of noise. Despite all I've written so far about "set", the matter is not settled and there are a whole set of meanings still to come, over 400 of them. But I don't want to upset any of you so I will settle for the ones I drew to your attention.

While the Merriam-Webster

a "low shoe laced or tied over the instep", I suppose it springs from jealousy because Oxford already has the successor to "set" as the word with the most meanings waiting in the wings. In 2037, seventeen years from now, Oxford will release or complete the first print run of its newest English Dictionary in which it will set a new record with the word "Run" which will have 645 meanings in all. Right now, let me move from the low-down to a rundown of what these many meanings include. Computers "running" programmes, vehicles "running" on gas, election candidates "run" for office, and then run their mouths, or fail to run their Ministries properly and pretty soon are run out of power but not before giving you a run for your money until they run aground. Some are little runts and there was a Trinidad athlete who got so mixed up that, as my friend Bengo, disappointed by the country's poor showing in an Olympic event, observed angrily, "His mouth runs and his feet smell."

There are at least 10 words, including "go" and "put" which have hundreds of definitions. But before I go further, let me put my cards on the table and tell you that my word of choice, especially in this Christmas season, the one that I never take lightly is "light." I grew up right after the Second World War and we had to use candlelight, not just for carolling at Christmas, but for everything else. We also had "pitch-oil", paraffin or kerosene lights to read by and, the occasional "gas-lamp" but

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

they cost more than we could afford. I was eight, filling water by the standpipe over the road, when the yellow truck of the Electricity Commission arrived to "connect" us with electricity and the whole neighbourhood came out to watch and comment. I was elated because, as a serial reader and a reader of serials, the "torchlight" and lamplight hurt my eyes after a while. When my mother opened the door of the new fridge my father had bought, you should have seen her face light up!

However light and its mystique go back to the beginning of time

when the Lord said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night" and the faces of Adam and Eve lighted up and they remained light hearted for a while until the self-conscious Eve took flight from the light. While the Three Wise Men followed a starlight, we were having fun with star-lights in the yard on Christmas Eve. Once, when my father did not pay the light bill, we faced a conundrum - we were de-lighted. Every year we celebrated Divali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, and "lighted up" for Christmas. Every morning my mother

woke up my father and I before daylight, and the light of dawn met me trudging through the dewy Savannah grass on my way to the bus-stop. Even so, and even now, I remain light hearted and delight in small victories and holidays like Christmas which set my heart alight with the combination of family present and presents, and memories of time past. This is definitely not a time, when we are allowed by wives busily "dressing up" the place, including the Christmas tree lights, to be taken lightly. It is the one time in the entire Caribbean when God, regardless of how

we call Him, is totally among us and in our hearts and minds. As Maya Angelou wrote in "Amazing Peace", "Hope is born again in the faces of our children" and, in the "The Lights of Christmas," Marjorie Morrison says,

So, Christmas lights of red and green, Of amber, blue, and white,

We look beyond the lovely scene,

To God our Christmas Light.

*Tony Deyal was last seen asking what Adam said on the day before Christmas, "It's Christmas Eve."



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SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

PM wants to see more young entrepreneurs



Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness

(Jamaica Observer): Prime Minister Andrew Holness is calling on parents to encourage their children to become entrepreneurs, as this cohort can significantly aid in spurring the growth of the economy.

"I would say to parents that you need to start to have this kind of conversation with your children about them becoming entrepreneurs, about them understanding what risk is about, about getting the ideas and the innovation [and turning them into fruitful ventures],"

he said.

The prime minister was speaking at a function to honour the work of business mogul, Ian Levy, at the AC Marriott Hotel in Kingston on Tuesday.

He further urged parents to impress upon their children to not only see themselves as consumers and workers, "but people who can take the ideas that they have in their heads, go to the banks, go to a financier or go to a friend and mobilise the equity; who can take the risk of taking on a loan, renting a space for a

factory, pulling all those factors of production together and making something of it," he said.

At the same time, Holness implored Jamaicans to be more receptive towards entrepreneurs and the value they bring to the country through the opportunities they create and the resources they garner.

"It is an unfortunate element of our culture that people who are entrepreneurs and people who engage in risk-taking and people who go out and mobilise resources are sometimes looked upon in a negative way... but if we are to truly embrace the vision that we have of ourselves - Jamaica, the place of choice; Jamaica the great nation - we must, as a country, start to embrace our entrepreneurs and our businessmen [and women]... We need our business people and we must encourage them," he emphasised.

In the meantime, Holness hailed Levy, whom he has known for more than a decade, as "a great human being, a great person" who is very passionate about his various endeavours.


 A promotional graphic for the radio show "Home Grown Experience". The background is a dark wood-grain texture. On the left is the logo for "POINTE FM 99.1" with social media icons. The main text "home grown experience" is in large, stylized yellow and white letters, with a sun and a pineapple icon. To the right, it says "SATURDAYS 2PM - 4PM" and "WITH LAWRENCE M". At the bottom, it says "SYNDICATED ON POINTE FM 99.1". On the right side, there is a partial image of a man's face.

Sandals chief questions resort link to Grenada COVID-19 outbreak



Sandals' Adam Stewart

(Travel Pulse magazine): Sandals Resorts International was prominent in travel news this week following a COVID-19 outbreak in Grenada that local press reports linked to the company's Sandals Grenada property. Company officials have challenged the reports, the first to connect any of the all-inclusive resort giant's properties, which have resumed operations

in nine countries since the pandemic, with a coronavirus outbreak.

We spoke with Adam Stewart, the Deputy Chairman of the family-run company, among the Caribbean's largest employers and a crucial hospitality operator across the tourism-reliant region, to discuss how Sandals is handling COVID-19 risks in general and the Grenada reports.

TP: How did Sandals officials become aware of the COVID-19 cases linked to resort guests and staff?

AS: "This scenario started with our general manager, Peter Fraser, executing on our Sandals Platinum Protocols of Cleanliness, created specifically to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19. Peter requested that random sample testing take place at our resort prior to any direct concern being identified as a proactive measure to ensure we are monitoring for any potential risks.

"Peter is a top-class hotelier. So when the Ministry of Health gave us three unannounced health inspec-

tions since we re-opened, the resort passed all three with flying colors. [Subsequently] Peter called several times to request random testing be conducted and finally this began last week. This is an important point, as it was the proactivity of our Sandals protocols and local management that helped to identify cases early. The tests found some positive results, though all were asymptomatic, and after secondary testing some have even come back negative."

AS: "At that point, as the investigation and contact tracing was just starting to take place, some officials and local media began claiming this cluster's source was Sandals. This is not based on any facts or public health study and instead was speculation. As of today, the source is not yet known and we are fully supporting the contact tracing and fact-finding efforts, which are ongoing, to try to identify a source as well as any key learnings available from this situation.

Calls for education on COVID-19 vaccines



Barbados MP Dr. Sonia Browne

(Barbados Nation): Barbadians should take COVID-19 vaccines seriously, but Government also has to do extensive public education, says St. Philip North MP Dr. Sonia Browne.

The medical practitioner called for public education on the issue, and also urged colleagues in the House of Assembly to lead by example in showing the public that the pandemic was not over.

She was speaking on Tuesday during debate on the Barbados Humanitarian Service Award Bill, 2020, which will see front line workers being awarded for their work during the crisis.

Browne, who is Chairman of Committees, said: "It's okay to tell the Barbadian public to 'take the vaccine'; 'don't mind the rumours; 'it's for your own good', but we have to spend a lot of time on education.

"It cannot be only governmental policy, we have to coordinate well with the medical professionals so that we have an educational system in place before we bring information to the public."

She said there were people who "have real fears of vaccination, ...basically because they don't understand it and we need to address that". (SC)

Stranded Trinis home in time for Christmas

(Trinidad Guardian): Over 100 Trinidad and Tobago nationals were expected back home last evening, as the Government continued its repatriation exercises for the Christmas period. In fact, over 400 nationals, some of them stranded abroad by the COVID-19 virus since the borders were closed in March, will be back before home before Christmas Day - although they will have to spend the festive season in quarantine.

During a COVID-19 media briefing yesterday, Principal Medical Officer

Dr. Maryam Abdool-Richards explained that several repatriation flights had been scheduled before Christmas Day.

She assured that the exercises to bring nationals back home will not burden the parallel health care system, as there are available spaces throughout state quarantine facilities.

She said at present, the Ministry of Health had 13 state and state-supervised facilities with two of the facilities being reserved for high-risk populations such as the elderly and persons who may not be able to

quarantine amongst typical population.

According to Abdool-Richards' timeline, hundreds of nationals from high and medium-risk countries were expected to be granted border exemptions over the coming days.

"It is important to note that we have three repatriation exercises scheduled for the next 5-6 days. This evening (yesterday), we have a repatriation exercise of approximately 132 persons from New York City. On December 18th, we have another re-

patriation exercise with persons from Barbados and yet another exercise on the 19th from Miami."

Abdool-Richards said another exercise has also been planned to repatriate nationals from Canada.

Meanwhile, there is still no confirmation on which COVID-19 vaccine will be procured by the Government despite the fact that it is already making preparations for its arrival. Abdool-Richards said consultations were ongoing over which treatment will be the most effective.



#drivesafeantigua

Second vaccine nears FDA approval in US



(BBC World News): A US panel of experts has voted to recommend the emergency approval of a second coronavirus vaccine.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is expected to follow the recommendation, which means the Moderna vaccine could start being administered in the US as early as next week.

The vote came days after the country began its roll-

out of the Pfizer-BioNTech jab.

The US has recorded more Covid cases and deaths than any other country.

Earlier this week, its coronavirus death toll passed 300,000.

The advisory panel on Thursday voted 20-0 with one abstention that the benefits of the Moderna vaccine outweigh the risks for those aged 18 and over.

The same committee last week backed the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, leading to its authorisation for emergency use the following day.

The vote came after regulators reported earlier this week that the Moderna vaccine was safe and 94% effective.

The US has agreed to purchase 200m doses, and 6m could be ready to ship as soon as the vaccine

gets FDA approval.

The Moderna vaccine requires temperatures of around -20C for shipping - similar to a normal freezer.

The Pfizer jab requires temperatures closer to -75C, making transport logistics much more difficult.

Like the Pfizer jab, the Moderna vaccine also requires a second booster shot. Moderna's second injection comes 28 days after the first.

Nigerian security forces rescue more than 300 schoolboys kidnapped by gunmen

KATSINA, Nigeria (Reuters) - Security forces on Thursday rescued nearly 350 schoolboys who had been kidnapped in northwestern Nigeria and taken into a vast forest, the governor of Katsina state said, bringing relief to many families.

It was not immediately clear whether all the missing boys had been recovered.

"I think we have recovered most of the boys," Governor Aminu Bello Masari said in a televised interview with state channel NTA.

Hours earlier a video start-

ed circulating online purportedly showing Islamist militants from Boko Haram with some of the boys. Reuters was unable to immediately verify the authenticity of the footage, the boys, or who released it.

The abduction gripped a country already incensed by widespread insecurity, and evoked memories of Boko Haram's 2014 kidnapping of more than 270 schoolgirls in the northeastern town of Chibok.

Last Friday night, gunmen raided the Government Science Secondary School in Katsina on mo-

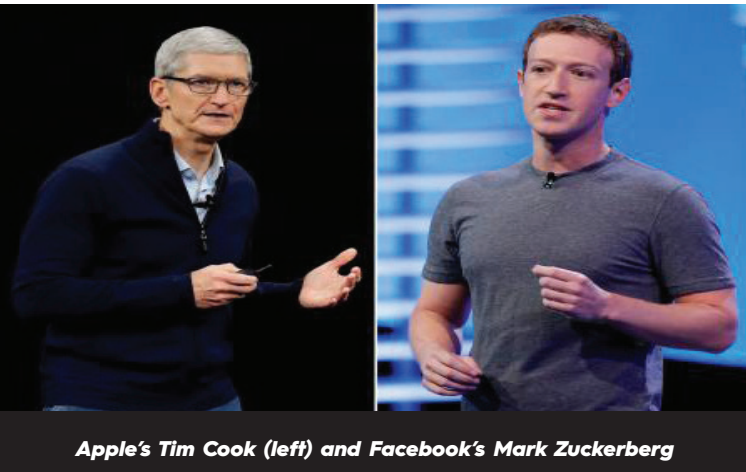
torbikes and marched the boys into Rugu forest, in the biggest such incident in the lawless region in recent years.

Masari said a total of 344 boys held in the forest had been freed in neighboring Zamfara state. He did not say how many had been missing or how they were freed.

He said security forces had cordoned off the area where the boys were being held and were given instructions not to shoot.

"We thank God that they took our advice and not a single shot was fired," he said.

Facebook Criticises Apple Privacy Policy In Newspaper Ads



Apple's Tim Cook (left) and Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg

(AP News): Facebook is again pushing back on new Apple privacy rules for its mobile devices, this time saying in full-page newspaper ads that the social media giant is standing up for small businesses.

In ads that ran in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and oth-

er national newspapers, Facebook said Apple's new rules "limit businesses' ability to run personalised ads and reach their customers effectively".

"While limiting how personalised ads can be used does impact larger companies like us, these changes will be devastating to small business-

es, adding to the many challenges they face right now," the ad states.

The ads come after Apple said earlier this week it would begin spelling out what kinds of personal information is being collected by the digital services displayed in its app stores for iPhones and other products made by the trendsetting company.

Apple also has plans to impose a new mandate that will require all iPhone apps to obtain permission before tracking a person's activities on the device. That surveillance is currently done automatically by many apps, and would force people to go to the time and trouble to block the tracking in the settings of each app. Apple says

it will oust apps from its stores if they try to bypass the new anti-tracking rule when it becomes effective next year.

In many instances, the data scooped up by apps is used to sell ads targeted at a particular person's interest and location, especially if their services are being offered for free.

Apple announced the changes were coming six months ago as part of an effort to help its customers gain a better understanding of how apps monitor their habits, tastes and whereabouts. At the time, Facebook complained that the changes would hurt businesses' ability to personalise ads.

Apple declined to comment.



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Deb Haaland: Historic Native American 'pick for Biden cabinet'



Native American Congresswoman Deb Haaland

(BBC News): President-elect Joe Biden will nominate a Native American to serve as his interior secretary, leading the agency governing public lands, US media say.

If confirmed, Congresswoman Deb Haaland will be the first indigenous person to lead the department, which also plays a key role in Native American affairs.

She will also be the first Native American in a cabinet secretary role.

Native rights groups and

progressive Democrats had pushed for the New Mexico lawmaker's nomination in recent weeks.

"It would be an honour to move the Biden-Harris climate agenda forward, help repair the government to government relationship with Tribes that the Trump Administration has ruined, and serve as the first Native American cabinet secretary in our nation's history," Ms Haaland said in a statement quoted in the New York Times.

Ms. Haaland, 60, is a

member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe and made history as one of the first two Native American women ever elected to Congress in 2018.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Democrat Nancy Pelosi described Ms Haaland as one of the most respected members of Congress.

Fellow progressive Democratic Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised her nomination as "historic on multiple levels".

"She brings a commitment to climate and justice to the position, and the historic weight of having a Native woman, no less a progressive one, in charge of federal lands is enormous."

As Secretary of the Interior, Ms. Haaland would play a key role in implementing the administration's environmental policies. These include a promise to move the federal government away from

fossil fuels. Ms. Haaland's state of New Mexico is a part of the US Climate Alliance and has already set its own bold climate goals.

Ms. Haaland also comes with two years of experience on the House Natural Resources Committee.

In all, she would oversee 500 million acres of federal lands, 62 national parks and work with 1.9 million Indigenous Americans from 574 federally recognised tribes. The interior secretary also manages the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration, which handles Native American finances, and Bureau of Indian Education.

Her appointment would also have real cultural significance, as the interior department has historically clashed with Native American groups. For instance, many of the nation's national parks, like Yellowstone, were cut out of Indigenous land by the US government.

GOT NEWS?

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Macron tests positive for COVID-19, European leaders rush for tests



President Emmanuel Macron of France

PARIS (Reuters) President Emmanuel Macron tested positive for the coronavirus on Thursday, prompting a track-and-trace effort across Europe following numerous meetings between the French leader and EU heads of government in recent days.

Macron, who will turn 43 on Monday, is running France remotely and has gone into quarantine at the presidential retreat of La Lanterne close to the Palace of Versailles, the

presidency said.

A presidential official described Macron as tired and having a cough. His wife Brigitte tested negative but was also self-isolating, staying at the Elysee palace in central Paris.

In the early evening, Macron spoke to a conference on French foreign aid policy via video link. Dressed in a roll-neck sweater and suit jacket, the president sat behind a desk and wore a face-mask, showing no visible

sign of the illness.

"This diagnosis was made following a PCR test performed at the onset of the first symptoms," Macron's office said, declining to give further details of his condition or the symptoms he had.

Macron will cancel all upcoming trips including a Dec. 22 visit to Lebanon where he has led international efforts to resolve a deep-rooted political crisis.

Closer to home, Macron's COVID-19 infection

spurred other leaders to take their own tests.

Macron joined all but two of the European Union's 27 leaders at a summit in Brussels late last week to discuss climate change, the EU budget and Turkey.

The presidential official said it was almost certain Macron was infected at the summit given the timing of his symptoms.

Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and others were seen initially mingling in the summit room with their face masks on, and Macron was filmed giving fist-bumps to other participants. The German government said Merkel tested negative for the coronavirus after the EU summit.

More recently, Macron had lunch with European Council President Charles Michel, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and OECD chief Angel Gurría on Monday. He also held talks with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa on Wednesday.

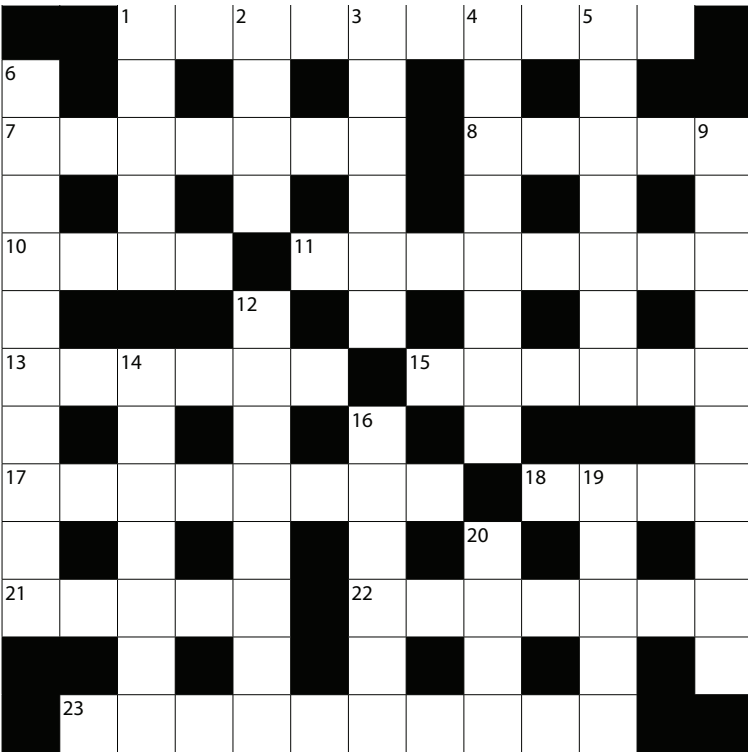
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QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Using frugally (10)
- 7 Dispute over territory between rival gangs (4,3)
- 8 Spore-producing organisms (5)
- 10 Dry outer covering of some seeds (4)
- 11 Highest spot in Britain (3,5)
- 13 Stay (6)
- 15 Poetically, a gentle wind (6)
- 17 Indian city, centre of the Sikh faith (8)
- 18 Unencumbered (4)
- 21 Long (5)
- 22 Perfectly delightful (7)
- 23 Mickey Mouse creator (4,6)

Down

- 1 Egyptian god of the sun (5)
- 2 Stitched (4)
- 3 Better ventilated (6)
- 4 Protector (8)
- 5 Ancient city on the Tigris (7)
- 6 Prepared for action (2,3,5)
- 9 Rebellion (10)
- 12 Well-defined (8)
- 14 Inland Turkish sea between the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus (7)
- 16 Largest island of French Polynesia (6)
- 19 Receive and pass on (5)
- 20 Greenish-blue colour (4)

DAILY COMICS

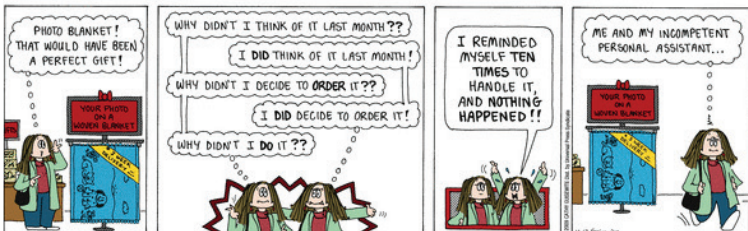
Dilbert



Garfield



Cathy



SUDOKU

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LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 12/18  **83° Hi** DAY Mostly sunny with scattered showers
75° Lo NIGHT Partly cloudy with a shower

Sunrise 6:31 AM Sunset 5:38 PM Moonrise 10:09 AM Moonset 9:44 PM

SAT 12/19  **83° Hi** DAY Mostly sunny and beautiful
74° Lo NIGHT Partly cloudy with passing showers

Sunrise 6:31 AM Sunset 5:38 PM Moonrise 10:53 AM Moonset 10:37 PM

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You'll be the consummate student today. Your mind is inquisitive and your energy is focused on acquiring new knowledge. You're also already smart enough to know that you don't know everything, so why not just admit it?

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

No matter what behavior you encounter in others today, nothing will faze you or stop you from getting on with the good times! Your mind is wide open, you're thinking positively, and you're ready to connect with other people in a new way.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Your opinions are valid, but so are everyone else's—even the ones that clash with yours. Stay open to compromise and listen to what other people have to say. Having a dogmatic attitude about life might make things simpler.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

Why spend all of your energy making other people happy? Today you have to switch your focus and start working harder at making yourself happy! Do at least one nice thing for yourself today.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Your future lies ahead of you, so why are you so busy thinking about stuff that is far behind you? You can't change what has already happened, no matter how badly you want to! If you don't like what went down, move away from it quickly.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Right now, there's a focus on health, wellness, and work issues, as well as other lifestyle factors. Also, if you're thinking of starting your own business, this could be a good time to research your options and perhaps take things further.

♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

You're finally going to start seeing some positive results today. Your current projects seem to be turning the corner at the same time. And while you are certainly going to be busy right now, you are going to feel exhilarated too.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

A good friend may be going through a life change that has caused you to look at your own life differently. This kind of self-examination is very valuable, but it can also be a bit of a trap.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Everyone will be delighted with your answers and ideas today. Enjoy the confidence that other people have in your abilities, and then maybe you might start having a little more confidence in them too!

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Romantic opportunities may come to your attention, particularly if you're eager to get into the dating loop or have been biding your time since your last relationship. There's anticipation in the air, which could turn into a mild obsession.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Tell someone what you really want from them. Stop expecting them to read your mind because they'll only disappoint you. And keep in mind that having clear communication requires more than just honesty and simple language.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You have every right to your viewpoint on the topic of the day even if an authority figure has a different opinion on the issue. You can't just agree with the people who hold the power. It's weak and it's not being true to who you are.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom is inviting nominations from Antigua and Barbuda for Commonwealth Master's Scholarships tenable from 2021. Closing date for nominations is 1st March, 2021. Deadline for submission of applications to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries is 19th February, 2021. Full details of the scholarships are included in the 2021 terms and conditions, available at: cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships

CHSS DARE TO D.E.A.R. BOOK DRIVE 2020

Clare Hall Secondary School is inviting past Clarehalites, entertainers, radio personalities and the general public to participate in its DARE to D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) Book Drive 2020. Send us a video recording about your favourite book and donate a copy or multiple copies of that book to our school library. Give us a call at 462-3487 or mail us at admin@chss.edu.ag. The book drive culminates in December 2020. We DARE you to D.E.A.R with us and help us promote literacy amongst our students.

QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT

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

EXHIBITION & FAIR

The CAPE Entrepreneurship class of the YEEP learning Centre will be hosting a "Show arf yuh skill set" Exhibition & Fair on Friday, December 18 from 12 pm - 5 pm at the Rising Sun Cricket Grounds. Come see future entrepreneurs display their work - food and drinks, arts & craft, games and much more will be on sale and on display. Bring yuh puss, wear yuh mask and distance yuh self while you traverse. Come and support our future entrepreneurs.



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Serena, Federer eye special 40th birthday gifts in 2021



Serena Williams and Roger Federer

Roger Federer has his eyes on an elusive Olympic singles gold medal.

This is despite fears over his long term fitness as he endured a 2020 wipeout and saw Rafael Nadal equal his record of 20 Grand Slams.

Federer played just one tournament this year, a bumpy run in the semi-finals of the Australian Open, before knee surgery put him on the sidelines.

On tour since 1998, Federer will be 40 on August 8, just a week

after the men's final at the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics.

Federer said his plan is to be there for the Olympics.

US superstar Serena Williams also turns 40 in 2021 on September 26, two weeks after the conclusion of the US Open.

Her last triumph at the majors came in Australia in 2017 when she was pregnant.

Williams will once again attempt to pull level with Margaret-Court as a 24 time Grand Slam champion.

Manchester United striker charged by FA for social media post



Manchester United striker Edison Cavani

Manchester United striker Edison Cavani has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association (FA).

The charge results from Cavani's comments in an Instagram story left by a friend after United's 3-2 win over Southampton on November 29 in which he scored twice.

The social media language used by Cavani could be deemed racially insensitive.

Uruguay international Cavani used a Spanish phrase in the post, which was later deleted after he was told of its potential to cause offence.

The FA opened an investigation and on Thursday

announced the 33-year-old had been charged with bringing the game into "disrepute".

The FA statement read: "It is alleged that, contrary to FA rule E3.1, a comment posted on the Manchester United player's Instagram page was insulting and or abusive and or improper and or brought the game into disrepute.

"It is further alleged that the comment constitutes an aggravated breach, which is defined in FA rule E3.2, as it includes reference, whether express or implied, to colour and or race and or ethnic origin."

Anguilla names a new Director of Football

Former Trinidad and Tobago women's football team midfielder, Ahkeela 'Lady Latapy' Mollon, has taken up the role of Director of Women's Football in Anguilla.

The 35-year-old is the second T&T player to be given an appointment by the Anguilla Football Association.

Legendary T&T striker, Stern John, was named coach of the Anguilla men's team in October.

Mollon's role will also include coaching the Anguilla women's team.

She has been entrusted with the task of developing an overall pro-



Former Trinidad and Tobago women's football team midfielder Ahkeela 'Lady Latapy' Mollon

growth and development of women's football in Anguilla.

Mollon played for T&T at the junior and senior levels between 2002

and developed her own coaching school, the M12 Football Academy, in Chaguanas.

Mollon and John join the likes of ex-T&T players and coaches Izler

Islands), Rajesh Latchoo (Dominica), Jamal Shabazz (St. Lucia) and Russell Latapy (Barbados) in seeking employment in the Caribbean region.

DEWS