



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2021

ISSUE 174

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

TRIBUTES POUR IN AFTER GORDON 'BUTCH' STEWART'S PASSING

SEE PAGE 5

PAGE 6

Antigua and Barbuda passport remains strong

PAGE 7

Booby Alley residents to move to new location 'within weeks'

PAGE 11

Trevor Young resignation letter to UPP

Guest editorial: Gordon 'Butch' Stewart has died

Page 2

GUEST EDITORIAL

GORDON 'BUTCH' STEWART HAS DIED!

Legendary Jamaican entrepreneur Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, one of the hospitality industry's most vibrant personalities and founder of Sandals Resorts International, the world's leading all-inclusive resort company, has died at the age of 79. An unstoppable force, who delighted in defying the odds by exceeding expectations, Stewart single-handedly built the world's most awarded vacation brand from one resort in Jamaica to over two dozen distinct resorts and villas throughout the Caribbean.

A son of Jamaica, Butch Stewart was born in Kingston on July 6, 1941 and grew up along the island country's North Coast, a tropical paradise that now boasts several of his Luxury Included® Sandals and Beaches Resorts and where his love of the sea, dominoes and free enterprise were sown. Certain from the start that he wanted to run his own company, at the tender age of 12, Stewart first stepped into the hospitality industry selling fresh-caught fish to local hotels. His success got him 'hooked' and his enthusiasm for entrepreneurship never waned.

After completing his secondary education abroad, Stewart returned home to Jamaica where he demonstrated his innate talent as master salesman at the renowned Dutch-owned Curaçao Trading Company, quickly rising to the position of sales manager but itching to start his own company. In 1968, Stewart took his chance. With no collateral but recognizing the comfort that would make air conditioning an essential service, Stewart convinced American manufacturer Fedders Corporation to allow him to represent their brand in Jamai-

ca. With that, Stewart's foundational business - Appliance Traders Limited (ATL), was born and he was on his way.

At ATL, Stewart developed a simple business philosophy he articulated many times: "Find out what people want, give it to them and in doing so - exceed their expectations." This would become the standard for every Stewart enterprise and practiced by every employee of the many companies Stewart would go on to found, including and perhaps most importantly, Sandals Resorts International.

Stewart Founds Sandals Resorts

In 1981, with a gift for recognizing opportunity, Stewart found one in Bay Roc: a rundown hotel on a magnificent beach in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Seven months and \$4 million in renovations later, Sandals Montego Bay would open as the flagship of what is today the most popular award-winning, all-inclusive resort chain in the world.

While Stewart never laid claim to inventing the all-inclusive concept, he is recognized worldwide for his tireless effort to elevate the experience, delivering to his guests an unsurpassed level of luxury, and to share his certainty that a Caribbean company could successfully compete with any organization in the world. He accomplished both.

"I had heard of the concept, yet at the time, the services and rooms were very basic. Contrary to that, I envisioned we could bring forward a luxury resort to offer customers so much more. So, we perfected it. Only the most comfortable king size four poster beds, fine mani-

cured gardens, cozy hammocks and the kind of warm, refined service the Caribbean has become known for. Just as important was to be located on the absolute best beach, because that's what everyone dreams of."

Where other so-called "all-inclusives" offered meals and rooms at a set rate, Sandals Resorts' prices covered gourmet dining options, premium brand drinks, gratuities, airport transfers, taxes and all land and watersport activities. The competitors' meals were buffet-style, so Stewart created on-property specialty restaurants with high culinary standards and white-glove service. Sandals Resorts also was the first Caribbean hotel company to offer whirlpools and satellite television service, the first with swim-up pool bars and the first to guarantee that every room is fitted with a king-size bed and a hair dryer. More recent innovations have included a signature spa concept - Red Lane® Spa, signature luxury suites designed for privacy and ultimate pampering, complimentary WiFi, and signature partnerships with iconic organizations such as Microsoft Xbox® Play Lounge, Sesame Workshop, PADI, Mondavi® Wines, Greg Norman Signature Golf courses and the London-based Guild of Professional English Butlers. And in 2017, Stewart introduced the Caribbean's first over-the-water accommodations, which were quickly expanded to include Over-the-Water bars and Over-the-Water wedding chapels.

By steadfastly adhering to the "we can do it better" principle of pleasing his guests, Stewart fostered a company free to imagine and free to consistently raise the

cont'd from pg 2

bar. This ethos earned him the title of "King of All-Inclusives," changing the face of the all-inclusive format and establishing Sandals Resorts as the most successful brand in the category - boasting year-round occupancy levels of more than 85 per cent, an unequalled returning guest factor of 40 per cent and demand that has led to unprecedented expansion including the creation of additional concepts such as Beaches Resorts, now the industry standard for excellence in family beach vacations.

Butch Stewart loved Sandals. At the time of his passing, he was hard at work on plans for the recently announced expansions to the Dutch island of Curaçao and St. Vincent.

Stewart As Statesman

Stewart's leadership helped resurrect Jamaica's travel industry and earned him the respect of his peers and the admiration of his countrymen. He was elected President of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica in 1989 and was inducted into its "Hall of Fame" in 1995. He served as a Director of the Jamaica Tourist Board for a decade and as President of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association in the mid-80s, ably balancing government and private sector priorities, reconciling the concerns of large and small Jamaican hotels, and raising public understanding of the tourism industry. In 1994, Stewart led a group of investors to take leadership of Air Jamaica, the Caribbean's largest regionally based carrier. It was a daunting task - planes were dirty, service was indifferent and on-time schedules were rarely met, causing market share to plummet along with revenues.

When Stewart stepped in, he insisted on a passenger-friendly approach: on-time service, reduced waiting lines, increased training for all personnel, and signature free champagne on flights to accom-

pany an emphasis on better food. He also opened new routes in the Caribbean, brought on new Airbus jets and established a Montego Bay hub for flights coming from and returning to the United States. Just as with ATL and Sandals Resorts, Stewart's formula proved successful and in late 2004, Stewart gave the airline back to the government with an increase in revenue of over US\$250 million.

It was not the first time Stewart would come to the aid of his country. In 1992, he galvanized the admiration of Jamaicans with the 'Butch Stewart Initiative,' pumping US\$1 million a week into the official foreign exchange market at below prevailing rates to help halt the slide of the Jamaican dollar. Dr Henry Lowe, at the time president and CEO of Blue Cross, wrote to Stewart saying: "I write to offer sincere congratulations to you for the tremendous initiative which has done so much, not only for the strengthening of our currency, but more so, for the new feeling of hope and positive outlook which is now being experienced by all of us as Jamaicans."

Less well-known may be the extent of Stewart's considerable philanthropy, where for more than 40 years he has helped improve and shape the lives of Caribbean people. His work, formalized with the creation in 2009 of The Sandals Foundation, offers support ranging from the building of schools and paying of teachers to bringing healthcare to the doorsteps of those who cannot afford it. This in addition to his tireless support of a wide range of environmental initiatives. Beyond the work of the Foundation, Stewart has given millions to charitable causes such as celebrating the bravery of veterans and first responders and helping those in the wake of devastating hurricanes.

In 2012, Stewart founded the Sandals Corporate University, aimed at providing professional devel-

opment for employees through reputable education and training programmes. With access to more than 230 courses and external partnerships with 13 top-ranking local and international universities, every staff member can apply, broaden their knowledge, and advance their career.

Stewart's successes in business and in life have earned him more than 50 well-deserved local, regional, and international accolades and awards including Jamaica's highest national distinctions: The Order of Jamaica (O.J.), and Commander of the Order of Distinction (C.D.). In 2017, Stewart was honoured with the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Caribbean Hotel & Resort Investment Summit (CHRIS), hosted by the Burba Hotel Network, marking his significant contribution to the hospitality industry. "The success of Sandals has helped to power the growth of the tourism industry and economies not only in Jamaica but throughout the Caribbean," said BHN president Jim Burba. "The word 'icon' certainly applies to Butch Stewart."

It delighted Stewart whenever he was dining anywhere in the world and an excited staff member would share with him, "Thank you. I got my start at Sandals."

Butch Stewart, The Man

With his easy pace, infectious warmth and trademark striped shirt, Stewart exuded an approachability that belied the complexity of his character. While he was an acute businessperson, who at the time of his death was responsible for a Jamaican-based empire that includes two dozen diverse companies collectively representing Jamaica's largest private sector group, the country's biggest foreign exchange earner and its largest non-government employer, he was an extremely private man whose deepest devotion was to his

cont'd on pg 4

cont'd from pg 3

family.

His greatest test came in 1989 when his beloved 24-year-old son Jonathan was killed in a car accident in Miami. Stewart recalled the incident in a 2008 interview, "For two months after he died, I was absolutely useless, and after that I was sort of running on remote control. Things were a blur. It's every parent's nightmare. After a year or so, I started to see things in vivid detail. You have to get busy, be close with your family. It did a lot in terms of me getting closer. There's a lot more satisfaction."

Stewart was able to return to his relentless pace, and the consensus among those who knew him best is that he did it by leading by example. "If you are going to lead, you have to participate," Stewart was fond of saying. He believed that if everyone in the organization recognized that the man in

charge was working as hard as they were, they would have an infinite amount of respect and motivation. "It's about instilling a spirit of teamwork, defining a purpose and then rolling up your sleeves to get the job done better than anybody else," Stewart said.

The company Butch Stewart built remains wholly owned by the Stewart family, who, in honor of Mr. Stewart's long-term succession plans, has named Adam Stewart Chairman of Sandals Resorts International, extending his formidable leadership of the brands he has shepherded since he was appointed CEO in 2007.

Speaking on behalf of his family, Adam Stewart said, "our father was a singular personality; an unstoppable force who delighted in defying the odds by exceeding expectations and whose passion for his family was matched only by the people and possibility of the Ca-

ribbean, for whom he was a fierce champion. Nothing, except maybe a great fishing day, could come before family to my dad. And while the world understood him to be a phenomenal businessman - which he was, his first and most important devotion was always to us. We will miss him terribly forever."

Gordon 'Butch' Stewart is survived by his wife, Cheryl, children Brian, Bobby, Adam, Jaime, Sabrina, Gordon, and Kelly; grandchildren Aston, Sloane, Camden, Penelope-Sky, Isla, Finley, Max, Ben, Zak, Sophie, Annie and Emma; and great grandchildren Jackson, Riley, Emmy and Willow.

A private funeral service will be held. Those wishing to share memories, condolences or personal stories may do so at AllThatsGood@sandals.com

Tributes pour in after Gordon 'Butch' Stewart's passing

Tributes have been pouring in after the passing Monday night of hotel icon and businessman extraordinaire, Gordon 'Butch' Stewart.

His death was announced by his son, Adam Stewart, who said he died in Miami after a short illness.

Stewart was the founder of the Sandals group of companies which he grew to become the top awarded all-inclusive hotel chain in the world.

Antigua and Barbuda was one of the first countries outside of Jamaica to have a Sandals branded hotel. There are two Sandals hotels now operating adjacent to each other at Dickenson Bay.

Tributes have come from government and industry officials, praising the enormous contributions of the Jamaican hotelier to the tourism development of the Caribbean.

In a statement, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the following: "Heartfelt condolences to Adam Stewart and the family members of the Late Gordon Butch Stewart. The Caribbean has lost an iconic son, a pioneer and revered businessman whose legacy includes the development of the Caribbean's premier hotel brand, Sandals.

"His contribution towards the socio-economic development of the region is well appreciated and he was held in high esteem by all, as one of the most

successful Caribbean entrepreneurs; inspiring entrepreneurship throughout the region.

"We trust that the memories of his numerous contributions and the high esteem in which he was held by Caribbeaners, will help to assuage the pain of his surviving family members.

"May his soul Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory."

In his tribute, Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez wrote: "Gordon 'Butch' Stewart was a Caribbean giant in the tourism industry.

"It is often forgotten that, despite his humble beginnings, he competed against the biggest names in tourism to build a successful and respected network of hotels across the Caribbean.

"That undertaking was not easy. It required a special person with unique skills and committed drive to successfully overcome the challenges from established institutions, and to carve a universally known brand name.

"Butch Stewart was all of that and more.

"He was a Jamaican - a land to which he was deeply committed, but he regarded the Caribbean as his wider fraternal community.

"Antigua and Barbuda was pleased to welcome one of his first Sandals ventures outside of Jamaica and, without a shred of doubt, the standards he established made a sig-

nificant contribution to the growth of our tourism.

"We join his relatives and the Sandals family across the region in mourning the falling of a true Caribbean champion and hero."

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to CARICOM, Dr Clarence Henry, also joined in expressing tribute to Stewart. In a note to his fellow ambassador, Dr Henry wrote: "I am saddened to awake to hear the news of the passing of the hotel/hospitality Titan, the Hon. Gordon 'Butch' Stewart.

"His Excellency has gone but certainly will never be forgotten. He has left an indelible mark upon our Caribbean civilization; exemplified a truly excellent Caribbean spirit of entrepreneurship that can be characterized as from nothing to something; a gold nugget so large that it occupied all of CARICOM. No one jurisdiction, Jamaica (his country of birth) could circumscribe this great man.

"God has certainly called His Excellency for a new task. We are assured that the grooming of his son to take over at the helm of Sandals was preordained, and we wish him and the chain every success as all continue to navigate the uncertain future together.

"Certainly, let us all proclaim like the song, 'take my hand precious Lord lead me home' a journey we must also take individually.

"Therefore, on behalf of the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda, I wish to express profound condolences to the family, Government and people of Jamaica on the passing of the great Caribbean tourism, Hospitality visionary, H.E. Gordon 'Butch' Stewart. We are enriched by his profound contribution which built a historic Caribbean international brand which I dub from nothing to something most fabulous. Blessings."

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotel and Tourist Association, Vernon Jeffers Snr., also expressed condolences on Stewart's passing. "We join with all industry partners to celebrate the life and legacy of Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, founder and chairman of Sandals Resorts International.

"Mr. Stewart has reached the end of this life's journey but has left an indelible mark on the tourism sector, not only in Jamaica but the Caribbean. As hoteliers and entrepreneurs, we will forever be inspired by his dedication to distinction, his passion for entrepreneurship and his social commitment to not only the people of Jamaica but the region.

"We send heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the thousands of employees whose lives he has personally impacted.

"His legacy will live on."

Antigua and Barbuda passport remains strong

The Antigua and Barbuda passport remains one of the strongest travel documents in the region, according to the latest ranking compiled by the international firm, Henley and Partners.

The firm, which specializes in global citizenship, ranked the Antigua and Barbuda passport at number 28 of a total of 191 passports. Only three CARICOM states ranked higher than Antigua and Barbuda. These are Barbados (23), St Kitts-Nevis (25) and the Bahamas (26).

At the 28 ranking, holders of Antigua and Barbuda passports have visa-free access to one hundred and fifty-one countries. The country's passport has fluctuated in ranking between a high of 27 to a low of 30 over the past five years.

The Henley Passport Index is the original ranking of all the world's

passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information, and enhanced by ongoing research by the Henley and Partners Research Department.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Anthony Liverpool, welcomed the ranking, noting that it reflects the work the ministry has been doing in attaining more visa-free access for holders of the Antigua and Barbuda passport.

"Antigua and Barbuda, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our embassies and diplomatic missions, will be redoubling our efforts in 2021 to get more visa-free access for holders of the country's pass-

ports to more countries in Asia and Europe. This is an ongoing effort by the ministry to attain more visa-free access so that our passport holders can have easier access to countries around the world," he stated.

Liverpool revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic has created a challenge for the ministry but nonetheless it will press on.

He explained that visa requirements form part of the security of a country and while Antigua and Barbuda may make a request, the final decision on whether the request is granted is up to the country.

Additionally, Liverpool noted that having a passport that ranks at number 28 makes it a very attractive document for those seeking to acquire the passport through the Citizenship by Investment Programme.

Education institutions benefit from Rotary donation

Four educational institutions in Antigua and Barbuda have received donations of computers, parts, and other technological equipment through the Rotary Club of Antigua.

The gesture forms part of one of the Club's signature programmes, "Computer for the World," which is spearheaded by past president, Cordell Josiah.

The beneficiary institutions are the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT), the Antigua and Barbuda Hotel Training Institute (ABHTI), the Antigua Grammar School, and the TOR Memorial School.

"The items were donated by our partner Club, the Bellevue

Breakfast Rotary Club of Washington State, for the Rotary Club of Antigua to donate to schools in Antigua and Barbuda. The Mill Reef Fund, in partnership with the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club, provided funds for the purchase of the computer equipment," past president Cordell Josiah explained during the handover ceremony which took place at Rotary House.

He added that the Club remains committed to community and youth development in Antigua and Barbuda.

Representatives from the four institutions have all expressed thanks for the respective donations, which will go a long way in enhancing

the technological capabilities of the students.

In this project, a team of Rotarians from Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club along with a team of Cisco Systems IT Students and Teachers from the Newport High School in Bellevue, Washington State, have been coming to Antigua and Barbuda and have been installing computers in government and private schools as a donation to the Ministry of Education.

The Clubs also partnered for a sewing project, which teaches women how to sew, giving them the opportunity to become proficient in sewing and to be independent and self-sustaining.

Booby Alley residents to move to new location 'within weeks'

The residents of Booby Alley in the Point who are to be moved to temporary accommodations have been told to 'get ready' as some will begin moving to the new site within a matter of weeks.

Constituency representative and Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, toured the area on Monday to pass the word personally to the residents.

The Ministry of Works is erecting a number of pre-fabricated houses at two sites to accommodate the residents. They are being moved to the temporary site to make way for the construction of condominium-type houses for the residents.

PM Browne led a team of officials from the ministry on the tour during which he used the opportunity to interact with residents.

In all, 60 pre-fabricated houses will be built but, with more than 100 families living at Booby Alley, Browne said there will be need for additional hous-



PM and team in Booby Alley

ing. He is encouraging persons who own land in the area to make them available for the erection of the pre-fabricated houses which they may view as an investment.

"We are making significant progress here at the Bay Street site. There are twelve 3-bedroom houses now virtually complete here at Bay Street and at the Fitzroy Pestaina Street site there are another ten properties. My understanding is that the build-

ing systems for another 38 properties are in hand and we are also trying to get landowners in the area to make these available for construction of houses under an arrangement with the government," he explained.

Additional lands are needed for additional houses as there are not enough houses to accommodate all the residents of Booby Alley who must first move to give way for the Chinese funded condominium project.

According to Browne, the project aims at removing the Booby Alley residents from what has been termed 'squalid conditions,' under which they have lived for decades.

Browne also acknowledged that there is a greater 'buy-in' by residents for the project. "You will recall that about two years ago there was a near-riot against the project. I went there with my security detail and told the people if they wanted to hurt me for helping them, then go right ahead! I also told the police to stand down. There was no need for me to run from these people as their representative and I believe that the engagement worked," he recalled.

He said the people of the area have now come to accept the project as one which is designed to empower them and subsequently there has been greater acceptance.



PM interacts with Booby Alley resident



PM sees the interior of one of the houses

Here we go again!

The hotel sector in Antigua and Barbuda, which has been slowly recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 impact on the travel industry, is again bracing itself for another blow brought on by the recent decision of the United Kingdom to close its borders.

The announcement has curtailed UK nationals from all non-essential travel, except in cases such as business or for health purposes.

“We are awaiting word from our UK contacts about the impact this announcement will have on the two airlines operating into VC Bird International airport - Virgin Atlantic and British Airways,” former chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, Alex de Brito revealed.

He said UK travel represents fifty per cent of all visitors staying at hotels in the country and the loss of these flights

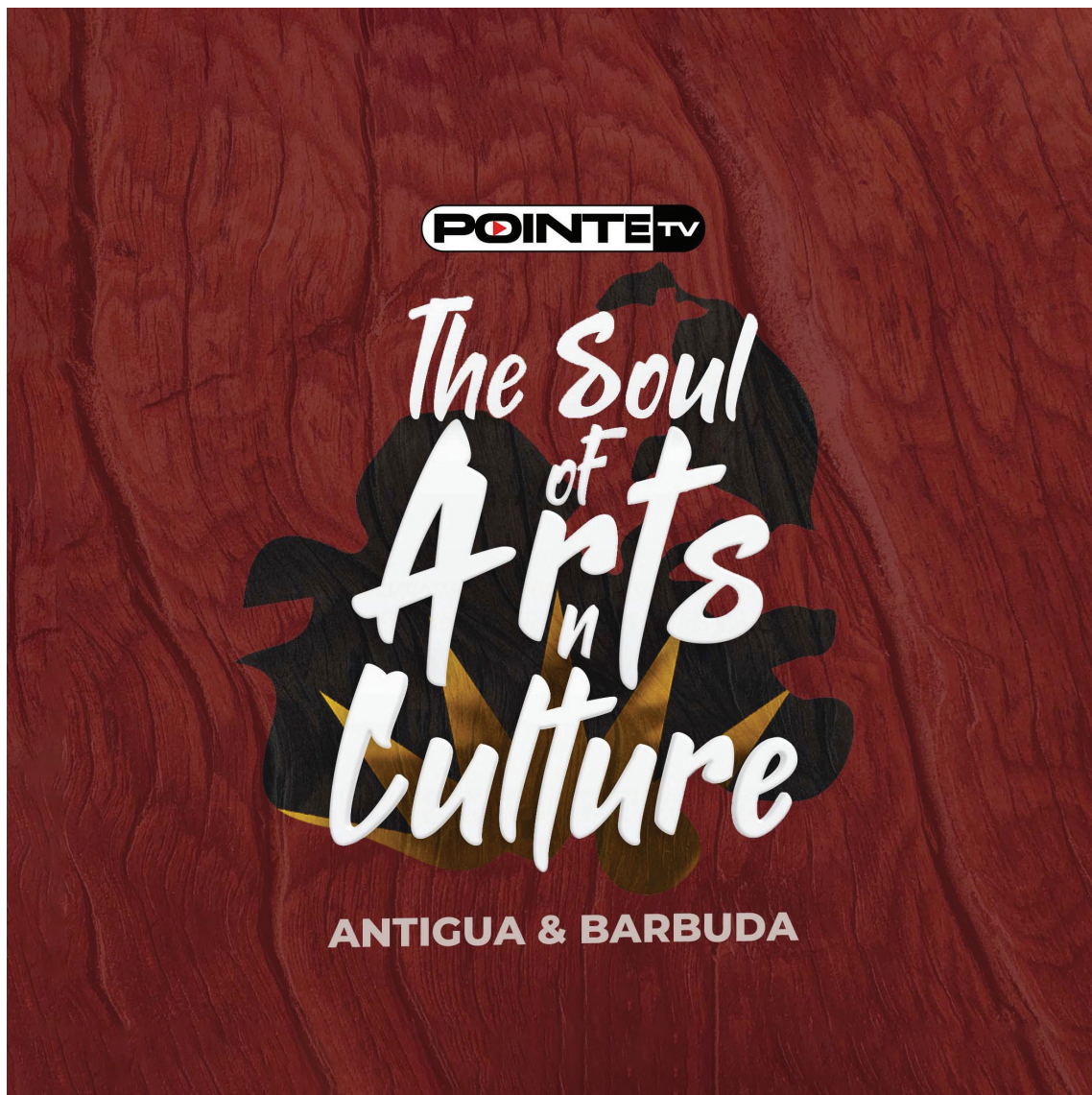
will be felt immediately. “I was just telling my staff over the Christmas holidays that things will be getting better. Boom! Here we go again,” he remarked.

The hotelier said operating under the pandemic is now a day to day activity as it is no longer possible to do any long-term planning. “We have to plan week to week as this is the only way. Things change so fast!” he declared.

De Brito said he is expecting word about British Airways and Virgin Atlantic by the end of the business day, today.

Meanwhile, de Brito has revealed that the Canadian market may also be closing again. He disclosed that Canadian citizens now in Antigua and Barbuda are required to do a PCR test for their return home.

These tests are being conducted at the Mount St John’s Medical Centre.



NOTICE

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

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

Dear Sir/Madame,

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENSE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS JAH-ZARNEY'S RETAIL

I, Latoya Browne, DO HERE BY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my 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, January 7th, 2021, ensuring for a Bottle license in respect of premises known as "Jah-zarney's Retail" situated at Upper George Street, Grays Farm in the Parish of St. John's Antigua pursuant to section 11 (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 15th December, 2020

Latoya Browne
732-0562

No new COVID-19 death

Health officials are denying media reports made public Tuesday afternoon stating that there was a sixth COVID-19 related death.

But officials in the Ministry of Health and the Mount St John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) are reporting that there have been no new deaths. They say the number of deaths caused by the virus stands at 5.

The information was circulated by an online news portal and it has been widely shared across various social media platforms.

The latest bulletin available up to Tuesday night revealed that the most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, from the Mount St. John's Medical Center (MSJMC) has revealed no new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases

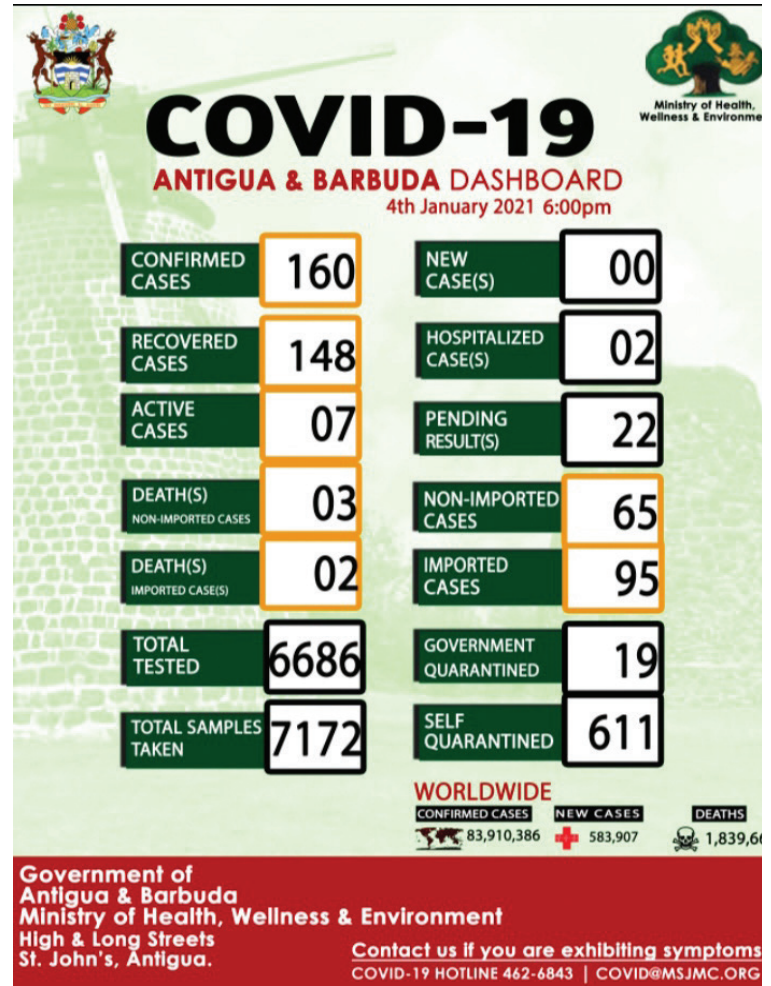
in Antigua and Barbuda as of Sunday 3rd January 2021 at 6 p.m.

All thirty-seven samples processed by MSJMC yielded negative results and are reflected in the total persons tested and total samples taken columns of the dashboard.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda remains at one hundred and sixty (160); which is inclusive of seven (7) active cases.

Meanwhile, twenty-two samples were sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) earlier today.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



PM Browne visits PLH project

Prime Minister Gaston Browne paid a visit to the Peace, Love and Happiness (PLH) project now underway in Barbuda to get an update on the work being done on the multi-million dollar development.

The project is the largest development taking place in Antigua and Barbuda at

this time, and Browne's visit is seen as a show of his government's support for the development.

"There are over two hundred people employed on the project, more than 120 of whom are Barbudans. Ninety-two Barbudans are employed directly by PLH with another thir-

ty employed by Barbuda sub-contractors," Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel Max Hurst has reported.

Hurst noted that at a time when employment is down in Antigua because of the COVID-19 pandemic, employment in Barbuda has been up because of

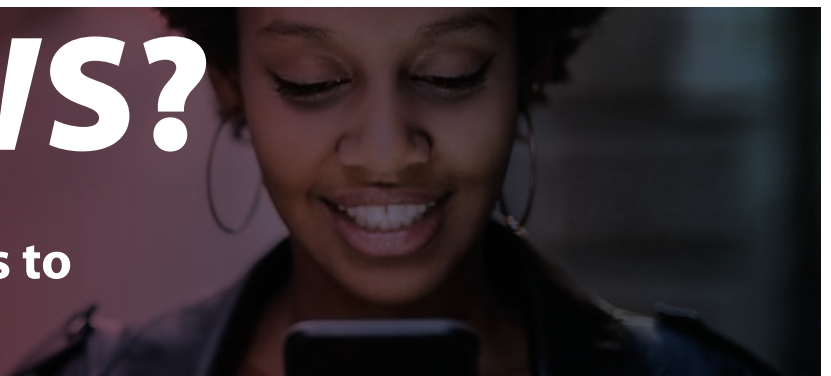
the project.

He also reported that each week more than 100 Antiguan travel to Barbuda to work on the project and they stay there until Friday when they return.

PLH currently provides housing on site for these workers.

GOT NEWS?

Send your news stories to
news@pointville.ag



Antigua and Barbuda wants CXC exams delayed by a month

Antigua and Barbuda and the other territories of the OECS want the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) to delay the holding of the CSEC for a month.

Director of Education, Clare Browne, said CXC consulted with countries in the region and gave them three options for holding the year's exams. "In Option 1, the exams would be held in May/June as they have been doing for years prior to 2020. In Option 2, the exams will be held in June/July, and Option 3 is the alternate format

employed last year," he disclosed.

Browne reported that a meeting with all principals of secondary schools voted in favour of Option 2. "CXC wants each territory to submit its option of choice and for us in Antigua and Barbuda that's Option 2. It is also the preferred option for the other territories of the OECS," he stated.

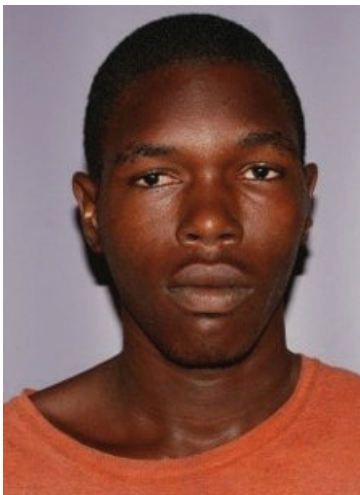
Additionally, the education official noted that Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago have also expressed a preference for Option 2 as many of their schools did not

start the 2020-21 school year on time.

He revealed that teachers and education officials all agree that starting the exams one month later will give students time to fully complete the syllabus.

"You will recall that those students now in fifth form were in fourth form at the time of the lockdown and they would have lost valuable teaching time. Delaying the exams for a month will provide an opportunity for them to catch up," he noted.

Police issue Wanted Bulletin



Carlsson Matthew Jr.

A Wanted Bulletin has been issued by the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda for the arrest of Darius Williams of Potters Village and Carlsson Mathew Jr. of Upper Fort Road.

Both men are wanted in connection with allegations of Aggravated Robbery, Break-in and Larceny.

Anyone knowing their whereabouts is asked to contact the nearest police station or the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914.

The Police are further appealing to both wanted men to surrender at any police station without delay.



Darius Williams

One of the wanted men has issued a statement on social media platform Facebook denying any involvement in a crime. Using the alias, "If's The Millionaire Kid," Williams wrote, "I never rob or kill anybody The police are trying to tarnish my reputation by false accusations I never felt so shocked in my whole entire life, I don't even know the next guy they have in the picture next to my face, we need a better justice system for our country and for our children of tomorrow [sic]."

The police could not be reached for comment.

PROBATE

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7

Rule 15

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

(Probate)

In the Estate of AGNES GOODWIN, late of
Bolans Village, St. Mary's, Antigua, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR
GRANT

SECOND PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **GEORGE GOODWIN** of Bolans in the Parish of Saint Mary's, in the State of Antigua & Barbuda for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the Son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 31st day of August, 2009.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 10th day of April, 2019

CRAIG L. JACAS
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
STAPLETON CHAMBERS

Filed by **CRAIG L. JACAS** Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Stapleton Chambers, Stapleton Lane, P. O. Box 2891, St. John's, Antigua, craig.jacas@stapletonchambers.com, telephone number: 562-7185.

TREVOR YOUNG RESIGNATION LETTER

Trevor T.A. Young
Lightfoot
St. John's
Antigua

26th December, 2020

Ms. Shawn Nicholas
 General Secretary
 United Progressive Party
 St. John's
 Antigua

Dear Madam Secretary,

I penned this resignation letter today on the Sabbath of the Lord thy God captioned "Enough is Enough." I stayed home today and write this resignation with no trace of malice or ill-will, no grudge, no prejudice and I write particularly on the Sabbath so that no trace of lie or deceit should get in the way. I wanted to write this with a free conscience and a relaxed mind.

When I left the Royal Antigua and Barbuda Police Force on 2nd April, 2016 subsequently I planned a church service to thank God for my 29 years of service to the Antiguan people. At that church service I echoed the words of Job 32: 17 - 20 in my speech to the audience. These words were what I used to spring board myself into a new path in life as a man who left the police force on a HIGH NOTE of INTEGRITY.

My intuition told me that I would not have it easy with a certain criminal patch of police officers that I knew would come after me so I took the high ground and waited for their attack on me and hence Job 32:17 - 20 became alive in my life when I got arrested on 8th June, 2016.

Verse 17 - "I said I will answer also my part I also will show my opinion."

I was able to answer my part and show my opinion concerning the police force in a book entitled, "Integrity comes with a price" which is presently at a publishing press in South Carolina.



Verse 18 - "For I am full of matter, the spirit within me constraint me."

Even at my church service I wanted to say some things about the justice system and the Police Force but I restrained myself until I was able to tell the world in my book. So for over 4 years I felt as if I was in captivity until I release that matter in my book

Verse 19 - "Behold my belly

is as wine which hath no vent - it is ready to burst like new bottles."

Before my book was lodged at the printing press this verse brought out my feelings - there were times I had to bawl out in my car when I was alone to stop this proverbial bottle from bursting I thought I would lose my mind but thank God I overcame.

Verse 20 - "I will speak, that I may

cont'd on pg 12

cont'd from pg 11

be refreshed: I will open my lips and answer.”

I was able to tell the next half of my life that has not yet been told in my book Integrity comes with a price – if I die today the world will know because I left my legacy in a book. I am indeed refreshed after I chronicled my thoughts, my life, and my all in a book. I did not do it for fame and popularity but to assist and to effect change in the sociopolitical and judicial landscape in my beloved Antigua and Barbuda. As it relates to opening my mouth and speak the words of my book will speak for me and also I will make several appearances in public for the year 2021 where I will speak to the nation. I set this opening part of this correspondence in a way to prepare a platform on which to stand as it relates to my feeling about the UPP party.

As I spoke the words of Job 32:17 – 20 in the church in the presence of some key members of your party I never believed that this same text would be attributed not only to the Police force and the sometimes unfair justice system but to the United Progressive Party. As to how your leaders and some ordinary members treated me with disdain after I would have given up my all to join this party. Just in case you forgot what I gave up let me remind you;

My career job of policing for 29 years

My family

The only thing I did not give up was my faith in God, that's the only thing that kept me and allowed me to keep my sanity while UPP had its knee on my neck.

Madam Secretary, I write this resignation letter to you clearly on the backdrop of some intelligence I gathered that came out of your executive Whatsapp chat as it relates to me being locked up for a second time on the 20th august, 2020. When I got arrested I called upon my lawyer Chaku Symister who came to see me in the cell early Friday 21st Au-

gust, 2020 and never returned. I had to call on another lawyer who came to look into my affairs.

What was instructive though is, about fifteen minutes after I got bailed on the said Friday I received a telephone call from one of your executive member who told me “tek u foot in u han an run lef UPP executive, they don't like you.” I asked the individual why they said that and the person went on to say that your lawyer posted in the chat that you got arrested and you don't want to see what these executive members are saying about you. They are happy that you were arrested. My brother, leave these people alone.

When I went home that Friday night I began to reminisce and two things came to my mind;

When I visited the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Honorable Gaston Browne sometime soon after my retirement

When someone from the hierarchy of the UPP called me by phone leading up to the leadership convention of the UPP 2019 and advised me where I should put my support whether for Harold Lovell or Richard Lewis.

VISIT TO GASTON BROWN OFFICE:

Mere months after my retirement from the Police Force I went to the Prime Minister's office primarily to ask him as the Finance Minister to expedite my pension so that I can sent it to my son in University to pay for his tuition because since I retired I have been lagging behind in my payments and he told me something.

Before I left the PM's office knowing Gaston Browne he engaged me in some politics and these were his remarks, “that's a lot of sacrifice you are making for those people in UPP and they don't love nobody.” “I can guarantee you if Harold Lovell get Malaka Parker to run in Rural East they are going to change you. Young UPP will use you.” I told him I have no intention to go back to the Police Force once Cutie Benjamin was

over the Police Force because in the first place the Attorney General is the main reason why I left the Force. I left the PM's office not knowing that sooner rather than later his words would come to pass.

THE CALL FROM THE HIERACHY OF THE UPP:

Months leading up to the leadership race between the Hon Senator Richard Lewis and Harold Lovell, I received a call, the person's first question to me was, “Young who you go back for leadership?” I replied I will answer that with my vote when the day comes. The person went on to say that the executives thought that I was a good candidate but guess what, only one thing is wrong with you this time around –I asked the person what is it and the person said,” they say they don't want no foreigner in ah dem sudden this time.” I replied, “after all I gave up?” the person said support Richard Lewis and he will give you the nod in Rural East because he himself married to a foreigner.

I seriously buy – in to what this person told me because just after the 2018 elections when the executive and the candidates met for a postmortem of what took place, the Chairman of the Party Giselle Isaac said in no uncertain terms that non-nationals caused the UPP to lose the election. I addressed the matter and asked questions like what happened to the 12 thousand people who did not vote, what happened to the Joanne Messiah/UPP issue and some other pertinent points. I rose to debunk that uncalled for statement. At one point the chairperson went on to say that they will make sure things are in place to bring back the diaspora to vote for the upcoming elections; no wonder the party is now seeking to establish two constituencies oversees where diaspora can vote without coming here physically. Let me say it here now, there is a serious disconnection between the UPP and the non-nationals and

cont'd from pg 12

this is the gap I primarily joined the UPP for to mend as a non-national myself. Any effort to doubt this statement would be mis-leading for it is clearly identified in my first letter to the organization that my inclusion in the UPP is solely to attract the non-national vote. I think I did a good job in this regard because I was able to enlist several of them in the party, not forgetting the Rural East Branch. However the work was still in progress.

Madam General Secretary, I saw my demise coming when I publicly started to support Richard Lewis for the leadership of this party. Another thing that prompted me to write this resignation to your party is when I Trevor Theo Aldolphus Young witnessed the nasty conduct of the UPP Executive leading UPP to and during the convention for the leadership. I could have sworn that it was the same labour party you all talk about when it comes to foul play and maleficence that I joined. It made me come to the conclusion that you all are worse than the Labour Party.

Your executive helped to steal the leadership race elections out of Richard Lewis hands because you all had the money, the manipulative influence to do so and you all did it very callously without no remorse. Making people feel that the elections were transparent and you all know fully well that it was not so.

Richard requested a secret ballot at the convention which was never afforded him all because you all wanted the environment where one person could have been seen voting at least more than five (5) times for sure. It was recorded on tape. Let me reiterate that I stayed home from church today because I wanted to write to you with a straight mind.

Can you imagine that I was the candidate for the Rural East Constituency in 2018 and in the 2019-2020 convention I was struck off the list and with a poor excuse at that. The excuse was, the executive is not sure where my membership is, whether it

was in Rural East where I ran or in St. George's where I reside. If this is true then it sheds a bad light on you governing in the future. A man ran on your party ticket for an election and one (1) year and months after you don't know where he is registered? So where is your record keeping? That means there is no continuity in your records? And according to my police training where there is no continuity there is no integrity and compromise is the result.

What made it more demeaning to me is that only on the day of the convention I found out that my name was not on the delegate list. On my arrival at the convention that morning I visited the reception desk and Dulcie Horsford offered to write my name on a piece of paper and pin it on my shirt and I refused the suggestion vehemently. I walked away and went in the room without a name tag. That day I felt like a cockroach in a fowl pen. From that day I felt reduced around the party to a hape-ney (in modern terms a one cent). I did not feel like I belonged and I asked myself what I really left my career job for. This is the first time I had regretted leaving my career. I felt like a dwarf.

Another occasion where I felt embarrassed and out of place was during my visit to the Political Leader, Harold Lovell office months before the leadership convention; this was before I declared publicly that I was supporting Richard Lewis. I told him I heard of various meetings being held at the Trade Winds Hotel which are geared to replace candidates from the 2018 elections who are suspected supporters of Richard Lewis for leadership. He said he heard about it and was not a part of it and that it was Devon Benta who was spare heading those meetings with Anderson Carty.

I went on to tell Mr. Lovell that Rural East was not printed on my forehead and at least if they had intention to move me they should do the honorable thing and tell me rather

than digging me behind my back. I reminded him of my arrest and the sacrifices I made to enter politics, Mr. Lovell said to me and I quote, "Young ah you one make sacrifice?" "Is you alone ever get lock up?" I could not help again than to reflect back on what Gaston Brown said to me. If I was not mentally and physically strong I would have lost my cool but I believe that God will take me out of this political mayhem I find myself in.

The time came for the selection of candidates for the 2023 constitutionally due elections. On the 13th of May this year, I was summoned to a meeting initiated by Political Leader Harold Lovell at his office about 3:00pm. Present at that meeting was the Honorable Jamal Pringle, former Prime Minister Honorable Dr. Baldwin Spencer, Political Leader of the UPP Harold Lovell and myself. Harold Lovell started off the meeting by blaming Covid 19 Pandemic for not naming the candidates already he said that the party is behind its timeline because it was in March he was supposed to present candidates to the electorate. He went on to ask me if I do not emerge the candidate if I will support whosoever is chosen and the party. I said to him give me a primary and a poll and I would be guided by these two factors.

He went on to say that due to the pandemic time is too short for a poll and a primary. Then he started to make some promises to me stating that in the event that I am not the candidate what he would offer me. I told him that I don't trust his words and there was where the Honorable Baldwin Spencer interjected and said that as long as he is around he will see to it that what Harold was promising delivered. I told Dr. Spencer I do not trust the UPP Executive any more, the only thing Harold did not promise me was eternal life. At one time I thought we were in Heaven's Throne Room after the amount of promises from Lovell. I then said to the three of them on a more serious note, Rural East was not painted on

cont'd on pg 14

cont'd from pg 13

my forehead when I was born so I will give it up under one premise and that is if they reinstate Joanne Messiah and her followers into the UPP.

Here is where Honorable Jamal Pringle came in and said, "no way Bro. Young you don't see Joanne Messiah is there just to keep UPP out of power for the Labour Party to win?" and I said to him I do not know about that because for what I see the party did to Richard Lewis at the last convention I can't help but develop empathy and sympathy for Joanne and her team because Richard Lewis complaint and Joanne's are the same. This is where the political leader promise to hand over leadership to them and changed his mind among other things. I went on to say that people at the convention voted more than five times and Harold Lovell interjected and said that if it is the situation that is on tape that is customary in a conventions. I told him whether it is customary or not, illegality is illegality. I went on further to say, I see UPP as a piece of material cut out from the fabric of the labour party. I see no difference and no one replied. I said other harsh stuff which I may not remember now. The only consolation I left that meeting with that afternoon was when the Honorable Baldwin Spencer said to me, "Mr. Young if you feel that you have the influence how to bring back sister Joanne home I welcome it." The meeting came to a close and before I left Mr. Lovell said he would get back to me.

On June the 8th I was summoned to Mr. Lovell office again for another meeting, it was in the afternoon the 4th anniversary exactly when i was arrested. When I entered the meeting place it was Harold Lovell alone this time around he spared no time to let me know that the Candidate Committee and himself had chosen Sean Bird as the candidate to represent Rural East in the upcoming elections and that I must try to live with it. He went on to make numerous promises to me that would compensate for me

not being the selected candidate. He insisted that I should support Sean Bird and the party. I asked him to give me some time to discuss the matter with my wife then I will come back and tell him if I will continue my support to the party and the candidate.

A week had not even passed when I heard former UPP member and past candidate Gregory Athill speaking on a morning interview on the radio and he made it clear that the process of how the political leader Harold Lovell and his committee were going about choosing the candidates was totally illegal and he was not going to sit idly by and see that they go against the constitution of the UPP.

Within the same week on the Friday morning when the Honorable Jamal Pringle was on the same morning show he was asked about the way the party goes about choosing its candidates and he replied, "primary or no primary the results is going to be the same." That said week Harold Lovell had his secretary invite me to a virtual meeting on the Saturday after Pringle made this unfortunate statement. The Saturday night came and the meeting was called to order. Present were members of the UPP Executive, members of the Rural East Branch, Sean Bird the chosen candidate, Mr. Cornelius and myself. All three prospective candidates made their presentations. I know this was only a matter of form because Lovell would have advised me that Sean Bird was chosen. Mr. Lovell during his presentation said a primary would be conducted in Rural East and that nomination day would be the Monday and the election would be the Thursday.

Because of what Mr. Lovell told me on the 8th May, 2020 at my second meeting with him I told him that he was a man that goes back to his vomit and I don't. I went on to say that he is a flip-flopper based on what transpired in the meeting on 8th May, 2020. I went on further to tell him that I lost the little confidence

I had in him. Obviously I opted out of the so-called Rural East Primary since I found out from Pringle that primary or no primary the result would be the same.

The following day which was the Sunday I realized that I was removed or blocked from the UPP Rural East Whatsapp group chat; when I called the administrator to find out why they blocked my number, she said that she was instructed so to do. I was also blocked out of the St. Georges Branch chat of which I was a member. This event took effect after the high handed rip-off leadership convention. To cut a long story short I see the UPP Executive as a group that cannibalize each other and to tell the gospel truth I Trevor Theo Adolphus Young not ready for that.

I see you as the late Roy Boyke saw you when he was advisor to the UPP regime. He saw UPP as a people that would be destroyed by self-inflicted wounds. Variance is bad on the outside but when you get it from the inside the outcome would be much more severe. I see you as a bunch of elitists that intimidate persons to the point of losing their self-esteem. Last but not least I see you as a group of people who love no one but yourselves and pretend to the public that it is "people first" when in truth and in fact you all are fakers.

Let me say very profoundly I ever regret the day when I stepped into this elitist group. I was happy to see that what the people had warned me about came to pass and by the grace of God I now take my exit from the United Progressive Party. God's speed.

.....
 Trevor T.A Young

Editor's note: This letter has been published untouched from the way it was sent to us.

Prime Minister Keith Mitchell welcomes the appointment of Grenada's first female Attorney General

Grenada GIS): Prime Minister and Minister for National Security, Keith Mitchell has welcomed the appointment of Grenada's first female Attorney General, Dia Forrester and the confirmation of Edvin Martin to the position of Commissioner of Police.

In an interview on the MTV programme, Perspectives, Dr Mitchell said both individuals have demonstrated a high level of professionalism and he is confident of their ability to serve adequately in their respective capacities.

Speaking specifically about the new Attorney General, Dia Forrester, who previously served as the Solicitor General, Dr Mitchell said the feedback from people in the legal profession, staff in the Ministry of Legal Affairs and others in the public service with whom she interacted, is that she is a well-respected professional.

He said, "She is deemed to be a professionally strong person and is



well-poised to give guidance to the Government in the area of legal affairs. She has demonstrated considerable honesty and integrity that is certainly what we want in the office of the Attorney General. We are extremely lucky to have her, she is young and has the right energy for the job. In my own interaction with her, I have found her to be very honest and straightforward, not one for political games."

The Prime Minister commended the

work of the outgoing Attorney General, Darshan Ramdhani whom he said provided tremendous support to the Government and wished him well in his return to private practice.

With respect to the confirmation of the Commissioner of Police, Dr Mitchell said, "He has acted for a reasonable period of time and has demonstrated the required level of professionalism. I believe the Commissioner must be independent because the person is responsible for protecting all of the citizens in the country, irrespective of their religious and political views and other social considerations. "So far, Commissioner Martin has demonstrated that type of behaviour and attitude. Therefore, in my view, the Public Service Commission did the right thing by confirming him in that position to give some certainty to the leadership of the police force, which is a critical area of national security."

Guyana could be heading for environmental and economic disaster

(Kaieteur News): While the People's Progressive Party /Civic (PPP/C) administration has continued where its predecessor left off on establishing a project to bring gas to shore so as to meet the increasing energy demands of the city, some industry stakeholders are now advising against it as they believe the project has the potential to land Guyana in environmental and economic disaster.

During a recent interview on Kaieteur Radio's programme, Guyana's Oil and You, International Lawyer, Melinda Janki, bluntly stat-

ed that the authorities of the day are actually embarking on a "lunatic project" which will place more massive debt on the backs of Guyanese.

According to a 2018 feasibility study that was handed to the former AP-NU+AFC administration, a whopping US\$304M is needed for ExxonMobil and its partners to bring natural gas from the Stabroek block to Guyana's shores. The feasibility study, which was compiled by Energy Narrative, a US-based market analysis firm, states that out of the US\$304M, ExxonMo-

bil would be responsible for US\$165M, which will be used for pipeline construction costs.

The remaining US\$139M for the construction of the onshore infrastructure will have to be financed by the Government of Guyana. Also, Guyana would still have to pay for the transportation of the gas but that price is currently under negotiations between the PPP/C and ExxonMobil.

Further to her concerns about the increase in debt, Janki expressed that the nation is supposed to see an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on

the project before thought is given to its execution. Considering that the law requires EIAs to be done for projects of this nature, Janki is of the belief that the gas to shore venture in its current state, is illegal.

The lawyer also contended that Guyanese are yet to see a current economic analysis which shows that this project is economically sound for Guyana in the long run as opposed to going the route of renewable energy. Taking the foregoing factors into consideration, Janki said that the gas to shore project is a foolish proposition.

Undercover racism in the BVI being used to divide and conquer



Premier Andrew Fahie

(BVI News): Premier Andrew Fahie has said he believes colonial authorities from the UK are using undercover racism within the territory to enact their modern-day slavery tactics.

He further said he believes these so-called tactics are geared towards disrupting and controlling the BVI population by levelling false accusations at local government.

The premier gave that indication during Tuesday's sitting in the House of Assembly, while laying the

Disaster Management Bill before the House to undergo significant amendments.

The amended Bill proposes to shift the power of control from the governor to the Premier and his government during times of disaster.

"The Disaster Management Bill before us today gives the people of the Virgin Islands the hands-on control over this aspect of our resilience. It complements the principles that are contained in the Constitution," Fahie stated.

He added: "As we make the amendments to the Bill to put it under local government, this transition in the administration of disaster management in the BVI is long overdue, so as many other things such as the archives and many other areas that we are going to be tackling while helping the economy."

He contended that it was time for BVI to awake and see racist and slavery tactics.

As he debated the amendment in the House of Tuesday, Premier Fahie

said the time has come where locals need to commence viewing the Constitution and many other things from a different lens and not from the view of how the colonial powers have programmed persons to view things over the years.

He said: "We come awake when we look through the laws when it's dealing with an elected official. But we go to sleep when it's dealing with the laws dealing with the Governor or any other entity that comes from within the Governor's area. [This is] because we still have in our mind that we are not as apt in these areas as they are, and that is where we've fallen short and it's not by accident. It's by design, sad to say."

The leader of government business further said these colonial powers use fear and other political tactics to undermine governments.

He said the do so by painting a discrediting narrative to the masses to pave a path to justify their authoritative measures when they take action.

Immediate suspension of Caribbean Airlines flights to Havana, Cuba

(Dominicavibes online): Caribbean Airlines advises that its commercial service to Havana, Cuba is suspended with immediate effect until further notice.

This follows correspondence from the Instituto de Aeronáutica Civil de Cuba (IACC) advising of the country's latest protocols and restrictions re: inbound commercial flights to combat COVID-19.

Persons with bookings to Cuba are asked to contact the airline's

Reservations Sales and Service Centre.

Caribbean Airlines regrets any inconvenience caused and thanks its valued customers for their understanding.

Iran issues Interpol notice for 48 US officials including Trump

(Aljazeera): US President Donald Trump has had a "red notice" request for his arrest issued through Interpol by Iran.

Iranian judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili announced during a press conference on Tuesday that Iran has requested the international police organisation to arrest Trump and 47 other American officials identified as playing a role in the assassination of top general Qassem Soleimani last year.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is very seriously following up on pursuing and punishing those who ordered and executed this crime," Esmaili told reporters.

Soleimani, Iran's top general who led the foreign operations arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, was assassinated on January 3, 2020, in a US drone strike in Baghdad ordered by Trump.



Iranian General Qasem Soleimani, left; Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis were killed last year in a US drone attack

The assassination was deemed to be against international law by Agnes Callamard, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

It was the second Iranian request for an international arrest warrant for Trump and dozens of US officials in the Pentagon and US Central Command, among other organisations.

In June, Tehran prosecutor Ali Alqasimehr is-

sued an arrest warrant for Trump and dozens of US officials saying they face "murder and terrorism charges".

But France-based Interpol rejected Iran's request, saying its constitution forbids it from undertaking "any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character".

Renewed talks of prosecuting Trump and other US officials come as part of Iranian promises to avenge

Soleimani one year after his murder in an American drone strike in Iraq.

They also come shortly before Trump has to leave office on January 20, something Iran hopes could boost his chances of facing consequences.

In a ceremony in Tehran to mark Soleimani's assassination anniversary, judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi said Trump was a main target of prosecution and should not be immune because of his political status.

"Fortunately, Trump's presidency has ended. But even if his term hadn't ended, it would be unacceptable to say someone shouldn't be accountable to law due to his administrative position," he said.

The spokesman of the powerful constitutional vetting body, the Guardian Council, also said last week Iran would legally pursue Trump after he leaves the White House.

Canadian politician says 'sorry' for vacation in Barbados

(CTV News): Quebec Liberal MNA Pierre Arcand is sorry, but he won't resign from office.

The member of the National Assembly for the Mont-Royal-Outremont riding returned to Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport Friday night after taking an ill-advised trip with his wife to Barbados that received criticism from many including the leader of his party.

"I probably made a mistake by going there, obviously, and I regret that mistake," he told CTV News at the airport.

Will he step down?

"No," said Arcand.

Liberal leader Dominique Anglade said she tried to dissuade him from taking the trip and has now asked him to pack his bags and head home.

Arcand says he and his wife were tested before they left Quebec and again after arriving in Bar-



Quebec Liberal MNA Pierre Arcand

bados.

"It was not the right thing to do clearly, he said Friday night. "It was a commitment I made to my wife on a personal basis, it was important for me to do that at the time."

Arcand said he felt the place he travelled to was secure, but that it doesn't excuse the trip made in the midst of the highest daily increases in COVID-19

cases since the start of the pandemic.

"One thing for sure, it's obvious right now that we are in the middle of an increase of a lot of cases and travelling is probably not a good thing at this particular time," he said.

Arcand isn't the only local politician who's abroad right now. CAQ MNA Youri Chassin is in Peru visiting his husband.

Arcand's trip came to light after he was spotted in Barbados. According to Radio-Canada, who reported the news first, Arcand was seen in the Glitter Bay area.

Federal and provincial governments have repeatedly asked Quebecers not to travel over the holidays given the state of the pandemic in Canada.

Anglade said Wednesday morning that she should have gone further than trying to talk him out of it, and should have prohibited members of her party from leaving the country.

"We said 'We don't believe that he should be going,' but we should have forbidden it," she said.

Arcand said he's spoken to Anglade.

"There are times when you think you're doing the right thing and we're all human beings and obviously I made a mistake by going there," he said.

BROWN AND BROWNE
SATURDAYS 4PM

PRIME MINISTER
HON. GASTON BROWNE

SENATOR
COLIN BROWNE

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

CTV CHANNEL 9

UK says its aircraft carrier strike group is ready to deploy. China's already watching

(CNN): Britain is officially an aircraft carrier power again.

The Royal Navy announced on Monday that the UK's Carrier Strike Group, centered on Britain's largest ever warship, the HMS Queen Elizabeth, had achieved initial operating capability.

The designation means the 65,000-ton carrier, its air assets including F-35 stealth fighter jets and helicopters, as well as its escorting destroyers, frigates, submarines and supply ships, are ready to deploy within five days of receiving orders to do so.

Qualified pilots and ground crews are on notice.

"This is a hugely significant milestone for HMS Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Navy and the whole country. This achievement is a testament to the determination of our service personnel and industry workforce who have delivered this first-rate military capability, a capability held by only a handful of nations," UK Defense Minister Jeremy Quin said in a statement.

The commander of carrier strike group,



HMS Queen Elizabeth departs from the Royal Navy base in Portsmouth, England, on September 21, 2020

Commodore Steve Moorehouse, touted his unit's readiness in a Twitter post.

"In practical terms, my Strike Group is now at Very High Readiness, meaning we are at 5 days' notice to deploy, if required, in response to global events & in defence of British interests," Moorehouse tweeted.

In a follow up tweet, he hinted at what is to come. Carrier strike group staff are planning for the Queen Elizabeth's first operational deployment, which Moorhouse said would encompass the Royal Navy's largest peacetime task group in 25 years and be proof of Britain's commitment to maintaining worldwide security -- "a visible demonstration of Global Britain," Moorhouse called it.

Specific dates for the

first deployment have yet to be announced.

Since 2017, UK defense officials have been saying the carrier's first deployment would include Asia and the Pacific on a route from Britain that would likely take it through the South China Sea.

"The UK is a global power with truly global interest ... we must be prepared to compete for our interests and our values far, far from home," then-UK Defense Minister Gavin Williamson said in 2019. The carrier would take its contingent of state-of-the-art F-35 stealth fighter jets into a region where "China is developing its modern military capability and its commercial power," Williamson said in an address to the Royal United Services Institute think-tank in London.

But the presence

of any foreign warships in the South China Sea is frowned upon by China. Beijing claims almost all of the 3.3 million square kilometer (1.3 million square mile) South China Sea as its territory. Even ahead of Monday's Royal Navy readiness announcement, Chinese military officials were warning London against interfering in the region.

"We believe the South China Sea should not become a battleground for big power competition, or a sea full of roaming warships," Senior Col. Tan Kefei, a spokesman for China's Defense Ministry, said at a December 31 news briefing reported by the state-run Xinhua media agency in a posting on the Chinese military's official English website. Foreign powers sending their warships to the South China Sea, where China has built military bases on man-made islands, were behind the "militarization" of the waterway, Tan said.

"The Chinese military will take necessary measures to protect national sovereignty, security, and its developmental interests, as well as safeguard peace and stability in the region," he said.

Georgia Senate election: Control of Congress up for grabs

(BBC): The US state of Georgia went to the polls for a second-round vote that will decide whether President-elect Joe Biden's Democrats control the Senate.

Mr Biden's party needs to win both seats in the state's runoffs to gain full control of Congress - and with it the power to push forward his agenda.

The Republican Party of outgoing President Donald Trump needs only to win one in order to retain the Senate.

Mr Biden said Georgians could shape the US for years to come.

Meanwhile, Mr Trump told voters it was their "last chance to save the America" they loved.

Republicans Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue currently hold Georgia's two Senate seats. Ms Loeffler is taking on Reverend Raphael Warnock and Mr Perdue is battling former journalist Jon Ossoff.

None of the candidates reached the 50% needed to win outright in the elections in November, forcing Tuesday's runoffs under Georgia's election rules. Voting began at 07:00 (12:00 GMT).

The vote will decide the balance of power in the Senate.

The Republicans currently hold 52 of the 100 seats. If both Democrats win on Tuesday, the Senate will be evenly split, allowing incoming Demo-



Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock are the Democratic challengers

cratic Vice-President Kamala Harris the tie-breaking vote.

This would be crucial for pushing through Mr Biden's agenda, including on key issues such as healthcare and environmental regulations - policy areas with strong Republican opposition.

The Senate also has the power to approve or reject Mr Biden's nominees for cabinet and judicial posts.

If Mr Ossoff and Mr Warnock both win, it would bring the White House, Senate and the House of Representatives under Democratic control for the first time since President Barack Obama's election in 2008.

Voting should last about 12 hours, ending at 19:00 local time (midnight GMT), although all those still in line to vote at that time will be allowed to do so.

Democrats are hoping for a large turnout and have been buoyed by the fact that more than three million Georgians have already cast their ballots - nearly 40% of the state's registered voters. Early voting was a key benefit for Joe Biden in the presidential election.

David Perdue has been self-isolating since coming into contact with someone with coronavirus, while his Republican fellow candidate Ms Loeffler tweeted images of herself and supporters waving placards on polling day.

Both Democratic candidates were also out canvassing for final votes on Tuesday.

The Democrats will be looking to turn out supporters in major urban areas, particularly the suburbs of Atlanta. The issue of long lines of voters could be more of a

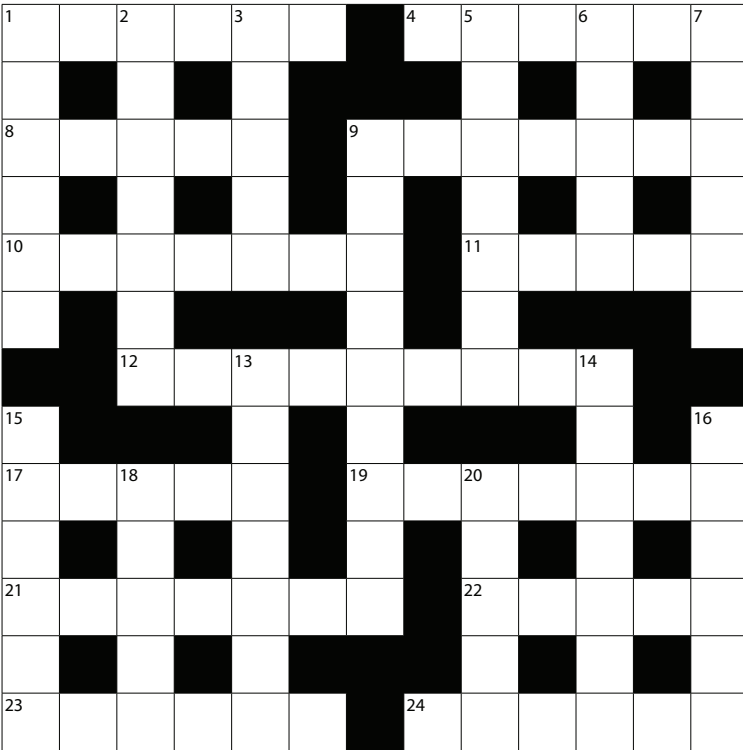
problem for them.

For the Republicans, getting out voters on the day is even more crucial, and they will be looking to the stronghold of north Georgia, as well as rural areas and smaller towns.

Generally, results come in quickly but if these races are close, it could take days.

Mr Perdue nearly won first time out against Mr Ossoff in November, falling just short of the needed majority with 49.7%. The other seat had more candidates, with Democrat Mr Warnock recording 32.9% to Ms Loeffler's 25.9%.A Democrat has not won a Senate race in Georgia in 20 years but the party will be boosted by Mr Biden's presidential election win over Mr Trump there. Mr Biden's margin of victory was about 12,000 votes among five million cast.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

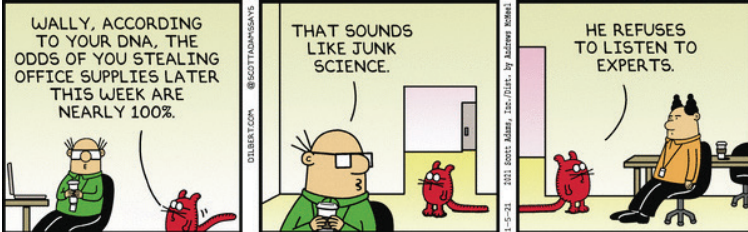
- 1 Fortified building (6)
- 4 Sangroid (6)
- 8 Extract money (from someone) by deceit (5)
- 9 Swell (7)
- 10 Former Greek monetary unit (7)
- 11 Fatuous (5)
- 12 Italian mountain chain (9)
- 17 Brief visits (5)
- 19 Important — grave (7)
- 21 With money to spend (2,5)
- 22 Search for information (5)
- 23 Havoc (6)
- 24 Robbery with violence (4-2)

Down

- 1 Drama genre (6)
- 2 Dried seedless grape (7)
- 3 Door fastening (5)
- 5 Ardent emotion (7)
- 6 Tosca, for example (5)
- 7 Pester — nocturnal mammal (6)
- 9 Identification of a problem from its symptoms (9)
- 13 Fundamental nature (7)
- 14 Marred (7)
- 15 Division into opposing factions (6)
- 16 Out for the count? (6)
- 18 High (5)
- 20 Part of the broadcasting industry (5)

DAILY COMICS

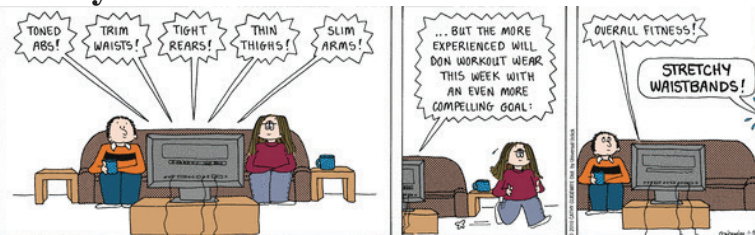
Dilbert



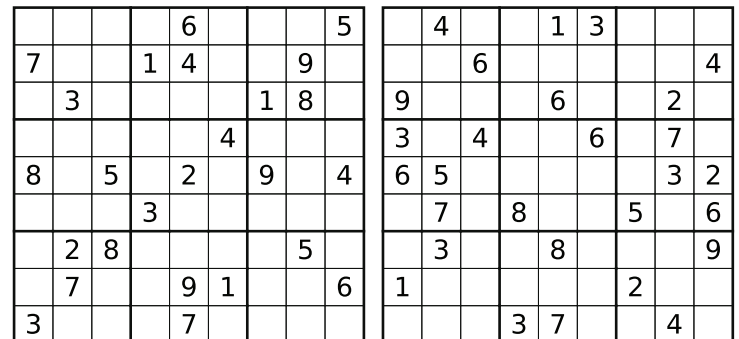
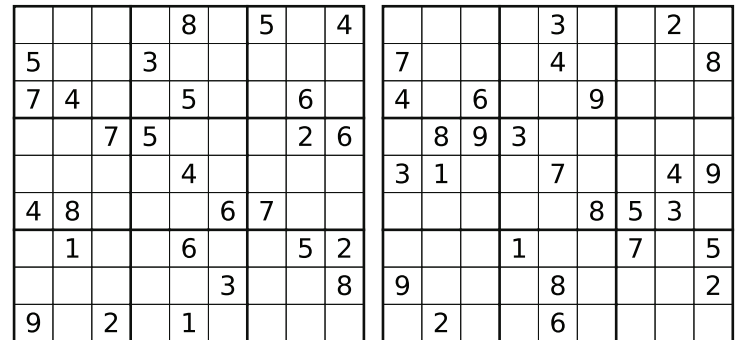
Garfield



Cathy



SUDOKU




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.

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

WED
01/06




82° Hi DAY
Mostly sunny with a shower in places

73° Lo NIGHT
Clear

Sunrise 6:38 AM Sunset 5:48 PM Moonrise N/A Moonset 12:17 PM

THU
01/07



82° Hi DAY
Partly sunny with a passing shower or two

74° Lo NIGHT
Clear to partly cloudy

Sunrise 6:39 AM Sunset 5:48 PM Moonrise 12:57 AM Moonset 1:00 PM

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

A former romantic partner might reappear on the scene, and the feelings they stir up won't be the ones you were expecting. They've taken the initiative to get back into your life, and there could be a very significant reason for it.

TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Call a spade a spade. People will respect your honesty and give you more responsibility because of it. If someone is bragging a bit too much, tell them not to be so pompous. You can be an empowering force today if you choose to be.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Whether or not you have a good day totally depends on your attitude this morning. If you're feeling up for a challenge, then you're going to be well pleased with how the day unfolds. You will end your day happy knowing that you did some good work.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

Be wary of extravagant gifts from co-workers or casual acquaintances. They could be giving you something with the expectation that they'll be getting something in return. You can't afford to be obliged to anyone at this point.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

If you're always pushing away the people and things that frustrate you, how are you ever going to figure out how to overcome them? Keep a stiff upper lip today and use your supreme inner strength to face a fear and conquer it.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your growing confidence is helping you impress all the right people now, but too much action might cause you to get overwhelmed all over again. Do yourself a favor and scale back on your plans for the day.

LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

When it comes to making new friends, you're going to be absolutely unstoppable today. Everyone wants to be on your team, and they won't be shy about letting you know it! But make sure you're choosy about the company you keep.

SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Your ego is growing, and that is nothing but a good thing! Now might be the right time to take that risk that has intimidated you for so long. You may finally have the faith in yourself that you need to prevail.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

This is a day you can spin to your advantage if you treat every situation with the right attitude. That grouchy person who tries to steal your parking space, the overbearing boss who spends more time breathing down your neck than doing their own job.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You could be getting a lot of attention in a social situation right about now, and be warned that someone else may feel more deserving of it. The delicate dynamics of small groups is something you understand well.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

This day could unfold in some unpredictable directions, but not knowing exactly what's going to happen next might be a very good thing for you right now. Look for it to spark your creativity by the afternoon.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Someone you care deeply about has been living in a bit of a fantasyland lately, and it's going to be up to you to give them the reality check they need. It's never fun to burst someone's bubble.

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.

EARLY CLOSURE

The general public is advised that the headquarters of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Government Office Complex, will close at 11am on Wednesday, 23rd December, 2020. This is to facilitate a staff function. Normal office hours will resume on Thursday 24th December, 2020. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.



Tell us what's happening in your community.

Submit community notices to news@pointville.ag



HADEED MOTORS LTD.

ANTIGUA'S #1 MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERSHIP

www.hadeedmotors.com



Way of Life!

Unlock your FUN SIDE



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

DZIRE

starting at

\$49,500

INCLUDES

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

*On The Spot Financing Available

>>> UPGRADED FEATURES

- Power Windows
- Reverse Camera
- Touch Screen
- Bluetooth
- Parking Sensors
- Automatic AC
- Automatic Headlamps



located on
Old Parham Road

contact us
Tel: (268) 481-2500

follow us on
Facebook & Instagram

Elite sports continue despite lockdown

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new COVID-19 restrictions in a TV address on Monday evening, but elite sports are exempt. Professional sports in Scotland will also continue, after First Minister Nicola Sturgeon earlier issued a general stay-at-home instruction from midnight Monday this week.

Elite sports can continue behind closed doors during a new national lockdown

in England. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new restrictions for the country Monday evening to combat the spread of coronavirus, particularly the new variant, with measures expected to last until mid-February.

The Premier League and other elite sports, including rugby's Gallagher Premiership, have strict testing regimes in place and established COVID-19

protocols. Professional sports in Scotland are also unaffected by the new coronavirus restrictions.

The announcement of the third national lockdown comes as the UK recorded 58,784 new coronavirus cases on Monday - the highest daily total since the start of the pandemic. It is the seventh day in a row that there have been more than 50,000 daily cases.

The UK's coronavirus

alert level was raised from Level 4 to Level 5 for the first time on Monday. The government confirmed outdoor team sports will not be permitted while leisure centers and gyms will close, as will other indoor and outdoor leisure facilities including swimming pools, golf courses, tennis courts, bowling alleys, dance studios, riding arenas and centers, and climbing walls centers.



Kevin Durant will quarantine after exposure to COVID-19

Kevin Durant will need to quarantine for seven days after the NBA's contact tracing initiative revealed that he has been exposed to COVID-19, according to The Athletic's Shams Charania.

Durant previously contracted COVID-19

early in the outbreak. He has tested negative and still has antibodies, according to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski, but the league's rules do not distinguish between players who have had COVID-19 and those who do not.

Without Durant, the Nets

will have to rely even more on Kyrie Irvin and Caris LeVert to create shots for the rest of the team. Durant will miss games against Utah Jazz, Philadelphia 76ers, Oklahoma City and the Denver Nuggets.

The NBA all-star's absence is expected

to push the Nets further down the Eastern Conference standings after a 3-4 start to the season. They are currently ranked 25 in the NBA, shooting 34.3 percent on three pointers, which is unlikely to last, given their talent.

Antigua and Barbuda Women's Football ready to kick-off



After been brought to a standstill since 13th March 2020 when the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) Women's league was flourishing at the ABFA technical center in front of large crowds, football is ready to resume training at the national level.

Head coach Lisa Cole explained in a WhatsApp message to local coaches that the technical team is looking forward to kicking off national training later this month. The American has created an interest form for players interested in being evaluated to



fill out.

Cole said during the course of the 2020 ABFA Women's League a number of young players showed potential and the national coaching staff want to ensure that players who yearn for an

opportunity get a chance to showcase their potential and skill.

Cole appealed to local coaches to assist with recruiting by having players complete the form. In this way, budding talent that have

been overlooked can be brought to the attention of the technical team. Players will then be contacted by the coach and given a chance to enrol in the training programme.

The former college player and coach is also encouraging under-20 and under-17 players to sign up for the referee course. Cole said that it is a good chance for them to better understand the rules of the game.

The national coach ended by stating that the technical team will be concentrating on the under-20 and under-17 team

West Indies captain in Barbados Super50 squad



West Indies Test captain Jason Holder has been included in a 22-man squad for Regional Super50 Cup in Antigua.

West Indies Test captain Jason Holder, who opted out of the up-coming West Indies tour to Bangladesh this month, has been included in a 22-man Barbados Pride provisional squad announced Monday by the Barbados Cricket Association, in preparation for this year's

Regional Super50 Cup here in Antigua.

The all-rounder was one of 10 players who last week declined the invitation for the Test and One-day International tour of Bangladesh, due to COVID-19 personal fears. Shai Hope, Roston Chase and Shamarh Brooks, who also opted not to accept selection for the West Indies tour, have also been named in the training squad.

Many supporters of the Caribbean team are questioning if the team was touring England, Australia, India or South Africa if the players' concern and fears would be the same. Many believe that the players are using COVID-19 as an excuse to avoid the tour to Bangladesh, one of the weaker test nations on the ICC calendar.

DEWS