



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTX PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2021

ISSUE 178

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

MSJMC CONFIRMS SIXTH COVID-19 DEATH

SEE PAGE 3



Photo caption: Antigua and Barbuda's newest member of the legal profession and son of Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin, Kevon Benjamin, was admitted to the bar at a colourful ceremony held at the High Court on Thursday before Justice Iain Morley, QC.

PAGE 5

Double celebration for the Benjamin family

PAGE 7

NIA Mentor Award attracts scores of submissions

PAGE 8

CalvinAir helicopters assisting with monitoring St. Vincent volcano

Editorial: For whom the bell tolls

Page 2

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Queen Thalia has produced what many believe to be one of the best Kaiso of the modern era. Inspired by a sermon variously titled "No Man is an Island" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls" penned by the great English clergyman, metaphysical poet and scholar, John Donne, Thalia's "My Guarantee," released and performed in 2016, captures the essence and quintessence of that homily in the chorus when she croons:

"No man is an island, by himself an entity,

We are each part of a larger cosmic corporate body.

Life is dynamic and is subject to constant change;

We never know how our lives will have to be rearranged.

So when you hear the bells are tolling from on top the church

Do not stand up proud on your lofty perch:

Ask not for whom the bells tolls

If you happen and hear and see

'Cause one day it go toll for

thee,
That's my guarantee!"

A cursory glance through the timelines of many social media sites reveals an uncomfortable truth about humans, and particularly some in Antigua and Barbuda. There is a certain amount of schadenfreude that seems to raise its head whenever there is an unfortunate report on some issue. It is almost as if some salivate on the very thought that another is experiencing misfortune.

Wisely, Queen Thalia warns that "no man is an island, by himself an entity." We are all connected; and while today it might be another's turn, just know that one day the bell will toll for all of us. As old people used to say, "When you see your neighbour house on fire, wet foo you!"

Indeed, some are quick to engage in a culture of tearing down, instead of building up. Seldom do they miss an opportunity to remind another of their past failings, as if the past is the only

thing that defines a person. Yes, human beings will fall but the measure of a person can never be in the fall; it is always in that simple act of acknowledging the fall, getting up, dusting oneself off, and showing a willingness to start again having learned from the experience.

Instead of constantly reminding persons of their shortcomings, where has that true Antiguan and Barbudan spirit of encouragement and support gone? Are we so mean spirited that we cannot "overlook the blindness of the narrow-minded people on the narrow-minded street"?

As a people, we have to get to a place where we understand that if we sow the wind, we will surely reap the whirlwind. The things we encourage and cultivate are the very same things that will afflict us in the future. Again, as old people used to say, "You can't plant corn and reap pi-tay-tay." If today we encourage and cultivate envy, hatred, nepotism, and

insular actions, we are certain to encounter it tomorrow. The world is a cycle, and a vicious one at that!

We have a choice: we can choose today to be kind, supportive, and forgiving; or we can choose the polar opposites. Whichever road we choose there will be consequences, but we have the power in our hands to ensure that those consequences are the ones we would desire for ourselves.

As Queen Thalia admonishes, "Life is dynamic and is subject to constant change; we never know how our lives will have to be rearranged. So when you hear the bells are tolling from on top the church do not stand up proud on your lofty perch." It is a call to arms, for today is for your neighbour but tomorrow might just be for you. Let us endeavour to change this negative narrative of relishing the tolling of the bell for another. Ask not for whom the bell tolls as one day that bell will surely toll for us.

MSJMC confirms sixth COVID death

Antigua and Barbuda has recorded its sixth COVID-related death.

The Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) confirms that a ninety-five-year-old male is the country's sixth COVID-19 related death. The case has been reported as a non-imported death.

In a statement, the MSJMC reported that at approximately 8:00 p.m. on 12th January the patient was brought into the Emergency Department, complaining of shortness-of-breath. A COVID-19 test done at the hospital revealed he was positive. The patient's condition continued to worsen and he subsequently succumbed to the illness the following day (13th January) at 4:15 a.m.

"Our thoughts are with his family and community at this time of loss and grief," said Dr. Albert Duncan, MSJMC Medical Director.

"I acknowledge the anxiety Antiguan may be feeling about the recent news, both in the wider community and also for the loved ones grieving over this death. Wednesday's sad news again reinforces the importance of our

shared vigilance against COVID-19, the very serious consequences the virus can carry with it, and the measures we all need to take to stop the spread and break the chain of transmission.

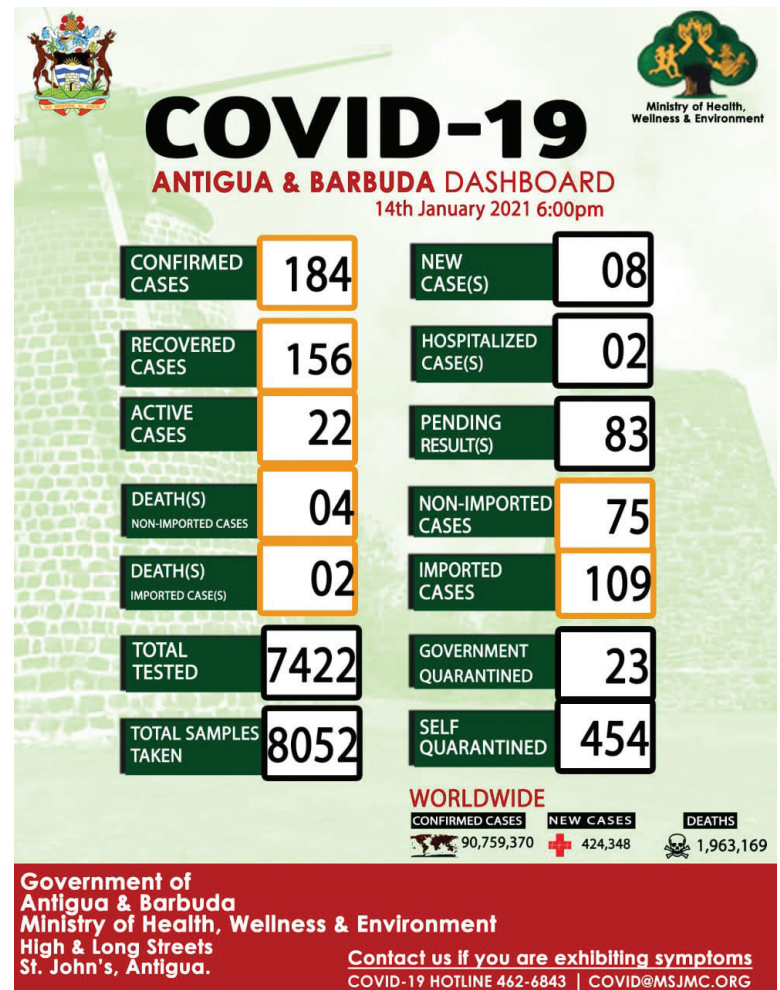
"Our best response remains a strong health response. If we get it right, we will ultimately shake off restrictions faster and all get back to some level of normality in our lives."

As with any confirmed COVID-19 case, the relevant public health officials will initiate contact-tracing.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health announced eight new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Subsequent to the publication of the dashboard for Tuesday 12th January 2021, with the cut off time of 6:00 p.m. one hundred and seven samples were processed at the Mount St. John's Medical Center, which increased the pending results from one hundred and two to two hundred and nine.

Of the one hundred and seven processed by the MSJMC, one hundred



were negative and seven were positive, while of the one hundred and two processed by CARPHA, one hundred and one were negative and one positive.

Two of the new cases are imported while six are non-imported. Investigations are ongoing and contact tracing and testing is in progress.

Meanwhile, four recoveries have been recorded, bringing that total to one hundred and fifty-six.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one hundred and eighty-four (184); which is inclusive of twenty-two (22) active cases.



homegrown experience
 SATURDAYS 2PM - 4PM
 WITH LAWRENCE M
 SYNDICATED ON POINTE FM 99.1

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

Two people face charges for violating quarantine regulations

Less than twenty-four hours after the new electronic bracelets have been placed into service, two people have been caught violating the quarantine guidelines.

Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas, whose ministry set up the monitoring system to ensure strict adherence to the

quarantine restrictions, reported that two people were tracked by the bracelets, which they must wear as a condition for undergoing the quarantine.

The minister reported that the individuals were traced to the Village Walk mall. Their identity was not immediately known.

The Ministry of Health said such violations are immediately handed over to the police to deal with. It is believed that the two will appear before a magistrate to answer a charge of violating the quarantine established under the state of emergency.

The government has acquired some five hundred

electronic bracelets to assist with monitoring of those individuals who have been mandated to undergo a period of quarantine as part of anti-COVID-19 measures.

The move became necessary following numerous reported cases of violations reported to the authorities.

Rotary Club donates computers



The Rotary Club of Antigua has donated one hundred and eighty computers to the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) as part of its Computer for the World Programme.

The presentation took place on the Institute's compound in the presence of Rotarians, faculty members and students.

During the presentation ceremony, coordinator of the programme, Cordel Josiah, explained that, "Over the past eleven years the Rotary Club of Antigua in partnership with the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club of Washington State have conducted a project called 'Computers for the World.' To date, we have donated over three thousand computers and hundreds of printers to over sixty schools in Antigua and Barbuda, and have set up over fifty fully networked computer labs

in the schools," he said.

In related news, the St Johns Lodge #492 ER has made a cash donation to the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown.

During a brief handover, Rotary President Julian Wilkins accepted a check which was handed over by Immediate Past Master Lt. Col. Edward Croft. The donation of \$9,450.00 was given to form a part of an ongoing Club project to focus on disease prevention and treatment and water sanitation.

According to Lt. Col. Croft, having seen the efforts of the club to promote proper hand washing and good hygiene within many of the nation's schools and Public Library, his organization felt the call to make a contribution to further the efforts and at the same time foster friendly relations between the organizations and make a positive impact on society.



Double celebration for the Benjamin family



Antigua and Barbuda's newest member of the legal profession, Kevon Benjamin, was admitted to the bar at a colourful ceremony held at the High Court on Thursday before Justice Iain Morley, QC.

The event, usually a proud moment for the new lawyer and family, took on special significance as it marked forty years to the day of the call to the bar of his father, Attorney General, Steadroy 'Cutie' Benjamin.

The senior Benjamin was called to the bar on 14th January, 1981, and he was gushing with pride when he addressed the court to second the application of Kevon Benjamin. "This is the proudest moment of my life; my son's application was co-sponsored by

his brother Damien Benjamin (along with Lawrence Daniel) and seconded by me. It is a confirmation of all I have worked for as it now means that upon leaving office, my sons and I would be able to practice from our own law firm," a clearly emotional Benjamin stated.

The Attorney General has urged his sons to adhere closely to the principles of the legal profession, and code of ethics. "There's nothing better than honesty, commitment and a deep sense of caring for the other man. By doing the best we can, I know that we can help make Antigua and Barbuda and safer, better place for all of us," he remarked.

In his remarks, Kevon Benjamin also expressed delight in being called to

the bar on the 40th anniversary of his father's formal entry into the legal profession. "I am honoured to be called to the bar exactly 40 years after you were called on the 14th January, 1981. It is easy to understand why January 14th is now my favorite day of the year. Without you dad, I would not have made it through law school, period. It is because of you that I am strong enough and prepared to walk into my God ordained purpose. Dad is the most determined and principled person I know. His attention to detail is extraordinary and the diligence he displays is noteworthy; he truly loves the law and applies its principles in his everyday life," Kevon stated.

He said he was happy

to join "this honourable profession" and he gave a firm commitment to live by its ethics. "I will not lose sight of the profession's uncompromising virtues and traditions. I am well aware that the profession can be a rewarding one. However, it comes with its challenges and when I take the pledge, I vow to deliver legal services to the standard of a reasonable, competent attorney-at-law who practices in Antigua and Barbuda," he declared.

Justice Morley inquired whether young Benjamin had a desire to practice criminal law. He advised the 'newly-minted' lawyer that while the money is made 'sitting behind a desk,' that it was in criminal law that lawyers develop their skills.

Bar Association to open office

The Antigua and Barbuda Bar Association is looking to step up its effectiveness when it opens an office by the start of next month.

Bar association president, Lenworth Johnson, said the office will provide a central spot from which the members of the association can better serve the public. According to Johnson, not having its own office in the past has hampered the

association's ability to carry out its mandate.

"The reason to open the office is for the members of the public to interact with members of the Bar. Over the years there have been complaints that the Bar is not reachable; that it does comment on various issues affecting the society. Recently, that has changed somewhat but we are opening an office so that

we can better prepare ourselves to deal with national issues," he explained.

Johnson noted that one of the objectives of the Bar Association, as set out in the Legal Profession Act, is to educate the public on matters of law in the country as well as to ensure the proper administration and the rule of law in Antigua and Barbuda.

According to Johnson,

the office will open for some five hours daily in the initial stages and it will be manned by an executive secretary. The operations of the office will fall under the direction of secretary to the Bar, Luann DaCosta.

The new office will provide a meeting place for the several sub-committees of the association, including the disciplinary committee.

Carson Matthew Jr Sentenced to Prison

Carson Matthew Jr of Upper Fort Road, who escaped lawful custody last Friday but was recaptured about 24 hours later, has been jailed for the offence.

Matthew appeared before

the Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, charged with escaping lawful custody and he was sentenced to three months at Her Majesty's Prison after he was found guilty.

Police spokesman, Inspector

Frankie Thomas, explained that Matthew, who faces multiple other charges, including house breaking and aggravated robbery, will appear before the court to answer these charges at a future date.

Three source market countries now require PCR tests for entry

Health officials are anticipating a surge in demand for more PCR tests as three major tourism source markets have announced mandatory requirements from all passengers seeking reentry to their borders.

The Ministry of Health said it has been made aware of the mandatory PCR testing requirement for persons travelling to Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"This development is expected to increase the demand for more laboratory tests at the Mount St. John's Medical Centre for the detection of the SARS COVID-19 virus. Health officials of both Ministry of Health and the MSJMC have begun the process of expanding laboratory capacity to meet the additional demand for testing," the ministry said in a statement.

Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, says that the government was already in the process of securing additional testing equipment and supplies in anticipation of this development.

He explained that in addition to the extra equipment and supplies, the Ministry will be bolstering its human resources to ensure that the laboratory output

satisfies the increased demand for testing that is anticipated.

The method of testing that will be undertaken by the Mount St John's Medical Centre will continue to be the real time PCR or any other tests that may be the required for passengers leaving Antigua and Barbuda for destinations to include Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

NIA Mentor Award attracts scores of submissions



Vanessa Kelsick



E. Ann Henry QC

Five businesswomen tasked with assessing applications for The Nia Mentor Award will have to decide from a pool of eighty-nine submissions. Launched in October 2020, the mentorship initiative conceptualized by Marcella Andre, CEO of Communications Consultancy Nia Comms, and communication specialist Jamilla Kirwan aims to provide financial, strategic, and personal guidance to one female entrepreneur.

The five women who will assess the applications and serve as mentors for the eventual winner are E. Ann Henry QC, Vanessa Kelsick, Stephane Harris-Burke, Mickel Brann-Challenger, and Barbara A. Arrindell. They will be joined by André and Kirwan.

Legal powerhouse E. Ann Henry QC, has led a distinguished career since 1981. She has always maintained a dedication to leadership roles among her goals. Henry says, "Being a part of this allows me to pay it forward to a community which has been supportive and to be part of a most exciting initiative for women of this generation who will be the dynamos of the future."

Kelsick, one of LIAT's first female captains on the De Havilland Dash-8, has worked in the aviation field for twenty-three years. She says, "It is an honour to serve as a team member for the Nia Mentor Award. I think this is the beginning of something great not only for women, but for the nation of Antigua and Barbuda."

CEO of SoSS Consulting, Harris-Burke is a financial consultant with over 30 years' experience in banking

and financial services. Her experience and ability to identify unique opportunities for business growth and sustainable expansion, in addition to her enthusiasm about success and collaboration, make her an excellent addition to the team of mentors.

Brann-Challenger, a communications consultant and independent contractor, has more than twenty-five years in the media industry. As a respected thought leader, commentator, gender activist and lifelong mentor, her perspective is sought after and will greatly benefit the first awardee.

Arrindell, a customer service specialist, trainer, and writer whose combined interests and skills led her to becoming the owner of the Best of Books, is committed to continued development.

Speaking about the progress of the initiative thus far, André says she is beyond humbled by the support from the five women who have agreed to serve as mentors. She adds, "I'm quite excited about what we'll find when going through the applications. The response received so far indicates this is something that is not only wanted but needed. I can't wait to find the winner!"

For her part, Kirwan says, "This initiative has been a long time coming and seeing it come to fruition is such a joy. Not only are we fulfilling our purpose and empowering women but we are also honouring the women who came before us."

The deadline for the receipt of applications is 12.00 p.m. Friday, 15th January. The winner will be announced on 15th February, 2021.

CalvinAir Helicopters assisting with monitoring St. Vincent volcano

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Coordinating Unit, has selected CalvinAir Helicopters (CAH) as the top helicopter operator in the Caribbean to carry out the work of assisting scientists with monitoring the La Soufriere volcanic activity in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

According to a recent agency report, this support is extremely urgent to allow the scientists to analyze the data and present to the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines an informed interpretation of the current volcanic events. It is against this backdrop that CAH was selected to assist the team with this undertaking, and will be responsible for providing The University of the West Indies (UWI) Seismic Research Centre's (SRC) scientists with helicopter services for a period of seven (7) days, and then on an "as needed" basis.

According to CAH's Director of Avi-

ation, Mark Fleming, the decision was made after considering several other regional helicopter operations.

"One of the requirements was to secure pilots with extensive mountainous terrain flying, as the peak is over 4,000 feet. So it can be quite challenging with the strong winds at that altitude. Additionally," he added, "CalvinAir Helicopter pilots actually have extensive experience with flying for the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) with a scientist there. So we will be doing very similar flying on this mission; conducting observation flights around the dome; transporting equipment and supplies to monitoring sites; transporting the seismic research scientists and trying to find safe landing spots, where they will be able to set up and maintain their remote monitoring stations to analyze data."

According to Fleming, the Antigua-based helicopter operation

conducts tours and charters around Antigua and Barbuda and surrounding islands. "As well," he said, "we'll do more humanitarian work with Medevac flights as well as search and rescue and emergency missions like these, with the Montserrat Volcanic Observatory and now St. Vincent."

The operation's aircraft are state-of-the-art and not seen before in the Caribbean region. The Airbus EC130 is known to be the gold standard in helicopter aerial touring machines. In addition, the style of its tail rotor reduces outside noise by up to fifty per cent, earning it the nickname "ECO-Star".

"CalvinAir Helicopters is the best of its breed in all-purpose helicopter operations," said Calvin Ayre, owner of the company. "I am extremely proud of what our team has put together. We can offer services across the spectrum, from search and rescue or medical airlift."

Centre for Excellence to study the Blue Economy to be based in Antigua and Barbuda

The Antigua and Barbuda government, the University of the West Indies and the Association of the Commonwealth Universities will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy.

The virtual ceremony will be held at the University of the West Indies Five Islands campus on Tuesday 19th January.

Present at the signing will be Prime Minister Gaston Browne who will be signing on behalf of the government, Professor Sir Edward Byrne signing on behalf of the Association of Commonwealth Univer-

sities, and Sir Hilary Beckles Vice Chancellor on behalf of the University of the West Indies.

Minister with responsibility for the Blue Economy, Dean Jonas, will also be present.

In October 2020, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda gave its support to the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

The centre aims to advance intellectual progress and strengthen institutional capacity in the areas of marine science and the blue economy, while capitalizing on the economic

opportunities for the Caribbean within this emerging sector.

According to the Jonas, "Antigua and Barbuda is advantageously positioned to expand the offering of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus in this area. Antigua and Barbuda is one the largest economies in the Eastern Caribbean, has the largest Exclusive Economic Zone in the sub-region and its geographical location makes it ideally suited to serve as the home and hub of the region's blue economy efforts."

Antigua and Barbuda, as well as the Caribbean region, stand to benefit from an emerging indus-

try worth USD\$2.5 trillion through the diversification of the economy into areas such as aquaculture, marine renewable energy, biotechnology and sea vegetable farming.

Antigua and Barbuda's Blue Economy Minister Jonas has been holding meetings with several organizations, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme (CMEP), Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC), and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development on developing a blue economy action plan for Antigua and Barbuda.

Trump-Pompeo parting shots hurt the Caribbean

(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)

As they are preparing to exit the White House and the State Department on January 20, the outgoing Donald Trump administration has planted some explosives for the foreign policy of the government of Joseph Biden Jr.

A grenade has already been thrown into policies that Antony Blinken, Biden's nominated Secretary of State, might pursue in relation to Cuba and, consequently, the Caribbean region.

In the dying days of his tenure as Secretary of State and only 9 days before Blinken takes over the reins of U.S. foreign policy, Mike Pompeo placed Cuba on a List of State Sponsors of Terrorism that the U.S. draws up unilaterally.

As the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) stated on January 13, the listing of Cuba as a sponsor of state terrorism is "baseless". Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government on the same day were unequivocal in their view that "Cuba's international conduct does not in any way

warrant that designation". In pursuing this pugnacious policy against Cuba, including unravelling the painstakingly weaved policy of the previous Obama administration to try to normalize relations between Cuba and the U.S., Trump's government is seeking to maintain the support of Cuban-Americans in Florida both for raising money for his political activity in the coming years and to be able to deliver the state for a Presidential candidate he favours - maybe even for himself in 2024. As Juan Gonzalez, the incoming Senior Director for Western Hemisphere in the Biden National Security Council, has pointed out, securing Florida for the 2020 Presidential election was the principal motivation of Trump's Cuba policy throughout his term in office.

Little publicized is a corollary of the Trump-Pompeo Cuba policy for the countries of CARICOM. Less than a month ago, the U.S. government sent a questionnaire to Caribbean countries. The answers will be used to compile its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report that is submitted to the U.S. Congress. The December questionnaire included a new and sinister section related specifically to workers from China and Cuba.



By Sir Ronald Sanders

In relation to Cuba - from which every Caribbean country has sought and received - vital help through the provision of medical personnel, the U.S. asks questions which are entirely the business of a sovereign State, or the business of sovereign States which have entered contracts. The questions intrude glaringly on State rights. Were the same questions put to the Government of the U.S., it would quite rightly firmly reject the very audacity of asking them.

Trafficking in persons is a very troubling activity. It is one that every country should combat vigorously. In this regard, it is true to say that Caribbean countries have worked diligently with the U.S. to try to stamp out the activity, related to what amounts to modern day slavery in its worse form, and at its best

cont'd on pg 10

cont'd from pg 9

to the criminal exploitation of vulnerable persons, particularly women and girls.

However, this attempt by the outgoing Trump administration to include Cuban medical workers and professionals, serving Caribbean governments, is an attempt to politicize an otherwise noble cause. The objective appears to be the classification of Cuban medical personnel as 'trafficked persons', thereby implicating both Cuba and Caribbean governments in criminal activity. The latter would be the weaponizing of a policy against countries that discards cooperation against crime and replaces it with coercion.

The implications of this are quite serious and will be a priority of the work of Caribbean countries with the Biden administration and the U.S. Congress because of the dangers posed to them.

Under the U.S. TIP Act, the non-trade related, and non-humanitarian assistance can be withdrawn from any country considered not to be in compliance "with minimum standards for the elimination

of trafficking" and "is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with such standards".

Of course, the determination of what is "minimum standards" and "significant efforts" is made entirely by officials of the U.S. government.

Every year, the TIP report classifies countries from Tier 1 (the most acceptable) to Tier 3 (the least acceptable). Of the 14 independent CARICOM countries, two of them - the Bahamas and Guyana - were listed in 2020 at Tier 1. Seven countries were in Tier 2. These were: Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. On the Tier 2 Watch List were Barbados and Belize. For unclear reasons, Dominica, Grenada, and St Kitts-Nevis appear in none of the Tiers. In the event, no Caribbean country is at the worst level - Tier 3.

However, if the presence of Cuban personnel in CARICOM countries becomes a criterion for the U.S. to unilaterally declare a human trafficking offence, this will injure U.S. relations with CARICOM coun-

tries for no good reason, since U.S. security and U.S. values are not threatened in any way.

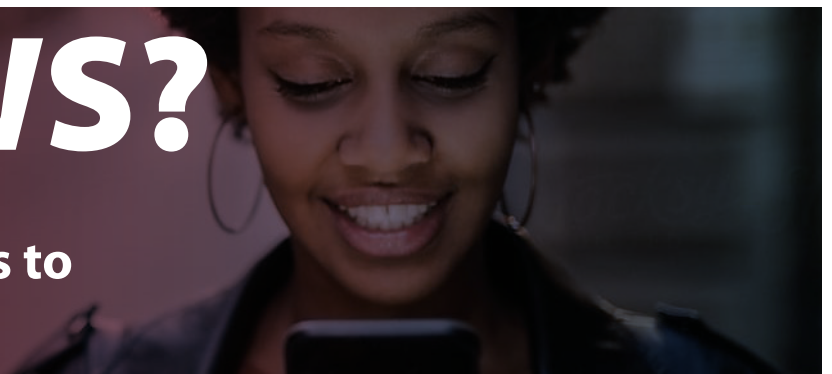
The addition to the U.S. TIP questionnaire of a section on Cuban and Chinese workers fitted well with the anti-China, anti-Cuba stance of the Trump administration to serve its domestic political agenda. How much of this booby trap left for the Biden administration is known to its incoming State Department and National Security teams is not clear, but the Caribbean must regard advising them as a priority. The next U.S. TIP report will be published and sent to the U.S. Congress in June.

The U.S. publication, Foreign Policy, recently quoted a U.S. official as saying that Pompeo's team is engaged in "parting shots deliberately aimed at hampering the incoming administration's foreign policy". Where the Caribbean's interests are affected by those "parting shots", the region must act in unity to safeguard them.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

GOT NEWS?

Send your news stories to
news@pointville.ag



UWI confers honorary doctoral degree on His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams at 2020 Mona graduation ceremony

Thursday January 14, 2021

— The University of the West Indies (UWI) conferred an honorary doctoral degree on Governor General, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams at its Mona Campus graduation ceremony today.

The event was shared with the general public through UWI TV and via social media. In Antigua and Barbuda, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, along with family members and the Honourable Prime Minister Gaston Browne, participated in the ceremony from a location at the UWI Five Islands Campus.

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams is one of four honorary graduates to be conferred with the Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) degree by the University Council, for his outstanding contribution in the areas of Medicine and Public Service. The other recipients are: The Rt. Excellent and Rt. Hon. Sir Kennedy Simmons, St. Kitts and Nevis; Professor E. Albert Reece, Jamaica; and Professor Edgar Julian Duncan, Trinidad and Tobago.

The son of a career politician, the late Honourable Ernest Emmanuel Williams, Sir Rodney followed in his father's footsteps and served as a Member of Parliament in Antigua and Barbuda. He was appointed as Minister of Government in various ministries, holding the portfolios of Tourism, Education, Culture, Technology, Economic Development, Environment, Sports, Youth and Community Development over a twenty-year period. He also served as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and as Advisor to the Prime Minister.

In addition to his political career, Sir Rodney committed his life's work to service in the medical field. He was



a District Medical Officer for several years, lectured pro bono to nurses at the Holberton Hospital, supervised the first batch of nurse practitioners in Antigua and Barbuda, and provided medical services in Codrington, Barbuda. Sir Rodney gave lectures on exercise, fitness and health for a number of years on local television and radio, and wrote articles on this topic.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) in 1976, Sir Rodney spent four decades of his professional life as a medical doctor in Family Medicine with specialisation in Aviation and Sport Medicine. From 1979 to present he has represented Antigua and Barbuda in a medical capacity in several high-level sporting events and conferences including CARIFTA, IAAF, Pan Am and the Olympic Games. He held the post of President of the Na-

tional Olympic Committee for four years.

In 2014, Sir Rodney Williams was appointed Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda. In the same year he was honoured with two knighthood appointments by Her Majesty the Queen – Knight Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George and Knight of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. In 2019, he was given the Freedom to the City of London.

Sir Rodney was named Patron of the Commonwealth Heritage Forum (UK) and Trustee of the London-based West India Committee in 2020. He has also been a Patron of UWI's Global Giving programme since its inception and named the most outstanding Patron for 2020. Additionally, he was the recipient of the University of the West Indies Alumni Association's prestigious Pelican Award in that same year. Together with his wife, HE Lady Williams, Sir Rodney is Patron of more than 30 non-profit organisations.

Together with his wife, HE Lady Williams, Sir Rodney is Patron of more than 30 non-profit organisations.

In his acceptance speech and charge to the 2020 graduating class, Sir Rodney expressed appreciation to UWI for the institution's recognition of his contribution to society, and congratulated his fellow honorary graduates on their achievements. He proceeded to impart practical advice to the UWI students, emphasizing that "multi-skill development is a necessity in today's complex social and economic environment."

Sir Rodney Williams received another honorary doctorate from the St. Mary's College of Maryland, USA (2019) for national service and a Professorship from the Kazakh-Russian Medical University and the Government of Kazakhstan (2019) for his work in Sports Medicine.



STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

HAPPY Anniversary

As we celebrate our 44th year in existence and our 2nd anniversary as State Insurance Company Limited, the Board of Directors, Management and Staff extend heartfelt gratitude to our clients, partners and the general public for their invaluable support over the years. We appreciate your loyalty and look forward to continued mutually beneficial relationships in the future.

1977-2021



Property



Motor



Life & Medical

FUCHA KID....

tearing up the reggae charts

Antigua and Barbuda's fusion artist, Fucha Kid, 'the Feds Boss,' has landed a smooth Dancehall track, fused with a bit of R&B called "Pretty Picture."

The song is on a various artist compilation called the "Raspberry Riddim." The album is distributed by Zojak Worldwide, which also features Jamaican dancehall artist Shane O, Fellow Federation artist, 1-Rule as well as several other dancehall acts. The Raspberry Riddim was produced by DJ Shatta Purix Records, but Fucha Kid the "Feds Boss" track Pretty Picture was produced by Purix Records of Jamaica, Spane Beats of Nevis and Federation Family Studio of Antigua.

The "Raspberry Riddim Album" was released late 2020 and it has been on the US Company Audio Mac Top 100 Reggae Album Chart since December of 2020 and it has been jumping up and down the chart. It peaked at #8 last week and it is now at #15. "Hopefully we will see it reaches #1 with the support of Antigua and Barbuda and fans abroad," Fucha Kid explains.

"Pretty Pictures" is the leading track on the "Raspberry Riddim." Already, it has had almost 300-thousand views and is climbing fast. Earlier, Fucha Kid's release, "Feds Boss" had peaked at #99 on the Audio Mac Top 100 Reggae Chart.

Fucha Kid plans to 'drop' his first dancehall album this summer, 2021, which will feature some major players from Jamaica, Miami, Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Africa, and St Kitts-Nevis.



Fucha Kid has had a few hits last year 2020 such as "Worst Than Covid", ft Hink & 1-Rule, "Who Fool dem" ft with Mr. Gwada and "Grim Reaper" ft 1-Rule.

"All these tracks were rotated heavily on award winning Djs playlist on Youtube and other social media outlets also on popular radio and TV stations around the world," he explained.

The artist said he is now making video presentations for all of his hits from 2020 and 2021. Fucha Kid "Feds Boss" is A Fox-Fuse/ Federation Family Artist and has been granted his official VEVO page which will be rolled out this year, March 2021.

Fucha Kid said he learned the music business from Corporal Montana of African Treasure who gave him a few producers and DJ links in Jamaica. He then started his solo career in 2006 and travelled to Montserrat, Trinidad and then St Kitts for Gem Family Rave where he met Omari Harrigan of Chosen Sounds Studio.

On his return to Antigua, he

signed a deal with Chosen Sound Studio where he studied more of the entertainment business with Omari Harrigan while under Chosen Sounds management from 2006 to 2010.

Following his stint with Chosen Sounds, Fucha Kid then moved on to his current label, Federation Family Studio, which he runs with his business partner Kevin Abbott.

In 2014, after his cross-over tour of the USA, he linked up with Zack Cohen of Foxfuse, New York.

Fucha Kid The "Feds Boss" is known as a fusion artist who sings any genre of music and has many chart-topping tracks around the world. These include Chile, Brazil, Jamaica and Germany.

Fucha Kid said he has been in the music business for fourteen years and he is now reaping the benefits of his labour. He has graced stages in areas as diverse as South America, Europe, North America and the Caribbean.

"It's a great feeling for me to have my track being the leading track on such an awesome project and this has already opened some major doors for me in 2021. I will be featured on some other various artists projects in Jamaica with which Busy Signal and other heavy hitters will be featured. I am also currently working with Bruce Bartley aka Supa Dymond on a super collaboration with C.P. the Soca Diva (Claudette Peters) and so much more I feel absolutely blessed this year," he told PointeXpress.

CARICOM denounces US for declaring Cuba a state sponsor of terrorism

(Loopff): The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has issued a strong statement denouncing the outgoing Trump administration which has declared Cuba a State Sponsor of Terrorism, subjecting the Caribbean nation to sanctions.

In a statement yesterday, CARICOM said the decision is misguided:

'The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) denounces the unilateral declaration by the outgoing United States administration to designate Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism.'

'Cuba's international conduct does not in any way warrant that designation. This further attack on the country adversely affects its international standing and its social, human and economic development and is another misguided action in addition to the unproductive, unnecessary and illegal financial and economic embargo already imposed on this Caribbean nation by the United States.'

CARICOM has called for an 'immediate review and reversal of these unjustified actions taken in regard to

Cuba and looks forward to the United States moving towards normalising relations with Cuba'.

In a statement on January 11, the outgoing Trump administration declared Cuba a State Sponsor of Terrorism for 'repeatedly providing support for acts of international terrorism in granting safe harbour to terrorists.'

The designation will subject Cuba to 'sanctions that penalize persons and countries engaging in certain trade with Cuba, restricts US foreign assistance, bans defense ex-

ports and sales, and imposes certain controls on exports of dual-use items'.

Associated Press stated that outgoing US president Donald Trump was impeached for a second time yesterday, charged with "incitement of insurrection" over the deadly mob siege of the Capitol in Washington, DC.

Trump was first impeached by the House in 2019 over his dealings with Ukraine, but the Senate voted in 2020 to acquit. This is the first time in US history that a president has been impeached twice.

Businesses in St. Vincent and the Grenadines want wearing of face masks made mandatory

(CMC): Most businesses in St. Vincent and the Grenadines say it would be helpful to their operations in the current COVID-19 environment if the wearing of masks in public places was made mandatory, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce (CIC) has said.

However, Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has indicated that his government would prefer to use persuasion and public education to encourage persons to adopt the practice.

Calling in on local radio programme Issue at Hand, where he spoke about the impact of the pandemic on the private sector, executive director of the CIC

Tony Regisford said a mandatory order could assist, although he acknowledged there was no guarantee people would fall into line.

"If it became law then persons couldn't argue with that. But, sometimes, making a law is not necessarily going to create the right behaviour," he said, adding that people must want to wear masks and understand why they have to do so for the practice to be most effective," he said.

"I am heartened by the fact that we're seeing people out in public - 90 per cent of them, if not more - wearing masks and wearing them properly; and that education continues now ... to wear a mask properly.

"We, in the business community, are trying to continue and make the adjustment so that there is no major disruption to commerce," he added.

Regisford made an appeal, on behalf of the private sector, for citizens to help businesses "maintain that status quo and they can do that by following the protocols that are outlined."

Specifically pointing to measures being implemented in the public transport sector, he said if protocols are not followed, the entire country would be put at risk.

"So we, in the business community, are in compliance, largely. We need to be; our survival depends on that. And it's not only our surviv-

al; we employ people and for us not to have any major disruption or downturn in the employment figures, then we need to do what we are being asked to do."

Speaking separately on the same programme, Prime Minister Gonsalves said while he had heard calls for wearing of face masks to be made mandatory, that could be a difficult measure to police.

He said that one day after the government gave two masks to each student last year, he took a drive around Kingstown and only one of over 100 students he saw were wearing masks in the streets.

Turks and Caicos elections on February 19

(Tcweeklynews): On Friday, February 19, citizens of the Turks and Caicos Islands will head to the polls to decide which political party will govern the territory for the next four years.

Premier Sharlene Cartwright Robinson announced the date during a political rally of her ruling People's Democratic Movement (PDM) on Grand Turk, Saturday night (January 9).

A crowd of enthusiastic supporters dressed in blue rang bells and waved party flags at the drive-in rally on West Road as she gave her speech on stage.

The party leader said she had advised Governor

Nigel Dakin to issue a writ of election that day, officially ordering the holding of the general election.

"Confident of our victory, I am proud to announce that the general election will be held here in the Turks and Caicos Islands on February 19, 2021," she said.

"The People's Democratic Movement will file a full slate of 15 outstanding candidates when nomination day is held on January 29 as we look to renew and expand our mandate."

Cartwright Robinson reminded voters that the elections are not about choosing the "perfect" party but electing repre-

sentatives who will have their best interest at heart.

"No one is perfect," she said, "no side will ever have all the answers, but every election is about choosing who will seek your best interest, who will manage your affairs responsibly.

"Who is more likely to not steal from you, who is more likely to respect and be honest with you and who are more likely not to cut deals behind your back."

The PDM leader added that her party is "ready for the next fight".

She said: "If this election turns out to be about leadership and character then the PDM shall win, if

this election is about who has the best plans for the future then the PDM shall win.

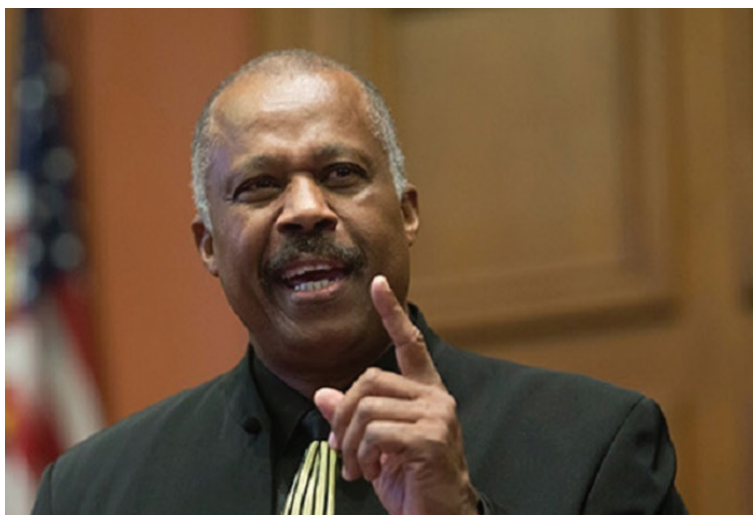
"If this election is about performance versus all talk, then we shall win."

"Four years ago we made history together and this year 2021 through the grace of God history shall repeat itself."

Public opinion ratings of the PDM Government and the ruling party are high especially given its strong response to the Covid-19 crisis.

However, support of the Government's Covid-19 management is tempered by concerns over economic decline.

Sir Hilary, Dr Fauci are 2021 recipients of Martin Luther King Award



BECKLES... recognised for global advocacy, academic scholarship and intellectual leadership in support of social justice

US National Action Network (NAN). The awards will be conferred on Sir Hilary and Dr Fauci at the annual breakfast event on MLK Day, next Monday in Washington, DC.

This is the 30th anniversary for the awards by which the work and legacy of Dr King are celebrated and persons honoured with a view to refocusing and sustaining his dream, said a release from NAN. It said Sir Hilary is being recognised for his global advocacy, academic scholarship and intellectual leadership in support of social justice, institutional equity, and economic development for marginalised and oppressed ethnicities and nations.

Dr Anthony Fauci, who is at the forefront of the fight in the United States against the novel coronavirus, will receive the "Lifetime Community Service Award".

Previous awardees include the 42nd president of the United States Bill Clinton; Berry Gordy, founder of Motown Music; and the 82nd attorney general of the United States, Eric Holder. Event speakers have included Vice President-elect Joe Biden and United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

The ceremony and awards will be streamed live on UWItv's website—www.uwitv.org, cable channels on Flow EVO and Facebook pages.

(Jamaicaobserver): Sir Hilary Beckles, vice-chancellor of The University of the West Indies (UWI), and Dr Anthony Fauci, renowned director of the United States National Institute of Allergy and In-

fectious Diseases, are this year's recipients of the Dr Martin Luther King Jr Award.

The announcement was made on Wednesday by Rev Al Sharpton, president and founder of the

US blacklisting of Houthis 'could tip Yemen into huge famine'

(BBC): The US plan to designate Yemen's rebel Houthi movement as a terrorist group is likely to trigger a "famine on a scale that we have not seen for nearly 40 years", the UN's aid chief has said.

Mark Lowcock told the UN Security Council issuing licences for imports of key supplies for rebel-controlled areas would not prevent such a disaster.

About 50,000 Yemenis are already "starving to death in what is essentially a small famine", he warned.

Five million more are near starvation.

The executive director of the World Food Programme, David Beasley, said: "We are struggling now without the designation. With the designation, it's going to be catastrophic."

"It literally is going to be a death sentence to hundreds of thousands, if not millions of innocent people in Yemen."

Yemen has been devastated by a conflict that escalated in 2015, when the Iran-aligned Houthis seized control of large parts of the country and a Saudi-led coalition of Arab states supported by the US launched a military operation to restore President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi's rule.

The fighting has reportedly left more than 110,000 people dead and



First U.S. President in history to be impeached twice Donald Trump

triggered what the UN says is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 80% of the population in need of aid or protection.

On Sunday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo notified Congress of his intention to designate the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) on 19 January - the day before President Donald Trump leaves office.

Mr Pompeo said the aim was to hold the group accountable for "its terrorist acts, including cross-border attacks threatening civilian populations, infrastructure and commercial shipping".

Houthi leader Mohammed Ali al-Houthi accused the Trump administration of terrorism and said the

movement reserved the right to respond to any designation.

Mr Pompeo said the US recognised the concerns of aid groups operating in areas under Houthi control, where the bulk of the population lives, and would work to reduce the impact on what he called "certain humanitarian activity and imports into Yemen" by issuing licences and exemptions.

But before Thursday's UN Security Council briefing, Mr Lowcock tweeted: "The US designation of the Houthis as a foreign terrorist organisation could be the final straw that tips Yemen into not just a small famine, but a truly huge one."











BROWN AND BROWNE

SATURDAYS 4PM

PRIME MINISTER
HON. GASTON BROWNE

SENATOR
COLIN BROWNE



CHANNEL 9

US-China trade war cost up to 245,000 jobs

(Reuters): U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war with China has caused a peak loss of 245,000 U.S. jobs, but a gradual scaling back of tariffs on both sides would boost growth and lead to an additional 145,000 jobs by 2025, a study commissioned by the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC) shows.

The group, which represents major American companies doing business in China, said the study by Oxford Economics also includes an "escalation scenario" which estimates

a significant decoupling of the world's two largest economies could shrink U.S. GDP by \$1.6 trillion over the next five years. This could result in 732,000 fewer U.S. jobs in 2022 and 320,000 fewer jobs by 2025, it said.

The study was released just days before President-elect Joe Biden is set to take office and begin a major analysis of U.S. trade policy, including consultations with democratic allies over punitive U.S. tariffs imposed by Trump. Biden has said he plans

no immediate changes to Trump's tariffs, but said he will work with allies to pressure China to change its trade behavior.

USCBC President Craig Allen, who has been supportive of Trump's efforts to change China's trade and technology transfer policies, said it was important that the group articulate the consequences of policy choices in the U.S.-China relationship.

"In the case of the tariffs, it's very important that we understand the full economic cost of these

choices," Allen told a press briefing.

The study estimates that U.S. exports to China support 1.2 million American jobs and that Chinese multinational companies directly employ 197,000 Americans, while U.S. companies invested \$105 billion in China in 2019.

"With China forecast to drive around one-third of global growth over the next decade, maintaining market access to China is increasingly essential for U.S. businesses' global success," the study said.

Trump impeachment trial could begin on Inauguration Day



First U.S. President in history to be impeached twice Donald Trump

(Apnews): President Donald Trump's impeachment trial could begin on Inauguration Day, just as Democrat Joe Biden takes the oath of office in an ever-more-extraordinary end to the defeated president's tenure in the White House.

The timing is not set and depends heavily

on when House Speaker Nancy Pelosi decides to transmit the article of impeachment to the Senate. Democrats hoping to avoid interrupting Biden's inauguration have suggested holding back until the new president has a chance to get his administration going.

What is clear is that

the trial will be unlike any other in the nation's history, the first for a president no longer in office. And, politically, it will force a reckoning among some Republicans who have stood by Trump throughout his presidency and largely allowed him to spread false attacks against the integrity of the 2020

election.

"The only path to any reunification of this broken and divided country is by shining a light on the truth," said Rep. Madeleine Dean, D-Pa., who will serve as an impeachment manager.

"That's what the impeachment vote was. That's what the trial in the Senate will be about."

Trump was impeached Wednesday by the House over the deadly Capitol siege, the only president in U.S. history twice impeached, after a pro-Trump mob stormed the building. The attack has left the nation's capital, and other major cities, under high security amid threats of more violence around the inauguration.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell is open to consider-

cont'd on pg 18

cont'd from pg 17

ing impeachment, having told associates he is done with Trump, but he has not signaled how he would vote.

The Republican leader holds great sway in his party even though convening the trial will be among his last acts as majority leader. Two new senators from Georgia, both Democrats, are to be sworn into office leaving the chamber divided 50-50. That tips the majority to the Democrats once Kamala Harris takes office, as the vice president is a tie-breaker.

No president has ever been convicted in the Senate, and it would take a two-thirds vote against Trump, an ex-

tremely tall hurdle. But it's not out of the realm of possibility, especially as corporations and wealthy political donors distance themselves from Trump and the Republicans who stood by his attempt to overturn the election.

At least four Republican senators have publicly expressed grave concerns about Trump's actions, and others say so privately.

Under Senate procedure, the trial is to start soon after the House delivers the article of impeachment. That could mean starting at 1 p.m. on Inauguration Day. The ceremony at the Capitol starts at noon.

Pelosi has not said

when she will take the next step to transmit the impeachment article, a sole charge of incitement of insurrection. After Trump's first impeachment, in 2019, she withheld the articles for some time to set the stage for the Senate action.

Biden has said the Senate should be able to split its time and do both — hold the trial and start working on his priorities, including swift confirmation of his Cabinet nominees.

On Inauguration Day, the Senate typically confirms some of the new president's Cabinet, particularly national security officials. Biden's choice of Avril Haines as

director of national intelligence will have a hearing Friday by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"We are working with Republicans to try to find a path forward," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer's office.

With the Capitol secured by armed National Guard troops inside and out, the House voted 232-197 on Wednesday to impeach Trump. The proceedings moved at lightning speed, with lawmakers voting just one week after violent pro-Trump loyalists stormed the Capitol, egged on by the president's calls for them to "fight like hell" against the election results.

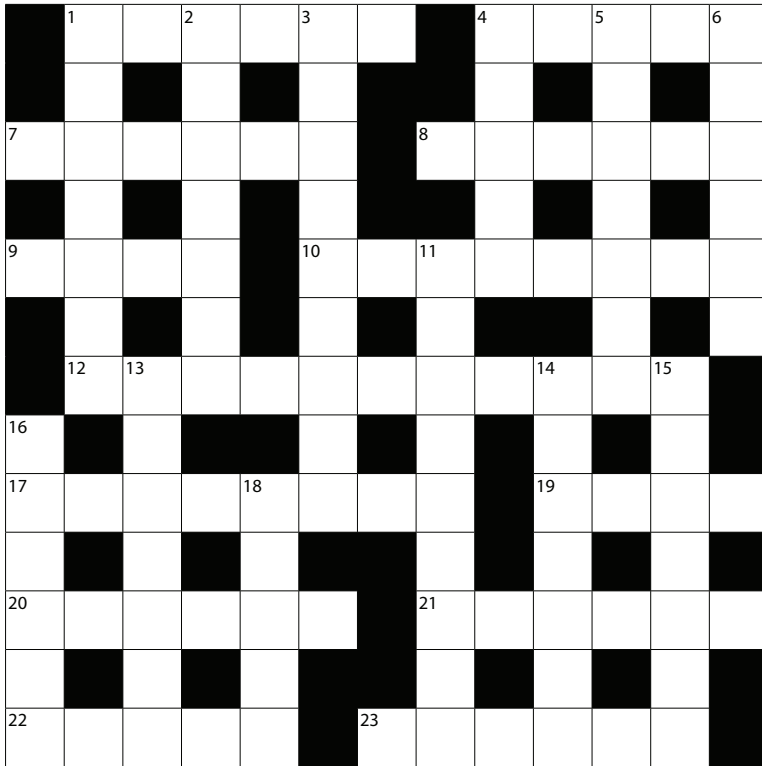


A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

#drivesafeantigua



QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Zimbabwean president, 1987-2017 (6)
- 4 Boy's name — a long way (5)
- 7 Fights (6)
- 8 Pollen-producing part of a flower (6)
- 9 Yemen's chief port (4)
- 10 Okayed (8)
- 12 Not properly tuned (11)
- 17 Postponed (8)
- 19 Highly strung (4)
- 20 Slackness (6)
- 21 Pay back (6)
- 22 Unfortunately (5)
- 23 Poisonous snakes (6)

Down

- 1 Road surface (7)
- 2 Light anchor — real GNP (anag) (7)
- 3 Nonparticipant (9)
- 4 Of small importance (5)
- 5 Normandy port (2,5)
- 6 Walk with long steps (6)
- 11 Looted (9)
- 13 Attached (7)
- 14 Foot-operated lever (7)
- 15 Stray from the subject (7)
- 16 Grown-ups (6)
- 18 Irritable (5)

DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



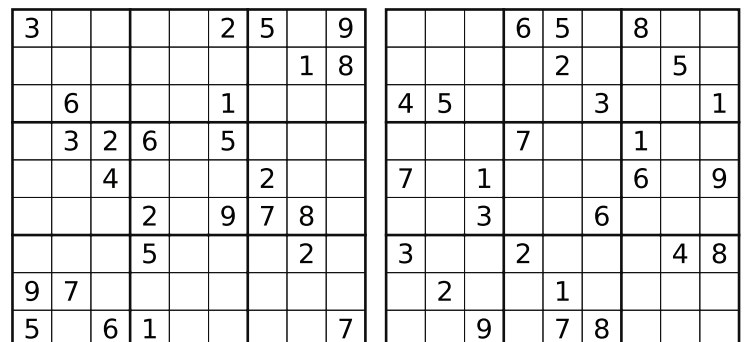
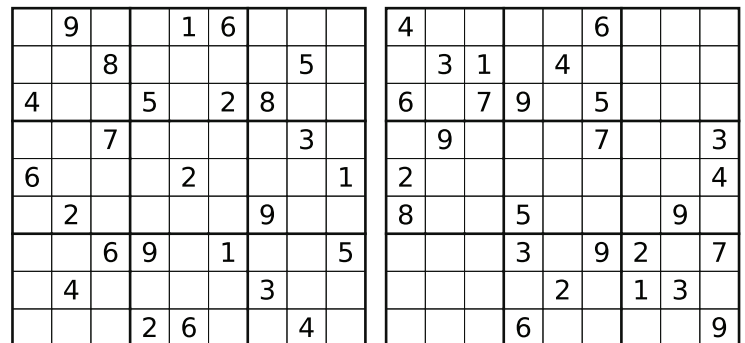
Garfield



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

FRI 01/15  **82° Hi** **DAY**
Partial sunshine with a shower; breezy
74° Lo **NIGHT**
Mostly cloudy with a shower in places

Sunrise 6:40 AM Sunset 5:53 PM Moonrise 8:44 AM Moonset 8:24 PM

SAT 01/16  **82° Hi** **DAY**
Sunshine and patchy clouds with a shower in places
74° Lo **NIGHT**
Partly cloudy with a passing shower

Sunrise 6:40 AM Sunset 5:54 PM Moonrise 9:27 AM Moonset 9:17 PM

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Your insight and energy can lay the groundwork for an especially productive day. Whether it's finishing a project early or cleaning out your garage, you are totally on the ball and kicking you know what!

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

It's time to be your own drill sergeant. Go ahead and discipline yourself. Don't inflict discipline in a mean way, but "tough love" is just fine. Is there some work you've been avoiding, an awkward conversation you've been putting off?

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Anger can be a tricky emotion. Sure, it can get someone's attention, but it can also push them away. Nevertheless, it's a legitimate emotion and one that you need to get more comfortable with.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

If you're feeling indecisive about your feelings for someone right now, you should give yourself more time to figure it all out. You can't move forward in any type of relationship unless you feel comfortable that you know who you're dealing with.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

If you've been waiting for a time to sway someone to your way of thinking, you could have the perfect opportunity today. When everyone is at a loss about what to do, you should toss in your ideas.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You've been going full steam ahead for a long time. Have you forgotten how to completely relax? To your credit, you've been trying to mellow out, but your efforts so far aren't giving you the full rest you desperately need.

♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Unexpected news about a person from your past could shock you today, not because of the news itself but because your reaction is so calm. Clearly enough time has elapsed that you've gained a healthy distance. Congratulations!

♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

There could be a lot of vibrant, positive communication hovering around you today. This energy will enable long, fascinating conversations to evolve out of modest small talk quite easily.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You are shrewd to try to negotiate through a potentially tense situation, but you also have to know when it's time to bring out the big guns or you could get a reputation as a bit of a pushover. There is absolutely no reason to tolerate someone being rude.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

There is a ton of high energy circulating around you right now, and you will be feeding off the good vibes. You'll be eager to move ahead with your goals and ambitions, and this tendency could intensify as the day goes on.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Dive headfirst into the day. You have all the energy you need to stay focused and disciplined. You'll know answers to questions that haven't even been asked yet. It's a great day to prepare a big presentation or get in some solid research.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Every once in a while you get a sudden warm feeling about your life. It's like the universe is giving you a reassuring hug, reminding you that you're special. Take this feeling for the gift it is and don't shrug it off.

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.



THE ROOT KULCHA
RADIO SHOW 99.1 FM
WITH RAS JUBA & JUSTICE

TUNE IN FROM 2:00PM - 3:00PM
LIVE TUESDAYS THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS

Roots With the most Kulcha

@ROOTKULCHARADIO

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
f Facebook & @ Instagram

Simmons urges West Indies players in Bangladesh to secure their spot

West Indies coach Phil Simmons has called on the players presently in Bangladesh to perform and secure their places in the teams which are without twelve of its usual players.

The withdrawal of twelve players from the teams because of COVID-19 concerns in Bangladesh has led to fringe players being drafted and given a

golden opportunity to make life difficult for the usual players, if they perform and the selectors, led by former Windies player Roger Harper, take note.

Less than five players on the tour have more than five caps, and four players could make their debut. There are seven players in the One-Day-International team who could play their first

game for the Caribbean side.

Despite most supporters and journalist believing it is a weakened squad, Simmons is of the view that it presents a great opportunity for some young players to state their case to remain in the squad when they return to the Caribbean, if they are successful in the South Asian country.

At a Zoom press

conference on Tuesday, Simmons said he has informed the players they are not there to fill the blanks, but to state their case for permanent positions in the team.

"You have a chance to seal your place in the team," Simmons said he articulated to the young players. West Indies will play three ODIs and two Tests against Bangladesh.

Andy Murray tests positive for coronavirus

Former world number one Andy Murray's participation at the Australian Open is in doubt after the Briton tested positive for coronavirus.

The 33-year-old Scot was set to fly to Melbourne on a chartered flight arriving there over the next twenty-four hours. Instead, he remains in quarantine and isolation at home in London.

Murray, who is said to be in good

health, remains hopeful he will be allowed to travel safely at a later date and compete as planned. The five-time Australian Open runner-up pulled out of last week's ATP event in Delray Beach as he wanted to "minimize the risks" of catching a transatlantic flight to Florida.

The Australian Open will start on 8th February at Melbourne Park, three weeks later than usual, because

of the coronavirus pandemic. Players must test negative before taking one of the 15 chartered flights—which have been put on by tournament organizers and will operate at twenty-five per cent capacity—to Australia.

Once they have arrived, they will have to pass a series of COVID-19 tests during a fourteen-day quarantine in Melbourne before the Grand Slam.



Leeward Hurricanes ready for the challenge

Chief Executive Officer of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) Peter Abraham said 2020 was an extremely challenging year for the board dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, especially having to handle eight territories that are members.

Abraham said despite the pandemic they were able to host the players in two places but did not host any of their planned tournaments during 2020. Abraham, who is also the Chief Financial Officer,

said the board is looking forward to a productive 2021 and the Leeward Hurricane players are presently on the ground in Antigua going through the quarantine process.

"The players are really hyped and ready to play some competitive cricket," Abraham noted. Players who live in Antigua will join the bubble created by the LICB next week. They will be tested before entering the bio-secure bubble.

The chief executive officer said he will be

making recommendations to the Leeward Island Cricket Board cricket committee this week, outlining a detailed plan for the way forward for 2021.

Abraham said the Hurricanes will field their best team for the Super50, expected to bowl off here in Antigua in early February. The goal of the team is to win the trophy this year, Abraham stated, and the team will conduct their training sessions at the Sir Vivian Richards

Stadium.

Abraham told PointeFM Touchline program that participating in the CPL bio-secure bubble last year in Trinidad, and regular communication with a close friend who is a doctor, has assisted him with organizing the Leeward bio-secure bubble.

The other five territories who will participate in the CWI Super50 are expected on island later this month.

James Harden traded to the Brooklyn Nets

The Brooklyn Nets have agreed to acquire three-time scoring champion James Harden from the Houston Rockets, a deal that reunites him with Kevin Durant and gives him the move that he has sought for weeks, according to multiple reports.

Harden is going to the Nets as part of a four-team deal that also involves Indiana and Cleveland, according to the person who spoke to the Associated Press on Wednesday.

The news was also reported by ESPN and Yahoo Sports. At least four

draft picks and additional pick swaps are also part of the deal, a source told the Associated Press. Other key players, Victor Oladipo, goes from Indiana to Houston, and Caris LeVert goes from Brooklyn to Indiana.

Earlier Wednesday the

Rockets informed Harden they didn't want him at practice after his inflammatory comments about the team.

After losing to the Lakers, Harden said the team was not good enough and he had done everything he can.

cont'd from pg 24

disclosed.

Antigua and Barbuda's Commissioner of Sports Colin James, who has been liaising with the 'cricket angel' during the period of the pandemic, says the country's youngsters will benefit from this latest contribution.

"Tamara has done a tremendous job to solicit and send this shipment to Antigua and Barbuda. She has

demonstrated her love and commitment to us and it's only fitting that she be given the title of 'cricket angel'," said James.

Ridley Jacobs, who is the school's cricket coordinator, received a portion of the items on behalf of the government and says the donation was timely for the Combined Schools team.

"[S]ome of the

players have been struggling because they don't have any gear or equipment so these will assist them," said the former West Indies captain and wicketkeeper/batsman.

Sir Curtly Ambrose, the legendary West Indies pacer rated among the best of all-time, assisted with the presentation to his alma mater, All Saints Secondary; while former Windies captain

Richie Richardson was present at the J.T. Ambrose school event.

Irene B Williams Secondary in Swetes, Villa Primary, C.T. Samuel Primary in John Hughes, and Old Road Primary have also received gear and equipment since the distribution started on Monday.

Other presentations will be made next week to other secondary and primary schools.

Cricket Kindness project donates a quantity of gear and equipment

A donation of quality cricket gear and equipment by an England-based charity has started to roll out across schools and communities in Antigua and Barbuda.

Cricket Kindness, the brainchild of Australian Tamara Lowe, who pioneered the Caribbean Children's Cricket Charity, has sent a number of bats, balls, shoes, pads, gloves, kit, helmets, and other items to the Ministry of Sport for distribution.

Lowe, who now resides in London, England, and started her mission in Antigua in 2017, says she is

once again delighted to make the gesture, especially during the COVID-19 era.

Tamara says her work is receiving tremendous support in England.

"Cricket Kindness relies on cricket clubs and schools I contact, taking time to organize equipment collections through their communities. I am particularly grateful to members of the Hawridge & Cholesbury Cricket Club and the Tring Park Cricket Club for gathering much of the equipment and generously donating to the Cricket Kindness crowdfunding campaign to help pay to sea-freight the gear to St. John's," she



cont'd on pg 23

DEWS



with
VERON 'EPLIUS' EDWARDS JR.
VERNON A. SPRINGER



MONDAY-FRIDAY
7:00am - 8:30am



99.1 FM