



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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# KUDOS TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Antigua and Barbuda has been popularly called the “melting pot” of the Caribbean, and with good reason. On any given day, a casual stroll through any village will result in encountering persons from most islands in the OECS and CARICOM regions, and also from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and to some extent Venezuela. In addition, one will encounter persons from the Middle East, China, Europe, the UK, the USA, and Canada.

Though some have tried to use this simple situation as a political football for narrow political interests, a closer examination will reveal that there is a kind of hospitality and welcoming spirit that Antiguan and Barbudans possess. It is something for which we should be exceedingly proud, and should fight fiercely to protect!

It is not unusual, for example, for an Antiguan to be approached for directions by an absolute stranger and in the spur of a moment, drop whatever in which he/she might been engaged and

take the person to their destination. Moreover, it is all done without even the thought of any sort of payment or reward.

It is this same kind of warm and friendly disposition that millions of tourists have pinpointed as one of the strongest selling points of the country. Many come for a visit and decide to stay because of the people. When asked what convinced them to make Antigua and Barbuda their home, invariably, the response comes down to something along the lines of “it’s the people—so warm, so friendly, so welcoming.” As recently as the middle of last year during the national shutdown, there was a story in the local media of a couple who journeyed here on a yacht for the very first time and did not know anyone. While moored off the coast, they were put in touch with a local vendor and she quite literally took care of them from a distance. The visitors highlighted her generosity and helpfulness as something they have never ex-

perienced, and emphasized that had it not been for her, they would have certainly starved aboard their vessel.

Within the willingness to help, there is also a certain amount of respect for other people’s privacy that the people of this fair isle have cultivated. Many celebrities attest to this fact—they are free to travel the streets, go to the beach, visit historical sites, or attend social events, and even if they are recognized, people do not crowd them or otherwise make them feel uncomfortable. Truly, Antiguan and Barbudans have mastered the art of being welcoming while remaining unintrusive.

Few would doubt that the qualities outlined here are a defining characteristic, a kind of zeitgeist, of what it means to be Antiguan and Barbudan. While the question of being born in the country (or being a direct descendant of either parents or grandparents who were born in Antigua) is what legally makes an individual a national, there is

something more intangible that really defines who we are as a people. It is a trait that must remain incorruptible, even in the face of rabid nationalism dressed in the finery of patriotism. Be ever vigilant and guard against those who would want to shame you into acquiescence because you do not share the view that people not born in Antigua and Barbuda, particularly Caribbean people, should not be here. It is a dangerous cancer that threatens to eat at the body politic, and there must be valiant efforts at pushing back against such vitriol and invective.

Indeed, it is a tribute to this nation that people not born here want to live among us as it says something about our character. We must always remember that no one can choose where they are born, but they can choose where they want to live, and of the one hundred and ninety-five nations on earth, they have chosen Antigua and Barbuda. That makes of pretty special!

# Two more confirmed COVID-19 cases

The Ministry of Health says the latest results from the Mount St. John's Medical Center (MSJMC) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) have revealed two new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Saturday 17th January 2021 at 6 p.m.

In a statement issued overnight, the ministry said subsequent to the publication of the dashboard for Friday 15th January 2021 with the cut off time of 6:00 p.m., one hundred and fifteen additional samples were processed at the Mount St. John's Medical Center and thirty-three at CARPHA which increased the pending results from seventy-one to two hundred and nineteen.

All one hundred and eighty-six samples processed by MS-

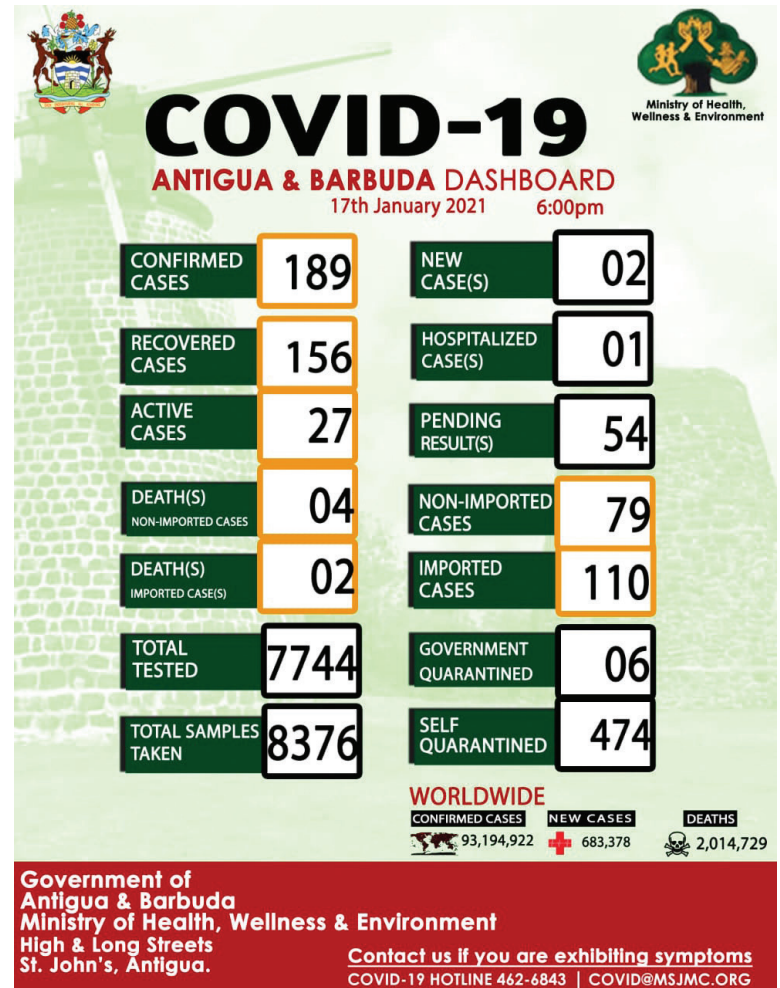
JMC were negative and are reflected in the **total persons tested** and **total samples taken** columns of the dashboard.

Of the thirty-three samples processed by CARPHA, thirty-one were negative and two positive. The two new cases are non-imported. Investigations are ongoing and contact tracing and testing is in progress.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one hundred and eighty-nine, which is inclusive of twenty-seven active cases.

Meanwhile, fifty-four samples are pending.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



## GOT NEWS?

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## APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Date: Monday, 18th January 2021

Time: 8:00AM - 8:45AM

Affected areas: Tyrells through to Falmouth, Jonas Road through to Matthews, Swetes through to John Hughes and Old Road through to Crabb Hill

Date: Monday, 18th January 2021

Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Mount Joy; west of the gas station

Date: Tuesday 19th January 2021

Time: 8:45AM - 11:30AM

Affected areas: Section of Parham near the clinic

Date: Wednesday 20th January 2021

Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Crosbies near Mill Tower

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

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





# Two teenagers charged with break-in and larceny

Two teenagers are in police custody following their arrest on charges involving break-in in and larceny.

Police reports say the pair—a 19-year-old and a 17-year-old, both males of Villa Area—was arrested and jointly charged by the police on Friday with break-in and larceny.

The police have not released their identities, but have said that one

lives at Bryson's Street and the other at Piggott Street. They are accused of breaking into a store on Redcliffe Street on 11th January 2021, and stealing a number of electronic items to include a laptop computer, mobile phones, video games, and smart watches. They also allegedly stole several pieces of jewellery, including necklaces and rings, and an assortment of tools,

along with the cash register with an undisclosed sum of money, and other valuable items.

Both men were separately charged for allegedly break-in and entering a fitness gym on Redcliffe Street on the same day, and stealing an undisclosed sum of money.

Meantime, a 19-year-old female of Golden Grove along with a 23-year-old

male of Belle Street, Villa and a 24-year-old male of Buckley Line were also charged in connection with said offence.

They are accused of receiving a number of the items that were allegedly stolen. The incident occurred sometime between 11th and 13th January. The Police have since recovered some of the items. They are expected in Court during this week.

# PM calls for national effort against COVID-19



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

As the number of active COVID-19 cases continues to rise in Antigua and Barbuda, the prime minister wants a national effort to help contain further spread of the virus.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on PointeFM on Saturday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said he has noticed that there has been some level of complacency that has taken hold among some in the country and that it is this complacency that has led to the recent

uptick in active cases.

Over the weekend, the number of active cases increased to twenty-seven, as the Ministry of Health announced the latest results of tests conducted by the Mount St John's Medical Centre (MSJMC).

"Those who have been strictly adhering to the protocols over the past ten months would see that they are the ones who have not contracted the virus. Those who have not been fully practising the protocols have other results. The protocols work!" he observed.

According to the prime minister, the two most recent COVID-related deaths can be traced to incidences where people were not fully adhering to the health protocols laid down by the Ministry of Health.

He said Antigua and Barbuda has done 'reasonably well' in its management of the COVID-19 pandemic as it was ranked number 197 of 220 countries based on their effectiveness in keeping the outbreak under control.

However, the country's leader expressed concern over reported incidences where returning nationals have flagrantly flouted the protocols and some have even accused the government of being discriminatory.

He explained that health officials

had long identified returning nationals as a 'high risk group' and that is why measures were put in place to quarantine or isolate them from the rest of the population. "We were accused of discrimination against returning nationals and some became defiant. But it was this policy of ensuring that they quarantined for fourteen days and be isolated that prevented the virus from spreading exponentially among the community," Browne further explained.

He gave as examples the situation in several Caribbean territories where the coronavirus is spreading at alarming rates.

PM Browne appealed to residents to join with the government to help contain the spread of the virus. "We want to encourage our people to be compliant with the protocols as it is absolutely critical for us to be more vigilant. We now have to view everyone who is not a part of our household as a potential risk of contracting the virus and to act accordingly," he declared.

He emphasized that there are two things that helped keep the spread under some measure of control; the mandatory wearing of mask and ensuring that returning nationals undergo a period of quarantine.



# WIOC to launch road-show

The West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) will launch a major 'road-show' ahead of the much-anticipated divestment of its shares to members of the public.

Well-placed government sources say the road show is designed for the company to educate and inform the public of all they need to know about the process of investing in the company.

Late last year, the government announced plans to divest approximately ten per cent of its

fifty-one per cent shares in the company and indications are that one of the other two major shareholders, Fancy Bridge, will also divest a portion of its shares.

The sources indicated that some twelve and a half per cent of the shares will go up for sale when the process begins in February. A second portion of shares will be offered for sale on the Eastern Caribbean Stock Exchange (ECSE) around the middle of the year.

WIOC has been de-

scribed as 'a great opportunity' and the company has been described as a very profitable and stable company which enjoys a monopoly on the supply of all petroleum products in the country.

Additionally, WIOC has a facility in neighbouring Dominica that contributes to its current profitability.

The company also has plans to diversify its product offerings and it is among several companies that have submitted bids to supply APUA with electricity. These compa-

nies also include Antigua Power Company Ltd., which currently supplies the bulk of the country's electricity needs.

The sources indicate that WIOC will partner with private sector entities to undertake the development of a Business Park on lands it owns on Friar's Hill road.

WIOC is finalizing arrangements to name agents to undertake the sale of its shares here in Antigua and Barbuda and in St Lucia for the ECSE.

## ABLP youth arm launches entrepreneurship seminar



**Senator Shenella Govia**

their skills, organized by the Central Youth for Labour, the youth arm of the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP).

The workshop/seminars kicked off on Saturday and was held at the newly opened headquarters of the party, the People's Place located on Nugent Avenue.

CYFL President, Senator Shenella Govia, said Saturday's session concentrated on introducing the participants – both males and females – on how to start their own businesses.

The facilitators were Kiesha Philip, BSc (Econ) and Dorothy Peters-Nicholls, a certified anti money laundering specialist and certified fraud examiner, who holds an MSc degree in banking and finance.

"Youth for Labour is guided by the ABLP Creed in its belief in equality of opportunity and justice, in the empowerment of our people. In line with this, the training

series was developed to equip our young people with the necessary tools and knowledge they would need for economic advancement. As the youth arm of the ABLP, this initiative also seeks to support youth in Antigua and Barbuda to emerge as future leaders," Senator Govia stated.

She noted that participants will gain meaningful knowledge and strategies that can be immediately applied to their profession or businesses to achieve economic success from experienced trainers.

Meanwhile, the second seminar in the series will be on the topic of "Resume Writing and Job Interview." According to Senator Govia, this seminar is geared towards educating the youth in the constituencies on how to correctly write a resume and guidelines on how being well equipped for the job interview is important for securing a job.

Over thirty-five young people participated in the first in a series of workshops aimed at improving

# CUBA: A victim of American terrorism

The Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee (LTHMC) strongly denounces and condemns the hypocritical designation of Cuba as a State Sponsor of Terrorism by the Trump Administration.

For that corrupt and racist Trump Administration, which has been the architect and instigator of terrorism internationally and now nationally, to assume the moral authority to carry out such a nefarious designation of Cuba flies in the face of justice and historical facts. It amounts to

a mockery of international relations and politics that the present US Government considers itself to be the arbiter of such declarations.

America's history is replete with the use of terrorism in overthrowing democratically elected governments, for example: In 1954, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) deposed Guatemalan President, Jacobo Arbenz; and in 1973, President Salvador Allende in Chile - where thousands were slaughtered.

The US Government has conducted

many terrorist acts against the government and People of Cuba, resulting in many deaths since the victorious Cuban Revolution in 1959. How can we forget the most horrific and murderous terrorist bombing of Cubana Flight 455 over Barbados on 6th October, 1976? The seventy-three (73) persons on board were killed.

The Cuban Government, instead of sending bombs and fomenting war, has sent across the globe - for years - thousands of doctors, nurses, engineers, and other

professionals to fight disease, poverty and underdevelopment. In contrast to the US, the Cuban Government and people have honourably fought against illiteracy, Apartheid, the evils of colonialism and imperialism, and have struggled for the right to self-determination and national sovereignty.

We call on the international community - once more - to speedily denounce the US illegal and murderous blockade against Cuba, and its latest sinister and malicious designation of Cuba.

THE

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# Biography of Neville Henry

“One Hundred years of living:  
the years of existence for Mr. Neville Henry”

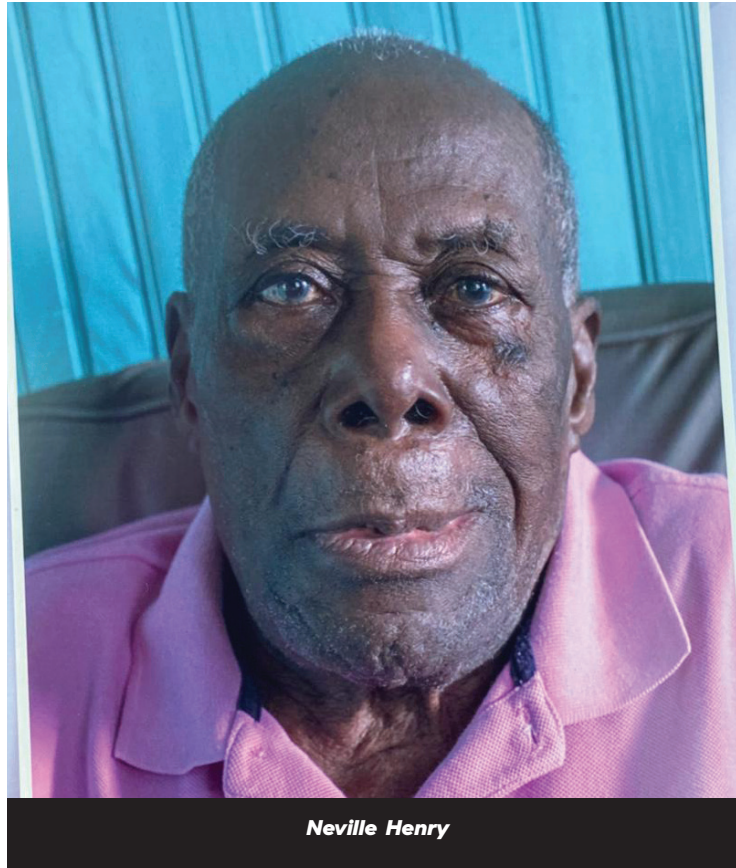
Neville Henry was born 16th January, 1921 to Sophie Jonas in the Village of Cedar Grove. Neville was one of twelve children of which six were Sophie's - Arthur, Ferguson, Neville, Theodore, Eunice and Elfrieda. Only three of the children are still alive - Neville, Elfrieda and Fernella (Dora).

Neville grew up on Church Street in St. John's. He attended the Moravian School and the St. John's Boys School. He also attended the Anglican Church. His favourite sports growing up were cricket and football.

Neville lost his mother at age 10 in 1931. After her death, he was forced to grow up very quickly, and in the process, he became an independent and responsible young man. He did many handyman jobs, even running balls at the Tennis Club to earn extra money to assist in the care of his younger siblings. He worked as a cook at the US Army Base and learnt his trade of carpentry from a neighbour at the age of fourteen.

Neville was a master carpenter - particular, committed and takes a lot of pride in his work. He built his home in which he currently resides on Athill Street. No storm, no hurricane has ever removed one piece of galvanize from this place; thus, it remains in its original form.

In 1958, Neville met Ann



Neville Henry

Semper and in 1960 they were joined in holy matrimony. They have been able to hold on to this union, strong in love and commitment - sixty years of marriage. Neville came into the union with two children: Joan and Courtney Henry in the US. Together, Neville and Ann had seven children - Maria Henry Lambert, Neville Jr., Joseph 'Jowato', John, Jerome, Jo-Anne, and Nelvie Henry Howard - a total of nine children. Eight of the nine children migrated to New York. Joseph Henry still resides in Antigua, a choice he made on his own not to migrate.

Neville and Ann Henry are both exemplary parents.

Neville takes pride in being a loving and caring father to all of his children. He has twenty-nine grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren. His love for them is immeasurable.

Neville enjoys cooking, baking and walking. His favourite foods are rice and our well-known local fungee. He is well travelled and here are some of the countries he has visited: England, France, Germany, Israel, Canada, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, The Bahamas and several states in the US - California, Florida, New York, Rhode Island. He became this world traveller after he finally got his first passport. He loved visit-

ing England and Bermuda. Neville possesses an extensive knowledge of the British Monarchy and he loves the Queen and the English traditions.

The secrets to Neville's longevity and to his sixty years of marriage are the blessings from the Almighty God, and his contented, calm and stress free lifestyle. He worries about nothing and he does not smoke or consume any alcohol.

Neville was always a healthy person until his later years when he experienced some medical challenges. However, with God's grace, very good medical care and his strong will to live, he was always able to overcome. Throughout all of his medical challenges and setbacks, he would always say to the doctors, "Doc, I know that I have to die, do whatever you need to do."

Neville is kind, generous and compassionate to his many dear friends and relatives including the sisters, nieces and nephews he inherited through marriage. He is loved dearly by all. Everyone wants to be and live just like uncle Neville, the name he is lovingly called by all.

As we celebrate his 100th birthday, we hope with the blessings of the Almighty, he will live to see many more. The family is humbly requesting for the street on which he lives to be named in his honour.



# Biography of Jane Ann Lee Gould

Lovely Jane was born on 19th January 1920, at George Street, Plymouth, Montserrat.

Her mom was Amelia Lambert, also known as "Tooksie," and her father was Ben Lee. Ben left Montserrat to seek fortune in the Dominican Republic and was never to return. His parents, Jane's grandparents, always told Jane he would come back and gave her a picture of him (Tooksie subsequently destroyed it years after in a fit of frustration). She knew no father.

Jane was Tooksie's first child of eight (Liza, John, James, Mary, Joey and Florence) and was assigned the task of "looking after" them. All of her siblings are all now deceased.

She migrated to Antigua at the age of 17 (in 1937) with her mother's friend, Viola Nedd from Barbuda who was visiting Montserrat and who lived in Cedar Grove. She came to Antigua to spend time and to



Jane Ann Lee Gould

help "look after" Viola for a while. When it was time for Jane to return, she landed a job as a domestic helper and she chose to stay in Antigua.

She became a professional at her discipline and was able to juggle the tasks of the kitchen, laundry and housekeeping and managing the children from babies to kindergarten she was

designated to "look after."

In 1942 she was married to handsome Craddy Gould, who had actually travelled to Montserrat to ask Tooksie for Jane's hand in marriage and this marriage lasted until his death in 1991 (49 years). As a married couple they lived at Grays Hill, St. Johnston's Village, and finally at St Johnston's Boulevard, Sutherlands.

She had no children.

Through her work as a domestic, she made strong and lasting relations with her employers. She often spoke fondly of the Francises on Factory Road, the Jonases of Potters and the wonderful Simpson family, also of Potters.

In 1980 at age 60 she was employed with Arah and George Derrick of Scott's Hill and was eventually morphed into their family. Upon Arah's passing, Jane hung on to her daughter Jennifer and insisted that she work with her. Jennifer then became her employer, stepdaughter and eventual caregiver.

In 2009 Jane at age 89 she moved in and lived with Jennifer at her Potters home. In 2018 when Jennifer had to do extensive travels, she placed Jane at Bishop J. E. Knight Nursing Home, where she now resides.

Jane turns 100 on 19th January, 2020.

God's richest blessings are wished for her.





# Hot on the market!

## Shebah's creations heating up the pepper sauce industry

**By Angelica O'Donoghue**

It may be a new year, but the COVID-19 pandemic, and all its devastating effects, are still ravishing. Despite the optimism of our leaders, the pandemic's effect on the economy seemingly has not slowed down either.

However, for some, the pandemic has availed an opportunity to dive into the world of entrepreneurship. May it be out of dire need due to unemployment, or the desire to seize opportunities created by an economic fallout.

According to the Wall Street Journal, "Americans are starting new businesses at the fastest rate in more than a decade, according to government data, seizing on pent-up demand and new opportunities after the pandemic shut down and reshaped the economy."

Looking at the influx of new local brands on the shelves, articles shared and the litany of business cards circulating these days, it is my opinion, that the same could be said about Antiguans and Barbudans.

This week, Naomi Joseph and Ed Darroux from Shebah's Creations Enterprise have proven just that.

The business couple creates and bottles one of the hottest hot sauces to have hit the local market in years, a business that was only officially started in April of 2020. According to the couple, the idea of starting such a business was only a thought before



the pandemic, a thought that was replaced by their hectic work schedules as a Customs Officer and a Police Officer. However, the government-imposed lockdown in 2020 gave them the much-needed time to initiate and execute their business idea.

According to Naomi, the real thrust behind venturing into the hot sauce industry was bearing witness to the many complaints about not having a sauce that brings a balance of heat and flavour. "Different foods require a different hot sauce experience -

and that is what we aimed for," Naomi said.

Naomi emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic created the opportunity to start this thriving business. The young businesswoman, who is also a Customs Officer explained, "at the height of the COVID pandemic I was placed on a shift system; in light of this we had more time to focus on the business and were able to expand not only the developing idea but also having the sauces in different supermarkets and restaurants (once the curfew relaxed a bit). Howev-

er, although we were able to expand we were and still somewhat hindered because we are unable to tap into certain markets or clientele because of the pandemic."

Just like most business start-ups, Naomi admitted that they did need finance to get their business off the ground. Nonetheless, they were able to create an impressionable brand and have even received advice from other hot sauce entrepreneurs when solicited.

Shebah's Hot Sauce has seemingly gathered a lot of steam in the media lately, which caught the taste of the Prime Minister.

The business couple got a chance to have the country's leader sample their creation earlier this month. During the 'meet and greet' with Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Naomi explained that the flavoured pepper sauces are from seasonal fruits and are highly sort after. "Our product is local, Southern Antiguan, our logo was hand-drawn locally, our labels are locally sourced, our peppers are locally sourced, everything is done locally," Naomi proudly expounded. "We started this business in 2020, during the height of the pandemic," the entrepreneur continued.

After sampling the pepper sauces, PM Browne said, "Let me commend you, both of you. I have to admit that this is easily one of the hottest pepper sauces I have had. I want



*cont'd from pg 9*

to commend you both on creating this very beautiful pepper sauce line of various flavours. It shows the type of creativity and innovativeness of our people. The fact that even though you both have careers other than this entrepreneurial programme that you are pursuing, is even more encouraging for others to follow, to show that we can be multifaceted; we need not just follow a single career path, but we can do multiple things. I think this is truly creative; I want to commend you both as a Customs Officer and a Police Officer, you've found the time to satisfy the national demand for good quality pepper sauce."

Though Shebah's creations are still considered new on the market, the entrepreneurs revealed that they have plans of expanding. "Shebah's Creations is not just Hot Sauce. We will have a variety of spices and we are planning to introduce a local based ketchup, all under the She-



**Naomi Joseph**

bah's brand. Currently, we have six available flavours: Regular, Extra Hot which is Ed's favorite, Blazin Mango, Flamin Papaya which is my favorite, Hot Passion, and Spicy Tamarind. We are aiming for our pineapple flavoured sauce later in the year. We

also have our eyes set on exporting. We've managed to capture the attention of some hot sauce enthusiasts overseas but we have not quite worked out the logistics of exporting as yet," the businesswoman divulged.

The young entrepreneurs concluded their interview by offering a few words of advice to other budding business owners. "Write down your plan and do not be afraid to execute it. Having a strong and positive team around you is very beneficial to how far you will go. You must be able to validate the people around you. If they are not where you see yourself later in life then they cannot push you to become the person you are aspiring to be. If they are not going to handle your affairs with a winning attitude then it makes no sense to involve them!"

To find out more about Shebah's hot sauce, you can find them on Facebook Instagram at "Shebah's Hot Sauce."

**HAPPY MONDAY**  
TODAY IS A BEAUTIFUL DAY

**DRIVE SAFE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**BE STREET WISE**

Drive Safe.

Walk Safe.

Bike Safe.



# CARICOM BUSINESS REPORT

## A Weekly Business News Aggregate on Service

Compiled and Edited by the Directorate of Trade & Economic Integration at the CARICOM Secretariat

### EC dollar 97% backed by foreign reserves - ECCB

Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), Timothy Antoine, says the currency in the sub-region, remains "very strong" amid the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. In his Christmas message, Antoine noted, "Our EC dollar remains very strong. Its current backing in foreign reserves is 97%." He also said the ECCB recorded a profit of \$63.1 million. However, Antoine noted that the Currency Union is experiencing its largest shock, noting the projected decline of 16.2% in 2020. "Looking ahead, we project the ECCU will grow by five per cent next year, as tourism, our dominant export, slowly recovers," he stated.

### Inflation declines by 1.6% in Cayman

Consumer prices the Cayman Islands declined by 1.6% in the third quarter of 2020 relative to the same period last year, mainly due to lower electricity, water and gas bills and the declining cost of transport. Since the second quarter of 2020, prices dropped by 0.8%. Five of the 12 categories that make up the consumer price index recorded lower prices. Year-on-year, consumers saw lower prices in the third quarter for electricity (-24.6%), water (-15.3%) and gas (-2.2%). Transport costs declined following a 14.1% drop in fuel prices. However, consumers have been paying about 5.5% more for food and non-alcoholic beverages than in the third quarter of 2019.

### Belize to launch NBB Pay e-wallet in early 2021

The National Bank of Belize (NBB) has solicited the expertise of Barbados-based financial technology firm Bi to create and launch a digital wallet that will complement the bank's mobile banking services. "NBB is licensing a digital currency infrastructure from Bi to support retail and business users' access to simple secure and efficient payment solutions as they re-

cover from the global economic crisis," a release from the Government-owned bank stated. The NBB reportedly plans to have a soft launch of the NBB Pay eWallet in early 2021, followed by a roll-out to all customers and businesses around mid-2021. With the e-wallet, users can conduct customer-to-customer, business-to-business, customer-to-business transfers, or vice versa, as well as pay bills. This partnership with Bi comes at a time when the entity is working with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and Central Bank of Barbados to launch their own government-backed digital currencies – DCash and mMoney respectively.

### Shippers not accepting TT dollars as forex woes deepen

Commencing January 2021 some four shipping companies in Trinidad and Tobago will no longer be accepting TT dollars, opting to accepting payment of freight charges only in United States dollars. The four shipping agents are King Ocean Services, Tropical Shipping, Crowley Trinidad Ltd. and Seaboard Marine (Trinidad) Ltd. According to a press release from Seaboard Marine, "Effective 17th January, 2021, we have adopted a policy requiring all freight charges paid in Trinidad to be done in US dollars. The continued difficulty of converting Trinidad and Tobago dollars into U.S. dollars has made adoption of this policy necessary and is applicable on all charges listed on Carrier's bills of lading," it stated. The Shipping Association of T&T has over twenty-four shipping agents as members. For the period January to October 2020 foreign exchange sales by all authorized dealers in T&T totalled US\$3.757 billion or twenty-five per cent less than the \$5.01 billion sold for the rest ten months of 2019. Indeed, on 1st December, Scotiabank imposed a limit of US\$500 on the holders of its business credit cards in terms of foreign currency transactions.

### Revenue collection in The Bahamas lags behind region

The IDB in its Caribbean Quarterly Bulletin suggests that The Bahamas carry out revisions to its revenue collect on policy and administration on in order to generate greater revenue collect on in the years ahead. According to the bulletin, The Bahamas' revenue has averaged fifteen per cent of the country's GDP; the regional average is twenty-four per cent. "The Bahamas' primary fiscal deficit averaged 1.3% of GDP between FY 2009/2010 and FY2019/2020, which contributed to increasing the debt level from 35.1% of GDP in FY2009/2010 to 69.2% of GDP in FY2019/2020," the bulletin noted. The Bank suggests the establishment of unit "devoted to preparing economic studies that can analyze tax collection trends, monitor the hidden economy, examine revenue yields from audits, understand taxpayer behaviour and provide input to government budgeting processes."

### Jamaica's inflation rate stands at five per cent

According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), the inflation rate for November 2020 was 0.6%. The increase in the inflation rate was mainly due to an increase of 1.7% in the heavily weighted 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' division. There was a 1.8% upward movement in the index for the 'Food' group, which was mainly attributed to an increase of 5.7 % in the index for the class 'Vegetables, tubers, plantains, cooking bananas and pulses'. This was primarily influenced by higher prices for agricultural produce such as carrot, cabbage, tomato and sweet pepper as a result of reduced supplies due to adverse weather conditions. For the review period, the calendar year-to-date inflation rate was five per cent, the point-to-point 4.3% and the fiscal year-to-date was 3.7% as at November 2020.

# Glow at SVG Volcano is not an explosive eruption – scientist



*Officials say the glow is natural and there is no need to panic or evacuate*

## (iWitness News SVG):

The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) said, late Saturday night, that there was no explosive eruption of La Soufriere.

Residents of North Leeward have reported seeing "fire" at the volcano, which has been erupting effusively since late December.

"The magma continues to flow out of the crater, so that is a normal part of an effusive eruption," Director of NEMO Michelle Forbes said on NBC Radio.

"We are asking persons to remain calm. There is no explosive eruption at the moment. There is no evacuation order for anywhere above the Dry River or any community in St.

Vincent and the Grenadines at this moment," Forbes said.

"That is a normal part of an effusive eruption," she said, noting that Professor Richard Robertson, a geologist from the Seismic Research Centre in Trinidad which is monitoring the volcano, had spoken about this glow weeks ago.

And, in a separate call to NBC Radio Saturday night, Robertson, who is originally from Rose Hall, urged the public to remain calm, saying the glow at the volcano is expected.

As a result of the effusive eruption, a second dome is growing inside the volcano alongside the one that resulted from the explosive eruption of 1979.

Robertson said, "As the dome gets bigger – and it has gotten bigger – people will begin, on the western flanks, especially in Chateaubelair, will begin to see what we call in volcanology, incandescence or glowing of the dome," Robertson said.

"And this is natural because the volcano has been erupting and has been erupting hot material, creating a mountain of very hot materials. The materials have temperatures of 500 or 600 degrees Celsius. These materials naturally give off a glow."

He said it is difficult to see the glow during the day because of the brightness of the sun, but it is visible at night.

"You hadn't seen it

so far because it was below the rim. But as the mountain (the new dome) inside gets closer and closer to the [rim of the volcano] you begin to see more of the glow," Robertson said.

"Eventually, when it gets high enough, they are going to actually see the mountain (dome) itself. And I will like to prepare them for the fact that as it gets bigger, you are gonna see the glow more."

He said one way in which the dome grows is by pushing out material at the outer flanks of the volcano.

The material, in turn, spills off.

He said this results in rock falls and during the day, persons will see dust as the rock falls.

# Trinidad and Tobago top cop meets 'persons of interest' over gang threats



Commissioner of Police Gary Griffith  
/PHOTO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE

**(Loop TT):** Commissioner of Police Gary Griffith met Friday night with several well-known "persons of interest," advising them that the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) will respond quickly if there are any attempts to escalate gang-related criminal activity in the country.

The warning follows numerous WhatsApp mes-

sages purporting to such activities, which were circulated and which caused fear and panic among the population.

One of the WhatsApp messages indicated that "gangsters in and around Port of Spain and environs are actively preparing to engage in all-out war with each other, as a mutual 'truce' has broken down."

*cont'd on pg 14*

# Mild warning as sharks appear near regional shores



**(Barbados Today):** With recent shark sightings and attacks in neighbouring Caribbean islands making news over the weekend, swimmers, fisherfolk and watercraft operators in Barbados have been urged to be on the look-out for the carnivorous creatures venturing closer to shores.

The Ministry of Maritime

Affairs issued the caution while pointing out that no sharks have been spotted close enough to beaches to cause any concern.

On Thursday, a Barbados Today team visited both the Oistins and Bridgetown Fish Market, to talk to fishermen about any concerns they may have about plying their trade because of the new threat.

Fisherman Lyle Robinson said he and other fishermen were indeed having a rougher time from a lack of business rather than a fear of sharks.

"Last season, like this time, flying fish was scarce, right now the [numbers] are coming back really slowly, but they are starting to pick up," he explained. "Most boats are catching them well now, no big set, but they are doing a lot better than December and the earlier parts of January."

Vendors at both complexes mirrored Robinson's view that the last several months have been hard on the industry, but that a possible shark sighting would not be a major concern for them.

Swimming and diving instructor, Don Layne, who also works as a life-guard, said that though shark attacks are serious incidents, these animals seldom attack swimmers as often portrayed in pop culture. More often than not, sharks are seen outside their usual habitats when disturbed by changes in their environment he said.

Layne said: "There is nothing really to fear per se because sharks generally don't like the taste of humans, they don't go after people. Most shark attack and shark attack victims are caused by a case of mistaken identity because sharks do not have the best eyesight. As long as you do not panic and remain calm, they are [rarely] drawn to you in their curiosity."



# US says sorry – Jamaica Gov't slapped with 'sold out' label

**(Jamaica Gleaner):** With tension simmering in Jamaica over a controversial decision by the United States authorities to nab four Jamaican men and destroy their boat, alleging it was carrying cocaine, high-level talks between the two countries are now under way to make amendments to the Shiprider Agreement which is at the centre of the wrangle.

The Shiprider Agreement allows the United States and Jamaican law enforcers, with the permission of either party, to intercept suspect vessels in each other's territorial waters, to apprehend vessels and crew. It also provides for the waiver of prosecutorial jurisdiction over the island's citizens.

The men – Anthony Clark (captain), Radcliffe Simmons, Howard Pat-

terson and Warren Rowe – have reportedly been left traumatized by their detention, which started on 11th October last year when their boat, Lady Lawla, was boarded by the United States Coast Guard. They were, however, released after a Florida judge determined that the containers were proven to have only gasoline. The men landed in Jamaica on 31st December, last year, after being detained for two months in the US without charge.

A year and a half ago, in the midst of revelations of the trammelling and mistreatment of five fishermen by the US Coast Guard, Foreign Minister Kamina Johnson Smith promised a review of Jamaica's Shiprider Agreement with the United States. Johnson Smith updated the Senate on the

ongoing discussions which led to sharp rebukes from the Opposition which accused the Government of selling out Jamaicans. She outlined that there are several areas of the agreement which can be improved.

"One, following search and boarding of intercepted vessels, and two relating to the status of nationals from the time of grant of the waiver up to the outcome of any legal or judicial action pursued against them," Johnson Smith stated.

The foreign affairs minister told the Senate that the US authorities have apologized for its handling of what turned out to be a nightmare for the Jamaicans.

"The Jamaican Government expressed in very clear terms certain steps key to bridging gaps in

implementation as well as its strong disappointment at recent developments, including the failure of the US authorities to communicate critical information on the dismissal of the case as envisaged by the agreement. I am pleased, however, to advise that the bilateral engagement was constructive and frank and undertaken in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. Apologies were extended to the Jamaican side by the United States regarding the handling of the matter," Johnson Smith told the Senate.

But in a charged segment of Friday's sitting, Opposition Senator Lambert Brown knocked the Government hard for the ordeal. He said the Government did not act appropriately and "sold out Jamaican interest in this matter."

## cont'd from pg 13

It added that "law enforcement should expect a series of gang shootings and people's homes getting burned down."

According to a statement from the TTPS, immediately upon receipt of this information, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Ag), 'Operations' Joanne Archie held a coordinating meeting with various specialized and intelligence units, including GEB, SIU, MOB and IATF, POS CID, all First Division officers of POSD, the Traffic and Highway

Patrol Branch and the POS Taskforce.

Following this meeting, several persons of interest were brought into the Besson Street and St Joseph Police Stations.

Commissioner Griffith visited both police stations, where he issued a stern warning to persons of interest that were being held there, making it clear to them that the "TTPS will not tolerate any plans among groups to cause any mayhem and destruction."

The commissioner said

he received hundreds of messages from concerned members of the public about the veracity of the messages.

Griffith made it clear that if the messages circulating had any truth, the TTPS will move swiftly to take down any attempts to escalate any gang-related criminal activity that brings inconvenience to the public.

He also reminded the "persons of interest" of the attempts made at the end of June 2020, which

were met with immediate resistance by the TTPS.

As a result of the messages which were circulating yesterday, the commissioner said the TTPS has put certain measures in place should any attempts be made to escalate gang-related criminal activity.

Griffith further advised the public to be wary of misinformation that is being circulated on social media.

He said there is no intelligence to verify these alleged threats.

## Phil Spector: Pop producer jailed for murder dies at 81



*Phil Spector pictured in court during his murder trial*

**(BBC):** US music producer Phil Spector has died at the age of 81, while serving a prison sentence for murder.

Spector, who transformed pop with his "wall

of sound" recordings, worked with the Beatles, the Righteous Brothers and Ike and Tina Turner. In 2009, he was convicted of the 2003 murder of Hollywood actress Lana Clark-

son.

His death was confirmed by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

"California Health Care Facility inmate Phillip Spector was pronounced deceased of natural causes at 6:35 p.m. on Saturday, 16th January, 2021, at an outside hospital. His official cause of death will be determined by the medical examiner in the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office," it said.

Spector produced twenty Top 40 hits between 1961 and 1965, AFP news agency reports. His production methods influenced major artists including the Beach Boys and Bruce Springsteen.

His life was ultimately blighted by drug and alcohol addiction, and he all but retired from the music scene during the 1980s and 1990s.

In February 2003, actress Lana Clarkson was found dead at his house in Alhambra, California with a bullet wound to her head. Spector claimed the shooting happened when Clarkson "kissed the gun" - but his trial heard from four women who claimed Spector had threatened them with guns in the past when they had spurned his advances.

Following an initial mistrial, Spector was convicted of second degree murder and given a sentence of 19 years to life.

## Quake death toll at 78 as Indonesia struggles with string of disasters

**(Reuters):** At least seventy-eight people have been killed after an earthquake struck Indonesia's West Sulawesi province on Friday, the Search and Rescue agency (Basarnas) said on Sunday, the latest in a string of disasters to hit the Southeast Asian country.

In a statement, Basarnas confirmed seventy-eight had died, sixty-seven of whom were from the district of Mamuju and the rest from the district of Majene in West Sulawesi.

More than seven hundred and forty people were injured and over 27,800 left their homes after the 6.2 magnitude quake, the country's disaster mitigation agency separately (BNPB) said in a situation report. Some sought refuge in the mountains, while

others went to cramped evacuation centres, witnesses said.

Police and military officers have been deployed to crack down on looting in several parts of the region, BNPB spokesman Raditya Jati said.

An emergency response status, intended to help rescue efforts, has also been put in place for two weeks, Raditya said.

Dwikorita Karnawati, the head of Indonesia's meteorological, climatology and geophysical agency (BMKG), has said that another quake in the region could potentially trigger a tsunami.

Straddling the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, Indonesia is regularly hit by earthquakes. In 2018, a devastating 7.5-magnitude quake and subsequent tsunami struck the city of Palu, in Sulawesi, kill-

ing thousands.

Just two weeks into the new year, the world's fourth-most populous country is battling several disasters.

Floods in South Kalimantan and North Sulawesi have respectively killed at least fifteen and five this month, while landslides in West Java province have killed at least thirty-two, authorities said.

On 9th January, a Sriwijaya Air jet crashed into the Java Sea with sixty-two onboard.

East Java's Semeru mountain erupted late on Saturday, but there have been no reports of casualties or evacuations.

Dwikorita said extreme weather and other "multi-dangers" of hydrometeorology are forecast in the coming weeks.

# Statehouses, US capital brace for potentially violent week

**(Associated Press):**

The threat of extremist groups demonstrating at statehouses across the United States prompted some governors to roll out a show of force and ramp up security Sunday, less than two weeks after a mob overran the nation's Capitol Building.

Fencing, boarded-up windows and extra police and National Guard troops transformed some statehouses ahead of expected protests leading up to President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Wednesday. But the grounds around capitols were generally empty and quiet early Sunday.

The stepped-up security measures were intended to safeguard seats of government from the type of violence that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on 6th January, when supporters of President Donald Trump swarmed the building while Congress was certifying the Electoral College vote.



The FBI has warned of the potential for armed protests at the nation's Capitol and all fifty state capitol buildings beginning this weekend. Some social media messages had targeted Sunday for demonstrations, though it remained unclear how many people might show up.

On Sunday morning, state police and National Guard troops stood sentry around a number of statehouses, including those in Michigan, Ohio and Penn-

sylvania. One counter-protester came early to greet any demonstrators at the Pennsylvania Capitol, saying he had heard about the possibility of a meet-up of a far-right militant group. But no one else was there.

"I'm fundamentally against the potential protesters coming here to delegitimize the election, and I don't want to be passive in expressing my disapproval of them coming into this city," Stephen Rzonca said.

In Columbus, Ohio, nearly every business around the downtown capital square was boarded up. In Lansing, Michigan, police with dogs patrolled on foot, and a helicopter hovered overhead. In Atlanta, armored vehicles were stationed on Capitol grounds.

Wisconsin National Guard troops armed with rifles, shields and body armor arrived near the state Capitol on Sunday morning. A man who drove a vehicle up the steps of the Capitol building was arrested overnight for driving while intoxicated.

Security in Washington, D.C., has also intensified ahead of the inauguration. Tall fencing surrounds the U.S. Capitol, the National Mall is closed to the general public, and the District of Columbia's mayor asked people not to visit. Some 25,000 National Guard troops from around the country were due in the city by early in the week.

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# FBI probing Capitol riot link to foreign governments, groups

(Aljazeera): The FBI is investigating whether foreign governments, organizations or individuals provided financial support to people who helped plan and execute the 6th January attack on the Capitol, a news report said on Sunday.

As part of the investigation, the FBI is examining payments of \$500,000 in bitcoin, apparently by a French national, to key figures and groups in the far right before the riot, one current and one former FBI official told NBC News.

The payments were documented and posted online last week by a company that analyses cryptocurrency transfers.



Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol building on 6th January

Bitcoin payments can be traced because they are documented on a public ledger.

The current FBI official was quoted as saying the bitcoin transfers appear to have been made by a French computer

programmer who took his own life on 8th December last year after triggering the transfers, according to French media.

The cryptocurrency payments prompted the FBI to examine whether any of the money was used to fund illegal acts, which, if true, raises the possibility of money laundering and conspiracy charges, the FBI official said.

On 8th December, Chainalysis reported the donor sent 28.15 BTC – worth about \$522,000 at the time of transfer – to twenty-two separate addresses, many of which belong to far-right activists. The Chainalysis blog post, first highlighted by Yahoo News, said far-right podcaster Nick Fuentes received the most money, 13.5 BTC – worth about \$250,000.

Separately, a joint threat assessment issued last week by the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and var-

ious other federal and DC-area police agencies noted since the deadly 6th January riot, “Russian, Iranian, and Chinese influence actors have seized the opportunity to amplify narratives in furtherance of their policy interest amid the presidential transition.”

Russian state and proxy media outlets “have amplified themes related to the violent and chaotic nature of the Capitol Hill incident, impeachment of President Donald Trump, and social media censorship,” the unclassified intelligence report said.

“In at least one instance, a Russian proxy claimed that ANTIFA members disguised themselves as supporters of President Trump, and were responsible for storming the Capitol building.”

Chinese media, meanwhile, “have seized the story to denigrate US democratic governance, casting the United States as broadly in decline – and to justify China’s crackdown on protesters in Hong Kong.”

The examination of possible foreign influence related to the Capitol riot, which involves the FBI’s counterintelligence division, comes after years of what current and former FBI officials say is mounting evidence that Russia and other foreign adversaries have sought to secretly support “political extremists” on the far right and far left.



## Account Management Notice

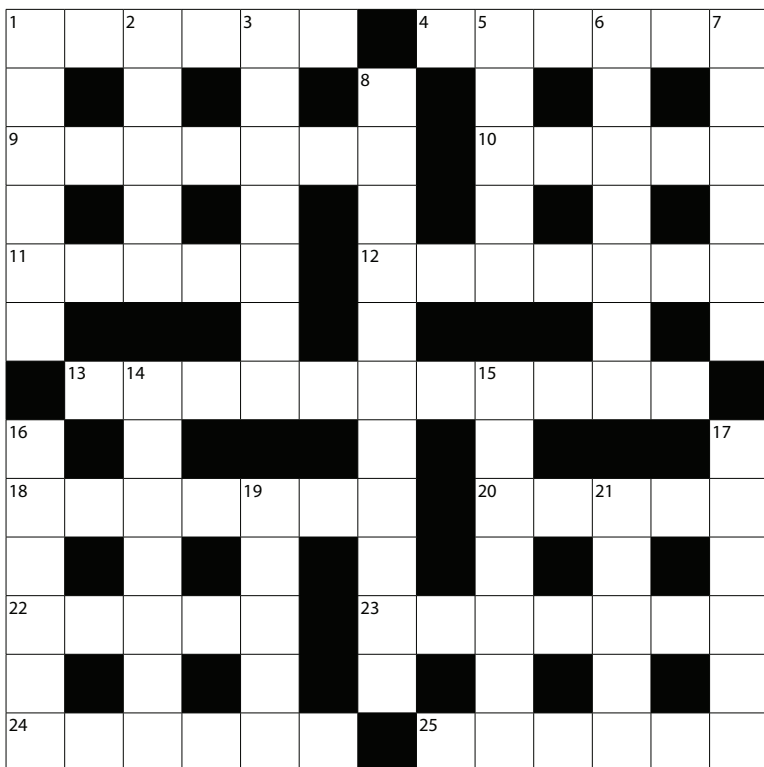
Following the nine (9) month waiver of disconnections as part of APUA’s COVID-19 Relief Efforts, disconnections of utility services for residential and commercial services will resume from February 1st, 2021.

To avoid disruption of service, customers are encouraged to settle accounts in arrears.

If you are unable to settle your account, please schedule an appointment with our Credit Control Department by calling 480-7002 to discuss a payment plan.



## QUICK CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Reproach (6)
- 4 Bath powder (6)
- 9 Fix (7)
- 10 Metrical units with an unstressed and a stressed syllable (5)
- 11 Dagger symbols (†) used as reference marks in printed matter (5)
- 12 White crystalline sugar that comes in many forms (7)
- 13 Passed-along missive (5,6)
- 18 River running over the Victoria Falls (7)
- 20 Off-white colour (5)
- 22 Car race run over public roads (5)
- 23 Student with the same background as David Cameron and Boris Johnson (7)
- 24 Small fairy (6)
- 25 Wing added to a building (6)

### Down

- 1 Think logically (6)
- 2 Push into (5)
- 3 Raft built by Thor Heyerdahl for his 1947 crossing of the Pacific (3-4)
- 5 Au revoir (5)
- 6 Fruit cooked or preserved in syrup (7)
- 7 Badly wounded (6)
- 8 Wild cat from the Indian subcontinent (6,5)
- 14 More modest (7)
- 15 Tropical cyclone in the Indian and Pacific Oceans (7)
- 16 Portuguese mid-Atlantic archipelago (6)
- 17 Flat rim on a wheel to keep it on a rail (6)
- 19 Land of the Pharaohs (5)
- 21 Get up (5)

## DAILY COMICS

### Dilbert



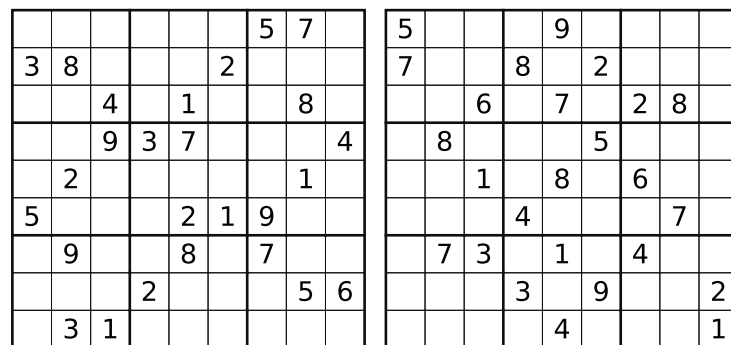
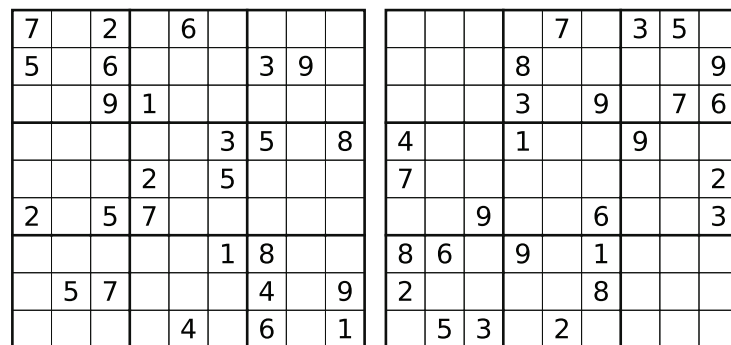
### Garfield



### 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

**MON 01/18**  **81° Hi** **75° Lo**  
**DAY** Cloudy with a couple of showers, mainly early in the day  
**NIGHT** Partly cloudy with a shower in spots  
 Sunrise 6:40 AM Sunset 5:55 PM Moonrise 10:40 AM Moonset 10:56 PM

**TUE 01/19**  **82° Hi** **74° Lo**  
**DAY** A morning shower in places; otherwise, sunny to partly cloudy  
**NIGHT** Partly cloudy with a shower in places  
 Sunrise 6:40 AM Sunset 5:56 PM Moonrise 11:15 AM Moonset 11:43 PM

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

### ♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Your drive for success simply can't steer you wrong right now, so let it introduce you to new and exciting circumstances today. Tackling difficult new challenges might not be the first thing on your wish list.

### ♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

It's time to celebrate the fact that you're feeling more grounded than ever in your personal life. The people you're spending time with totally get who you are, accept who you are, and love who you are!

### ♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

You might be having a hard time getting along with someone you usually like, but it won't last very long, so don't worry. There is a lot of tension between the two of you through no fault of your own.

### ♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

You are always great at not letting problems at work bleed over into your personal life, but not everyone in your life is quite so good at it. Be on the lookout for moodiness and grumpiness to blossom with one of the most important people in your life.

### ♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

You could get some good news today. In fact, it might send you over the moon! You need to be careful not to let your enthusiasm distract you too much from the business at hand.

### ♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

A person from your past may make a surprise appearance, and you have no reason not to welcome them. No matter how weird things got between the two of you, right now this person is on your side and eager to help you get stuff done.

### ♏ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

The next time you speak with an older relative, ask them a few questions about the family's past. They have an awful lot to teach you about history, perseverance and maintaining hope when there may not be much of a reason to do so.

### ♐ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

There are some amazing people in your life right now, and you should set aside some time to get to know them a lot better. They will welcome your increased attention and reward your curiosity with juicy gossip and tips.

### ♑ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Music could bring you a lot of joy today, so listen to your favorite tunes whenever you can, while you're getting ready in the morning, running errands, cooking, cleaning, or doing some other type of semi-mindless activity.

### ♒ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

The big question for you is whether you go with your latest whim or stick to your previously made plans. This indecision might bring you to the edge of frustration, especially when so many of your friends are pressuring you.

### ♓ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If things are getting tense between you and a friend or co-worker, don't try and fight it. Sure, conflict is never fun to deal with, but sometimes it's necessary to solve a problem or move in a better direction.

### ♈ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

A kind word from you could help a struggling co-worker immensely right now, so swallow your pride and give credit where credit is due even if the person who deserves the praise isn't exactly your favorite person in the whole word.

## 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](https://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](mailto: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.



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# Former WI captain Sammy inks perfume deal

**(Barbados Today):** Former captain of the West Indies Cricket team Daren Sammy and the first and only captain in history to win the T20 World Cup championship twice has signed a new licensing agreement with Asgharali, a family-owned business based in Bahrain creating high-quality fragrances since 1919.

Asgharali has won the hearts of consumers worldwide and laid its footprint in the perfumery market and related business interests with over one hundred retail and franchise outlets and stores in the Middle East and South Asia and over forty distributors worldwide in regions from Eastern Europe to South America.

The new signature perfume under the Daren Sammy trademark will include a signature fragrance for men and women.

According to Sammy, "I am super excited to partner with Asgharali to create this amazing fragrance. I've always enjoyed connecting with people through my playing and in the stadiums.

"It is my goal to continue this connection by creating a scent that will exhibit the passion, power, and pleasure that is within us all.

"My desire is that people will feel like a champion; like everything is



Former West Indies Cricket team captain Daren Sammy

possible and that no matter where you started in life; greatness is in you. I'm already very happy with the new signature scents for men and women that Asgharali has created and the exquisite packaging design. I can't wait to share it with you all this year!"

Sammy launched his eponymous brand 88, Daren Sammy, at The Landings St Lucia in 2019.

A brand licensing programme was developed by his brand manager Hanna Fitz, to create product-based experiences for his millions of fans globally. Driven by his core brand message "IT'S IN YOU™" Sammy is creating product experiences that empower people to walk in their greatness and live their best life.

Asgharali is a great fit for the Sammy brand with its strong heritage of fragrance creation in Pakistan and UAE markets.

According to the CEO of Asgharali "We are honoured to collaborate with Daren Sammy, creating a signature fragrance for him. Asgharali has always strived for excellence with a long heritage in the fragrance market that continues to gain its customer satisfaction and fulfil their desires.

"Collaborating with Daren Sammy and adding his new signature scent to Asgharali's elite perfume collection is a great addition."

The superstar cricketer and Asgharali are expected to launch the new fragrances for men and women in summer 2021.

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SATURDAYS 4PM

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HON. GASTON BROWNE

SENATOR  
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COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

CHANNEL 9



# Australian Open to go ahead despite players' quarantine anger

Forty-seven players and their entourages have been placed in isolation in their hotel rooms in Melbourne for two weeks. This means that they will no longer be able to leave their rooms to train, after three coronavirus infections were reported on two chartered flights carrying them to Melbourne.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley has confirmed the year's first Grand Slam will go ahead from 8th February, despite anger from players forced into hard quarantine in Melbourne due to COVID-19 cases on their chartered planes.

Other players who arrived in different planes are also undertaking a mandatory fourteen-



Naomi Osaka arrives at the Australian Open

day quarantine, but are permitted to leave their hotels for five hours a day to train, raising questions about the integrity of the Grand Slam.

Tiley said the tournament would start as scheduled but governing body Tennis Australia would look

at altering the lead up tournaments to help affected players.

"We are reviewing the schedule leading in to see what we can do to assist these players," Tiley told the Nine Network on Sunday. Earlier, quarantine authorities said they had recorded a fourth

COVID-19 infection among the passengers on the two chartered flights carrying players to Melbourne.

Some affected players complained about their detention. Some of the players in detention complained on social media that if they were informed about the rule before they would not have played the Australian Open, instead opting to stay home. Swiss player Belinda Bencic said she and the other forty-six players were at a disadvantage.

"We are not complaining about being in quarantine. We are complaining because of unequal practice/playing conditions before quite an important tournament," she said.



## The Soul of Arts Culture

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

# Walsh contracted COVID-19 in the Caribbean



Hayden Walsh Jr.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) believe Hayden Walsh Jr. contracted

COVID-19 before he left the Caribbean for Bangladesh.

Dr. Akshai Mansingh, a member of the medical advisory committee, said the incubation period for the novel coronavirus was between five and seven days, and noted that Walsh tested negative before departing the region and negative again on arrival in Bangladesh last Sunday.

The 28-year-old returned a positive test three days later, with a follow up test

confirming the positive result. Dr. Mansingh told CBC TV 8 Sports in Barbados looking closely at the timeline, the evidence suggests that the player contracted the disease when he was in the Caribbean, and not en route to, nor while in Bangladesh.

The Jamaican said the players were advised to wear their masks for the duration of the flight and while at the airports. They were also instructed to maintain physical

distancing because it minimizes the chance of transmission to any other team member.

Walsh, the son of former Antigua and Barbuda opening batsman Hayden Walsh Sr, has been placed in isolation in a separate wing of the team hotel in Dhaka, and will need to return two negative tests before he is released.

Dr. Mansingh said Walsh is asymptomatic and the team is hoping that he continues being asymptomatic.

## Wayne Rooney has officially retired from football

Former Manchester United and England star striker Wayne Rooney has retired from football, ending a decorated playing career in the game.

Having joined Derby County as a player coach, the 35-year-old had recently taken charge of the team on an interim basis following Phillip Cocu's dismissal. And after an impressive run during his first nine games in charge, Rooney has been given the job on a permanent

basis—inking a two-and-half year contract in his first managerial role.

He retires as Manchester United and England's all-time record goal scorer and will go down as one of the best players of his generation.

Having burst onto the scene as a 16-year-old for boyhood club Everton, Rooney scored three hundred and thirteen goals at club level and hit 53 in 120 caps for England to break Sir Bobby Charlton's re-



Former Manchester United and England star striker Wayne Rooney

cord.

He won a total of sixteen major honours at United, including five Premier League titles, three

league Cups, one FA Cup, one Champions league, and one FIFA Club World Cup during a glittering stint.

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year. The Caribbean side will play fifteen T20 matches against Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia, and Pakistan as they prepare to defend their title.

Grave also spoke about the upcoming CWI Super50, slated to bowl-off in February. Leeward Hurricane players are already

on the ground in Antigua and will go into a bio-secure bubble this week. The other territories are expected on island later this month. Each player participating in the tournament will be tested according to the protocols established by CWI Medical committee just before last year's

summer tour to England.

Players arriving on island later this month will have to be tested three days before travelling and will be tested on arrival before going through a three-day quarantine period. If the players test negative on the fourth day, they will then be allowed to train within

a bio-secure bubble. The players will not be allowed to interact with the local population because of safety concerns. bz

Grave noted that the players in Bangladesh will join their teams on arrival from the South Asian country and this year Super50 will be the strongest ever.



## Packed schedule for Cricket West Indies in 2021

Cricket West Indies Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Johnny Grave has indicated 2021 will be a busy year for the West Indies cricket team, after being affected in 2020 by the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking to PointeXpress, Grave said 2021 will see the regional team playing more cricket than ever before. The Caribbean players are presently in Bangladesh where they will contest three One Day International (ODIs) and two Tests before returning home to participate in the regional Super50 for their respective territories and prepare to host Sri Lanka in March in a two Test series.

In June, South Africa is expected in the region for a re-arranged tour from last summer which did not happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Just before the Caribbean Premier league (CPL) Pakistan will arrive for a two Test series which forms part of the next cycle for the World Test Championship.

There are three big One Day International series as part of the qualification for the Super league, which will see the Caribbean side play three ODIs possibly in Antigua in March, followed by three ODIs against Australia in July.

This year is a World Cup year with West Indies looking to defend their T20 world championship in India later this



Cricket West Indies (CWI) CEO Johnny Grave

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**DEWS**



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



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