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Photo caption: New Mercy Committee members with His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams (centre) from left to right: Bishop Charlesworth Browne, Jerry-Ann Francis, Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas and Martin Camacho.

Editorial: A word to the wise!

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A WORD TO THE WISE!

For most of the past ten months, the people of Antigua and Barbuda have demonstrated a level of discipline that has won them the acclaim of government officials and the admiration of those looking on from beyond our shores.

There have been widespread acceptance and adherence to the health protocols as introduced by the Ministry of Health to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We all endured the measures of a tight lockdown of the country from the end of March last year through to April. Many felt that it was necessary for their very survival so they adhered to the health protocols without complaint.

Locking down of the country may have helped to curb the spread of the virus, but it also brought most business activities to a halt. In a country as heavily dependent on tourism and the provision of other services as Antigua and Barbuda is, closing the country's borders and significantly re-

ducing the hours of business have had a debilitating impact on these businesses as well as the overall economy.

When the government decided to reopen the borders by 1st June 2020, it did so fully cognizant that such a move would expose the country to higher rates of infection if not managed properly. Government officials repeatedly stated that they must reopen the borders and they therefore placed much emphasis on 'managing the crisis.'

Despite the fears and apprehension, for the most part Antigua and Barbuda has done a creditable job in managing the virus, even as it opened its borders much sooner than most other Caribbean states. When one considers what is happening in several other territories, residents can feel that they have done well.

The government has remained resolute in sticking to the recommendations of health authorities local, regional, and international. Attempts to politi-

cize the issue have not succeeded as many see the protocols as being in the interest of everyone.

However, there are troubling signs that perhaps there is a growing sense of protocol-fatigue creeping in among some in the society. Many entertainment and related businesses are openly flouting the regulations at a time when the number of confirmed cases is rising daily. The number is at one hundred and ninety-two at last count, and active cases have been above twenty for the past week.

The number of active cases is important because this is what determines where Antigua and Barbuda is placed by other countries when they do their risk assessment. More than twenty active cases put Antigua and Barbuda as a 'high risk' country according New York state classification as an example.

The governments of the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada have introduced

new measures for all travelers entering their borders. Antiguan and Barbudans wishing to visit these countries would have to abide by these new rules.

It is therefore incumbent on all residents of Antigua and Barbuda to adhere to the health protocols as set out by the Ministry of Health. This is in everybody's interest. The last thing anyone wants is for the number of cases to increase sharply, forcing the government to introduce tougher measures, and possibly another lockdown.

This is a time for serious reflection, a time to think of the national good and not immediate or personal gratification.

COVID-19 is real! Its impact on the economy is real and it requires a national effort to keep the spread of the virus in check. The nation needs all of us to answer this important call! "A word to the wise is sufficient;" and as old people would say, "Who nah hear, will feel!"

Tougher anti-COVID measures coming

The recent uptick in the number of people becoming infected with COVID-19 is a growing concern for the Ministry of Health and other officials in the government.

In fact, the government has issued a warning that should the numbers continue to rise it may have no other choice but to institute another lockdown of the country. Currently, the positive cases are increasing at a rate of two every other day, but should this figure increase to three active cases over a seven-day period, the government would have no other course of action but to order the lockdown.

The stern warning comes from Information Minister Melford Nicholas at Thursday's post-Cabinet press briefing who stated that the government is very concerned with the way many bars and restaurants continue to flout the regulations.

"The regulations are as good as they are enforced or practiced! We continue to lament the behaviour of some individuals and business establishments in respect of their 'gay abandon' regarding clustering and social distancing," he explained.

As a first step, the Central Board of Health, accompanied by the police, will undertake inspections of these establishments known to have breached the protocols in the past. "These places will be specifically revisited and numbers will be allocated to state the maximum number of persons allowed in the establishment at any given time. These number will be displayed openly at the business so that both patrons and law enforcement officers will be able to make an assessment to determine whether or not there are any breaches," Nicholas declared.

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According to the minister the police are empowered to close a business if it is found to be in violation of the regulations. He warned that there will also be attendant penalties for businesses found in breach of the regulations.

Nicholas also addressed the ongoing complaint that the government is taking a harder line on returning nationals than any other group. He said the government was aware that there would be an increase in infection due to the increases in visitors and returning nationals, but returning nationals pose a particular risk because they mingle with the local population and have caused further infections.

He added that this is one reason why the government is strictly enforcing the quarantine regime to curb the spread of the virus.

'Moral obligation' to assist former LIAT staff



The Antigua and Barbuda government is putting together a set of proposals for presentation to other Caribbean governments to resolve the outstanding severance payment issue for former LIAT staff.

Information Minister Melford Nicholas said the Cabinet recognizes that the airline is not in a position to

pay severance to its former staff due to its own financial problems. Nonetheless, the Cabinet agreed that a moral obligation exists to pay severance to former LIAT employees throughout the countries where LIAT once operated.

"The Government of Antigua and Barbuda will make a special plea to all region-

al governments, through the Administrator appointed by the Court under the amended Bankruptcy law, to make payments to their nationals after negotiations with the several unions that represented the LIAT workers," Nicholas explained.

According to the Information Minister, the government is finalizing the proposals for submission to the other CARICOM governments. "We feel that the proposals are something which the other governments can match that can provide some amelioration for the former employees," he added.

In addition to payments in cash and other systems of value, the Antigua and Barbuda Government will be offering scholarships to The University of the West

Indies Five Islands Campus to nationals who once worked for LIAT in Antigua and Barbuda, in order to enable them to 're-tool.'

Nicholas also noted that the government will leverage its relationship with the university to arrange for special scholarships as part of the package for those former employees who may decide to take that option.

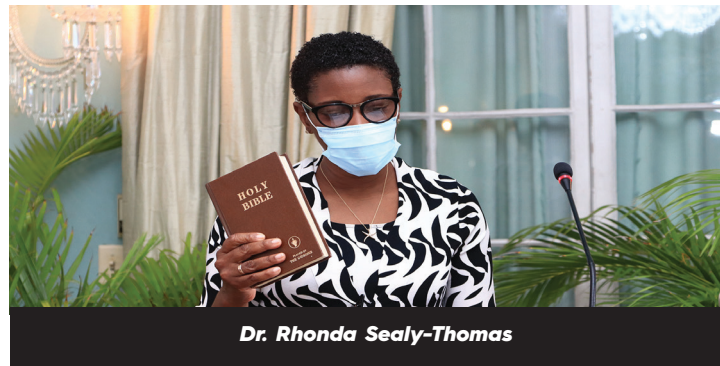
The minister said the package is something which he hopes the workers will welcome. "This is a work in progress but we feel that those employees who have been severed and who do not see an immediate prospect for the return to full employment may see this as good news until a full resolution of the LIAT issue is done," he remarked.

New Mercy Committee appointed

A new Mercy Committee has been appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution.

The committee, which goes by the official name, the "Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy," is headed by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Steadroy Benjamin. It also consists of the Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas, Solicitor General Martin Camacho, Head of the Prison Visiting Committee Bishop Charlesworth Browne, and Jerry-Ann Francis.

The functions of the committee are spelt out in Section 86 of the Constitution. It reads in part: "Where an offender has been sentenced to death by any court for an offence against any law, the Minister shall cause a written report of the case from the trial judge (or



Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas



Jerry-Ann Francis



Martin Camacho

the Chief Justice, if a report from the trial judge cannot be obtained) together with such other information derived from the record of the case or elsewhere as the Minister may require, to be taken into consideration at a meeting of the Advisory Committee.

"(2) The Minister may consult with the Advisory Committee before tendering any advice to the Governor-General under section 84(2) of this Constitution in any case not falling within subsection (1) of this section.

"(3) The Minister shall not be obliged in any case to act in accordance with the advice of the Advisory Committee.

"(4) The Advisory Committee may regulate its own procedure."

The committee's appointment runs from 19th January 2021 to January 2023.

Newly formed charitable organization donates to Golden Grove primary

A charitable organization, established less than a year ago, has made a donation to the Golden Grove Primary School of one hundred and seventy-six dry erase markers and four fans, with the support of Townhouse Furnishings.

The group—Rabbit Hole Family—was formed last year August and its members are committed to making a positive impact

on the community.

At a brief handing over ceremony, President of the Rabbit Hole Family Dale Mercury, indicated that the members felt it important to donate to the school in the community where they regularly socialize.

"Our members felt that their first community donation should be a youth centered project in recognition that young people are the future of the community,

and by extension the nation. Continued positive national growth depends on our youth fulfilling their growth and have a bright future," he remarked.

In accepting the donation, Principal Tamika Christian expressed thanks to the members of the Rabbit Hole Family. She noted that the supplies were timely, highlighting the contribution of the fans to improved ventilation during

the masked class sessions and the teachers benefiting from the learning resources (markers) supplied.

The Rabbit Hole Family was originally formed to raise funds to support a friend in need of medical care due to a vehicular accident. The members are a group of friends who patronize the Rabbit Hole Bar & Restaurant in Golden Grove.

Tourist, who says he did not know about the curfew, fined

A man visiting Antigua from South Africa now owes the state \$2,000 for violating the mandatory curfew of 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

Twenty-nine-old Conrad Erbe was found walking along a road in English Harbour at around 1 a.m. on 20th January.

And having had no valid excuse for being on the street, he was arrested and charged.

He appeared before Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards that very

morning and not only did he claim to not be aware of the curfew restriction, but he also showed no remorse.

Noting that ignorance of the law is no excuse, the man was still penalized.

Erbe, who is scheduled to leave the island on 27th January, was then fined \$2,000 which he must pay on or before 25th January or spend three months behind bars.

In another case, Elpert Walker, a fifty-nine-year-

old groundsman at the Freetown Primary School, was also fined in the All Saints Magistrate's Court for failing to wear a face mask.

He was warned both verbally and in writing by the school's principal about his failure to wear mask.

And on 18th January, the principal took action by contacting the authorities when he was seen on the school compound during classes without his mask.

Walker now has to pay

\$500 in seven days or spend seven days in prison.

Meanwhile, Pedro Vargas of De Souza Road and Hector Castro of Pigotts were reprimanded and discharged for breaking the curfew.

They were stopped at around 11:30 p.m. while driving home from a bar on Factory Road on 17th January.

They told the court that on their way home, a tire punctured causing them to be on the road late.

COVID-19 issues dominate OECS Authority meeting

OECS Heads of Government, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne accompanied by Foreign Minister E.P. Chet Greene, met remotely on Thursday in the 5th Special Meeting of the Authority with just two items on the agenda.

In a three-hour session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerrit, the Heads debated the relative merits of a proposal by Ecolog Inc for rapid testing in OECS airports; as well as the relative merits of the two candidates for the position of Director General of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) who had been shortlisted by the ECCAA Board.

Several Heads were accompanied by their

attorneys-general and by their senior ministers and health officials. The meeting also had the benefit of the input of Director of CARPHA, Dr Joy St John, who weighed in on the efficacy of the tests and other medical issues. Heads in a previous meeting had established a negotiating committee to interface with Ecolog Inc and the chair of that committee, Dr Sean Matthew, presented to the meeting.

Heads also took the opportunity to discuss the issues surrounding the emerging vaccines, including those developed by Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and other vaccines that were likely to conclude all phases of clinical trials and be approved by the World Health Orga-

nization. Vaccines from Russia (Sputnik), Sinovac from China as well as the vaccine being developed by Cuba also featured in the discussion.

Heads noted that the focus internationally was shifting from rapid testing in airports to vaccines and digital COVID-19 passports and, given the investment required by governments, they had concerns about the viability of the project in a rapidly changing environment. The head of the negotiating committee was given one last opportunity to clarify certain issues with the company and place Heads in a position to make a final decision urgently.

Heads of Government arrived at a decision regarding the appointment

of a new Director General ECCAA, but bearing in mind that one or two Heads were not present at the time, it was decided to confirm the decision by round-robin to all Heads in the coming days.

The Authority also agreed to a predictable schedule of meetings over the coming months, as the Authority sought to stay on top of the many concurrent challenges facing the region and to devise innovative and timely solutions.

Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines Ralph Gonsalves also provided his colleagues with a detailed report on the status of the active volcano in the country and the measures taken by his government.

DCA shuts down Twist Mall

he Twist Mall, located on Redcliffe Street in the former Benjie's Building, has been ordered to cease operations by the Development Control Authority (DCA).

A DCA spokesman said the property is in breach of planning control. "The DCA being the planning authority empowered to regulate the development of land and building, has taken the decision to cease all operations at the Twist Mall property, until the breaches are remedied and the DCA

conducts the necessary assessment and approves the reopening of the property to the general public," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the owners of the mall were permitted to operate two floors in the property but that they went ahead and operated a restaurant on the third floor, without prior DCA approval. Additionally, there are said to be breaches of other regulations, including inadequate toilet facilities, open electricity boxes and the absence of an emergency

plan.

On Thursday afternoon, DCA presented a letter to a representative of the owners, listing a set of grievances that must be corrected before permission is given for reopening.

The building is said to be owned by Brent Daniel, who is said to be undergoing a period of quarantine following an overseas visit.

The Development Control Authority said it is mandated by law under the Physical Planning Act.

No. 6 of 2003 to make provision for the orderly and progressive development of land and to preserve and improve the amenities thereof; for the grant of permission to develop land and for other powers of control over the use of the land; for the regulation of the construction of buildings and other related matters; to confer additional powers in respect of the acquisition and development of land for planning; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

THE

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Caribbean-US relations: chance to merge might with right

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

Events in Washington on January 20 were a welcome relief and release for the world.

Once Joseph R. Biden took the oath of office as President of the United States and the noon hour struck while Donald Trump arrived, as a private citizen, at his estate in Florida, leaders and ordinary citizens in every corner of the globe exhaled the collective breath of trepidation they had held for four troubling years.

In his first official acts – the signing of 17 Executive Orders – President Biden dramatically improved relations with the world, including the Caribbean, and gave reason for optimism about the future.

Importantly, the U.S. will re-join the 2015 Paris Climate Change agreement from which Trump withdrew. It should be recalled that the U.S. is one of the world's greatest contributors to global pollution and the harmful effects of climate change.

Writing to Biden, just hours after his swearing-in as the 46th President of the U.S., Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gas-

ton Browne, as Chair of the 44-nation Alliance of Small Island States, welcomed the new U.S. Government's decision. Browne told Biden: "We are already failing to limit the global average temperature to an increase of 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It is urgent that: (i) the machinery for global financial flows, including through International Financial Institutions, be adjusted to ensure that every country is served in accordance with its needs; and (ii) resources be provided to allow the most vulnerable countries to adapt to the present alarming conditions and to prepare for future negative occurrences".

This is work that must be an urgent item on the agenda of U.S.-Caribbean discussions, including early contact with former U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, who Biden has appointed as his Climate Envoy.

Particularly significant for Caribbean countries, in the devastating epoch of the COVID-19 pandemic, is that the U.S. will not withdraw from the World Health Organization as Trump had intended. Indeed, Biden is appointing the now renowned Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, to lead the U.S. delegation. This should mean that the



By Sir Ronald Sanders

U.S. will play a constructive leadership role.

The matter of making vaccines available to Caribbean countries, that have been allocated numbers that equate to less than 10% of their populations, and an end to hoarding policies by the U.S. and some other countries, are also top priorities for Caribbean-US discussion.

No country will be safe from the Coronavirus if it exists and thrives in any other. Therefore, it is as much in the interest of the U.S. as it is for its neighbouring Caribbean for the minuscule number of vaccines, allocated to the region, to be reviewed and rectified.

President Biden has also mandated the wearing of masks on Federal Government property and installed a coronavirus response coordinator to oversee the ef-

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forts to distribute vaccines and medical supplies in the U.S. This is also vital to the Caribbean tourism-reliant countries that need U.S. citizens to be free of the coronavirus and ready to travel as soon as possible. It is a hard task. The problem was allowed to grow out of control, bringing the U.S. to its knees with high infection and death rates. Every encouragement and support should be given to Biden's efforts.

Domestically, the President is also pushing for economic relief including more money for unemployed workers and for safety net programmes, especially Medicaid and unemployment insurance. The revival of the U.S. economy and restoration of employment levels are important to the Region because of tourism, U.S. capacity to purchase Caribbean goods, and remittances from Caribbean nationals in the U.S., many of whom are hardest affected by unemployment.

Work on a border wall between Mexico and the U.S. will also be halted. This is a symbolic acknowledgment that the world needs bridges, not walls. It is a rejection of Trump's unilat-

eralist and bullying posture in foreign policy. On the practical side, since it is the U.S. taxpayers who have been paying for the wall (despite Trump's claims, Mexico did not pay a cent), that money can now be diverted to programmes that will help to stimulate the U.S. economy. A stronger U.S. economy is good for the countries of the region for which the U.S. is their largest trading partner.

One other executive order is notable for the Caribbean. It is the fortification of the policy for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, that allows some individuals, unlawfully in the U.S. having entered as children, to enjoy deferred action from deportation and to become eligible for a work permit. Trump's administration had sought to undo those protections. Caribbean nationals will benefit from Biden's action.

President Biden is yet to elaborate fully a Latin American and Caribbean policy. In his many years as a Senator and Vice-President, he gained profound knowledge of the Region. He has a good understanding of its challenges and potential. Trump's Lat-

in American and Caribbean policy was primarily directed at Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua as a sop to their dissidents in Florida whose support he needed for the U.S. Presidential election. Caribbean countries were pawns in that game.

Biden's policies will be broader, aimed at advancing democracy and human rights, but also economic advancement. He knows that without all these things, refugees will continue to gather at U.S. borders.

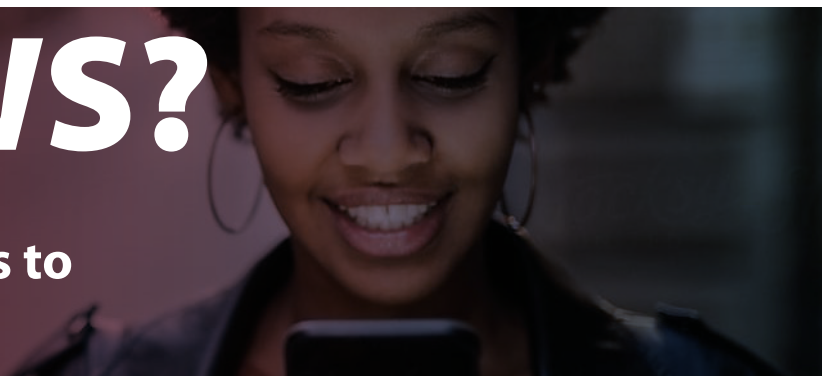
All Caribbean countries should show willingness to work with Biden, including by trying to influence his Latin American and Caribbean policy as its formulation.

A new era has dawned, it calls for new approaches. The U.S. and the Caribbean might take as the guiding light for their future relations, a line from the gripping poem of the young, African American, Amanda Gorman, at Biden's inauguration: "If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birth right".

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GOT NEWS?

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Former Junior Calypso King hits 27K views in less than a week for soca video



Support is 'Overboard' for one young Antiguan artist who less than a week ago released a music video for a new soca song.

The song, perfectly titled 'Overboard,' has already garnered 27,000 views on YouTube.

The artist, a former Junior Calypso King and Junior Soca Monarch runner up, Tyreke 'King Vicious' Lewis said that "these are the best numbers that I have seen for any of my projects that I've pushed out thus far."

The twenty-one-year-old Puerto-Rican born artist revealed that though he should not be surprised because of the vast amount

of planning and research put into the project, "the overboard project has taken off to heights that I never imagined I could reach at the moment."

The promotional video—a short acoustic version of the song—was also well received with 18,000 views thus far.

He explained that the idea for the project was derived during the COVID-19 lockdown last year as he "reminisced on life before the pandemic."

"It basically means that as soon as this pandemic is over, I'm going to go overboard because I've been longing for this," he said with eagerness.

King Vicious—who is also an exceptional songwriter, musician, and producer—shared that there is still much more to come.

And in just a few days, he will be perfecting his craft at a school in the United States.

King Vicious said that his intention is to "better my craft, better my brand, network with people who are in the industry so that I have a more marketable sound, a more marketable image."

The multi-talented artist began learning the ins and outs of music at the Le Chateau D'or music academy at the age of nine and, like any other exception-

al artistes, he followed up his love for the artform by singing in church at the age of eleven.

He later went on to win the Junior Calypso Monarch competition twice in a row, in 2017 and 2018, earning the moniker of 'King Vicious.'

Fast forward to when Antigua and Barbuda introduced Junior Soca Monarch into its Carnival festivities, he began nabbing hearts and crowns.

He became the first runner up in the inaugural competition.

Since then, he has captivated many audiences and judges in local, regional and international competitions.

REAL TALK

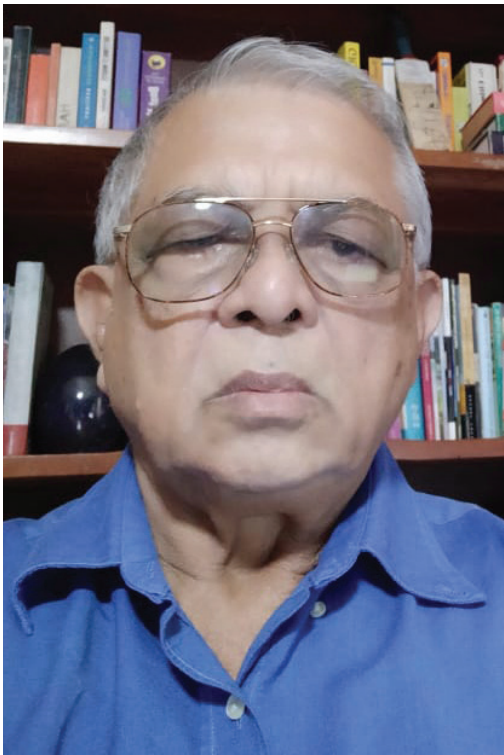
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99.1 FM



By Tony Deyal

On Wednesday morning, January 20th, 2021, I watched the last hurrah and goodbye to Donald Trump who, in hat terms, was not just a bad hat with a bee constantly in his bonnet, but a mad hatter always talking through his hat. His successor, Joe Biden, is someone I take my hat off to. He threw his hat in the Presidential ring for a third time. He and his team put on their thinking caps and went to the electorate, caps in hand, and made sure that Donald Trump is now old hat. He has become last year's model and, I sincerely hope for America's sake, that he will be thrown and lost forever, either in jail like the insurrectionists he egged on, or in the dustbin of world-and hat-history. If he ever becomes President again, I will eat my hat, a Christmas gift from my daughter. Last year she gave me one that would have been perfect for participating in the annual "World Tightest Hat" contest. However, after many trials and much thought, I realised

FEELING HAT, HAT, HAT

I could not pull it off. This year, the hat I got for Christmas was like the Mel Blanc song about the one the little Mexican boy received. It was "too beeg." Fortunately, I shivered from the breeze and not from falling three times in the river.

Psychiatrist, Carl Jung, created the concept of "synchronicity" to describe a meaningful coincidence of two or more events which have no causal relationship with one another and the probability of chance is not involved. I found it the best word to describe the ending of the Trump term of office and the celebration, last Friday, January 15, 2021, of "World Hat Day." In fact, the similarity reminded me of the man who bought a new hat with a built-in fan that kept his head cool during the hot weather. He boasted, "It really blows my mind." It also illustrates a comment made in a British Court more than a hundred years ago by Judge Lord Bowen who, in a case on equity, said something that I believe is an apt description of Trump and his cohorts, "I am reminded of a blind man in a dark room looking for a black hat- which isn't there."

Hopefully, Trump will be like Vidia Naipaul's character "Hat" in Miguel Street who was a bad hat in his own way and who was last seen by Naipaul in Venezuela. Instead of deciding to go to Mar-a-Lago (meaning "sea to lake"), Trump should

head out to Cape Hatteras, the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" and the deadliest trap in the world for sailors. It is responsible for more than 600 shipwrecks and, like The Donald, is unpredictable. One more shipwreck will not be too difficult for the Cape to handle.

It is like me and hats regardless of what names they're given - caps, berets, birettas, bonnets and even "bowlers". I love them all including the one called a "billycock". I have often wondered which of the two sayings about hats it is associated with- "Never hang your hat where your hand can't reach" or "If the cap fits, pull the string." Hopefully, it is not a "G" major or minor. In the old travelling days, wherever I was, I always had a nightcap with whoever I was with because I liked the idea of having a port in every sweetheart but now, stuck in one place because of Covid, even though I realise that home is where your hat is, I cook my curry and use a Turban. I suppose I got the love of hats from my father who was never seen in public without his English-made "Wilson Hat" or, when he worked as an overseer in the cane fields, a "Cork Hat" also known as a "Pith Helmet". Whenever he saw me wearing it, he took the pith out of me. I loved my Muslim Uncle's "Kupi" or short, brimless cap which is also called a "Topi" in some parts of Africa and

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India. When I was about ten, the cap of choice for younger boys was the "Bepop", named after the first modern Jazz music (which later became "Bop"). It was really popular in Trinidad in the late 1940s and was my headgear of choice and my nickname. A few of my friends from those days still call me "Bebop".

Later, the crime writer, Lawrence Sanders, in his award winning Matthew Scudder stories introduced me to a new application of the word "hat"- essentially a US\$20 payoff to a helpful police colleague. Sanders also had a hero named "Keller" who was a killer or hit-man, and whose most recent book was "Keller's Fedora." It remind-

ed me of the time when I was watching a major international tennis tournament and saw one of the players wearing a hat. I think it was Roger Federer. There are other related "hat" quips. In London, I saw an advertisement for "Hairpieces from £5." I thought that it was a small price toupee. Then I met this Chinese-looking guy a few years ago and asked him what he did. He said he was a henchman for someone who wanted to take over the world. He boasted that he used a steel-rimmed bladed hat as part of his profession. I said to myself, "That's an Odd Job." Then I was asked, "What do you call a dinosaur that wears a cowboy hat and boots?"

Tyrannosaurus Rex. I know that some of you will not really understand some of these hat jokes because they go right over your head like the one that the British writer, futurist and sociologist, H.G. Wells, wrote about in a letter to the Mayor of Cambridge in 1938, "My dear Mayor. I stole your hat. I like your hat. I shall keep your hat. Whenever I look inside it, I shall think of you and your excellent sherry, and of the town of Cambridge. I take off your hat to you."

My favourite hat story, and the one that caps it all, is about the boy who was really upset and, in tears, complained to his mother, "All the kids in school make fun of me. They say I

have a big head." His very solicitous Mom comforted him by saying, "Don't worry with them. They're just a waste of time and envy your beautiful head full of hair and brains." Then she told him, "Now stop crying. I want you to go to the store and buy a pound of rice and two pounds of potatoes for me. I have to cook dinner." The boy asked, "Mom. Where's the shopping bag? You know Neal and Massy now charges you for even plastic ones." His mother replied, "What happen to you? You know we don't have any. Use your hat!"

*Tony Deyal was last seen asking, "What did the hat say to the tie?" You hang around, I'll go on a head."



BROWN AND BROWNE

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HON. GASTON BROWNE

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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

#drivesafeantigua



Minister wants Bahamians to see who sexual offenders are and where they live



Minister of National Security Marvin Dames

(Ewnews): With an increase in sexual offenses last year, parents must be more responsible for their daughters, said Minister of National Security Marvin Dames on Wednesday.

According to police statistics, there was a 34 percent increase in sexual offenses in 2020 involving rape, unlawful sexual intercourse and attempted rape, with the Sexual Offences Unit investigating 213 cases last year.

Dames said: "The concern with me with those numbers is the unlawful sex and that has always been something that has been with us and sometimes it goes underreported."

"It really speaks to us and our roles as parents and knowing

where our kids are, especially our young girls and who they are involved with, who they are hanging out with, who they are communicating with in virtual spaces on social media because a lot of things take place on social media that feeds into this.

"So, we recognize that this is certainly an area that we will have to continue to work on and direct our efforts and our energies. Working with families, working with communities and working through the schools and getting our young girls and young men in particular, in getting to see why this is a problem."

Dames noted that the government's sexual offenders' registry will seek

to address some of those concerns regarding sexual offences and will be featured prominently this year.

"It is time now for the Bahamian people to see who those persons are, especially those repeat offenders, who they are and where they reside."

The national security minister said it is expected that the register will be up and running before the end of the first quarter.

He noted that officials have been meeting with stakeholders to run a pilot within the first quarter.

Dames added that the committee is still trying to determine where the pilot will be operated from and what resources – including manpower, material and equipment – are required.

The Registration of Sex Offenders Regulations was tabled in Parliament in July 2019, but has yet to be debated or passed.

Of those cases last year, there were 50 incidents of rape, representing a 16 percent increase in the crime compared to the previous year; and five attempted rapes, representing

a 38 percent decrease compared to the eight attempted rapes in 2019.

Police also reported an uptick in unlawful sexual intercourse with 158 – which also included incidents of incest.

Additionally, the commissioner of police advised that the majority of the 100 missing person's reports filed last year were adolescent girls engaging in sexual intercourse.

NOTICE

To: His Worship The Licensing Magistrate

To: The Magistrate District "A"

And

To: The Commissioner of Police

I, **Hancong Cao** of All Saints Road, Radio Range in the Parish of St. Johns in the State of Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next licensing session to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua, District "A" on the 25th day of February 2021 for a "Liquor License" in respect of my premises known as "Guang Yuan Enterprise" situated at All Saints Road, St. John's, Antigua.

Dated the 15th day of January 2021

Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates
Solicitors for Hancong Cao

Paho chief urges Caribbean to intensify public health interventions to limit exposure to COVID-19

(Jamaica Gleaner):

The director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Dr Carissa F Etienne has urged the Region of the Americas, including the Caribbean, to immediately intensify public health interventions on social distancing, limiting gatherings, wearing masks and hand washing to limit exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our region, and our world, is failing to control coronavirus," the Dominican-born director said.

"In far too many places public policies are not congruent with the severity of the situation. And many of us have relaxed the control measures that we know work, which have helped us stay healthy and keep hospitals functional up to now."

Dr Etienne said she was "particularly concerned for the next few weeks," stating that, throughout the region, especially in North and South America, many hospitals are operating at or very close to



Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Dr Carissa F. Etienne

capacity.

She cited high occupancy rates of intensive care units, oxygen shortages in some areas and lack of capacity to cope with the speed of new infections due to the "sustained boom in cases".

"In the last week we saw more than 2.5 million new cases of COVID-19 in the region of the Americas - more than half of all global infections," Dr

Etienne said. "In the same period, 42,000 people from the Americas have lost their lives to the pandemic.

"We must intensify public health interventions to limit exposure to this virus. Social distancing, limiting gatherings and the consistent use of masks in public settings and frequent hand washing are our absolute best hope for reducing the number

of COVID-19 infections right now," she stressed.

Etienne said vaccines for COVID-19 will help save lives and "eventually halt the pandemic," but, she added: "We are also aware that there aren't yet enough doses to achieve a visible impact on transmission at this point in the short term.

Dr Etienne said PAHO is working to help countries prepare to vaccinate their populations and is supporting the COVAX mechanism to make vaccines available in all countries in the Americas.

The PAHO Revolving Fund "will play a key role in this process," helping the countries acquire vaccines, syringes, cold chain equipment and other supplies for vaccine delivery, Dr Etienne said.

She said national vaccine deployment plans have been prepared by 18 countries, and 23 countries have completed a Vaccine Readiness Assessment.

Saint Lucia closes schools, bans alcohol, as it fights sharp COVID-19 spike

(StLuciatimes): Saint Lucia is temporarily closing all public and private schools, as the country manages the biggest COVID-19 wave to date.

The institutions will close from Friday, January 22 for a 10-day period.

The Chairman of the COVID-19 Command Cen-

tre, Dominic Fedee, made the announcement on Wednesday.

Fedee said the schools would exclusively operate via multi-media platforms.

But he explained that the authorities have made special allowances in public education.

These would facilitate

medical school students, students sitting the CAPE examinations and Form 4 & 5 secondary school students sitting CSEC and other exams.

Fedee announced the decision to close schools among several other measures.

They included urging or-

ganisations and businesses to implement blended services that encourage people to work from home where possible.

In addition, the authorities have encouraged organisations and businesses to hold virtual staff and board meetings.

The recommendation will

cont'd on pg 15

cont'd from pg 14

be in place from Friday for a 10-day period.

Fedee also announced a decision to scale back business hours from 11pm to 9pm closing time daily.

The authorities have also banned social gatherings in public and private settings.

As a result, they have ad-

vised people to limit contact to immediate households.

There are no allowances for mass gatherings.

The measure goes into effect from 6pm on Friday for a 10-day period.

However, worship and religious activities can take place.

Daily worship and religious services can operate using a 'blended approach' of physical and online services.

Nevertheless only 25 people, including religious officials, can attend physical services.

On Wednesday, the government announced an

immediate ban on liquor sales.

The ban prohibits the selling and consuming alcohol at supermarkets, minimarts, grocery shops, gas stations, restaurants and bars and other licensed operators.

The ban will last for 21 days.

Dr. Gene Leon Elected President of Caribbean Development Bank



Dr. Hyginus "Gene" Leon

Fund (IMF) for more than 24 years, serving as Mission Chief for the Gulf States of Oman, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates as well as The Bahamas, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. He also served as the IMF's Senior Resident Representative in Jamaica.

Prior to his engagement with the IMF, Dr. Leon was an Associate Professor at State University of New York at Old Westbury in the United States. He has also served as Director of Research at the Central Bank of Barbados and Country Economist at CDB.

Dr. Leon holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics from the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom (UK) and a Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc.) in Economics from the University of London also in the U.K.

Commenting on his appointment, Dr. Leon said: "I am deeply honoured by the trust that the Board of Governors has demonstrated in my experience and ability. The CDB remains an instrumental partner in re-

gional development. I look forward to working with all Member States and a tremendous staff with zeal and unrelenting commitment."

The Caribbean Development Bank is a regional financial institution established in 1970 for the purpose of contributing to the harmonious economic growth and development of its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs). In addition to the 19 BMCs, CDB's membership includes four regional non-borrowing members - Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela and five non-regional, non-borrowing members; i.e., Canada, China, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom. CDB's total assets as at December 31, 2019 stood at US\$ 3.59 billion (bn). These include US\$2.1 bn of Ordinary Capital Resources and US\$1.49 bn of Special Funds Resources. The Bank is rated Aa1 Stable with Moody's, AA+ Stable with Standard & Poor's and AA+ Stable with Fitch Ratings.

(CARICOM today): The Board of Governors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has elected Dr. Hyginus 'Gene' Leon to serve as the next President of the multi-lateral institution. Dr. Leon's appointment will become effective on May 1, 2021.

He will succeed Dr. Wm Warren Smith who has been at the helm of the

regional financial institution for the last 10 years. Dr. Leon has over 30 years of experience in economic development and has directed macroeconomic and financial policy support to government authorities in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia and the Caribbean.

He has worked with the International Monetary

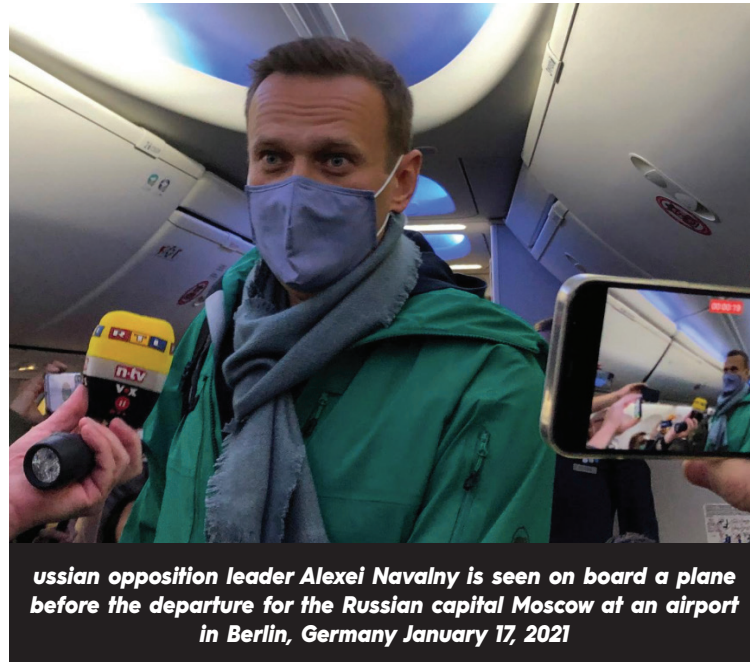
Russia rounds up allies of Kremlin foe Navalny in protest warning

(Reuters): Police in Moscow on Thursday detained several allies of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, including his spokeswoman, for making calls online to join unauthorized street protests to demand his release.

Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's most prominent critic, was detained at the weekend and later jailed for alleged parole violations after flying back to Russia for the first time since being poisoned by a military-grade nerve agent.

He accuses Putin of ordering his murder, which the Kremlin denies. His supporters have called for nationwide protests on Saturday, hoping to press the Kremlin into letting him walk free ahead of parliamentary elections in September.

In Brussels, responding to Navalny's arrest, European Union lawmakers called for the bloc to stop the completion of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to take Russian natural gas to Europe.



Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny is seen on board a plane before the departure for the Russian capital Moscow at an airport in Berlin, Germany January 17, 2021

Several of Navalny's allies in Russia said police had come to their homes, including that of his spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh, who was later detained for allegedly disobeying police orders and violating protest laws.

"The police have started forcing open the door and are saying: come out, you're coming out on Saturday anyway and we're going to detain you," Yarmysh wrote on Twitter before she was detained.

Earlier, Georgy Albuov, another Navalny ally, said he was taken into police custody at a Moscow train station.

Vladlen Los, a Belarusian lawyer for Navalny's group, said he had been detained, told to leave the country by Monday, and barred from re-entering Russia until November 2023.

Police also detained Navalny ally Lyubov Sobol, her lawyer said. She had urged people to take part

in the protests.

Yarmysh, Albuov and Los said they would be held in custody overnight. Sobol was later released from custody and is set to appear in court on Friday, her lawyer said.

Authorities have said the planned rallies are illegal and that people who make such calls would be held to account.

Communications watchdog Roskomnadzor said it would seek to fine social media platforms for what it said was illegal content urging minors to take part in illegal protests.

Some prominent Russians - including ice hockey star Artemi Panarin as well as rappers, actors, writers and others - posted messages and videos of support for Navalny on social media. TikTok was flooded with videos promoting the protests.

A student at a Moscow university who asked not to be named told Reuters he and his classmates had been threatened with possible expulsion in a letter if they attend the protests.



STARTING POINTE

ON AIR

with

Shelton Daniel

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am



POINTE FM



99.1 FM

World leaders cheer US return to climate fight under Biden



46th President of the United States of America Joe Biden

(Associated Press):

World leaders breathed an audible sigh of relief that the United States under President Joe Biden is rejoining the global effort to curb climate change, a cause that his predecessor had shunned over the past four years.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron were among those welcoming Biden's decision to rejoin the Paris climate accord, reversing a key Trump policy in the first hours of his presidency Wednesday.

"Rejoining the Paris Agreement is hugely positive news," tweeted Johnson, whose country is hosting this year's U.N. climate summit.

Macron said that with Biden, "we will be stronger

to face the challenges of our time. Stronger to build our future. Stronger to protect our planet."

The Paris accord, forged in the French capital in 2015, commits countries to put forward plans for reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, which is released from burning fossil fuels.

Former President Donald Trump had questioned the scientific warnings about man-made global warming, at times accusing other countries of using the Paris accord as a club to hurt Washington. The U.S. formally left the pact in November.

"The United States departure from it has definitely diminished our capacities to change things, concrete-

ly to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions," said Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo.

"Now we are dealing with an administration that is conscious of what is at stake and that is very committed to use the voice of the United States, a voice that is very powerful on the international level," she said.

Biden put the fight against climate change at the center of his presidential campaign and on Wednesday immediately launched a series of climate-friendly efforts to bring Washington back in step with the rest of the world on the issue.

"A cry for survival comes from the planet itself," Biden said in his inaugural address. "A cry that can't be any more desperate or any more clear now."

Experts say any international efforts to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5C (2.7F), as agreed in the Paris accord would struggle without the contribution of U.S., which is the world's second biggest carbon emitter.

Scientists say time is running out to reach that goal because the world has already warmed 1.2 C (2.2 F) since pre-industrial times.

Italy said the U.S. return to the Paris accord would help other countries reach their own climate commitments. "Italy looks forward to working with the U.S. to build a sustainable planet and ensure a better future for the next generations," Premier Giuseppe Conte tweeted.

The Vatican, too, was clearly pleased given the decision aligns with Pope Francis' environmental agenda and belief in multilateral diplomacy. In a front-page editorial in Wednesday's L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican deputy editorial director Alessandro Gisotti noted that Biden's decision to rejoin Paris "converges with Pope Francis' commitment in favor of the custody of our common home."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was more muted in her reaction, noting on Thursday that her government would "probably have a more similar opinion" with Biden on issues such as the Paris climate accord, migration and the World Health Organization.

Vatican bank's former chief found guilty of money laundering, sentenced to nearly 9 years in prison

(CNN): The former head of the Vatican bank, Angelo Caloia, has been sentenced to nearly nine years in prison for money laundering and aggravated embezzlement.

The 81-year-old was handed an eight-year, 11 month jail term on Thursday, making him the highest-ranking Vatican official to be convicted of a financial crime. His lawyer is appealing his sentence.

Caloia was president of the bank known as Institute of Works of Religion (IOR) from 1999 to 2009. He and two lawyers who consulted for the bank were charged with embezzling money while managing the sale of Italian real estate owned by IOR between



2001-2008, allegedly declaring less than the actual amount of the sale.

The Vatican court also convicted the two lawyers. Gabriele Liuzzo, 97, received the same sentence as Caloia. Liuzzo's son, Lamberto Liuzzo, age 55, was handed five years, two month term.

Each man will also have to pay fines and are banned from public office in perpetuity, according to a press release from the Vatican.

All three denied wrongdoing during the trial, which started in 2018.

Former president of the IOR Vatican bank, An-

gelo Caloia is pictured during a court hearing on embezzlement charges at the Vatican.

The Vatican bank has long been plagued by financial scandals.

In September 2020 Giovanni Angelo Becciu, one of the Vatican's powerful cardinals, resigned from his post amid financial scandal.

At the time Becciu said he was accused of embezzlement and proclaimed his innocence during a press conference after effectively being fired by Pope Francis.

In 2013, Pope Francis set up an expert committee to recommend reforms to the economic and administrative structures of the Holy See, to combat the problem.

Fire at world's largest vaccine producer kills five

(BBC): The blaze started at a building which was still under construction at the Serum Institute of India's facilities in Pune on Thursday afternoon.

Footage showed thick plumes of smoke billowing from a building on the company's sprawling site.

The company said vaccine production would not be affected. The cause of the fire has not been identified.

The fire was later brought under control, but the city's

mayor confirmed that five people had died.

"We have just received some distressing updates; upon further investigation we have learnt that there has unfortunately been some loss of life at the incident," the Serum Institute's CEO, Adar Poonawalla, said in a tweet.

"We are deeply saddened and offer our deepest condolences to the family members of the departed."

Mr Poonawalla said

there would be no impact on the production of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, known locally as Covishield, "due to multiple production buildings that I had kept in reserve to deal with such contingencies".

Covishield is one of two vaccines approved by the Indian government for use in its inoculation programme, which began last week and is the largest in the world.

The country aims to vaccinate 300 million people

by early August.

Many other low and middle-income countries are also depending on the Serum Institute for production of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

India has recorded the second-highest number of Covid-19 infections in the world after the US. Since the pandemic began it has confirmed more than 10.6 million cases and almost 153,000 deaths, according to figures from Johns Hopkins University.

Biden's US revives support for WHO, reversing Trump retreat

GENEVA (AP): The United States will resume funding for the World Health Organization and join its consortium aimed at sharing coronavirus vaccines fairly around the globe, President Joe Biden's top adviser on the pandemic said Thursday, renewing support for an agency that the Trump administration had pulled back from.

Dr. Anthony Fauci's quick commitment to the WHO — whose response to the pandemic has been criticized by many, but perhaps most vociferously by the Trump administration — marks a dramatic and vocal shift toward a more cooperative approach to fighting the pandemic.

"I am honored to announce that the United States will remain a member of the World Health Organization," Fauci told a virtual meeting of the WHO from the United States, where it was 4:10 a.m. in Washington. It was the first public statement by a member of Biden's administration to an international audience — and a sign of

the priority that the new president has made of fighting COVID-19 both at home and with world partners. Just hours after Biden's inauguration Wednesday, he wrote a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres saying the U.S. had reversed the planned pullout from the WHO that was expected to take effect in July. The withdrawal from the WHO was rich with symbolism — another instance of America's go-it-alone strategy under Trump. But it also had

practical ramifications: The U.S. halted funding for the U.N. health agency — stripping it of cash from the country that has long been its biggest donor just as the agency was battling the health crisis that has killed more than 2 million people worldwide. The U.S. had also pulled back staff from the organization.

Fauci said the Biden administration will resume "regular engagement" with WHO and will "fulfill its financial obligations to the organization."

Fauci said the Biden administration will resume "regular engagement" with WHO and will "fulfill its financial obligations to the organization."

EAST SIDE HIKERS

SATURDAY
23RD JAN

\$20 **TIME: 11AM-3PM**

GRAB AND GO FUNDRAISER

PARES MAIN ROAD BY THE BUS STOP


SEAFOOD WATER BULL FOOT SOUP
GOAT WATER CONCH WATER

SERVED WITH BREAD OR BAKES

LOCAL DRINKS ON SALE

PROCEEDS ARE IN AID OF CLUB DEVELOPMENT.
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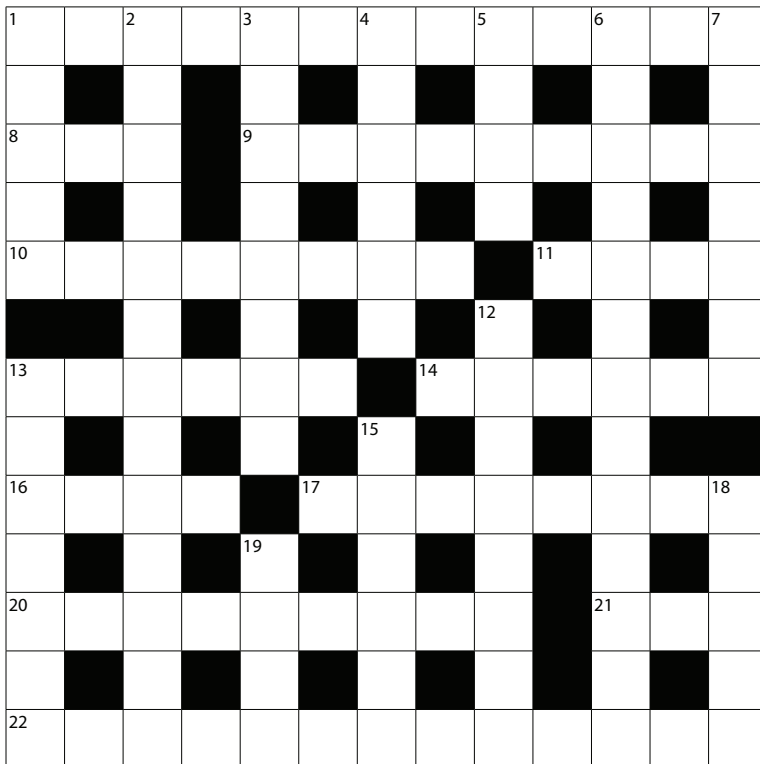
PET CORNER



Noah is about 10 months old and is a bundle of energy and excitement. Ideally, he should join a family with at least one child to play with to help him work off his energy. Noah is available for adoption at the Humane Society's animal shelter in Bethesda. The adoption fee of \$100 covers worming, treating for ticks and fleas, vaccinations, and neutering. If you would like to adopt Noah, please call us at 461-4957 for more information. We are open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Antigua & Barbuda Humane
Tel: (268) 461-4957
Email: antiguaanimals@gmail.com
Website: www.antiguaanimals.com
Facebook: Antigua & Barbuda Humane Society

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Rockabilly star depicted in the 1989 film Great Balls of Fire, b. 1935 (5,3,5)
- 8 Egg of a head louse (3)
- 9 Lost cause (anag) — French dish (9)
- 10 Variable-sized hole in a camera (8)
- 11 In good health (4)
- 13 Flemish artist, given to painting women, d. 1640 (6)
- 14 City near Leipzig where the 1919-33 German constitution was adopted (6)
- 16 Lima's country (4)
- 17 Presented together (2-6)
- 20 Overjoyed (9)
- 21 Female bird (3)
- 22 Taking joy from another's misfortune (13)

Down

- 1 Group taking power by force (5)
- 2 Parliamentary constituency before the 1832 Reform Act controlled by a family or tiny group of voters (6,7)
- 3 Cruising or racing in sailing boats (8)
- 4 Check — see to it (6)
- 5 Plunder (4)
- 6 Actor starring in The Odd Couple, d. 2000 (6,7)
- 7 Colonist (7)
- 12 Journalist (8)
- 13 Straight two-edged swords with narrow blades (7)
- 15 Kingdom (6)
- 18 Italian poet, author of Divine Comedy, d. 1321 (5)
- 19 Unite intimately (4)

DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



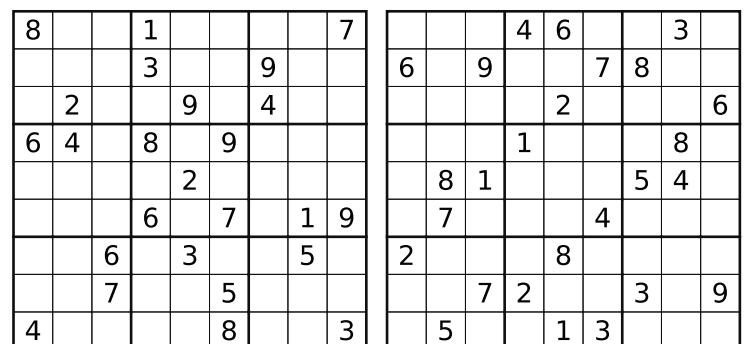
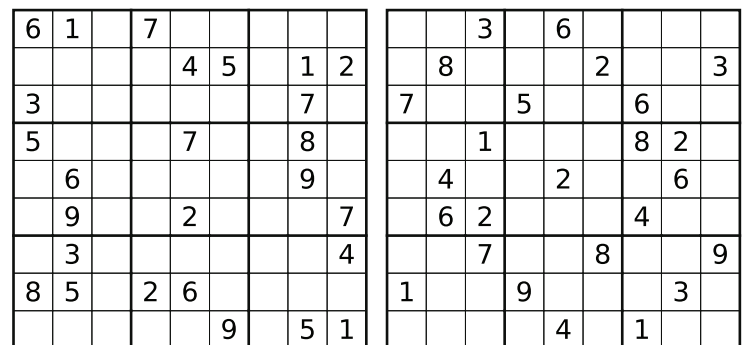
Garfield



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
01/22

82° Hi

DAY
Mostly sunny with a passing shower

74° Lo

NIGHT
Mainly clearSunrise
6:40 AMSunset
5:57 PMMoonrise
1:02 PMMoonset
2:08 AMSAT
01/23


81° Hi

DAY
Mostly sunny with a passing shower

74° Lo

NIGHT
Clear to partly cloudy with a passing shower lateSunrise
6:40 AMSunset
5:58 PMMoonrise
1:42 PMMoonset
3:00 AM

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE


ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

After doing your best to hold a grudge (something you've never been any good at) a peaceful wave washes it away, even if a friend did something that feels like absolute treason to you. You'll wake up feeling ready, to accept the apology.


TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

You're torn between two very strong impulses. One side of you wants to shout your news to the world at large. The other side can't stand the thought of letting a soul know even half of what's going on inside you.


GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Believe it or not, that exotic new acquaintance with the terrific accent is more than ready to meet your crew, and the feelings are mutual. Both sides are curious, and both are eager to see if everything you've said about the other is true.


CANCER | June 21-July 22

Management has always been something you've always believed you'd be pretty good at, given the chance. Well, here it is. The chance to climb a ladder, corporate or otherwise, has just arrived.


LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

ou're just about ready to tend to the dilemma you've been trying so hard to work out. In fact, if you can manage it, take some time now before things really heat up. Your best bet? Spend some time with your significant other and surprise them.


VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

The universe is enhancing critical thinking, making it easier for you to formulate crucial decisions. Negative thinking can be a hindrance to forward progress. Look on the bright side as much as possible.


LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

omething could cause you to say some uncharacteristic things, and putting your foot in your mouth could result in awkwardness, embarrassment, and even regret. You're only human, though, so your verbal faux pas should be forgiven in time.


SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21


The poise and assurance that oozes out of every pore doesn't only work from nine to five, you know. It's pretty much a 24/7 kind of thing, and it pertains even more to your behavior once you punch out of work.


SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Let the rest of the world deal with problems. Your job now is to forget about anything that's serious and enjoy some time with family simply because you can. You can sometimes be set in your ways.


CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

No matter where you go, what the circumstances are, or why you happen to be there, more often than not you're likely to be made the honorary principal and the financial officer. Most times you don't mind.


AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

When you least expect it, someone you're quite fond of could call, write, or visit with one objective in mind: persuade you to take their side in a tricky dispute. You, of course, won't hesitate to agree, especially if it's a city hall kind of thing.


PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

ell everyone all what you think even if you suddenly realize that it's going to startle them by revealing a romantic secret. Your list of priorities has changed drastically recently. It's okay. It's not all that odd.

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.



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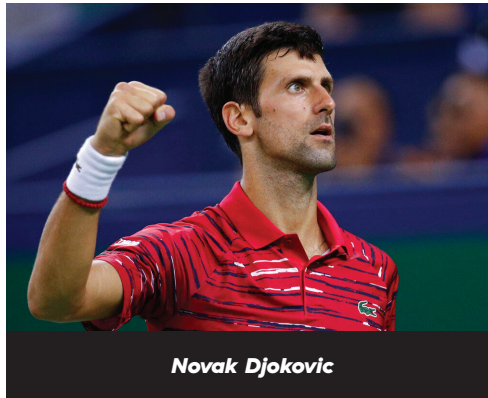
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Novak Djokovic says letter written with good intentions

Novak Djokovic has said his letter calling for better conditions for players self-isolating in Melbourne was written with "good intentions" and has been "misconstrued as being selfish, difficult and ungrateful."

Djokovic was criticized after he asked Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley to relax quarantine rules. Seventy-two players are unable to leave their hotel rooms for fourteen days. The Serb said he acted because he genuinely cares about fellow players.

Djokovic reportedly asked for reduced isolation periods and having players in quarantine moved to private houses with tennis courts. In a lengthy social media post, the world number one said he wanted to use his profile to improve conditions for the players, who were forced into quarantine after positive coronavirus test results



on flights bound for the event in Australia.

Some players have expressed frustration at being confined to hotel rooms, though Djokovic denied they had questioned the fourteen-day rule. Djokovic said things in the media escalated and there was a genuine impression that the players, including himself, are ungrateful, weak, and selfish because of their unpleasant feelings in quarantine.

Meanwhile, Australian Open

players have been told not to feed mice at the quarantine hotel in Melbourne after one player complained of rodents in her room. Yulia Putintseva, the world number twenty-eight, swapped rooms after finding a mouse but said her new room is also infested.

The twenty-six-year-old is among seventy players and their entourages confined to their hotel rooms for fourteen days. Victoria state police minister Lisa Neville "encouraged" players to minimize interaction with mice. Neville said she understands that there have been some feeding going on.

Neville also said ten people in total who have flown to Melbourne for the tournament had now tested positive for coronavirus, with three new cases on Wednesday comprising two players and a support person. The Australia Open will serve off on 8th February.

Greenlight for concussion subs from next week

The English Premier League is making a start ahead of everyone else by becoming the first football league to approve permanent concussion substitutes from next week.

Teams will be given two concussion replacements, in addition to their

three regular subs, in each game. But to avoid potential cheating by clubs seeking to take advantage of the new law, the opposing coach will also be allowed to make extra substitutions on top of the standard three changes.

The International FA

Board, which governs the laws of the game, gave competitions the opportunity to utilize concussion subs, after approving them on a trial basis in December.

The English Football Association is keen to follow the league's lead with the

rule to be in place for the FA Cup fifth round. The decision came at the end of a year in which the deaths of England's 1966 World Cup heroes Jack Charlton and Nobby Stiles were both linked to dementia diagnoses and the impact of head injuries in football.

Batsmen need to exercise patience

West Indies batting in the first One-Day-International against Bangladesh has been described as being disgraceful and exposed their lack of maturity.

The Caribbean side was only able to muster 122 runs in their six-wicket defeat to Bangladesh in their opening game on Wednesday. Batting first, the West Indies collapsed to fifty-six

for five and were only able to crawl beyond the one hundred-mark, courtesy of a fifty-nine-run partnership between Kyle Mayers (40), and Rovman Powell (28).

Shakib-al-Hasan ripped through the Caribbean side's batting with man-of-the-match figures of four for eight with only two batsmen making more than twenty runs. Interim

captain Jason Mohammed pointed to the lack of patience at the crease by his teammates, especially in the middle overs against the spinners.

The Trinidadian said his team need to spend more time in the middle to be successful. Mayers, who top scored for the regional team with forty, was one of six debutants in the contest

at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

The total was the second lowest for the Caribbean side against Bangladesh, only bettering the sixty-one they managed in Chattogram ten years ago. Mohammed said the batting line up is inexperienced, but capable of better batting performance.

Cycling Federation hosts first race this weekend at Coolidge

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation, St. Clair Williams, said that despite an overall disappoint year, 2020 ended on a good note with the formation of a partnership with Nagico Insurance whereby all members of the Federation are insured for training and competitive races.

Williams pointed to situations such as group collisions, where coverage is up to \$250,000. The Federation hosted a registration day on 16th January and will oversee their first competitive circuit race for 2021 on



Sunday at Coolidge, sponsored by Paradiso Water.

The Elite Class will ride twenty-five laps with each lap being one and a half miles; Elite females will manage fifteen laps; while masters will navigate twenty laps. Juniors and beginners will race for fifteen laps, with the Cadets also doing fifteen and five laps

respectively.

Representatives from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda will be on hand to assist with security, safety, and ensuring that all the COVID-19 protocols are followed. Immediately after this weekend's race, the federation will feature time trials from Morris Bay to Darkwood and back.

Williams said the two

opening races for the year are being used to acclimatize the riders to adhering to the protocols which are part of the new lifeblood of sports.

The president noted that cyclists are looking forward to the events after only one competitive race in 2020 because of the coronavirus, which brought the sport to a standstill since March 2020.

DEWS



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