

2021 BUDGET TO PLUG TAX LOOPHOLES

SEE PAGE 3

Better accommodation for police

PAGE 4

PAGE 4

Confirmed cases of

COVID-19 nearing 200

PAGE 5

PM and Mrs. Browne christen daughter

Photo caption: Housing Minister Maria Browne, so Prine and daughter Peace-Maria Xandra Browne at the Holy Family Cathedral for christening last Sunday.

Editorial: Let's talk about discipline



LET'S TALK ABOUT DISCIPLINE

many hear When the word 'discipline,' it is common for the first association to be with a form of repressive control, such as in a school environment where coercion might be used to get students to comply with rules. While that is one sense of the word in the English discipline language, encompasses much more than punitive action.

Indeed, if one were to look at the etymology of the word, one realizes that discipline shares a common oriain with the word 'disciple,' someone who another. follows In the Holy Bible, for example, we read of the twelve disciples who followed and learned from Christ. In a similar sense, discipline also refers to the act of following a system that is designed to aid in the mental and physical improvement of the follower.

By their very nature, societies have been structured around some sort of system that contains discipline as one of their major underpinnings. In fact, one can argue that it is perhaps one of the most important ingredients for success, both at the individual level and at the national level. Recent history is replete with examples of how personal and national discipline can assist in producing benefits da including; to a society. have sent their

Japan and the Cuba stand as two important examples in the modern era. On the one hand, Japan was decimated bv two atomic bombs deployed by the United States in response to attacks on Pearl Har-The bour. carnaae and destruction were on a scale that had not been seen prior in a single detonation of a bomb. In the aftermath, Japan needed serious rebuilding, and it came through hard work and discipline. Today, the Japanese are considered to be among the most disciplined on the planet, and it is demonstrated in their economy and people as an example of how personal discipline can positively impact the national programme.

Cuba, on the other hand, is subjected to one of the most unjust economic embargoes the world has ever seen. Imposed primarily by the United States, the people of Cuba are barred from access to basic things such as medicines and food. Though this action has caused tremendous hardship in the country, year after year the Cuban people have offered thousands of scholarships to people from all over the world. Antigua and Barbu-

they have sent their medical personnel in many parts of the world to assist with alleviating some of the most severe medical challenges. With the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the world, Cuba, as isolated as it has been made to be, is on the brink of developing a vaccine for the virus. All of these things took an enormous amount of hard work and discipline. Ask anyone who has visited either Japan or Cuba what stands out most about the people, and discipline usually surfaces somewhere in the discussion.

In Antigua and Barbuda, we often have a tendency to view discipline as taboo since we have narrowed the definition to the aforementioned punitive association. However, discipline is an essential aspect of success, as demonstrated by Japan and Cuba.

At the level of government, for example, an essential inaredient for success fiscal discipline. is But fiscal discipline is not only applicable to aovernment, the individuals have as a responsibility to be fiscally disciplined as well. Fiscal discipline entails managing our earnings in such a manner that we do not live above our

means. For example, if a person's salary is two thousand dollars monthly and one has a family, it would be madness to rent a property that costs fifteen hundred dollars monthly. That is the very definition of fiscal indiscipline.

Some may arque that two thousand dollars is too small on which to survive. However, if a person is fiscally undisciplined with that amount, he or she will also be fiscally undisciplined with a larger salary. Being fiscally disciplined is not dependent on the guantum of one's salary; it has everything to do with being responsible enough to ensure you live within the salary that you earn.

The question of discipline goes beyond personal finances and into such realms as relationships, marriage, business, and personal success. Some would even argue that discipline is a necessary foundation for integrity. It therefore becomes very frightening when one observes the level of indiscipline within our society because a society whose citizens does not regulate themselves flirts with anarchy, a kind of dystopian possibility. It is the kind of possibility that must never become a reality.

2021 Budget to plug tax loopholes

Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Gaston Browne, is providing some insights into what is to come when he presents the 2021 National Budget to a sitting of the House of Representatives on Thursday.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on PointeFM, PM Browne said he will introduce measures to curb the high rate of tax abuse that is taking place in the country.

"A major plan of the

2021 Budget is the issue of tax transparency and tax compliance. People have been robbing the revenues of the country for time immoral; to the extent, that Antigua and Barbuda has one of the lowest tax rate as a percentage of GDP of any country in the Caribbean and perhaps, the world. This has to come to an end!" he warned.

The Prime Minister said the government cannot allow people to flout the tax laws, especially regarding property tax and under estimating the value of imports into the country so that they can be charged a lower rate. "This practice is endemic in the society and this too must come to an end, especially now that the country faces a serious crisis," he remarked.

PM Browne noted that the government has seen an increase in revenues after it discontinued discretionary duty free waivers and he is asking residents to curb all requests for these tax relief as "we cannot continue to give away the government's money."

Antigua and Barbuda has seen a decline in output over the past year as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted all sectors of the economy, especially tourism upon which the country heavily depends.

Government explores options to get access to vaccines

The Antigua and Barbuda government is looking at several options to get access to the COVID-19 vaccines, as it is determined to begin the process of vaccination of all residents as soon as possible.

That is the word from Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who told the audience of his weekly radio programme on PointeFM that scientists have stated that the COVID-19 virus will be around for a long time, even after people are inoculated.

"COVID will be a challenge for all of us in the world for some time to come as the scientists have stated that the vaccines will only slow down the spread but not totally eradicate the virus," he revealed.

PM Browne said the aovernment wants to get its hands on the vaccines as it will be very important to have as many people as possible vaccinated in as short a time as possible. "I say this against the backdrop that already we see countries in Europe, and possibly soon in North America, indicating that persons entering their countries will need to be vaccinated for COVID. This may be introduced across all these countries in the coming weeks or months," he explained.

The prime minister again

repeated his call for residents to get vaccinated when the programme of inoculation begins in the coming months. He said this was one way to protect an individual from the worst impact of the virus should he/she be exposed to it.

Additionally, with the new measures being introduced in many countries, PM Browne takes the view that soon it may become a requirement for any kind of travel, especially to international destinations.

The country's leader acknowledged that some in the society may have listened to or read information promoting various conspiracies regarding the vaccines. However, he is asking that people should listen to the scientists and to follow their recommendations.

He also sought to allay fears regarding negative reactions to the vaccines, stating that very few people have reported any serious reaction to the vaccines.

Antigua and Barbuda is part of the World Health Organization's (WHO) CO-VAX facility which seeks to make the vaccines widely available across all countries. But the WHO has warned that some countries and big pharma companies are hoarding the vaccines to the disadvantage of poorer countries.

Better accommodation for the police



Repair work at St John's Police station

Efforts to fulfill a commitment to improving the accommodation for police officer at the country's police stations are moving closer to becoming a reality.

National Security Minister, Steadroy Benjamin, said officers attached to the Parham Police have station moved in the ticket booth at the entrance to the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium while urgent repair work is carried out on that station.

He disclosed that the repairs are scheduled to begin today, Monday 25th January, with the actual demolition of the old structure expected to begin during the day. The Parham police station has been in a state of disrepair for some time and a decision was made to move the station to the new location as a temporary measure, while uraent repairs are carried out on the building.

The building that houses the Parham Police station has been in existence for many years dating back to the early 1900's. It is located immediately opposite the former home of the late Joseph Myers, who represented the St Peter constituency in parliament for many years.

While this is taking place, repair work is currently being done on the St John's Police Station. Benjamin stated that the western wing of the station that usually houses the offices of the Criminal Investigation Department is undergoing extensive repairs and upgrades.

LOCAL NEWS PAGE 4

Simultaneously, work is also being done on one of the wings inside Her Majesty's Prison, aimed at also providing improved accommodation for the inmates.

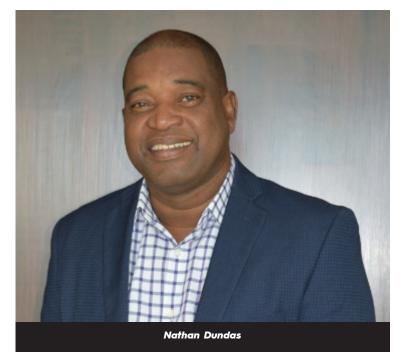
"The government is determined to address all the concerns of the police, especially in the area of better living and working conditions in a speedy manner," he remarked.

Work on the completion of the third floor of the police headquarters on the American Road has been ongoing for some time and is said to be nearing completion.

In a statement issued Sunday, the police formally notified residents served by the station of the relocation. "The residents of Parham, Pares, Vernons, and other surrounding areas can rest assured that the officers at Parham Police Station will make every effort to provide a better service from the new location. For any further information or concerns, the public can contact the station at 481-9208.

"The Police Administration takes this opportunity to thank the general public for their continued patience and support, and sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause," the statement noted.

Nathan Dundas passes



The man who has been at the forefront of the local cruise industry many years – Nathan Dundas – has passed away.

Dundas died in the United States Saturday night following a brief illness.

Dundas served as Pres-

ident of the Antigua and Barbuda Cruise Association and he also served as President of the Caribbean Cruise Association. His advocacy on behalf of the local cruise sector made Antigua and Barbuda a popular destination for cruises heading into the Caribbean.

Dundas was also Manager of Bryson's Shipping, the main agent of the cruise lines operating into the country. Managing Director of George W Bennett Bryson's, the parent company for Bryson's Shipping, Patrick Ryan, was visibly moved when he spoke with PointeXpress about his former colleague and friend.

"Nathan took Bryson's Shipping, and by extension Antigua and Barbuda, to new heights. He made contact and kept very close with the key people in the cruise industry who, in turn, saw in him someone with whom they could work to the benefit of all. He was particularly close with Michelle Paige of the Florida Cruise Association, who is one of the most influential persons in the cruise industry. We are going to miss him," he declared.

The company issued a statement Sunday marking the passing of Nathan Dundas. It reads:

"Geo. W. Bennett Bryson & Co. Ltd regrets to announce the death of Director, Shareholder and long-standing Manager of Bryson's Shipping, Mr. Nathan Dundas. The late Mr. Dundas passed away on Saturday 24th January, 2021 while hospitalized. Mr. Dundas also worked extensively with the Antigua and Barbuda Cruise Tourism Association. We extend our condolences to his family and friends at this time. May his soul rest in peace."

There is no official word as yet from the Ministry of Tourism.

"From the Flow garden to the Soup Kitchen"



The Soup Kitchen, the community-based entity that provides hot meals daily to those in need, is thanking Flow for a donation of chives, produced at its garden on Wireless Road.

"Flow continues on its fresh produce donation drive to encourage healthy eating by gifting chives, sometimes known as scallions, from its garden to a most worthy cause," marketing manager Shand Merchant stated.

Manager of the Soup Kitchen, Sgt. Veldon Ragguette, said the organization welcomes all the help it can get from corporate entities and individuals in the society. "We provide one hot meal a day for between sixty and sixty-five persons at our Lower All Saints Road facility. We need all the help we can get," he stated.

The meals are prepared on site during the week by a chef but on weekends, the Soup Kitchen gets assistance from the Street Pastors group and the Anglican Church.

According to Sgt. Ragguette, most of the donations come through the 'Adopt a Family' network of people who give regularly.

He said donations to the Soup Kitchen so far this year have been 'quite good.'

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 nearing 200...active cases now 29



The Ministry of Health reports that information from the Mount St. John's Medical Center (MSJMC) has revealed three new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Saturday 23rd January 2021.

Subsequent to the publication of the dashboard for Friday 22nd January 2021 with the cut off time of 6:00 p.m., two hundred and twenty-four additional samples were processed by MSJMC, increasing the pending results from one hundred and fifteen to three hundred and thirty-nine.

Of the three hundred and thirty-nine samples

processed by MSJMC, three hundred and thirty-five samples were negative and four positive. Of the four positive, two were non-imported and one imported. The other sample was a repeat test.

Meanwhile, one new recovery has been recorded, bringing that total to one hundred and sixty-three.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one hundred and ninety-eight (198); which is inclusive of twenty-nine (29) active cases.

Meanwhile, one hundred and five samples are pending.

Multiple arrests for curfew violations

Against the backdrop of rising COVID-19 cases in the country, members of the COVID-19 Compliance Joint Task Force continue to rigorously enforce the regulations designed to limit the spread of the virus.

Police reports say the task force carried out several stop and search exercises Friday night, and in the process arrested several persons for breaching COVID-19 regulations.

They include Shalana Henry of All Saints, Natalia Lawrence and Kelly Chiddick both of Liberta, and Damian John of Parham Town who were arrested for breach of curfew regulations.

Additionally, Dorian

Whyte of Lower Gambles, Mark Hamilton and Troy Beazer both Barbuda, Shanice Griffith of All Saints, and Jermaine Browne of Coolidge, along with Avondale Thomas of Hodges Bay, Joylon Saunders of Piggotts, Damian John of Parham, Charles Lynn and Junior Forde both of Piggotts, Javae Daniel of New Winthorpes, Athlyn Davis of Carlisle Estate, Alex Viera and Shania Blaze both of Villa, and Kevin Straun of Upper Gambles were all taken into custody, after they were found outside the curfew period.

Meanwhile, Dilon John of Villa and Kezlia Davis of Liberta were ticketed for failing to wear face masks.



Team Antigua Island Girls to host a series of anniversary events

Two years after their momentous arrival into Nelson's Dockyard, Team Antigua Island Girls will be commemorating their historic row across the Atlantic Ocean with a week of virtual and public service events.

From today, Monday 25th January to Thursday 28th January, the history makers will be hosting daily social media giveaways on Instagram and Facebook.

Thursday 28th January will officially mark the twoyear anniversary of their arrival and they have decided to mark this occasion by giving back. The



Team Antigua Island Girls

girls will dedicate their day by volunteering at the Soup Kitchen.

On Friday 29th January, they will be on Jump 100.1 FM at 4 p.m. with DJ Riddim Master. Saturday 30th January will be dedicated as mentor day. Four young people residing in Antigua between ages seven and twelve will have the opportunity to be a mentee to the Team Island Girls, all taking place at the beach. Mentees will have a chance to spend some time with the Island Girls engaged in a beach, health, and fitness activities.

The week will culminate with a Virtual Sip & Chat event hosted online via Zoom. Tickets are available through Eventbrite and more information is available on the Team Antigua Island Girls Facebook page. Ticket holders in Antigua will receive a bottle of wine and some chocolates to enjoy while the Island Girls share some of their fondest memories about their journey.

Halo Foundation unveils coveted award winner

Halo Foundation, the charitable organization founded by Lady Sandra Williams, has announced the winner of its Corporate Citizen Award for 2020.

A statement from the group names Grant Thornton as the Halo Foundation's Corporate Citizen Award winner for 2020. Presentation of the award was made last week by the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams at Government House.

The statement said the award was received by the company's Managing Partner Charles Walwyn. "The award is bestowed each year upon a business entity based in Antigua and Barbuda that has extend-



ed charitable assistance to the benefit of those in need," it explained.

The selection of this award is done by the board of Halo Foundation and is done based on the company outreach work over the past year. Lady Williams explained that Grant Thornton has partnered with Halo Foundation to assist many individuals and other entities during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. "There are some companies which have been making significant contributions to help others in need but who do so outside of the glare of publicity. However, we know of the work of Grant Thornton because much of their work is channelled through Halo Foundation," she added.

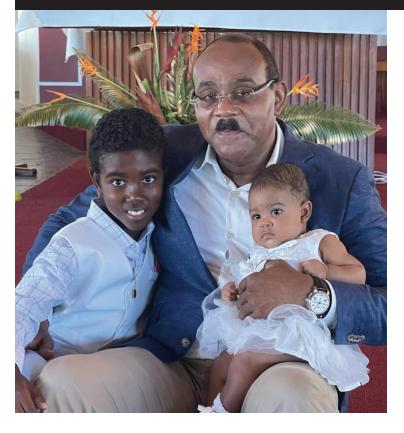
She further explained that the selection is based on the organization's interaction with and observation of companies and their philanthropic activities nationwide. "Many are deserving. However, the charity can only make a selection of one company each year," she noted.

Past recipients have been Blue Waters Resort and Spa, Kennedy's Enterprises and Kennedy's Hardware.

PM and Mrs. Browne christen daughter



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his wife, Maria Browne, the country's Housing Minister, have christened their daughter, Peace-Maria Xandra Browne on Sunday at the Holy Family Cathedral. It was a family affair at the church as the service was also attended by the first family's son, Prince.





Carl Christopher brings Art to life with Agwassa Clothing and Art Retail

A local brand, with an international flare

Just as the Tourism sector has taken a direct hit from the COVID-19 pandemic, so too has the creative industry. According to a study on Measuring COVID-19's devastating impact on America's creative economy, "The COVID-19 crisis hits hard at arts, culture, and the creative economy, which is comprised of industries such as film, advertising, and fashion as well as creative occupations such as musicians, artists, performers, and designers. Based on α creative-industry analysis, it estimates losses of 2.7 million jobs and more than \$150 billion in sales of goods and services for creative industries nationwide."

The same could be said of the creative industry here in Antigua and Barbuda. However, this week our featured entrepreneur is defying those odds.

Carl Christopher, creative mind and proprietor of Agwassa Beach Culture and Agwassa Studios is confronting many of the economic challenges facing creatives during this COVID-19 pandemic. Carl's business focuses on Clothing, Art Retail, and garment printing in an innovative and colourful way. According to the young entrepreneur, Agwassa was started out of a need to "create something authentically Antiquan, designed to cater to Antiauans home and abroad, as well as wider Caribbe-



an. The intention was also to design something that tourists would appreciate." Carl also indicated that has an artist, Agwassa was created as a way to dig deeper into his creative side.

The business owner shared that in order to start his

business, he used his savings however, investors came on board later down. Carl revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic had both its positive and negative impact on his business. "Covid allowed us to observe the market to see the types of goods and services that remain in high demand even in these difficult times. It also provided more time to learn other skills and explore other business opportunities. We also launched our website www.agwassabeachculture.com late 2020 and is meant to service the international Market (Mostly targeting the USA, Canada, and the UK) ...but to ship around the world," Carl shared.

MONDAY, 25 JANUARY, 2021

The entrepreneur further stated that COVID-19 presented a unique opportunity for his garment printing business. "People did a lot of mask printing when the pandemic started, so it was very busy for a time. Of course, things are much slower now and challenging," Carl stated.

The Entrepreneur went on to explain that one of the difficulties he has faced due to the pandemic has been the increasing difficulties with shipping. "Shipping is a big challenge right now as well with the mess in the United States, so equipment and supplies either take forever to come or never arrive at all." Carl articulated.

Despite the current challenges the entrepreneur is

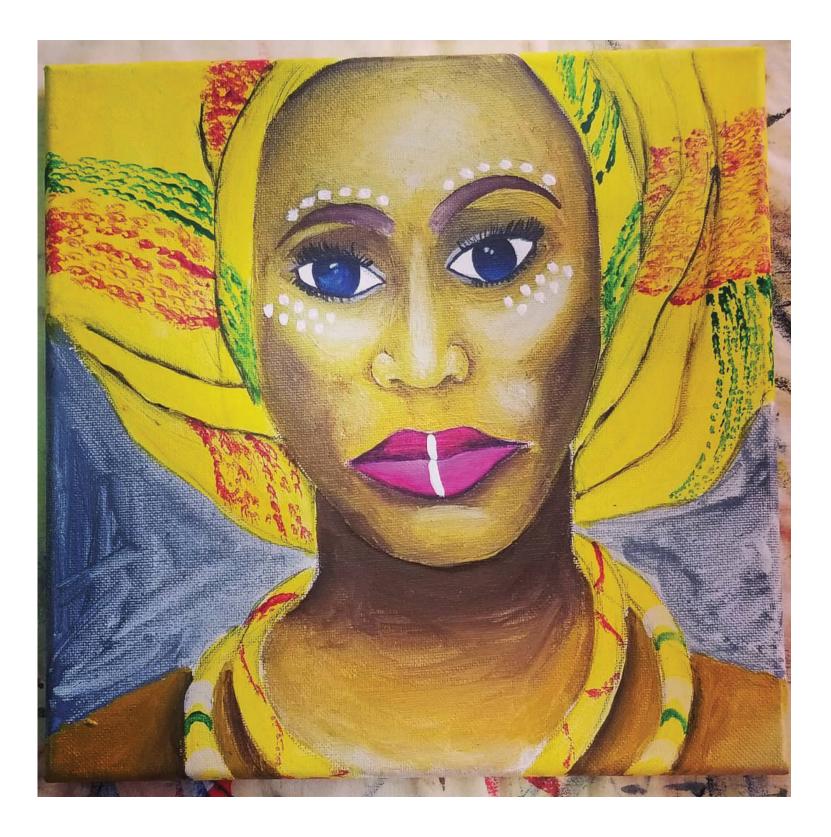
cont'd from pg 9

facing, he has indicated that there are plans to expand his business. "It's forever evolving. The plan is to diversify further," Carl disclosed

The artist, creative and business owner used the opportunity, to share some of his entrepreneurial insights with our readers. "For those who are thinking about starting a new business, prepare yourself for none stop work." "No rest for the Ambitious," is a mantra Carl said he lives by.

According to Carl, there are four things young startups should keep in mind. "Always keep an eye out for new opportunities. Don't be too tied to an idea or a concept. If something doesn't work, it's not the end of the world. Consider it a lesson learned or a chance to pivot. Failure is always a possibility so don't dwell on it, assess your position and work on your next move. Learning should be a constant and Information is at your fingertips (researching industries or learning skills) so make use of it.

To learn more about the local brad Agwassa find them facebook; agwassa_beachculture on Instagram or their website: www.agwassabeachculture.com



MEPs vote to add Channel and British Virgin Islands to tax haven blacklist

UK overseas territories such as Cayman Islands also may lose protection once afforded by UK's EU membership

By Richard Partington

The European parliament is pushing for UK overseas territories including the British Virgin Islands, Guernsey and Jersey to be added to an EU tax havens blacklist after the conclusion of the Brexit deal.

Sending a signal that tougher action on tax avoidance was required in response to the coronavirus pandemic, MEPs voted overwhelmingly in favour of adding more nations and territories to the list of non-cooperative jurisdictions.

The resolution, passed earlier this week by a vote of five hundred and eighty-seven to fifty, included measures calling for the automatic inclusion on the blacklist of countries which use a zero per cent tax regime. Among these are the UK overseas territories, viewed by transparency campaigners as havens for tax avoidance.

Several jurisdictions have been taken on and off the list since it was first launched in 2017. However, those linked to EU member states have typically avoided inclusion, and the UK had lobbied to protect its overseas territories from past scrutiny.

After the vote, any decision to expand the blacklist would rest with the twenty-seven member states on the EU's Economic and Financial Affairs Council. While also arguing for the inclusion of EU territories such as the Netherlands, Ireland and Malta, MEPs said that after Brexit that UK territories lacked a layer of protection from inclusion on the blacklist.

This week's vote explicitly mentioned the conclusion of the Brexit deal, saying that Britain's overseas territories should now be screened for potential inclusion on the list, and that the Brexit deal was based on "mutual values and geared towards common prosperity, which automatically excludes aggressive tax competition."

Robert Palmer, the director of the Tax Justice UK campaign group, said: "Post-Brexit the UK tax havens have lost their protector within the corridors of Brussels. I'd expect to see the EU to ramp up pressure on places like Jersey to clean up their act. The UK itself has been warned that if the government tries a Singapore-on-Thames approach, with a bonfire of regulations and taxes, then the EU will act swiftly."

The push to expand the blacklist comes amid criticism from MEPs that the current version excludes many locations widely regarded as tax havens, including the Cayman Islands. The British overseas territory was included on the EU blacklist in February last year, but was then later removed.

Debating the vote on Wednesday, Spanish conservative MEP José Manuel García-Margallo attacked the post-Brexit status of Gibraltar. "Who would set up in European territory if they can set up in Gibraltar and not pay tax and have access to the European Union? We were concerned about the UK becoming a Singapore on our borders. So should we accept a tax haven on the borders at Gibraltar?"

Scrutiny of the UK's tax arrangements is rising amid concern on the continent that Boris Johnson's government could dramatically reshape the regime to give Britain a competitive advantage outside of the EU. It also comes as government borrowing balloons in countries around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic, putting pressure on nations to raise more from taxes to repair their battered public finances.

UK overseas territories have also come under the microscope after allegations of widespread political corruption, misuse of taxpayers' money and a climate of fear led the governor of the British Virgin Islands to establish an independent judgeled inquiry into the claims.



CARICOM BUSINESS A Weekly Business News Aggregation Service

CARICOM Business is a weekly newsletter produced by the Directorate of Trade & Economic Integration.

Business News In Brief

Capital expenditure slashed in The Bahamas

The government of The Bahamas has cut funding for planned upgrades to 5 airports and is instead seeking to implement a public-private partnership (PPP) program to complete the projects, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has said. Speaking during the annual Bahamas Business Outlook, the PM advised that "as a temporary measure to avoid any further deterioration on in our fiscal position, we are reducing new capital expenditure for the current fiscal year." In December, it was announced that the government is seeking to reduce capital and recurrent expenditure by as much as \$200 million for the remainder of the fiscal year.

World Bank Approves US\$30 Million Credit for St Lucia

The World Bank has approved the US\$30 million Saint Lucia COVID-19 Response, Recovery, and Resilience Development Policy Credit as the country's GDP is projected to contract by 18% in 2020 due to the nearly complete halt in tourism. This quick-disbursing credit aims to help mi gate the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable and to strengthen the country's economic recovery. Specifically, the opera on supports medium-term resilience through structural reforms to improve public financial management, procurement, and debt transparency. Resilience will also be enhanced through reforms related to financial resilience to disasters and education on sector policies.

Jamaica's securities market grows by 100%

Finance Minister Dr Nigel Clarke, says Jamaica's private securities market grew by approximately 100% between 2017 and 2020, with the value of bond issuance transactions doubling from some \$200 million to \$400 million. This metric was noted within the context that the banking sector recorded loan growth ranging between 16 and 35% over the period. He was speaking during the digital launch of the Jamaica Stock Exchange private market. The private market will facilitate the listing of private bonds and equities securities on the NASDAQ Platform. "It will build sec-

ondary market participation and offer opportunities for investors and corporates alike [by providing a] transparent mechanism for the pricing and trading of private market securities," Dr Clarke said. The private listing and trading of securities on the new platform will be in accordance with the FSC's guidelines for exempt distributions which allows companies to issue securities to raise money without filing a prospectus.

Bermuda to reform 'unfair' tax system

Premier David Burt is planning to reform the country's tax system in time for the 2022/23 budget year, no ng Bermuda's wealth generation was tied to an unfair system of taxa on. He noted that the existing system taxes labour, through a payroll tax, but no other sources of income. To balance the jurisdiction's fiscal position, which has suffered budget deficits and a high and growing government debt burden, Bermuda's government has ruled out new taxes in the short term. However, Bermuda's Fiscal Responsibility Panel in its pre-pandemic 2019 report noted that meeting the country's fiscal targets, in terms of budget surpluses and a debt-to-revenue ratio of 80%, will require significant revenue increases. The panel recommended Bermuda should significantly raise tax revenues as a share of GDP in line with similar economies. This could include a move from a payroll tax to a progressive income tax, as well as the taxa on of capital income in addition to labour income.

RF Holdings to accept digital currency regionally

RF Holdings Limited, parent company to a group of investment banks in The Bahamas, Barbados, and the Cayman Islands, has entered into partnership with financial technology company, Bitt to facilitate the acceptance of digital currency transactions across its Caribbean network. The partnership, which focuses on developing a platform based on Bi 's digital currency infrastructure, will allow for digital currencies, such as 'Sand Dollar' in The Bahamas, 'mMoney' in Barbados, and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's 'DCash', to be accepted and accessed across the investment's bank's products by a wider network of Caribbean clients. The platform will be able to facilitate payments from and between institutions such as banks, individual consumers and merchants. FROM ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD

Driver's Licence Renewal REQUIREMENT

Effective February 8th 2021, the Antigua and Barbuda Driver's Licence will now feature **NATIONALITY**, as well as, **COUNTRY OF BIRTH**. This is to facilitate the regional integration movement.

Each driver's licence holder is therefore required to <u>bring along your valid passport</u> upon your next driver's licence renewal date.

Please be guided accordingly.



Barbados declares community spread of COVID-19



Minister of Health and Wellness in Barbados, Lt Col. Jeffrey Bostic

Barbados' ter of Health and ly among the local Wellness, Lt Jeffrey Bostic, says trated on the south the country is now and grappling with com- consistent with the spread munity COVID-19.

COVID-19 ment update Bostic Saturday, confirmed what was widelv speculated after the cases mushroomed at the end of 2020.

the moment is trying to find persons that we consider to have been exposed actually holding and to known positive cases, continue to assess them, place them in quarantine and to test all primary contacts, and will continue, this but with some intensification in places of areatest interest."

Bostic said since on," he explained. the first cases in this

Minis- 1,035 positive, main-Col. population, concenwest coasts, of clusters.

He noted that the Speaking during a evidence was pointmanage- ing to the fact that late the cases were originating areas in where people tend to drop their guard, among family and community in settings, but there was "Our strategy at one positive coming from the business sector.

> "The protocols are because the protocols are holding, that is why we are not seeing a lot of are of great imporpositive cases coming from contacts from those persons able at prisons who would have visited various busi-

outbreak were de- added that the Pan testing has been intected at the end of American Health Orlast year, there were ganization (PAHO) nal institution.

has been informed about ities' decision regarding community spread.

He said while Barbados has working assiduously dred per cent better to deal with positive than [it was] a week cases and putting required measures in place, ties have a plan in made place that includes finding persons who were exposed known positive cases; assessing them confirmed results in and placing them in the prison, I think auarantine.

additional resources amount," Abrahams from within the Ministry of Health and Wellness will be al- id tests were also located to the contact tracing effort, including the use of es warrant to assist the WHO approved in antigen rapid test to to assist with screening the at hospital and an initial test for primary contacts.

health minister, assessing the level of were reduced drastransmission is key tically, to assessing the overall situation in Barbados and epidemic control measures tance.

Rapid testing avail-

Meanwhile, the number of COVID-19 ness places and so infections at HMP Dodds is on the The health minister decline, and rapid troduced at the pe-

According to Minthe author- ister of Information, Wilfred Abrahams, declaring while the situation at the prison was not fully under conbeen trol, it is "one hunago."

"What I am pleased authori- to sav is...we have significant progress in the prison. Whereas we testto ed over, or we had over three hundred we are now down to He also said that a very, very small said.

> He added that rapbeing used as the prison circumstancearly detection, better manage prison healthcare system.

However, Abrahams noted that while According to the the number of infections at the prison authorities were working to en-COVID-19 sure that the situation did not reemerge.

> "We are trying to keep everybody in terms of exercising within their guads, so that if we do have a flare up, or somebody else happens in the prison, they can be confined, or isolated to sections, as opposed to the general population," he said.

SVG "should've banned int'l flights" in response to COVID – PM



Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalve. /FILE PHOTO LANCE NEVERSON

(**Iwnsvg**): Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves says his government should have banned international flights during the Christmas season and should not have allowed the Nine Mornings festival, in an effort to prevent an escalation of the COVID-19 cases.

Over the holiday season, St. Vincent and the Grenadines continued to allow flights from COVID-19 hotspots, such as the United States and thousands of persons participated in Nine Mornings, a unique Vincentian festival.

And, since 28th December, hundreds of Vincentians with no recent travel history have tested positive or COVID-19, with the number now standing at five hundred and ninety-seven of the seven hundred and thirty-eight cases recorded in the country.

"Of course, hindsight is

always 2020 vision. Over the holidays, you should have banned the airlines, you should have [not] allowed any Nine Mornings to take place," Gonsalves said on NBC Radio on Wednesday.

"But we had just had elections where both political parties had thousands upon thousands of people at rallies," he noted, speaking of the campaign for the 5th November general elections.

"So the persons who would have been doing the Nine Mornings would have said you could have 15,000 persons at one rally but now you don't want to have four hundred or five hundred at a Nine Morning event, or two hundred or one hundred? And people came home with their families and we [saw] some of these gatherings," the prime minister reasoned. "You take, for instance,

we banned Luke Boyea and Skinny Fabulous from having their big events, and other people, too. But that did not stop people using the Facebook for twenty, thrity, forty, people to say let's gather by Tom Browne house and Tom Browne organized a party and many of those parties were organized across this country," Gonsalves said.

iWitness News understands that the cluster of cases in the Police Force emerged from a house party that several officers attended.

Gonsalves was speaking two days after he announced two holidays, this past weekend, which he pitched as an opportunity for Vincentians to rejuvenate in light of the stresses brought on by the pandemic and the ongoing effusive eruption of the La Soufriere volcano.

However, many Vincentians immediately concluded that the holidays were a veritable lockdown, aimed at restricting the movement of persons.

The prime minister encouraged residents not to go to beaches and have picnics and other celebratory events that generally take place on holidays in the country.

And, while no specific laws had been passed restricting movement or banning certain types of activities over the holiday weekend, the police issued a statement on Thursday saying they would be taking steps to enforce the COVID-19 protocols, which are largely Ministry of Health recommendations.

In his comments, Gonsalves noted that up to 27th December, the country had just about one hundred and ten cases of COVID-19, most of which were imported or import-related.

"There was a spiral thereafter," he said, adding that the reasons for this "are straightforward."

NOTICE

To: Her worship, The Licensing Magistrate. District "A" Magistrate Court Grays Farm St. John's Antigua

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

I Elvis Joseph of Freetown the owner of Hillside Snackette whose registered business is situated on Freetown Main Road in the Parish of St. Philip in Antiqua and Barbuda, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next Special Session to be held at the Magistrate Court, St John's Antigua on the 25th day of February 2021, next ensuring, for a tavern License in respect to my premises known as Hillside Snackette situated at Freetown. This application is made pursuant to section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

> Respectfully yours, Elvis Joseph

Dated 22nd January, 2021

Caribbean's foreign trade at tts worst since global financial crisis

(CMC): The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) says the region's foreign trade in 2020 had its worst performance since the financial crialobal sis of 2008-2009, because of the economic crisis prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed by governments to stop its spread.

In its annual report, published on Friday, ECLAC estimated that the value of regional exports dropped thirteen per cent in 2020, while imports shrank by twenty per cent.

ECLAC's executive secretary Alicia Bárcena held a press conference to present the new edition of ECLAC's flagship annual report, "International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean 2020."

The document indicates that this contraction in the value of exports is smaller than what was forecast in



Executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Alicia Bárcena

early August of last year (minus twenty-three per cent), when the institution released its "Special Report COVID-19 No. 6," because, at that time, "the rebound in demand among the region's main trading partners, and China in particular, was not yet visible."

"It is necessary to deepen integration to drive the regional recovery," Bárcena said. "The region has been disintegrating in terms of trade and production since the middle of the last decade, coinciding with its lowest growth in seven decades.

"This is very worrisome, because intra-regional trade is the most conducive to productive diversification, the internationalization of companies (especially MSMEs – micro, small and medium enterprises) and gender equality," she added. Bárcena insisted that, in order to reverse this disintegration, it is important to move ahead on a shared agenda regarding trade facilitation, transportation and logistics infrastructure, and digital cooperation "to generate regional synergies in key dynamic sectors."

"It is urgently necessary to reinvigorate regional integration to support the post-pandemic recovery," Bárcena emphasized. "Greater convergence is needed between distinct integration mechanisms in order to overcome the fragmentation of the regional market and to support a sustainable and inclusive recovery."

"It is also critical to foster the participation of female workers and entrepreneurs in dynamic sectors and in regional productive chains, for a transformative recovery with gender equality and sustainability," she added.



PAGE 17 REGIONAL NEWS

Caribbean journalist George Alleyne dies

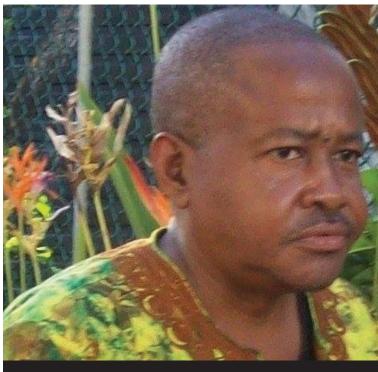
(Barbados Today): The Caribbean is mourning the loss of one of its own, the respected Barbados-based regional journalist, Ian George Alleyne, who died suddenly Friday.

His sister, Ann Wallace, in a message on Facebook said: "I write on behalf of my family with utter sadness and a painful heart to inform you, his friends, that our dear, sweet loving brother, father, uncle, cousin and friend, Ian George Alleyne has passed away. May he rest in peace."

Alleyne, who up until his death was a freelance contributor to Barbados Today, had a career spanning more than four decades.

Barbados Today Editor-in-Chief, Sandy Deane, said, "We have been shaken by George's untimely passing. He was a valued member of our Barbados Today family. His professionalism, his insightful knowledge of local and regional happenings, dry humour, and kind and humble nature will be missed.

"No one was more committed to the very highest principles of integrity, fair-



Barbados-based regional journalist, Ian George Alleyne

ness, accuracy and insight that represent the best journalism.

"We pay tribute to his contribution to our development and endeavour to let his work and guidance remain with us."

As an information specialist for the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), Guyana-born Alleyne sub-edited, reported and wrote news and features on the news desk of the CANA wire services until its merger with the Caribbean Broadcasting Union to become the Caribbean Media Corporation in 2000.

More recently, he was also an active contributor to the New York-based Caribbean Life newspaper - the largest Caribbean publication in the metropolitan area covering regional affairs.

Alleyne started his journalistic career at the Guyana Information Service in the early 1980s but his budding love for journalism took him to the stateowned Guyana Chronicle, the lone daily newspaper at the time.

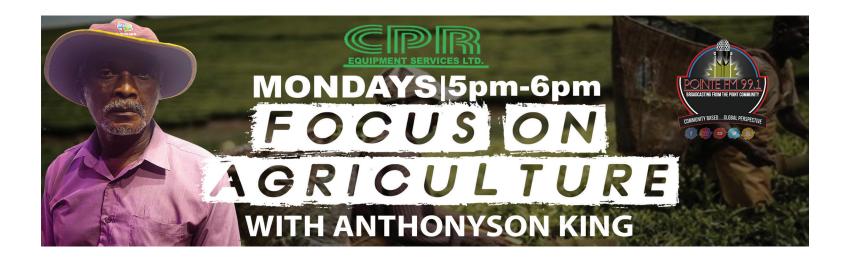
Alleyne quickly honed his talent, building a sound reputation as he covered politics, sports, and trade issues.

In 1989, Alleyne opted to spread his wings and migrated to Canada where he wrote articles for ethnic papers.

An unrepentant regionalist who could not long ignore the lure of the Caribbean, he returned to Georgetown but quickly moved here to join his Barbadian father and sisters.

The Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM) paid tribute to "a committed and avid regionalist" who "believed in unity. He was adamant that his native Guyana should be the breadbasket of the Caribbean, resulting in a reduction in our US\$5 billion-plus annual import bill."

George Alleyne leaves to mourn his daughter, Tendai; three sisters, other relatives and countless colleagues and friends in the Caribbean media fraternity.



World braces for US policy whiplash

(CNN): Within hours of taking office, US President Joe Biden set to work signing a blizzard of executive orders, memorandums and directives to agencies, ranging from steps to combat the coronavirus to beginning the process of rejoining the Paris climate accord.

To the outside world, the powers of a US president to make sweeping changes with a stroke of his or her pen can seem bewildering. Every four or eight years, an incoming leader can upend the policies of his predecessor and leave international allies struggling to keep up.

Biden set a new record by signing seventeen on his first day in office and he has plans to sign more. Some of them will have a significant impact beyond America's borders.

The president's "executive power" relies on a wide, but vague, set of prerogatives granted to the US president in Article II of the Constitution. Every president dating back to



President Joe Biden signs his first executive orders in the Oval Office of the White House on Wednesday, 20th Jan., 2021, in Washington

George Washington has used executive powers in some fashion or another - some more than others.

Trump signed twenty-nine executive orders in his first one hundred days, back in 2017, as he sought to get quick wins on the board. That more than any was President since 1945, when President Harry Truman signed fifty-seven orders in his first one hundred days. By the time Trump left office, four years lat-

er, he had signed two

hundred and twenty, or

an average of fifty-five a year, according to data from the American Presidency Project at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

That compares with two hundred and ninety-one in the course of President George W. Bush's eight years in office and three hundred and ninety-four over President Bill Clinton's two terms, according to the same data. Meanwhile, Barack Obama averaged fewer executive orders per year in office than any US

President in one hundred and twenty years, issuing two hundred and seventy-six executive orders in total during his eight years in office, or roughly thirty-five per year.

Notably, Biden's first actions reversed several of Trump's attempts to pull out of international agreements, from starting the process of rejoining the Paris climate accord to halting the US withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Biden also halted funding for the construction of Trump's border wall and reversed his highly controversial travel ban targeting largely Muslim countries.

Next week, he plans to revoke the so-called Mexico City Policy, which bars international non-governmental organizations that perform or promote abortions from receiving US government fundina, according to a draft of a calendar document sent to administration allies and viewed by CNN.



US passes 25M COVID cases, over a quarter of world's infections



The US began its vaccination programme in mid-December, but the number of people vaccinated has lagged behind goals set by the Trump administration

(Aliazeera): The States United has registered more than twenty-five million confirmed coronavirus cases, as newly Presiinaugurated dent Joe Biden's chief staff accused of Donald Trump's administration of failing to provide states with a plan to administer much-needed vaccines.

The US's staggering COVID-19 infection count is the highest in the world and accounts for more than a quarter of all global cases, according to a tally by John Hopkins University.

The grim milestone reached on Sunday came amid reports

of state-level confusion in vaccine distribution and shortages in some parts of the country, which also leads the world in coronavirus-related deaths, at more than 417,000.

In an interview on NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday, Ron Klain said state-level displans tribution for COVID-19 vaccines "did not really exist" under Trump's administration, even as the pandemic surged in the former president's final months in office.

"The process to distribute the vaccine, particularly outside of nursing homes and hospitals, out into the community as a whole, did not really exist when we came into the White House," Biden's chief of staff said.

While the Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed has aided in the development and manufacturing of vaccines, the vaccine roll-out has lagged and the US missed its target of inoculating twenty million people by the end of 2020.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says just about half of the 41.4 million vaccines that have been distributed to US states have been administered to date. Under Trump, the federal government distributed vaccines to states based on population, with further distribution largely left up to state governments.

Top US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci, who worked on the coronavirus task force under Trump, on Friday said the previous administration had left too much of the responsibility to the states.

That was echoed by Klain on Sunday. "We've seen this factor all over the country where millions of doses have been distributed, but only about half have been given out," he said.

"So the process of getting that vaccine into arms – that's the hard process. That's where we're behind as a country," he said. "That's where we're focused in the Biden administration – on getting that ramped up."

Meanwhile, in an interview on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, Dr Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the Trump administration coronavirus task force, said there were members of the president's former White House who "definitely believed that this was a hoax."

Taiwan reports large incursion by Chinese warplanes for second day



A Chinese anti-submarine military plane flying in the Taiwan Strait last September

(BBC): Taiwan has reported a large incursion by Chinese warplanes for the second day running, a show of force that coincides with the first days of US President Joe Biden's term of office.

Sunday's operation involved fifteen aircraft and followed a similar drill that led to a warning from Washington.

China sees democratic Taiwan as a breakaway province, but Taiwan sees itself as a sovereign state.

Analysts say China is testing the level of support of Mr. Biden for Taiwan.

China has carried out regular flights over the waters between the southern part of Taiwan and the Taiwanese-controlled Pratas Islands in the South China Sea in recent months.

But they are usually conducted by one to three reconnaissance or anti-submarine warfare aircraft, according to Taiwan.

Taiwan's defence ministry said eight Chinese bomber planes capable of carrying nuclear weapons, four fighter jets and one anti-submarine aircraft entered its south-western air defence identification zone on Saturday.

Sunday's operation involved twelve fighters, two anti-submarine aircraft and a reconnaissance plane, the ministry said. In both occasions, Taiwan's air force warned away the aircraft and deployed missiles to monitor them, it added.

There has been no

official comment from the Chinese government.

The drills come days after the inauguration of President Biden, who is expected to maintain pressure on China over a wide range of issues including human rights, trade disputes, Hong Kong and Taiwan, which has been a major thorn in the deteriorating relationship between the two powers.

The Trump administration established closer ties with Taipei, ramping up arms sales and sending senior officials to the territory despite fierce warnings from China. Days before he left office, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lifted long-standing restrictions on contacts between American and Taiwanese officials.

The substance of the new administration's policies on China and Taiwan remains to be seen but, in response to Saturday's operation, US state department spokesman Ned Price said the US would continue to deepen its ties with the island.

"The United States notes with concern the pattern of ongoing PRC attempts to intimidate its neighbours, including Taiwan," he said in a statement, in reference to the People's Republic of China.

"We urge Beijing to cease its military, diplomatic, and economic pressure against Taiwan and instead engage in meaningful dialogue with Taiwan's democratically elected representatives."

Last week, the island's de-facto ambassador to the US, Hsiao Bi-khim, was invited to attend Mr. Biden's inauguration, in what was seen as another sign of the new administration's support for Taiwan.

Lo Chih-cheng, a senior lawmaker for Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, said China's moves were an attempt to deter the new US government from backing the island. "It's sending a message to the Biden administration," he told the Reuters news agency.

Need a lift? SpaceX launches record spacecraft in cosmic rideshare programme

(**Reuters**): A veteran rocket from billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX aerospace company launched one hundred and forty-three spacecraft into space on Sunday, a new record for the most spaceships deployed on a single mission, according to the company.

The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off at 10:00 a.m. EST from the Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. It flew south along the eastern coast of Florida on its way to space, the company said.

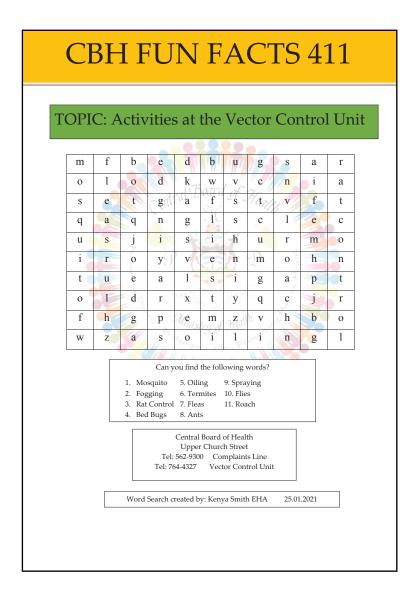
The reusable rocket ferried one hundred and thirty-three commercial and government spacecraft and ten Starlink satellites to



SpaceX owner and Tesla CEO Elon Musk

space - part of the company's SmallSat Rideshare Programme, which provides access to space for small satellite operators seeking a reliable, affordable ride to orbit, according to the company. SpaceX delayed the launch one day because of unfavourable weather. On 22nd January Musk, also chief executive of Tesla Inc., wrote on Twitter: "Launching many small satellites for a wide range of customers tomorrow. Excited about offering low-cost access to orbit for small companies!"

SpaceX has previously launched to orbit more than eight hundred satellites of the several thousand needed to offer broadband internet globally, a ten billion dollar investment it estimates could generate thirty billion dollars annually to help fund Musk's interplanetary rocket programme, called Starship.



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, 25th January 2021 Time: 8:30AM-11:00AM Affected areas: Section of Green Hill/Liberta

Date: Monday, 25th January 2021 Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM Affected areas: Section of Lightfoot west of the old BBC Relay Station

Date: Monday, 25th January 2021 Time: 11:30AM-1:00PM Affected areas: Section of Liberta near Bambo Gutter east of the clinic

Date: Tuesday 26th January 2021 Time: 8:45AM - 11:30AM Affected areas: Section of Mount Joy west of Cochrane Estate

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

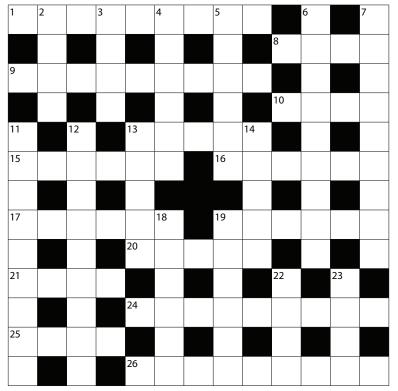
Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.





POINTE PRESS MONDAY, 25 JANUARY, 2021

QUICK CROSSWORD



DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



Garfield



Cathy



Across

- Card game played in casinos (9) 1
- 8 Bucket (4)
- 9 Swimming stroke (9) 10 Joint at a femur's lower end (4)
- 13 Outfit with accessories (3-2)
- 15 Up (6)
- 16 Grass cut when green and stored as fodder (6)
- 17 Parchment prepared from young animal skin (6)
- 19 Italian dialect spoken in and around Florence (6)
- 20 Erect (3,2)
- Show excessive affection (for) (4) 21
- 24 Same (9)
- Public violence scream! (4) 25
- 26 Prehistoric period — zebra gone (anag) (6,3)

Down

- Card game played in casinos (9) 1
- Bucket (4) 8
- 9 Swimming stroke (9)
- 10 Joint at a femur's lower end (4)
- 13 Outfit with accessories (3-2)
- 15 Up (6)
- 16 Grass cut when green and stored as fodder (6)
- 17 Parchment prepared from young animal skin (6)
- 19 Italian dialect spoken in and around Florence (6)
- 20 Erect (3,2) 21 Show excessive affection (for) (4)
- 24 Same (9)
- 25 Public violence — scream! (4)
- Prehistoric period zebra gone (anag) (6,3) 26

SUDOKU

6		8			5					ļ		9						8
	1			4				6			4		1	6				
							7	3		1				2				5
	2		8	3		1			1	9					2		7	
5								4			2	6				9	8	
		7		5	4		2				3		7					1
8	4								1	3				4				6
2				6			3							7	6		3	
			5			9		7		5						8		
				1	•													
						7				2		7						
4	9				8	7	6	5		2		7			3	8		
4	9 3				8 5	7	6 4	5		2	3	7			3 7	8	1	
4		6	2	8		7	<u> </u>	5		2	3	7	7			8	1	5
4		6	2	8		7	4	5		2	3	7	7	8	7	8	<u> </u>	5
4		6	2	8		7	4	5		2	3		7	8	7		<u> </u>	5
4	3	6	2		5		4	5						8	7		<u> </u>	5
4	3	6			5		4 7	5			1		2	8	7		4	5
	3 8 7	6	5		5		4 7 3				1	5	2 6	8	7		4	5

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



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

(Y) ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Set money issues aside and focus on things you can have an immediate effect on. Money can definitely give you power, but it can give you only so much, so don't place too much importance on your finances right now.

TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Right now, feeling good about who you are and where you are in life is getting easier and easier to do. You're appreciating the good things that are happening to you, and you're finally seeing them as blessings you deserve.

(I) GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Is someone failing to meet all of your expectations? If so, the problem could be with your expectations. Your disapproval might be just what this person needs to make some real changes for the better.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

If a relationship isn't moving forward as quickly as you would like, take a look at who is driving all the action. Are you waiting for the other person to call you? To make the first move? To say those three little words? It's time to take a more active role.

(d) LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Whether you realize it or not, your reputation has been on a steady climb for a while now. Make the most of that when you talk to a person who holds a lot of power in your life. Engage them in an interesting conversation.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You are entering a time of great organization and efficiency. It's a philosophy you are ready to live by. Your highly structured personality is coming out in full force right now. It will help you have a very productive day.

LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Are you ready to make the switch from talking just to hear yourself talk to having quality, meaningful conversations? Because that's your main objective now. The cosmos is helping you expand your mind.

(II) SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Try to be more open about your fears and worries. Doing so might leave you feeling vulnerable, but it will definitely take a huge burden off your shoulders. As soon as you start to talk you'll feel relief.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It might feel like your relationship is a house of cards. It's shaping up to be quite impressive, but one slight breeze or jiggle could send it all tumbling down. This sense of insecurity can be tricky to deal with.

(7) CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You've been taking a lot of risks lately, and lucky for you they've been paying off. But your luck is bound to change, and soon. Make sure you get ahead of the curve today by playing it much more conservatively.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You have a lower energy center right now, but that doesn't mean you don't still have that same fiery drive. You might feel a shift in activities toward more laid-back things now, though, like yoga and meditation versus rock climbing and parachuting.

H PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

If you listen carefully to the soft voices around you, you will hear things of great value. It's easy to get distracted by the loud voices, but it takes your style of patience to hear what many people don't take the time to listen to.

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 Educa-

tion, 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.



Tell us what's happening in your community.

Submit community notices to news@pointville.ag



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

INCLUDES

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

Automatic Headlamps

*On The Spot Financing Available



Power Windows

Bluetooth

located on **Old Parham Road**

9,500

>> UPGRADED FEATURES

Reverse Camera

Parking Sensors

Automatic AC

Touch Screen

contact us Tel: (268) 481-2500

follow us on (f) Facebook & (0) Instagram

DZIRE

starting at

ANTIGUA'S #1 MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERSHIP www.hadeedmotors.com

Unlock your

Team Antigua rows home this week

Team Antigua, featuring Joseph Nunes and Travis West, is expected home on Tuesday night, weather permitting. At the very latest, the team is on course to arrive no later than Wednesday evening.

Speaking with **PointeXpress**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Race Director of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge Race, Carsten Heron Olsen, said a number of teams have arrived, with **Row for Cancer** team being the first to reach the shores at the Nelson's Dockyard early last week. Twenty-one boats are taking part in the event which usually features thirty or more boats, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the number has been reduced. The Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge is the premier event in ocean rowing.

The Challenge takes its participants more than 3000 miles west from Sebastian in La Gomera, Canary Islands, to Nelson's Dockyard. West and Nunes, who spoke with PointeFM's **Touchline** programme via their satellite phone last week Wednesday, described the journey to date as difficult but fun.

The two athletes said they were enjoying the experience and are hoping to make up time after experiencing some tough weather during the Christmas period, on Christmas day in particular. West said he was looking forward to arriving home and would certainly take up the challenge again if the opportunity arises.

Nunes, on the other hand, articulated that he was enjoying the experience but would certainly not attempt the venture again. Both young men were in good spirits and are looking forward to linking up with their families and friends.

CEO of the event, Carsten Olsen, is asking nationals to stay away from the arrival of Team Antigua due to the restriction and guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health. The arrival will be aired on national television and only sixty family members and friends will be allowed in Nelson's Dockyard for the arrival of Team Antigua.

CARIFTA games in early July

The 49th CARIFTA games have been rescheduled for Bermuda's National Sports Center from 2nd to 4th July, organizers have announced after being postponed last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Last year marked the first postponement in the

game's history for the event usually held over the Easter weekend.

The local organizing committee decided last April to reschedule the games, considered the regional junior showpiece. The North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletics Association (NACAC) president Mike Sands confirmed the pandemic was the reason for pushing back the date to July, a decision taken at a council meeting last Thursday night.

More than six hundred athletes and officials from

twenty-seven Caribbean countries are expected to travel to Bermuda for the games which represent the region's premier amateur track and field showpiece. The games, which started in 1972, is being staged in Bermuda for the fifth time.

Players' mettle will be tested as much as their skills

Indies head West coach Phil Simmons believes his players' mettle will be tested as much as their skills in their attempt to excel in the challenging conditions in Bangladesh in the two-Test series, starting next month.

The Caribbean side will challenge Bangladesh in matches in the southeastern city in the country's capital of Dhaka, in conditions expected to favour the hosts' spin attack.

Simmons said the series means a lot to the players who are looking to force their way into the first team, after twelve players turned down the opportunity to travel to Bangladesh. And with the series also being played amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Simmons is of the view that the players will definitely benefit from the overall experience.

The Trinidadian said that the players will need to be strong, playing in the conditions and environment in Bangladesh. "You have to be much stronger than just playing a cricket match so you will see who the strong ones are and you will see who leads from the front," noted Simmons.

On their last Test tour of Bangladesh three years ago, West Indies loss both matches heavily inside three days. PAGE 26

MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2021 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

Management style and club welfare high on Coates' agenda

Barbara Coates recently declared her intention to contest the 2021 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) elections, scheduled to take place sometime between May and December.

Appearing as a guest on the PointeFM's **Touchline** programme, Coates, who is a member of the present executive, said she made a decision to run for the presidency of the association because she was not happy with the management style of current president, Everton 'Batow' Gonsalves.

Coates said there is a lack of professionalism and communication within the present executive, which she hopes to improve if given the opportunity by the membership when the

elections roll around.

Despite not being very specific on her future plans, Coates pointed to two main areas she would give special attention if elected. "The ABFA has over eight million in assets and there is no reason why clubs are without club houses all around the island," she lamented.

The Wings Sports Club executive member said that, if elected, within two years of her tenure, five clubs or more would benefit from improved infrastructure which would feature club houses with bathrooms and other amenities. Training would also be high on the agenda, an area Coates feels needs urgent attention for the improvement of the sport on the island.

> Coates credits former ABFA General Secretary Gordon 'Banks'



Derrick for her rise within the ranks of local football and the present executive; and the Wings Sports Club, led by Lucaso Brumant, for giving her the experience and opportunity to develop her holistic skills in sports administration.

Coates said she is not against running as part of

a slate for the upcoming elections, if that is the direction the ABFA and the membership want to take. "There is anticipation that two more candidates might throw their hats in the ring to secure the presidency of the largest spectator sport association in the island," she indicated.



Editor: Everton Barnes, Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua 1(268) 562-4989 Editorials: editor@pointville.ag, Advertising: sales@pointville.ag, Reporting: news@pointville.ag