



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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EDITORIAL

ODE TO A FALLEN OFFICER

Thursday 11th February was a most tragic day in Antigua and Barbuda. Corporal Clifton Common of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda met an untimely and most brutal death. Reports allege that Verel Simon, who has since been charged with murder, attacked the office while he was carrying out his duties. Corporal Common subsequently succumbed to injuries while receiving treatment at the Mount St. John's Medical Centre.

Understandably, shock and anger were expressed by many in the country—shock that a person in custody could be so brazen as to attack an officer in a police station; and anger because not only was he attacked, but he was killed while simply doing his duty. All of this was compounded by the fact that everyone who speaks of Corporal Common spoke of him as being dedicated to duty, gentle, kind, and just a good person. There is the sense that his life was unfairly snuffed from him and his family. One can only begin imagine the agony being felt by colleagues, family, and friends.

This most unfortunate incident highlights the need for the protocols governing the handling of detained persons be reformed. Minister of Public Safety, Steadroy 'Cutie' Benjamin and Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney have both indicated that a review of the safety

procedures is being undertaken. We welcome this news, as police officers need to be reassured that something of this nature will never be permitted to happen again. It cannot be acceptable that any detained person becomes so emboldened that they attack a police officer. A message has to be sent that this sort of behaviour shall not be tolerated. As a nation, we all need to be concerned because if our police officers are not safe, then we are not safe either.

It is alleged that the accused person might have experienced mental health challenges at some point and this might have contributed to the attack. If this is true, then the protocols governing the detention of persons with mental health challenges need urgent attention. It has always been a concern of persons within society that the police ought not to be apprehending mentally unstable persons, precisely because of what it led to last week. In Antigua and Barbuda, we have a tendency to call on the police to apprehend mentally unstable people, putting themselves and the person at risk for injury or even death. While over the years this has been the practice, we believe the time is ripe for changes to be made. It is time that as a society we recognize that dealing with mentally unstable people is a discipline that requires highly specialized training, something that is not

presently done with police officers.

There probably needs to be a collaborative effort between the Ministries of Health, Social Transformation, and Legal Affairs and Public Safety so that a holistic plan that seeks to address the shortcomings in the present system can be devised. It is often said that one should never let a good crisis go to waste. There is opportunity to use this tragic event to reform one aspect of the public safety apparatus within the country. Perhaps there is need for continued training of police officers in ways to interact with persons who are mentally challenged; perhaps there is need to reform the legal framework on how such detainees are processed; perhaps a mental health professional needs to always be present when police are interacting with mentally unstable persons; perhaps the Ministry of Social Transformation can provide counselling services and guidance to police officers. What we are suggesting is that the death of Corporal Common presents opportunities for learning, tweaking, and improving.

We at PointeXpress extend our sympathies to the men and women of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, and to the family and friends of Corporal Clifton Common. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

MSJMC coping under weight of COVID-related hospitalizations

The country's main public hospital - the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) - is "coping well" despite the sharp rise in COVID-related hospitalizations over the past few weeks.

That is the assessment of Medical Director at MSJMC, Dr. Albert Duncan, who reported that currently there are forty persons hospitalized with COVID-19-related illness being treated at both the MSJMC and the Infectious Disease Centre (IDC) at the Holberton Hospital.

"We have the capacity to treat up to sixty-seven patients between the IDC and MSJMC, so while we are feeling some strain we are not doing too

badly at the moment," the Medical Director remarked.

He indicated that a secondary facility is being prepared at the former US Naval Facility to house additional patients should this become necessary. The Medical Director said if the number of people requiring hospitalization continues to rise then that facility will be brought on stream to accommodate the over-spill.

According to Dr. Duncan, the biggest issue facing the hospital is adequate nursing staff to properly provide care for the patients. He revealed that the hospital has had to cope with a higher than usual number of sick leaves submitted by nurses, causing issues with

the deployment of these critical medical personnel in this time of crisis.

In the post-Cabinet press conference on Monday, Information Minister Melford Nicholas said the issue of nursing shortage has been raised at Cabinet and there have been suggestions to approach the Cuban government for assistance by providing nurses to buttress the current situation.

There are also talks that overtures have been made to the Indian government for a supply of nurses to assist the healthcare system, but Dr. Duncan said while he too has heard of the suggestion, he has no confirmation of this matter.



OUR NATIONAL LEGEND

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

OSCAR MASON

Oscar Mason is one of Antigua and Barbuda's musical legends. He was born on November 10th 1916 in the Point area.

As a young teen, he was intrigued by the performances of big musical bands from North America. He learned his great skills from Hubert Edwards, but his first trumpet was bought by Governor Fiennes, who was stationed in Antigua and Barbuda at the time.

In 1940, he formed his own band and called it the Antigua Glen Miller Band. Due to his musical and creative abilities, he made himself a string bass, which is the first of its kind ever to be made in Antigua and Barbuda. He then taught his children to play, his family band was called Sons of the Vibratones. His eldest sons, Tyrone Mason, is celebrated as one of the best tenor saxophone players in Antigua and Barbuda today.

Oscar Mason legacy lives with his Great Grand-son **Sheku Kanneh-Mason**. **Sheku** is a British Cellist who was the first Black musician to win the BBC Young Musician award competition since its launch in 1978. He played at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle on 19 May 2018.



FEBRUARY 2021



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



Forty-three new COVID-19 cases revealed

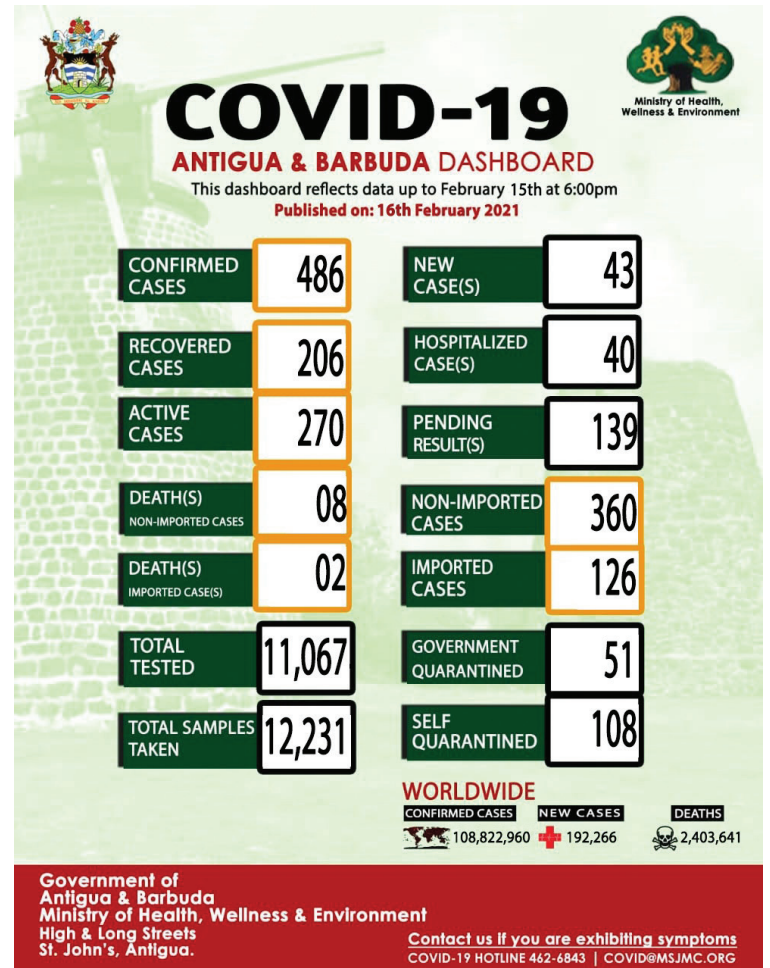
The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment from the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) has revealed forty-three (43) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 15th February 2021.

Subsequent to the publication of the dashboard for Monday 15th February 2021 with the cut off time of 6pm, one hundred and twenty-two (122) additional samples were processed by MSJMC increasing the pending results from

zero (0) to one hundred and twenty-two (122).

Of the one hundred and twenty-two (122) samples processed by MSJMC, seventy-four (74) were negative and forty-eight (48) positive; Five (5) of the positive cases were repeat tests. The forty-three (43) cases are non-imported. Investigations have begun and contact tracing and testing are ongoing.

The one hundred and twenty-two (122) additional samples are reflected in the 'total samples taken' and 'total persons tested' columns of the dashboard.



'Fu Arwe' – A new publication from the Department of Culture



The Department of Culture (DOC) has launched its arts and culture magazine, "Fu Arwe," which is a quarterly publication geared towards showcasing and strengthening the local arts and culture scene.

"This magazine primarily highlights our local music, fashion, food, theatre, dance, arts/craft and other members of the creative industry. This initiative will further help to bridge

the traditional gap between the Department of Culture and the society at large and will enable continued dialogue within the creative fraternity, Antigua and Barbuda, and the World," the DOC stated.

Director of Culture, Khan Cordice, has expressed his delight with the new publication for several reasons. "The first is the high standard of work placed into the creation and development of this publica-

tion, which have allowed my team further exposure while enhancing synergies with our arts and cultural practitioners," he noted.

Cordice stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has created paranoia within the working environment and the practitioners in the field. "Notwithstanding that, my team and I have devised a safe space for exposure and the continued work in the development

of avenues for showcase and for support," he emphasized.

The release noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with concerns for the readers' safety, the DOC decided to launch this publication via its social media platforms.

"Social media facilitates online engagement amongst our residents, citizens, and the diaspora and provides a worldwide reach to our readers," the release added.

Copies of the magazine are available via Facebook (Department of Culture- Antigua and Barbuda) and Instagram (culture.departmentanu) pages.

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA A.D. 2021

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 12:00 p.m. on site, the under mentioned property owned by the late Mr. John Richards of Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.

The property is located at Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a parcel of land of an area of approximately 6,534 sq. ft. with a single storey two (2) bedroom, one (1) bathroom residential dwelling of wooden and masonry walls thereon of an area offering approximately 862 sq. ft. of living space.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

REGISTRATION SECTION: Five Islands
BLOCK: 54 1292E
PARCEL: 8

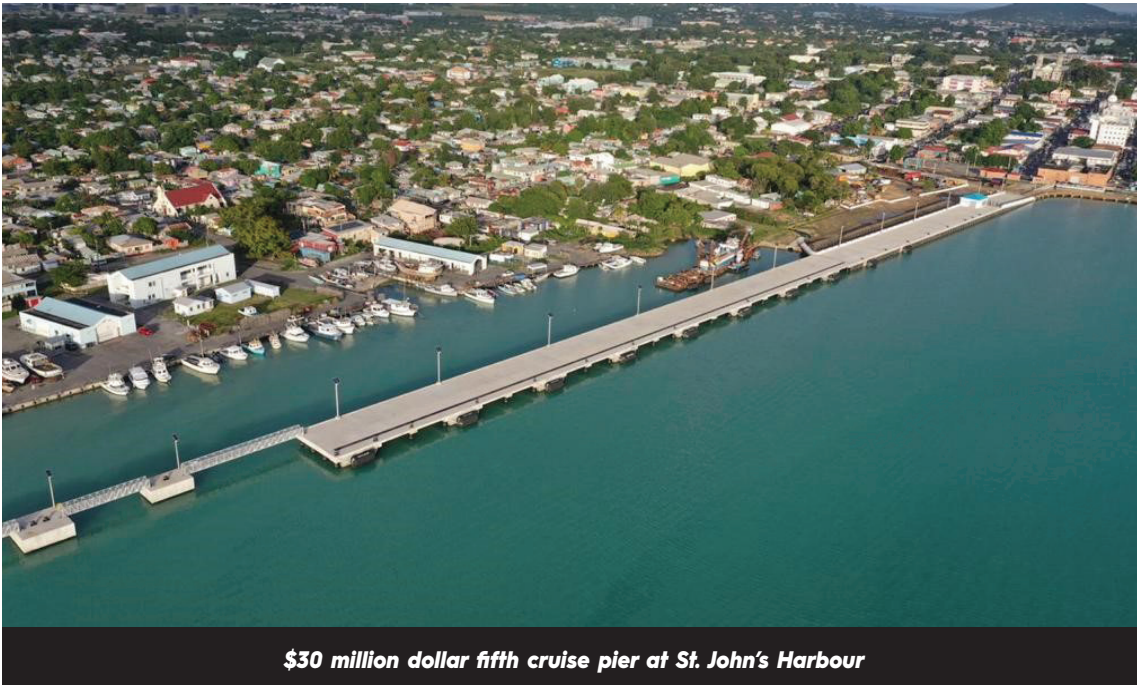
Parcel No. **8** of Block No. **54 1292E** is bounded by the following:

On the North by:	Parcel 167 ;
On the South by:	Parcel 9 ;
On the East by:	Public Road;
On the West by:	Parcel 7 ;

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos
 Licensed Auctioneer
 Office: (268) 562-7653
 Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653
 Email: info@go-going-gone.com
 Instagram: tts_auction_antigua
 Facebook: Auction Antigua

Antigua Cruise Port completes \$30 million pier



\$30 million dollar fifth cruise pier at St. John's Harbour

The thirty-million-dollar fifth cruise pier at the St John's Harbour has now been completed as bookings for a resumption of the cruise industry continue to increase.

Making the announcement is the Antigua Cruise Port (ACP) which said it is "pleased to announce that it has completed construction of the fifth berth," the newest pier at St John's Harbour.

"This momentous thirty-million-dollar investment, which was undertaken before the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the world, was finalized in November 2020, despite minimal interruption created by the unwelcome virus. The pier work was part of the eighty-million-dollar agreement signed in 2019 between Global Ports Holding and the Government of An-

tigua and Barbuda to redevelop the cruise complex. The new pier and the entire redevelopment will generate significant economic and other benefits for the tourism sector and for the entire country upon the return of sailing," ACP stated in a media release.

General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, Dona Regis-Prosper, noted that Global Ports Holding has successfully delivered on its commitment to complete the fifth berth and has repaid twenty-one million dollars of debt on behalf of the government, which was tied to the construction of the Nevis Street Pier. "We were especially thrilled to have maintained our construction timeline and finalized the pier project during the pandemic. Our construction team, port employees, and other partners worked

tirelessly to ensure that we remained on schedule and finished the job. We are very excited about the results," she declared.

Expressing similar sentiments is the Chairman of Global Ports Holding, Mehmet Kutman who said, "Completing this pier was a huge priority for us as we expand our presence across the Caribbean, it is of the utmost importance that we follow through on our commitments to the destinations we serve. We believe in the Antigua tourism product and are pleased to have a very positive working relationship with the government, which has made this project much easier for us to complete. My sincere thanks to Dona and the entire team at Antigua Cruise Port, to Meridian Construction, and to all our port partners for

making this project a success."

With this information, Antigua Cruise Port is collaborating with the government to develop new health protocols for the port to support the robust health and safety measures that were implemented at the start of the pandemic. "We want everyone to know that our port and our destination are safe to visit, based on the highest global standards of cleanliness and COVID-19 precautions." Regis noted.

"We have also commenced discussions with cruise lines that have not historically called on Antigua but are interested in coming here based on what we have created and on our plans for further redevelopment of the cruise complex," she added. "This new business will complement our plan to convert Antigua Cruise Port into a home port by 2023, an idea which has piqued the interest of several major cruise lines."

She revealed that ACP's next area of focus is the two-million-dollar uplift of the Heritage Quay Shopping Mall and the twenty-five-million-dollar commercial development at Point. This expansion will create more opportunities for local entrepreneurs, which will, by extension, make a significant impact on the community. The existing tenants of the shopping complex will, of course, be given priority.

Barbuda Council elections date set

Barbudans will go to the polls on 29th March to vote in local government elections to fill five seats that became vacant as part of the statutory required rotation of the Barbuda Local Government Act.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams has signed the declaration, naming the 29th March date for the by-elections and setting in motion a set of activities that will ensure that everything is in place to hold the polls on that date.

Sir Rodney has also named Dame Lorna Simon as Supervisor Elections for the Barbuda poll. Dame Lorna said nomination of

candidates will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on 17th March when the nomination papers must be presented to the Returning Officer, who has been named as Vernest Mack. The nomination papers may be delivered by the candidate or his proposer or seconder to the Barbuda Registration Unit between the prescribed hours.

The Barbuda People's Movement currently holds majority seats on the Council and it is expected to name five candidates for the poll. The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party will also name five candidates for the poll.



Dame Lorna Simon

Tourism minister requests meeting with hotel management



Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez

Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, says he wants a meeting with the management of the Hodges Bay Resort and Spa, as well as the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, after videos and images surfaced online purportedly of a recent event showing a complete breach of health and safety protocols.

"I will give full support to the Ministries of Health and Legal Affairs to conduct a full investigation into the recent incident as well as to undertake any course of action deemed necessary," Minister Fernandez is quoted as saying.

Fernandez says his ministry's priority has always been to keep everyone safe. "Even though in recent times there has been no known case of transmission of the virus at any of the hotels, we can't afford to drop our guard. In addition, we must be careful about sending the wrong message to our visitors - that

'anything goes here,'" he emphasized.

The tourism minister went on to state that this type of behaviour, on or off property, is not sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism.

"The ministry is concerned first and foremost with the health and safety of the workers, operators, and everyone who is involved in the tourism sector, whether directly or indirectly. While we agree the tourism sector must be allowed to thrive, it must be done in a safe, lawful and respectful manner," he declared.

Noting the importance of tourism, Minister Fernandez stated that the health and safety of the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda are paramount. "We are also calling on travel and celebrity influencers, who obviously love and appreciate our beautiful island, to also adhere and appreciate protocols that are in place to keep our country safe as we continue our fight with COVID-19," he said.

Verel Simon charged with murder

Murder charges have been filed against twenty-year-old Verel Simon of Villa for the alleged murder of Corporal Clifton Common.

Police reports say Common died while receiving medical treatment at the hospital, after sustaining inju-

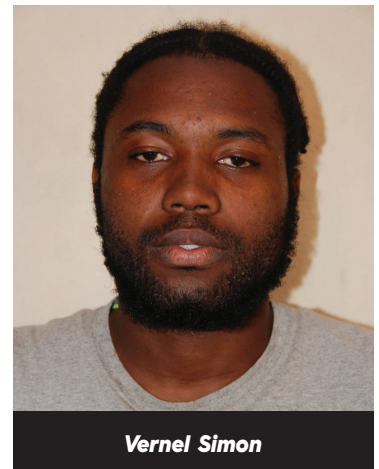
ries allegedly inflicted by Simon. The incident occurred on Thursday 11th February around 1p.m. at St. John's Police Station.

He is expected to make his first Court appearance today, Wednesday.

Public Safety Minister Steadroy Benjamin

is on record as saying that the necessary measures are to be put in place to ensure that a similar incident does not occur any-time in the future.

Common just turned fifty-one in December and has served in the police force for close to thirty years.



Verel Simon

COVID-19 vaccination programme launches today

By Shelton Daniel

The mass inoculation of persons against the deadly COVID-19 disease in Antigua and Barbuda is slated to begin this morning.

The first five thousand doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, approved and procured for use within the twin-island state, have been donated to Antigua and Barbuda by its fellow OECS and CARICOM member, the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Dominica provided the vaccine supply, sufficient to inoculate twenty-five hundred people, out of supplies received from India where they are mass produced, while Antigua and Barbuda awaits delivery of its own shipments from the Asian sub-continent.

St. John's has already ordered and paid for 40,000 doses under the World Health Organization (WHO) COVAX facility, with another 40,000 doses promised by the government in Delhi as a donation.

The vaccination pro-

gramme gets going with a heightened sense of urgency as Antigua and Barbuda has experienced a tremendous increase in the total number of COVID cases since the start of the year, with active cases and hospitalizations rising sharply, most of them non-imported.

The Cabinet met in emergency session on Monday, during which the nightly curfew was extended by two hours to begin at 6:00 p.m. instead of 8:00 p.m. and ending, as previously, at 5:00 a.m.

Cabinet also strengthened the State of Emergency regulations on the size of outdoor gatherings to no more than five persons from the ten previously permitted, subject to the attendant rules of six-foot social distancing between individuals.

Higher numbers, namely twenty-five are permitted for attendance at religious services, weddings and funerals.

Home quarantine and isolation are no longer allowed and all persons requiring such separation

due to possible exposure or confirmed infection must do so at approved government facilities.

Further, persons committed to these facilities will be required to wear electronic tracking bracelets that have been acquired to monitor their movement so as to deter and detect instances of absconding or other breaches of compliance.

Speaking Monday evening during a special post-Cabinet press briefing, Information Minister Melford Nicholas said the vaccination programme will begin with the first shots being administered to frontline healthcare workers at the Mount St. John's Medical Center, Antigua and Barbuda's main public hospital.

"There are a number of institutions that will form part of this priority list, but we will be starting with the health workers, to include the doctors and all the other health professionals, nurses as well, on Wednesday morning at the Mount St. John's Medical Center," he stated.

"Obviously, the number of persons who are in that first category would also include the police force..." He said members of Cabinet, in order to demonstrate their support for the vaccination programme, "have also indicated a willingness to be part of the second batch of persons" who will be inoculated.

Nicholas was careful to say that ministers are not looking to jump ahead of the queue, but as a means of allaying public fears about the vaccine and inspiring confidence.

"The IT platform that they are going to use has been readied," he explained. "The general public [to be inoculated later when the main vaccine supplies arrive] will be invited to indicate their willingness to take the vaccine by going online ... they will be required to upload their information ... and once that information is captured, the Ministry of Health and the vaccination authorities will then schedule an appointment with you, to be able to get the vaccine."

Local group selects its first Nia Mentor Award winner



Nissa Butler

NIA Mentor Awardee 2021

The inaugural presentation of the Nia Mentor Award was made this week when Nissa Butler was selected as the overall winner of the seven-thousand-dollar prize and a year of strategic support.

Butler, a full-time entrepreneur and owner of "Butler Inscriptions," attracted the highest scores from all seven mentors through

her demonstration of strategic planning, desire to contribute to community building, and evidence of research on this year's honoree, Dame Bridget Harris.

In addition to the seven thousand dollars that she will receive from the originators of this award, and the invaluable mentorship opportunity, Butler will receive

seven books chosen by each mentor for its impact on their lives, stationery sponsored by Paperclips, and accessories sponsored by Shop Zoe Mercedes. An additional five hundred dollars, sponsored by CJC & Associates Inc., must be matched by Butler and donated to a cause or entrepreneur she deems worthy. Butler says she looks forward

to the opportunities and growth she will gain as a result of this award and adds that she is "one hundred per cent nervous."

The organizers of the award, Nia Comms, said, "In assessing the applications, the mentors expressed surprise at the creativity and types of businesses evaluated. Before confirming the winner, all applicants were invited to a webinar where they received feedback on their applications and a short course on how to put a formal business plan together, presented by Stephanie Harris-Burke."

The Nia Mentor Award team is especially grateful for the support received from the following businesses who contributed in cash and kind to gifts for the Nia Mentor Award Winner, and for the five Nia Mentors: Paperclips, CJC & Associates Inc., Devika Richards Beauty, Shop Zoe Mercedes, Challengers Enterprises, Accents by Shush, Wadadli Wicks, the Citizenship by Investment Unit, and Premier Beverages.

Doing Business Online in the Caribbean in 2021



By Nerissa Golden

Doing business online in the Caribbean in 2021 and beyond is no longer optional for the region.

The new Global Digital Insights report, produced by DataReportal in collaboration with We are Social and HootSuite, puts figures to the experience which was 2020. The pandemic forced everyone indoors and online and this manifested in increased social connections, online spending, streaming more entertainment and games and finding new ways to learn.

This is especially true for the Caribbean and the islands in the Eastern Caribbean, which is where I will focus. I will discuss what your Caribbean business should be doing online and where you need to be to reach your customers and potential buyers.

In the wider Caribbean, seventy-seven per cent of the population have a mobile phone. In the Eastern Caribbean mobile phone penetration is almost two phones to every resident. Montserrat has a 184.9% mobile penetration or 9228 phones with a population of under 4900.

The top five most used social media platforms for the world are Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and Instagram. Not surprising, Amazon is in the top five of most used apps.

The report gives you country by country data and you can find out what the digital landscape is for every island in the region. You will find links to the Eastern Caribbean islands at the end of this article.

A Mobile First World Across the Eastern Caribbean, mobile phones were the primary tool used

to access social media. All of the 3000 people on Montserrat, who are on social medial, use a mobile phone to go online. In Anguilla and Antigua and Barbuda, ninety-nine per cent of those with phones connect to social media that way. This number doesn't drop too far for Saint Lucia and St. Kitts & Nevis at ninety-eight per cent.

In Dominica, ninety-eight per cent of those with access connect to the internet via a mobile phone.

Android devices are the most popular across the globe and in the region. I noted that the US Virgin Islands, although outside the scope of this article, are primarily Apple users. The global averages of activity on Android devices are: forty-four per cent of the time is spent on social and communication apps such as email, twenty-six

per cent on videos and entertainment and nine per cent on playing games.

For the islands, fifty-six per cent on average connect to the internet primarily using a mobile phone. The use of tablets increased in many islands, which can be attributed to purchasing devices for use by students who had to switch to online learning.

What this Means for Caribbean Businesses Online?

- Social media is not the only thing people do on their phones.
- **Build a web presence which is separate from a social media platform.**
- **Mobile friendly (responsive) websites are essential.** Many companies want to spend time on making the site visually exciting, but it is a pain to navigate on a phone.

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Once people get to your site, they should be able to see exactly what problem you solve and how to get you to resolve it.

- **Optimize images for faster loading.** Taking too long to load will frustrate and chase buyers from your website.
- **Fill out the Alt text section on images.** Search engines and social media want to create the best experience for everyone. That includes persons with disabilities. The text in the Alt section allows people with visual disabilities to know what is happening in the photo.

Where are they searching?

33.9% of the world's population who are online use a search engine for brand discovery. About 32.6% also use ads on television to help them decide, 29.4% rely primarily on word-of-mouth, ads on social media account for 27.6% and the same percentage depend on a product or company website to make decisions.

Overall GenZ are more likely to begin their search for a brand via social media.

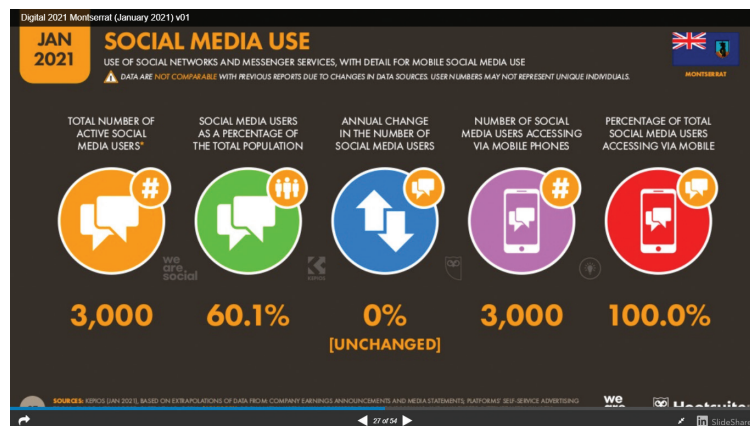
Older audiences use the web primarily for searching.

Voice search is increasing through digital apps like Siri and Google Assistant.

Using images to search is also growing especially for females.

What this means for your Caribbean business

- Caribbean business websites must be search



engine optimized to allow for easier discoverability.

- Create more thought leadership content around your area of expertise.
- Add content that is visual as well as auditory, such as a YouTube video of you answering a frequently asked question or podcast where you do the same.
- People want to consume information in the way they prefer, not in the

way you do.

What are Caribbean people searching for online?

Each island's top searches included the island name, the island's news, music, Movies, Google Classroom and YouTube. There were several Spanish word queries topping the Anguilla search list. The lottery was also quite common across the entire Caribbean. Top queries via YouTube include dancehall artists such as Kartel and

Shensea, searching for full movies, and TikTok videos.

What this means for your Caribbean business

- Create content that is relevant to the location you live and the people who need your solution.
- Provide solutions that inform and entertain.
- The report notes that globally content where people are learning something continues to trend. Create content that answers the question How-To...
- Speak to your customers in their primary language of communication. Make your website translatable.
- Create content for social media in other languages.

What are they buying online?

For the first time, travel was not the number one reason why people spent money online. Fashion and beauty accounted for 665.6 billion dollars in online sales as everyone was forced into more self-care, fighting off a virus and dealing with isolation. Travel was second with 593.6 billion, with toys and hobbies third with 525.6 billion. Games accounted for 135.8 billion in online transactions.

Seventy-seven per cent of internet users between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four said they purchased something online in the past thirty days.

What does this mean for you?

Data on local economic impact was limited to the larger islands such as Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The island reports include potential ad reach

cont'd from pg 11

for various platforms. This data, coupled with information on how many women and men are using social media, and who is most likely to engage can help you craft campaigns targeted to your ideal customer.

- People are becoming more comfortable with shopping online. Amazon was a top search phrase for the region.
- Make it easy for residents to purchase goods online. Coupled with delivery and a payment solution, become the store which puts customers' needs first, even when they are stuck at home.
- Caribbean fashion and beauty bloggers should step up their

content creation and intentionally integrate Amazon and other sales platforms to generate revenue.

- Fashion designers should collaborate with influencers who can introduce their clothing to local and regional buyers.
- Singers and other performing artists need to create more content that is available for consumption in both free and paid formats. Registering with performance rights groups such as Eastern Caribbean Collective Organization (ECCO) to enable collection royalties must become a priority element for artists.
- Filmmakers and

television producers must create content for an online and mobile environment. Get on platforms such as ComeSeeTV from Dominica, Caribbean One TV, Tego, and Studio Anansi to stream to audiences.

- Doctors, consultants, lawyers, other service professionals can create platforms like WebMD to answer concerns and become the trusted source for information in the local context.
- Create a YouTube channel to share locally relevant content. YouTube is the second most searched platform after Google.
- Everyone must look at alternative finance options to allow more people to complete the sale online. At the same time, they should still understand the challenges of payments within the Caribbean and provide other ways to process transactions.

Next

While many Caribbean people still use Facebook and Instagram primarily for doing business online, they should also consider ramping up visibility in other spaces. This includes Twitter, which has a growing audience among younger islanders and can give brands a new arena to establish a presence as interest grows. This is also the case for LinkedIn, which has a potential ad reach for Dominica of 19,000, 43,000 for Saint Lucia and 3300 for Montserrat. There is room to grow and gain brand visibility on these platforms.

The over 50s are the fastest growing groups for platform adoption. Don't discount them. Create content that speaks directly to their problems and desires.

This year's reports reveal that people are more likely to research "how to do things" on the internet than they are to look for information about specific brands, products, or services. Rather than saying we are the answer, create a how-to video that shows them how to resolve their problem. How can they get the best use out of your product?

Along with the top global platforms, seek out regional and culturally based spaces such as WI Match for building connections with Caribbean people. Find groups on LinkedIn which speak to the market you wish to serve. If it does not exist, create one.

Collaborate with other brands and find influencers who have a growing audience in your market segment.

Authentic Caribbean content that speaks to life in the islands in the way it really is, sells. Do more of it.

If your local market seems small, consider the entire Eastern Caribbean as your marketplace.

Nerissa Golden is media and business strategist and the author of seven books, including In Plain Sight and The Making of a Caribbeanpreneur: Strategies for Overcoming Fear and Building Wealth. Visit nerissagolden.com for more business and digital strategy insights.



ADJUSTED OPENING HOURS

APUA BUSINESS CENTER

Upper High Street & Independence Drive

Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Saturday Closed

APUA SOUTH MALL BRANCH

Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Saturday Closed

APUA VILLAGE WALK BRANCH

Temporarily Closed
Until Further Notice

OECS commends historic WTO appointment



Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

(OECS): Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala will become the first woman and the first African to be chosen as Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 1st March 2021. The WTO General Council selected Dr. Okonjo-Iweala by consensus and her term,

which is renewable, will expire on 31st August 2025.

Chairman of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Authority, Prime Minister of Dominica Hon. Dr. Roosevelt Skerit, penned a formal congratulatory note to the new WTO Director General

al assuring that the OECS stands ready to assist Dr. Okonjo-Iweala in discharging her duties as and when required.

Six OECS countries are founding Members of the WTO, a sign of our enduring commitment to the Multilateral Trading System (MTS). It is out of this commitment that we are looking forward to working with you to address certain specific and systemic concerns with a view to improving the MTS in a manner which delivers benefits for all.

Director General of the OECS, Dr. Didacus Jules, in extending congratulations, pledged commitment to the WTO's mission and vision.

The OECS is pleased to

congratulate you on your appointment to the post of Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) following the outcome of the recent Special General Council. We are especially proud of the fact that you are achieving two firsts – the first woman and the first African to lead the WTO. Please be assured of our commitment to the multilateral trading system. We look forward to working closely with you.

Ambassador of the OECS Permanent Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, H.E Stephen Fevrier, delivered remarks on 15th February 2021 at the WTO Special General Council on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Group.

CARICOM concerned over developments in Haiti as political unrest rises there

(Dominicanewsonline): The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) continues to monitor very closely, and views with deep concern, developments in Haiti as unrest mounts over demands for that country's president to step down.

In a statement released last week, CARICOM urges all stakeholders to be guided by the Constitution, respect for the rule of law and the electoral process and in that regard is heartened by the fact that an electoral timetable has been set.

"The Community is also deeply anguished about the security situation including the actions

of armed gangs which threaten the maintenance of law and order in the country and disrupt the lives and livelihoods of its citizens," The CARICOM statement adds.

The Community also encourages all parties to engage in meaningful dialogue in the interest of peace and stability and "strongly urges that action be taken to foster a safe environment, a return to normal life and the building of sustainable democratic institutions."

There were rumblings of possible unrest in Haiti last week as that country's president, Jovenel Moise, defied calls for him to step

down because, according to the opposition, his presidency is not legitimate.

The BBC reported on Monday that thousands of people have taken to the streets of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince and other cities for renewed protests against the government which started on Tuesday.

They lit barricades of burning tyres and debris, demanding the resignation of President Jovenel Moise.

Some demonstrators were reportedly injured as police fired rubber bullets to disperse them.

The cause of the Caribbean nation's fresh unrest

is a bitter dispute over Moise's legitimacy.

Haiti's opposition says that Mr. Moise's five-year term should have ended on 7th February 2021, five years to the day since his predecessor in office, Michel Martelly, stepped down.

Moise, however, insists he has one more year to serve as he did not take office until 7th February 2017.

The year-long delay was caused by allegations of electoral fraud which eventually saw the result of the 2015 election being annulled and fresh polls being held, which were won by Moise.

Trinidad special police units to start wearing body cams



Commissioner of Police in Trinidad, Gary Griffith

(CMC): Lawmen within special units within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) will be equipped with body cameras, Minister of National Security Stuart Young said on Monday as it was also announced that a full-scale investigation is being conducted into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of two suspects while in police custody.

Young said he had been informed by Commissioner of Police Gary Griffith at a meeting earlier in the day, that the Special Operations Response Team (SORT), the Inter-Agency Task Force and Guard and Emergency Branch would be among the first to get uniforms with special clips for body cameras and radios and a belt with pepper spray and tasers.

"The body cameras

will now defend my police officers when they are wrongfully accused," Griffith said after the meeting.

The disclosures came as the police commissioner also announced the probe being conducted into the deaths of suspects Andrew Morris and Joel Balcon.

Officers from SORT are among those now subject to the investigation.

Griffith said in a statement that apart from the TTPS conducting an investigation, the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) is conducting a parallel probe.

Morris and Balcon were suspects in the kidnapping and subsequent death of twenty-three-year-old court clerk Andrea Bharatt, who went missing on 29th January. Her decomposed body was found down a precipice on 4th February.

"People are reaching

a final conclusion without knowing what has transpired. We are doing a thorough investigation both by the Police Service and the PCA. For persons to be making false and misleading accusations, it is not helping the situation in any way. It is inappropriate for people to be making accusations and who by their accusations, have already found police officers guilty without getting the facts," Griffith said.

"These would include the Law Association, an Opposition Senator, and a person who received one per cent of the votes in an area he contested in an election. I have heard comments about a prisoner dying after falling from a chair. At no time did any police officer or myself say that an individual died because he fell from a chair. That never took place."

Commissioner Griffith insisted that excellent work was done by the various units of the TTPS in their investigations by finding the four persons responsible for Bharatt's kidnapping and death, and they should be commended.

He added that no one had asked about the well-being of the officers who were injured when they went to arrest suspects in the matter.

Griffith said he had also taken note that a newspaper had published over the weekend that it had video footage

of an incident relating to this matter, but the TTPS had no such video footage. He therefore asked anyone with information who could assist in this matter to come forward and present it to the TTPS.

Commissioner Griffith insisted there would be no cover-up, noting that since he became top cop in August 2018, ninety-six police officers were charged with various offences including kidnapping, human trafficking, robbery with aggravation and assault, while another eighty-six were suspended.

PROBATE

FORM P7 (Rule 15)

**The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANUHPB 2020/

In the Estate of **BERTRAM DOUGLAS JOSEPH PETERS JR.**, late of *Pares Village, St. Phillip's, Antigua, Deceased.*

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
SECOND PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by **THERESA WILMA PETERS nee LEWIS and NORELITA VERONICA GERTUDE PETERS** of Pares Village, St. Phillip's, Antigua, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicants who are the lawful mother and sister of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 14th day March, 2015.

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

Dated the 05th day of February, 2021

TALIA N. DACOSTA
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
STAPLETON CHAMBERS

Filed by **STAPLETON CHAMBERS** Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Stapleton Chambers, Stapleton Lane, P. O. Box 2891, St. John's, Antigua, email: craig.jacas@stapletonchambers.com, Tel No: 268-562-7185; Fax No. 268-562-7967

Guyana: 668 health workers have gotten COVID vaccine



Dr. Mahendra Carpen being vaccinated

**(Guyanachronic-
le):** Some six hundred and sixty-eight front-line health workers received the first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday and Friday last week, and while many of them reported feeling some side effects, there have been no adverse reactions reported.

Head of Medical Ser-

vices at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) and Cardiologist, Dr. Mahendra Carpen, was one of the three hundred and eighteen health workers who took the vaccine on Thursday, the very first day it was made available in Guyana.

After taking the vaccine, he reported that he was able to return to

his usual busy schedule, even performing surgical procedures and consulting with a number of patients.

"I still have feelings in my fingers," he half-joked, while flexing his fingers. "I can still smell, I can still see out of both eyes; I don't have any of the known side effects and I don't feel any different today than I felt

[the day before]."

In the cardiology unit at the GPHC, registered nurse Jeanel Lewis was one who took her vaccine on Friday. On that day, a total of three hundred and fifty persons were vaccinated.

Lewis said that she experienced nausea, which is one of the common side effects of taking vaccines in general, not just these COVID-19 vaccines. Later, she experienced a headache and some dizziness and nausea, and subsequently, a fever.

"These are all normal side effects when taking a vaccine," she wrote in a Facebook post. Eventually, she said, "twenty-four hours after being vaccinated, all side effects have subsided and I'm (feeling) one hundred per cent."

Meanwhile, Director of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at the GPHC Dr. Zulfikar Bux was also another person who received the 'jab' (the COVID-19 vaccine), last week. He related that he felt some soreness in his arm, a mild headache and later, body aches and some fatigue, but, he was not worried.

"Knowing what I knew, I realized that my symptoms were a sign that my body was mounting an immune response to the vaccine and therefore, I am developing immunity against COVID-19," he highlighted.

Ambulance crews report drop in Covid callouts in hard-hit Wales as vaccine rollout gathers pace

(CNN): The bitter Cardiff cold, the dawn half-light, and the radio-static pulse of callouts are the same as every shift over the past year, but as paramedic Angie Dymott and her colleague Lynda Stephens climb into their ambulance one recent morning, something small, but vital has changed.

There have been very few COVID-19 emergency calls in the past two days, and they are wondering why.

"A few weeks back, that's all we were going to," said Dymott. "COVID after COVID after COVID. Then all of a sudden, it just dropped off quite quickly. So [the change is] surprising, but a good surprise."

Cardiff, in south Wales, has been hit hard by the virus. But during the two days CNN spent with its teams, suspected COVID callouts fell dramatically.

Dymott and Stephens get two: One definite positive middle-aged woman, who is not that sick, and another seventy-five-year-old woman, who is waiting for a clearer test result. On Thursday there were only four callouts across all of Cardiff's 400,000 population.

Wales once had the distinction of being home to some of the worst-hit areas in the United Kingdom, which itself has one of the worst death rates globally. But last Friday, it had a new focus: Completing its rollout of vaccines to the most vulnerable ahead of schedule - with greater



efficiency than the already fast UK. It has left some wondering if the vaccines might be playing a role - finally - in the drop in elderly patients in need.

One possible COVID call the crew answers is a case in point: Khatun Makani, seventy-five, took a home test that was positive, but had a cold and chest infection that might have made that a false positive, said Dymott.

"I'm shivering and my mouth is very dry," said Makani, standing just inside her front door. Her frailty is emphasized by the din of a huge family dog locked in another room, and the news that her son, Raheem, a local DJ whom neighbours discuss with affection, died days ago from a heart at-

tack unrelated to COVID. The solitude here is underpinned with intense grief.

Makani said she did not want to go to hospital, and Dymott agreed she may be better off at home, in the care of neighbors she knows. "She's broken-hearted," Dymott said.

While Makani is visibly short of breath, she said she had a vaccine shot two weeks earlier, and should be starting to see some protection in the coming days.

This is the new normal for the crew: The elderly and frail patients they would normally rush to treat for COVID have now, here in Wales, mostly had the vaccine. Is this why - over these two days at least - there are suddenly

fewer of them?

Wales's first minister, Mark Drakeford, told CNN he thought the early lockdown he ordered before Christmas - slightly ahead of that imposed in England - was most likely behind any drop in emergency callouts and cases. But he accepted the vaccines might also be beginning to play a role.

"It will have begun to make a difference," he said. "We know it's three weeks before the vaccine begins to make a difference and we are only sixty-six days into our programme altogether today. What has really made the difference is the decision we made - the really difficult decision - to go into a lockdown before Christmas."

Hospitals still ration medical N95 masks as stockpiles swell



Nurses picket Friday 12 th February, 2021 in Faribault, Minn., during a healthcare worker protest of a shortage on protective masks

(AP): Mike Bowen's warehouse outside Fort Worth, Texas, was piled high with cases of medical-grade N95 face masks. His company, Prestige Ameritech, can churn out 1 million masks every four days, but he doesn't have orders for nearly that many. So he recently got approval from the government to export them.

"I'm drowning in these respirators," Bowen said.

On the same day 1000 miles (1,600 kilometers) north, Mary Turner, a COVID-19 intensive care nurse at a hospital outside Minneapolis, strapped on the one disposable N-95 respirator allotted for her entire shift.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, Turner would have thrown out her mask and grabbed a new one after each patient to prevent the spread of disease. But on this day, she'll

wear that mask from one infected person to the next because N95s — they filter out 95% of infectious particles — have supposedly been in short supply since last March.

Turner's employer, North Memorial Health, said in a statement that supplies have stabilized, but the company is still limiting use because "we must remain mindful of that supply" to ensure everyone's safety.

One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, many millions of N95 masks are pouring out of American factories and heading into storage. Yet doctors and nurses like Turner say there still aren't nearly enough in the "ICU rooms with high-flow oxygen and COVID germs all over."

While supply and demand issues surrounding N95 respirators are well-documented, until

now the reasons for this discrepancy have been unclear.

The logistical breakdown is rooted in federal failures over the past year to coordinate supply chains and provide hospitals with clear rules about how to manage their medical equipment.

Internal government emails obtained by The Associated Press show there were deliberate decisions to withhold vital information about new mask manufacturers and availability. Exclusive trade data and interviews with manufacturers, hospital procurement officials and frontline medical workers reveal a communication breakdown — not an actual shortage — that is depriving doctors, nurses, paramedics and other people risking exposure to COVID-19 of first-rate protection.

Before the pandemic, medical providers followed manufacturer and government guidelines that called for N95s to be discarded after each use, largely to protect doctors and nurses from catching infectious diseases themselves. As N95s ran short, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention modified those guidelines to allow for extended use and reuse only if supplies are "depleted," a term left undefined.

Hospitals have responded in a variety of ways, the AP has found. Some are back to pre-COVID-19, one-use-per-patient N95 protocols, but most are doling out one mask a day or fewer to each employee. Many hospital procurement officers say they are relying on CDC guidelines for depleted supplies, even if their own stockpiles are robust.

Experts puzzled by dramatic fall in coronavirus cases in India

(Aljazeera): When the coronavirus pandemic took hold in India, there were fears it would sink the fragile health system of the world's second-most populous country.

But infections began to plummet in September, and now the country is reporting about 11,000 new cases a day, compared with a peak of nearly 100,000, leaving experts perplexed.

Experts have suggested many possible explanations for the sudden drop - seen in almost every region - including that some areas of the country may have reached herd immunity or that Indians may have some pre-existing protection from the virus.

Architects M B Raviku-

mar and his wife Madhu Kumar are relieved to see the steady decline in coronavirus cases. Both had tested positive for COVID-19 and Ravikumar had to be hospitalized for nearly two weeks.

Speaking of the days spent recovering in the ICU of a Delhi hospital, Ravikumar said he "did not know whether one would come back from that situation."

Strain on hospitals eased

The Indian government has also partly attributed the dip in cases to mask-wearing, which is mandatory in public in India, with violations drawing hefty fines in some cities.

Determining what is behind the drop in infections

could help authorities control the virus in the country, which has reported nearly 11 million cases and more than 155,000 deaths. Some 2.4 million people have died worldwide since the virus was first detected in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

India, like other countries, is assumed to miss many infections in its official records, and there are questions about how virus deaths are determined.

But the strain on the country's hospitals has also eased in recent weeks, a further indication the spread is slowing.

When recorded cases crossed nine million in November, official figures showed nearly ninety per cent of all critical

care beds with ventilators in New Delhi were full. On Thursday, sixteen per cent of these beds were occupied.

That success cannot be attributed to vaccinations since India only began administering shots in January. But as more people are vaccinated, the outlook should look even better, though experts are also concerned about variants identified in many countries that appear to be more contagious.

Among the possible explanations for the fall in cases is that some large areas have reached herd immunity - the threshold at which enough people have developed immunity to the virus, by falling sick or being vaccinated.

IMF says Canada must justify post-pandemic stimulus spending, needs clearer fiscal anchor

(Reuters): Canada must justify its planned C\$100 billion (\$78.86 billion) post-pandemic stimulus plan before committing to significant new spending and should commit to a clear fiscal anchor, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday.

The IMF, in a mission report, said Canada's response to COVID-19 was "timely, decisive, and well-coordinated." But it warned that the crisis had exposed cracks in the country's social safety net and urged clear targets for support and stimulus.

"The federal government's commitment to spend up to four per cent of GDP over the next three years to support the recovery needs further justification," the IMF said in the re-

port following an official visit.

"While the government still has some fiscal space, the additional spending, if deemed unjustified, could weaken the credibility of the fiscal framework," it added.

Canada's Liberal government said last year it would spend up to three to four per cent of GDP to help boost growth once the pandemic is under control.

But in its report, the IMF cautioned Canada to calibrate its stimulus plans carefully, with the aim of supporting full-capacity growth and preventing permanent damage to output, before committing funds.

It also noted that while the introduction of "fiscal guard-rails" were a

welcome step, more clarity was necessary, and said a clear debt anchor is needed to ensure "that credibility in the fiscal framework is maintained over the medium term."

Prior to the pandemic, the Liberal government anchored its spending by targeting an annual decrease in its debt-to-GDP ratio.

"We have a plan to provide meaningful investment to build our way out of the coronavirus recession, so our economy comes roaring back stronger than before," Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland said in a statement reacting to the report.

The government plans to give details on its stimulus plan with its budget, expected in March or April.

Many players will not play if quarantine continues

Novak Djokovic claims a majority of players do not want to continue with the tennis season if it means strict quarantines before tournaments.

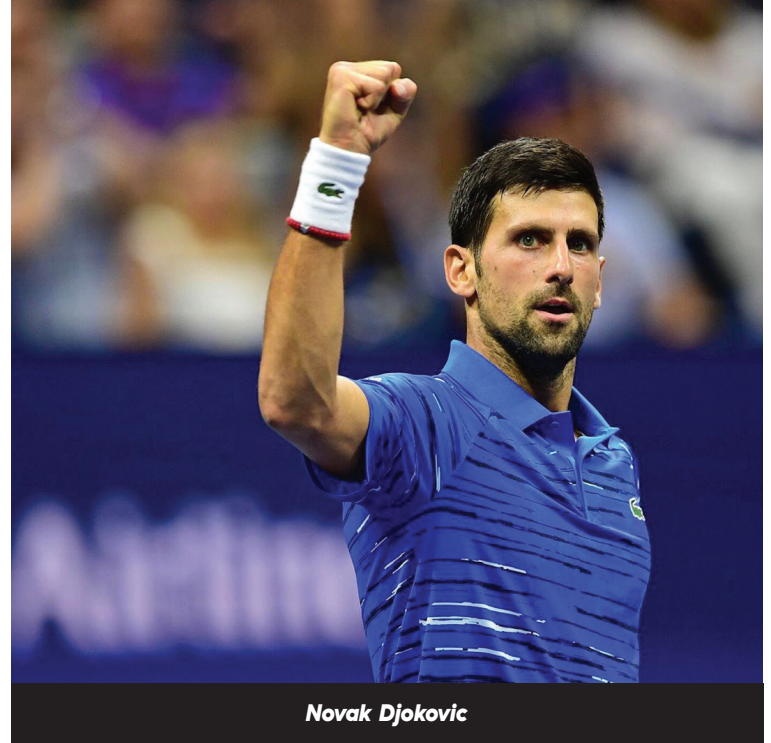
Players had to complete fourteen days of quarantine on arrival in order for the Australian Open to go ahead. Djokovic, the men's world number one, believes it has been responsible for a number of injuries in Melbourne.

"This is definitely not good for players in terms of their wellbeing," said the thirty-three-year-old Serb. Six players have retired injured from

matches at the opening Grand Slam of the year.

"The physical wellbeing of players is a big question mark, and I think it needs addressing," said Djokovic, who beat Germany's Alexander Zverev in the last eight on Tuesday.

With the ATP and WTA tours set to hold events around the globe after the Australian Open, Djokovic has called for urgent discussions about how the season can continue without the need for players to face further period of quarantine.



Novak Djokovic

Players who remain in the Caribbean under pressure

The players who opted not to tour Bangladesh recently because of COVID concerns and personal reasons will face an extremely competitive environment when they return to the set-up.

That is the view of team coach Phil Simmons. West Indies completed a 2-0 sweep of the Asian team on Sunday in the two-match series. Many did not give the regional team a chance, after twelve players opted out of the tour with many fans and journalist referring to them as a 'second-string' team.

Some of the regular first team players who decided not to accept the invitation to tour Bangladesh

are Test captain Jason Holder, Darren Bravo, Roston Chase, Shane Dorwich and Shai Hope, leaving room for other players to fill the gap.

The West Indies selectors, led by Roger Harper, will have a larger pool of players to choose from for future tours, with a number of players performing admirably in Bangladesh and the expected return of experienced players.

Simmons told Cricket West Indies media that it is a good headache to have. He added that with so many players performing well, it gives selectors the opportunity a wider pool of players from which to select. Additionally, it puts

pressure on the people doing well because there are other people waiting to fill any void that may occur.

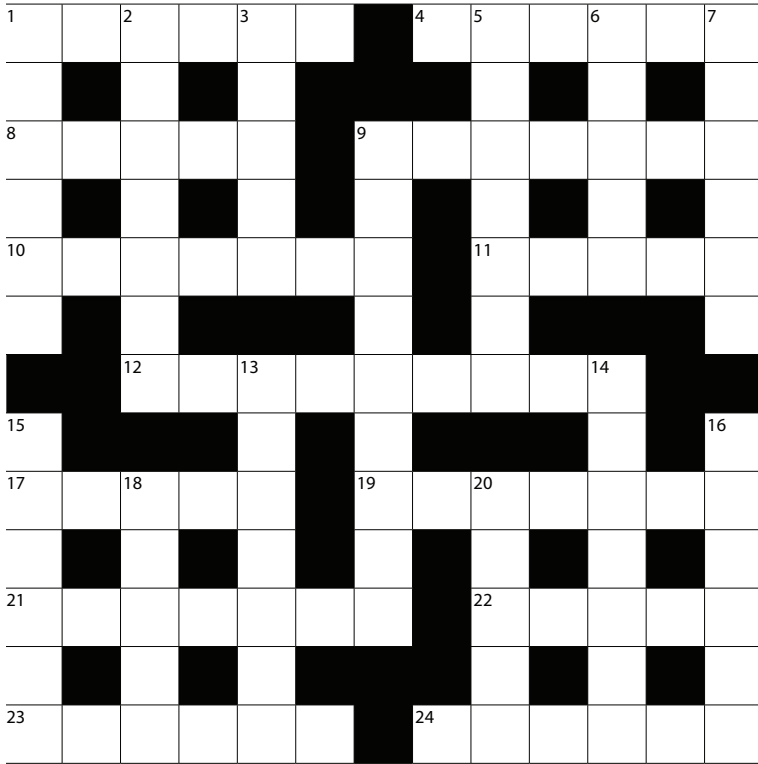
Some of players who performed well under the leadership of interim captain, Kraigg Braithwaite, include Nkrumah Bonner and Kyle Mayers who made their debut, and Joshua Da Silva who entered the tour with only one Test match under his belt.

Bonner averaged 57.75 with 231 runs, Da Silva 174 runs with an average of 43.50 and, the best batsman overall Mayers with 261 runs at an average of 87.00.

Off-spinner Rakeem 'Jimbo' Cornwall and left-arm

spinner Jomel Warrican were the most successful West Indies bowlers, combining to grab twenty-four wickets in the series. Cornwall took fourteen wickets, including match figures of 9/179 in the second Test. Warrican grabbed ten wickets, including match figures of 7/190 in the first Test. Simmons said Cornwall was outstanding, noting that his ability to bowl long spells helped the team immensely. Moreover, Cornwall was singled out for his ability to put people under pressure and get wickets. The coach also highlighted the contribution of captain Kraigg Braithwaite, Mayers, Bonner and Da Silva.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Concerning each of two or more people (6)
- 4 Heart-rending (6)
- 8 Principles that cannot be contested (5)
- 9 In a punctual manner (7)
- 10 Underwater swimmer in a rubber suit (7)
- 11 Clumsy (5)
- 12 Division of the Bible (9)
- 17 Seventeen-syllable poem (5)
- 19 Person moved away from a dangerous place (7)
- 21 Prevent from being discovered (7)
- 22 Production company's dogsbody (5)
- 23 Computer allowing access to the network (6)
- 24 Bee or ant? (6)

Down

- 1 Fielding position near the bowler (3-3)
- 2 Small vessel used for moving ships (7)
- 3 Warning device (5)
- 5 Come to understand (7)
- 6 Filth — music genre (5)
- 7 Small North American wolf (6)
- 9 Seem slightly familiar (4,1,4)
- 13 Squash (7)
- 14 Fungus scratched for by pigs (7)
- 15 Removes from the shell — I'm disappointed! (6)
- 16 Search through very thoroughly (6)
- 18 Intimate (5)
- 20 Gas, Ar (5)

DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



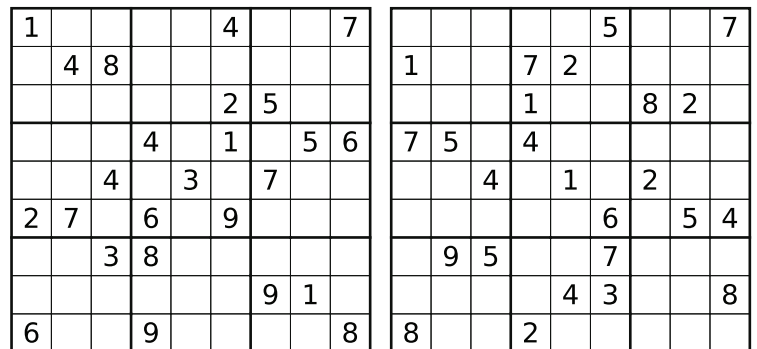
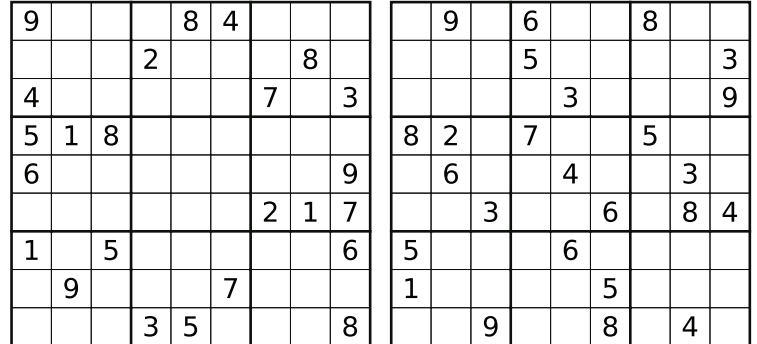
Garfield



Cathy




SUDOKU




How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

WED 02/17  **81° Hi** DAY Sunshine and some clouds
74° Lo NIGHT Partly cloudy with a brief shower

Sunrise 6:33 AM Sunset 6:10 PM Moonrise 10:21 AM Moonset 11:11 PM

THU 02/18  **82° Hi** DAY Times of clouds and sun with spotty showers
74° Lo NIGHT Partly cloudy with a shower in the area late

Sunrise 6:32 AM Sunset 6:10 PM Moonrise 10:58 AM Moonset 11:59 PM

COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE CATHEDRAL AND PARISH OF ST. JOHN
Considering the current restrictions there will be no in-person worship at any of our parish churches for the next two weeks. We do apologise for any inconvenience.

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.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

<p>♈ ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19</p> <p>You're cleaning house literally and figuratively. And whether you're looking for love or you're already in a committed relationship, themes revolving around your sense of belonging in the world and general meaning of stability.</p>	<p>♎ LIBRA Sept. 1 23-Oct. 22</p> <p>Alexa, play "Torn" by Natalie Imbruglia. You're stuck between a rock and a hard place today. And though the topic of balance is part of your expertise, there's always work to do.</p>
<p>♉ TAURUS Apr. 20-May 20</p> <p>Expect shifts and change from the cosmos today. You have been wanting to evolve and grow your life path, and today can be your opportunity to do so. Move forward with what resonates with you.</p>	<p>♏ SCORPIO Oct. 1 23-Nov. 21</p> <p>It's important to remain as grounded and calm as you can. Emotional reactions can feel at a high and saying something you later regret is a possibility. This is due to the authentic Jupiter in Aquarius in your emotional center.</p>
<p>♊ GEMINI May 21-June 20</p> <p>Though you've never been the type to retreat or shy away from adventure, the cosmos are currently challenging you to confront the unconscious patterns stifling your spirit. The more you cleanse and clear, the more you will thrive.</p>	<p>♐ SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21</p> <p>Lessons surrounding intrapersonal communication in your day-to-day work life can feel exacerbated. You may have to discuss the situation with HR or a third party, but it's for the best. Don't worry, it will work itself out.</p>
<p>♋ CANCER June 21-July 22</p> <p>The past comes back but this can be lucrative for you. A contact through your industry or wider network can agree to collaborate with you on a deeper level regarding a work project.</p>	<p>♑ CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19</p> <p>You want to play but you're also apprehensive. Follow your heart. Perhaps the person you're catching feelings for isn't up to par with the criteria on your checklist. Take a second to think things through.</p>
<p>♌ LEO July 23-Aug. 22</p> <p>Integral business relationships are up for review and you could have an important decision to make. If you have the luxury of taking your time, it's suggested that you do, but if not it's normal that a quick decision will have to be made.</p>	<p>♒ AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18</p> <p>Water-Bearer, love for what you do is just as important as the money you make. It's a win-win situation when you can have both. A passion project may come across your desk that you aren't sure about.</p>
<p>♍ VIRGO Aug. 23-Sept. 22</p> <p>You are receiving a platform to speak and express yourself on a wider scale, Virgo. This could feel uncomfortable at first, but it's a fantastic way to elevate yourself as a voice in your industry.</p>	<p>♓ PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20</p> <p>Speaking up isn't in your nature, but the cosmos are pushing you out of your comfort zone. You could have a deep conversation with a colleague or business partner surrounding your values and what you believe is right for humanity.</p>

PROBATE

FORM P7 (Rule 15)

**The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANUHPB 2020/

In the Estate of **BERTRAM FRANKLYN PETERS**, late of Pares Village, St. Phillip's, Antigua, Deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
SECOND PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by **THERESA WILMA PETERS nee LEWIS** and **NORELITA VERONICA GERTUDE PETERS** of Pares Village, St. Phillip's, Antigua, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicants who are the lawful wife and daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 21st day of October, 2019.

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

Dated the 05th day of February, 2021

**TALIA N. DACOSTA
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
STAPLETON CHAMBERS**

Filed by **STAPLETON CHAMBERS** Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Stapleton Chambers, Stapleton Lane, P. O. Box 2891, St. John's, Antigua, email: craig.jacas@stapletonchambers.com, Tel No: 268-562-7185; Fax No. 268-562-7967

PROBATE

FORM P7 (Rule 15)

**The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANUHPB 2020/

In the Estate of **"EITHEL SYLVESTER SMITH" a.k.a. "CARBOT MONTGOMERY SMITH" a.k.a. "CORBETT SMITH"**, late of Jennings Village, St. Mary's, Antigua, Deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
SECOND PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by **CELESTINA AGATHA SMITH a.k.a CELESTINA AGATHA JOSEPH** of Peas Alley, Jennings Village, St. Mary's, Antigua, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawful wife of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 09th day of May, 2020.

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

Dated the 05th day of February, 2021

**TALIA N. DACOSTA
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
STAPLETON CHAMBERS**

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Serena Williams remains on track to make history

Serena Williams produced a stunning performance to beat second seed Simona Halep and set up an Australian Open semi-final with Naomi Osaka.

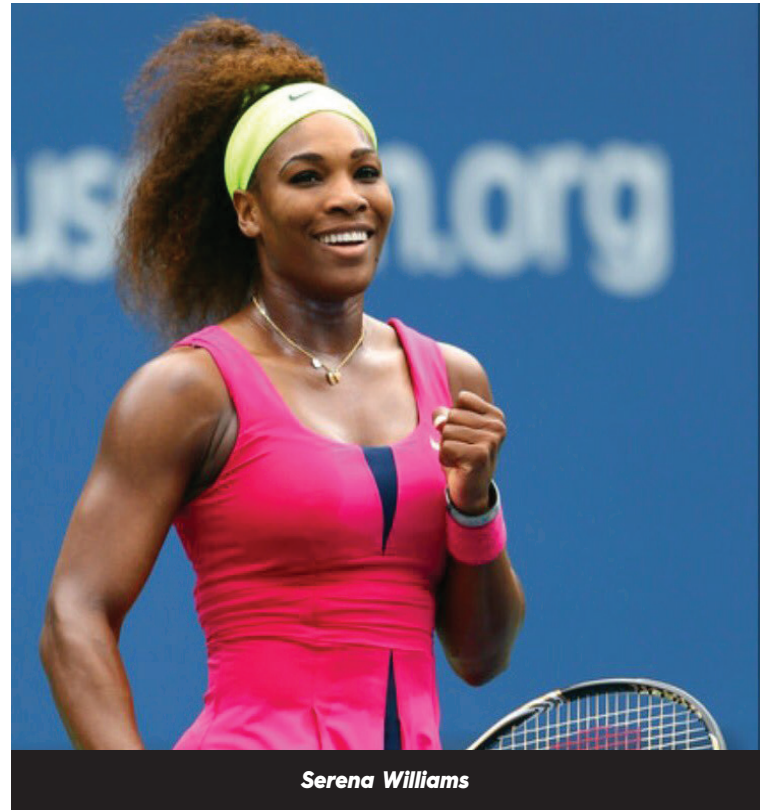
The thirty-nine-year-old American, bidding for a record-equating twenty-fourth Grand Slam title, won 6-3 6-3 against the Romanian. Williams who moved well and hit twenty-four winners said it is her best performance for the tournament.

Earlier on Tuesday, Osaka cruised past Hsieh Su-wei in just sixty-six minutes to reach the last four. The Japanese

third seed, who won the second of her three Grand Slam titles at Melbourne Park in 2019, beat the Taiwanese 6-2 6-2.

Now Osaka will face tenth seed Williams—a seven-time champion in Melbourne—on Thursday for the place in Saturday's final. It will be the first meeting between the pair since their infamous 2018 US Open final.

That saw Osaka win her maiden major title after Williams accused umpire Carlos Ramos of being a thief in some of the most dramatic scenes at a Grand Slam final.



Serena Williams

Dates for upcoming Sri Lanka tour announced



Cricket West Indies (CWI) have released the schedule for the upcoming Sri Lanka tour, slated to get on the way next month.

Playing in a bio-se-

cure bubble, the teams will play three T20s, three One-Day Internationals (ODIs), and two Test matches here in Antigua from Wednesday 3rd March to Fri-

day 2nd April.

This will be the Caribbean side's fourth series since July but will be the first at home following trips to England, New Zealand, and

more recently Bangladesh. Coolidge Grounds will create history, hosting its first international match by a West Indies Men's team and the first T20s to be played in Antigua since 2013.

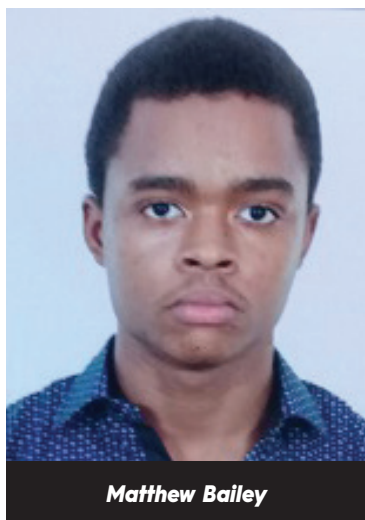
As reigning ICC T20 world champions, West Indies will use these matches as important preparation for the defence of their T20 World Cup title which is scheduled to be held in India later this year.

The Test matches are scheduled to start on Sunday 21st March and the second 29th March, providing the West Indies with another opportunity to win points and climb the ICC World Test Championship table following the recent success in Bangladesh.

Chess Federation New Year's Championship



Seymour Smith



Matthew Bailey



Chester Grant

The Antigua and Barbuda Chess Federation (ABCF) hosted its fourth annual New Year's Chess Championship on the 31st January. The annual tournament was held online due to the ongoing pandemic. The nature of the sport allowed for the easy transition to the online platform.

Furthermore, it reflects an increasing trend for play to be held online to the point where the world governing body for chess, FIDE, has allowed online games to be rated provided an arbiter is present.

The annual tournament saw the participation of fourteen players via the Lichess online chess platform.

Seymour Smith was declared the New Year's Champion in

a nearly uncontested run, only losing one game to third place finisher, Chester Grant. In second place was Matthew Bailey, the two-time back-to-back New Year's Champion. Matthew, also having lost only one game, lost on the tie-breaker criteria to Seymour. This tournament is the first of many upcoming online chess competitions that will be made available to members of the ABCF and other chess

enthusiasts.

In fostering a culture of equal opportunity and gender development, the ABCF announces the launch of an all-female chess training course. The official launch will be on the 27th February; the course is currently undergoing a recruitment phase with the goal of recruiting twenty-four participants. These participants will be separated into two groups which will host separate weekend classes on Sunday/Saturday independently, from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. over the course of twelve weeks. Further information can be found on the Antigua and Barbuda Chess Federation Facebook page: www.fb.me/AntiguanChess or by contacting the President, Chester Grant at 726-4908.

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