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BARBUDANS SUPPORT VACCINATION

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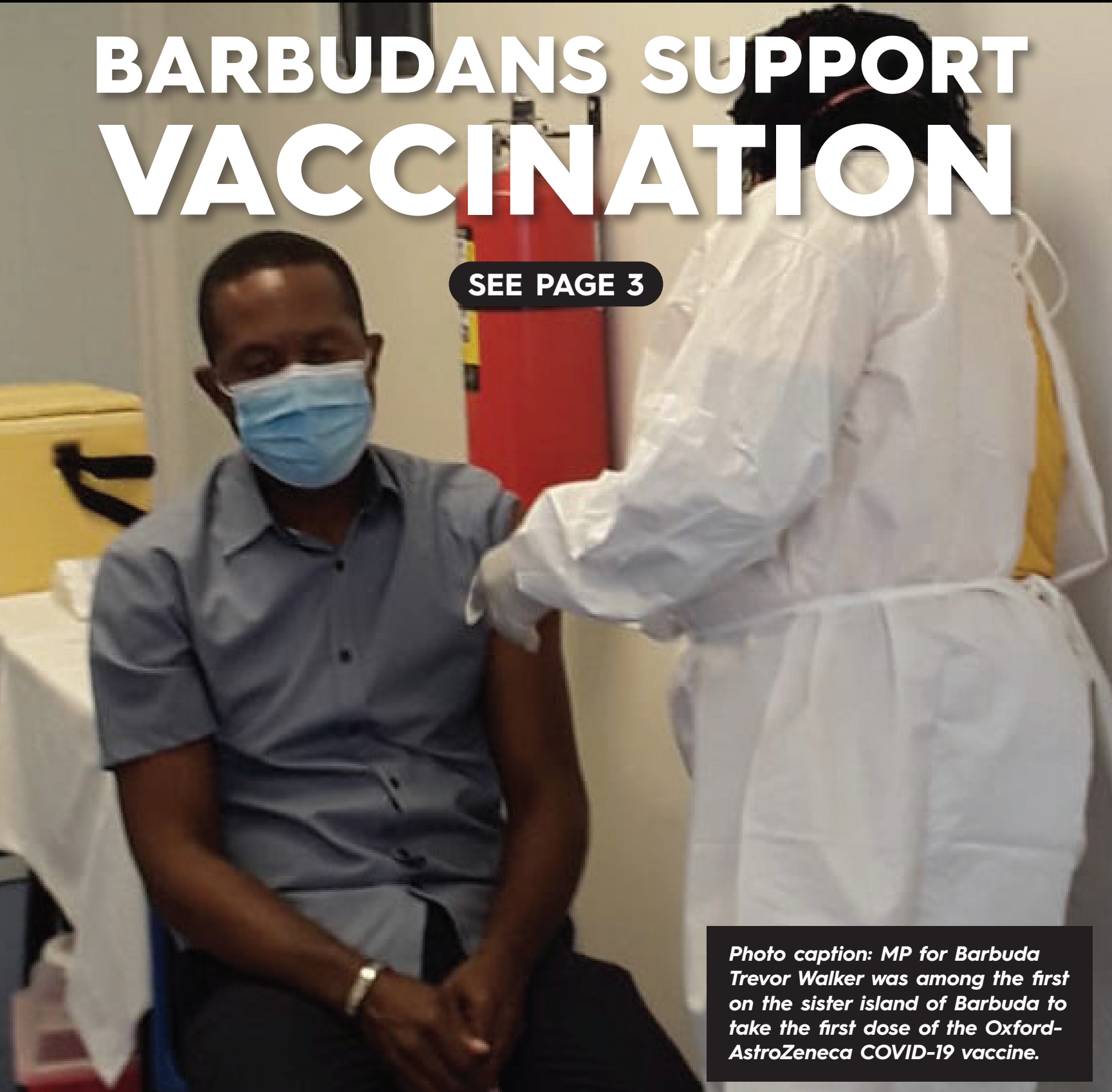


Photo caption: MP for Barbuda Trevor Walker was among the first on the sister island of Barbuda to take the first dose of the Oxford-AstroZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

EDITORIAL

A CALL TO ARMS

There was a recent call by Prime Minister Gaston Browne for a “political ceasefire” among the country’s two main political parties in an effort for them to coalesce on the issue of the current COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating effect on every aspect on national life: the economy, culture, religion, sports – you name it.

While we fully support the prime minister’s call and we see much merit in such an undertaking, we have decided to issue a call of our own; however, we are framing ours as a **call to arms**.

This call is in support of the national vaccination programme that is now ongoing. So far, more than five hundred persons have been vaccinated under the programme rolled out one week ago. That number includes fifty-five (55) from our sister island Barbuda. In a show of leadership, the island’s parliamentary representative, Trevor Walker, and members of the Barbuda Council were among that number.

With the acrimony that too often attends much of the relationship between the Council and the Central Government, it is a breath of fresh air to see both the Council and the government in lock-step on an issue as critical as the vaccination exercise. It is also heart-warming to hear that there is a general desire on the part of most Barbudans to get vaccinated. In the words of the Council Secretary Paul Nedd, “We have to fight this virus together!”

The entire Cabinet, members of Parliament, top sports person-

alities, the military and other security forces, as well as many frontline healthcare workers have also participated in the exercise and have been vaccinated. Former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer and UPP Political Leader Harold Lovell have agreed to be vaccinated and are to do so this week.

Unfortunately, there are many who have seized on people’s innate fears and suspicions and have been using these to place a wedge between those who have been hesitant about being vaccinated and those who fully agree to get their shots.

Those who are actively engaged in dissuading people from being vaccinated have been scurrying all corners of the internet, searching for information that would support their points of view; unfortunately, there is much in the way of conspiracy theories to be found.

Armed with what they believe is “irrefutable evidence,” these individuals then use the many social media platforms to disseminate what is essentially misinformation. It has led to much confusion in the society about the safety and/or efficacy of the vaccines.

Then there are those who get caught up with which is the ‘best’ brand of the available vaccines. In the words of the Mount St. John’s Medical Centre Medical Director, Dr. Albert Duncan, “The ‘best’ vaccine is the one available to you now!” The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine has been approved by the World Health Organization for use throughout the world. It is the vaccine now widely in use in the United Kingdom. It has

been proven to be highly effective against COVID-19.

Both the Pfizer and the Moderna vaccines are also highly effective. However, these vaccines are not available to us at the moment and may not be so for several months to come. Should the country wait? Can we afford any more deaths or hospitalizations, especially when another highly effective vaccine is readily available? We think not!

There are two bits of information that all of us in Antigua and Barbuda should take to heart and should do so now. Firstly, there are fourteen people who have died from COVID-19-related illnesses in Antigua and Barbuda, two of which were imported. Secondly, the research throughout the entire globe is that no one who has received any of the anti-COVID vaccines now available has either been hospitalized or has died! No one!

COVID-19 deaths have been described as some of the worst ways to die; it is a lonely way to spend one’s final hours, minutes on earth. Even the handling of the bodies is done differently and burial is often within days of dying. It has been described as an awful experience for family members.

This call to arms is one sure way of avoiding this terrible fate.

Get vaccinated as soon as possible!

Getting vaccinated means that you are ‘arming’ yourself against this highly-contagious and deadly virus.

Do it for your family, friends and for the country!

Barbudans support vaccination

The national vaccination exercise moved to the sister island Barbuda on Tuesday where the team was well received by residents of the island.

Secretary of the Barbuda Council, Paul Nedd, said the exercise drew participation from most of the elected members of the Barbuda Council as well as the parliamentary representative, Trevor Walker.

"We had many persons turning out to be vaccinated, including our front-line and essential workers such as nurses, police and senior members of the council staff. Many other individuals took the opportunity to vaccinate as Barbudans have generally accepted the need to inoculate themselves from the COVID-19 virus," he reported.

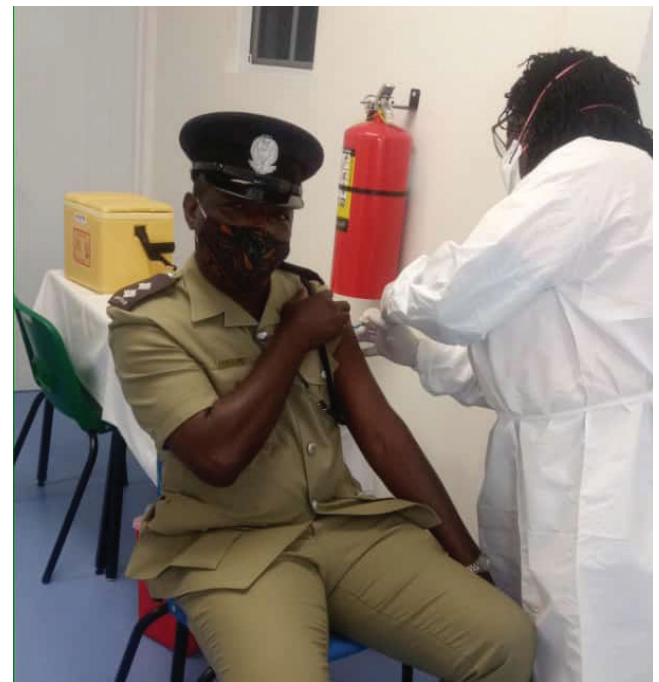
An estimated fifty-five

persons received their first dose of the vaccine, and according to Nedd, the team is likely to return at a later date to complete the vaccination exercise.

Nedd however wants more dialogue between the health authorities in Antigua and the Council on critical issues affecting the island, such as the current vaccination exercise. "I wish the health authorities would

have involved Barbudans a little more in discussions around these issues. There has been none; however, we are optimistic that this will happen soon. We believe that in situation as a pandemic, we should all be operating from the same page," he remarked.

According to Nedd, most Barbudans will present themselves to be vaccinated when the opportunity presents itself.



Barbudans taking their first dose of the Oxford-AstroZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

Divergence of views on economic stimulus as Senate debates 2021 budget

There was a divergence of views on the approaches to an economic stimulus package as seen by the government and that of the opposition during Tuesday opening of the debate on the National Budget in the Upper House, the Senate.

In her presentation to the Senate, Leader of Government Business Senator Mary Claire Hurst decided to address the issue head-on as it has been one of the issues that the opposition party has sought to make an issue of since the start of the pandemic about a year ago.

Senator Hurst said the approach adopted by the Gaston Browne Administration takes many forms, including the decision to maintain employment in the public sector at current levels. She explained that with large portions of the private sector laying off workers because of the pandemic, the government's decision not to lay-off workers in the public sector remains a major boost for the economy as it ensures that in many households at least one person remains employed.

She further explained that the economy lost over one hundred million dollars in revenue due to the pandemic, and that it has had to borrow money from sources such as the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank to help keep the nation afloat. The Leader of Government Business ruled out adopting an International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme as that would entail downsizing in the

public sector.

"When you look at the portion of the pie chart that represents salaries and wages, it's a big portion because we have to keep people employed so that you can stimulate growth. If one doesn't have any money that person cannot go to shop for goods and services. It is important that we keep people employed!" she declared.

She referenced the fact that since March 2020 public sector workers have all been paid each month and in many cases such as last December and last month, paid quite early. "At the end of every month, all of us go to the bank or check our accounts online and see that our salaries/wages are deposited to our accounts. The country would have been in an uproar if this was not so," Senator Hurst opined.

Additionally, she noted that several government agencies such as APUA have introduced measures to assist customers during the current crisis, while others, such as the Ministry of Social Transformation, have distributed over fifty thousand food packages to people in need since the start of the pandemic.

Senator Hurst is of the view that these programmes have a greater impact than would a single cash payment to those in need as has been suggested by the opposition.

Supporting her claim that the government's policy has been more impactful, Hurst noted that in the case of APUA it has forgiven an estimated twenty-one million dollars in customers' debt over the period.

ty-one million dollars in customers' debt over the period.

In response, Minority Leader in the Senate Senator Richard Lewis took a different view. He accused the government of wasting the resources of the country from such sources as the Citizenship by Investment Programme, as well as failing to "save money for a rainy day" when the economy was performing well.

"We listened to the finance minister presenting the national budget with much anticipation, hoping for some relief for a suffering people; we waited in vain. With a decimated economy, unprecedented unemployment, a virtually dead tourism sector, an overwhelmed health sector, the people of Antigua and Barbuda are suffering and are looking for a solution. The budget we are debating today offers no such solution," he emphasized.

Senator Lewis was also highly critical of the government's handling of the COVID-19 crisis. Making reference to the dashboard, he noted that since the start of the year there has been a sharp increase in the number of people becoming infected as well as the number of active cases which now are approaching four hundred.

He accused the government of not enforcing the regulations evenly and said this was one reason for the jump in the country's positivity rate.

Senator Lewis however is making an appeal to the nation to avail themselves of the vaccine when it becomes available.

PM Browne calls on UN Security Council for new approaches to issues of Climate Change



Prime Minister Gaston Brown Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Gaston Browne, on Tuesday called on the United Nations Security Council to adopt an all-hands-on deck approach in dealing with climate change.

Speaking at a United Nations Security Council Open Debate under the theme,

"Addressing Climate-Related Risks to International Peace and Security," Prime Minister Browne said that as climate change continues to threaten peace and

security, small island developing states (SIDS) are asking for an all-hands-on deck approach.

"We therefore encourage the Security Council to continue to host high-level open debates on climate security discussions that are inclusive of UN Member States, scientists, academia, and civil society. In addition, we would like to see the development of an inclusive UN Member State driven climate-security risk assessment tool, that is both preventative and reactive to climatic events," PM Browne stated.

Prime Minister Browne also outlined that SIDS have observed a glaring gap in the international community's pursuit for the widest possible cooperation by all countries, for an effective and appropriate response. He further pointed out that as a particularly vulnerable constituency that contributed the least to climate change, SIDS are reminding states that they all have common, but differentiated responsibilities to address climate change, its adverse effects, and associated loss and damage.

"Continuing our work

without an equitable, coordinated, and sufficient global response, leaves SIDS with gross uncertainties in relation to our population's lives, livelihoods. We are losing our territories, populations, resources, and very existence due to climate change," he said.

Prime Minister Browne also stated that the world is also facing this threat, and it is not by weapons, but by an invisible enemy, climate change, that everyone agree is real.

"Sadly, SIDS continue to be on the frontline for this war. Our appeal for the Council is to take this threat very seriously before it is too late," PM Browne concluded.

As Chair of AOSIS, Prime Minister Browne pledged to continue to highlight the often-overlooked threats faced by small island developing states, specifically in light of their fragility and more particularly their vulnerability.

The UN Security Council Open Debate was also addressed by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron, United States Special Presidential Envoy on Climate John Kerry and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

Twenty-two new COVID-19 cases reported

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has revealed twenty-two (22) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 22nd February 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

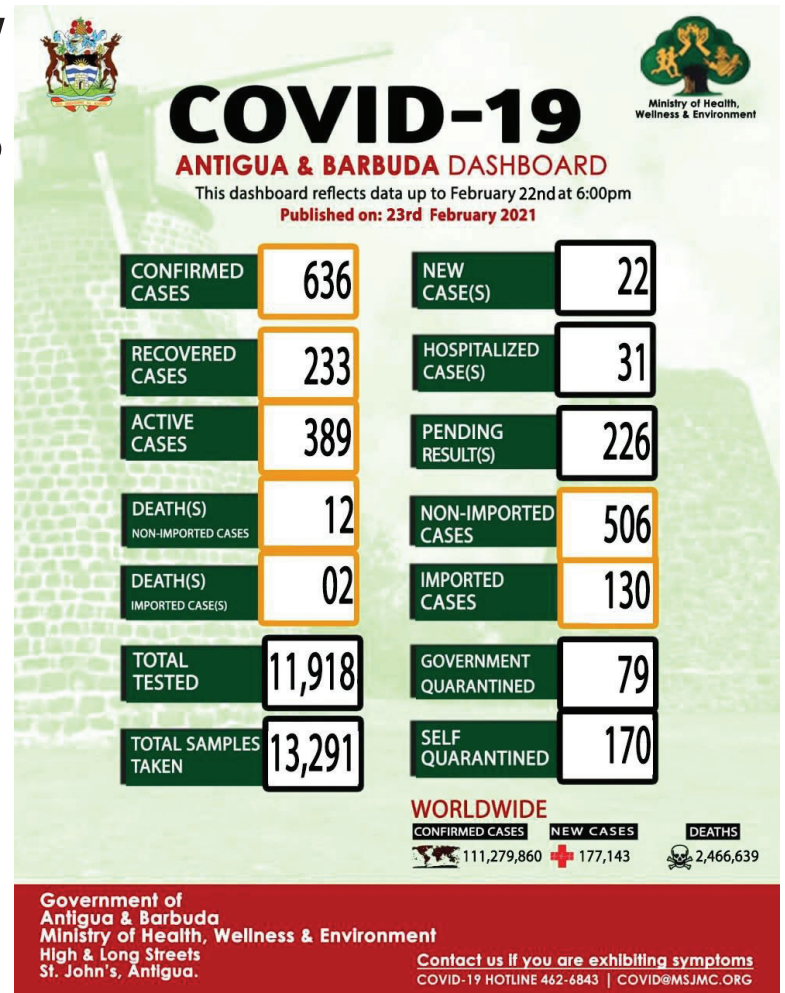
All ninety (90) samples were processed at CARPHA, sixty-six (66) were negative and twenty-four (24) positive. Two (2) of the positive cases were repeat tests. The twenty-two

(22) cases are non-imported.

Eleven (11) recoveries have been recorded, bringing that total to two hundred and thirty-three (233).

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is six hundred and thirty-six (636), which is inclusive of three hundred and eighty-nine (389) active cases.

The dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.



The COVID-19 vaccine prevents severe illness, hospitalization, and death.



#GetTheFacts #GetTheVax

EACH VACCINATED, ALL PROTECTED.

Housing programme in Barbuda set to restart

The European Union funded housing programme in Barbuda is will soon restart with construction of an additional eighty-four homes, set to start in 'a matter of weeks.'

The update comes from head of the Office of the National Authorizing Officer (ONAO), Dr. Clarence Henry. "Construction will restart shortly on the eighty-four homes that will be repaired or reconstructed as part of the European Union support to Antigua and Barbuda to address the impact of Hurricane Irma in 2017," Dr. Henry revealed.

He said the Beneficiary Selection Committee (BSC) has been holding regular meetings to spearhead

the drive to complete the project. The BSC comprises the Ministry of Works, the Development Control Authority (DCA), the Barbuda Council, the Ministry of Barbuda Affairs and the ONAO.

According to Dr. Henry, the firm - Harrigan Construction - has been awarded the contract to undertake the work. However, the ONAO head said there is a commitment from the construction boss, Colin Harrigan, that employment opportunities will become available for people in construction on both islands. "Harrigan has signalled significant job opportunities throughout the construction period of approximately eigh-

teen months. He has also assured that not only will jobs be available for Barbudans, but that several Barbuda contractors will receive sub-contracts to undertake the construction of several of the homes," he stated.

According to Dr. Henry, the EU has expressed satisfaction with the progress of the project thus far; there are twenty houses that have already been completed under the project.

However, the BSC is placing a condition on people who have received or who will be receiving houses under the programme. "We are putting in place a stipulation that those who receive homes under

the project must insure the houses against any future disaster. The current conditions worldwide are that donor countries are all dealing with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and do not have appetite to finance private houses for individuals anywhere. This project is likely to be last of its kind and those who benefit must protect what they have," he warned.

The European Union has made available five million euros (about EC\$17.5 million). Dr. Henry also explained that the current houses are now being built stronger and are more resistant to natural disasters such as hurricanes.

Police seeking information in shooting incident

The police have launched an appeal for information surrounding the shooting incident in the Point on Monday afternoon that left a young man nursing several gunshot wounds in the hospital.

Spokesman, Inspector Frankie Thomas, said the victim - Omarie Christopher - has been hospitalized. His condition remains unclear. "The victim is still hospitalized while our investigations are ongoing. Police are appealing to the public for information in connection with the incident," he told **PointeXpress** newspaper on Tuesday.

Reports indicate that the victim was shot multiple times by unknown assailant(s) outside a shop on Lower St. John's Street.



Shooting victim Omarie Christopher

Woman charged for operating bar and having social gathering

A woman will be standing trial on 30th April for operating a bar after she admitted to the court Tuesday that she merely had a social gathering at the back of her bar.

Eloisa Perez was slapped with two charges when police spotted several vehicles in front of her bar over the weekend.

She was charged for operating a bar during a state of emergency and failing to comply with the social gathering restriction.

She only pleaded guilty to the latter and will therefore be going to trial for

the former.

It is said that on the afternoon of 21st February, police on mobile patrol noticed a number of vehicles parked near the Broken Stool bar, also known as Lisa's Bar, on Upper Fort Road and when they went to the back of the establishment, they counted eight people gathered and drinking.

The defendant was reportedly observed coming from the side door of the bar when she was summoned.

The woman attempted to explain to Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh that

her bar, which is in front of her home, was closed but she hosted a social gathering in the back.

However, the woman was asked to save her defence for trial since she pleaded not guilty.

The Magistrate revoked the woman's station bail and instead granted her temporary release in the sum of five thousand dollars, with a two-thousand-dollar cash component.

She also has to report to the nearest police station three days a week, provide one surety and surrender her travel documents.

Committal hearing adjourned for couple charged with forging cheques

A young couple who is believed to have forged and cashed several cheques in November 2020 will have to wait another month and a half to find out whether there is a prima facie case against them

Twenty-two-year-old Auriae Aaron and twenty-one-year-old Troy Davis have been charged with forgery, obtaining goods under false pretences, and uttering (passing a forged or counterfeited document).

Aaron was reportedly an employee at a real estate company a few years ago and is believed to have recently returned to her former employer, requesting a reference letter.

Sometime that day she reportedly wrote a letter granting her permission to collect cheque books on behalf of the company with the forged signature of the person who wrote

the reference letter attached. The bank gave her the cheque books which she reportedly used to write several cheques.

She and her boyfriend attempted to cash those cheques and reportedly successfully cashed at least one cheque at a gas station, before the cashier contacted the police. Reports also suggest that the Bolans woman and the All Saints man were arrested after the police were called. The cashier is said to have become sceptical because of the frequency and number of cheques that the couple was cashing.

The two appeared before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh last year and were granted bail in the amount of four thousand dollars each, on the condition that they each pay one thousand dollars in cash, sur-

render their travel documents, report to a police station three days a week and supply two sureties.

The couple returned to the St. John's Magistrates' Court Tuesday for what was to be their committal hearing, but the defence was not yet served the file.

The prosecution had promised to serve the file on Tuesday and the matter was therefore adjourned one final time.

Aaron's lawyer, Warren Cassell, then disclosed that his client is one week away from her due date to deliver a baby by caesarean section.

The Magistrate therefore amended one of her bail conditions to allow her to sign it as the nearest police station once a week on any day of her choice.

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Climate change financing project launches virtually tomorrow

By Shelton Daniel

The Department of Environment (DOE) here in Antigua and Barbuda is collaborating with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to launch a project aimed at (and named) *"Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society's Access and Readiness to Climate Finance."*

The DOE is on board as the Nationally Designated Agency (NDA), while CANARI is the Implementing Partner Agency for this project, which is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The virtual launch - scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday 25th February 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to midday - will be conducted via Zoom.

Ms. Refica Attwood, Executive Director of the Wallings Nature Reserve Inc., is Antigua and Barbuda's National Project Coordinator and Civil Society Liaison for this project.

She and Daryl George, Senior Environment Officer in the DOE, spoke Tuesday morning about the project on **PointeFM's Starting Pointe** programme.

She lamented that, "Too often things like this are started in Antigua and Barbuda and we are not known to have a good track record that we finish. The Department of Environ-

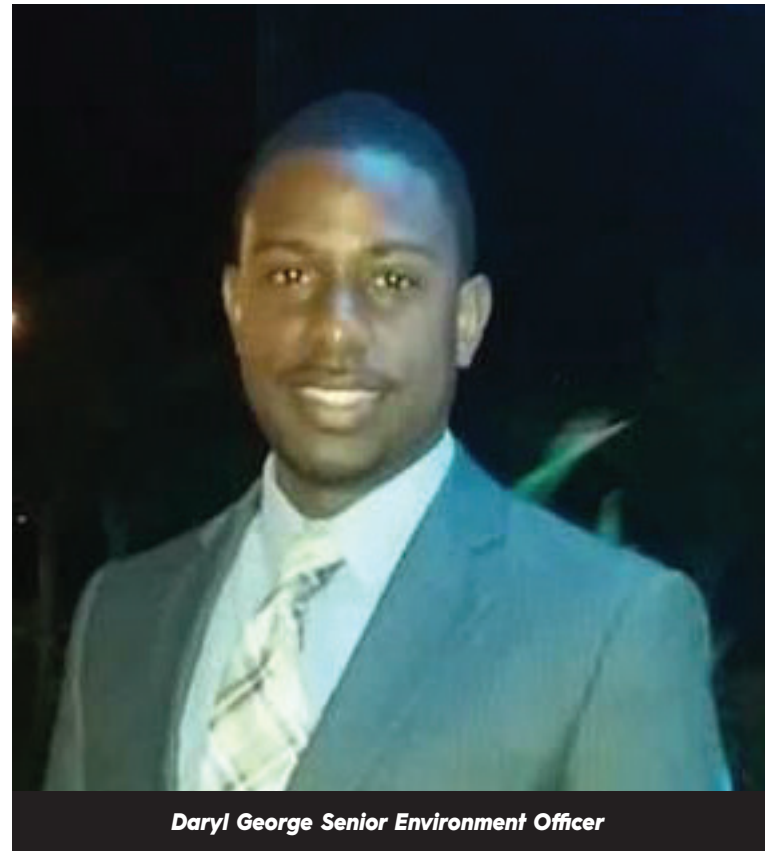
ment has been dragged and slung through the mud by persons who do not understand the red tape that they have to work along with to get things done."

Attwood said this was the reason for CANARI's involvement as an independent implementation agency, not in any way connected with government, whose work could continue even if there were a change in administration.

The project aims to bring together all civil society organizations - including churches and other community-based groups - to provide capacity training and the development of skillsets so that when access to financing becomes available they will be in a position to utilize such opportunities.

One of the main areas for such capacity building and skillsets development is in training persons how to write project proposals in order to source grant financing; and the correct way to write, structure and submit reports that satisfy the accountability requirements of donors.

According to George, "Grant writing is a very important factor.... Many of these international agencies, when they do provide funding at a country level, it also includes fund-



Daryl George Senior Environment Officer

ing for community organizations. What we want to ensure is that these community organizations are able to access those finances at their maximum level. Some of the issues that we run into is that we're already offering funding. But, for example, a lot of churches and community organizations aren't used to writing [grant proposals] and that is a particular skill in and of itself."

It is hoped that one of outcomes from the launch of this project will be the formation of a national coalition of civil society organizations that can access funding collectively from international do-

nors.

Attwood explained that the push for funding is also seeking to "bridge the gap" between the expectation that people engaged in environmental support work should provide their services voluntarily and the realistic need for some compensation in instances where measurable costs are involved.

"Even if it's a stipend, you need persons to be motivated. We are looking at ensuring that every time a civil society organization accesses finance, they can write in a section that focuses on human resource, without which the project cannot be done properly."



Meeting fear with preparation and planning

The latest update of the Antigua & Barbuda Dashboard shows that as at 20th February 2021 there were sixteen new cases of COVID-19, bringing the tally of confirmed cases to six hundred and fourteen with three hundred and seventy-eight active cases and fourteen deaths. This is an increase in confirmed cases of one hundred and sixty-two per cent and a one hundred per cent increase in the number of deaths since this month started!

Since then we have seen two adjustments in the curfew start time, our students have returned to virtual learning and some organizations have reinstituted work from home activities all in an effort to curb the spread of the disease. But is this enough? Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) continues to advocate for a national pause of fourteen days followed by wide-spread testing. Prime Minister Gaston Browne is quoted as saying that a national lockdown would hurt more than it will help based on the fragile state of the current economy. As HR practitioners, we recognize that way beyond the detrimental impact to the economy, there are social and emotional trauma that could be brought to bear on our small society if the rate of community spread and the death toll are to increase any further.

So what do we do in the meantime? We acknowledge that some employees are still trying to balance work productivity with assisting their children with virtual classes. There is still some anxiety and many are fearful of leaving their homes. In the absence of a national pause, HRPAB advocates for a three-pronged approach: the establishment of intensive scheduled organizational sanitization programmes, the practising of wide-spread testing within the workplace and the implementation of an in-

house vaccination education campaign. These necessary actions are already underway in many local industry leading companies.

With respect to an intensive cleaning programme, HRPAB recommends the use of electrostatic spraying which is approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) as well as local health authorities as being a safe, non-toxic method of applying broad-spectrum virucidal that have proven effective against the COVID-19 virus. More than one local vendor offers this service that quickly cleans large areas at a per square foot cost to businesses.

Establishing a testing policy for the workplace requires careful planning and consultation. As with all well-implemented policies, consultation with key stakeholders namely the employees and their representatives is key. A testing programme must consider the following factors:

Organizational structure and layout of the work space. There may be some employees who due to their lack of interaction will not need testing as opposed to others with significant daily interactions.

Frequency of testing. Even the most willing employees may become test-fatigued if the testing is to occur more regularly than fortnightly.

Cost of testing and who will pay for it. There are several providers offering the Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test at costs ranging from one hundred and thirty dollars to two hundred and seventy dollars per test. As group medical policies do not cover the cost of routine testing, either the company or the employee will have to pay.

Disclosure of information. HRPAB recommends that as much confidentiality as possible be preserved, except where the public safety of the organization dictates otherwise. Disclosure of positive results may only

be required for departmental heads to plan coverage to prevent disruption of operations, and for notifications that are necessary to facilitate contact tracing.

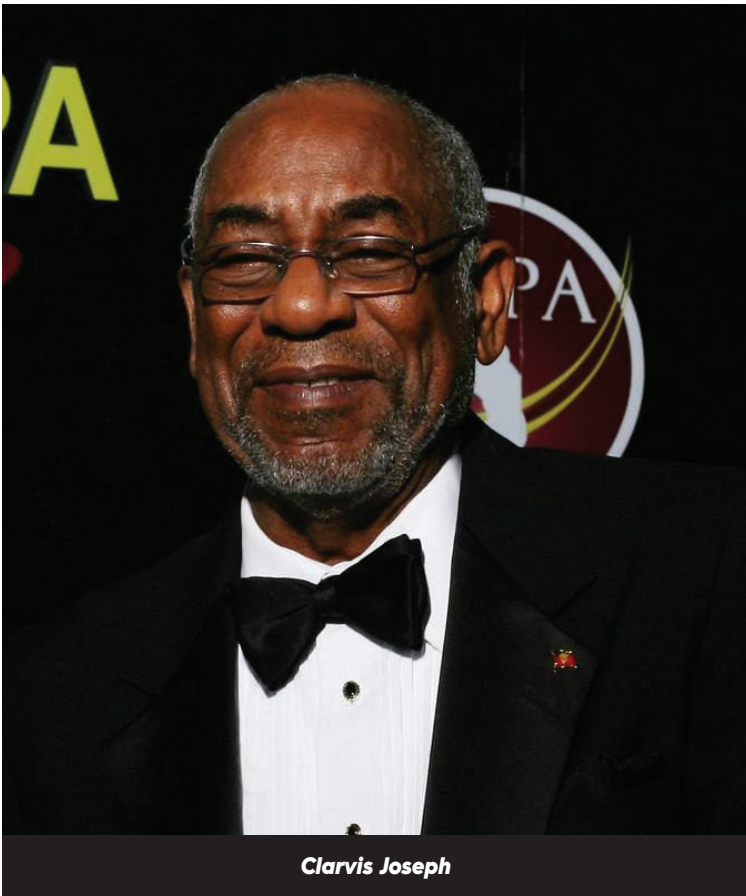
Retention of information. A confidential database should be established for the testing data, to keep track of testing due dates and length of quarantine where necessary.

One of the main obstacles to wide-spread testing in the workplace has been the employee's right not to be tested. But can testing be effective if the entire employee body does not participate? The framers of our Labour Code did not anticipate a pandemic such as this so it does not provide clear guidance, neither are there any precedents set which we can follow. Companies must therefore consult with their employees and/or their representatives in these matters to find that balance between one employee's right to privacy and comfort, and another's right to feel safe in the workplace.

In our next article we will discuss establishing an in-house vaccination education programme.

*The **Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB)** is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268*

Clarvis Joseph leaves long-lasting legacy



Clarvis Joseph

By Colin James

Clarvis Joseph was quintessentially what an Antiguan and Barbudan would want for his country – the best – whether you agree or not.

He was a larger-than-life personality who loomed large over this twin-island nation in business, cricket, sports, music, culture and social life.

Professor, as I reverently dubbed him during our many conversations on and off the record, was always amenable to talks; to do an interview, or just to muse on any issue.

I first knew when he took up the mantle of cricket leadership in Antigua and by extension the Leeward Islands in the early 1980s and by 1984 when I took up journalism as a profession Clarvis was one of my

sort-after interviewees.

There are not many personalities whom I would have interviewed who were as engaging and forthright as Clarvis. I name the late Tim Hector, former Prime Ministers Lester Bird and Baldwin Spencer, top sports administrators Pat Whyte and Henderson Bass, and the late, Fitzroy Brann, Sydney Christian, Rupert 'Ruby' Lake and Calvin Greenaway in that esteemed category.

When you ask Clarvis or that motley group a question you dare not interrupt the answer because you risk the chance of missing out on a 'juicy' quotable quote or some life-learning or changing information that you would not want to regret.

Our relationship moved to another realm when I took up employment at

the Antigua and Barbuda Employers Federation between the mid-1980s-early 1990s where I was exposed to his business acumen as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and then Managing Director of the successfully locally formed and owned CaribSeas shipping company, during an era when foreign-based shipping business dominated.

I remember him vividly telling me that he persuaded some of close friends (among them Pat 'Sheepie' Evanson, Kenrick 'Hutton' Isaac and Victor Michael) whom he would have "a lime" on Sundays to bring EC\$500 each the next Sunday and the proceeds will go towards forming CaribSeas.

Such was his vision that the rest is history as CaribSeas employed a number of Antiguan and Caribbean nationals to compete proudly with the containerized giants of the day.

He charted the Chamber through some sticky political issues as the business fraternity fought relentlessly to preserve its identity and remain a viable organization in an ever-changing climate in the 1980s and 1990s.

He was not afraid to ruffle feathers – political, union, employees or port workers – which naturally would have led to some detractors, who would later buy into his mantra of fairness.

His 'at-times abrasive but meant-no-harm approach' could have been embedded in him from his upbringing in The Point, a

community where you had to be tough to fend the 'grinding' you would receive from everyone.

Clarvis would trade banter with the Port Workers while showing respect for their labour but was a tough negotiator, giving no inch until he was satisfied that whom he represented got their fair share.

He never forgot his roots and contributed and supported Harmonites Steel Orchestra, calypsonians and other cultural exponents, such as Dynamics Mas troupe, where he and his section would jam shirtless through the streets of St John's on Carnival Monday and Tuesday.

Clarvis was an avid acolyte of his fellow villager, Sir Mclean (King Short Shirt) Emanuel, but also adored Sir Paul (King Obstinate) Richards and the late Rupert (King Swallow) Philo, Antigua's three most celebrated champions of the calypso artform.

He was a big fan of the Burning Flames band when they dominated the local and regional landscape with their energy-snapping up-tempo and slow-groove jam-band repertoire.

A chain-smoker, Clarvis also enjoyed a drink or two with friends and colleagues. But his wife, Dr Marlene Joseph, a general medical practitioner, would have ensured his health was in order until he took ill and eventually succumbed to his ailment on 20th February.

I enjoyed a good relationship with his sons, Kevin and Damon, especially the latter, whose more

cont'd on pg 12

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free-spirited nature mimicked his father.

I would not have seen or spoken with him in a while as the coronavirus pandemic limited social interaction but his last public interview on the Good Morning JoJo show was a thesis on the best practices of sports administration.

His revelations, especially how he wooed regional cricket administrators into relocating the West Indies Cricket Board (now Cricket West Indies) to Antigua with the support of then Prime Minister Lester Bird, was a masterstroke in brinkmanship.

Before that monumental achievement, Clarvis helped steer the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) to the forefront of regional and sub-regional cricket, coinciding with the emergence of Sir Richie Richardson and Sir Curtly

Ambrose who were preceded by the pioneering legends, Sir Viv Richards and Sir Andy Roberts.

Clarvis was instrumental in the modernization of the world-famous Antigua Recreation Ground, and supported Chickie Hi-Fi and popularization of Carnival Cricket as the country's status as a Test venue reaped dividends for the coffers of the regional game.

His vice-presidency stint in support of Jamaican Pat Rousseau's presidency heralded the slow-coming-of-the-times of the WICB into a more professional, business and commercial-driven, and marketing-focused modern machine.

The eventual evolution of the regional cricket power from a few employees to a super-structure organization is not short of Clarvis' imagination, notwithstanding the is-

suces of conflict with the players union and the ill-fated tour to South Africa in the late 1990s.

His presidency of the social and career-building Jaycees organization helped to cement the annual queen pageant as a staple on the Carnival calendar while spurring scores of young aspirants to enhance their business careers or educational and personal development.

His presence backstage on the night of the show, directing the proceedings like a stoic traffic officer, ensured its timely delivery to the thousands in the audience.

Clarvis' indelible imprint will be hard to emulate, but leaves a footprint for those who would follow to succeed.

Gone, but will never be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Prof!

Antigua and Barbuda's latest PhD graduate breaks new ground with research

Antigua and Barbuda's latest PhD graduate is Dr. Na-Ajele Gadija Williams-Buffonge.

Dr. Williams-Buffonge achieved this academic accomplishment by completing her dissertation which is entitled, 'Caribbean Lecturers' Believed Barriers to Technology Adoption from a Tertiary Viewpoint'.

The Walden University graduate has lectured at the University of West Indies for more than a decade and has served as a Practicum Supervisor at UWI Open Campus. She has also enjoyed an illustrious career at the Antigua State College for more than sixteen years. She holds a Master of Science in Education and undergraduate degrees in



Dr. Na-Ajele Gadija Williams-Buffonge

English and Education.

Her groundbreaking research examines the adoption of educational technology and could not come at a better time. Dr. Williams-Buffonge said, "I decided to explore this topic in 2011 because it was relatively new to the Caribbean's educational arena and I felt that it could positively impact

student's learning and enrich the teaching methods of lecturers. I never imagined that we would be facing a global pandemic that would force educators and guardians to rely on technology as the primary method for teaching students of all ages. I am committed to capitalizing on this moment and taking the opportunity to share

my research and knowledge with key stakeholders and assist them with strategies that will enable them to overcome barriers to technology adoption through innovation and collaboration."

Her research has filled a huge gap because it finally puts Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean on the map by providing regional data that can inform current academic discourse about the impacts of technology adoption in education. The proud graduate plans to continue to pursue this area of research and she also hopes to mentor students and lecturers so that they too can reach their academic goals and contribute to the betterment of the twin-island state.

Gov't brings constituency fund through back door – Leacock



Central Kingstown representative St. Clair Leacock

(iWitness News): Central Kingstown representative St. Clair Leacock says the Unity Labour Party administration is implementing his much-touted constituency Development Fund concept, despite their expressed opposition.

Leacock has suggested that such a fund be set up to finance small projects in constituencies, saying that their execution could help with unemployment, while facilitating infrastructural development.

"Mr. Minister of Finance,

it's not my prerogative to be in the business of the Unity Labour Party but we have to be striving for efficiency and effectiveness," Leacock said in the Budget Debate.

He said that Opposition leader Godwin Friday had asked him to examine the budgetary provisions for the Ministry of Urban Development.

Leacock said this is an important ministry, "largely because it deals with infrastructure and construction, construction being one of

our greatest drivers of job creation in our economy; nobody can fault that."

"When I looked at page 501 in the Budget and I saw and heard the honourable minister speaking about local government, I put my hand over my mouth and then moved it over my head and bawled.

"Because I want to know if this is the same government that says not over their dead body they would ever subscribe to the notion of a constituency development [fund]. But here it is," Leacock said.

He said that the fiscal package speaks to establishing "local government services to cover the entire country by establishing four new offices at Sandy Bay, Stubbs, Fountain and Questelles."

"And now he wants to go on to bring some of them to Canouan and other places," Leacock said.

He said that the ministry's summary by programme "stole the cake."

This is a ministry that recurrent budget is \$12 million. But of the 12 million, 6 million is a grant to the Ar-

gyle International Airport. So you have a ministry with a \$6 million recurrent budget with forty employees, less people than a staff nurse is responsible for, or the superintendent of prisons, or the Fire Department or the Coast Guard; transmission, distribution, generation – several departments, hundreds in St. Vincent and the Grenadines run departments in excess of those numbers and they don't need a permanent secretary and all of this paraphernalia," Leacock said.

"This ministry could have been amalgamated with others because when you go and look at the capital side of the programme, page 736, first of all, we established Argyle International Airport as a stand-alone entity, but through the backdoor, central government is still funding it..

"You would have thought that they'd begin to do some of those dynamics for themselves," he said of the airport, which began operating four years ago this Sunday.

REAL TALK

With

**BEEF | RASTAMAN
KENTAE & BERNARD**

MONDAY & THURSDAY TUESDAY
7pm-Until 9pm-Until



Hundreds line Lady Young Road in silent vigil



Hundreds line the Lady Young Road in Morvant in T&T in silent vigil

Dressed in white and holding candles and posters bearing the names of hundreds of victims, the groups waited as a music truck blaring gospel music made its way along the route. The truck and a bus filled with dancers stopped at each location to allow different pastors to deliver prayers on different national issues related to crime.

Religious leaders who participated in the event were heard praying for justice for victims as well as for guidance for members of the protective services, the Government, and the Judiciary.

Although the event at-

tracted persons from a wide range of ages, the elderly and children were clearly in the majority. One of the largest groups along the route was camped at the popular Lady Young Lookout and was joined by the relatives of Ashanti Riley, the eighteen-year-old whose abduction and murder in December, last year, caused massive public outrage.

The vigil, which was held in conjunction with Is There Not A Cause (ITNAC), Operation Salvation, and the Morvant Open Bible Standard Church (Church on the Rock) eventually ended at the Queen's Park Savannah after 6:00 p.m.

(Trinidad Guardian): Hundreds of persons lined the Lady Young Road in Morvant as the Open Bible Standard Churches of T&T hosted a silent vigil for the victims of gen-

der-based violence, yesterday. The event, entitled "Enough is Enough," saw different church groups take up strategic positions along the popular roadway from around 4:00 p.m.

No one will be turned away amid hospital crunch – Tufton

(Jamaica Gleaner): Minister of Health and Wellness Dr. Christopher Tufton says despite the crunch current facing some hospitals, no one will be turned away.

He made the declaration at a press conference this afternoon where he revealed that several hospitals across Jamaica are facing capacity issues amid rising cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations.

Tufton says administrators should ensure that persons are properly triaged to determine the state of their health and render the necessary help.

Further, regional health authorities, and by extension hospitals, have been asked to put in place temporary arrangements, whether that be tents and chairs, to ensure that all persons are assessed and that normal protocols are followed.

At the same time, the health and wellness minister is encouraging persons who do not need to go to a hospital at this time not to do so.

Instead, persons are being encouraged to utilize services at health centres, especially for non-emergency cases.



Jamaica Minister of Health and Wellness Dr. Christopher Tufton

Over \$844M budgeted for improved water supply nationwide



Guyana's Susan Rodrigues Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water

(Guyana Chronicle): In responding to claims from Opposition Parliamentarians that the government has no vision for development, Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, affirmed that Guyanese could expect greater access to water, as the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) administration has set aside over \$844 million to increase the supply of this necessity

nationwide.

The government plans to increase treated water coverage, reduce non-revenue water and modernize sanitation facilities across the country.

"Under our Hinterland Water Supply programme, the sum of \$344 million has been allocated. Given the aggressive nature of the programme, I will make mention of some of the new projects slated for 2021," Minister Rodrigues

said during her presentation on day one of the 2021 budget debates.

In presenting a disaggregation of the proposed expenditure, the minister said \$40 million was allocated for the procurement of a new rig and well drilling materials to facilitate new wells in 2021, while \$20 million was allocated for the procurement of Photovoltaic (PV) systems, electromechanical equipment, pipes, fittings, spares and ac-

cessories for water supply systems.

Despite heckling from the opposing side of the House, Minister Rodrigues continued to outline the government's plan, noting that \$10 million was allocated for the construction of a pump station and activation of a new well in Port Kaituma, while \$14 million was allocated for the drilling of new wells, the installation of PV, storage, distribution networks and service connections for the communities of Waramuri, Huradiah, Khans Hill, Wauna, Baramita, Arakaka and Matthew's Ridge, in Region One (Barima-Waini).

Some \$10 million has also been set aside for the drilling of wells, upgrading of PV systems, upgrade and extension of pipe networks and installation of stand pipes for the communities of Kwebanna and Manawarin, in Region One (Barima-Waini).

For Annai in Region Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo), \$15 million has been budgeted for the upgrading of the distribution network, rehabilitation of elevated trestle, service connections and installation of PV system. Minister Rodrigues said \$15 million was allocated too for the upgrading of the distribution network in St. Ignatius.

Security officials testify Capitol rioters 'came prepared for war'

(BBC): US Capitol security officials who were ousted in the wake of the 6th January attack on Congress have blamed intelligence failures for the breach.

Testifying to a Senate committee, the officials said that the rioters "came prepared for war" with weapons, radios and climbing gear.

Ex-Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund said he had prepared for a protest, not "a military-style coordinated assault."

Four people died after pro-Trump protesters stormed the US Capitol.

Three of the four officials testifying on Tuesday to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee resigned in the immediate wake of the at-

tack, in which one Capitol Police officer was killed.

Acting Washington DC police chief Robert Contee III told lawmakers, who are holding the first public hearing into the attack, that he was "stunned" by how long it took for the Pentagon to deploy National Guard troops to help quell the riots.

Democrats charge that the attack amounted to an insurrection, and impeached former President Donald Trump for allegedly inciting the mob. He was later acquitted by the Senate, becoming the first president in US history to be impeached twice.

What did officials say?

All three officials agreed that there appeared to be a level of co-ordination and planning from the

crowd.

Sund said that pipe bombs that were placed at the edge of the security perimeter appeared to be intended to draw law enforcement away from the Capitol building.

"When the group arrived at the perimeter, they did not act like any group of protestors I had ever seen," said the thirty-year police veteran.

"A clear lack of accurate and complete intelligence across several federal agencies contributed to this event and not poor planning by the United States Capitol Police," he added.

Capitol Police Captain Carneysha Mendoza described the clashes, telling lawmakers that she has chemical burns on her

face from attackers that still have not fully healed.

"Of the multitude of events I've worked in my nearly nineteen-year career in the department, this was by far the worst of the worst," she said.

"We could have had ten times the amount of people working with us, and I still believe the battle would have been just as devastating."

The officials also said that an FBI report, warning that protesters had been preparing for "war," had failed to reach security officials on the eve of the attack.

Former House Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving said that despite media reports, "optics played no role in my decision around security."



OUR NATIONAL LEGEND

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Sir Reginald Samuel

Sir Reginald Samuel nationally acclaimed artist and sculpture also, one of Antigua/Barbuda's foremost Sports Officials.

He played an important role in the development of sports at the Antigua Grammar School where he taught, and succeeded Mr. Daintes Livingston as Director of Sports in the 1970's. He was given the responsibility of being the Chairman for the National Sports Council.

As an artist and cultural icon in Antigua & Barbuda, Sir Reginald is responsible for designing of the Antigua & Barbuda National Flag, the Statue of the Family at the State Insurance Corporation building on Redcliffe St., and the Statue of Prince Klass.

The Antigua and Barbuda flag designed by Sir Reginald Samuel was then adopted on 27 February 1967 to mark the achievements of self-government.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
FEBRUARY 2021







A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



North Korea man wandered for hours in DMZ amid South's security blunders



Getting through the demilitarised zone (DMZ) to defect is rare and dangerous

(BBC): South Korean troops failed to notice a North Korean man who crossed the heavily fortified border this month, even though he appeared on TV cameras eight times and triggered alarms.

South Korea's army said it would take this moment to make necessary changes. The man swam in from the sea in a wet suit, walked five kilometres and spent three hours undetected before troops finally took action on his ninth TV appearance.

It is unclear why he made the crossing via such a dangerous route. At one point the man passed through a drainage tunnel in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) the South Korean military did not even know existed, the Yonhap news agency reported.

What happened on the

journey?

The latest details have come from a report by South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) into the security lapses on 16th February. The JCS have refused to identify the man and are investigating whether he was trying to defect. It is not known where his journey started, but he came ashore in a wet-suit and flippers at 01:05, close to a South Korean observatory, north of the eastern border town of Goseong.

He hid the suit and flippers under a rock and then followed barbed wire fences south along the beach. He then entered the drainage tunnel and crossed into the DMZ. The man then moved along a road undetected for more than five kilometres (three miles) until 04:16. His ninth appearance on a CCTV

camera at this point led troops to report his presence. The military found him at 07:27. The report said he had been looking for civilians to turn himself in to, as he feared soldiers might return him to the North.

What were the security lapses?

Surveillance cameras spotted the man several times between 01:05 and 01:38, with alarms going off twice. No action was taken. Military CCTVs caught the man another three times at about 04:00.

A JCS official told Yonhap that the soldier in charge of coastal surveillance equipment was making adjustments at the time and thought the alarms were a system error.

Some have queried

whether the man, a civilian working in the fishing industry, had swum from North Korea as claimed, given the cold winter conditions. There was speculation that he could have made some of the journey by boat instead.

However, the JCS said it believed the man had swum over, saying his wet-suit was in good condition and the tide would have helped. This is the second time in four months that questions have been raised about security at the DMZ.

After a former gymnast defected last November by jumping over the border fence, South Korea's military announced it would check every sensor. The latest event has led to an inquiry into the 22nd Division, which is in charge of that area of the DMZ.

Vaccine makers Pfizer and Moderna pledge massive boost to U.S. supply after sluggish rollout



Pregnant woman receiving her shot of the Pfizer-BioTech vaccine against COVID-19

(Reuters):

Drug companies told lawmakers Tuesday that they project a major increase in vaccine deliveries that will result in one hundred and forty million more doses over the next five weeks, saying they have solved manufacturing challenges and are in a position to overcome scarcity that has hampered the nation's fight against the coronavirus.

"The United States and every other country needs more doses more quickly," John Young, Pfizer's chief business officer, told members of the House Energy and Commerce oversight and investigations subcommittee.

But achieving a surge on that scale remains daunting. Pfizer and

Moderna, the companies with the only authorized vaccines so far, will need to increase their combined deliveries to date of seventy-five million doses to reach their promised target of two hundred and twenty million shots by 31st March.

That's a goal of twenty-eight million doses each week on average, far greater than their performance so far. The Biden administration told governors Tuesday that doses allotted to states would grow from 13.5 million to 14.5 million per week, and it also directed 2.1 million doses to pharmacies, according to people who participated in a weekly White House call and spoke on the condition of

anonymity to discuss the conversation.

If the companies are able to meet their projections, it would signal the beginning of the end of a period of deep frustration and mark faster progress against a pandemic that has claimed 500,000 lives in the United States. The slower-than-anticipated vaccine rollout has hampered progress toward vaccinating the seventy or eighty per cent of the U.S. population of three hundred and thirty million people required to achieve herd immunity against the coronavirus.

The federal government has spent about sixteen billion dollars on lab and clinical development, jump-starting manufacturing, and

placing advance orders of vaccine.

"Many of these companies received significant federal investment to build their manufacturing capacity last year while their clinical trials were still ongoing, so that we would be able to rapidly deliver millions of vaccines as soon as they were authorized," said Rep. Diana DeGette, the subcommittee's chairwoman, in her opening remarks.

"Two vaccines have been authorized and production is ramping up, but there is still insufficient supply to meet current demand."

Pfizer and Moderna, which both make mRNA vaccines, fell far short of the delivery schedules set by the Trump administration in December, when their vaccines received emergency authorization from the Food and Drug Administration.

But both companies are expressing confidence in their latest promises after continuing to invest in manufacturing and steadily advancing production. Combined, the two companies have contracts to provide six hundred million doses, which they say will be ready by the end of July.

Daphne Caruana Galizia murder: Suspect pleads guilty



Investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia

(BBC): One of three men accused of assassinating investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia in Malta in 2017 has been sentenced to fifteen years in prison after pleading guilty. Vincent Muscat admitted involvement on Tuesday in the car bombing that killed the reporter. Many suspect it was ordered by top Malta establishment figures. Called a "one-woman Wikileaks," Caruana Galizia uncovered networks of corruption in the country and abroad.

Muscat changed his plea on Tuesday in a dramatic turn of events and agreed to provide information about the

murder. He must also pay €42,000 (\$51,000; £36,300) in court expenses.

The two other defendants, brothers George and Alfred Degiorgio, who are also in their fifties, were also in the courtroom on Tuesday but did not speak. The three men were charged with planning the assassination and triggering the bomb that killed Caruana Galizia near her home in October 2017. They were arrested in December the same year. The Degiorgio brothers have stuck to not guilty pleas.

According to the Times of Malta newspaper, Muscat reached a plea bargain with prosecu-

tors in the case, offering up information about the killing and renouncing his right to appeal.

A fourth person, Maltese businessman Yorgen Fenech, has also been charged with complicity over the killing - an allegation he denies. Mr. Fenech, who was arrested as he tried to sail away from Malta on a yacht in November 2019, is awaiting trial.

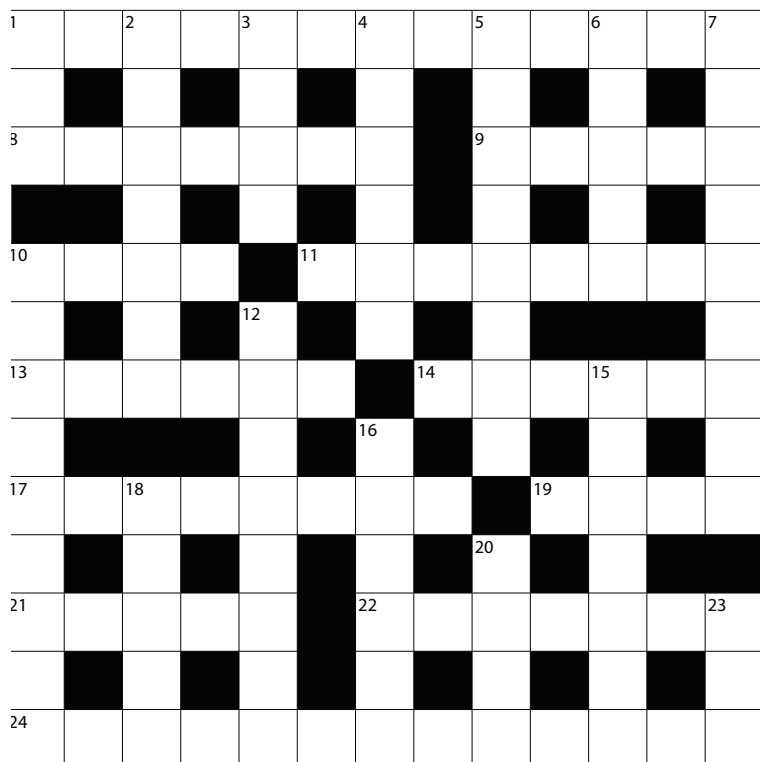
Caruana Galizia, who was fifty-three when she died, spent thirty years as a journalist and relentlessly accused Maltese politicians and other officials of corruption in her popular Running Commentary blog. She was a harsh critic of government and effec-

tively triggered an early election in 2017 by publishing allegations linking the then-prime minister to the Panama Papers scandal.

Joseph Muscat, who is not related to the suspect, denied the corruption allegations. He later resigned as prime minister in December 2019 after an investigation implicated his close associates in the murder.

After her assassination, her son Paul hit out at what he called the country's "mafia state," saying his mother had been killed "because she stood between the rule of law and those who sought to violate it."

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

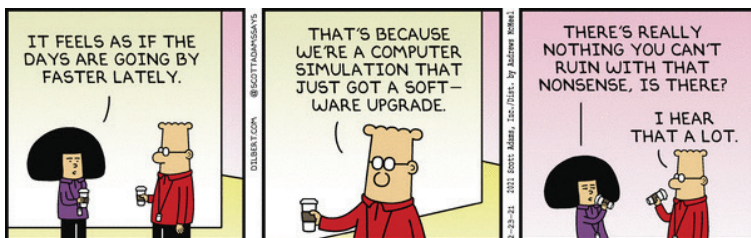
- 1 Taking unprincipled advantage for personal benefit (13)
- 8 Small bunch of long grass (7)
- 9 Enfranchised person (5)
- 10 Break suddenly (4)
- 11 Judge again (8)
- 13 Largest US state (6)
- 14 Metal, Cu (6)
- 17 Being in favour of policies to promote public welfare? (4-4)
- 19 Extract (4)
- 21 More (5)
- 22 Unweaned female sheep (3,4)
- 24 French mathematician and philosopher — screened tears (anag) (4,9)

Down

- 1 Frequently (3)
- 2 Thick tomato paste used in Italian cuisine (7)
- 3 Black bird (4)
- 4 Maintenance (6)
- 5 Person putting money up in hope of profit (8)
- 6 Book name (5)
- 7 (Move in a) spiral (9)
- 10 Trivial matter (5,4)
- 12 Horse with patches of white and another colour (not black) (8)
- 15 Cold dessert of fruit with whipped eggs and cream (7)
- 16 Historic city in the Loire valley — incenses (6)
- 18 Be compatible (3,2)
- 20 Sixth letter of the Greek alphabet (4)
- 23 (Musically) to be played twice (3)

DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



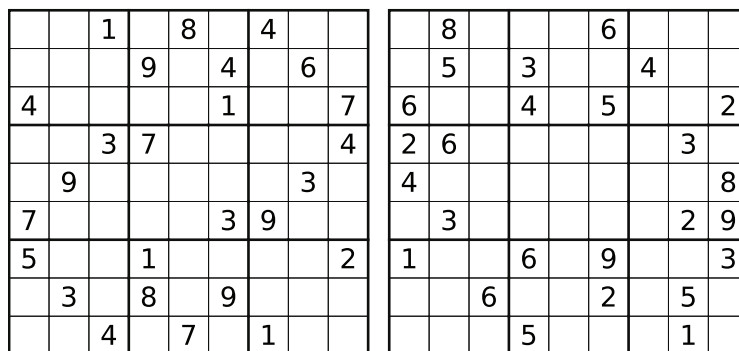
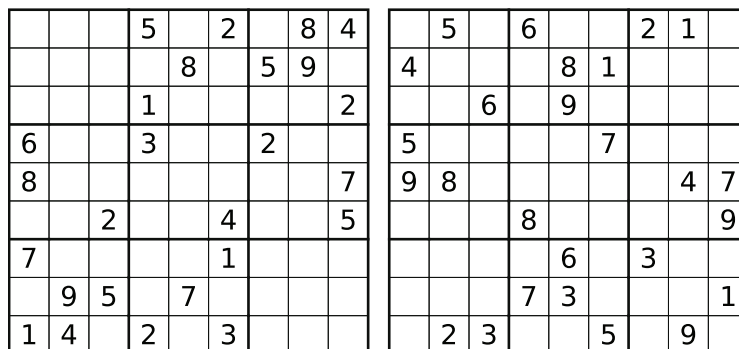
Garfield



Rose is Rose



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
02/24




82° Hi DAY
Mostly sunny with a shower in places

74° Lo NIGHT
Partly cloudy

Sunrise 6:29 AM Sunset 6:12 PM Moonrise 3:48 PM Moonset 5:14 AM

THU
02/25



82° Hi DAY
Partly sunny with a passing shower

73° Lo NIGHT
A stray shower in the evening; otherwise, partly cloudy

Sunrise 6:28 AM Sunset 6:13 PM Moonrise 4:47 PM Moonset 6:02 AM

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

It could be easy to get carried away today, Aries. You might get caught up in some excitement or base your decisions on another's word. You need to use your head on a day like this. Double-check everything and moderate your activities.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

You're known to be kindhearted. However, being taken advantage of can happen as a result. It's important for you to trust your instincts to prevent this from happening. If what you hear doesn't match your feelings, trust your feelings.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Jealousy might rear its head today, Gemini. The key to it all is to understand where and why you feel insecure. If you're jealous of a mate, what's going on in the relationship? Is trust an issue?

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

You may want to learn about something today, Cancer. At work and home there's a set schedule of what you must tend to and when. On your own time, you're free to research anything your heart desires.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

If you think you have to prove that you have something valuable to offer, Leo, consider this carefully. You're naturally friendly and can get along with almost anyone. This may already be your strength.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Consider putting your problem-solving skills to work today, Virgo. You have a real flair for investigating situations and figuring out what happened. If something comes your way that seems mysterious, take the bull by the horns and get to the truth.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Libra, don't be fooled by others who aren't straight with you. If you don't know the person well, trust your instincts. You tend to care for others, so it can be easy for you to feel sorry for someone and be inclined to help.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21

It could be easy to get carried away today, Scorpio. You might get caught up in some excitement or base your decisions on another's word. You need to use your head on a day like this. Double-check everything and moderate your activities.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The energy that you feel today may have you so jittery that others don't know what to do with you, Sagittarius. The day's influences can bring a boost. You'd be wise to plan things to do to expend it all.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Venturing into something new and different may be what you need, Capricorn. You have a very solid, practical side to your personality, but the need for excitement and adventure is likely to be just as strong.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You may want to learn about something today, Aquarius. At work and home there's a set schedule of what you must tend to and when. On your own time, you're free to research anything your heart desires.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

If you happen to meet new people today, Pisces, be careful. Some folks appear interesting because they're bold or dangerous. Perhaps they do things you'd never dream of doing. Stick to your usual standards and ethics.

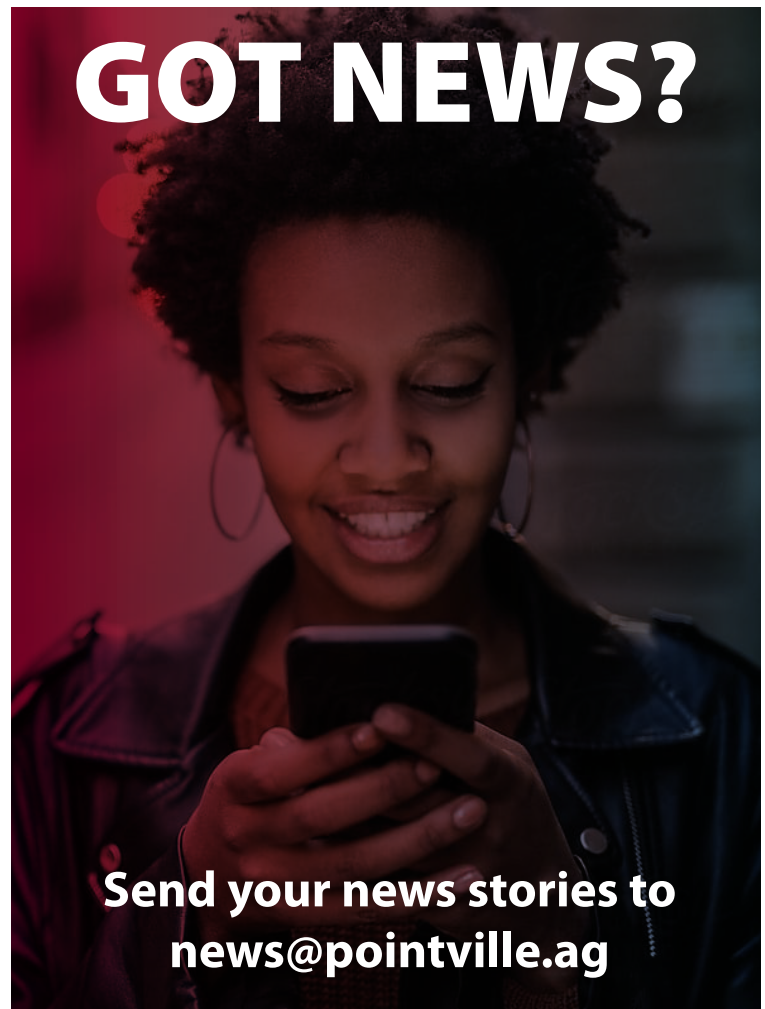
COMMUNITY NOTICES

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HEADQUARTERS AND REGISTRATION UNITS

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) wishes to advise the general public that a relative of a member of staff at ABEC's Headquarters has tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member and other family members, have all tested negative and have not been in contact with the afflicted relative. However, out of an abundance of caution, the office's Headquarters on Queen Elizabeth Highway and all Registration Units will be closed for one-week, effective Monday, 22nd February to Friday, 26th February 2021. We encourage the general public to continue to adhere to all established COVID-19 protocols in minimizing the spread of the disease.

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.



GOT NEWS?

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Tell us what's happening in your community.

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Ten Thousand fans could return to stadiums by mid-May

Up to ten thousand fans could be back in stadiums by mid-May as part of the government's plans to move England out of lockdown. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced a four-part plan to lift the coronavirus lockdown.

Outdoor sports, including football, golf, and tennis will be allowed to resume in England from 29th March. The plan to

ease lockdown requires four tests on vaccines, infection rates and new coronavirus variants to be met.

"The turnstiles of our sports stadia will once again rotate," said Johnson. In an address to the nation on Monday, the Prime Minister stressed the roll-out of the UK's vaccination programme had allowed the government to draw up this pathway, but the final

decisions would be made "on data."

Leisure centers, gyms and swimming pools can open from 12th April. Venues such as gyms, tennis courts and golf courses have been closed across England since lockdown was announced on 4th January.

The government says it will run a series of "pilot" events in April and the English Football League

(EFL) said it would be "engaging" with the government over the potential for a small number of fans to attend the Carabao Cup final at Wembley on 25th April.

If the pilots are successful, up to ten thousand people or twenty-five per cent of total seated capacity, whichever is lower, will be allowed in stadiums for sporting events, but not before 17th May.

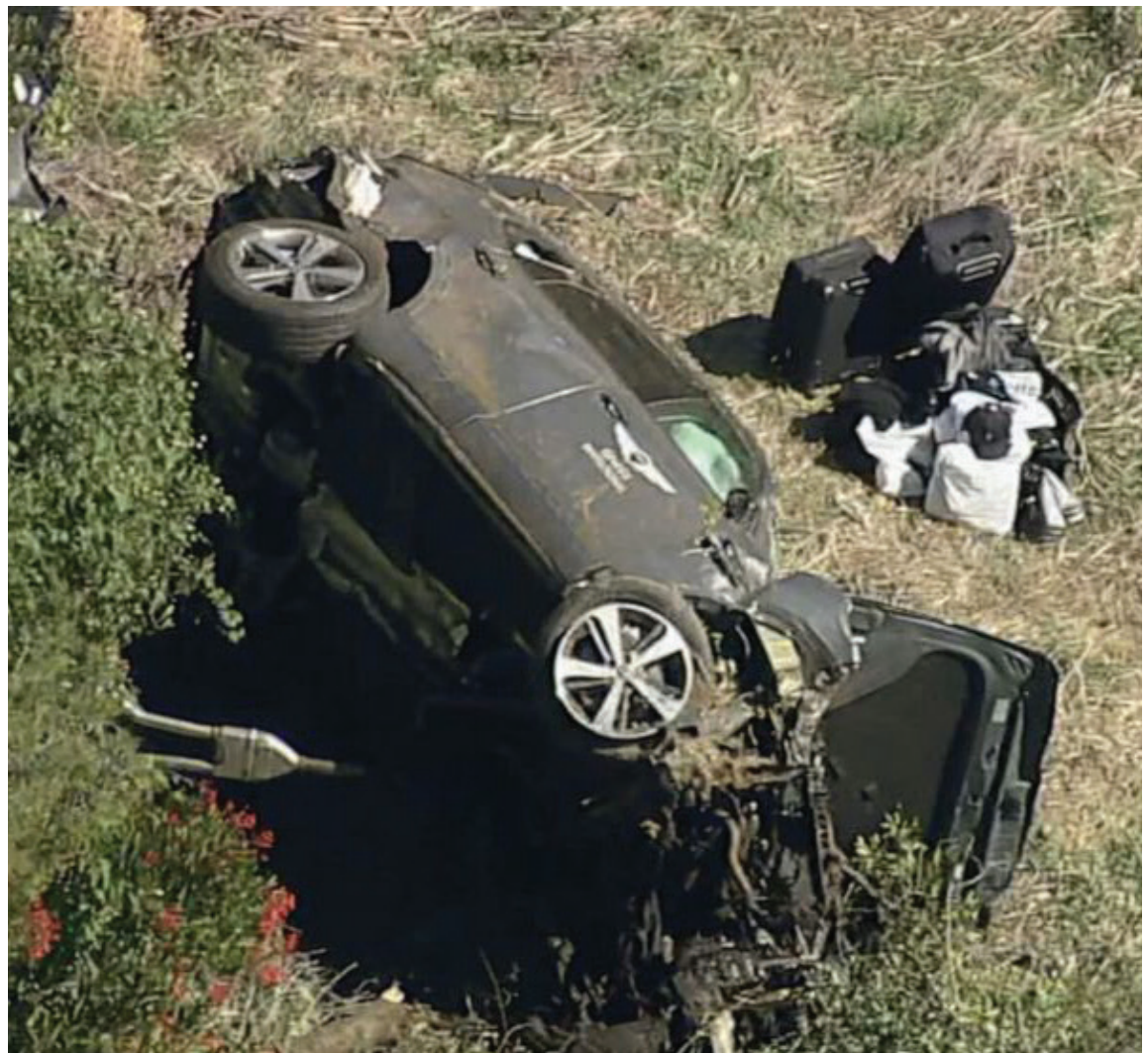
Sports world wishes Tiger Woods well after car crash

Tiger Woods was injured in a single car rollover crash in Los Angeles on Tuesday morning.

Footage from the scene showed Woods' vehicle rolled over on its side on a hillside away from the road. Woods was the only person in the car, according to the Los Angeles Sheriff's department.

Lt. Michael White told reporters that his injuries are not life threatening. His agent Mark Steinberg announced that Woods suffered multiple leg injuries and was in surgery Tuesday afternoon.

News of the crash sent shockwaves through the sports world and beyond. Athletes from across the sports spectrum sent well wishes to Woods as details of the crash emerged via social media.



CWI elections in late March



Cricket West Indies (CWI) President Ricky Skerritt (left) and Vice President Dr. Kishore Shallow

Cricket West Indies (CWI) will host their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 28th March via virtual means. At the end of the AGM the member shareholders will cast their votes to elect a new board.

President Ricky Skerritt and Vice President Dr. Kishore Shallow, who have been nomi-

nated by the Leeward Islands Cricket Board and seconded by the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB), will be challenged by CWI directors Anand Sanisie, Secretary of Guyana Cricket Board, and Barbados Cricket Association Vice President Calvin Hope.

The TTCB has made it

clear that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected cricket activities in the region since March 2020 and it would be unfair to judge the performance of Skerritt and Dr. Shallow on an abbreviated term of office.

Talking to Guardian Sports, the TTCB also believes that certain

projects were on the way and needed more time to mature.

A member of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board said Skerritt has been able to bring senior, past players and member boards together, giving regional supporters a better sense of ownership of the regional team.



STARTING POINTE

with

Shelton Daniel

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:30am-10:30am



99.1 FM

ON AIR

POINTE FM

Former Windies captain impressed with performance



Cricket West Indies (CWI) Director of Cricket Jimmy Adams

Cricket West Indies (CWI) Director of Cricket Jimmy Adams is the latest former player to express his delight with the West Indies Test team recent 2-0 series victory in Bangladesh.

Appearing as a guest on the **PointeFM Touchline** programme on Tuesday, the former Windies captain broke down his assessment of both the ODI and Test squads in Asia.

"I am disappointed in the performance of the white ball team," Adams stated.

The left-handed batsman who played fifty-four Test, scoring 3012 with an average of 41.3, said he felt there was a lot of talent and experience in the ODI team and was expecting better results. However, Adams, who participated in one hundred and twenty-seven ODIs,

scoring 2204 runs at an average of 28.6, said he was pleased with what he witnessed during the two Tests.

"It was exciting to see the spirit the guys played with, making the entire Caribbean proud. I am hoping that the players will use their successes in Bangladesh as a springboard for the upcoming series against Sri Lanka who are slated to arrive in Antigua

today," he urged.

The CWI Director of Cricket is also looking for improved results from the white ball team against the Sri Lanka. The upcoming series will entail three one-day-internationals (ODI), three Twenty20s, and two Tests. All of the matches will be played between the Coolidge Cricket Grounds and the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium.

Coolidge to host international cricket next month



Coolidge Cricket Ground

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Cricket West Indies (CWI), Johnny Grave, said the organization has been enjoying a special relationship with regional governments and would not have been able to operate without their assistance.

Grave was high in praise

for the government of Antigua and Barbuda. With the CWI board being based in Antigua and both parties teaming up to purchase the Coolidge Cricket Ground, Grave said the fruits of their decision will be realized when the facility hosts international cricket for the first time next month.

CWI received approval from the

International Cricket Council (ICC) last week to make Coolidge Cricket Grounds the country's second international venue along with the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. Antigua would not have been able to host the CG Super50 and the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka next month without the vision of the government in joining CWI to purchase the venue, Grave articulated.

The island will host continuous cricket over the next two months. Grave was also high in praise for the CWI medical team and the local health for creating a bio-secure bubble for the cricketers and officials during the ongoing Super50 and the upcoming Sri Lanka tour.

Antigua will host all of the matches in the upcoming tour which bowls off next month.

DEWS



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