

WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH 2021

| ISSUE 201

| WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

## MULTI-SECTOR CONSULTATION ON 'NON-VACS' IN THE WORKPLACE

SEE PAGE 3



*RN Robins examines first dose  
of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine*

**CIBC First Caribbean Contributes  
EC \$90,000 towards National Vaccine Effort**

**PAGE 6**

# Make bold choice for CARICOM secretary general

*Reprinted from the Jamaica Gleaner, Monday March 8, 2021*

It would probably command the full-time attention of a team of skilled archivists to wade through mountains of documents to determine the number of times Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders either agreed, or promised to review how decisions they take are translated into action by member states. The heads of government were at it again late last month at their intersessional summit, held virtually. They, according to the meeting's communiqué, "... agreed to review urgently the entire consultation and decision-making processes at all levels in the effort to establish the most effective strategy for effecting increased levels of implementation". In other words, they want to address what is euphemistically labelled in the community as CARICOM's "implementation deficit". That is, the regular failure of

the 15-member organisation to do, or to do so only slowly, what is agreed to at summits.

The February 24 - 25 virtual summit, chaired by Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister, Keith Rowley, also agreed that "an immediate step towards achieving implementation" is to be overseen by Barbados' prime minister, Mia Mottley, who has responsibility for the community's proposed transformation into a genuine single market and economy – the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). There was no sense of irony in the communiqué that Ms Mottley, a committed regionalist, was given largely the same charge at the 2018 heads of government conference in Jamaica, her first summit as Barbados' leader.

CARICOM's leaders, of course, know that there isn't a need for another analysis of why things do not get done faster, or for new recommendations for remedying this shortcoming. There have been many of

those. Apart from limited technical capacity in some states, the fundamental issue is that CARICOM is a community of sovereign states, whose members, unlike those of the European Union – its closest model in terms of ambition – are disinclined to cede some of their sovereignty to an administrative centre. In other words, CARICOM's secretariat in Guyana has very limited authority to ensure that decisions are implemented, and even less capacity for independent action. CARICOM's achievements, especially strong in the area of functional co-operation, are despite these constraints.

**PERSONALITY-DRIVEN** The profile and effectiveness of the secretariat, at least with respect to demanding the concentrated attention of leaders, tends to be personality-driven. William Demas, a towering figure in regional integration, who was the community's first secretary general (after Fred Cozier's 1968-69 stint establishing the

Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat to service CARICOM's forerunner, the Caribbean Free Trade Area) had a profile and a voice that commanded attention independent of the heads of government. Mr Demas' successor, Alister McIntyre, also globally recognised as a major thinker on development economics, similarly had a platform outside the shadow of the leaders. The foregoing does not, and neither is it intended to, diminish the quality of the other people who have led the secretariat, or what they accomplished in difficult circumstances. However, given the inadequacies of CARICOM's governance regime - because of domestic political stresses and the insecurities and dawdling of the leaders – the Demas/McIntyre personality types may be indicative of the characteristics required, in the current environment, to lead the secretariat when the incumbent, Irwin La Rocque, completes his term in Au-



gust. Ambassador La Rocque has not publicly said anything of his plans, but Dr. Rowley, in his remarks at last month's summit, clearly indicated he is leaving.

The new secretary general will take over with CARICOM still facing a public health crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the region's economies struggling to recover from the collapse wrought by the pandemic. The leaders have talked about a co-ordinated regional effort for resuscitation, including suggesting that:

- The International Monetary Fund makes a new allocation of Special Drawing Rights to boost global liquidity;
- Their COVID-related

debt be converted into long-term, low-interest loans; and

- The existing rules that tend to lock small, middle-income states out of concessional funding be changed to a "multi-dimensional, universal vulnerability index and vulnerability criteria".

An acceleration of efforts to get the CSME fully operational has also been stressed by the leaders.

KEEP ISSUES FRONT AND CENTRE

If these things, and other initiatives announced by the heads of government, are to happen, it will be necessary to keep the issues collectively front and centre of the region's agenda, as well as consistently in the

eyes of the global community. That is likely to be beyond the scope of the leaders, buffeted as they are by daily domestic crises. Who is the secretary general (SG) is, therefore, important. A technically competent SG is necessary. So, too, is one who commands the admiration and respect of the leaders, and who has the confidence to communicate fully and frankly, not only with the heads of government, but the Caribbean people. This may be a hard choice for the heads of government to make, but is one that they should.

We are aware that one of Ambassador La Rocque's deputies, Surinamese Manorma

Soeknandan, as well as Belize's former Labour and Local Government Minister Carla Barnett are up for consideration, which would make either of them the first woman and the first person from their respective country to be secretary general. We have no question about either's technical competence. However, given the nature and scope of challenges facing CARICOM, it would be prudent that the community engages in a global search for the best candidate and that the recruitment process begins now. The new SG should be in place the day after Ambassador La Rocque leaves.

## Multi-sector consultation on 'non-vacs' in the workplace



Steadroy Benjamin

Public Safety and Labour Minister, Steadroy Benjamin on Tuesday convened a virtual meeting with stakeholders from several sectors of the society to discuss a common approach to situations where some employees in companies or establishments may refuse to be vaccinated.

Benjamin reported to PointeXpress that the meeting was attended by representatives of the government, trade unions, the Employers Federation, the hotel association among others.

"The meeting was to look at those instances where employees have refused to be vaccinated and who report

to work. What is the position under these circumstances? What happens when these employees possibly expose their co-workers, customers as well as management to COVID-19? What should an employer do? These were some of the pertinent questions raised in the meeting," the public safety minister revealed.

According to Benjamin other concerns rose over possible compensation or lack of compensation if such a

worker is asked to take leave. He noted that already the Social Security Scheme has been following the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention on the approaches to take regarding workers who have been asked to stay home for quarantine purposes etc.

He reported that the labour commissioner has been asked to appoint a special committee comprising representatives from the various sectors to

come up with a set of recommendations for discussion when the committee convenes its follow-up meeting next Tuesday.

According to the labour minister Tuesday's discussion was very enlightening with full participation from all the groups represented.

For example, he revealed that one suggestion is for employees who refuse to take the vaccine could be asked to sign an indemnity clause to pro-

tect employers from any liability should they at any time in the future become infected with COVID-19 and may have inadvertently passed it on to other workers or even customers.

Benjamin acknowledged that the issues is a very sensitive one and whatever recommendation comes from the special committee will be discussed in full before submission to the Cabinet for its consideration.

## Vaccination programme rolls on



*Designer of the National Flag Sir Reginald Samuel receives his first vaccine dose*

The programme to vaccinate all residents of Antigua and Barbuda continued over the past two days with close to three thousand people receiving their first dose.

Information provided by the vaccination centre states that the total

for Monday and Tuesday at the five centres amounted to twenty-seven hundred and ninety-seven (2,797) individuals.

Over the two days, the Sir Novelle Richards Academy vaccinated 449 persons, the Antigua Girls High School,

which catered solely for teachers and staff at the schools, 808 persons, Jennings Secondary 615, All Saints Secondary 484 (these two catered for 65 year olds from surrounding areas), and the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre 441.

The vaccination of government ministries and departments has been running concurrently to the general vaccination programme. That too has been said to be going very well.

Meanwhile, among those receiving their

vaccination on Tuesday was Sir Reginald Samuel, designer of the national flag of Antigua and Barbuda got the facts and took his vax at the Sir Novelle Richards Academy. Fears that many people would not participate in the national vaccination exercise have long since subsided based

on the overwhelming response by members of the community to the programme.

The programme is being carried out with a donation of 40,000 vaccines donated to the Antigua and Barbuda government from the government of India. Government has signed up with the

COVAX facility being administered by the World Health Organisation and has been promised a further 40-thousand vaccines through that facility, however, there's no definitive word on how soon that allotment will be shipped to St John's.

The government said

it is however exploring additional avenues to purchase vaccines to meet the national demand. With a resident population of approximately one hundred thousand people, the country needs two hundred thousand doses to fully inoculate the population with two jabs per person.

## 'Teachers are anxious to go back to classrooms'



Kimdale Mackellar  
ABUT president

Teachers across Antigua and Barbuda are anxious to return to the classroom following approximately one year since classes were suspended at the start of the global outbreak of the coronavirus. President of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Kimdale Mackellar said interactions with the teaching fraternity indicate that

they want to return to face-to-face instructions with students.

"Teaching remotely is not the best modality to impart knowledge to students and teachers want to get back into the physical classrooms as soon as possible," he told PointeXpress.

He explained that the only concern for both the ABUT executive and the general teaching membership is the issue of the health protocols that will be established by the ministry of health through the ministry of education.

"The key person in all the preparation for the reopening of the schools is the Chief Medical Officer. She will be the only one to

set the new standards that are to be in place ahead of the return of regular classes. Teachers will be happy to return to the classroom. However, everything hinges on the safety concerns," he further explained.

As part of the preparation for teachers to return to the classroom, arrangements were made for the vaccination of entire teaching body, ancillary staff at schools, senior education officers, department heads, ABUT executive members starting last Saturday and ending today.

In total, approximately three thousand people are expected to receive the jab by the end of the session this afternoon.

Mackellar said the vaccination programme has been going well with most teaching expressing a desire to be inoculated. "Our teachers have been willing to be vaccinated. In fact, their concerns were largely over not being vaccinated earlier in the process. By the time the process is over, a very high percentage of our teachers would have been vaccinated," he added.

The ministry of education has set April 12 as the date when regular classes will return to all public and private educational institutions in the country. But it also stated that the vaccination of teachers and support staff was also critical to the plans.



# CIBC First Caribbean Contributes EC \$90,000 towards National Vaccine Effort



2021, the CIBC donated \$11,000 to the eleven Secondary Schools that are led by female principals, in observance of International Women's Day," Williams indicated. In accepting the donation on behalf of the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda, Prime Minister Gaston Browne thanked Williams and CIBC First Caribbean for their timely contribution. "I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs. Williams who presented us a cheque of \$90,000 dollars on behalf of CIBC First Caribbean International

Bank. We are very grateful for this contribution. As I said before, we have not formally solicited any contribution from anyone; but, we are in a national crisis, a global pandemic, and we believe that this is a time when we have an obligation to be our brother's keeper and our sister's protector."

The Prime Minister continued, "There is an expectation that our corporate citizens and wealthy residents and citizens, will exercise some level of responsibility and contribute towards the national vaccine effort.

The national COVID-19 vaccine purchase programme received a 'shot-in-the-arm' on Tuesday with a major donation from one of the leading financial institutions in the country.

General Manager of CIBC First Caribbean, Ladesa James-Williams, presented a donation of EC\$90,000 towards the national effort.

"We would have heard the Prime Minister last week speak about the ongoing need for funding, so that we could purchase more vaccines; this cheque is our contribution to that effort. CIBC First Caribbean is very happy to be here today. On behalf of CIBC First Caribbean, we delight in responding to the request and to support your plea for all of the citizenry to be vaccinated. I am here to provide the

donation of EC \$90,000," Williams stated

The General Manager explained that her financial institution is known for its corporate social responsibility. "We adhere to a creed of corporate social responsibility; on Monday, March 8,

For the **safety** of employee drivers, their families and the communities in which they **live** and **work**.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash when you are safely stopped, and wash your hands.

**COVID-19: Driver Safety Tips**

**DRIVE SAFELY**

**ATB**  
Antigua & Barbuda Transport Board  
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

CIBC's regional headquarters would have donated \$750,000 USD to the region; so, evidently CIBC is leading from the front and I am hoping that the domestic banks here will follow the lead of CIBC and they will make similar or even greater contributions towards the vaccine efforts."

Earlier this week, CMC reported that "ten countries across the region will get a major boost to their COVID-19 vaccination programmes as a result of a USD \$500,000

donation from regional bank CIBC First Caribbean. The donation to national vaccination programmes is being made by the bank through its charitable arm—the First Caribbean International ComTrust Foundation. The Trust will support the purchase of vaccines in Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, the Bank is providing a separate contribution

of USD \$250,000 to cover the cost of vaccinating members of its 2,500 staff who wish to avail themselves of the vaccine in those countries, bringing its total contribution to the regional vaccination effort to USD \$750,000." During the ceremony, PM Browne highlighted that one of the struggles in getting vaccines is having access to it. "As you know, we have been struggling to purchase vaccines, not because of an issue of not having any money, but hav-

ing access to vaccines represents a significant problem for all countries within the region." Browne said.

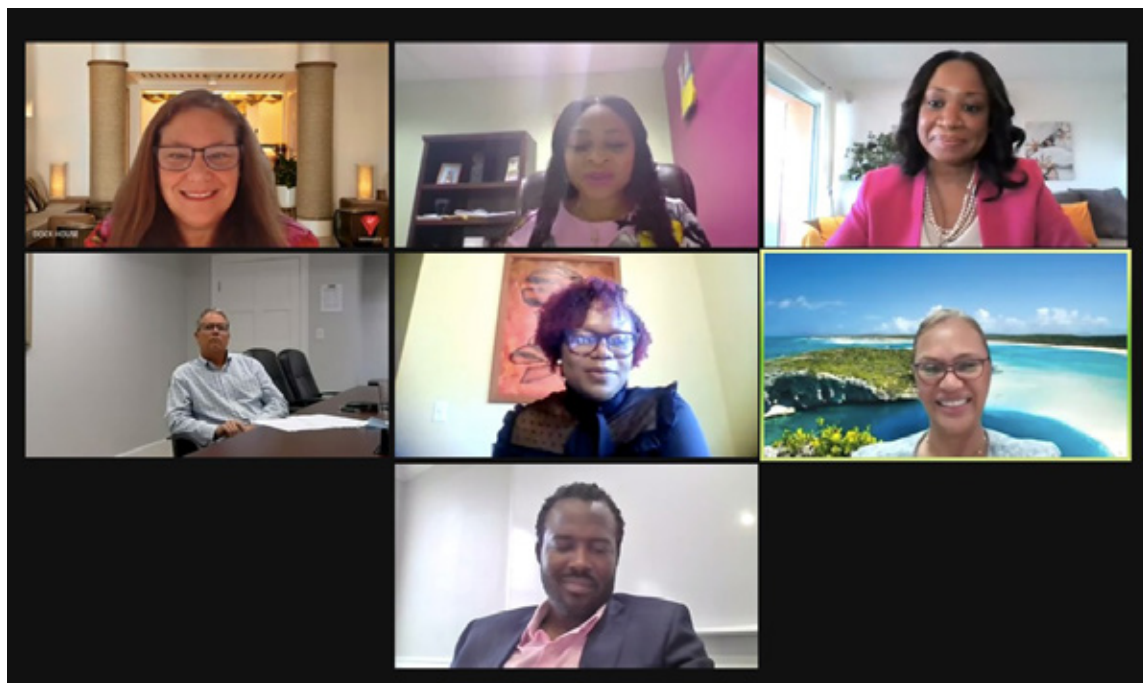
Prime Minister Browne continued by urging citizens to get vaccinated. "I want to appeal to all Antiguan and Barbudans, when the opportunity arises for us to get additional vaccines and to vaccinate everyone that we avail ourselves of the vaccination. It is the only way to achieve herd immunity and to return to normality."

## Increasing opportunities for women in cruise tourism

The Antigua Cruise Port (ACP) is at the forefront of finding ways to increase the role of women in the vital cruise tourism industry in Antigua and Barbuda and throughout the Caribbean.

With this in mind, ACP in collaboration with Nassau Cruise Port and the Ministry of tourism, convened a webinar on Tuesday on topic – Choose to Challenge: Increasing Opportunities for Women in Cruise Tourism.

"As we mark International Women's Day – the celebration of the achievements of women "throughout



history and across nations" that is observed each year on March 8- my special thoughts go to all women, everywhere. "At Antigua Cruise Port, we firm-

ly believe in gender equality and we are proud to say that we have a 50/50 split between men and women on our hard-working team. I would like to

extend a special thank you to all our brilliant staff, men included, who are helping to create a more gender-inclusive world," ACP General





*General Manager Antigua Cruise Port- Donna Regis*

Manager, Donna Regis stated in her invitation letter to participants.

She said the event was held in support of female colleagues and in the spirit of building inclusive work environments where women thrive. The event focused on ways to amplify the achievements of women in the cruise tourism sector.

Regis noted that the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic was especially hard on women who ply their trade in the cruise sector with many of them losing their jobs. "We believe that the cruise industry will come back, and come back strong therefore we want to ensure that

the role of women is not diminished but rather enhanced when that happens," she remarked.

Regis stated that some one hundred and twenty-two people participated in the webinar which brought together travel and tourism industry experts. The event also examined the future of the cruise industry from various perspectives and discussed how the advancements of women in this field will support the growth of the industry.

Presenters included Senior VP of Revenue, Sales, and Itinerary at Virgin Voyages, Diana Block-Garcia, who shared a special pre-

sentation about what her company is doing to drive the industry forward and to empower women. Following her presentation, there was a panel discussion that was moderated by Communications Officer at the Ministry of Tourism, Samoya Kirby. Other panelists included Executive Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association, Patrice Simon, Director General, Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation, Joy Jibrilu, Director of Operations, Nassau Cruise Port, Marques Williams and Regis representing ACP.

Looking towards the future, Regis said her company is forecasting that the cruise industry will not return to full strength until the fourth quarter of the year but plans are being made to be ready by this summer. "Our projections are that it will be around November when the cruise industry returns to the numbers that we have been accustomed to. However, we are working with the ministry of health, the port authority and the ministry of tourism to be ready to accept cruises as early as the summer months," she explained.

**STATE INSURANCE**  
COMPANY LIMITED  
Live in a better State of mind

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

(268) 481-7800/04  
info@sicantigua.com  
www.sicantigua.com  
Instagram Facebook Twitter



# YOU ARE OUR HEROES

## THANK YOU TO ALL FRONTLINE WORKERS FROM AUA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



In the era of COVID-19, there's more uncertainty than ever before: about our loved ones, our health, and our futures. It's important, then, to recognize what we can be certain about: that we owe a debt of gratitude to the doctors, nurses, technicians/therapists, EMTs, security officers, countless other healthcare professionals, police officers, and other first responders who play an integral role in getting people the care they need when a crisis first strikes.

These brave, dedicated men and women go to work every day with the intention of keeping our communities and citizens safe. Their lifesaving efforts over the past year have not gone unnoticed, and they deserve recognition today and every day.

**On behalf of American University of Antigua, THANK YOU.**



**AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY  
of ANTIGUA**

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



**memg**

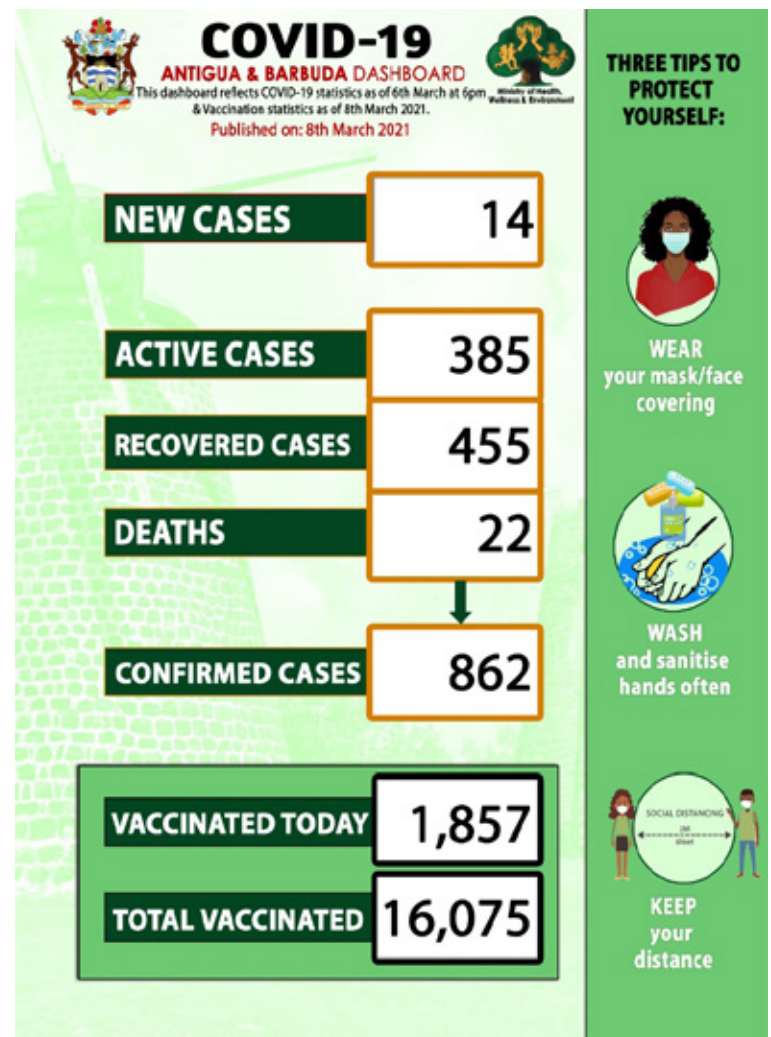
manipal education and  
medical group



# New COVID positive cases remain high



Fourteen (14) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Saturday 6th March 2021 at 6:00 pm. This as the current curfew order expires on Monday and there is no word yet whether there will be an extension or whether there will be an easing of the hours thus giving more time for business and other entities to operate. The government had started that it was limiting social and other interactions because of the sharp rise in the number of positive cases in the country. The move was designed to bring the number of new cases under control. But over the period the cases have fluctuated wildly with no sign that they are on a downward trajectory. The matter has also hurt Antigua and Barbuda's standing in the international community with the US CDC placing the country at level 4, the highest risk level for nations. That's because of the excessively high number of active cases. Meanwhile, the most recent report received by the Ministry of Health from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has revealed Nine (9) recoveries have been recorded bringing the total to four hundred and fifty-five (455). One (1) Covid-19 related death has been recorded bringing the total to twenty-two (22). Consequently, the total number of persons



with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is eight hundred and sixty-two (862); which is inclusive of three hundred and eighty-five (385) active cases.





# To Vaccinate or not to Vaccinate? THAT is the question

From the outset, HRPAB advocated strongly for companies to establish vaccination education programmes. Why? Because informed employees make better choices. We note with interest that the national conversation is shifting to the national vaccination program and even as this plan rolled out to include education and information campaigns on the benefits of being vaccinated, we still have employees who are vaccine hesitant.

The debate is raging on social media and some uninformed persons are sharing and promoting the anti-vaccination campaigns. More than one group has been formed to discuss vaccine development and possible side effects.

It has been a year since our first reported case of Covid-19 here in Antigua and Barbuda and there is COVID fatigue. Polling conducted by Survey Monkey in January of this year shows that one in eight Americans say they will nev-

er get the vaccine while 59 percent say they would get it right away. While we have no local polling data, we have seen the long lines of people eager to get the jab and the health authorities have reported that as of March 8, 16,075 persons had been inoculated since the vaccination programme started on February 17 with health workers, then government dignitaries and national safety personnel before being rolled out to the general public on March 1.

The national plan is to achieve herd immunity by vaccinating at least 80 percent of the population. Our Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, is on record as saying that the priority is to protect lives and livelihoods by getting our people inoculated so that our economy can return to normality. We received 40,000 doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine from the Government of India and earlier 5,000 doses from the Government of Dominica. Twenty thousand

**TALKING POINT**

DR. MASERATI

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY**  
**10:30AM TO 1:30PM**

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

persons will be vaccinated during this first round, and it is expected that this target will be reached before the end of this week. There are not enough vaccines on island presently to achieve the 80 percent goal, so as we await the arrival of more vaccines, what can we do to help?

We need to ensure that we are armed with information from trusted sources. We need to continue to listen to employees' concerns and make as much information as possible available to them. Currently there are many opportunities on social media, state media and other national sources to get this information from our own medical professionals and technicians. The Ministry of Health has rolled out its educational campaign, starting with Public Service Announcements from well-known Antiguan and Barbudans and key persons in the community. Without presenting any particular side of the vaccine or no debate, we need to ensure that all our employees have the information they need to make this decision for themselves.

What should your in-house vaccine education program contain?

A history of vaccines and how they work. This would offer some understanding on how vaccines are developed and tested for safety and efficacy.

The various types of vaccine options that currently exist, how they compare as far as accessibility, availability, efficacy and cost.

Detailed information on the Oxford Astra-Zeneca Vaccine as that is the vaccine that will be available to us, at least for the time being.

Possible side effects and adverse reactions especially for persons with certain medical conditions and allergies.

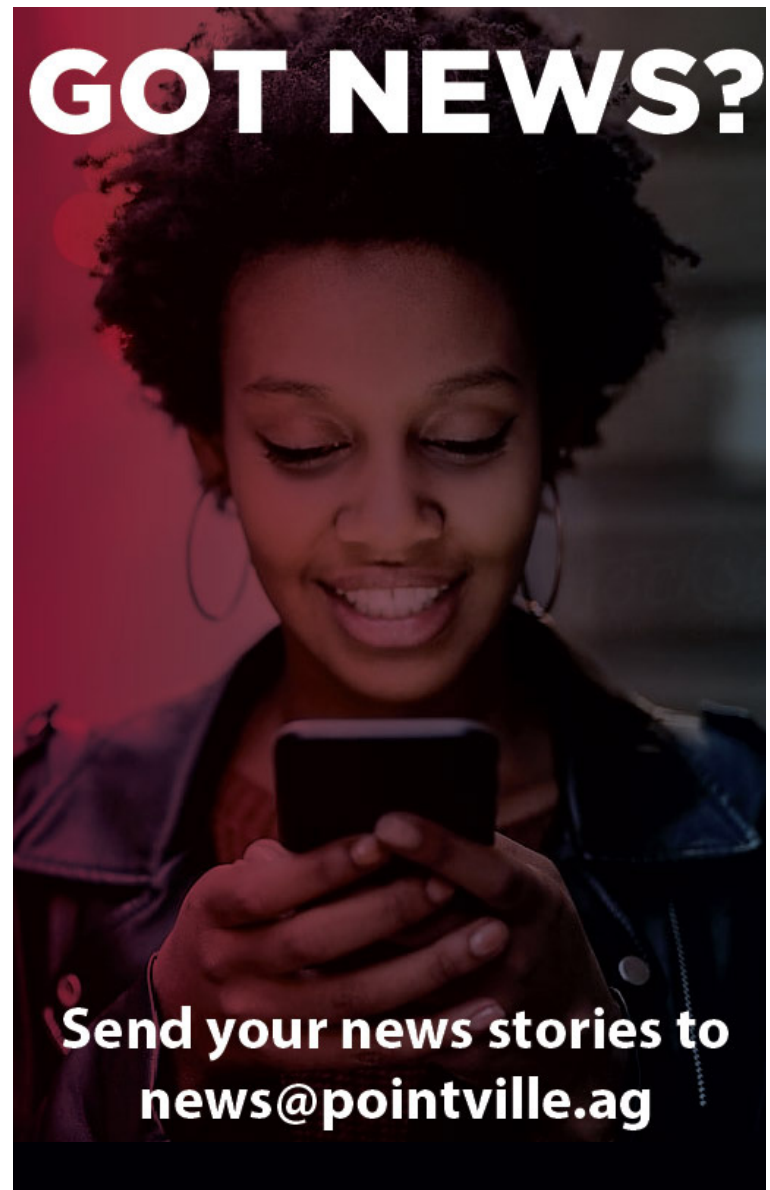
Person who should not take the vaccines or at least seek advice from their medical doctor before doing so.

To be clear: HRPAB is not advocating at this time that taking the vaccine should be mandatory for any employee, or as a condition of continued employment. While we agree and accept that a vaccinated population will lead to a reopening of our economies and a move to normality,

we still hold strongly to the view that this must remain a matter of personal choice and conviction.

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](mailto:hrpro.ab@gmail.com) or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268



**GOT NEWS?**

**Send your news stories to**  
**[news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)**



# Spotlight on JOELLA R. CHARLES



*Joella R. Charles*

In recognition of Women's History Month, the spotlight shines on Joella R. Charles. Charles recently matriculated into the prestigious Columbia University, in New York, one of

the leading educational institutions in the world.

Charles was born and raised in Cassada Gardens, and she attended the Christ the King High School. Charles then continued on to the Antigua State College, where she graduated with an Associate's Degree in Business Law. She then obtained her first job at a Law Firm. She later migrated to the US in 2011, and three years after arriving to the US, she became a single mother.

Her son, Jordan, is prized as her greatest motivation, and is one of the main sources behind her ambition and drive. Charles found herself in a big city, alone with no friends nor family within reach. Being alone with a young child in New York was a frightening experience for her, but despite what it appeared to be, she persisted.

Charles enrolled at

John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2016, where she turned 4 academic years into two years by doubling her classes, attained a Pre-Law Degree, and graduated with Cum Laude Honors in 2018. She currently manages a Corporate Law Firm in Mid-Town Manhattan, is a member of the New York State Bar Association, a member of the National Society for Leadership and Success, and is a first-year student at Columbia University, with a concentration in Negotiation, Mediation, and Conflict Resolution. Her desired objective is to become a corporate attorney.

One month after being accepted to Columbia, the school informed her that she was selected to receive a fellowship award, for which she is extremely proud. Charles attends many other conferences throughout the years, such as the National Black Pre-Law

Conference, and expresses the importance of mentorship. Charles shared the possible opportunities of advancing one's education, as she had the privilege of joining Bill Gates, one of the most influential men across the world, in a live webinar, as he discussed his new book on 'Climate Change' with the faculty, staff, and students at Columbia University. In America, where education is valued, Charles has capitalized on the knowledge acquired. When making the decision to continue on with her dreams, Charles was unaware of the possible future implications of that choice. Her fears conflicted with her interests simultaneously. Prime Minister Gaston Browne personally interviewed, and

congratulated, Charles on the Browne and Browne show this past weekend, where she indicated that the journey to Columbia had been filled with highs and extreme lows. She prides herself on her ability to be resilient and self-reliant. She continued on to offer words of encouragement to the local men, youth, and women to do the same as they follow their dreams. Charles asserts that incorporating self-motivating practices, such as emotional intelligence, self-discipline, and consistency, help to promote self-success. These are the same lessons Charles gives to her son, as she hopes that her journey for academic excellence and professionalism, in Corporate America, and other

places, reflect as an example to him.

Despite having to travel this journey alone, Charles acknowledges her abiding faith in God. Prayer became an adopted habit for her. She continues to encourage fellow women, youth, and men, to find their passion and follow their dreams. Charles emphasizes that consistency, even in small steps, can take a person one step closer to his/her goals, and acknowledging where one going is the first step. Charles has faced many trials and tribulations, but today, she has overcome.

The people of Antigua and Barbuda are proud, and they congratulate Joelle Charles on her continued efforts towards her success. She is an exemplary motivated individual who

has stood the test of time. Charles has confirmed, further, that she is working on a few projects to assist in the advancement of education in Antigua and Barbuda, and other youth development programs, as her contribution to her native land. Charles praises her family and those who have supported her over the years.

Everyone wishes Joelle Charles continued success in her life's journey and the very best in her future endeavours. Well done!!

"To know where you are going makes the difference. Trust yourself; believe in yourself, because the only limits you have in this life are the limits you give to yourself." – Joella R. Charles

# REAL TALK

With

**BEEF | RASTAMAN  
KENTAE & BERNARD**

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







HADEED MOTORS LTD.

ANTIGUA'S #1 MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERSHIP

www.hadeedmotors.com



Way of Life!

Unlock your  
**FUN**  
Side



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

**DZIRE**  
starting at  
**\$49,500**

**>>> UPGRADED FEATURES**

- Power Windows
- Reverse Camera
- Touch Screen
- Bluetooth
- Parking Sensors
- Automatic AC

**INCLUDES**

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

\*On The Spot Financing Available

- Automatic Headlamps



located on  
**Old Parham Road**

contact us  
**Tel: (268) 481-2500**

follow us on  
f Facebook & i Instagram

# SVG Gov't asks CWSA, VINLEC to suspend disconnections

**iWitness News-** The government has asked the state-owned suppliers of water and electricity to consider a moratorium on disconnections — as they did last year — to help their customers struggling with the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

“We have asked VINLEC and CWSA (Central Water and Sewerage Authority) to reinstitute a moratorium programme, including discounts too,” Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves said on WE FM on Sunday.

“Last week, the people at CWSA responded. VINLEC should have responded to me by Friday but I haven’t seen that document. If Thornley is hearing me, he would know that I am awaiting it,” he said of the electricity provider and its chief executive.

“And if he has, in fact, sent it, he could always send a message to me saying he has sent it. But I haven’t seen it yet. But this week you are going to get some announcements on those.”

The prime minister said that because schools are closed, the government has to assist the vendors who trade outside schools.

“[Minister of Finance] Camillo [Gonsalves] has insisted, and quite rightly so, that we put back the vendors at the schools [on the list of persons to receive COVID-19 unemployment benefit].

“And there are a few hundreds of them at the various schools, because they are not making any money. We may have to do something again for ... the people who are running the preschools,” the prime minister said.

He noted that the government has decided to give to omnibus each operator, for two months, a monthly subsidy of EC\$500 or EC\$600, depending on the size of the vehicle.

The prime minister’s comments came as he said that the number of persons taking the COVID-19 vaccine in St. Vincent and the Grenadines was “picking up” but was not yet “as many as I would



*Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves*

like to see because the sooner we all get vaccinated, or at least most of us, the better”.

Gonsalves said that the sooner people are vaccinated, the sooner “we can get back to normalcy”.

“And as we see Britain and the United States, their programme is unfolding pretty ok and we see in some other European countries, and even Canada, which has been a little slow off the mark — I have been advised — that we may have people travelling again.

“There is a pent up demand, according to the

people in the marketplace for tourism and we can get back to economic activity.

“We take our jabs, we get our jobs returning because at the moment things are very difficult. I am talking about on the economic front. It is very challenging.

“We had said in the Budget, and we are rolling out projects for people getting jobs and we are seeing in some of the public sector programmes that are happening and we are strengthening the social safety net.”



# PANDEMIC AFFECTING WOMEN'S WORK MORE

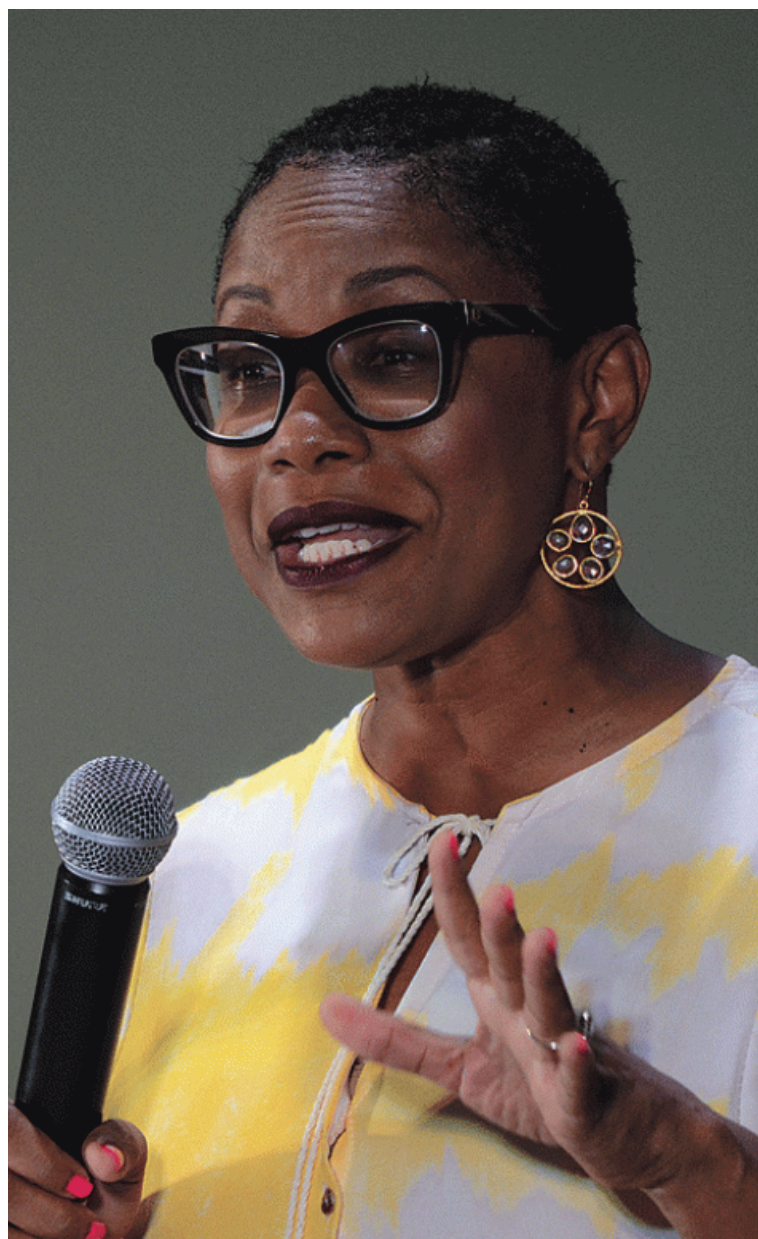
Barbados Advocate - There needs to be a conversation nationally, regionally and internationally about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women in the tourism industry and women in general.

So says Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Senator Lisa Cummins. She was speaking Monday during a panel discussion dubbed 'Talking Tourism with the Ladies', hosted by the Barbados Tourism Marketing Incorporated (BTMI) to mark International Women's Day 2021. Cummins made the point while noting that most of those who have become unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic have been women.

According to the tourism minister, data from the National Insurance Department showed that in terms of hotels, restaurants and the retail sector that had to lay off staff, the ratio of females to males who became unemployed, was two to one. "...More females were laid off than men because we have a larger number of females also that work in tourism.

The ratio, if you were to put it into a percentage is 65 percent women to 35 percent men and what that means is that all across our communities and all across our societies there are women who have been leading in their families, and in their homes, and in their households who have been employed and who are now unemployed or underemployed and they're forging the way on any given day for their families for themselves as still supporting so many others. They are the unseen leaders that I want to also recognise today," she insisted.

The minister went on to say that in terms of total unemployment, it was still heavily skewed towards women, where close to 60 percent of those persons who are now unemployed are female. This reality, Cummins noted, has a downstream impact on what happens in the homes, communities and families. "Of course the financial implications are significant, and they are dire for many families and so while we talk about the high level issues like bor-



Minister of Tourism and International transport, Senator Lisa Cummins

ders reopening, and hotels closing or reopening, businesses being able to function or not being able to function, rum shops opening or not opening, there has to be a gender-based conversation around how women are disproportionately affected, and with them, how their households are disproportionately af-

fected," she maintained.

The tourism and international transport minister made the point while noting that this situation is not unique to Barbados. She said such is applicable in almost every tourism dependent economy, here in the Caribbean and the Asia Pacific region. In that vein, she said that Barbados is

in a good position to take a leadership role regarding the discussion on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these economies and women in the tourism industry, as a country with women in several leadership positions.

“...That country that has a woman Prime Minister; a woman Governor General; and a woman who is a minister who is the Minister of Tourism; a woman who is the chairman of the board of the BTMI, and woman who is a permanent secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, and female leaders all across the upstream and downstream agencies in the sector - that we have to lead a conversation globally about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism dependent economies”.

She continued, “And we absolutely have to incorporate the critical issue of that impact on women, all across the sector and all across the globe and what that has meant for economic empowerment, inclusion, entrepreneurship, innovation, creativity, new business development, and how that is going to form a part of our policy conversation in the re-imagination of our sector”. (JRT)

## Over a dozen people in custody over attack on police officers



*St Lucia Police Commissioner Milton Desir*

**LOOP ST Lucia** - Eleven persons, including a bar owner, who reportedly attacked police officers in Soufriere on Sunday have been arrested. Three of them have since been charged.

At the same time, a number of those accused in the attack surrendered to the police Tuesday ahead of the midday deadline.

According to reports, the police were attempting to break up a social activity during the curfew period, which violated the COVID-19 protocols. Missiles were thrown at the police who had to retreat and seek cover. A police vehicle was damaged during the incident that occurred around 8:00 pm.

“Police came to correct that situation and persons chose to disregard the police, who were doing their

job. The primary function of the police is to maintain law and order and the protection of life and property,” Police Commissioner Milton Desir said.

Desir has condemned the Soufriere incident which has been making rounds on social media, stressing that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated by law enforcement.

He said, “There will be no tolerance for lawlessness in Saint Lucia, especially when police are responding to incidents. That is their responsibility.”

He warned bar owners that once they breach the COVID-19 operating protocols, he will ensure that their licenses are suspended.



# Government to introduce ‘very strong and clear’ rules and ordinances for flying of drones – PM Skerrit



*Prime Minister Roosevelt Skeritt*

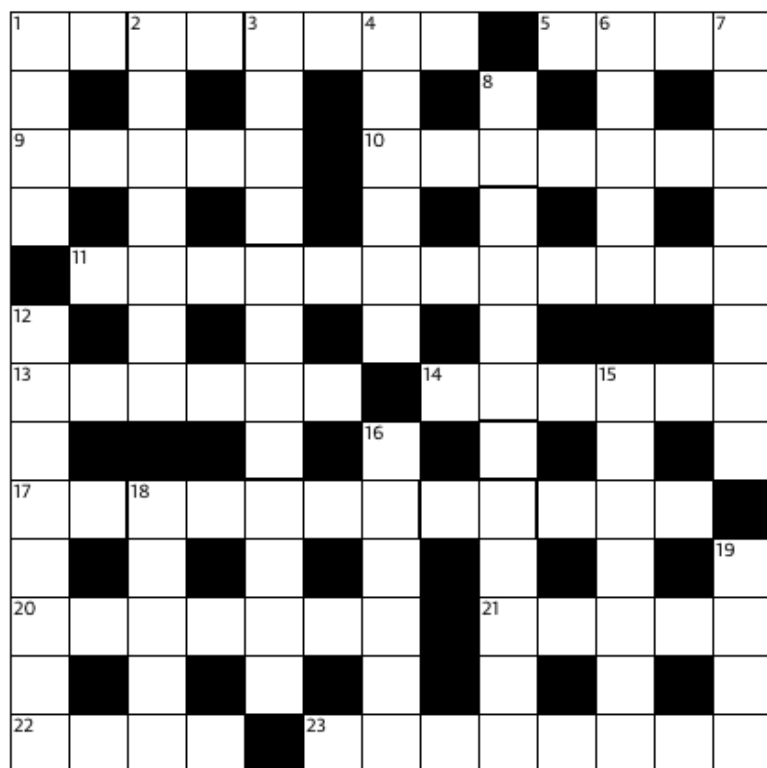
Dominica News Online - Prime Minister Roosevelt Skeritt has revealed that his government will be passing some “very strong and clear” statutory rules and ordinances where the flying of drones is concerned. He made the announcement during his Annoupalé talk show on Sunday. Popular vlogger Mystelics of Portsmouth and videographer/photographer Jawanza Stuart of Castle Comfort were arrested by the police last week for allegedly flying a drone in the Morne Daniel area. The men were said to have been flying their

equipment over the Prime Minister’s official residence and were detained after they tried to retrieve the drone which the police say had fallen on Mr. Skeritt’s farm near his official residence. However, after two days in police custody, Mitchell and Stuart were released sometime after 5:00 p.m. on March 3, 2021, without any charges being brought against them as, according to the police, the matter is still under investigation. “We are going to be passing some very strong and clear statutory rules and ordinances where those

drones are concerned, so that will be done in very quick time,” Prime Minister Skeritt said. He continued, “It is certainly strange that anybody in leadership or any sensible person would condone the flying of a drone or any such equipment over the official residence or even the private residence of a head of government or head of state, or the police headquarters or government headquarters.” He said it’s international practice that one cannot fly any device over such residences for obvious reasons. “One has to understand that drones can carry poisons, they can carry a bomb, you can have a gun attached to it and remotely use it,” the Prime Minister pointed out. He warned that people must never try to politicize these incidents, “and then when we become a victim, those who are criticizing the police action, if you become a victim what happens to you?” Skeritt asked. “What will be your reaction?” Skeritt added, “If any cit-

izen of Dominica were to go to anyone’s home today or tomorrow morning with a drone and circle your home and take photographs of yourself and post it on social media, how would you react?” He believes that anyone who is aspiring to be a leader of a country and who is going to be entrusted with the security of the state and confidential “stuff” has to “show leadership, not then but now” suggesting that “the lack of leadership that Lennox Linton, the leader of the opposition continues to show is really unfortunate.” The Prime Minister maintains that he does not provide support to any of his supporters who breaks the law and comes to him to complain. “The law is the law and I tell people that they have to respect the law,” he stated, adding that leadership is about respecting the laws of the country. “The law is there to protect every one of us,” Skeritt said.

# QUICK CROSSWORD



## Across

- 1 To my way of thinking (2,2,4)  
 5 Written musical symbol indicating pitch (4)  
 9 Melted together (5)  
 10 Shutdown (7)  
 11 Proficient (12)  
 13 Spoke (6)  
 14 Shipping forecast area (6)  
 17 Quite frequently (2,5,2,3)  
 20 Predicament (7)  
 21 Senseless (5)  
 22 Nearly hopeless (4)  
 23 Broken piece (8)

## Down

- 1 Gen (abbr) (4)  
 2 Tuneful (7)  
 3 Await a favourable moment (4,4,4)  
 4 Inhabit (6)  
 6 Chuckle (5)  
 7 Diabolical (8)  
 8 Be lively and enjoyable (2,4,1,5)  
 12 Left high and dry (8)  
 15 Place for a ship to make fast (7)  
 16 Inequitable (6)  
 18 Fuel tanker (5)  
 19 Special skill (4)

# YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

## ♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You may be surprised. Discussions that go beyond polite banter may yield startling revelations, but don't believe everything you hear. No matter what you choose to do today, you'll probably fare better if you bring a friend.

## ♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Stay on point. Alluring distractions may try to divert your attention from the important tasks that should be done today. Don't be surprised if a new admirer makes his or her presence known.

## ♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Air out your grievances. You'll feel a whole lot better about it if you discuss what's bothering you rather than keeping it bottled up. You'll probably say the right thing if you speak from the heart.

## ♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

Look at both sides of the situation. Your optimism over a project may cause you to see only the positives and ignore the negatives. You may need an objective third party on your side to find the right path.

## ♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Fantasy may be better than reality. Your illusions could be dashed to pieces when you finally meet someone you've admired from afar. Doing what's best for the common good can be difficult but is certainly achievable.

## ♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

When you talk, people will usually listen. You'll not be at a loss for words when it comes to getting your way, and others may be pleased to accommodate you. Your wisdom and charm earn respect.

## ♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Have it your way. Be a star of the business world or the spark that kindles a blazing romance, as you probably can exert your will on anything today. Your performance may suffer if you do too many things at once.

## ♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

All's fair in love and war. You may be able to take advantage of a romantic situation by being in the right place at the right time. Make sure your financial picture isn't in need of tweaking.

## ♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Strut your stuff. Don't blend into the background; you're far more appealing than you think. Exude confidence and charm, and you should be able to conquer any situation that comes your way.

## ♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

There's more to it than meets the eye. Don't take a cold reception personally, as there is likely something else going on behind the scenes. Take what is offered but don't pry into private matters.

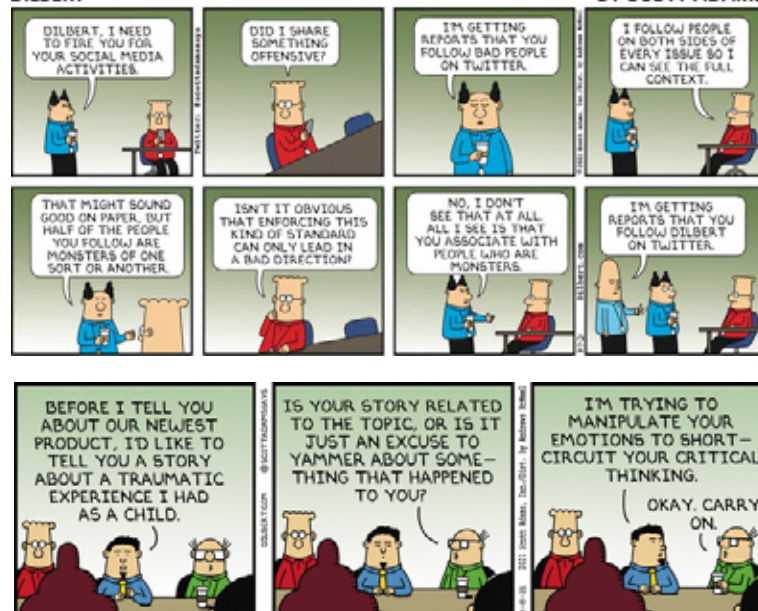
## ♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Honey works better than vinegar. You may get to the bottom of someone's problem if you show tact and compassion. Try to encourage someone to improve rather than being overly critical.

## ♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20





Read between the lines. You'll need to be perceptive to tell the difference between what someone says and what they actually mean. Your trust should be earned rather than given lightly.

## DILBERT





## LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

<p>Wed 10   Day</p> <p><b>81°</b> </p> <p>Partly cloudy. High 81F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p> <p>Humidity 67% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 6:18 am Sunset 6:16 pm</p>	<p>Wed 10   Night</p> <p><b>73°</b> </p> <p>Mainly clear skies. Low 73F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.</p> <p>Humidity 76% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 4:31 am Moonset 4:02 pm</p> <p>Waning Crescent</p>
<p>Thu 11   Day</p> <p><b>81°</b> </p> <p>Mostly sunny skies. High 81F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p> <p>Humidity 67% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 6:17 am Sunset 6:16 pm</p>	<p>Thu 11   Night</p> <p><b>73°</b> </p> <p>Mainly clear skies. Low 73F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.</p> <p>Humidity 76% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 5:16 am Moonset 4:57 pm</p> <p>Waning Crescent</p>



## COMMUNITY NOTICES



### PENSION NOTICE

The ABSSB wishes to advise our walk-in pensioners that pension payments for February 2021 will commence on March 8th, 2021. Pensioners are asked to take note of the cheque dissemination schedule according to their surname:

Surname	Collection Date
<b>A - F</b>	<u>Mon. 8th March</u>
<b>G - K</b>	<u>Tues. 9th March</u>
<b>L - P</b>	<u>Wed. 10th March</u>
<b>O - T</b>	<u>Thurs. 11th March</u>
<b>U - Z</b>	<u>Fri. 10th March</u>

**PENSIONERS ARE REMINDED TO ADHERE TO ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS.**



The Antigua & Barbuda Humane Society wishes to advise the public that the Animal Shelter and Donkey Sanctuary will be closed temporarily on Mondays. The new opening times are Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. The Humane Society's low-cost spay/neuter clinics for dogs and cats will now be on Thursdays by appointment only. For further information or an appointment, please call the Humane Society at 461-4957.



**TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY.**

Submit community notices to

**news@pointville.ag**

# Jury selection begins in trial of ex-cop in Floyd's death

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jury selection in the trial of a former Minneapolis police officer charged in George Floyd's death began Tuesday with the first potential juror excused after she revealed during questioning that she thought the way the officer acted was "not fair."

The woman, a mother of three from Mexico, said she saw bystander video showing Derek Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck, but she didn't understand why the officer didn't get up when Floyd said he couldn't breathe.

"That's not fair because we are humans, you know?" she said.

Defense attorney Eric Nelson noted that the woman said on her questionnaire that she wanted to be on the jury "to give my opinion of the unjust death of George Floyd." Potential jurors must show they can set aside their opinions on the case and view the evidence



*Former Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin*

fairly. The woman said she would be willing to change her mind if she saw evidence from a different perspective, but Nelson used one of his 15 peremptory challenges to dismiss her without providing a reason.

Judge Peter Cahill earlier rejected Nelson's request to remove her for cause over concerns about her English proficiency. The questioning illustrates the challenges facing attorneys in seating a jury

after video of Floyd's arrest has been widely seen around the world. Cahill set aside three weeks for a process that could go even longer; opening statements are scheduled no sooner than March 29.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death, and jury selection is proceeding despite uncertainty over whether a third-degree murder charge will be added. The state has asked the

Minnesota Court of Appeals to stop proceedings until that's resolved, which could mean delay of weeks or months.

Floyd was declared dead on May 25 after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against the black man's neck for about nine minutes, holding his position even after Floyd went limp. Floyd's death sparked sometimes violent protests in Minneapolis and beyond, leading to a nationwide reckoning on race.



# Meghan and Harry interview: Palace taking race issues 'very seriously'



BBC World News - The race issues raised by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in their interview with Oprah Winfrey are "concerning" and "taken very seriously", Buckingham Palace has said.

In a statement, the Palace said "recollections may vary" but the matters will be addressed privately.

Meghan told Oprah Harry had been asked by an unnamed family member "how dark" their son Archie's skin might be.

The Palace said the Sussexes would "always be much loved family members".

The response from Buckingham Palace came after crisis meetings involving senior royals. Pressure had been growing to respond to the interview in which Meghan - the first mixed-race member of the modern Royal Family - revealed the comments about their son's skin colour.

Prince Harry later clarified to Oprah that the comments were not made by either the Queen or the Duke of Edinburgh.

The statement, which

came a day and a half after the interview was first broadcast in the US, said: "The whole family is saddened to learn the full extent of how challenging the last few years have been for Harry and Meghan. "The issues raised, particularly that of race, are concerning. Whilst some recollections may vary, they are taken very seriously and will be addressed by the family privately.

"Harry, Meghan and Archie will always be much loved family members."

It is understood the royals wanted to carefully consider their response and to give the British public an opportunity to watch the interview first when it was broadcast on Monday evening. The royals are said to consider this a family matter and to believe they should be given the opportunity to discuss the issues privately.

Although likely, it was never absolutely certain that the Queen would issue a statement following the interview given by her grandson and his wife. The risk was that any response

would add to the "Royals in crisis" narrative which is playing out across front pages and TV screens across the globe.

But having had time to discuss the claims made by Harry and Meghan, four short sentences convey the message from the Palace that this is a private family matter and the specific allegations will not be publicly addressed.

The tone is conciliatory, with reference to the Sussexes as much loved family members. There is a gentle challenge in the line "whilst some recollections may vary", but also an assurance that concerns will be taken seriously.

And we can be sure that - at least as far as the UK-based royals are concerned - any bridge-building will be done in private.

During a visit in London earlier, Prince Charles did not speak

about the interview, in which the Sussexes addressed deeply personal topics of racism, mental health, the media and other members of the Royal Family.

The UK broadcast on Monday night was watched by an average of 11.1 million people. In it, the duchess said there had been times when she "didn't want to be alive any more" because she found royal life so difficult. She said she asked for help from the Palace but received none.

Meghan said conversations about how dark Archie's skin might be when he was born took place "in tandem" with discussions about why he would not be given a royal title and police protection.

Under rules in place since 1917, the couple's children would not automatically become princes or princesses - unless the Queen was to intervene.

# Russia's Sputnik V could be made in European Union after reported deals

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19 could be produced in western Europe after a deal to make it in Italy was signed by Moscow's RDIF sovereign wealth fund and Swiss-based pharmaceutical company Adienne.

The agreement, which will need approval from Italian regulators before production can be launched, has been confirmed by both RDIF, which markets Sputnik V internationally, and the Italian-Russian chamber of commerce.

Kirill Dmitriev, RDIF's head, told Russian state TV his fund had also struck deals with production facilities in Spain, France and Germany to produce Sputnik. He did not provide details.

It is the latest indication that some companies could press ahead with plans without waiting for the European Union's regulator -- the European Medicines Agency (EMA) -- to grant its approval to Sputnik V.

Scientists said the Russian vaccine was almost 92% effective, based on peer-reviewed late-stage trial results published in The Lancet medical journal last month.

Sputnik V has already been approved or is being assessed for approval in three EU member states - Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. EU officials have said Brussels could start negotiations about a possible agreement to buy vaccines if at least four members request it.

ITALIAN BREAK-THROUGH?

The Italian-Russian chamber of commerce said on Monday that the Italian move paved the way for the creation of the first Sputnik V production facility in Europe outside Russia.

It said there were plans for Italian production to begin in June and that it hoped that 10 million doses of Sputnik V could be produced there by the end of the year.

"This agreement is the first of its kind with



a European partner," Vincenzo Trani, head of the chamber, said in the statement. "It can be called a historic event, which is proof of the good state of relations between our countries and shows that Italian companies can see beyond political differences." The Lugano-based Adienne Pharma & Biotech did not immediately respond to a request for comment. RDIF declined to provide further detail on the deal

beyond confirming it.

The Italian industry ministry has played no role in the deal between RDIF and Adienne, a government source said, adding the ministry had not even been informed of the operation, which is "legitimate" and "in line with market dynamics".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Italy-related plan could help quickly satisfy demand for the shot abroad.



# Second Myanmar official dies after arrest, junta steps up media crackdown



“Their power must never last,” he said.

Neither the military nor the police responded to calls for comment.

Zaw Myat Linn is the second NLD official to have died in custody in the last two days. Khin Maung Latt, who had worked as a campaign manager for an NLD MP elected in 2020, died after he was arrested on Saturday night.

More than 1,900 people have been arrested across the country since the coup, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners said.

Police broke up scattered demonstrations in Yangon - the former capital and still the commercial hub - and other towns across Myanmar with tear gas and stun grenades on Tuesday.

As night fell, soldiers fired weapons in different districts of the coastal town of Dawei, while at least two people were wounded earlier in the day, one by a gunshot, in the town of Mohnyin in the north, local

media said.

Witnesses said two journalists from Kamayut, an independent media company, were arrested, while the military raided the offices of Mizzima News in Yangon.

Live footage posted to social media also showed a raid after nightfall on the offices of the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB).

A day earlier, the junta stripped Mizzima, DVB, and three other outlets of their licences. They had all been active in covering protests against the coup.

At least 35 journalists have been arrested since the Feb. 1 coup, Myanmar Now reported, of which 19 have been released.

The U.S State Department said it “strongly condemned the junta for the... violent crackdowns on those peacefully taking to the streets and on those who are just doing their jobs, including independent journalists who have been swept up.”

(Reuters) - An official from deposed Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy (NLD) died in custody after he was arrested early on Tuesday, the second party figure to die in detention in two days, as security forces broke up street protests against the military junta.

Police also cracked down on independent media, raiding the offices of two news outlets and detaining two journalists.

Myanmar has been in crisis since the army ousted Suu Kyi’s elected government in a coup on Feb. 1,

detained her and other NLD officials, and set up a ruling junta of generals.

The NLD’s Zaw Myat Linn died in custody on Tuesday after he was arrested in the country’s main city of Yangon around 1:30 a.m., said Ba Myo Thein, a member of the dissolved upper house of parliament.

“He’s been participating continuously in the protests,” Ba Myo Thein said. The cause of death was not clear.

In a Facebook live broadcast before he was detained, Zaw Myat Linn urged people to continue fighting the army, “even if it costs our lives.”

# SKERRITT AND SHALLOW PROMISE TO BUILD ON FIRST TERM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

President of Cricket West Indies (CWI) Ricky Skerritt said fighting petty boardroom politics and territorial insularity are two of the biggest challenges to West Indies cricket progress.

Skerritt along with vice president Dr. Kishore Shallow have launched a bid for a second term and are being challenged by the ticket of Guyana Cricket Board Secretary, Anand Sanasie and Barbados Cricket Board vice president, Calvin Hope.

The incumbents received nominations from Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) and Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB). Skerritt noted that they are also confident of similar support from the Windward Islands Cricket Board and predicts support from the Jamaica Cricket Association (JCA) for the elections scheduled for Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Skerritt explained that some people seemed to believe that the CWI boardroom is a type of Parliament where their only job is to oppose or resist any decision that doesn't directly benefit them individually.

The Skerritt and Shallow campaign slogan is Forward "WI" Go, and they promised to continue to lead the fight for organizational modernization, including greater transparency, accountability, and partnership with all stakeholders, designed to support and prepare for achieving the best possible on-field results.

The pair say they have identified 10 priorities that will now continue their upgrade "Cricket First Plus" plan for their second term in office.

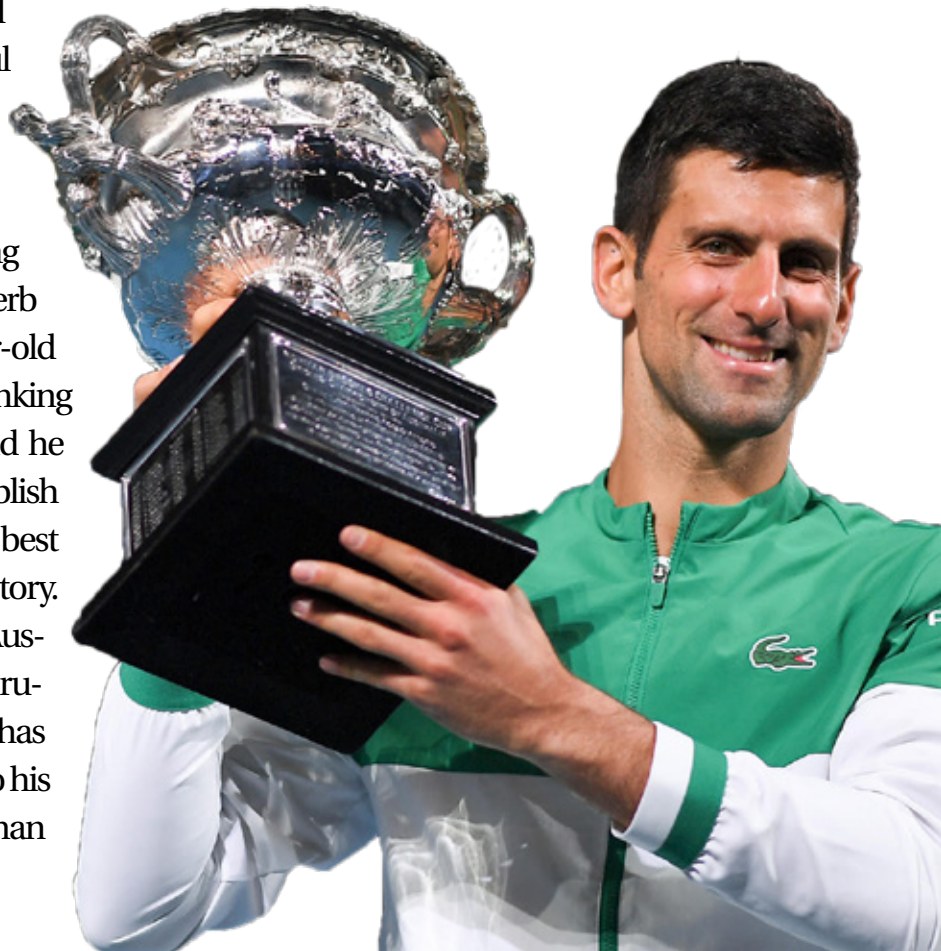




# NOVAK DJOKOVIC

## SURPASSES ROGER FEDERER'S ALL TIME RECORD

Novack Djokovic has broken Roger Federer's all-time record for most weeks spent as the men's world number one. The Serbian has now topped the ATP rankings for a combine 311 weeks, surpassing Federer's tally of 310 on Monday. Djokovic has enjoyed five different spells as the world's best male tennis player, most recently wrestling top spot from Rafael Nadal in February 2020. "It really excites me to walk the path of legends and giants of this sport," Djokovic said per the ATP tour. "To know that I have earned my place among them by following my childhood dream is a beautiful confirmation that when you do things out of love and passion, everything is possible," the Serb said. The 33-year-old first topped the ranking back in July 2011 and he has gone on to establish himself as one of the best players in tennis history. After winning the Australian Open in February, Djokovic now has 18 grand slam titles to his name, just two less than Federer and Nadal.



## Joachim Low to leave Germany's manager role

Joachim Low will step down from his role as Germany's manager after this summer's European Championships. The 61-year-old has been in charge of his country's national team since replacing Jurgen Klinsmann in 2006. He has a contract until the 2022 World Cup but approached the German Football Association (DFB) to end it early. "I take this step very consciously, full of pride and enormous gratitude," said Low, who led his country to victory at the 2014 World Cup. Following the World Cup success in Brazil, Low guided Germany to the semifinals of Euro 2016 where they were beaten by host, France. He then came under pressure after his side went out at the group stage of the 2018 World Cup. DFB president Fritz Keller said, "The fact that he informed us about his decision at a very early stage is decent. He gives us the necessary time to name a successor."

## 2021 SUMMER OLYMPICS: FOREIGN

### VISITORS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED AT TOKYO GAME



Fans will reportedly not be allowed to travel to Japan for the Tokyo Olympics or Paralympics this summer, according to multiple reports. The country made the decision to ban foreign visitors from the Tokyo Olympics due to the threat of the coronavirus pandemic. The report came on Tuesday from the Kyodo news agency, citing Japanese government officials. The news has not yet

been confirmed by the Japanese government or Olympic officials.

While the news may be disappointing to those wanting to make the trip, the country is being on the safe side. At one point, fans were unsure if there would even be a Summer Olympics, after the games were delayed from 2020 to 2021 and amidst growing worry regarding the pandemic. They still plan to have the Olympics in summer of 2021 despite the pushback from

many fans, media members and Japanese citizens.

Japan has a population of over 126 million, and has reported just over 8,000 deaths from COVID-19, according to CBS News.

Even without allowing visitors from abroad, there is still concern about the spread of the virus, given how many athletes and personnel will be making the trip.

Last month, officials released a 33-page playbook detailing the health and safety

protocols that will be in place. There are many guidelines in place for athletes, including tracking tests and mask mandates. Fans will not be allowed to cheer or sing loudly, but are allowed to clap.

The officials have asked that athletes get vaccinated before participating, but say they will not require a vaccination before attending.

The Tokyo Olympics is set to start on July 23 and last until Aug. 8.

**DEWS**



with

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



**MONDAY-FRIDAY  
7:00am - 8:30am**

