



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTX PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 7TH APRIL 2021

| ISSUE 212

| WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND DOSES OF VACCINE DUE TOMORROW

SEE PAGE 3



OFFICIALS EYEING POSSIBLE RESTART OF CRUISE TOURISM ON A SMALLER SCALE THIS SUMMER

PAGE 7

EDITORIAL

THE IMPERATIVES OF VACCINATION

It is certainly welcomed news that the shipment of vaccines under the COVAX facility will be arriving in the country tomorrow Thursday. A total of twenty-four thousand doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine will arrive and will go into immediate distribution.

Over the past few weeks, there have been much discussions on the question of a 'Vaccine Passport,' that is, a travel document to indicate that the holder has been fully vaccinated against the novel coronavirus and therefore is not a threat to fellow passengers.

Antigua and Barbuda has been listed as one of the most tourism-dependent countries in the entire world. Much of what we do is dependent on this fickle industry and it is in plain sight the devastating effects the pandemic has had

on the industry. Take a walk through St John's on any given day, especially the Heritage Quay area, and you will see taxi drivers sitting idly by with nothing to do as business has grounded to a halt. The once bustling Vendors Mall is a mere shadow of what it used to be during normal times. But these are not normal times. Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson has announced that foreign travel will resume shortly, but in a phased manner. In fact, the UK will be introducing a system based on traffic lights of red, amber and green. Depending on the rate of infection, a traffic light will be assigned to a country, telling UK residents of likely danger if they travel to these destinations.

Some US airlines have also been discussing this 'vaccine passport'

issue with some intention to introduce it in some form.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has been speaking of the need to vaccinate a large percentage of the population in order to get ahead of the spread of the virus. This has both health and economic implications. Elsewhere in this paper is a report that discussions are taking place with cruise lines with the possibility of designating the country as a home port for a cruise line. That will come after intense discussions between officials here and the cruise lines. However, it would be self-defeating if here in Antigua and Barbuda the rate of infection continues to climb whilst these discussions are underway. A swift roll out of the vaccine programme takes on greater importance if

local officials are to be successful in negotiations for home porting. It is the shot in the arm that the industry needs; it will be welcomed news for the taxi drivers, vendors, restaurants and duty-free shops and their staff.

There has been some hesitancy by some to get vaccinated. The roll out is over a month and except for minor reactions by some, as to be expected, there have been no reported issues with the vaccines.

Some countries are way ahead of others with respect to their vaccination programmes. It is those countries that will be at the head of the line to receive tourists and a return to normality. In Antigua and Barbuda, we are too tourism-dependent to take matters like these lightly. Getting vaccinated is a national imperative!

TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND DOSES OF VACCINE DUE TOMORROW



The much-anticipated shipment of vaccines from the World Health Organisation (WHO) administrated COVAX facility is due to arrive at the V.C. Bird International airport tomorrow (Thursday).

Government sources say the shipment contains some twenty-four thousand doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, enough to give the second jab to those who have already received their

first dose, thereby completing their inoculation; and enough to allow for an additional ten thousand residents to receive their first doses (or for five thousand to receive full inoculation.)

The sources say that the government will roll out another round of public vaccinations with specific groups being targeted. "This new round will seek to bring under the net those elderly persons in the society who we missed

the last time around. It will also target teachers who will be engaged in face-to-face teaching beginning next Monday, restaurants workers, other vulnerable groups, as well as those who interact with medical patients," the sources revealed.

Up to late Tuesday, the Ministry of Health, along with a list of volunteers, was busy engaged in planning for the second roll out of the vaccines.

Under the first tranche, over twenty-seven thousand people received their first dose of the vaccine. They are to receive the second dose shortly.

The arrival of these vaccines is said to coincide with the ministry's timeline for the scheduled second dosage which is expected to commence in May.

Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, previously announced that fourteen thousand doses will be used to replenish

vaccines that were used in the initial vaccine drive. This, according to sources, will ensure that all twenty-seven thousand dosages are in place for second jabs. To date, twenty-seven thousand and thirty-two people have been vaccinated, according to the latest COVID-19 dashboard.

An announcement has not officially been made for the reopening of public vaccination centers. However, the remaining ten thou-

sand doses will most likely be used for general public vaccination.

According to officials from the COVID-19 roll out team, representatives from the COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Call Center have commenced a post-first-dose-survey in preparation for the second dose. Information will be verified and updated in the National Vaccine

Registration Database.

Pre-registration for the COVID-19 vaccine continues and is being heavily enforced.

Pre-registration is said to be vital for efficiency in the next phase of the vaccination process.

Officials have also advised that the public keep their COVID-19 vaccination card safe in case it is needed for future use.

Form RLNC 6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34 of the Act

REGISTRATION SECTION
BENDALS

BLOCK
51 1888A

PARCEL
489

LAND REGISTRY
Antigua & Barbuda

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on the 15th day of March 2021 by Peyton J. V. Knight, Attorney-At-Law of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates of Upper Newgate Street, Saint John Parish, Antigua on behalf of HAZEL-ROY BARNES Personal Representative of the Estate of Mr. Hazel Barnes, the Applicant herein for the replacement of Land Certificate # RL-200702339 dated the 16th day of April 2007 issued to HAZEL BARNES, being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 23rd day of March 2021

Registrar of Lands

JOB VACANCY

Nibbs & Associates

OUR CLIENT IS SEEKING SUITABLE APPLICANTS FOR THE ROLE OF:

IT OFFICER

Position Overview: The IT Officer will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining the computer systems and networks of the Organization. Install, configure computer systems, diagnose hardware and software faults and solve technical and application problems.

REQUIREMENTS

- High degree of honesty and integrity
- Confidential
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Demonstrate the ability to handle multiple priorities
- Strong problem solving skills and demonstrated ability to take initiative and work independently
- Ability to think logically
- Strong Analytical & Research Skills
- Ability to prioritize numerous tasks and manage shifting priorities while maintaining strong organizational skills
- Maintain a high level of accuracy and attention to detail
- Excellent customer service skills

EDUCATION/TRAINING

- Bachelor Degree Information Technology/Finance/Economics
- Proficient in Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, Outlook, Power Point
- SQL & programming languages
- Webpage/site development
- C+ & Networks+ or similar certifications

All interested persons should send applications to:
nibbsandassociates268@gmail.com
 Deadline: April 15th, 2021

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA **PM** SEEKS REPARATION FROM ALL SOULS COLLEGE



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, has written to the Master of All Souls College at Oxford University, seeking reparations for what now amounts to tens of millions of pounds sterling, amassed from the hard labour of enslaved people on Antigua and Barbuda.

The Prime Minister's letter, which was dispatched Tuesday morning, had a swift response from Sir John Vickers, the Master of All Souls.

In his letter to the Head of the Oxford College, Prime Minister Browne stated that a bequest to All Souls College in 1710 from Christopher Codrington III, which stocked and built the Col-

lege's now famous Library, was generated principally from the labour of enslaved people on 'granted' lands in Antigua and Barbuda. Browne pointed out that the Codringtons' added considerably to their family's wealth from the proceeds of plantations and slavery on Antigua, principally, a 'grant' of five hundred acres of land in 1674 which he named Betty's Hope and a further four hundred acres that was also subsequently 'granted.' He told Sir John that the Codringtons retained that land until 1944 and for one hundred and sixty of those years profited from the hard labour of enslaved people on Antigua.

Mr Browne said that Christopher Codrington III, who bequeathed the funds to All Souls, not only inherited the nine hundred acres of land and enslaved people on Antigua but he also secured a lease of Barbuda in 1684 at no cost. The considerable profits made from these granted lands and the hard labour of enslaved people allowed Christopher Codrington III, when he died in 1710, to bequeath to All Souls the equivalent of millions of pounds sterling at today's value. The Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister proposed to Sir John that "the College should repay its debt to enslaved persons on Antigua and Barbuda, who were the real source of benefit to All Souls, by (a) contributing to the higher education of the people of Antigua and Barbuda through postgraduate scholarships to the College for eligible Antiguan and Barbudans; and (b) direct donations to the Five Islands (Antigua) Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) which was launched in September 2019 as the fourth landed campus of the University." In his immediate response Tuesday, Sir John Vickers thanked Prime Minister Browne for his letter and advised that All Souls College "is investigating academic initiatives in relation to the Codrington legacy." He said that his hope is that "conclusions will be reached in the coming university term." He undertook to write again "by mid-June, if not sooner."

The selection of beneficiaries for homes in Barbuda continues apace



Pictured Below: Beneficiary: Norma Drinkwater, Level 4, Before & After



The second phase of the housing reconstruction in Barbuda is underway as the selection of individuals who will get these homes is taking place concurrently.

National Authorising Officer, Dr. Clarence Henry, said the construction of eighty new houses is in progress with Colin Harrigan of Harrigan Construction in charge of undertaking the project.

“Last week the Beneficiary Selection Committee (BSC) met and we selected eighteen persons who will benefit from the programme and the selection continues this week where we hope to select another fifteen to twenty

persons,” he reported. Dr Henry said the committee will continue meeting throughout the month of April when it hopes to complete the selection of individuals and allocation of the homes to beneficiaries.

In the first phase of the programme some twenty houses were completed and the beneficiaries have already received keys to their new homes. Under the second tranche, a total of eighty-four houses are to be completed. The houses are being funded under a programme sponsored by the European Union.

The Antigua and Barbuda government en-


gaged the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to manage the project. The Office of the National Authorising Officer (ONAO) also plays a role in assisting the UNDP oversee the project as it does for all EU-funded projects in the country.

According to Dr. Henry, the Beneficiary Selection Committee has been getting the cooperation from all stakeholders involved with the project. “The BSC has the responsibili-

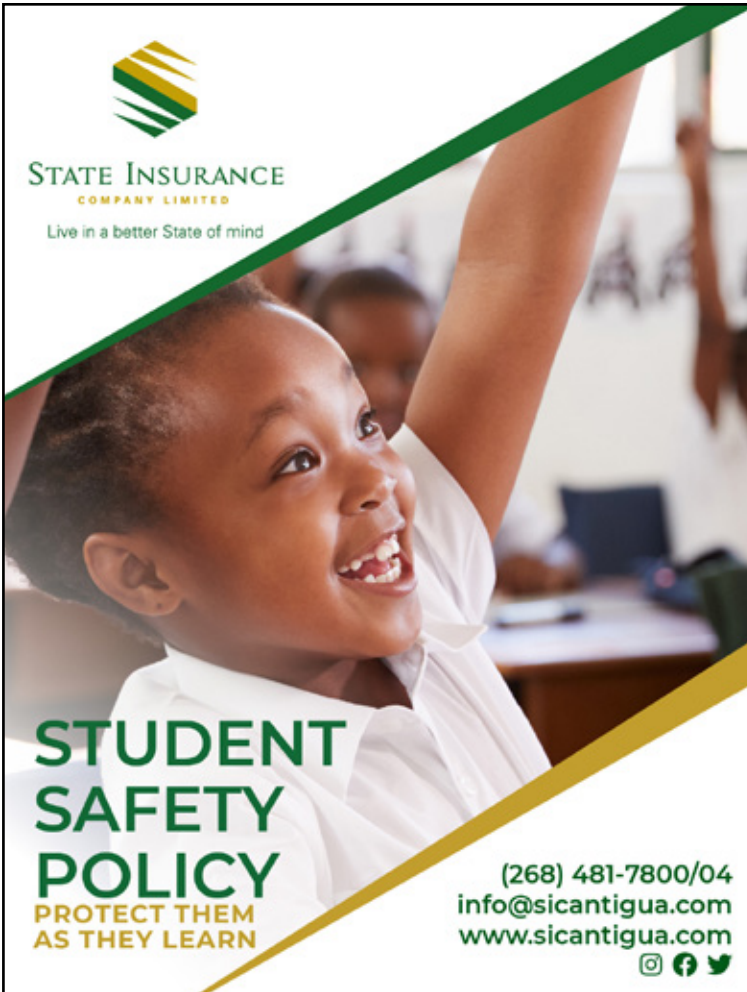
ty to ensure that the needy, not the greedy, receive keys to the new homes,” he emphasised.

The BSC comprises the ONAO, the Barbuda Council, the Development Control Authority, the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Barbuda Affairs, and the EU.

The EU has put up five million Euros to finance the replacement of homes destroyed in by Hurricane Irma in 2017.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind



STUDENT SAFETY POLICY
PROTECT THEM AS THEY LEARN

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

Instagram Facebook Twitter

Officials eyeing possible restart of cruise tourism on a smaller scale this summer



**Dona Regis-Prosper-
General Manager**

Officials associated with the local cruise tourism industry are eyeing a possible restart to the cruise industry as early as this summer as nego-

tiations with cruise lines take place to make this happen.

General Manager of Antigua Cruise Ports (ACP), Dona Regis-Prosper said she is very hopeful that Antigua and Barbuda will see a restart of the vital cruise tourism industry, perhaps as early as July or August this year. This timetable is much earlier than had been anticipated just months ago as several major cruise lines announced cancellations of cruises well past the

summer months because the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not yet green-lighted such activities.

But according to Regis-Prosper, the cruise lines may have found a way to restart the industry while they await the CDC notification.

“What we are seeing is that the cruise lines are moving towards establishing home-port arrangements with several Caribbean governments. This does not

mean that the health protocols will no longer be in place; they will. However, some governments are willing to welcome the vessels under certain arrangements that will protect both the local populations and the visitors,” she explained.

The health protocols, she stressed, will be no less stringent but the governments and the cruise lines will work closely to ensure the safety and protection of all involved.

TENDER NOTICE

— INVITATION TO BID —

CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE ROADS - PICCADILLY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE 1

CENTRAL HOUSING AND PLANNING AUTHORITY (CHAPA)

The Tenders Board of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA), invites interested vendors to submit a bid/proposal, for works and/or services related to the **Construction of Concrete Roads (Phase 1) - Piccadilly Development Project**.

The **scope of works** and supporting documents related to this tender will be made available via a link at the Tenders Board website at www.tendersboard.gov.ag under **News/Notices**.

The link will provide access to an e-Procurement Platform hosted by EASIBUY where you will be required to register before being able to download the tender documents.

Please be advised that the eligibility of your bid/proposal, is subject to the completion of a Vendor Registration Form, which is also available from the e-Procurement platform.

Bid/Proposal for this tender can be submitted by:

uploading to the e-Procurement Platform or submitting two (2) hard copies in sealed envelopes addressed to: Chairman, Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance and **Corporate Governance, Parliament Drive and with the heading “Construction of Concrete Roads (Phase 1) - Piccadilly Development Project”** - Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA).

Bid submission shall be no later than **12:00 noon on Wednesday 19 May 2021**.

Queries or Clarification Requests regarding the specified requirements of this tender, must be emailed to: **Chairman, Tenders Board (tenders.board@ab.gov.ag)**, with the subject heading - CHAPA Piccadilly Development Project, Query. Please note that the final day for considering queries related to this tender, is **2:00 PM on Thursday April 15 2021**.

She disclosed that these arrangements will be for smaller vessels and the plan is premised on efforts to scale up slowly to larger vessels later in the year when they receive the CDC notification.

Already, negotiations are taking place with Barbados, The Bahamas, St Maarten, La Ramana in the Dominican Republic and Antigua and Barbuda. If agreements are reached with any cruise line and officials in Antigua and Barbuda it could mean a restart of the industry by July.

This would be welcomed news for the thousands of residents who are employed directly or indirectly in the cruise

tourism sector. The ACP general manager sounded an optimistic note when she said the future of the sector looks 'bright.'

This news comes on the day that several major cruise lines announced further cancellations of cruises until later in the year. On Tuesday, Norwegian Cruise Line issued additional cruise cancellations after scheduling voyages abroad. The announcement from Norwegian is the latest in a constant stream of cancellations throughout the first quarter of 2021.

Cruise lines have repeatedly pushed back their restart dates as they

await additional guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the criteria to be used in the next phase of its Framework for Conditional Sailing order.

Other major cruise lines have cancelled cruises as the coronavirus pandemic has brought the industry to a halt for more than a year.

Princess Cruises said it would cancel all cruise vacations in the Caribbean, along the California Coast, in Mexico and in the Mediterranean through 30th June, impacting departures from Los Angeles, Fort Lauderdale and Rome including those on Ca-

ribbean Princess, Enchanted Princess and Ruby Princess.

Royal Caribbean Group also announced additional cruise cancellations on all of its cruise lines heading into spring on Tuesday.

For Royal Caribbean International, sailings on most ships are cancelled through 31st May. There are, however, some exclusions. The Quantum of the Seas, for example, which has been sailing in Singapore, is exempt as is the line's newest ship, Odyssey of the Seas, set to make its debut in Israel as the first "fully-vaccinated" cruise, is also exempt.

STRIPS COMBO
\$14.99

-FRIES -4 STRIPS
-BISCUIT -MEDIUM DRINK

DAILY Early Bird SPECIAL
\$22.00
4 PIECES (2 legs, 2 thighs)
2 FRIES

Bucket of WINGS

15 pieces HOT WINGS small \$29.99
30 pieces HOT WINGS large \$59.99

#StaySafe @kfcanu @kfcanu
#KFCANU #SOCIALDISTANCING #MADEFRESHEVERYDAY

FOR DELIVERY 775-4621 / 775-4622
or DOWNLOAD THE APP... apple Store / Google Play

Preparations of school plants in progress to welcome back students



Director of Education Clare Browne

A series of activities is taking place this week at school plants across Antigua and Barbuda ahead of the start of limited in-class learning beginning next Monday. Director of Education Clare Browne said while only the fourth and fifth form students from the secondary schools and grades five and six from the primary schools are due back in the classroom next week, nonetheless much preparations must take place at each school to welcome them back.

According to Browne, this week the Board of Education will have two main tasks at hand; firstly, it will be distributing laptops to some students and secondly, it will be carrying out inspections

of schools to effect minor repairs if and when necessary. "The B of Ed

will be working along with the principals, their senior staff and others to ensure that the schools are properly sanitised and the hand washing stations are all functioning ahead of the re-opening," he explained. While Browne does not anticipate that there will be much repair work needed at the schools, he said the ministry's role is to ensure that everything is in place to fully accommodate students on Monday. During this week, the ministry will reactive its Safe School Committee that com-

prises officials of the ministries of education and health who will visit schools to check that all the requirements for the health protocols are in place for the students. Several thousand students are expected back in the classroom next week as the classes involved include students from both the public and private secondary and primary schools.

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Date: Wednesday, 7th April 2021

Time: 8:30AM-12:00PM

Affected areas: Piccadilly, Cobbs Cross & English Harbour

Date: Thursday, 8th April 2021

Time: 8:45AM-11:00AM

Affected areas: Section of Lightfoot east of the football field

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

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



NOTICE

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ANUHPB 2021/

In the Estate of GRATHIEL AMELIA MARTIN, late of Freetown Village, St. Phillip's, Antigua, Deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

SECOND PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by **LINDA JOSIAH** of Freetown Village, St. Phillip's, Antigua, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawful daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 11th day of December, 2013.

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

Dated the 26th day of March, 2021

TALIA N. DACOSTA
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
STAPLETON CHAMBERS

ACB Caribbean will be a force within the sub-regional banking sector: GM Charles



By Phil George

The newly rebranded ACB Caribbean, formerly Antigua Commercial Bank, is poised to become a 'force' within the banking sector of the sub-region, according to General Manager, Joanna Charles.

This assessment from GM Charles is contained in a video posted on the bank's website for the attention of its shareholders, customers and staff on the first day of the opening of its Grenada branch. She says the re-birth of the indigenous financial institution positions them to be a force among banks within the sub-region.

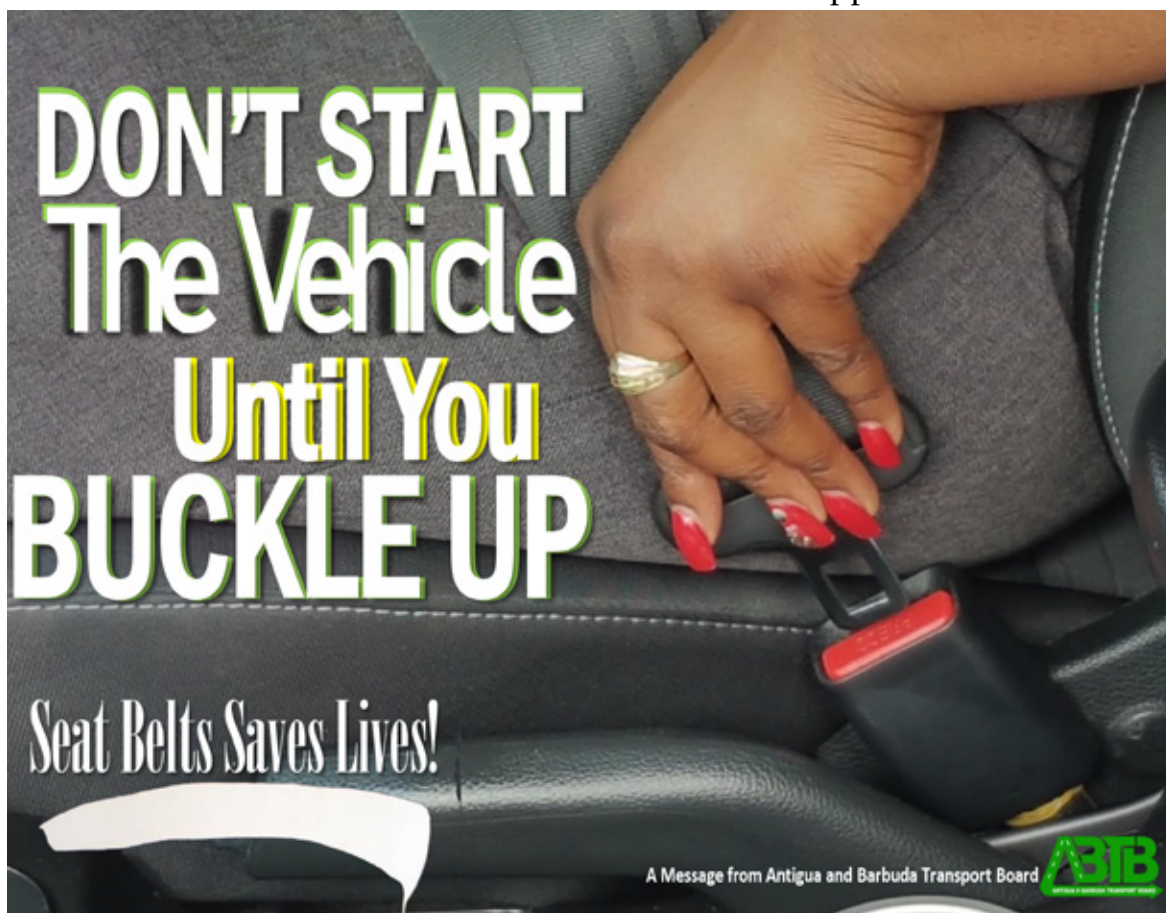
"On this historic day, our first day of oper-

ations outside of Antigua, it is difficult to find the words to express the pride I feel as I watch the dreams of the founders of this great Antiguan and Barbudan bank become a reality. We are now a truly Caribbean financial institution as we have successfully expanded further into the OECS with the birth of ACB Caribbean Grenada bank. From

humble beginnings in 1955, to present day as a financial institution with over one billion dollars in assets operating in two countries, it is evident that the sky is the limit for us," she stated.

Charles, who joined the bank in 2018, predicts the future seems bright for ACB Caribbean.

"My role is to guide us to achieving the vision statement and that is empowering those we serve to achieve wealth and value beyond their expectations. Your support and contri-





ACB Grenada Bank Ltd

butions are critical as we face the future and navigate the transition period together.” She remarked.

Last month, ACB Caribbean announced its rebranded new name and look as it announced the acquisition of the RBC Grenada unit. It is the first indigenous bank to expand beyond the shores of Antigua and Barbuda.

Meanwhile, on the first day of operations in Grenada, ACB Grenada Bank Ltd was hit with industrial action by workers on an issue that dates back to former majority owners Royal Bank of Canada.

The employees took strike action to highlight their disagreement with RBC’s decision to challenge the Minister of Labour’s recent recommendation for the staff to be given the option to accept severance.

It is a long standing matter where RBTT reportedly denied the workers the option of deciding whether they want to seek termination and receive severance pay or continue with the new owners. RBTT had also contended that it had the right to sever workers at the same time that it gives notice to the Union of the decision

to retrench the workers. In a statement, ACB Grenada Bank Ltd. moved to assure employees, writing, “We have secured agreement from RBC to retain sole responsibility for the conduct of this outstanding labour dispute. We have also ensured that any and all severance entitlements that may be finally determined due and payable are secured in an escrow fund in a segregated account.”

ACB Grenada Bank Ltd. says it understands the concerns of members of staff and also their decision to strike as guided by the Grena-

da Technical and Allied Workers’ Union, but called for there to be “open dialogue on employee-related issues and look forward to the staff’s co-operation and understanding under the circumstances.”

The bank is guaranteeing customers it has activated their Business Continuity Plan and that operations will continue uninterrupted, adding they remain open for in-branch transactions, and customers are encouraged to utilise online banking, as this service continues during the transition period.

Major development earmarked for St John's City South



By Phil George

Residents in sections of the St. John's City South are to get relief from flooding through the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) project to be spearheaded by the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The fifteen-million Eastern Caribbean dollars EDA project aims to reduce the impact of increased flooding in the Cashew Hill waterway area. The project commenced in Belmont and will culminate in Bendals, a statement outlined.

It is expected that property value of all the homes in the project area will be increased as a result of the EDA project which, when complete, will be able to prevent significant flooding during heavy rainfall and storms.

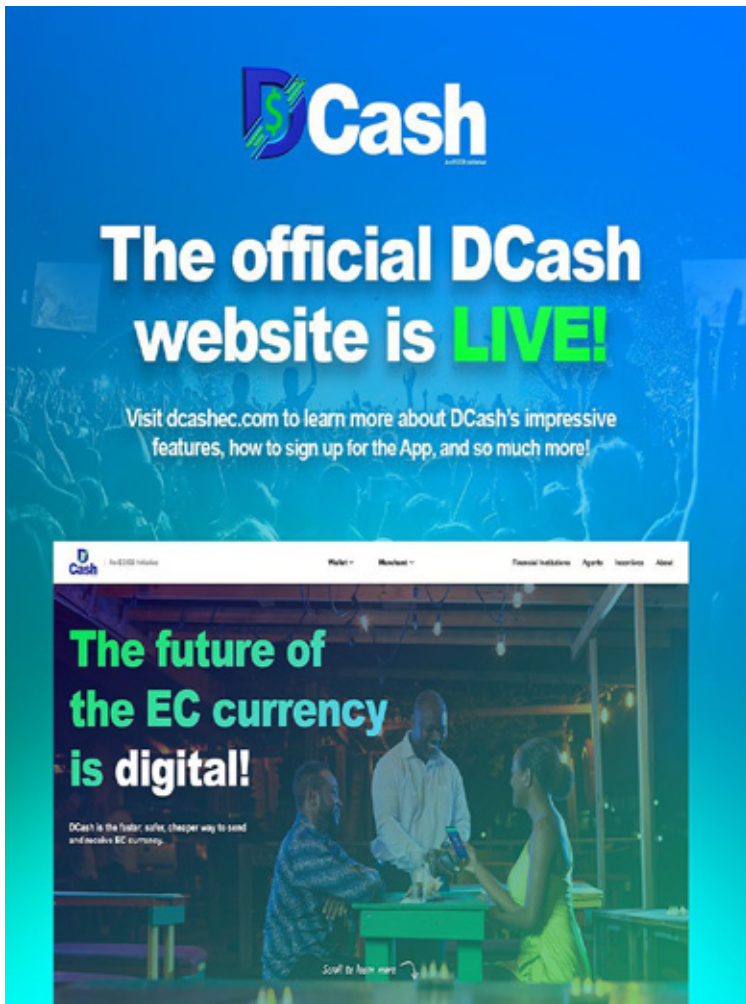
Representatives from the Department of the Environment have held discussions with Member of Parliament Steadroy Benjamin and members of the community, about the preparatory works, to include holes for geotechnical as-

essment, which commenced on 6th April. Minister Benjamin welcomes the recent developments in the Belmont/Briggins area. "We are now having studies conducted, testing of soil, testing the level of the water to see how it can be expanded, making it deeper for the persons living in the area. Now this particular project begins at the pond in Belmont/Briggins and will go all the way to Bendals. So this is a positive move on. It's fifteen million dollars and we will also make

certain that the pond provides water for the birds, and animals will still be able to water there. Those involved in animal husbandry, such as cattle farming, will also be able to take their animals there," he revealed.

The project, undertaken by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, is being executed through the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Works along with China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation.

Eastern Caribbean becomes the first currency union to issue blockchain-based digital currency



Euronews - The Eastern Caribbean has created its own form of digital currency meant to help speed transactions and serve people without bank accounts. The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank said its “DCash” is the first such blockchain-based currency introduced by any of the world’s currency unions, though some individual nations have similar existing systems. It became available Wednesday, 31st March, in a year-long pilot programme in four island nations: St. Lucia, Grenada,

Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

DCash was created by Barbados-based fintech company Bitt in partnership with the central bank. Unlike cryptocurrencies, it is issued by an official central bank and has a fixed value, tied to the existing East-

ern Caribbean dollar used across much of the region.

“(It) is a milestone in the history of monetary instruments,” said Bitt CEO Brian Popelka during a press conference broadcast online.

The system allows users even without

PROBATE FORM P7

Rule 15

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
(Probate)

In the Estate of EUGENE MICHAEL HUMPHREYS a. k. a. EUGENE HUMPHREYS late of Brownes Avenue, in the Parish of Saint John in Antigua and Barbuda, Deceased

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
2nd PUBLICATION**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by PHILLIP ABBOTT of Woods Estate in the Parish of St. John in Antigua and Barbuda for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named deceased who died on the 6th day of November, 2020 without revoking a Will bearing the date of 19th day of June, 2020 wherein the Applicant is the Sole Executor and Trustee.

Any person having an objection to the application for the grant of Probate shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 30th day of March 2021

[Signature]
Lenworth Johnson
Attorney-at-Law

Filed by JOHNSONGARDINER, Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant whose address for service is 51A St. Mary's Street, St. John's, Antigua

bank accounts - but with a smartphone - to use a downloaded app and make payments via a QR code. Those without bank accounts would go to a previously approved agent or non-banking financial institution who would verify a person's information and then approve a DCash wallet.

That person would then go to a supermarket or other store and give the cashier physical cash which would then be deposited as digital currency in their wallet, Bitt spokesman Chris Burnett told The Associated Press.

In addition, there are limits on the amount of money people can send via DCash, there are no plans for now of integrating credit cards and interest does not apply to the digital currency.

Fears of financing

terrorism and fraud While many in the Eastern Caribbean cheered the historic move, some experts worry that digital currency issued by smaller countries could end up being used as a conduit for illicit activities, including terrorism financing and money laundering, said Eswar Prasad, a trade policy professor at Cornell University.

"That skepticism is waning as more central banks get into the act, and as central banks around the world face the inevitability of the declining use of physical cash," Prasad said.

He noted that the Bahamas last year became the first country to roll out its digital currency nationwide, and that the Marshall Islands is considering its own cryptocurrency. For smaller coun-

tries, "there is more at stake" in part because many people remain unbanked, he said.

"That's why I think small countries are being more aggressive about this, simply because they need to," Prasad added.

Officials said that the digital currency will be available in Anguilla, Dominica, Montserrat and St. Vincent and the Grenadines - which form part of the eight island economies under the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank - by September at the latest.

The project aims to see a fifty per cent reduction in the use of physical cash by 2025, said Sharmyn Powell, chairperson of the bank's fintech working group.

"It's safer, faster and cheaper," Powell said. Central Bank Governor Timothy NJ

Antoine said he envisions farmers, fishermen, small business owners, single mothers and people without bank accounts, among others, using the digital currency.

"Payments are still too slow and too expensive," Antoine said of the current system. "We heard you, and we have delivered."

Antoine said it is harder to steal digital cash and said it's a safe way to make payments while avoiding contact during the pandemic.

Caribbean ahead of other countries

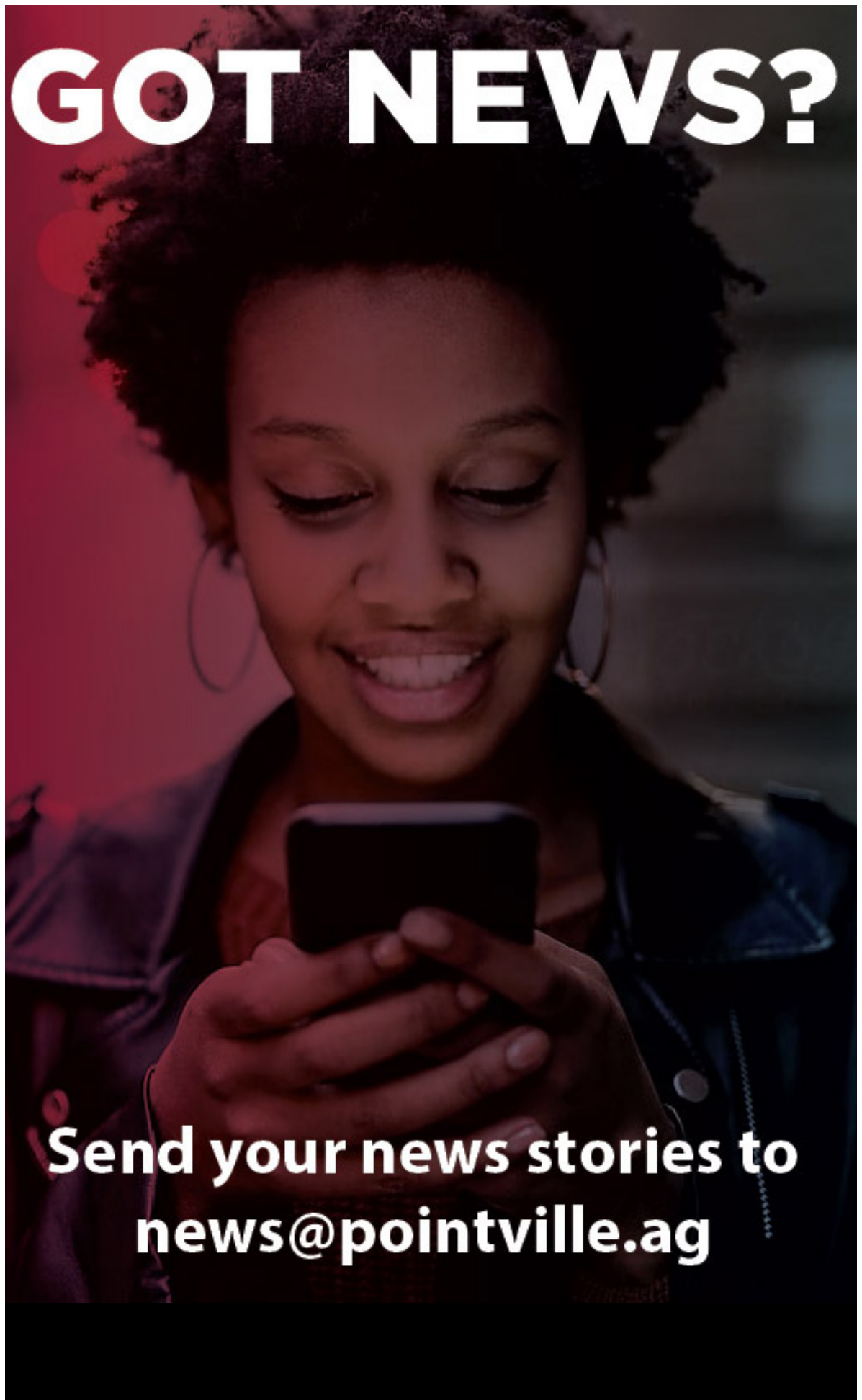
One Eastern Caribbean dollar is currently equivalent to €0.31. All Eastern Caribbean notes feature Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, who is the current head of the Commonwealth.

The project comes more than two months after the European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan, the Bank of Canada, the Bank of England, the Swedish Riksbank, and the Swiss National Bank created a group to study whether they should issue digital currencies.

The Swedish central bank already has commissioned a pilot programme. Meanwhile, China rolled out a digital currency in four cities in April 2020 as part of a pilot programme that has since expanded to more than two dozen cities.

However, Lee Rainers, a fintech law and policy professor at Duke University, said it remains to be seen whether central bank digital currency is the future.

"I approach it with a sense of scepticism because this technology has been around for over ten years now but has not taken off as a broad medium of exchange," he said.



GOT NEWS?

**Send your news stories to
news@pointville.ag**

The Caribbean's skillful vaccine diplomacy

Many of the Caribbean's sovereign states have enough vaccines to cover their populations. They knew how to profit from international competition



Artikel auf Deutsch lesen

For the small island states of the Caribbean, vaccine diplomacy is crucial to managing the Covid-19 pandemic. Even if their population is barely that of a district of São Paulo, countries like Grenada and Antigua & Barbuda are sovereign states, and as such they have a seat and vote at the United Nations – just like Brazil or Mexico. The 15 states in the Caribbean Com-

munity (CARICOM) together have more voting power than the whole of South America. And the current crisis shows how this sovereignty can be converted into a supply of vaccines that larger states can only dream of.

Take, for example, Dominica (not to be confused with the far larger Dominican Republic). With its 70,000 inhabitants, the island had already received 70,000 vaccine doses from India at the beginning of February –

not just promised or planned, but actually there on the island, ready to be used. In the meantime, China has stepped forward and flown in more vaccine doses. Dominica has the epidemic under control like no one else: so far, there's not [been] a single death [from COVID-19] on the island. The number of infected people is 161 – not per week, as on the neighbouring islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, [which belong] to France – but in total.

Cont'd on pg 17

Not all Caribbean island nations have a record as spectacular as Dominica. But many are benefitting from the international competition of vaccine diplomacy. Barbados has received 100,000 doses from India as a donation; 40,000 vaccine doses went to Antigua & Barbuda; and additional doses have been sent to other CARICOM states. For a country like India these are not huge quantities. In these small island states, on the other hand, they cover a substantial portion of the adult population. Barbados has already vaccinated over 20 percent of its population, and they intend to cover the entire population by the beginning of May. They are already beginning to offer 'vaccination vacation' packages to the tourist trade.

Walking a tight rope between Taiwan and China

Many Caribbean nations have long played Taiwan and China off against each other, to their own advantage. Five of the 15 states worldwide that officially recognise Taiwan diplomatically are in the Caribbean – namely, Belize, Haiti, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. In return, they can count on loans and WiFi expansion, public works, and study-in-Taiwan programmes. With the onset of the Covid-19 crisis, they also received masks, rapid tests and ventilators with 'Taiwan helps' stickers.

Likewise, the other non-sover-

eign territories of the Caribbean also have little opportunity for active vaccination diplomacy.

For vaccines, however, Taiwan itself is dependent on imports. To make up for it, the country has made generous promises in the form of post-Covid economic recovery programmes. Since 2016, Panama, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador have switched sides. Taiwan is willing pay significant sums to prevent a chain reaction.

With regard to vaccine deliveries, China is playing its cards right. For example, the Dominican Republic cut ties with Taiwan three years ago. Accordingly, on 17 March, a Chinese plane landed in Santo Domingo with one million doses on board. The arrival at the airport included photo ops with Chinese flags as the cargo was unloaded, and speeches invoking friendship and solidarity. Or, take the case of Guyana. When the country recently allowed Taiwan to open a trade office, Beijing made no secret of its disapproval. So when Guyana's President Irfaan Ali 'corrected' this mistake a few weeks ago, Xi Jinping personally called to assure him of 20,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine.

The insignificance of COVAX

Almost at the same time that the Chinese delivered a million doses to the Dominican Republic, the first delivery of the multilateral COVAX initiative, in which the EU plays a major role,

also reached the Caribbean. Its 14,000 vaccine doses reached Jamaica on 15 March. Over time, COVAX may have a significant impact; at the moment, however, it's a matter of 'too little, too late'.

The US also joined the COVAX initiative under President Biden. Otherwise, US vaccines have thus far played hardly any role in the Caribbean. However, to the extent that the rapid vaccination campaign is progressing in the US itself, this may change in just a few months when the States become an exporter of surplus vaccines. For now, the course of the vaccination campaign in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands also demonstrates the peripheral status of US-owned Caribbean territories: Their vaccination rate is still below that of Georgia, which itself is the lowest of the 50 US states.

Likewise, the other non-sovereign territories of the Caribbean have little opportunity for active vaccination diplomacy. Europe's vaccine shortage affects the Netherlands Antilles and the French overseas departments. While in other respects, the connection to the mother countries promises access to superior social and health services of the 'First World', the islands find themselves in the unfamiliar role of looking enviously at the often significantly better vaccine situation of their independent neighbours.

Many Caribbean island nations have achieved remarkable success with skilful vaccine diplomacy.

While vaccines from Russia are also used in Argentina, Bolivia and Mexico, they have not yet played a role in the Caribbean – even though St. Vincent & the Grenadines was the first country in the region to approve the Sputnik V vaccine.

Cuba's own vaccine

The major exception in Caribbean vaccination diplomacy is Cuba. The socialist government has not imported any vaccine – even though it certainly could have obtained one from China or Russia. Instead, Havana is relying entirely on self-sufficiency. Despite the economic crisis, medicine and biotechnology are still powerful and up-to-date sectors. The government is proud that Cuba is the only country in Latin America to develop its own vaccines. The most advanced ('Soberana 2') is currently in Phase 3 testing with 44,000 people in Cuba and another test group in Iran. If these prove successful, the na-

tionwide vaccination campaign could begin in the second quarter.

Cuba hopes that its vaccine will become a major export and source of foreign currency. According to the announcement, 100 million doses are supposed to be produced by the end of the year. A video has already been shot inviting foreigners to do their vacations in Cuba 'with sun, beach and vaccination'. Of course, they also want to help other countries in solidarity with Latin America, Africa and Asia by providing free vaccine deliveries.

Cuba had very low infection rates throughout 2020. But since January the spread of the virus has skyrocketed. In addition to the precarious supply situation, there is also a tense epidemiological situation. Relying entirely on in-house development – and thus forgoing any importation of vaccines – is a high-risk strategy with many unknowns. How effective will the vaccine be, and how safe? When will it be available in sufficient numbers? After all, there

is a formidable challenge not only in development, but mass production too, not to mention international certification.

The Caribbean is the most tourism-dependent region in the world. The collapse of air traffic has plunged the entire region into a deep economic crisis. However, the Covid-19 pandemic seems to be leading less to a rethinking of the development strategy than to a desire to open again as quickly as possible – as both safe tourist destinations and a source of vaccinations.

Many Caribbean island nations have achieved remarkable success with skilful vaccine diplomacy. The US and the EU are merely playing a secondary role. The help coming from new friends in Asia may not be entirely altruistic, but rather a quid pro quo in return for relevant voting behaviour or other gestures of solidarity. However, this will cause little concern in the Caribbean in the current crisis, but is rather seen as 'diversifying relationships of dependence'.



TALKING POINT

DR. MASERATI

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

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

AS RICH NATIONS PROTECT CORPORATE PATENTS, THE GLOBAL VACCINE DIVIDE IS WIDENING

The highest income countries have gotten over half of global vaccine doses. The poorest countries have gotten just 0.1 percent.

By Brian Wakamo

We're a year into the pandemic and, thanks to vaccines, it appears we may finally have an end in sight. But, as is too often the case, vaccine distribution has been anything but equitable.

People in rich countries such as the United States and countries in the European Union are receiving a far larger share of vaccine doses relative to their share of the global population, according to analysis from Agence France-Presse. Meanwhile, the poorest countries are left waiting in despair as Covid-19 cases continue to rise.

Of the more than 455 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines that have been injected, people in high-income countries have received 56 percent — far more than their 16 percent share of the global population. People in the 29 lowest-income countries have received

only 0.1 percent of vaccines, despite making up nine percent of the global population.

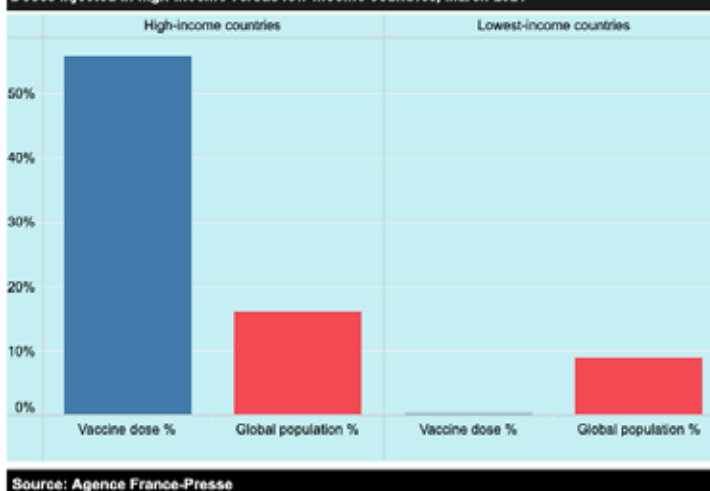
The World Health Organization is sounding the alarm on this inequality.

"The inequitable distribution of vaccines is not just a moral outrage," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a press conference this week. "It's also economically and epidemiologically self-defeating."

There are many reasons for this growing inequality. One is that rich nations used their wealth to jump to the front of the line and purchase as many doses as possible. As one Yale epidemiologist described it as being "like a run on toilet paper," with rich countries barging their way through to snap up limited doses like customers did with Charmin at the start of the pandemic.



Global Vaccine Distribution Has Been Starkly Unequal
Doses injected in high-income versus low-income countries, March 2021



Source: Agence France-Presse

Another major factor is that Western nations joined up with pharma giants to invest in vaccine development and are protecting corporate patent monopolies. According to leaked documents, the United States, the UK, and the European Union are shamefully blocking further cooperation within the WHO to open up vaccine access.

Global health advocates and nations like South

Africa and India are pushing for a waiver in WTO intellectual property rules that would allow expanded global vaccine production and a quicker end to the pandemic.

If we are really serious about ending this pandemic as swiftly as possible, it is imperative that these patents are opened up. Corporate profits are not more important than the lives of millions of poor people around the globe.

One more person tests positive for Covid-19 in Tobago: The PM

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has tested positive for COVID-19.

The Prime Minister began experiencing flu-like symptoms Monday evening and was subsequently tested for COVID-19.

Dr. Rowley is in isolation and under medical supervision.

Rowley was scheduled to receive his Covid-19 vaccine in Tobago on Tuesday.

Rowley, who was on the sister island for the Easter holiday weekend, was to be vaccinated at the Scarborough Health Centre around 2.30 p.m.

The Prime Minister had previously announced that he would be in Tobago during the Easter holidays, and once the vaccines became available during that time, he would be vaccinated.





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

BUS DRIVERS CALL FOR MORE POLICE PRESENCE AFTER RECENT VIOLENCE



Buses in queue for passengers

LOOP News Saint Lucia - The recent acts of violence that occurred near the Augier bus stand, where six other bus stands are located in Vieux-Fort, have triggered calls for an increased police presence.

The call has come from minibus drivers whose stands are located in the vicinity. According to the concerned minibus drivers, if the police presence is not increased on the stands, there will be more violence there, especially since there are two bars located next to those stands.

About two weeks ago, two minibus drivers plying the Augier/Vieux-Fort route were almost fatally shot after a gunman fired shots at one of them. The bullet grazed the face of one of the drivers, who was a short distance away from the gunman.

Last Saturday, minutes before the 6 pm curfew, a man was stabbed several times in his abdomen by another man, who is now in police custody.

Alvin Prince, a minibus driver, said: "We really need to see more police officers patrolling on our bus stands. The

police station is not far away, so there should be no excuse for them not patrolling on the stands on a regular basis."

The driver who narrowly escaped death when a gunman shot at another driver, said: "There needs to be more police presence on our bus stands. When we want to see them, they are never around."

He added that there is also a need for CCTV to be located at strategic areas in Vieux-Fort to avoid the increase of violent activities there.

Alexis Lousy said the

only time police are seen on their bus stands is when they are the target.

"They would only come on the bus stands to see whether minibus drivers are breaking the law. They are never around to stop the real criminals. They need to be at the stands on a regular basis," Lousy said.

Another driver said the situation is getting frightening, especially amid the curfews and lockdowns which are causing frustration among residents.

HERO FIREFIGHTER DROWNS WHILE SAVING RELATIVES



Luke Pascall consoles drowning survivor at the home of fire officer Stephen Marcano

Trinidad Guardian - After his brother drowned as a child, fire officer Stephen Marcano never liked bathing in the sea and didn't know how to swim. But when he saw his niece being swept away by strong currents at Mayaro on Sunday, he ran into the water to save her and drowned.

Marcano, 39, who was last attached to the Savonetta Fire Station, was celebrating his wife's 31st birthday with family and friends at the beach at Vicks Avenue, Guayaguayare. Through her tears at their Gasparillo home yesterday, his grief-stricken wife Patrice said her husband would usually take her out of the country for her birthday but

due to COVID-19 they could not leave.

"My husband was a hard-working person. My husband came from work and he carry me to have a good time. I did not expect none of this," the grieving wife said.

According to a police report, Marcano disappeared in the water around 5.30 pm after he went to help some people in difficulty. His body resurfaced a short distance away a few minutes later. Relatives said about five family members got into difficulty around the same time.

Marcano's 14-year-old son Kareem recalled that he was in knee-height water when the current got stronger and he saw his cousin

drifting out to sea. She was calling out for help.

"The girl was drifting away and I saw my father come into the water. He had just finish eating, he came into the water to save the girl. He save the girl."

Realising that his father was also drifting out into the deep, Kareem said he called out to him to come back while he made his way to the shore. However, when he came out he did not see his father.

Survivor Narisha Ramkissoon, 22, one of Marcano's other nieces, recalled that she was in waist-height water when a big wave came out of nowhere.

"When this wave struck my feet I just came off the floor and

I was trying to recover and I just feel like the current pulling me and I am trying to swim and paddle out but the more I move the further it just kept carrying me into the ocean." She said her younger cousin was also in difficulty and she was trying to keep her calm.

"I was telling her don't paddle, try to float on your back but it was so strong, the current and the waves, that every time you try to float something would just come and hit you on your face," Ramkissoon said.

With water in her nose and eyes, Ramkissoon said her feet could not reach the ocean floor and she kept dipping under the water. She said she believed she was going to die, especially since she could no longer see the shore.

"I was trying to stay calm but at some point in time I start screaming for help. I was like, 'Why God, why I have to go? I don't want to go.'"

She said a stranger eventually came and rescued her.

SARGASSUM TO BLAME FOR GREEN POND FISH KILL

Barbados Advocate - The Sargassum seaweed invasion on Barbados' eastern beaches has proven to be more than just a nuisance. Most recently, it has been named as the culprit behind a fish kill at Green Pond, St. Andrew. The victims? Mostly tilapia and mullets. When a rapid response team from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy, headed by Minister Kirk Humphrey, went to the scene this week following reports made, it was revealed that the Sargassum seaweed had found its way into the pond and caused a rapid depletion of oxygen in the water, starving the marine life. Speaking during a briefing at the site, Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU), Dr. Leo Brewster, explained that the seaweed was introduced into the pond by high swells.

"There is a weak point here at Green Pond at the mouth of the entrance to the watercourse, and the waves actually overtuck the berm, which is the highest point on the beach, and they pushed the Sargassum into the water body and, there-



Mullets and talaia were some of the species found dead at Green Pond

fore, that caused the stagnation and depletion of the oxygen in the water body. A lot of Sargassum got pushed in here and it has extended pretty far inland in terms of the amount of Sargassum that was transported by the tide upstream, and that also contributed to the fish kill," he said.

Pointing out that a number of other lifeforms in the ecosystem could also be adversely affected, Dr. Brewster went on to explain exactly how the oxygen would have been depleted. "Of greater significance for us is the fact that this area here, because of its nature as an ecosystem, is a brack-

ish water ecosystem and forms a transition point between some of the freshwater/brackish water species that live here and their process for getting out to the sea. When the seawater comes in and is trapped behind that, obviously the salt water will stagnate the fresh water and just totally reduce all the oxygen." With the first order of business being the removal of the Sargassum, releasing some of the salt water and the reintroduction of oxygen into the pond, Minister Humphrey said that manual removal of the seaweed is extremely crucial and is set to begin on Wednes-

day. "We have been very careful in all the instances where there was seaweed to make sure that we, in our efforts to maintain the system or protect certain parts of the system, do not destroy one eco-system in our efforts to protect another ecosystem. So we normally use manual labour to maintain the beaches when we do so." Stating that this particular beach is very susceptible to Sargassum inundation due to the high swells normal for the area, Minister Humphrey said that there is a long-term plan in place for the management of seaweed.

SVG UNIONS, GOV'T HOLD MEETING OVER 'VAX OR TEST' POLICY

iWitness News - The three main unions representing public sector workers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) were scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves on Tuesday, concerning their objection to the government's COVID-19 vaccination or test policy.

The Public Service Union, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers Union (SVGTU), and the Police Welfare Association (PWA), at a joint press conference on Saturday, stated their membership's objection to the policy.

At the same press briefing, the unions' legal counsel outlined individuals' rights to refuse to take the vaccine and the legal hurdles that the government could face in implementing the proposed policy.

Brenton Smith, chairman of the PWA, told the media that his members are aware of the government's need to respond to the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to adjust the health situation in SVG.

"However, we are of the view that the policy set out by the government

is arbitrary and needs dialogue," Smith said.

He said that over 80% of police officers from the rank of constable to inspector do not support of government's vax or test and that the PWA will continue to educate its members.

PSU president, Elroy Boucher, said the government's policy is not among the protocols set out by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO), or even local health authorities.

"And in those protocols, there is not one mention of rigorous testing every two weeks," Boucher said.

He further stated that the PSU estimates that over 95% of the public service is against this policy.

Meanwhile, Oswald Robinson, president of the SVGTU, told the briefing that the union's constitution mandates its leadership to defend all fundamental rights and freedom that have universal acceptance, and to work toward the removal of injustices and inequalities in the society.

"The teachers of St. Vincent Grenadines made



covid-19-vaccine

the decision that under no circumstances, will they subject themselves to any mandatory testing or vaccination," Robinson said, referring to the outcome of a union meeting last Tuesday March 30.

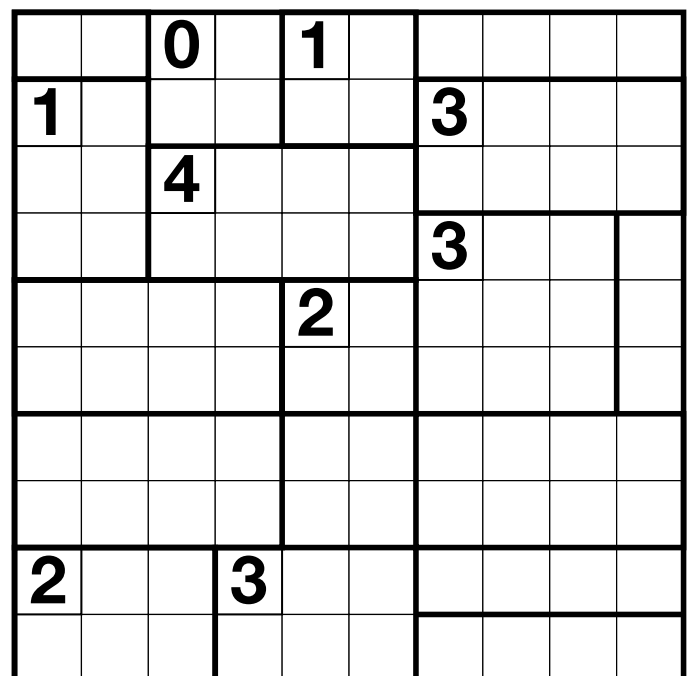
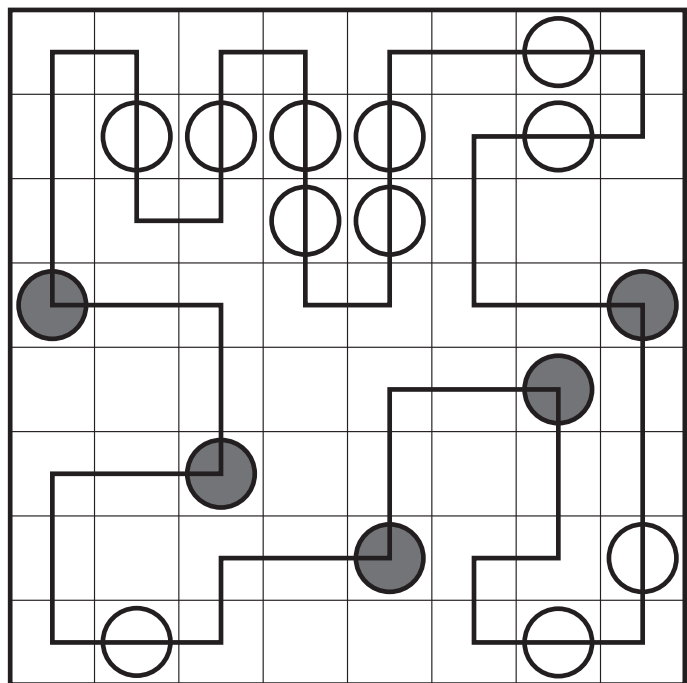
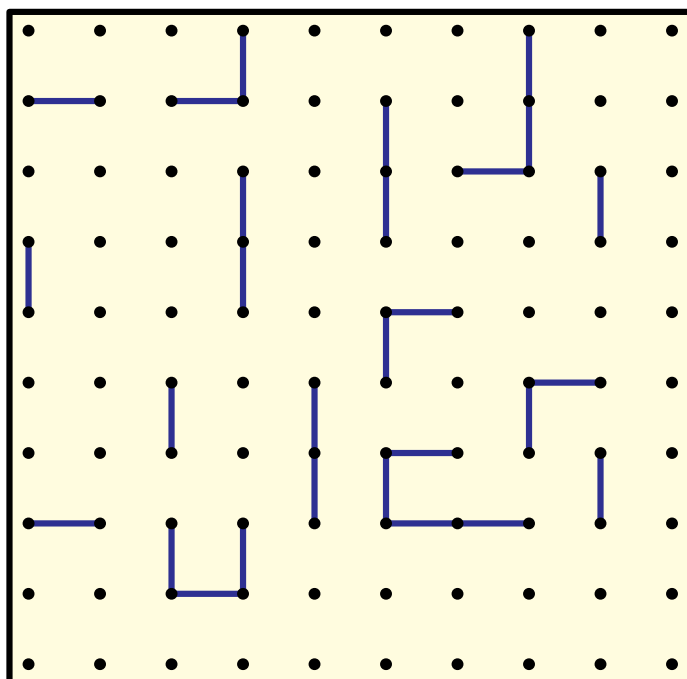
In an April 1 letter to Philip Bailey, general secretary of the PSU, Deputy Prime Minister Montgomery Daniel, who was then Acting Prime Minister, reiterated the official policy position of the government" on the issue of vaccination.

"I wish to advise that, while vaccination is strongly recommended, it is not mandatory for public sector workers. However, in order to safeguard the health

and safety of all persons in the workplace, it is a requirement that workers who have not received at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine to be tested on a regular basis for COVID-19 infection, up to once every two weeks, based on the relative level of risks as determined by health authorities."

According to a Cabinet memo sent to senior public servants and Attorney General Jaundy Martin, public sector workers who have taken an approved COVID-19 vaccine have until Wednesday, April 7, to submit proof of this to their respective ministries, departments, or agencies.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

A live-and-let-live attitude helps keep people out of trouble. Most big efforts require teamwork, and supporting each other makes every day proceed more happily. It isn't necessary to rush through the day.

TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Your smiles and friendliness might not be able to ward off a dispute over money or property. You might not see eye to eye with someone who's in a hurry and unlikely to be satisfied with how things are proceeding.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stay calm, cool and collected. Don't let minor aggravations get under your skin, as they could cause you to lose your temper and diminish the harmony. Misunderstandings can be avoided if you remain patient and wise.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

Sharp words can cut like knives. Someone may be too intense or aggressive for your tastes and put you on the defensive. Focus on maintaining the peace as well as your peace of mind by not taking someone's words personally.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

You may prefer things relaxed, but it may be time to be realistic and concentrate on achieving ambitions. You might have better luck if you focus on business and financial matters rather than social affairs and entertainment.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Misunderstandings are nothing to laugh about when you or someone else misreads the signals and feelings get hurt. Wait a few days to circle back and try to clear things up. You will likely meet with a warmer reception the next time.

LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

You may sometimes enjoy trading friendly insults or jokes, but today someone's cutting remarks might rub you the wrong way or create hard feelings. Let it go and find satisfaction by exploring the least expected options.

SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Your attention may turn to your job and getting ahead in the workplace. It's possible your health habits are too sporadic. A small step taken now, such as starting a daily planner, can help you progress.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Something you buy in haste without doing your homework might not live up to your expectations. There could be a disagreement over money, but don't let a few cross words get under your skin.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Arguments and heated debates are seldom constructive, so do everything in your power to avoid them. It's possible you're being too clever and calculating for your own good. Try to be kinder and more mindful.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Nothing is ever perfect, but now you're more likely than usual to find fault with something or someone. Lucky for you, a loved one or partner is probably cheerful and may gently remind you to look on the bright side.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Remember that people's actions are almost always based on their issues and not on you. If people become quarrelsome or negative, don't take it personally. You can be tough-skinned and persistent about reaching practical goals.

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Wed 07 28°/24° Mostly Cloudy 23% ENE 11 km/h

Wed 07 | Day
28° 23% ENE 11 km/h
 Mostly cloudy. High 28°C. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 km/h.

Wed 07 | Night
24° 23% ENE 8 km/h
 Mostly cloudy. Low 23°C. Winds ENE and variable.

Humidity 70% UV Index 8 of 10
 Sunrise 05:57 Sunset 18:21

Thu 08 | Day
28° 33% ENE 13 km/h
 Afternoon showers. High 28°C. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 km/h. Chance of rain 30%.

Thu 08 | Night
24° 33% NE 12 km/h
 Showers late at night. Low 23°C. Winds NE at 10 to 15 km/h. Chance of rain 30%.

Humidity 73% UV Index Extreme
 Sunrise 05:56 Sunset 18:21

Humidity 80% UV Index 0 of 10
 Moonrise 03:16 Moonset 14:52
 Waning Crescent

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

Submit community notices to

news@pointville.ag

COMICS

Dilbert

April 06, 2021



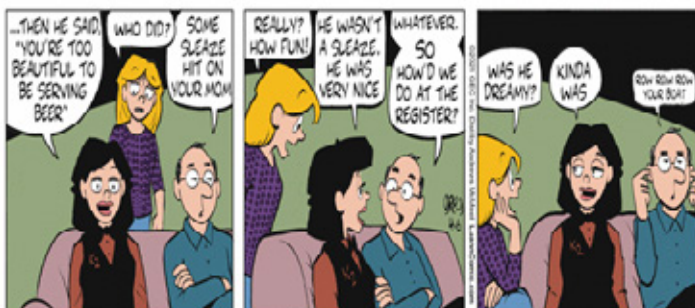
Garfield

April 06, 2021



Luann

April 06, 2021



COMMUNITY NOTICES

SOCIAL SECURITY PENSION NOTICE

Please be advised that pension payments for March 2021, will commence on Monday 12th, April 2021 according to the following distribution schedule:

A-F Mon 12 April

G-K Tues 13 April

L-P Wed 14 April

Q-T Thurs 15 April

U-Z Fri 16 April

Biden to move COVID-19 vaccine eligibility date to April 19

WASHINGTON (AP)

— President Joe Biden was announcing Tuesday that he's bumping up his deadline for states to make all adults in the U.S. eligible for coronavirus vaccines.

With states gradually expanding eligibility beyond such priority groups as older people and essential, front-line workers, the President will announce that every adult will be eligible by April 19 to sign up and get in a virtual line to be vaccinated, said White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki.

That's about two weeks earlier than Biden's previously announced May 1 deadline.

Biden was making the announcement at the White House later Tuesday after a visit to a COVID-19 vaccination site at Immanuel Chapel of Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. He thanked everyone for administering the shots and for showing up to receive them.

"That's the way to beat this," Biden said. "Get the vaccination when you can." The president also said no one should fear mutations of the coronavirus that are showing up



Biden talks to an individual receiving COVID-19 vaccine in Virginia

in the U.S. after being discovered in other countries. He acknowledged that the new strains are more virulent and more dangerous, but said "the vaccines work on all of them." Psaki said Biden's announcement will make things clearer for the public. "It reduces confusion and it ensures that Americans who are not yet vaccinated, who are looking to get vaccinated, they know they are all eligible, all adults, I should say, on April 19," she said.

Biden is also expected to announce that 150 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been shot into arms since his inauguration on Jan. 20. That puts the president well on track to

meet his new goal of 200 million shots administered by his 100th day in office on April 30.

Biden's original goal had been 100 million shots by the end of his first 100 days, but that number was reached in March. The announcement about vaccine eligibility is somewhat symbolic and comes as states had already begun moving up their deadlines from the original May 1 goal. It also comes as a flood of vaccine supply is being sent to states this week.

Jeff Zients, the White House coronavirus coordinator, told governors Tuesday during a weekly conference call that more than 28 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines will

be delivered to states this week, Psaki announced at her daily briefing.

That allocation brings the total amount of vaccine distributed over the past three weeks to more than 90 million doses, Psaki said.

At least a dozen states opened eligibility to anyone 16 and older on Monday alone, while New Jersey and Oregon announced this week that all residents 16 and older will become eligible on April 19.

The president had announced just last week that 90% of adults would be eligible for one of three approved COVID-19 vaccines by April 19, in addition to having a vaccination site within 5 miles of their home.

George Floyd death: Chauvin ‘trained to stay away from neck’



A police trainer has testified that ex-officer Derek Chauvin was not trained to use his knee in a neck restraint as he did during George Floyd's arrest. Minneapolis use-of-force expert Lt Johnny Mercil said Chauvin should also have later moved the prone Floyd to a different position.

Chauvin, 45, was filmed kneeling on Floyd for over nine minutes during Floyd's arrest last May.

Chauvin is on trial for murder and has denied the charges against him.

The footage of Chauvin, who is white, with his knee on African-American Floyd's neck sparked global protests against racism.

With the trial in its second week, jurors have

now heard from more than 20 witnesses, including three police training experts on Tuesday. The trial is expected to last for at least one month.

As police officers are rarely convicted or charged at all for deaths that occur in custody, the verdict in this trial is being seen as an indication of how the US legal system will treat such cases in future.

Prosecutors are seeking to prove that Chauvin's actions violated his training and have focused their questions on police guidelines and strategies taught to help officers de-escalate situations.

Chauvin's defence attorneys have argued that Floyd's efforts to resist arrest necessitat-

ed the restraint, and that the "hostile" crowd surrounding Chauvin required "unique situational awareness".

No witnesses at the scene were arrested, and several of them have testified that they urged officers to check Floyd's pulse and provide him with medical care.

Speaking at a group prayer session outside the heavily fortified courthouse on Tuesday, George Floyd's brother, Philonise Floyd, said "after we get the verdict and we get this conviction, we'll be able to breathe".

Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) training coordinator Mercil told the court that officers are taught to use force in proportion to a suspect's level of resistance and it

was "very important to be careful with the person". "We tell officers to stay away from the neck when possible," he said, adding that officers are told to place body weight on a suspect's shoulders when reasonable.

Mercil testified that based on the training officers receive, Chauvin should only have used that manner of neck restraint if there was "active aggression" involved. He said Floyd had no ability to resist or show aggression once he was face down on the ground.

Mercil further told the court that Chauvin should have recognised that it was "time to de-escalate the [level of] force" once Floyd fell unconscious, and that Floyd should have been moved into a different position to avoid asphyxiation.

Earlier in the day, Sgt Ker Yang, a crisis intervention training coordinator, confirmed that Chauvin had completed the department's 40-hour practical training course, and his "ultimate goal" should have been to assess Floyd's medical condition during his arrest.

IMF forecasts stronger recovery for world economy



Factory workers in China

BBC World News - The International Monetary Fund is now forecasting a stronger economic recovery this year and next. The IMF has upgraded both its UK and global forecasts compared with what it projected in January.

But the British economy is still predicted to return to its pre-pandemic level of activity only in late 2022. The agency also warns that recoveries are diverging dangerously within and between countries.

The new UK forecast is for growth of 5.3% this year and 5.1% in 2022. Both figures are upgrades, though the latter is only marginally higher than the January fore-

cast.

The recovery follows last year's pandemic driven contraction of 9.9% which was the deepest of any of the G7 major developed economies.

'Fairly modest'

Bringing in the two predicted recovery years, the UK's performance over 2020 to 2022 would be ahead of one of the G7 countries, Italy. The new global forecasts are growth of 6% and 4.4% this year and next. Both are upgrades, a fairly modest one for 2022. That mainly reflects up-rating to the forecast for developed economies, especially the United States.

'Diverging recoveries'

In a blog on the forecasts, the IMF's chief economist Gita Gopinath says a way out of the health and economic crisis is increasingly visible. Vaccinations, she writes, are likely to power recoveries in many countries in 2021. But she is also concerned about how those recoveries are diverging. Countries with slower vaccine rollouts, more limited support from economic policy, and those more reliant on tourism are likely to do less well. The first two of these are particular issues for developing countries. Many have less access to vaccines, and they also tend to find it more difficult to finance economic and health policy actions.

Among emerging and developing economies, China has already returned to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity. But many others in the group are not expected to do so until well into 2023.

The report says the cumulative losses in income per person over the period 2020 to 2022 are likely to be 20% for those

countries, compared with a less severe but still large figure of 11% for the developed world.

'Reversed'

The report also says that gains in poverty reduction have been reversed. It says people counted as extremely poor are likely to have increased by 95 million last year, with a rise of 80 million in the number who are undernourished.

The IMF says the divergences are occurring not just between but also within countries. Income inequality is likely to increase as young people and those with relatively low levels of skills have been harder hit in both developed and developing countries.

Women have already been affected, as they account for a large share of employment in some sectors, such as tourism, where there is a lot of personal contact.

The pandemic has also had an impact on workers whose jobs are vulnerable to automation. That is a process that has been accelerated as a result of the health crisis.

World powers, Iran and U.S. launch indirect talks to revive nuclear deal

VIENNA (Reuters) - Iran and world powers will meet on Friday after their experts flesh out concrete plans on how the United States would lift sanctions and Iran return to its obligations, as part of indirect talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal.

European intermediaries have started shuttling between Iranian and U.S. officials in Vienna as they seek to bring both countries back into full compliance with the accord that Washington abandoned three years ago, diplomats said.

The 2015 deal lifted sanctions on Iran in return for curbs to its nuclear programme. Then-president Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018, prompting Iran to steadily overstep the accord's limits.

While new President Joe Biden aims to restore the agreement, each side wants the other to act first. Tehran has rejected direct negotiations, and Washington said on Monday it expected the discussions to be difficult.

Even without face-to-face talks, however, the presence of both Iran



World powers, Iran launch indirect talk

and the United States in the same location marks a step forward.

British, French and German officials will shuttle between the American and Iranian delegations, based in separate Viennese hotels five minutes away from each other. Russia and China, as fellow parties of the deal, are also present.

Two expert-level groups have been given the task of marrying lists of sanctions that the United States could lift with nuclear obligations Iran should meet, and reporting back on Friday.

"This is going to involve discussions about identifying the steps that the U.S. has to take

and identifying the steps that Iran is going to have to take," Robert Malley, head of the U.S. delegation, which also includes sanctions expert Richard Nephew, told NPR radio on Tuesday morning.

Iran briefly met at a hotel for preparatory talks with the five other parties to the deal - but without the Americans.

"Constructive Joint Commission meeting. There's unity and ambition for a joint diplomatic process with two expert groups on nuclear implementation and sanctions lifting. As coordinator, I will intensify separate contacts here in Vienna with all relevant parties, including US," European

Union chief coordinator Enrique Mora said on Twitter.

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi echoed those comments, adding that senior diplomats would meet again on Friday.

Russia's envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mikhail Ulyanov, tweeted that the restoration of the deal "will not happen immediately. It will take some time. How long? Nobody knows. The most important thing after today's meeting of the Joint Commission is that practical work towards achieving this goal has started."

MANCHESTER CITY LOSES 126 MILLION

Premier League leaders Manchester City have reported a loss of 126m pounds for the 2019-20 season which was disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

The club posted an 11% reduction in revenue to 478.4m, but the figure does not include delayed income from player sales – including proceeds from Leroy Sané's move to Bayern Munich.

City expect an immediate return to profit for the current

season. A total of less than 60m per year is forecast over the two campaigns. For Financial Fair Play purposes, the financial results of football clubs for 2019-20 and 2020-21 are to be combined into one year.

City, who are 14 points clear of closest Premier League challengers Manchester United, are competing for four trophies in the latter stages of the 2020-21 campaign.



NEW DIGITAL SPORTS PUBLICATION LAUNCHES



SportsWorld (Antigua) – A new digital publication is being launched on Wednesday 7 April 2021 to provide additional coverage of events and activities on-and-off the playing arena.

The brainchild of experienced regional journalist and

commentator Colin James, the 22-page tabloid-style magazine will go online semi-weekly on Wednesdays and Sundays.

SportsWorld is published by High Stakes Media Groups, a registered Antiguan media business.

The inaugural issue

is dedicated to cricket, highlighting the just-concluded drawn series between the West Indies and Sri Lanka in Antigua; Cricket West Indies' (CWI's) aborted annual general meeting; and a special feature on the late Clarvis Jarvis, the respected guru who is noted for outstanding administrative work.

There is also an article on Alzarri Joseph taking up an English county cricket contract, and a donation of gear and equipment by Cricket Kind-

ness, a London-based charity. Football is featured prominently, with FIFA calling on the local authorities to postpone elections until next year, and the Benna Boys overcoming the odds in their first two World Cup qualifying matches for Qatar 2022.

Upcoming issues of Sports-World will review the West Indies tour of Bangladesh, the regional Super50 Cup, the exciting ABCA Super 40 competition; Cejhae Greene's qualification for the re-arranged

Tokyo 2020 Olympics and other track-and-field news, including the resurfacing of the YASCO track; the redevelopment of the famed Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG) and other sporting events.

Antiguan and regional sports bodies, clubs and athletes can email their information to: highstakesmediagroups@gmail.com or sportsmediaanu@gmail.com. Mobile telephone contact is: +1 (268) 786-0115/734-1966.

NORTH KOREA WITHDRAWS FROM JAPAN OLYMPIAD

North Korea has announced it will not take part in the Tokyo Olympics this year, saying the decision is to protect its athletes from Covid-19.

The decision puts an end to South Korea's hopes of using the Games to engage with the North amid stalled cross-border talks. In 2018, both sides entered a joint team at the Winter Olympics which led to a series of historic summits.

Pyongyang says it has no cases of the virus, but experts say this is unlikely. The country's health system is thought

to be completely inadequate for dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, the BBC's Tokyo correspondent Rupert Wingfield-Haynes reports.

The announcement makes North Korea the first major country to skip the delayed 2020 Games because of the pandemic. The event is due to begin on 23 July.

This will be the first time North Korea has missed a Summer Olympics since 1988 when it boycotted the Seoul Games during the Cold War.



TOKYO 2020





CWI EVEN-HANDED WITH REGIONAL BOARDS – SAYS CEO

Cricket West Indies (CWI) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Johnny Grave said the regional body has been equitable in its allocation of international fixtures and financial resources.

The Englishman said CWI is always cognizant about accusations of partiality toward certain territories and the board's philosophy by way of policy is to ensure insularity is removed from the regional game.

Grave said, pre-COVID, a decision was taken to ensure that every international ground or every territory

that has international cricket would have at least a Test match or two white ball games.

Grave explained that the cricket is spread around the region with the intention of removing accusations of politics. Grave noted that the distribution of funds to all franchises and territorial boards are done on an equitable basis with no favor shown to any board or territory.

Grave said in order for West Indies cricket to succeed, there needs to be productive synergy between CWI and all territorial boards.

DEWS



TOUCH LINE

with

VERON 'EPLIUS' EDWARDS JR.
VERNON A. SPRINGER



POINTE FM



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



99.1 FM