



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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## TWO MEN CHARGED IN NIGEL CHRISTIAN MURDER INVESTIGATION

SEE PAGE 3



*Lasean Bully of Cashew Hill (l)*

*Wayne Thomas of Hatton (r)*

## EDITORIAL

# HOORAY FRONT LINE WORKERS

It was refreshing to hear speaker after speaker at Thursday's ceremony at the V.C. Bird International airport to welcome the arrival of the latest batch of vaccines into the country taking time out to lavish praise on the country's front line workers.

It is not hyperbolic to say that All front line workers performed a herculean task in the service of the nation when Antigua and Barbuda needed them most. The coronavirus pandemic was totally new to healthcare workers the world over. Little was known of this virus at the very beginning; only that it was highly contagious and it was spread through the air. It was also known that it was deadly in some cases. With very little information to work with, our healthcare workers placed themselves at great risk to treat those residents who not only contracted the disease but who also became very ill. Some even contracted

the virus themselves, in the process putting their families at risk; a remarkable act of sacrifice and service.

But it was not just the healthcare workers who placed themselves in the service of the nation in its hour of need. The workers at the airport – customs and immigration – were ever ready to be on hand to welcome back visitors to the country when the borders were reopened, following the closure for the months of April and May last year. The taxi drivers had to undergo special training and were required to make adjustments to their vehicles, yet they complied willingly. They too deserve our praise. The security forces – the police and the defence force – were called to perform two very important tasks: Firstly, they had the security of the nation to safeguard and secondly, they were the ones that had to enforce the restrictions imposed under the state

of emergency. It has not been an easy task and the security forces have been the subject of much ridicule and derision. Yet they persevered. The nation must also salute those volunteers who organised and executed what Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph has described as one of the most effective vaccine roll out programmes not just in the Caribbean but the world. What Antigua and Barbuda achieved in a matter of weeks much larger, more resourced countries, have not been able to achieve. With more than twenty-seven thousand people receiving their first doses, it means that close to one-third of the resident population has received at least one dose of the vaccine. The figure would have been much higher had it not been for the fact that enough vaccines were just not available.

Kudos also to the senior government officials, led by Prime

Minister Gaston Browne, Sir Molwyn and Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene who have been 'working the phones,' negotiating with suppliers of vaccines to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda receives enough vaccines over the coming weeks to fully inoculate the population. Thursday's announcements from the prime minister are an indication that those efforts by his team have not been in vain. Vaccines will arrive from China and the Russian Federation in the coming weeks.

It has been a team effort at every step of the way. It is now up to all residents to make themselves available to be vaccinated as the country is depending on this to happen in order for us to return to normality. Ending the curfew, getting rid of the need to wear a mask and life to return to pre-COVID days depend on us all; let us not fail Antigua and Barbuda!



# TWO MEN CHARGED IN NIGEL CHRISTIAN MURDER INVESTIGATION



There has been a major breakthrough in the Nigel Christian murder case which has gripped the nation's attention for the past nine months.

Late Thursday afternoon, the police announced the breakthrough with the arrest and charging of two men for Christian's murder last July.

In a press statement, STRATCOM identified the two as Lasean Bully (thirty years old) of Cashew Hill and Wayne Thomas (twenty-eight years old) of Hatton. Both have been charged in connection with the alleged murder of the senior customs officer. Both men were taken into custody earlier this week and questioned.

Christian was allegedly abducted from his home at McKinnon's on the afternoon

of Friday 10th July 2020. He was later found dead in the Thibou's area, with what appeared to be multiple gunshot wounds to his body.

Commissioner of Police, Mr. Atlee Rodney, said he is pleased with arrest and the significant amount of progress that has been made into the investigation so far. He pointed out that the investigation, to begin with, was a very complex matter, one which required in-depth forensic analysis and the interviewing of several individuals as well as constant consultation with the Director of Public Prosecution.

He used the opportunity to thank the family of Nigel Christian for their patience and understanding, along with the level of trust and confidence they placed in the police force.

He was of high praise for the team of police investigators and commended them for their professionalism, perseverance and commitment to the task. He also expressed gratitude to other local, regional, and international law enforcement agencies, which offered and continues to provide invaluable assistance to the investigation. Commissioner Rodney also acknowledged the role of the government of Antigua and Barbuda in providing additional resources to the investigation, and thanked the general public for their support and cooperation, especially those who came forward and shared information with the police.

The accused men are expected to make their first court appearance today, Friday.

# ANOTHER COVID-19-RELATED DEATH



COVID-19-related deaths in Antigua and Barbuda have climbed to thirty with the confirmation Thursday evening that another person succumbed to complications caused by the disease.

The confirmation comes from

the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) in a statement issued to the public.

Dr. Albert Duncan, MSJMC Medical Director said: "We can confirm that sadly, a male patient, age fifty-four, has passed away at Mount St. John's Med-

ical Centre on 6th April, at 11:03a.m. He had tested positive for COVID-19."

He continued: "Our thoughts and condolences remain with the patient's family and loved ones at this difficult time."

## 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](http://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](mailto: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**.



# COVID VACCINATION: PM APPEALS FOR SENSIBLE PERSONAL DECISIONS



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

**By Shelton Daniel**

Even though vaccination against the COVID-19 virus is entirely voluntary, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has encouraged Antiguan and Barbudans to weigh their personal choices in this matter against a broader responsibility to the nation's collective well-being.

The Prime Minister was speaking on Thursday during a function marking the receipt of twenty-four thousand doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, the country's first batch of supplies procured under the WHO-coordinated COVAX arrangement.

"The decision to get vaccinated is not simply a personal decision. It is a

decision in the national interest ... Those of us who have the capacity to get vaccinated ... need to do so to protect others," the Prime Minister stated.

He went on to disclose that Antigua and Barbuda, to date, has "commitments for one hundred and two thousand vaccine [doses]." Providing a breakdown of that number, PM Browne said it consisted of approximately forty-one thousand from the COVAX facility; "forty thousand that we received from the Indian government; twenty thousand from the People's Republic of China (to arrive here within a matter of weeks); and two thousand [doses of vaccine] that were donated by the Russian

[Federation]."

He disclosed that "the first one thousand [doses from Russia] will arrive this Saturday on British Airways about 1:00 p.m., and two weeks later we should get another thousand [doses of vaccine]." The head of government stressed how important it is "for citizens and residents to take these vaccines" as they become available, "because they are all efficacious," regardless of brand name or country of origin.

"I know that traditionally we are more comfortable with Western vaccines, but the data would have shown that all of the vaccines – the Russian vaccine, the Chinese vaccines – that they are all ... effective; therefore we need to avail ourselves of these vaccines," he added.

Prime Minister Browne noted that Antigua and Barbuda needs to achieve the desired "herd immunity in lockstep with our international partners, especially our major tourism source markets. If we were to fall behind, then clearly it will have serious implications for us. It means our tourists would go elsewhere ... Even our

medical schools' students, they are now contemplating whether or not they should return in September if the prevalence of COVID remains high in this country.

Prime Minister Browne restated what he has pointed out countless times previously: that mass vaccination is the only known route of escape from the grip of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Those who believe the last twelve months were extremely challenging, if we fail to return to normalcy within the next few months ... the scars we have experienced during the last year would turn into deep economic wounds with significant socioeconomic consequences," was how he put it on Thursday.

Never one to sugar coat realities, however unpleasant, Prime Minister Browne revealed that "Antigua and Barbuda has one of the highest prevalence [rates] of active COVID cases in the entire world on a per capita basis."

He warned that "this means the entire world is watching us, and if we do not get those COVID cases down, the implications will be very serious."

# “We must not be left behind!”: Sir Molwyn



**Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph**

Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, is issuing a clarion call for all residents of Antigua and Barbuda to make themselves available to be vaccinated as the country's future may depend upon it.

Speaking at the V.C. Bird International airport where an official party was on hand for the arrival of a further twenty-four thousand doses of vaccines, Sir Molwyn declared, “We must not be left behind!”

He noted that the coronavirus pandemic is perhaps the first such disease to have totally decimated international travel and commerce, resulting in lost revenues for Antigua and Barbuda

as tourist arrivals plummeted. However, the minister noted that the major countries, particularly the source markets for tourists for Antigua and Barbuda – the United States and the United Kingdom – are likely to achieve herd immunity within another two to three months and that Antigua and Barbuda must achieve this goal within that time frame. According to Sir Molwyn, if the country fails to achieve this it would not because the government did not provide the necessary vaccines. “I am sending a clear invitation to all Antigua and Barbuda residents to be vaccinated; we (the government) will get the

vaccines. We cannot succeed unless the people come out to be vaccinated.”

The minister announced that the second phase of the vaccination programme starts next Tuesday and that this will be “the most important phase we are entering in.”

Sir Molwyn commended the front line workers for their unwavering support for government's efforts to keep the spread of the virus within grasp and he also commended

the ministry staff for executing “one of the most effective roll out of a vaccination programme not just in the Caribbean but the entire world.”

He indicated that the government has been relentless in its efforts to secure sufficient vaccines to inoculate the entire population. He disclosed that on Wednesday he was in a virtual meeting with the drug manufacturer Pfizer in the continuing efforts to purchase vaccines for the country.

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# UK SUPPORT FOR COVAX VALUABLE: HCR THOMPSON

Antigua and Barbuda and other developing countries have been able to benefit from the World Health Organisation (WHO) facility COVAX, which gives them access to coronavirus vaccines at prices cheaper than what obtain on the commercial markets.

That is the view of the United Kingdom High Commissioner Representative, Lindsay Thompson, who was one of the speakers at Thursday's brief airport ceremony to mark the arrival of twenty-four thousand doses of vaccines made available through the COVAX arrangement. "The UK was one of the first countries to support COVAX, with a grant of over two billion Eastern Caribbean dollars. Indeed, we were the first major donor, and our early support gave COVAX the purchasing power to allow access to the market. To put it in to real terms, the billion Eastern Caribbean dollars we have donated equates to over one billion doses of vaccine. These vaccines will be distributed across the world this year, with the most vulnerable receiving their vaccines by the end of June," Thompson stated.

This funding brings the UK's total contribution towards the global response to the coronavirus pandemic to over 4.8 billion Eastern Caribbean dollars. "My Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, has said we have both a moral duty and strategic necessity to make sure there is global access to vaccines to end the pandemic. The UK's support to COVAX has made sure that no country has been left behind and that the most vulnerable get vaccinated first," she told the gathering. Thompson also commended the Antigua and Barbuda government for the swift manner in which it rolled out the vaccine in the first phase of the vaccination programme. "This is another landmark for Antigua and Barbuda, and the wider world, as it moves towards the end of this awful pandemic. We have all seen the impressive speed at which Antigua and Barbuda has administered its first twenty-seven thousand vaccine doses. The COVAX-provided vaccines we see here today will allow that progress to continue," she added.



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## RESTAURANT MANAGER

To coordinate, plan, organize and control the activities of the entire operation. Ensure the highest level of service is provided to our guests through on the job training. Use corrective and reinforcement coaching to ensure Dining Room standards are maintained while simultaneously motivating staff to perform to their optimum.

### Specific Requirements/Duties of the Position Include:

- Extensive knowledge of food & beverage operations
- Participation in the development of the annual budget for the department
- The ability to manage stress and long working hours
- Excellent written & verbal communication skills
- Being highly motivated, self-directed and results driven
- Administering the continuous training and development programme within the department
- The ability to lead & motivate others

### Qualifications and Experience:

- First Degree in Hospitality Management or equivalent
- At least five years' management experience in fine dining restaurants
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (i.e. Word, Excel, Outlook)

If successful, a clean police record will be required. Interested persons should submit their applications by April 14, 2021, with curriculum vitae via email to:

**The Recruitment and Compliance Specialist**  
**Sandals Antigua**  
**Email: [recruitsat@grp.sandals.com](mailto:recruitsat@grp.sandals.com)**

NB: Please enter "Restaurant Manager" in the subject field of the email for consideration. We thank all applicants for their interest, but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

# Preschools and daycare services likely to reopen next week

The Cabinet is likely to give the green light for preschools and daycare centres to re-open next Monday alongside the limited face to face classes announced earlier.

This comes as the Cabinet on Thursday took into consideration the readiness of preschools and kindergarten to reopen, informed by the requirements of parents to secure childcare services as older siblings leave home for school.

“The Cabinet therefore decided that the Central Board of Health (CBH) will

examine all daycare and childcare centers, determine the level of readiness for

receiving the infants, and to provide licences that will allow these

private sector operations to open next week, also,” informed sources say. The country’s highest executive authority also determined that a single national policy should guide both public and private schools; hence, until primary and secondary schools are permitted to return to a more expansive schedule, private schools are also governed by the policy decisions rendered by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet has also given a commitment to review the policy regarding a return to a shift system, as previously existed as well as to review or alter the decision to limit face-to-face exposure to only a few grades/forms. The degree to which the infection rate declines will be

a determinant factor, as well. Everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated, especially those who will be in close contact with students, the elderly, and the vulnerable.

Additionally, the Cabinet will also give consideration to allowing more visitors to elderly-care homes as more residents and citizens are vaccinated, especially elderly residents of these homes and those relatives who wish to visit them.

The need for closer contact between the elderly and their family members is evident, and those wishing to make visits are encouraged to take the vaccines that are being offered.

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# Financial Services Regulatory Commission issues statement on fintech-related activities



The Financial Services Regulatory Commission (“the Commission”) is charged with the licensing, regulation and supervision of the financial services sectors in Antigua and Barbuda, except for Commercial Banks and designated Credit Institutions which fall under the mandate of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

The Commission is aware of a number of individuals and entities who have taken the initiative of engaging in fintech-related activities within the jurisdiction, including the use of virtual assets and especially the use of virtual coins. The Commission defines “virtual asset” as a digital representation of value that can be

digitally traded, or transferred, and can be used for payment or investment purposes and does not include digital representations of fiat currency or security; and “virtual asset business” means the conduct of one or more of the following activities or operations for or on behalf of another person—

- (a) exchange between a virtual asset and fiat currency;
- (b) exchange between one or more forms of virtual assets;
- (c) transfer of a virtual asset whether or not for value;
- (d) safekeeping or administration of a virtual asset or instruments enabling control over a virtual asset; and

(e) participating in and provision of financial services related to an issue or sale of a virtual asset;

While fintech initiatives have the support of the Commission, the general public is advised that the legal framework for supervising such activities is not yet fully in place; therefore, these transactions do not have any protection by statute as obtains for other licensable activities such as banking or money service business.

Individuals are therefore urged to fully assess their risks, before investing funds in any financial transactions relating to virtual assets business, including virtual coins.

## NOTICE

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION  
FORM P7, Rule 15

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN  
SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT  
OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
(Probate)

In the Estate of MIGNONETTE  
JACQUILINE WILLIAMS late of  
Swetes Village, St. John's,  
Antigua, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

FIRST (SECOND) PUBLICATION

**TAKE NOTICE** that an application has been filed by **NAKIMA WILLIAMS** of Swetes Village, St. Paul's, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 26th day of May, 2020. Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

DATED the 4th, day of April, 2021

CUMBERBATCH & ASSOCIATES

Attorneys-at-Law for  
the Applicant

# Vandalism at Potters Primary School



An investigation is underway to determine the person or persons responsible for a series of acts of vandalism perpetrated against the Potters Primary School. Principal Jacinter At-hill is reporting that for three consecutive days, beginning on Tuesday this week, staff turning up to the primary school for the restart of in-class teaching on Monday, have arrived at the school to discover various acts of vandalism.

On Wednesday, trophies and certificates that were to be presented later in the day to graduates of the school were found smashed and broken when the teachers arrived early in the morning.

The situation took a

turn for the worse on Thursday, when human faeces was discovered in one of the teacher's drawers. The incidents have left the teaching and janitorial staff at the school in a depressed mood as

they have wondered out loud what may have triggered someone to target the school in this manner.

"On three consecutive days, I have been forced to call the police to ask them to come to Potters

Primary to investigate these acts of vandalism. The police have dispatched officers from the Criminal Investigation Department and I have also called the supervisor of the security firm assigned to the



#drivesafeantigua

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



Cont'd on pg 11



school because there is supposed to be round-the-clock security at the school," Athill told PointeXpress newspaper. Athill is of the view that the security arrangements at the school need review as there are to be

between one and two security officers at the school at all times. She reported that the security firm gave a commitment to launch its own investigation into the matter and to report its findings to the principal.

The matter has also been reported to the Ministry of Education, bringing it to the attention of both the education officer responsible for that zone and the Director of Education, Clare Browne.

## Antiguan families in Canada make donations to Potters and Browne's Avenue clinics



Two Antigua and Barbuda families who are now based in Vancouver, Canada, have made much-welcomed donations to two local medical facilities. Both the Potters and the Browne's Avenue clinics were presented with a set of medical tools each that the nursing staff will find useful in serving the health needs of the respective communities where they operate. The donation was made possible through the combined efforts of

the Henry and Janzen families who were drawn to the demands on the facilities while on a visit to Antigua. Leona Janzen, originally of Potters and her husband Wilfred, and Constance Henry, also originally of Potters, who now reside in Canada, gave commitments to the nursing staff they would make every effort to assist the staff of the community clinics, especially in supporting their work in diagnosing and treating non-commu-

nicable diseases. They came through on their promise and as a result, Avery Henry (Constance's husband) presented a set of four blood pressure machines to the Browne's Avenue Clinic and two blood pressure machines and two infrared thermometers to the clinic in Potters on behalf of the two families. Nurse in Charge at Browne's Avenue, Joeseyan Campbell, and Nurse Josephine Williams of the Potters

Clinic received the donations and expressed their appreciation with the assurance that they put the donations to the very use for which they were intended. On behalf of the families, Henry noted "We are really delighted to help. Antigua and Barbuda will always be home for the Henrys and Janzens and we only hope that we can continue to be of some meaningful assistance to the people and land we will forever love."



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## SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development. In 2019, the UWI placed 32nd among the 150 best-ranked universities across Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) Latin America University Rankings. After 71 years The UWI remains the number 1 ranked university, out of more than 200 registered universities in the Caribbean. The UWI is currently within the top 2% of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean from a complement of over 2,000 registered universities.

The Five Islands Campus is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Systems Administrator**. The position of Systems Administrator exists to assist for the management and tuning of computer software systems to ensure high levels of availability and security of supported business applications. The Jobholder will be responsible for areas relating to the strategy, acquisition and development of Information Technology and the overall operation's management. The incumbent will participate in the planning and implementation of policies and procedures to ensure system provisioning and maintenance that is consistent with The UWI's goals, industry best practices, and regulatory requirements.

**The successful candidate will be required to:**

- Coordinate business application and database administration.
- Coordinate the deployment, monitoring, maintenance, development, upgrade, and support of cloud servers and networks and assist with the management of all server operating systems and application software.
- Manage hardware and software problems on servers and support application development throughout project lifecycles.
- Function as web master maintaining all The UWI Five Islands websites including implementing new designs
- Conduct research on emerging products, services, protocols, and standards in support of systems software procurement and development efforts

**QUALIFICATION, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:**

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Information Systems from an accredited institution
- Certification in Project Management (CAPM, CSM, etc.)
- Certification in Linux+, Server+ and ITIL is preferred
- Minimum of three (3) years' related work experience in a similar position

**REQUIRED SKILLS:**

- Working technical knowledge of networks, PCs, and platform operating systems, including Linux and Windows, and application support experience with Linux, VMware, Drupal, IT helpdesk application, backup and recovery applications, Active Directory and SurveyMonkey would be an asset.
- Extensive knowledge of programming languages, including HTML, PHP, CSS and JavaScript.
- Knowledge of databases, including MySQL and Microsoft SQL.
- Strong knowledge of Microsoft Office 365, server management, local area network administration, and data privacy practices and law.
- Good understanding of the University's goals and objectives.

Applicants are required to submit a completed employment application form, a curriculum vitae (CV) giving particulars of qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of at least three (3) references (one of whom should be from your current organization) and copies of academic qualifications. These are to be sent by electronic mail to [hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu](mailto:hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu) addressed to the **Director of Administration, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, West Indies**. A full CV and an application form must be submitted. Application forms can be obtained by sending a request to [hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu](mailto:hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu). The final date for receipt of applications is **April 19, 2021**. To expedite the appointment procedures, applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above address without waiting to be contacted.



# Teachers at the Parham Primary School receive free Google Classroom training



During the ongoing coronavirus pandemic which has forced schools to close their doors and transitioned into an online learning environment, parents, students, and teachers have been having varying experiences. On Thursday 8th April, alongside Tanice Powell Williams of Project Jaguar - an award-winning digital education hub - Chanel Imhoff conducted a Google Classroom training session with the teachers of the Parham Primary School. President and CEO of Project Jaguar Trevaun Solomon remarked that, "Professional development has always been an important goal to us. We're always ready to work towards that. Increasing accessibility to quality education for students definitely starts with teachers

having the necessary skills. So that's what we're prepared to do," when asked about their partnership with Imhoff's team for this activity. The two-hour session facilitated via Zoom and a blended learning environment covered the basics of Google Classroom and equipped the teachers with tools and resources that will improve their knowledge of the education platform. Grade Six Teacher, Miss Alexis Murray noted that, "The training was very informative and enlightening. She says that it is important because there are still teachers who are not familiar with Google Classroom and the training would have shown them how to make their classrooms more interactive for the students." Murray also said that the subject area co-

ordinators from the ministry should try to conduct workshops and provide additional resources on how to integrate technology into the various aspects of the curriculum. Imhoff added, "Often when we talk about education, we tend to focus only on the students and parents and not on the educators that have been given such a daunting task. As a parent, I have seen

some of the difficulties being faced firsthand and I have an appreciation for the amount of work that has to be done to efficiently run a virtual classroom." She added that the objective of the training session was to not only demonstrate a commitment to the school but to equip the teachers with the tools they need in order to be successful.

## JOB VACANCY

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
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- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Demonstrate the ability to handle multiple priorities
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- 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

# Cabinet to place more emphasis on the blue economy

Cabinet is taking steps that will result in greater reliance on the blue economy as Antigua and Barbuda charts the way forward for the local economy. The government aims to strengthen the economy of Antigua and Barbuda through sustainable blue economy, according to the minister responsible for the blue economy, Dean Jonas. The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda, on Wednesday 31st March 2021, approved the first Maritime Blue Economy Plan (MBEP), and a blue economy department gap analysis for the formal establishment of the Department of the Blue Economy, charged with the implementation of this plan.

This MBEP is a partnership initiative between the governments of the United Kingdom (UK) and Antigua and Barbuda.

This inaugural plan provides an overview of the existing maritime economy of Antigua and Barbuda and sets out priorities and actions that aim to help the country demonstrate a clear vision and direction that takes account of national issues, international commitments and the challenges of a small island state.

This original plan provides actions to support economic growth, livelihoods and jobs, while it reduces losses from natural hazards, weather events and climate change.

The overall objective is to help grow the national economy in a way that reflects the aims of the Commonwealth Charter, including good governance, sustainable development, gender equality, and recognising the needs of small and vulnerable states.

According to Jonas:



**Dean Jonas**

“The events of 2020, most notably the COVID -19 pandemic, have brought home the urgent need to diversify our economy so that our island nation can better handle the shocks of such unprecedented events. In one fell swoop, our foremost contributor to our nation’s economy, tourism, was significantly impacted with little or no notice. Our government, cognizant of the need to identify new economic sectors which will result in growth, innovation, jobs and investment while safeguarding healthy ecosystems is very grateful for the work of the Commonwealth

Marine Economies Programme (CME), the UK government and the many local stakeholders who made this document possible, notably, the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS).”

To implement this plan, the Department of the Blue Economy will work closely with and coordinate the efforts of key blue economy stakeholders and investors to broaden economic opportunities which will translate to increased economic resilience, improved socio-economy standards, and advancements in climate adaptation.





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FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

## SENIOR LECTURER / LECTURER SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE, COMPUTING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development. In 2019, the UWI placed 32nd among the 150 best ranked universities across Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) Latin America University Rankings. After 71 years The UWI remains the number 1 ranked university, out of more than 200 registered universities in the Caribbean. The UWI is currently within the top 2% of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean from a complement of over 2,000 registered universities.

The Five Islands Campus is seeking to fill positions of **Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer** on the Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda. Each Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer will provide academic leadership for the **School for Science, Computing and Artificial Intelligence**.

### QUALIFICATIONS, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

- Ph.D. in Computer Science, Data Science, Mathematics or a related field from an accredited institution by the time of employment.
- Minimum of five years' experience teaching related courses at the University level.
- Demonstrated evidence of ability to produce scholarly work in the field of Computer Science, Data Science or Mathematics.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Collaborate with colleagues in research and co-curricular activities, while engaging in community outreach initiatives which are aligned with The One UWI strategic plan and the strategic priorities of the Five Islands Campus aimed at expanding the economic development of Antigua and Barbuda, and the OECS Region.
- Exhibit a record on innovative pedagogy in a face to face environment, as well as online.
- Develop students' appreciation and passion for the study of Computer Science, Data Science or Mathematics.
- Demonstrate strong interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- Display a record of peer-reviewed publications, research in Computer Science, Data Science or Mathematics and related fields, and demonstrate success with securing grants and/ or contracts.

The **School for Science, Computing and Artificial Intelligence** seeks to fill **three (3) posts**. Applicants must be able to deliver content across multiple areas at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The available posts are as follows:

- **1 Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Data Science.** The ideal candidate must have experience using statistical computer languages (R, Python, SLQ, etc.) to manipulate data and draw insights from large data sets, and exhibit skills in creating data architecture. The incumbent must have strong capabilities in Predictive Analytics, Market Analytics, Risk Analytics, Text Analytics, Decision Analytics, Operations Management, Financial Market Models and Time Series Forecasting, Mathematical Programming, Simulation Methods and Analytics for Total Quality Management.
- **1 Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Mathematics.** The ideal candidate would teach courses in the discipline area of mathematics and statistics, develop and design curriculum in collaboration with Data Science, Computer Science and colleagues from other fields regarding research interest and co-curricular activities. Additionally, the successful candidate should be equipped to provide leadership and should have made significant contributions to the field.
- **1 Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Computer Science.** The ideal candidate will take a leadership role in modernizing pedagogy and research in Computer Science and teach courses in Computer Science for students engaged in data science, machine learning, Big Data Analytics, deep learning, intelligent automation/robotics, and Artificial Intelligence studies.

Applicants are required to submit a completed employment application form, curriculum vitae giving particulars of qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of at least three (3) references (one of whom should be from your current organization), a statement on teaching and research interests and copies of academic qualifications. These are to be sent by electronic mail to [hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu](mailto:hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu) addressed to the **Director of Administration, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, West Indies**. A full CV and application forms must be submitted. Application forms can be obtained by sending a request to [hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu](mailto:hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu). The final date for receipt of applications is **April 19, 2021**. In order to expedite the appointment procedures, applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above address without waiting to be contacted.

# Proposed global minimum tax rate would be crippling



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)*

Officials of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – the rich countries' club – are no doubt delight-

ed at the proposition by the U.S. Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, for a global minimum corporate tax rate of 21 per cent. Developing countries, including those in the Caribbean, need to monitor this development closely. Their already suffering economies could end up being hurt by it even more. Tax rates are a sovereign matter. Governments set tax rates in the context of several factors including their domestic financial demands; a judgement on the ability to pay; and the need to attract foreign investment to

drive economic and social development.

The U.S. government is exercising its sovereign right to raise its domestic corporate tax to 28 per cent, particularly as it wants to spend \$2 trillion over the next eight years on building expensive infrastructure in a range of areas. There should be every appreciation of this ambition. However, conscious that this high tax rate might push U.S. companies to migrate to lower tax countries, the U.S. government wants a global minimum tax rate of 21 per cent. Its belief is that a sufficiently high minimum global tax rate would discourage U.S. companies from leaving. The U.S. proposal has been welcomed by the OECD and the European Union nations, France and Germany, that have always been the 'hawks' on setting and enforcing global tax rates. Pascal Saint-Amans, head of tax

administration at the OECD, welcomed the U.S. proposals, saying "This reboots the negotiations and is very positive." If this proposition is accepted, it will be enforced on all countries. Experience with the OECD, the European Union (EU) and the U.S. demonstrates that by various methods, Caribbean countries have been coerced into compliance with rules or demands to their disadvantage.

Once the OECD member states agree it amongst themselves, they will enforce it. The method in the past on matters such as what they called "harmful tax competition", has been to identify countries they pejoratively list as 'uncooperative jurisdictions'. The mere naming of countries injures the standing of their financial services sectors, causing loss of business and the capacity to participate effectively in the



world's trading and financial systems. To avoid these consequences, countries have complied, eroding sovereignty over their tax policies and, importantly, jobs and income.

Remarkably, the OECD has described its efforts for 'tax harmonisation' and an end to 'tax competition' as "levelling the playing field". In other words, the playing field for competition in taxation, is levelled by forcing developing countries to meet high taxation levels needed by the rich. Other areas, in which level playing fields are necessary, are conveniently ignored. A current example is the purchase and hoarding of COVID-19 vaccines by many OECD countries. At the time of writing, of the 674 million vaccines that have been administered globally, 77 per cent are in the 10 richest nations. The U.S. has reportedly sent documents, proposing the new tax, to 135 countries negotiating international taxation

at the behest of the OECD. The tax would apply to global profits of large companies, including big U.S. technology groups, regardless of their physical presence in any country. Agreement on the tax would allow the U.S. administration to increase corporate taxes on U.S. companies without fear of competition from other countries.

Alarmingly, a senior representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has already endorsed the U.S. government proposal. IMF Chief Economist, Gita Gopinath, said that "We're very much in support of having this kind of global minimum corporate tax." It is unclear if she was speaking for the Board of the Fund or for her division. Fortunately, the Head of the World Bank, David Malpass, has taken a more balanced position on the matter. He has warned against setting a global minimum tax rate that is too high, adding that he did not want to see new rules

"that would hinder poor countries' ability to attract investment".

And, this really will be the crux of the issue. Every country has the right to set its own domestic tax rates, but not to impose rates on others – which is what the OECD has been trying to do since 1998.

Small countries, including those in the Caribbean, have lower corporate tax rates because they need investment not only to compete with larger countries but also to survive. A mandated tax rate of 21 per cent would cripple many of them and retard their growth.

An example of this currently exists in the OECD and the EU. Ireland, one of the smallest of their member countries, has a corporate tax rate of 12.5 per cent and has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of foreign investment. A few decades ago, Ireland was much poorer than Britain, but its implementation of a low corporate tax rate

has helped its growth and raised its living standards.

No doubt, Ireland will face considerable pressure from other OECD and EU countries to accept the proposed new corporate tax rate, but it has resisted bullying in the past, and it is likely to do so again. If that is the case, other smaller countries, including Caribbean ones, should join it in arguing for a sensible minimum corporate tax rate that is agreed and not imposed.

The World Bank's David Malpass has set a reasonable tone stating that any new minimum tax should not be too high. Hitherto, the OECD itself has been working on a rate of 12.5 per cent.

On this matter, Caribbean and other small countries should stand up in unison for their rights by strong representation and informed argument.

Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)



# PROPOSED ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA MUSIC WEEK TO TURN SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL MUSIC

The music of Antigua and Barbuda will take centre stage during the first-ever Antigua Music Week, planned for April 19 to 25 being organized by Limerz INC, creators, and producers of numerous high powered successful events in the United States.

One of the organisers, Clint James, who is based in Atlanta, Georgia, said his group is proposing that the Antigua and Barbuda Music Week be observed in different ways. Firstly, the group wants all local radio stations and DJs to switch their music formats during the period to all Antigua and Barbuda music. Additionally, Limerz wants to engage the local stations in seven nights where the music will be featured following a theme specific to the night.

The format the group is proposing is as follows:

- **Monday (April 19) Opening**
- **Tuesday (April 20) – Classics night**
- **Wednesday (April 21) – Girls Power night (featuring female artistes)**
- **Thursday (April 22) – Jam Band**
- **Friday (April 23) Revival night**
- **Saturday (April 24) Jam session (J'Ouvert)**
- **Sunday (April 25) – Last lap**



# LIMERZ INC

James noted that the events of Antigua and Barbuda Music Week must be held virtually this year because of the pandemic but the plan is that by next year with the anticipated end of the pandemic more activities will be added to the week's events and everything will be done face to face. "The launch of Antigua and Barbuda Music Week (ABMW), a new and bold initiative geared towards publicising music from Antigua and Barbuda globally. We are inviting your company to partner with us and support ABMW 19th April, to 25th April, 2021. ABMW will be an annual event for the music of Antigua and Barbuda," a Limerz circular to local radio station management stated. The circular added that this is a time to reflect, honour the past, observe the present and look to a brighter future by playing, promot-

ing, and supporting the music of Antigua and Barbuda for one entire week. "Let us celebrate Antigua and Barbuda in a big way this year and make ABMW an annual event!" it declared. LIMERZ INC is an innovative entertainment company focused on conceiving, creating, and executing impactful, music-based live experiences delivered across multiple mediums. Its founders, Clint James, Marsha Martin, and Franklyn Benjamin, each has over ten years of experience in production and creative development. In their sixth year as a company, LIMERZ INC is proud of its work on large-scale events, such as The Annual NYC Labour Day Camouflage Boat Ride, Shades of Sexiness Day concert, PECKISH, and SOCAVILLE. "We are asking everyone to join the movement by showing their

national pride for Antigua and Barbuda Music Week from 19th April to 25th April 2021. "We are requesting artists, radio stations, mas' bands, all DJs local and abroad, blogs, social media influencers to join this historic initiative. Let us celebrate Antigua and Barbuda in a big way this year and every coming year," James said. This year's event will salute the career of King Swallow. "We need to create a festival experience that delivers a message to the community, love, laughter, fun, and empowerment that the ABMW will become known for and leave our audience feeling inspired and uplifted, especially during these times. "The multi-day event will extend to a global audience of viewers that will feature virtual performances and interviews which will include leading musical artists, influencers, and experts. "ABMW is not just about soca music, Antigua and Barbuda has a pulsing dance hall community along with a growing Hip Hop and R&B sound that has to be heard."

**TALKING POINT**

DR. MASERATI

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

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

# ST. VINCENT ON RED ALERT FOR 'IMMINENT' VOLCANIC ERUPTION



(CNN) - St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves on Thursday declared a disaster alert prompted by a change in the eruptive activity at the La Soufrière volcano, according to the country's National Emergency Management Organization.

The island is on red alert, meaning an eruption is "imminent now," NEMO said.

Evacuation orders are in place in about a dozen districts of St. Vincent, affecting roughly 6,000 to 7,000 people, a spokesperson for the University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre, or UWI-SRC, told CNN.

St. Vincent is the largest island of the St. Vincent

and the Grenadines chain in the Caribbean. Scientists at the Belmont Observatory in St. Vincent observed a volcanic tremor on the island at about 3 a.m. local time, according to UWI-SRC.

The first band of tremors was followed by five more throughout the day. This type of seismic signal is usually associated with movement of magma and fluids close to the surface, according to UWI-SRC.

"Ash venting was also observed during the most recent tremor episode," the center reported on Facebook.

The volcano has had five explosive eruptions -- in 1718, 1812, 1814, 1902/03 and 1979 -- according to the seis-

mic research center.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Keith Rowley has spoken to Gonsalves and offered assistance, according to the Ministry of National Security for Trinidad and Tobago.

Venezuela will send humanitarian supplies and risk experts, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said on his Twitter account.

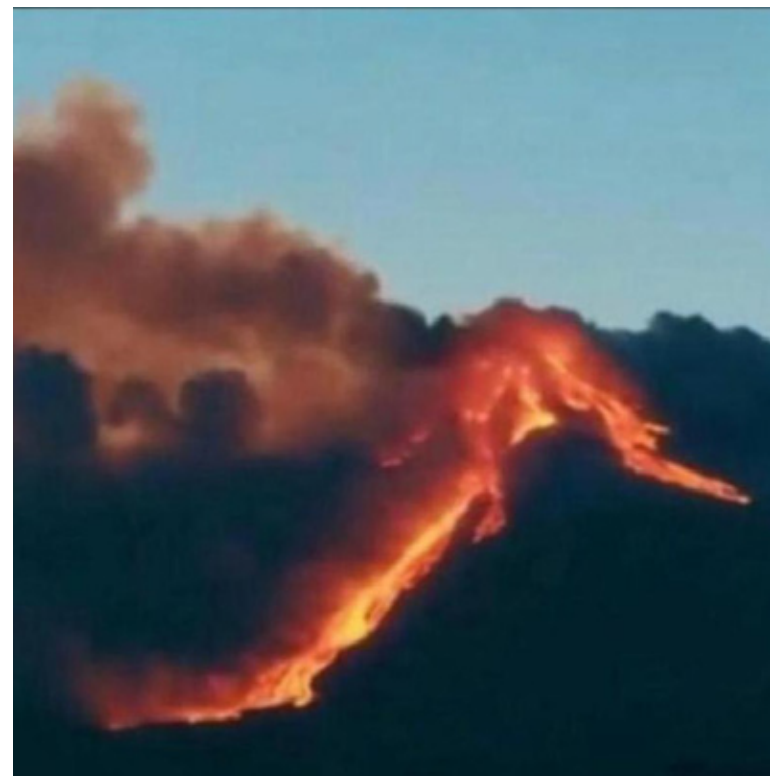
Cruise lines to help

Cruise ships are heading to the islands to assist in evacuations, NEMO officials wrote on their Twitter account.

Carnival Cruise Lines is sending two ships -- the Carnival Paradise and the Carnival Legend -- to evacuate res-

idents, a spokesperson told CNN. "Each ship will accommodate up to 1,500 residents who will be transported to neighboring islands which have agreed to offer refuge out of harm's way. All precautions will be taken to protect the health and safety of Carnival crew and the passengers who board the ships," the spokesperson said. The ships will arrive Friday, the spokesperson said.

Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises are each sending one ship and should have arrived Thursday night, according to a statement from Statement from Royal Caribbean International.





# GHTA: 'WE'RE IN A GOOD POSITION'

*....as Barbadian specialist takes over top tourism post*



*New head of the Grenada Tourism Authority, Petra Roach*

**(Barbados Advocate)** - "We're in a good position."

This observation was made by President of the Grenada Hotel and Tourism Association (GHTA), Leo Garbutt, as he responded to a query from a member of the Grenadian press about the criteria used to hire the new head of the Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA), Petra Roach. News broke on Tuesday that the Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Barbados Tourism and Marketing Inc. resigned from that post to take up her

new assignment at the GTA. During the question-and-answer segment of a virtual post-Cabinet briefing yesterday, Garbutt likened Roach's appointment to having Kirani James on their Olympic team. "When we were discussing the situation of the new CEO, I thought the sensible thing that was stated is that we should concentrate on marketing the destination." He lamented that the promotion of tourism has never been high on the priority list in Grenada. "My feeling is that when it came down

to the six candidates that we interviewed, there [were] two outstanding candidates. The last one we interviewed, afterwards when we were discussing, we said ... that's the best one. And I'm delighted that she's accepted and delighted that we've got someone who, in my opinion, if we were in the Olympics we'd have Kirani James on our team. She is amazing. "Her background is amazing and she's going to do a lot for Grenada, because she's got passion ... She is an amazing person. And, I must say, I congratulate the Chairman on getting her to come to us. We're in a good position."

Chairman of the GTA, Barry Collymore, while responding to a member of the Grenadian press, said: "In terms of the interview – selection, criteria, process – one of the things that we thought was very important to have a quick restart for Grenada was to have someone with

international marketing network, someone who has been to the trade shows, who knows all the players, who can pick up the phone and call American Airlines, who can pick up the phone and call British Airways.

"The important thing is not just that we restart tourism, but it is how we restart. So we thought that one of the main criteria was to have someone who could do that and lead to restart very quickly to get businesses open, to get people coming here as quickly as possible. Having an international marketing network [is] important as it relates to what I think it says about Grenada."

He revealed that two Grenadians applied for the post, but none of them had an international marketing network.

Meanwhile, Grenada is making it mandatory for all hotels workers to be vaccinated if they want to keep their jobs in the sector.

# GOVERNMENT MUST LOBBY FOR STUDENTS TO DEFER CXC EXAMS – PNP

Jamaica Observer - People's National Party spokesperson on Education and Training, Dr. Angela Brown-Burke, is calling on the Government to make proper representation for Jamaican students to be allowed to defer all aspects of their Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) exams until January or June of 2022.

According to the statement from Dr. Brown-Burke, the concern comes in light of complaints from students and teachers that, contrary to previous understandings, students who initially thought they had the ability to defer are now being told that the rule only applies to written exams and that School-based Assessments (SBAs) should still be submitted this year.

"Education in Jamaica has been significantly impacted by COVID-19, and while some schools were allowed to reopen for face-to-face classes, many students have not had in-person teaching since March 2020," she said.

"Many of our students have missed half of the last school year and al-



***Jamaica Opposition spokesman on Education and Training Angela Brown Burke.***

most all of this one, and are therefore at a disadvantage when compared with students from other Caribbean islands. A request for deferral on this basis is not unreasonable, and a caring government should do all that's within its power to negotiate favourable terms for its students with the CXC board," she added.

Noting that SBAs ac-

count for up to 40 per cent of the overall grade for most subjects, Dr Brown-Burke said the Opposition is concerned that students may end up with automatic fails. "Jamaica has the largest number of students sitting CXC examinations on a yearly basis, and this provides significant leverage for our Government to make effective representation on be-

half of our students," the statement said.

Dr. Brown-Burke called on the Ministry of Education to acknowledge that, "Our students have faced significant and unequal odds over the last several months, and are deserving of the Government's full support to give them a fair shot at securing the best CXC grades possible and safeguarding their future."



# SVG GOV'T MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PAY SALARIES IN THE COMING MONTHS

(News 784) - As the pandemic drags on and with low uptake in vaccines, it appears that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is on a long road to recovery.

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves, on Wednesday morning, said the government might not be able in the next couple of months to pay salaries.

"In one or two months, or sometime if the strained economic activity continues, the government may not have the 30 million to pay civil servants and contribute to the NIS for pensioners payments". Gonsalves said they have held the economy together; however, there is real pressure on the government.

"Our revenue dropped by 15 million, and we recouped in February. That's because there were a couple of big alien landholding license transactions from Mustique. There is a couple more in the pipeline," Gonsalves said.

The World Bank indicates that St. Vincent's economy is expected to grow by 0.2 percent in 2021.



*Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves,*

## QUICK CROSSWORD

						5	4	
					6	1	7	9
	9		7					6
	5		6	8				
	2						3	
				9	3		1	
5					9		8	
8	6	7	1					
	1	2						

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



### ♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

An inspiring idea can be refreshing and stimulating. Certain actions might be misconstrued, or a sincere explanation could be thought inappropriate, so consider staying silent if love or money is a primary issue.

### ♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Gather all the facts before you implement innovative techniques. Wait for better timing to revise your schedule or adjust your agenda. Use your people skills to navigate challenging situations.

### ♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Misunderstandings are possible, so it's a good idea to tread carefully around topics that might be considered sensitive. Discuss the most important matters with your most loyal friends before acting.

### ♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

It might be tempting to overreact or lose your temper due to a mystery or a misunderstanding. You could feel threatened by someone's avid interest, but it might only be a bit of self-doubt at work.

### ♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Working conditions can quickly improve if you can negotiate a better distribution of duties. A friend or partner might be able to offer some inventive ideas that will make everything run more smoothly.

### ♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

It's not wise to test the depth of the water by jumping in headfirst. Loved ones might be overly sensitive if you challenge their ideals or actions. Say the right things to reassure them.

### ♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

If you rush in to do a job without thinking it through first, you can end up entangled in messy details. Straighten things out by showing your trustworthiness and people will rely on your sincerity.

### ♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

There may be very little opportunity or little time to put your knowledge to use. Someone may become uncomfortable if you ask them personal questions. However, a partner or loved one will likely be glad to take your side.

### ♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you turn on the charm, it will be easy to get along with others and do a difficult job. Organize your thoughts so you can present a convincing argument if needed.

### ♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

It may be difficult to make progress if you are faced with talented competition. There may be great pressure on you to perform at your absolute best, so schedule plenty of breaks and get lots of rest.

### ♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Avoid making crucial financial decisions or major expenditures at this time, and delay the signing of any agreements. Some of your spur-of-the-moment decisions may help you achieve your primary goals but won't grant all your wishes.

### ♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Your day may feel like you are playing a game of musical chairs. Someone might urge you to try something that isn't a fit for your abilities, leaving you feeling out of the loop.

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA PRESENTS**

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING**

**THEME: BLESS OUR LAND LORD**

**BLESS OUR LAND LORD**

**MATTHEW 5:1-14**

**SUNDAY 11TH APRIL 2021**

**TIME: 6:00AM-6:00PM GIS CHANNEL**

**MAIN PRAYER EVENT: ABSTV LIVE**

**TIME: 3:00PM**

**THE GOVERNMENT, CHURCH AND ALL CITIZENS JOIN TO PRAY FOR GOD TO BLESS OUR LAND**

**ABS** **WIOC** **Apua**



## LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Fri 09 | Day

**28°**

8%  
NE 20 km/h

Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun.  
High 28°C. Winds NE at 15 to 25 km/h.

Humidity 65%

UV Index Extreme

Sunrise 05:55

Sunset 18:21

Fri 09 | Night

**23°**

3%  
NNE 17 km/h

Partly cloudy. Low 23°C. Winds NNE at 10 to 15 km/h.

Humidity 69%

UV Index 0 of 10

Moonrise 04:34

Moonset 16:35

Waning Crescent

Sat 10 | Day

**27°**

2%  
NE 20 km/h

Partly cloudy. High 27°C. Winds NE at 15 to 25 km/h.

Sat 10 | Night

**23°**

1%  
NNE 12 km/h

Partly cloudy. Low 23°C. Winds NNE at 10 to 15 km/h.

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

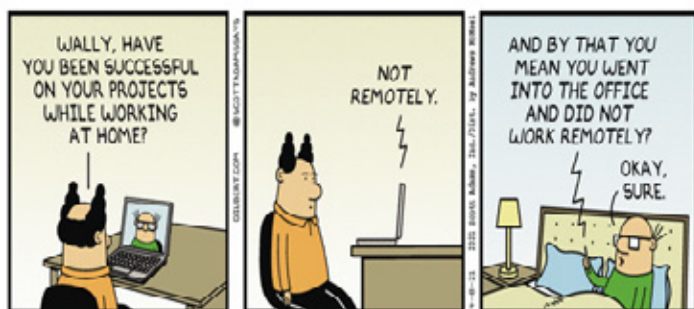
Submit community notices to

[news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)

## COMICS

Dilbert

April 08, 2021



Garfield

April 08, 2021



Luann

April 08, 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 tightens some gun controls, says much more needed

WASHINGTON (AP)

— President Joe Biden, in his first gun control measures since taking office, on Thursday announced a half-dozen executive actions aimed at addressing a proliferation of gun violence across the nation that he called an “epidemic and an international embarrassment.”

“The idea that we have so many people dying every single day from gun violence in America is a blemish on our character as a nation,” Biden said during remarks at the White House.

Family members whose children were killed at the Sandy Hook, Connecticut, school massacre in 2012 and the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in 2018 attended the hearing, and Biden thanked them for attending, saying he understood it would remind them of the awful days when they got the calls.

He assured them, “We’re absolutely determined to make change.”

Biden’s Thursday announcement delivers on a pledge the President made last month to take what he termed imme-



*President Joe Biden speaks about gun violence prevention in the Rose Garden at the White House*

diate “common-sense steps” to address gun violence, after a series of mass shootings drew renewed attention to the issue. His announcement came the same day as yet another, this one in South Carolina, where five people were killed.

Biden emphasized the scope of the problem: Between the mass killings at the Atlanta massage businesses and the Colorado grocery store shooting last month, there were more than 850 additional shootings that killed 250 and injured 500 in the U.S., he said.

But Thursday’s announcement underscores the limitations of Biden’s executive power to act on guns. His orders tighten regulations

on homemade guns and provide more resources for gun-violence prevention but fall far short of the sweeping gun-control agenda he laid out on the campaign trail.

Indeed, Biden again urged Congress to act, calling on the Senate to take up House-passed measures closing background check loopholes. He also said Congress should pass the Violence Against Women Act, eliminate legal exemptions for gun manufacturers and ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

“This is not a partisan issue among the American people,” Biden insisted.

While Biden asserted that he’s “willing to work

with anyone to get it done,” gun control measures face slim prospects in an evenly divided Senate, where Republicans remain near-unified against most proposals.

Biden was joined at the event by Vice President Kamala Harris and Attorney General Merrick Garland. Garland said he was “under no illusions about how hard it is to solve the problem of gun violence” and emphasized a need for a “collective effort to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and save lives.”

The Justice Department cannot solve the problem by itself, he said, but “there is work for the department to do, and we intend to do it.”



# Eleven killed as Myanmar protesters fight troops with handmade guns, firebombs



(Reuters) - Anti-coup demonstrators in Myanmar fought back with handmade guns and firebombs against a crackdown by security forces in a town in the northwest, but at least 11 of the protesters were killed, domestic media reported on Thursday.

Initially, six truckloads of troops were deployed to quell protesters in the town of Taze, the Myanmar Now and Irrawaddy news outlets said. When the protesters fought back with handmade

guns, knives and firebombs, five more truckloads of troops were brought in.

Fighting continued into Thursday morning and at least 11 protesters were killed and about 20 wounded, the media said. There was no word of any casualties among the soldiers.

That would take the toll of civilians killed by security forces to over 600 since the junta seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, ac-

cording to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP). It had a toll of 598 dead as of Wednesday evening.

Taze is near the town of Kale, where at least 12 people were killed in a similar clash between troops and protesters on Wednesday, according to news media and witnesses. Security forces fired live rounds, grenades, and machine-guns on protesters who were demanding the restoration of Suu Kyi's government, AAPP said.

"Taze, Kale have many hunters in the jungle," said Hein Min Hteik, a resident of the region and a youth activist. "They have handmade firearms. And now they came out with their weapons in order to protect the locals, while the people were under attack by the junta."

A spokesman for the junta could not be reached for comment.

"People will try to defend their own lives and their rights," said a former government minister who is part of the CRPH, a group of lawmakers representing the ousted civilian government.

"People will not wait for CRPH to act," the minister said in a video call with Reuters. "The CRPH cannot stop the possible armed resistance by the people from the people."

The junta on Thursday arrested Paing Takhon, a model and actor who had spoken out against the coup, his sister told Reuters. In Yangon, the country's biggest city, activists placed shoes filled with flowers to commemorate dead protesters.

# Expert says George Floyd died from lack of oxygen



***Dr Martin Tobin testifies as an expert witness in the George Floyd murder trial***

(BBC World News) - George Floyd died from a lack of oxygen as he was pinned "in a vice" against the street during his arrest, a doctor at the trial of ex-police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis has said. Intensive care doctor Martin Tobin said Mr. Floyd died of asphyxia from the way he was restrained.

Chauvin, 45, was filmed kneeling on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes during his arrest last May. The ex-officer is on trial for murder and has denied the charges

against him.

Dr. Tobin also contradicted the defence's argument that the painkiller Fentanyl was the cause of Floyd's inability to breathe. A toxicology report released last June said Floyd had Fentanyl in his system.

However, Dr. Tobin said Floyd's breathing did not slow down enough for the drug to have been a factor in his total loss of oxygen. The footage of Chauvin, who is white, with his knee on African-American Floyd's neck sparked global protests against racism.

The trial is in its second week and is expected to last for at least one month. The defence is due to begin arguing its case next week.

The prosecution in the case against Chauvin has now begun hearing from medical experts.

Asked about the positioning of the handcuffs behind Floyd's back, coupled with the downward pressure of Chauvin's weight against him, Dr. Tobin - an expert in pulmonary medicine - said Floyd's ability to expand his chest was severely impaired. He said it was his medical opinion that Floyd died after a low level of oxygen stopped his heart. "[George Floyd] is jammed down against the street, so the street is playing a major role in preventing him from expanding his chest.

"He's against a hard asphalt street, so the way they're pushing down on his handcuffs combined with the street ... it's like the left side is in a vise."

Dr. Tobin said the positioning of the hand-

cuffs was also significant. "It's how they're being pushed, where they are being pushed, that totally interfere with central features of how we breathe."

Dr. Tobin said the position of Chauvin's knee, pushing down against the left side of Floyd's chest, meant that it was "almost ... as if a surgeon had gone in and removed the [left] lung".

"Not quite, but along those lines. He has used up his resources and is literally trying to breathe with his fingers and knuckles against the street to try to crank up his chest, to try to get air into his right lung," he added. He added that Floyd had already shown signs of brain injury about four minutes before Chauvin took his knee off his neck, and that a healthy person who was put through this "would have died" too.

About three minutes before Chauvin removed his knee, Dr. Tobin said, there was "not an ounce of oxygen left in his body".



# Ukraine conflict: Moscow could 'defend' Russia-backed rebels

A top Russian official has warned that Moscow could intervene to help its citizens in eastern Ukraine as tensions rise in the region. Sporadic fighting has increased in the Donbas region in Eastern Ukraine, with clashes between Russian-backed separatist rebels and Ukrainian troops. Russia has been building up troops on the border with Ukraine.

The official, Dmitry Kozak, told a Moscow conference that Russian forces could intervene to "defend" the rebels. "Everything depends on the scale of the conflagration," he said.

Ukraine's Donbas has been a flashpoint since the separatists seized swathes of territory in 2014. Low-level clashes between the rebels and Ukrainian forces have broken out in recent weeks. Each side accuses the other of violating a ceasefire. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited the region on Thursday to see "the locations of the escalation" and "be with our soldiers in the tough times in Donbas".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called



*Ukraine's President Zelensky has been visiting troops in this region*

on Russia to reduce its military presence on the border with Ukraine.

In Moscow, Mr. Kozak likened the current situation of the separatists to Srebrenica, the town in Bosnia-Herzegovina where 8,000 Muslim men were killed by Bosnian Serb forces in 1995.

"If, as our president says, there is a Srebrenica there, we shall probably have to come to their

defence," Mr. Kozak said. He is the deputy head of Russia's presidential administration.

Russian President Vladimir Putin first suggested in 2019 that Russian-speaking residents might suffer a Srebrenica-like massacre if Ukraine regained full control of Donbas without guarantees. But there have been no reports of any such atrocity being

planned. Mr. Kozak suggested the rebels could hold their own for now against Ukrainian forces as they consisted of "battle-hardened units".

He also warned Ukraine not to increase hostilities against the rebels, saying it would be the "beginning of the end" for the country. At the same time, he urged calm and stability.





## THE RISKS OF HOSTING THE IPL DURING A PANDEMIC

The richest and most glamorous tournament in world cricket is on schedule to bowl-off in India even as the country battles a deadly second wave of Covid-19 infections.

Beginning today, the Indian Premier League (IPL) will have eight teams playing 52 games at six venues behind closed doors across the country. The final will

be played on 30 May. More than 165,000 people have died from Covid-19 in India, and there have been 12.5 million confirmed infections.

The country has been averaging more than 90,000 daily cases in April, in a second wave largely attributed to laxity in public safety protocols. A senior official of the Indian

Cricket Board has said he is confident the 14th edition of the IPL will go ahead without any problem.

Rajiv Shukla, vice-president of the Board, told ANI news agency that secure bio-bubbles had been created for the players and other people associated with the tournament, and that they were getting tested for the virus.

“Keeping in mind all the precautions, the tournament will go ahead without any problems,” Mr. Shukla said.

Four cricketers and a team consultant have already tested positive for Covid-19 and were put into isolation before the start of the tournament.





## WNBA UNVEILS UNIFORMS FOR 2021 SEASON

To honor the WNBA's 25th anniversary season, all 12 teams will wear three redesigned editions of game uniforms that emphasize city, culture and individual messages as part of the league's ongoing collaboration with Nike.

The three versions, which include bold fonts and unique patterns such as pinstripes, will be defined as: the WNBA Nike Heroine Edition, the WNBA Nike Explorer Edition and the WNBA Nike Rebel Edition – all bringing stories from their cities and communities to life through the muse of female archetypes in storytelling and film.

The uniform collection was designed with player feedback. All the jerseys will have a 1/144 notation, which represents the number of players in the WNBA. Front numbers have returned and white jerseys will be used for the first time since 2015.

Using feedback from the players, Nike also reshaped the uniforms to better fit the players' bodies, as players range in height from 5ft-6in to 6ft-9in. The uniforms have a re-engineered structure and altered proportions to improve fit and mobility.





## HIS ATTITUDE WAS OUTSTANDING

Former West Indies captain Jason Holder has been commended for his outstanding and professional attitude during the just-concluded Test series between West Indies and Sri Lanka at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Holder, who opted out of the West Indies tour to Bangladesh (which they won 2-0 led by fellow Barbadian Kraigg Braithwaite) was removed as captain for the Sri Lanka tour and replaced.

Many thought the Barbadian would sulk and underperform after being sacked, but chief selector Roger Harper has praised the deposed captain's attitude during the Sri Lan-

ka series. Harper said the all-rounder had been exemplary in his approach and a source of inspiration for his teammates.

The 29-year-old averages 69 with the bat and took a five-wicket haul in the first Test to finish the series with seven wickets. Holder was also praised for encouraging his teammates in training in the nets and on the field of play.

Harper said it was a difficult decision to replace Holder, but an important one for changing the culture within the team. The Barbadian is presently in India participating in the 14th edition of the IPL for the Sunrisers.

## DEWS



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