



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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VINCENTIANS RELUCTANT TO LEAVE SVG

SEE PAGE 3



Photo caption: The second phase of the vaccination programme kicked off in four centers Tuesday. Here one of the assistants interacts with those present to be vaccinated

A STEADY PACE IN THE RACE FOR HERD IMMUNITY
COVID-19 public vaccine recommences

PAGE 5

EDITORIAL

TREVOR WALKER FIRMLY CONTROLS NEW BARBUDA COUNCIL

The Barbuda Council announced the names of a new chairman and the heads of the several committees responsible for the subject areas of concern for the sister isle. Interestingly, there is a new Chairman of the Council: Jackie Frank, a member of the Frank dynasty in Barbuda. PointeXpress attempted to get some indication from Frank about her plans for Barbuda relative to the future of the island and other matters. We found it strange that she was unable to answer the questions right away, suggesting instead that she was 'busy' and asked that the questions be submitted in writing. Even after this was done there was no response from Frank up to the time of the close of production of today's paper. One got a sense that the new chairman needed to get 'permission' to speak with the media. The most interesting thing about the new

Council is the role of the representative, Trevor Walker, as part of the leadership of the body. Walker, as the representative, sits on the council in that capacity. However, for this Council he holds multiple positions. He is Deputy Chairman of the Council, head of the Finance Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Coastal Protection Committee. It is therefore Trevor Walker's Council without a doubt! There are reports that attempts to set up the Council immediately after the 29th March local government elections were postponed following internal wrangling among the Barbuda People's Movement (BPM) councillors over the allocation of the committee chairmanships. As it has now emerged, Walker holds the Council firmly in his grip. Any hopes of improved relations between the Council and the central

government are likely to be dashed as such attempts have failed in the past. The anti-development stance adopted by the BPM over generations is likely to continue as long as the Council remains on its present trajectory under Walker's guidance. For Walker and his team, control of the affairs of Barbuda is their *raison d'être*; it is their oxygen. They are fearful that should developments come to the island, providing good paying jobs and opportunities for personal and professional advancements for Barbudans, that this will erode their power-base over time. Hence the fierce opposition to development of any kind, even a new airport that will be able to accommodate jet aircraft. It would have been understandable if the Barbuda Council had been able to articulate some vision for the island over these past several decades. Except for

its position that Barbuda should be 'stuck in time,' there is no clear plan for the future of the island. Seemingly, at Council and general elections time in Barbuda, the issue of lands raises its ugly head and it sucks up all the oxygen from debate on other issues of concern for the island. Fully two-third of the working population on the island is employed by the Council and this may explain why elections on the island have become predictable in recent times. Recently, Information Minister Melford Nicholas announced that the government will not be deterred from its commitment to advance Barbuda's development. Improved standards of living for ordinary Barbudans that come from development is perhaps the only way that real change will come to Barbuda. Let us hope that is not too far away.

VINCENTIANS OPTING TO STAY AT HOME... AT LEAST FOR NOW



Whilst Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean territories are making preparations to accept residents of St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) fleeing the eruption of the La Soufriere Volcano, word is that many Vincentians have decided to stay in their homeland, at least for now. That is the word from the SVG Prime Minister, Dr Ralph Gonsalves in communication with his regional colleagues on Tuesday.

Director of the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), Philmore Mullin, through whom the message was communicated, said Dr. Gonsalves has reported that the number of persons who have registered to be evacuated to neighbouring

islands is not enough to make the undertaking viable. He has therefore asked the cruise lines which had offered to assist in this regard to put on hold all such arrangements.

“My feelings are that the only way this situation will change is if the eruptions continue causing the ash fall in the ‘safe areas’ to become unbearable. For now, it appears that the majority of Vincentians have decided to ride it out,” he suggested.

Mullin said so far the authorities in Kingstown have accounted for just over seven thousand people evacuated from the ‘red zone.’ “There are some eighty-five shelters housing over four thousand people with another two to three thousand people

living with friends and families. This number will likely change as more people register with disaster officials,” he stated.

According to Mullin, it is understandable that many people in St Vincent are reluctant to leave behind their homes, families, friends and their possessions. However, he says he is paying close attention to the situation with water and other basic supplies, including food. “Water distribution has been down to a little as twenty per cent of capacity. However, reports say that by Tuesday it was up to roughly thirty-five per cent. Continued ash fall from the eruptions could again negatively impact the water production. Several countries are already ferrying water

Cont'd on pg 4

into Kingstown to help alleviate the water shortage,” Mullin disclosed.

The NODS official also reported on the hesitancy of some to move from the ‘red zone’ to safer areas. On Tuesday, a further two hundred people were moved to the safe zone with several hundred more believed to still be danger areas.

He is reporting that three are now growing concerns for the long-term health effects on those people who are breathing in the ash. “The ash can damage the lungs as it contains small rocks that may damage the lungs’ linings. Additionally, if it gets into the eyes

and one rubs the eyes it could result in damage there too,” he revealed. Additional concerns are also about the breathing of sulfuric acid contained in the ash.

Mullin said there is a massive regional and international effort afoot to help the people of SVG. “I was in a meeting today (Tuesday) with about seventy individuals representing the entire Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) membership, the World Bank, the United Nations affiliated bodies as well as friendly governments seeking ways to assist the people of SVG,” he announced. Already, there are pledges of as-

sistance from the World Bank, UN AID, PAHO and regional governments to help the volcano-stricken country.

On Monday night, one forty-foot container of emergency supplies left for SVG, with a second slated to leave next Monday. NODS is also exploring additional channels to get supplies into SVG.

The Antigua and Barbuda government gave a commitment to accommodate up to two hundred and fifty Vincentians in the first instance and the Jolly Beach hotel was being readied to accommodate them when or if it becomes necessary.

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**.

A STEADY PACE IN THE RACE FOR HERD IMMUNITY

COVID-19 PUBLIC VACCINE RECOMMENCES



COVID-19. Since the start of the vaccination programme, approximately twenty-seven thousand and thirty-two people have received their first shot of AstraZeneca vaccine, with another five hundred and fifty-four people vaccinated on the first day of phase two.

These five hundred and fifty-four people who received their first shot on Tuesday represented individuals from all walks of life. According to vaccine site managers, “Tuesday’s exercise is reminiscent of what we experienced during the initial vaccine process last month, persons turned up slowly; however, we expect more persons in the coming days as they become aware of what’s taking place.”

The site managers went on to explain that there are no priority days and no one will be turned

back. “Anyone who can take the vaccine, who wants the vaccine, can come and get the vaccine,” they declared.

According to the Ministry of Health, “The public is encouraged to actively participate in phase two of the COVID-19 vaccination programme to create herd immunity, whereby the majority of the population is protected from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. With herd immunity, it is expected that the country will return to some degree of normality, which will include the facilitation of economic, social and cultural activities and the ease of travel.”

With international pressure mounting on the necessity of the COVID-19 vaccine for social and economic normality, more and more countries are looking at ways to en-

The second phase of the vaccine roll-out programme was launched Tuesday, with four public vaccine centers opening their doors to the general public for free COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccines. The public vaccination programme is said to be the most significant public health response in the fight against

courage their citizens to vaccinate.

Some leisure travel and cruise lines have already hinted at mandatory vaccination for clients and destinations amidst the crushing blow from the COVID pandemic.

According to Forbes news, "Most cruises require a vaccine. It appears that the cruise industry will be the first travel sector to make vaccines mandatory for all crew and guests. Each cruise line is setting its own policy. No

government laws require a vaccination. These smaller American cruise lines require a vaccine once cruising resumes: American Cruise Lines, American Steamboat Co and Un-Cruise Adventures"

Forbes news continued to state that for now, airlines do not require a vaccine card. However, "In November 2020, Qantas said they would eventually require international flyers to be fully vaccinated to board the plane."

To date, in Antigua

and Barbuda there has been no national mandatory vaccine policy, although both the private and public sector have heavily laid support for it as "the way back to normality."

Internationally, however, it has been reported that a court has laid the framework for possible mandatory policies. According to EURO News, "Delays in deliveries, production bottlenecks, exports control, vaccine hesitancy and public feuds with pharmaceutical companies

have muddled the first months of Europe's vaccination campaign against COVID-19. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled last week that compulsory vaccination can be considered 'necessary in a democratic society.' The court, which is based in Strasbourg, is the final interpreter of the European Convention on Human Rights and its jurisdiction covers all forty-seven member states of the Council of Europe."

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WANTED MAN SURRENDERS TO POLICE

By Phil George

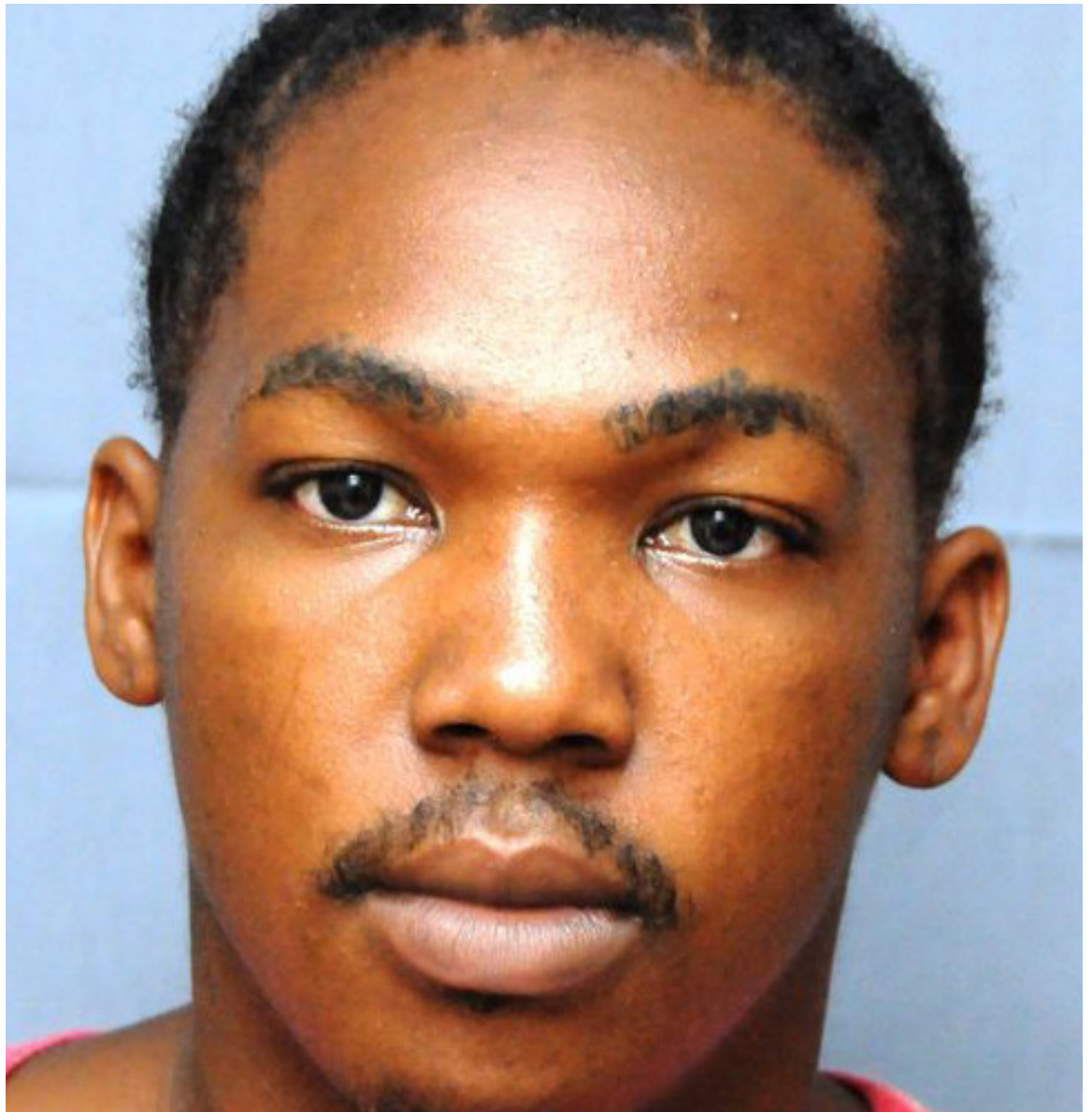
Police say the man for whom a wanted bulletin was issued on Tuesday has surrendered and he is now in their custody. Police had said Saliem Harrigan, also known as “Cariem” or “Chuckey” of Greenbay, was wanted for alleged involvement in several serious criminal offences and was considered armed and dangerous.

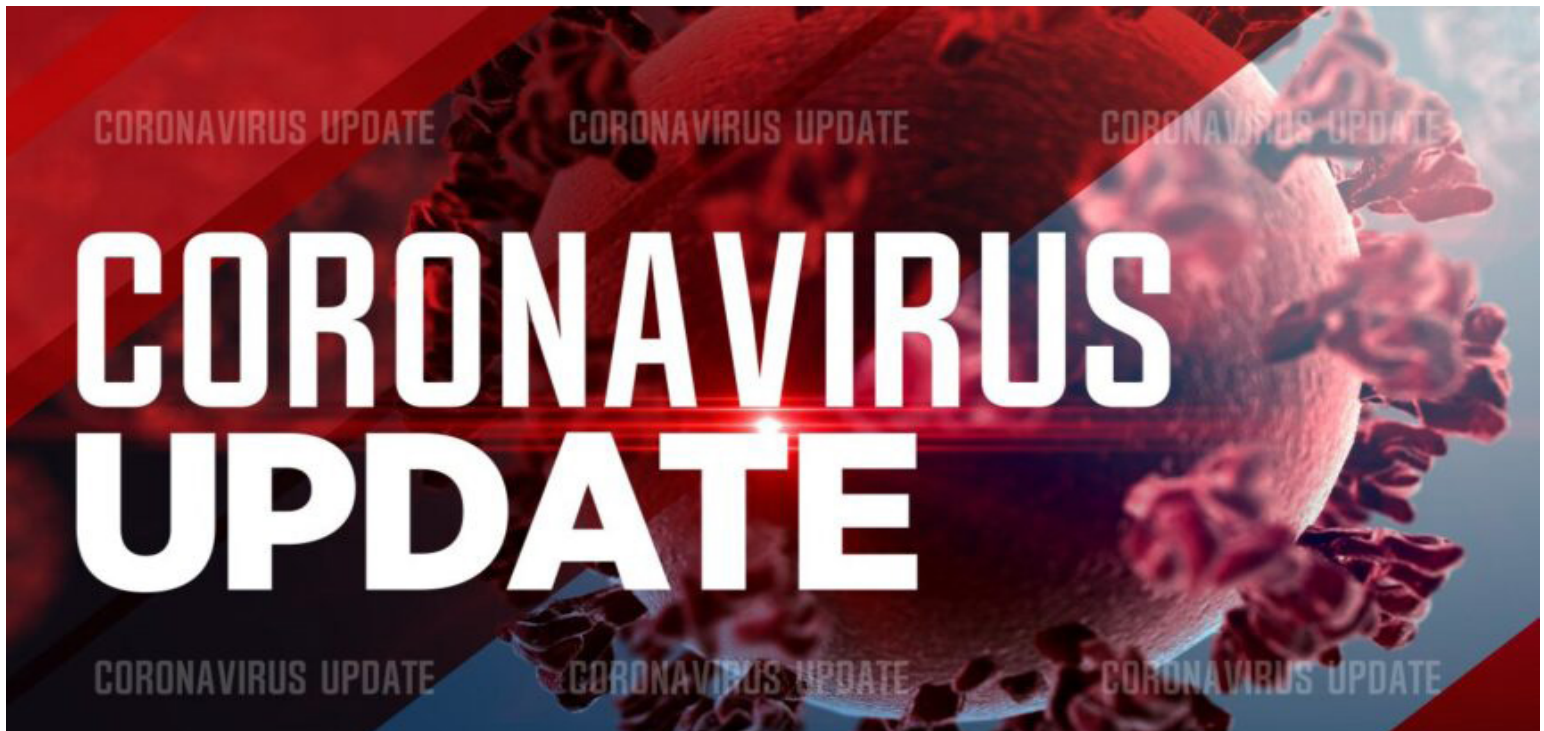
But hours after the bulletin, which urged Harrigan to surrender at any police station accompanied by an attorney or family member, the communications department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, STRATCOM, reported he has been taken into custody. He surrendered around 1:00 p.m. at Langford’s Police Station, accompanied by an attorney. Police say they are continuing their

investigations into several serious criminal offences in which he is a key suspect. In 2017, Harrigan and Stacey Barthley were jointly charged with unlawful possession of a 9 m.m. firearm and one .22 round of ammunition. They were arrested fol-

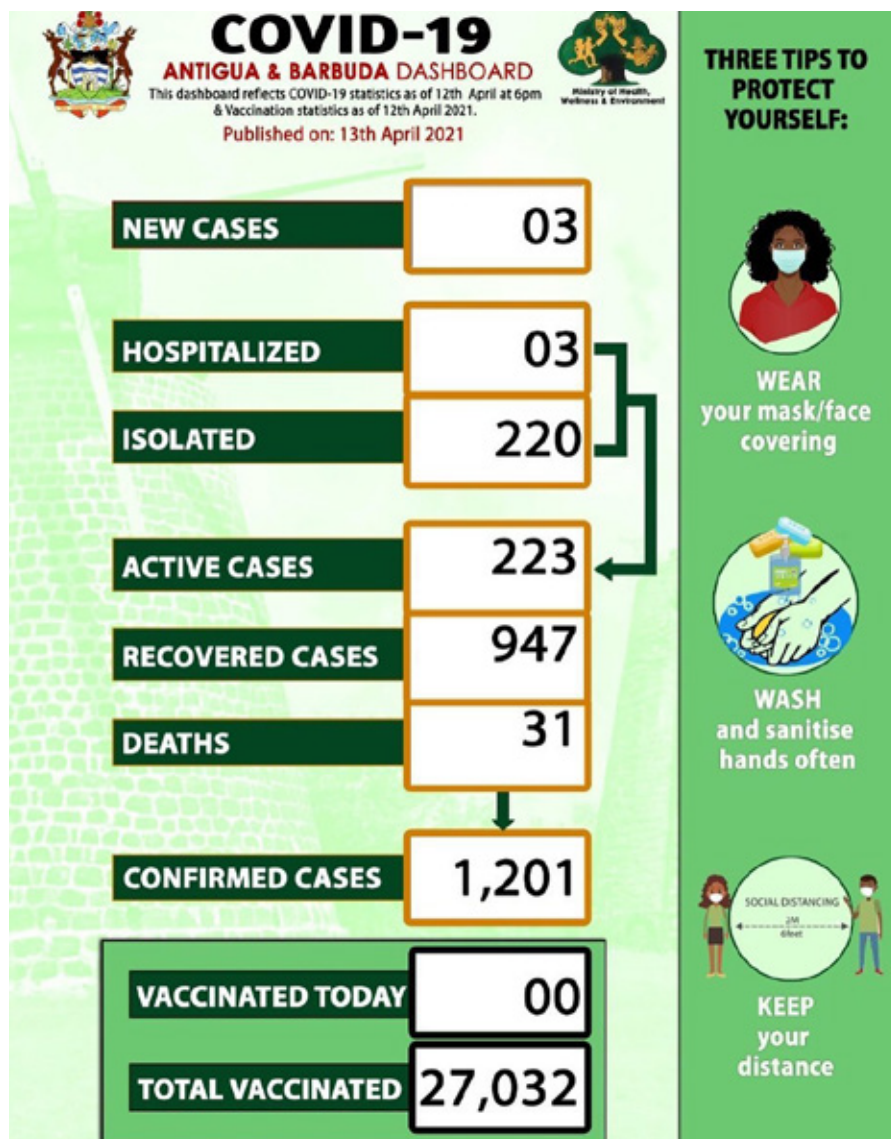
lowing a high-speed chase on Bendals Road, after police on patrol noticed that the two in a white Toyota Mark-X motorcar were acting in a suspicious manner. The duo was pursued and during the chase, the car crashed on Bendals Road and

they were subsequently apprehended. A search warrant executed at their home unearthed the illegal weapon and ammunition. It is unclear whether Tuesday’s wanted bulletin was in relation to the 2017 incident.





Three new COVID cases as the active cases continue to decline



The Ministry of Health is reporting that the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) has revealed three new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Monday 12th April 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

These new cases were as a result of one hundred and twenty-one samples processed by MSJMC.

Nine recovered cases have been recorded, bringing the total to nine hundred and forty-seven.

One COVID-19 related death has been recorded, bringing the total to thirty-one.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one thousand, two hundred and one, which is inclusive of two hundred and twenty-three active cases. Of these active cases, three are hospitalised with one being severe and two mild.

PUBLISHER OF EDUCATION MATERIALS TO 'MEET' LOCAL TEACHERS

Antigua and Barbuda is included in the itinerary of a series of virtual visits through the Caribbean by Macmillan Education – Caribbean.

The Antigua and Barbuda leg of the tour is slated for 19th to 23rd April when the publisher will meet with teachers to get feedback on the services the company offers to the region. "As the leading publisher for the Caribbean, Macmillan Education would normally spend significant amounts of time visiting the ministries

and schools across the Caribbean listening to the needs of teachers and providing support with training and hands-on discover sessions. COVID has, of course, prevented these visits and therefore Macmillan Education – Caribbean has invested in a series of webinars providing support for teachers to help deliver blended and virtual lessons," a company media release said.

According to the release the webinars will cover subjects such as storytelling in math-

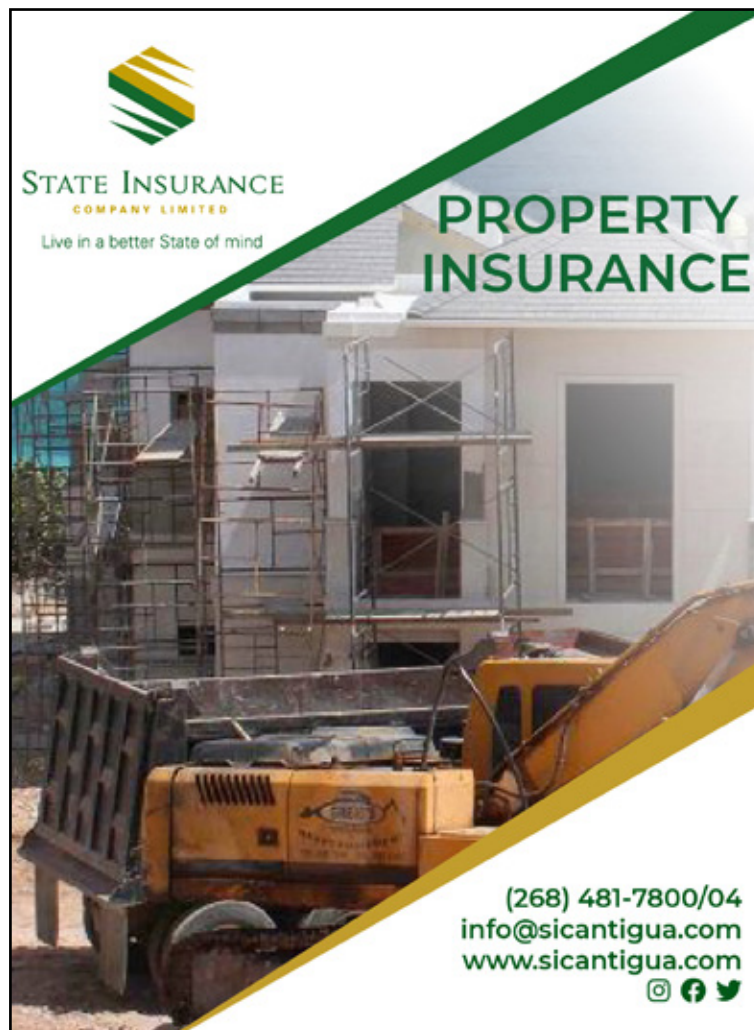
ematics, effective inquiry-based lessons and revision techniques. During these virtual visits, Charlie de la Beyodere, Educational Consultant, hopes to meet with teachers to discuss how Macmillan Education – Caribbean can best continue to provide effective support, discuss how to register for the summer term professional development webinars, talk about any training needs for existing resources as well as discussing newly published series.

ANTIGUAN BROTHERS DONATE TO THE RPFAB

A former member of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB), Ivor Lawrence, and his brother Charles Lawrence, both of whom now reside in New York City, have made a donation of protective gear for use by police officers who are among the nation's front-line staff.

The donation included mask, personal protection equipment (PPEs) and gloves to help protect police officers, whose duties bring them in contact with members of the public on a daily basis.

The brothers have a history of making donations to worthy causes in Antigua and Barbuda over the years. Ivor Lawrence, who retired from the for RPFAB four years ago after thir-



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Sgt Franz Quinland (l) Superintendent Michael officer in charge of St John's police station (r) and Superintendent Jacobs (c) Quarter Master of the store room



ty-four years' service, said he and his brother were moved following the recent death of Corporal of Police Clifton Common, who was killed in the line of duty in February. Originally from Bethesda, they quickly pooled their resources to pack a barrel of supplies to donate to the St John's Police Station. Following Hurricane Irma, they helped to mobilise and made a donation of school supplies to the children of Barbuda. Coordinating the latest donation here in St John's was Sergeant of Police

Franz Quinland, who is stationed at St John's. Additionally, the Lawrence brothers have donated to several humanitarian causes to develop individuals and communities in the past; these include donations to the Bethesda Primary School. Charles Lawrence is a contractor in the New York area and he has the distinction of being the first Antiguan to erect a twenty-two-storey high-rise in New York city. He completed the project five years ago.

GG, PM, UK HIGH COMMISSIONER SIGN BOOK OF CONDOLENCES



Residents of Antigua and Barbuda now have an opportunity to express condolences to the Queen and members of the Royal family on the passing of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, husband to the Queen Elizabeth II, with the signing of their names in the Book of Condolences opened for that purpose.

The formal opening was marked by a brief signing ceremony that included Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, Prime Min-



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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board





ister Gaston Browne and the United Kingdom High Commissioner Lindsay Thompson. All three took turns signing their names in the book which will open for signing daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Government House until Friday.

Prince Philip's funeral will be a private affair due to the ongoing restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic. Prince Philip passed away quietly last Friday, two months before his one hundredth birthday. He

was married to the Queen for more than seventy years.

Meanwhile, the members of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Antigua and Barbuda have issued a statement expressing sadness on learning of the passing of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. "We join with their Excellences, The Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams in offering our sincerest condolences and pray for Her Majesty the Queen and the members of the Royal Family at this time

of their bereavement. His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip was the founder and Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh Award," the statement indicated.

It said the award programme reaches young people in over one hundred countries and has been in operation under the patronage of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh since 1956 and commenced activities in Antigua and Barbuda in 1976.

DRUE AND PETERS CHAMPION OECS AND NSWMA ADVOCACY FOR MARINE LITTER REDUCTION

Antigua and Barbuda's Cultural Envoys Ricardo Drue and Claudette "CP the Diva" Peters are two of a cast of ten high profile OECS artistes selected to raise a rallying call to to reduce the alarming levels of litter in the OECS marine space. The two feature in a music video More Than Just Islands, which will form part of a public education campaign by the OECS Commission, scheduled to be launched virtually on 14th April at 10:00 a.m.

The campaign, supported by the slogan "Tackling Ocean Pollution from Turf to Surf," is the public education component of the project "Building Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean through Reduction of Marine Litter (ReMLit)," which commenced last year. ReMLit falls under the Ocean Governance and Fisheries Programme and is being implemented with funding from the government of Norway.

Through the ReMLit Project, the OECS Commission is undertaking a number of priority actions under the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP). These actions aim to achieve harmonised policy and legislation related to waste management and the implementations of country-level projects to reduce and control marine litter at the country level.

Antigua and Barbuda is one of the six OECS Member States receiving funding and technical support to implement two such projects. The country project titled Sound Land Based Waste Management Technologies leading towards a Pollution Free Marine Environment in Antigua and Barbuda aims to establish a Community Based Waste Management System in the Fitches Creek Community and a Biogas Plant pilot at the Cook's Disposal site. In country implementation will be lead by the National Solid Management Authority (NSWMA).

Claudette Peters is firmly lodged in the annals of Antiguan Soca music, having collaborated extensively with bands such as Dread and the Baldhead, Da Bhann and Taxik. Her hit single "Something's Got A Hold On Me" with Da

Bhann in 2002 catapulted her to regional and international renown. Her accolades include first female to capture the crown, first female to win nine titles and first female to win a Road March title. Her career is further distinguished by a number of national awards and international Soca nominations, including those for Best Female Artist, Song of the Year and Best Soca Artist (2005). Claudette Peters carries the honour of the Order of Princely Heritage (OH). Beyond his two full length recorded albums, string his hit singles and Power and Groovy Soca royalty acclaim in both Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua and Barbuda, Ricardo Drue's visibility and popularity in the region and Diaspora has also earned him a Digicel brand ambassadorship, and the proclamation by the city of Boston of 21st June 2014, as "Ricardo Drue Day."



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The New Leadership Paradigm

The past year has taught us that situations in life are unexpected and ever changing. To survive these changes, we need to adapt and be flexible in our approach. The same applies to our leadership approach in business. In today's world, you can assess an individual's leadership skills and their experiences, by quickly browsing their LinkedIn profile. However, the qualities of true leadership often lie beneath the surface.

Times have changed but, unfortunately, many organizations are still unwilling to evolve with the new normal in relation to leadership, productivity, and

progression. Traditional leadership, which is entrenched in the industrial revolution and exhibits a control and command leadership style, allows organizations to carry out the conventional functions of management, which are to hire, train, monitor, control and retain the best talent. This was achieved through force and dominance from a hierarchical flow of authority and power.

Alternatively, the new leadership paradigm values inclusion, teamwork, sharing and service; holding purpose and service over profit and self-interest. An organization's approach to money and

profit can be viewed as healthy and normal, and it is in line with the control and command leadership style. But the new leadership paradigm is purpose driven, and leaders are inspired to place service to the organization and the community ahead of their own interests, thus inspiring lasting intrinsic value.

Further, during this new normal of impromptu changes which has affected so many lives and communities, leaders are encouraged to divert from the dated practice of restricting information that is considered too sensitive from their employees and the community, and to consider under the new

paradigm of leadership, a style that values open and honest sharing of vital information. Under the traditional leadership style, information is dispersed on a need-to-know basis. Understandably so, and even within a more progressive organization, leaders may be unwilling to share delicate information with all their employees, such as the reorganization of a project or restructuring of the organization. But part of the new leadership paradigm encourages open and frank exchanges among the organization's leadership and its employees, which in turn enables employees to make informed decisions about their lives. It also encourages employee empowerment and cooperation, where innovative ideas can also flow from the employees to management giving them an opportunity to contribute to a desired business strategy. According to a recent article in the Oxford Review,

"There are two particular strengths the new leadership paradigm brings that develop the level of adaptability and breadth required: resilience and ego strength. The new leaders are not only emotionally resilient but have core empathy and understanding that can develop resilience and adaptability in others and their organization. Secondly, they have ego strength which means they have confidence in themselves and others and can ask without feeling threatened".

Organizations globally are highly competitive; therefore, change must occur for these businesses to grow and survive. As HR practitioners and leaders, we need in this present age and under this new normal to be more pragmatic and move away from the archaic ways of thinking and functioning. The best way to ensure longevity is to reshape the requirements of a fast-changing world. Leaders must

be aware of these changes and know when these changes require evolving. The new leadership paradigm offers a clear alternative to the traditional; and a progressive leader will not be afraid to start the discussion.

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

TALKING POINT

DR. MASERATI

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

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

DON'T SHATTER THE CARIBBEAN PEOPLE'S DREAM BECAUSE GASTON BROWNE INTERVENES

By Trevor Young

Any politician in Antigua and Barbuda that gloats about the demise of LIAT for political expediency or to score political points is not worth his or her salt. He or she should be rejected at the polls and should not be given a chance to serve our people. We have to bear in mind that some citizens of this same Caribbean that we boast about, at times never saw a plane other than LIAT until they started to travel to other countries with international airports. This is an indisputable fact. Those politicians who did not like the bold move by Prime Minister Gaston Browne to go out on a limb to rescue LIAT need to understand that one of the taglines given to LIAT (by the governments and people of the region)

was "Pride of the Caribbean."

Let me ask the detractors a question: "If LIAT was the pride of the Caribbean, then where is our pride now?"

If it was really the pride of the Caribbean, then it should never be the sole responsibility of Gaston Browne and the Antigua and Barbuda government to prevent LIAT from going under. It should be a regional effort. These back-and-forth ramblings to save LIAT should never be.

This situation reminds me of how the Father of the Nation, the late Sir Vere Cornwall Bird, had to fight with his regional counterparts in various regional heads of governments meetings in order for the Regional Security System (RSS) that we boast about today to come into existence.

We have to appreciate that there are several institutional pillars on which the Caribbean and its people stand. To remove any of these pillars is to shoot ourselves in the foot. Let me refresh your memory about some of them and I will do so in chronological order according to their existence;

1. The University of the West Indies (UWI) 1948
2. LIAT founded on 20th October 1956
3. The Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) 1st August 1973
4. Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) 18th June, 1981
5. The Regional Security System (RSS) started in 1982
6. C A R I C O M Single Market and Economy (CSME) 1989

All these institutions/organizations

are interdependent on LIAT which has done more to integrate Caribbean people than any other of the aforementioned organizations. The facts are there. It is just for you to research them. The only two organizations that are on par with LIAT are UWI, its older sister, and the RSS, its younger brother that the more influential OECS leaders did not want.

Let me now delve into the controversial RSS issues to make the point about the intervention of PM Browne in LIAT.

In June 2015 I pursued my Staff and Command Course sponsored by the RSS. During my studies I had to write a research paper with no less than 5,000 words. I wrote on the topic "The Regional Security System is an asset to the OECS." While doing my research I

came across a very interesting article online titled, "Caribbean Island Controversial Security Issues". The issues became controversial because of Sir V.C. Bird's persistence in advocating for the OECS to have a regional army to assist each other in case of any insurrection whether from without or within any of these states. This idea was later supported by Dame Eugenia Charles of Dominica who was prime minister at the time.

V.C. Bird did not like the security atmosphere of these small Islands at the time, so he raised the RSS idea at a heads of government meeting. His idea got a flogging from Barbados's Prime Minister Errol Barrow who had succeeded Tom Adams. The latter was also an advocate for the RSS but died from a heart attack in March 1985. The article stated that after Barrow took office as Prime Minister of Barbados in May 1986 he joined ranks with the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, James Mitchell, and suc-

ceeded in blocking the regional defense force idea and proposal, but V.C. Bird stood his ground and advocated for the establishment of an independent regional collective defense and security system.

The prime ministers of Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were so opposed to the RSS that they refused to allow their security forces to participate in at least two military exercises in 1985 and 1986. The behavior of Barbados and St. Vincent did not discourage other regional leaders, principally V.C. Bird of Antigua and Barbuda and Eugenia Charles of Dominica who strongly defended the RSS and rejected any arguments of militarization. Barrow even threatened not to upgrade the RSS Memorandum of Understanding to the status of a treaty. Sadly, in June of 1987 Prime Minister Barrow died from a heart attack like his predecessor, Adams.

Barrow's death removed him as the leading critic of the alleged militarization of the sub-region. His death

caused the RSS to be upgraded from a memorandum of understanding to a legally binding treaty among member states. Ironically, the RSS came to have its headquarters in the same Barbados where it remains to this day. LIAT, the 65-year-old pride of the Caribbean, recently found itself in grave financial difficulties. This is nothing new. It was bailed out by certain CARICOM countries many times before. This time around at age 65 with some underlying financial problems, LIAT was knocked down (but not out) by the effect of COVID-19. What is instructive is that the same two CARICOM countries that vehemently stood up against the full establishment of the RSS are the same two countries whose prime ministers stood against Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne in his effort to rescue LIAT.

Let us be reminded that "a ship was not made only to dock safe at the harbour but to sail." So too LIAT was not made to park at our air-

ports for safety. LIAT was made to fly and fly it must. I pray that it does not take anyone dying of a heart attack for LIAT to stay in the air as was the case with the RSS. I hope the eruption of the volcano in St. Vincent will point our leaders in the right direction as it relates to our 65-year-old LIAT which we are remembering at this time. I thought COVID-19 would have brought our small island states closer together. Be that as it may, there is still room for reconciliation.

Let us together save the 65-year-old "Pride of the Caribbean" when she needs us most – and when we need her most. We don't want to mistakenly throw out the baby with the bath water after bathing the baby, as in the case of LIAT.

(Editor's note: The late Barbadian Prime Minister Ton Adams was in fact succeeded by Harold Bernard St John (1985-86). He served briefly and was succeeded by Errol Barrow, 1966-76 and 1986-87)

Unique ID Strategy for OECS Countries Prepared to Strengthen Cross-Border Movement of Persons and Goods

— The joint initiative will help build foundations for digital identity systems and secure access to essential public services like education and health care across OECS Member States.

NRD Companies, a global IT and consulting group specializing in e-governance, has finished developing an action plan for implementing a unique ID system in four Member States of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS): the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The OECS unique ID System seeks to facilitate cross-border movement of people and goods and refine e-governance systems. The new strategy outlines the necessary steps for the development of a single unique identifier issued to all citizens and residents of the OECS Member States. This will strengthen the civil registry processes and the issuance of national ID cards. The OECS unique ID System will also enhance citizens' identification when traveling throughout the OECS Economic Union Area (EUA), which is important for granting indefinite stay entry at the official border and securing access to essential public services like education and health care throughout the economic union Member States. CEO at NRD Companies Mindaugas Glodas said,

"Countries of OECS face a number of common challenges like high fiscal imbalances and debt ratios, while at the same time being exposed to external shocks. Public sector modernization is key to ensuring a free flow of persons and goods as part of a regionally integrated Economic Union, as well as improving overall efficiency and competitiveness in the region. We are happy to have had the opportunity to help OECS take the first steps towards implementing a unique ID system."

The new system is expected to help build and strengthen foundational digital identity systems, introduce unique identifiers at birth at the national and regional levels, outline a single integration layer with (and between) functional and functional external systems, assure access control, as well as lower development and maintenance costs.

Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General of the OECS noted that

"The implementation of the unique ID in the OECS has become even more relevant and necessary in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic significantly impacted

the OECS region due to existing vulnerabilities, limited economic diversification and lower levels of digitization."

Dr. Jules further stated that the "OECS unique ID has to be seen in the context of future developments as an enabler of public physical and electronic services within the region and beyond. The development of a reliable and fully functioning unique ID and digital ID could bring substantial economic benefits to the individual OECS Member States and region at large."

The next steps in the project include agreement on conceptual design, deciding on governance structure, the designation of responsible organizations, drafting and endorsing required legislation, and selecting and implementing technical solutions.

The implementation of the OECS unique ID will be financed by the World Bank OECS Regional Health Project (ORHP) and the Regional Integration through Growth Harmonisation and Technology (RIGHT) Programme financed by the European Union (EU) 11th EDF.



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BARBADOS CONTINUES TO FEEL THE EFFECTS OF LA SOUFRIÈRE



Morning ash-fall, Graeme Hall as cars traversed the area

Barbados Advocate - BARBADOS continues to feel the wrath of La Soufrière volcano as plumes of volcanic ash wafts across the island, dumping tonnes of the light grey dust along its path.

The scope of the clean-up ahead is magnified daily, as the country faces more ash every time the volcano in neighbouring St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG)

erupts. According to officials from the Barbados Meteorological Services, the plume of ash travels for approximately one hour and a half from SVG before reaching Barbados.

Many Barbadians woke up to the news on Monday that there was yet another eruption at La Soufrière just around 4:15 a.m. It inevitably dumped yet another layer of ash to the ex-

isting volcanic sludge created by intermittent rainfall. Commerce was halted Monday, however essential services were allowed to open. Visibility was low along most highways and byways as officials encouraged persons to be mindful of the ash and potentially slippery conditions should the road become wet, creating a safety hazard to motorists and pedes-

trians. Some residents could be seen braving the ashfall to wash off vehicles, their homes and their plants, while others recognised that it was an exercise in futility, with the light ashfall falling like snow.

The first in a series of eruptions at La Soufrière began on April 9. The volcano previously erupted on April 13, 1979. (JH)

GRENADA TRADE UNIONIST APPOINTED TO SERVE ON INTEGRITY COMMISSION



Integrity Commission Office in St Georges, Grenada

NOW Grenada News - Trade unionist Justin Campbell is among 3 new persons appointed to serve as Commissioners on the Integrity Commission.

Campbell – outgoing president of the Bank and General Workers Union – is the representative of Opposition Leader Tobias Clement on the Commission.

The other new appointees are Devon Rachae – Senior Pastor of Agape Ministries in Grenada, and President of Grenada Alliance of Evangelical Churches – and Ronald Peters, an Accountant. They all received their instruments of appointment from Governor General Dame Cecile La Grenade last

week Friday and are expected to serve on the Commission for the next 3 years. The trio replaces Philbert Charles, Bertie Hill and Robert Robinson whose terms of appointment came to an end.

The Integrity Commission was established by the Integrity in Public Life Act for the purpose of improving governance through ensuring integrity in public life; to obtain declarations of assets, liabilities, income and interests in relation to persons in public life; and to give effect to the provisions of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, and the United Nations Convention

Against Corruption to which Grenada acceded on 1 April 2015.

The Commission was established to ensure that public officials uphold high standards of integrity in the performance of their public functions; and also to give effect to the provisions of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. It is meant to assist in improving the standards of good governance, transparency and accountability in government.

According to the Act establishing the Commission, it shall consist of a chairperson who shall be a retired Judge, or an attorney-at-law of at least 15 years standing, or a

citizen of Grenada who is a person of good standing in the community; a certified or chartered accountant; an attorney-at-law of at least 7 years standing; one person on the recommendation of the Prime Minister; one person on the recommendation of the Leader of the Opposition; and 2 persons after consultations with faith-based organisations.

The current chairperson is Lady Anande Trotman-Joseph and the other members are former commissioner of police Winston James, lawyer Jasmine Redhead, and Oforiwa Augustin representing the Conference of Churches of Grenada.

LA SOUFRIERE ERUPTS ON ITS 42ND ANNIVERSARY

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (CMC) —The La Soufriere volcano erupted on Tuesday, 42 years to the day as it signaled the anniversary with another explosive episode. The Seismic Research Centre (SRC) of the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) reported that the eruption began at 6:30 a.m. (local time) “and still continues at the time of this post.

“We continue to monitor and update accordingly,” the SRC said, warning, “the volcano is at Alert Level Red”.

It said seismic activity is continuing along the pattern established on Monday with short bands of continuous seismic tremor interspersed with long-period earthquakes.

“Following the latest band of tremor, at 1:30 am, the long-period earthquakes have steadily become more frequent. Audible venting was heard associated with some periods of tremor and long-period earthquake activity. “The volcano continues to erupt explosively and has now begun



La-Soufriere-erupts

to generate pyroclastic density currents — hot (200°C - 700°C), ground-hugging flows of ash and debris. Explosions and accompanying ash fall, of similar

or larger magnitude, are likely to continue to occur over the next few days impacting St. Vincent and neighbouring islands,” the SRC added. The volcano hadn’t

erupted since 1979 and La Soufriere has a history of deadly eruptions. Records show that in 1902 the volcano erupted for nearly eight months.

ST. VINCENT IN DIRE NEED OF WATER; DOMINICA GOVERNMENT SHIPS 14 PALLETS

Amid a water crisis that is developing in the volcano-stricken island of St. Vincent, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has shipped 14 pallets of bottled water (420 small cartons and 280 large cartons) to the neighbouring island.

Sent Monday on the vessel "Promise Kept", the shipment was expected to arrive on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, and comes in the wake of calls from the Dr. Ralph Gonsalves-led government in St. Vincent as heavy ash fall from the La Soufriere volcano has created significant disruption to the regular water supply.

Just Tuesday morning about 6:30am on the 42nd anniversary of its last eruption, La Soufriere commemorated her anniversary with another explosive eruption.

On Saturday 10th April, St. Vincent's Central Water and Sewage Authority said citizens should prepare for water rationing. Earlier this week they also announced that they were actively searching for new water sources, as the company has not been able to extract water from the rivers and, at present, only 15 percent of regular storage is available.

They've also said that wa-



Dominica readies water for shipment to St Vincent and the Grenadines

ter collected before the eruption is dwindling; and stated that a limited supply is now available in the green zone; however, 250 gallons will be released to communities on the island's Windward side.

Speaking on the talk show the Heng Tuesday morning, Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit urged citizens to donate as much water as possible to the affected island.

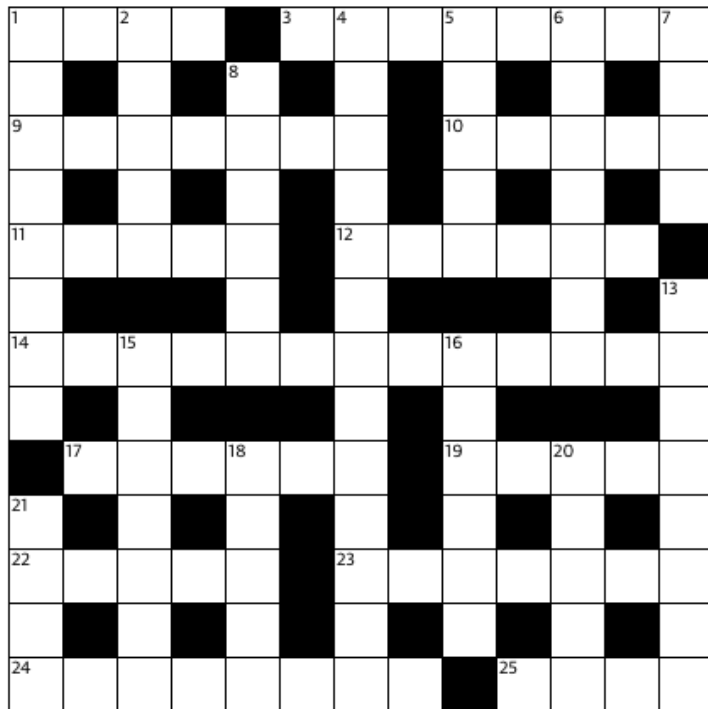
According to Skerrit, "Our goal is to send them more water in the days ahead. Therefore if you would like to donate, we would prefer ... if you do so by using cartons of both the small and bigger bottles." Drop off points include the Dominica Import and Export Agency (DEXIA) packing house in Longhouse Portsmouth and Goodwill Road, as well as the Office of Disaster Management (ODM) in

Jimmit.

NEMO has also informed that standpipes are being erected in several communities on the western side of St. Vincent, bringing relief to thousands of residents.

While Grenada and Trinidad have shipments of bottled water en route to St Vincent, water is being delivered to communities across the island by trucks.

QUICK CROSSWORD



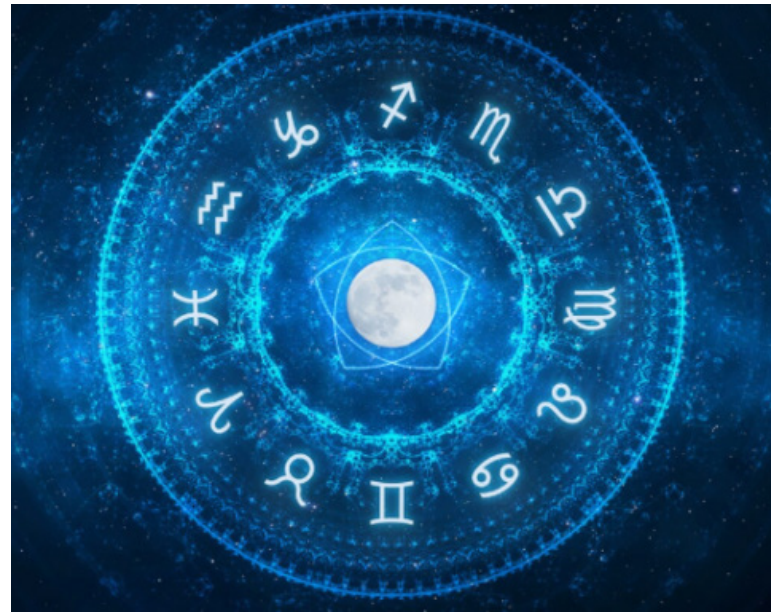
Across

- 1 Ready, willing and able (4)
 3 English county on the Bristol Channel (8)
 9 Aridity (7)
 10 Kick out (5)
 11 Precious stone (5)
 12 Regard with respect (6)
 14 Not expected (13)
 17 Predicament (6)
 19 Plumbing problems (5)
 22 Opposite of forte (5)
 23 10,000 square meters (7)
 24 Classification (8)
 25 Great confusion (4)

Down

- 1 Restless seeker after amusement (8)
 2 Civic head (5)
 4 Black and white wading bird (13)
 5 Vote for (5)
 6 Panties (anag) — sagacious (7)
 7 Thin flat slab used for roofing (4)
 8 Fanatic (6)
 13 Homer's mythical Greek hero of the Trojan War (8)
 15 Pull in (7)
 16 Royal residence (6)
 18 Moving forward (5)
 20 Proverb (5)
 21 Long poem — awesome! (4)

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The New Moon in your sign may subtly shift your attention to your inner fantasies and wishful thinking. Your romantic nature may be stirred and imaginative ideas kindled as the week unfolds.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Being part of the bigger picture, perhaps by interacting with people on social media, may be your cup of tea. As the week begins, you may be challenged to avoid jealousy and unfair generalizations.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

You may accept people at face value in the week to come. Challenge yourself to look deeper and you'll make new discoveries. People appreciate your sensitivity to their feelings.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

You will likely find your way out of an impasse with someone after a struggle. In the upcoming week, your interest in building your reputation and receiving more recognition may grow stronger.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

In the week ahead, a small fragment of knowledge may lead you to speculate about how to achieve a richer life. It's not just wishful thinking if it inspires you toward greater joy and authenticity.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

As a member of a group, you can emphasize your best points as the coming week unfolds. This can lead other people to notice the benefits of being your ally or companion.

♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

A loved one may be popular and in demand, and you could be glad for it, but you may still suffer a few pangs of jealousy. As the week unfolds, you can find ways to make peace with this.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Be glad that you can see the large patterns that count and aren't distracted by nonessential details. Take notes and gather facts but wait to make the purchase you dream of later in the week.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Use the internet or a library to expand your horizons and enjoy mysteries from afar this week. They could be a little disappointing viewed from a closer perspective right now.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your home can be a place where dreams come true. The pressure to achieve something spectacular could build up this week until you are ready to take drastic action.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

As the week progresses, you might look forward to a competition or become more enthusiastic about your job. Your friends may become involved in your family life or influence your key decisions.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Destiny is constantly being configured, as all choices are factored in. Instead of holding ungrounded fears and apprehensions, use your free will to create the life you dream of.

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Wed 14 84°/75° Showers 43% W 7 mph

Wed 14 | Day
84° 43% W 7 mph
 Considerable cloudiness with occasional rain showers. High 83F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Wed 14 | Night
75° 24% NW 3 mph
 Partly cloudy skies. Low around 75F. Winds light and variable.

Humidity 75% UV Index Extreme
 Sunrise 5:52 am Sunset 6:22 pm
 Humidity 83% UV Index 0 of 10
 Moonrise 7:31 am Moonset 8:36 pm
 Waxing Crescent

Thu 15 83°/76° Partly Cloudy 23% NE 9 mph

Thu 15 | Day
83° 23% NE 9 mph
 Partly cloudy. High 83F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.

Thu 15 | Night
76° 24% ESE 8 mph
 A few clouds. Low 76F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.

TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Submit community notices to

news@pointville.ag

COMICS

Dilbert

April 13, 2021



Garfield

April 13, 2021



Luann

April 13, 2021



COMMUNITY NOTICES

PENSION PAYMENT ADVISORY

The Antigua & Barbuda Social Security Board wishes to advise its pensioners, that the first installment of March 2021 pension payments to the major financial institutions will be released on Monday 19th, April 2021.

We will continue to provide further updates on all pension releases, as necessary.

Biden proposes summit with Putin after Russia calls U.S. 'adversary' over Ukraine

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW (Reuters) - U.S. President Joe Biden called on Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday to reduce tensions stirred by a Russian military build-up on Ukraine's border and proposed a summit of the estranged leaders to tackle a raft of disputes.

The White House and the Kremlin reported only the second conversation between the two since Biden took office in January, after Western officials urged Moscow to end the build-up and Russia, in words recalling the Cold War, said its "adversary" should keep U.S. warships well away from the Crimea region.

Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and fighting has increased in recent weeks in eastern Ukraine, where government forces have battled Russian-backed separatists in a seven-year conflict that Kiev says has killed 14,000 people.

In a sign of concern about tensions spinning out of control in the Ukraine crisis, Biden phoned Putin to propose they meet in a third country while underlining U.S. commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty



Joe-Biden-Vladimir-Putin

and territorial integrity.

"President Biden also made clear that the United States will act firmly in defense of its national interests in response to Russia's actions, such as cyber intrusions and election interference," the White House said in a statement. "The president voiced our concerns over the sudden Russian military build-up in occupied Crimea and on Ukraine's borders, and

called on Russia to de-escalate tensions," it said.

Biden also reaffirmed a goal to build "a stable and predictable relationship" with Russia and said a meeting in the coming months could address "the full range of issues" facing the two world powers, the statement said. The Kremlin said in its account of the call that Biden told Putin he wanted to normalize relations and to coop-

erate on arms control, Iran's nuclear program, Afghanistan and climate change. It confirmed Biden had proposed a high level meeting but did not indicate how the Russian leader responded. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken echoed the White House message during talks on the crisis in Brussels with NATO leaders and Ukraine's foreign minister.

Cop, police chief resign 2 days after Black motorist's death

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. (AP) — A white police officer who fatally shot a black man during a traffic stop in a Minneapolis suburb resigned Tuesday, as did the city's police chief — moves that the mayor said he hoped would help heal the community and lead to reconciliation after two nights of protests and unrest.

The resignations from Officer Kim Potter and Police Chief Tim Gannon came two days after the death of 20-year-old Daunte Wright in Brooklyn Center.

Potter, a 26-year veteran, had been on administrative leave following Sunday's shooting, which happened as the Minneapolis area was already on edge over the trial of the first of four police officers in George Floyd's death.

Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott said he was "appreciative" that Potter submitted her resignation but he had not asked for it nor accepted it. It was not immediately clear what that would mean.

Gannon has said he

believed Potter mistakenly grabbed her gun when she was going for her Taser. She can be heard on her body camera video shouting "Taser! Taser!" However, protesters and Wright's family members say there's no excuse for the shooting and it shows how the justice system is tilted against Blacks, noting Wright was stopped for expired car registration and ended up dead.

Elliott said he was not sure if Potter resigned because she had heard that she would soon be

fired. He said he hoped her resignation would "bring some calm to the community", but that he would keep working towards "full accountability under the law."

"We have to make sure that justice is served, justice is done. Daunte Wright deserves that, his family deserves that," Elliott said.

Activists who attended the news conference called for sweeping changes to the Brooklyn Center Police Department and sharply criticized the acting police chief, Tony Gruenig, for

not yet having a plan.

Elliott said there were about 49 police officers in the department, none of them living in Brooklyn Center. He said he didn't have information on racial diversity at hand but "we have very few people of color in our department."

The modest suburb just north of Minneapolis has seen its demographics shift dramatically in recent years. In 2000, more than 70% of the city was white. Today, a majority of residents are Black, Asian or Latino.



Katie Wringt (l) the mother of Dante Wringt and other family members gather during a news conference on Tuesday April 23

India's Maharashtra state announces 15 days of tough new Covid measures

Maharashtra, the Indian state worst affected by the coronavirus, has announced sweeping new restrictions amid a wave of Covid-19 infections.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray stopped short of calling it a lockdown, but said for the next 15 days only essential services would function.

Thackeray said gatherings of more than four and non-essential travel on public transport would be banned.

"The war has begun again," the chief minister said at a press conference. "Now is the time for action," he added. "I am not saying a lockdown just now, but strict restrictions. I know bread and butter is important but saving lives is important."

He also acknowledged the need for more oxygen, saying supplies would be sought through the military.

Maharashtra is India's richest state and home to its biggest city, Mumbai. It has been the hardest hit in the nation by the



A man receives a vaccine shot at a vaccination centre in Mumbai, April 2021

coronavirus pandemic. The state reported 51,751 new Covid-19 cases on Monday and 258 deaths. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reportedly asked specialist teams to visit the state to investigate why there has been such a dramatic spike in case numbers. The state announced tighter restrictions a week ago after India saw its highest day of infections since mid-September, with 93,249 new cases. More than

half of those cases were in Maharashtra.

Last week's new measures - including a nighttime curfew and a ban on public gatherings - will remain during the new 15-day period.

About 165,000 people are reported to have died of Covid-19 in India and there have been 12.5 million confirmed infections. The country's mass inoculation drive, the largest in the world, has proceeded at a slower than

expected rate - about 100 million doses of the Covishield and Covaxin vaccines have been administered so far, but the government has said it wants to vaccinate 250 million people by July.

Also on Tuesday, India authorised the emergency use of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine and agreed to fast-track approval for the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson shots.

Jailed Kremlin critic Navalny has difficulty speaking, loses more weight, wife says



Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Hunger-striking Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny was having difficult speaking and had lost more weight, his wife said in a social media post on Tuesday after visiting him in prison.

Navalny, 44, a prominent opponent of Russian president Vladimir Putin, announced a hunger strike at the end of March in protest at what he said was the refusal of prison authorities to treat him properly for acute back and leg pain.

In an Instagram post, Yulia Navalnaya de-

scribed his condition after speaking to him by phone through a glass window.

"He is still as cheerful and upbeat as ever. He speaks with difficulty, though, and from time to time he hangs up the phone and leans on the table to take a break. He has lost a lot of weight ... and weighs 76 kg at 190 (cm)."

It means that Navalny's weight has fallen by 16 kg since he arrived at the prison facility 100 km (62 miles) east of Moscow last month.

"They still won't let a

doctor see him ... I've never seen skin so tight around one's skull, but I know he's not going to give up," she added.

Navalny, whom the West says has been wrongly jailed and should be freed, returned to Russia in January after recovering from what German doctors say was a nerve agent poisoning.

He was jailed in February for two-and-a-half years for parole violations that he called politically motivated. Russia says it has yet to see evidence he was poisoned.

Staff at the Russian prison say they have offered Navalny proper treatment but he has refused it. Navalny was moved to a prison clinic earlier this month after complaining of a high temperature and a bad cough.

Russia's prisons service said on Tuesday that a panel of doctors assessed Navalny's health as satisfactory and that he was transferred from the clinic back to the main part of the prison on April 9, the RIA news agency quoted it as saying.

THE MASTERS: MATSUYAMA VICTORY *HAS TAKEN GOLF UP A NOTCH, SAYS PLAYER*



SportsMax: Hideki Matsuyama's maiden major triumph has elevated golf to a new level, according to Gary Player. Matsuyama entered the history books as he became the first Japanese man to prevail at a major after winning The Masters on Sunday. The 29-year-old, with five PGA Tour titles under his belt prior to his Augusta triumph, held his nerve to win by one shot and claim the famed green jacket.

Matsuyama (2011) became the third Masters champion in the last five years to have previously earned low amateur honours, following in the footsteps of Tiger Woods (2019, low amateur in 1995) and

Sergio Garcia (2017, low amateur in 1999).

Having clocked up seven top-10 finishes across golf's four headline tournaments, Matsuyama catapulted himself into esteemed company with his Georgia glory and Player, a nine-time major winner, knows there is a huge gap between winners and also-rans. And he feels Matsuyama's success has taken the sport "up a notch".

"Now you see there are lots of ifs and ands, but finishing second, only your wife and your dog knows about it – that's if you've got a good dog," the South African, who donned the green jacket three times, told Stats Perform News.

"So now he comes along and he wins the Masters in great style and I said to him, 'I'm very happy that you won because you can be president or prime minister of Japan and I won't need a visa!'."

"No, his play was exemplary, he kept his cool, and what wins golf tournaments is not long driving as we are brainwashed about, it's the putter and the mind.

"I'm so happy he won because I want to see people win golf tournaments where golf is going to be the benefactor.

"More clubs will be sold around the world now and golf went up a notch. I always wanted to have

the best world record as a global golfer, not just in America only, so for me to see an international player win, I'm always happy to see anybody win but it's going to do golf so much good. I can't tell you.

"If this wasn't during COVID you would have had people flying over from Japan the night before, the press people. He would have had 60 representatives of the media in Japan because they've been thirsting and hungry and starved for a major championship winner. And a golfing nation of that status has been deprived of that, and there they've got it at last. Thank goodness."

TYSON FURY SAYS ANTHONY JOSHUA BOUT WILL '100% HAPPEN' AS DEAL MOVES CLOSE

BBC Sport: Tyson Fury believes a much-anticipated heavyweight bout with Anthony Joshua will "100% happen" and that a date and venue will be known in the coming days. Representatives of the two British heavyweights are examining offers made by venues

to stage the fight. An offer from Saudi Arabia is in place and Fury says other bids are also under consideration.

But the WBC world heavyweight champion warned: "If I don't know anything by Tuesday, I am just going to move on."

Speaking to Behind The Gloves, the 32-year-old added: "I've always been quite sceptical on it all.

"I've been told there are a few major offers on the table from a few major players, so I am very interested and excited to finally hear what they are -



Photo Caption: Anthony Joshua holds three of the four major world heavyweight titles, while Tyson Fury has the other

U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM TO APPEAL PAY CLAIMS AFTER WORKING CONDITIONS SETTLEMENT



to see if they are feasible and that we can make it happen.

"I think it will 100% happen. A million per cent happen. And I think we will know in the next couple of days, where and when."

"We have it all to lose"

Fury will risk his WBC belt, while Joshua's IBF, WBO and WBA titles are set to be on the line in the first contest for all four major belts at heavyweight.

The last undisputed heavyweight champion was Britain's Lennox Lewis from 1999 to 2000. That, though, was before a boxer had to also hold the WBO belt to be recognised as undisputed champion.

In March, Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn said a two-fight deal with Fury had been signed, with locations and dates to be confirmed.

With some of the details still to be ironed out, Fury recently posted a countdown on his social media channels and warned he would move on from the

fight if those involved could not quickly agree a way to deliver it.

But it now appears a deal for an all-British world title fight is closer than ever, with Joshua posting there is "positive news" about the event on his social media channels.

"This isn't like when Lennox Lewis fought Mike Tyson and they were past their best," added Fury. "We are both in the prime of our lives. Me, personally, I think it's a short fight. I'm eager, excited and like a kid before Christmas. I want this fight to be announced. I am in the physical fighting fitness of my life. Where I am at now as a man, you don't get any better. After you get to thirty-four for a prime athlete you might go downhill. Now is the time to make this happen. We are both as physically strong as we are ever going to be, we are both mature, at the height of our success and both have it all to lose."

Reuters: The U.S. women's national team can proceed with their appeal over claims for equal pay after a judge on Monday approved a settlement between the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and the players over working conditions.

The women's team sued their governing body in 2019, alleging gender discrimination in compensation and nearly every other aspect of playing conditions and months later picked up their fourth World Cup as fans chanted "equal pay" during the final.

Judge R. Gary Klausner of the United States District Court for the Central District of California last year threw out the players' claims that they were underpaid compared with the men's national team and weeks later denied the players' bid to appeal until the working conditions element was settled.

Molly Levinson, a spokeswoman for the players, said they plan to appeal Klausner's ruling on equal pay after the judge granted final approval to the settlement on working conditions, which includes travel and playing conditions.

"We are committed as ever to our work to achieve the equal pay that we legally deserve and our focus is

on the future and ensuring we leave the game a better place for the next generation of women who will play for this team and our country," said Levinson.

In a statement, the USSF, known as U.S. Soccer, said the women's team had declined to meet unless the federation "agrees to make up the difference" in prize money handed out by soccer world governing body FIFA at the men's and women's World Cup.

"We remain hopeful that we can come to a resolution outside of the court system," U.S. Soccer said. "We have offered the USWNT the identical compensation provided to our men's players for all matches controlled by U.S. Soccer."

In a written response, Levinson called the USSF's statement "misleading."

"If USSF was '100% committed to equal pay,' then USSF would have offered the players equal pay and equal working conditions, and the players would not have been forced to file a lawsuit in order to try to achieve equality," said Levinson.

The U.S. women's team face France in a friendly on Tuesday as they prepare to compete at this year's Tokyo Olympics.



IPL: MUMBAI INDIANS BEAT KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS IN CHENNAI

Photo Caption: Mumbai Indians lost their opening game of the season to Royal Challengers Bangalore

BBC Sport: Defending champions Mumbai Indians somehow earned their first win of the new Indian Premier League season with a 10-run defeat of Kolkata Knight Riders.

Mumbai were bowled out for 152 in Chennai, with Andre Russell taking 5-15 in only two overs.

Kolkata, led by Eoin Morgan, were 72-0 in the ninth over.

But they were choked by Mumbai spinners Rahul Chahar and Krunal Pandya and, needing 15 off the last over, managed only four to end on 142-7.

New Zealander Trent Boult held his nerve, having Russell caught and bowled and then bowling Pat Cummins off the next ball.

That came after leg-spinner Chahal took the first

four wickets to fall in his figures of 4-27.

Shubman Gill was caught at long off for 33, Nitish Rana stumped for 57, Morgan holed out to deep mid-wicket for seven and Rahul Tripathi was held behind for five.

Then, left-armer Krunal completed a miserly spell of 1-13, which included having Shakib Al Hasan sweep to deep square leg.

It was left to experienced pair Russell and Dinesh Karthik, who were still together at the beginning of the final over but, by that point, Kolkata did not know where the next run was coming from.

The result continues Mumbai's dominance over Kolkata, with the five-time champions now having won 22 of 28 completed games.

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