

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 23TH APRIL 2021

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APPROVAL FOR SPUTNIK V

SEE PAGE 3



OFFICIAL SEND OFF FOR CHINESE DIPLOMAT,
AGRICULTURAL TEAM

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RE-IMAGINING THE VACCINE ROLL-OUT

It is not hyperbole to say that the second phase of the vaccine roll-out has been a big disappointment to all involved in the exercise.

When the roll-out of the vaccination started in early March, there were crowds at all four centres – Villa, Multipurpose Centre, Glanville's and Sir Novelle Richards Academy – as there was a rush by many in the society to get inoculated from the dreaded COVID-19 disease.

Over the space of three weeks, Antigua and Barbuda vaccinated over twenty thousand people, a record unmatched by any other country in the region and which compares favourably with vaccination roll-outs in more developed resource-based countries. Unfortunately, the difficulties in accessing sufficient vaccines to carry the programme to its logical conclusion is partly respon-

sible for the problems which the second phase of the roll-out has been encountering. Antigua and Barbuda, like many Caribbean countries, received forty thousand doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from the Government and people of India.

It was from the batch that the first phase was launched. However, after vaccinating twenty-seven thousand people a pause was put to the exercise, awaiting a second shipment of vaccine to complete the vaccination of about forty thousand people, nearly half of the resident population.

By the time the batch arrived from the WHO-administered COVAX facility about a month later, enthusiasm for vaccination had waned significantly. So too has been a growing wave of anti-vaxers, who oppose being vaccinated for a host of spurious rea-

sons. Added to this has been the successes the government has recorded in bringing down the rate of infection and the number of active cases from over four hundred in February/March to under two hundred today.

The result has been that the number of people presenting themselves to be vaccinated has dwindled from an average of between twenty-four hundred and twenty-five hundred daily at the start of the programme to less than one thousand daily.

In order to counter the indifference and opposition to the vaccination, the organisers of the vaccination roll-out have had to re-imagine the programme and to come up with creative ways to get people to be vaccinated. Last Saturday, there was the successful launch of the 'take the vaccination to the people' exercise

that consisted of mobile units taking to the public market to vaccinate all who would come.

That programme continues tomorrow at the public market. Additionally, the organisers are engaging the talents and influence of top entertainers to stage a virtual concert Saturday night that will be aired live on ABS Television.

Popular personalities – Ibis the Livest and Supa Dymond – will host the COVID-19 Vaccination Party that will feature several top deejays and entertainers who will give virtual performances.

Over the coming weeks, other creative events are being planned as the nation moves towards the critical stage of herd immunity.

We at PointeXpress are fully supportive of these efforts and we are committed to assist in any way we can. Each vaccinated, All protected!

APPROVAL FOR SPUTNIK V



The second vaccine that will form part of the government's arsenal in the fight against the COVID-19 virus has been approved for use among the local population. This means that residents of Antigua and Barbuda will soon be receiving Sputnik V jabs at vaccination centres. The Russian Federation has donated two thousand doses of the vaccine to Antigua and Barbuda, with a commitment to sell more doses in the future.

In a letter to Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, the Antigua and Barbuda Pharmacy Council gave its consent for

the use of the vaccine among the general population in the country.

The letter, penned by the Council President Michael Joseph, thanked the government for honouring the commitment to await final regulatory approval from the Council before introducing the vaccine into the vaccination programme. It said initial approval was given in February with full approval due later, following a closer study of the data related to the vaccine.

The full letter from the Council is published below.

See page 15 for the correspondence from the pharmacy council granting approval.

JOB VACANCY IT SUPPORT

APPLICATION DEADLINE
30TH APRIL, 2021



We are seeking to fill the above named position.
The successful applicant will join the team in the IT Department.

REQUIREMENTS

Basic Typing and Data Entry Skills:

- 50 WPM and above
- Data Entry Experience
- Attention to Detail
- Communication Skills
- Customer Service
- Clerical and Administrative Skills
- Written Communication

Completion of Network Administration Tasks such as:

- Configure and maintain the organization's computer network including both software and hardware such as routers and switches.
- Setting up user accounts, assigning privileges and passwords for the organization's employees.
- Monitor the usage of network by the organization's employees
- Examine the network for any performing issues, such as a system crash, and then troubleshoot and document the identified issues.
- Coordinate with employees in other departments and teams.
- Planning future IT solutions.
- Checking and ensuring that all equipment follows the industry standards.

REQUIREMENTS (continued)

- Network Security
- Knowledge of IP addressing, subnet and some common networking protocols like IPv4 and IPv6.
- Knowledge of the common operating systems such as Windows.
- Knowledge of ISP/Communication Providers and Virtual Private Networks (VPNs).
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Proficiency in the following – Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher and Word; others a plus.
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- Microsoft Server 2012 and/or 2016
- MySQL and/or SQL Database Creation and Querying
- Other related duties that may be assigned.

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✉ hr@sicantigua.com

PM BROWNE MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOLVE DEBT CRISIS

"A permanent solution to the looming debt crisis is compelling and necessary. This requires action to design new and innovative financial instruments and to provide debt relief, including debt cancellation, debt suspension, debt rescheduling, debt restructuring and debt-for-climate swaps," were some of the recommendations of Prime Minister Gaston Browne while addressing the Leaders Summit on Climate Thursday, organised by US President, Joseph Biden.

The Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister said that the harmful effects of climate change are growing, and the cost of mitigation and recovery is being counted in human lives and livelihoods, noting that the situation is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. He pointed out that the situation is now dire, making reference to the huge hit being suffered by tourism dependent nations. "We are literally teetering on the edge of despair," he said. "Over the years, the debt of small

states has risen to unsustainable levels, because of repeated borrowings to rebuild and recover from continuous debilitation by natural disasters, arising from climate change. Mechanisms, introduced by international financial institutions (IFIs), for addressing the looming debt crisis are insufficient," Prime Minister Browne stated. He said that even the inadequate instruments are denied, because of the false criterion, of middle and high per capita income, which ignores

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne

the huge vulnerabilities that small states face. Prime Minister Browne therefore called on the institutions for more determining criteria of small size, resource constraints and vulnerabilities, be taken fully into account for concessional financing.

“Repayment of official debt by small states, including to the Paris Club, is near impossible in the prevailing perilous circumstances. Worsening climate conditions are uprooting workers from previously productive sectors and causing a crisis of emigration and refugees. This, too, must be reversed in the global interest,” said the Prime Minister. He went on to state that as leaders, they should acknowledge the

interconnectedness of human civilisation and that there is the need to respect and protect our common humanity. “Small states are also economic markets, providing revenues and employment for larger and richer nations. Every major country benefits perennially from trade surpluses with small states,” he said.

The Antigua and Barbuda leader also stated that vulnerable states need urgent access to COVID-19 vaccines, which should be prioritised based on vulnerability and immediate action must be taken to cut greenhouse gas emissions, if they are to continue to be viable markets and remain viable democracies that

uphold human rights and the rule of law.

He also said that in order to achieve climate justice and provide economic condition that discourage refugees, vulnerable states need a programme of debt forgiveness and debt rescheduling, concessional financing that takes account of vulnerabilities and funding to compensate for damage to help reconstruct our economies and funding to acquire decarbonised technologies to assist in building resilience.

“It is our hope that a spirit of cooperation will emerge from this gathering of forty that can be taken to Glasgow, to inspire an ambitious programme of action to achieve net zero by

2050,” Prime Minister Browne concluded.

Antigua and Barbuda’s delegation to the virtual Leaders Summit on Climate comprises Health and Environment Minister Hon. Sir Molwyn Joseph, Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. E. P. Chet Greene, and Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States, Sir. Ronald Sanders.

The climate summit runs for two days and is being attended over forty leaders, including the presidents of China, France, Germany and Russia, Prime Ministers of Britain, Canada and Australia and leaders of the World Bank, the IMF and the European Union.

GREENE HIGHLIGHTS DISPARITY BETWEEN US TRADE SURPLUS AND ITS AID TO THE CARIBBEAN



Foreign Minister, E.P. Chet Greene

Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, highlighted the disparity between the huge United States trade surplus with members of CARICOM and the amount of aid the US sends to the region in turn.

Greene's observations were contained in remarks prepared ahead of a meeting Wednesday between CARICOM foreign ministers and the new US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken. "The US has a beneficial relationship with CARICOM countries in crucial areas, among them trade, curbing drug trafficking, halting money laundering and organized crime, and as a peaceful nearby location posing no terrorist threat.

"The US enjoys a perennial trade surplus with CARICOM. Last

year, despite the pandemic, this trade surplus was \$6.5 billion. Notwithstanding, ODA to CARICOM countries is less than one per cent of U.S. aid worldwide," the foreign minister remarked.

According to Greene, this situation has led to participation of other nations in CARICOM economies, with the provision of soft loans and grants for needed infrastructural development projects. "Most CARICOM countries are stable, representative democracies which are maintained because of economic development," he emphasised. Greene explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a debilitating impact on regional economies and that the Caribbean could welcome urgent US help. "We also need low-cost financing and grants from international financial institutions. Current rules that disqualify many Caribbean counties from access to concessionary funding must be widened to include our profound vulnerabilities.

Additionally, debt has to be forgiven and repayments deferred on easier terms. In the parlous economic state of most CARICOM countries, repaying debt on existing terms is near impossible," he further explained.

Greene drew the Secretary of State's attention to a recent UN declaration that the Caribbean will face "a lost decade" with economies and per capita income declining to 2010 levels.

The foreign minister took issue with the US State Department's International Narcotics Report which describes CARICOM states as "major money launders" has affected the capacity of our banks to transact business. "This State department report is not supported by the FATF or the OECD which conduct regular reviews. We would welcome your attention to this. If these economic conditions are not addressed soon, many CARICOM countries face a crumbling of their security systems which organised crime will exploit to the detriment of CARICOM countries and of the US," he declared. Greene is of the view that such circumstances will inevitably lead to a surge of refugees. "The U.S. has enjoyed political stability on its third border, precisely because most CARICOM countries have vigorously pursued economic development. We urge a deepening and widening of our economic cooperation in our joint interest," he concluded.

SIR LESTER'S AMPUTATION INTENSIFIES EFFORT TO PROVIDE VASCULAR SURGERY

By Shelton Daniel

National Hero and former Prime Minister Sir Lester Bryant Bird is said to be recovering well after his lower leg was amputated on Tuesday. The surgical procedure, undertaken at a private medical facility, was made necessary by complications from long-standing diabetes. Before that, the eighty-three-year-old had a toe on the same leg amputated in an effort to stem the deterioration, but it progressed further, requiring the urgent removal of a larger portion from the affected limb.

The weekly post-Cabinet briefing notes issued on Tuesday morn-

ing stated that, "The Cabinet expressed their best wishes and their high regard for National Hero Sir Lester Bird who underwent an amputation on account of diabetes. Prime Minister Browne visited the hospitalised Sir Lester. Upon the advice of the Minister of Health, a vascular surgeon is to be employed by the MSJMC (Mount Saint John's Medical Center) in order to reduce the number of amputations annually." Asked during the weekly post-Cabinet live media briefing whether vascular surgery, if available, could have saved Sir Lester's leg, Information and Broadcasting Minister Melford Nicholas said

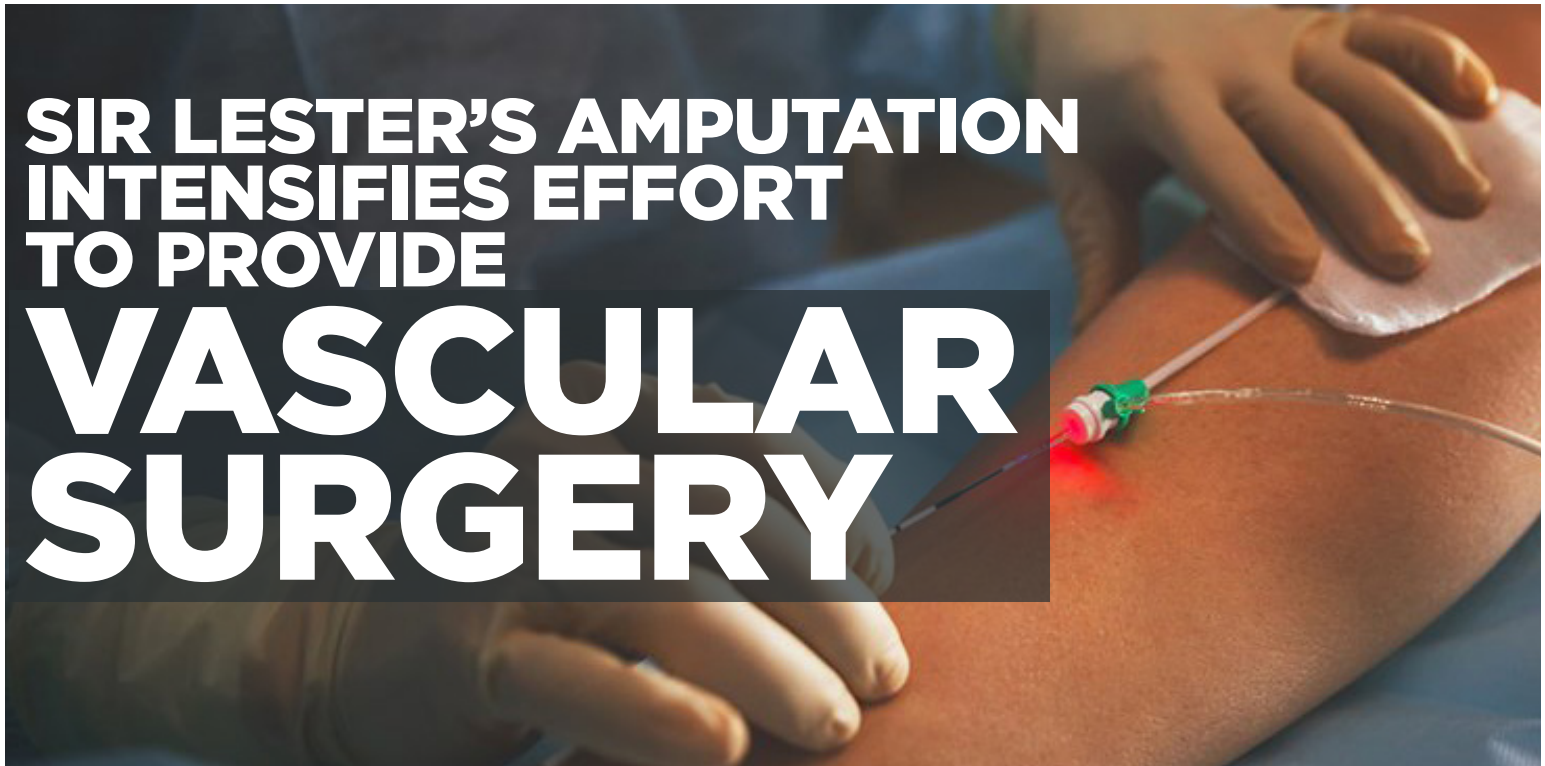
he could not make a judgment call on that.

Nicholas said in cases involving former leaders like Sir Lester or Dr. Baldwin Spencer, "They continue to enjoy the benefit of health programmes from the government, and should they be in a particular position where their health is threatened by any measure – whether the amenities or the facilities are available in Antigua or beyond – it certainly would not be denied them."

Nicholas described the move to recruit vascular surgery expertise as "a preemptive approach that we are making now towards any persons who are suffering from diabetes; who have cir-

culatory problems – the whole idea of having persons within the jurisdiction that can treat them and deal with the type of vascular challenges that they would have – is something that has always been on the card, but it has come forward yet again because of what has taken place with Sir Lester.

Ambassador Lionel Hurst – the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff and a longtime associate of Sir Lester – congratulated his former boss "on a life well-lived," and urged everyone to read Sir Lester's autobiography, *The Come Back Kid*, which he (Hurst) was instrumental in helping to compile and script.



MORE PAIN FOR OWNERS, BARS MUST REMAIN SHUT

By Shelton Daniel

Bars and entertainment clubs “will remain closed until further review by the Ministry of Health and the Cabinet.”

This was the opening line of a blunt declaration in this week's post-Cabinet briefing, which noted that “bars provide the ideal conditions for the spread of the [COVID-19] virus.” This means a further extension of pain for the owners and employees of such establishments whose livelihoods depend on their usually well-patronised operations. Bars and nightclubs have been ordered to shut down completely and indefinitely following a dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases at the start of 2021 following the Christmas-New Year holiday season.

Many operators have complained bitterly that the shutdown is harsh and leaves them with no other means of earning to support themselves and dependents.

The authorities have however repeatedly pointed out that the losses in lives, ruined health and broader economic damage would be far worse if the measures are not applied and COVID-19 is allowed to spread further in the twin-island state of one hundred thousand. Asked during Thursday morning's post-Cabinet media briefing about the plight of bar owners and operators, Information Minister Melford Nicholas said, “The government is still sympathetic to that view. We looked at it and it is a painful decision for us to make. We know that there are many persons

who are gainfully employed in that particular economic activity. But the fallout from that endeavour could spell additional roll-on costs for the health officials, for the public health facility and, of course sickness and

death for a number of other persons.” Nicholas said these were the considerations weighed by Cabinet during its weekly meeting on Wednesday. He suggested that an increased uptake in vaccinations among



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the population might help to create a safer environment in which the reopening of bars and nightclubs might be considered.

“What will inform the government’s decision to relax [bar and club operations] some more? There is going to be some benefit from more persons becoming vaccinated.

It’s an area no one likes to deal with. We’re not forcing anyone. We are appealing to the good conscience and the good sense for everyone. If perchance we get up to that particular level, then the likelihood that more of these things could be relaxed and we go back to a situation of normalcy. Even larger events may well be

accommodated... like Independence. Maybe if we had the level of herd immunity, that will be part of what we could look at,” the Minister stated.

Nicholas added that he was “not in position to say whether in another week or two any circumstances would visit us to allow us to be able to relax the condition for the

bars, but we are certainly looking at it ...”

He repeated that bar owners could take the initiative and make their own recommendations to the Ministry of Health for self-devised control measures they believe could be applied to permit reopening without risking public health.

Coming soon: The resumption of High Court criminal trials

The High Court of Justice in Antigua and Barbuda has stated its intention to resume criminal trials from as early as next month.

A court spokesman said the decision to resume the criminal court is informed by several developments over the past several weeks.

Among the developments are the amendment made to the Jury Act, reducing the size of the jury panel from twelve to nine, and also the introduction of the Criminal Procedure (Trial by Judge Alone) Bill, to be tabled and hopefully passed in the Parliament on 27th April 2021. Against this background, the spokesman said the court intends to resume trials imminently. It has set 10th May 2021 as the tentative start date. The criminal trials have been one of the key casualties of the

ongoing coronavirus pandemic. According to the spokesman, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the protocols introduced to combat the spread of the virus, no criminal trials have been conducted since March 2020.

In preparation for the return of the criminal court, the court is taking steps to ensure that both the judge alone trials and jury trials go as smoothly as possible. The spokesman said the court registry will be issuing case management hearing lists initially in relation to matters which mandatorily fall within the province of judge alone trials as it continues to prepare for the return of the jury.

Other arrangements cater for the time when the jury does return, as the court will only sit one panel at a time and those trials

will be conducted in Courtroom One to allow for adequate social distancing. The court is advising that the general public will not be allowed to fill the gallery of the courtroom, and police officers will use their discretion under the direction of the Judge and only allow a few members of the media and immediate family members of the accused and virtual complainant into the said gallery.

The court is also urging members of the Bar Association to familiarise themselves with the Criminal Procedure (Trial by Judge Alone) Bill and to be prepared for a busy time ahead working with the court to clear up the backlog of cases created by the pandemic and seek to ensure the timely administration of justice for all involved.

Official send off for Chinese diplomat, agricultural team

The ministries of foreign affairs and agriculture on Thursday hosted a ceremony to bid fond farewell to a senior member of the Chinese embassy in Antigua and Barbuda as well as rotating members of the Chinese agricultural team.

First secretary at the Chinese embassy, Madame Sun is taking up a new assignment in the Chinese diplomatic services at the end of approximately almost seven years serving in

St John's. She has been singled out for her dedication to improving the relationship between the two countries.

Madame Sun, who is expected to leave on Sunday, was not in attendance at the ceremony held at the PDO Office on Kentish Road. Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene called her "a tower of strength" in the relationship between St. John's and Beijing.

Agriculture Minister Samantha Marshall,



described the Chinese official as "a friend to the ministry and to her personally." "She always ensured that whatever we requested from the Chinese government in terms of advancing our cause here in Antigua and Barbuda, she has always been a willing partner ensuring that it happens,"

Marshall noted.

The agriculture minister indicated that the presence of the Longping agricultural team here was largely because of the efforts of Madame Sun. "She was able to advise us about strategies on how we can maximise benefits from the various programmes," the minis-



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To evaluate applicants for insurance, and determine whether or not a prospective customer should be insured and, if so, recommend an appropriate premium to take on that level of risk.

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- Issue non-binding/indicative terms
- Review applications for compliance and adherence
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REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of two (2) years Industry Underwriting experience
- Recognized insurance diploma or certification
- Associates degree in Business Administration, Finance or related

Bachelors in administration, finance or related field an asset

SKILLS AND ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES

- Effective verbal and written communication skills
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- Critical thinking skills
- Excellent customer service skills
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- Strong interpersonal skills
- Proficiency with MS Office



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30TH APRIL, 2021**

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ter added. Madame Sun was responsible for economic and commercial cooperation between St John's and Beijing. During her tenure, she oversaw the completion of the new terminal building at the V.C. Bird International Airport, the completion of

the Five Islands School, now transformed into The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, the Grays Greene Cultural Centre, the Glanville's and Villa Polyclinics and the ongoing port development project. She said she enjoyed her time here in Anti-

gua and Barbuda where she was able to forge good relations with officials, as well as being able to feel the support from the people of Antigua and Barbuda. Her next assignment is to Latvia, one of the countries bordering the Russian Federation. Meanwhile, several

members of the Long-ping agricultural team are also returning to China. However, the agriculture assistance programme is not only going to continue, but it will be expanded. Foreign Minister Greene revealed that discussions have started on this matter.

ABDF AND POLICE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE UK-FUNDED STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP COURSES




tigua and Barbuda, Lindsay Thompson, spoke at a short ceremony held at the Sir Wright F. George Police Academy, during which she congratulated the awardees and encouraged them


to build on their learning experience, saying "there can be no let-up in your continuous drive for excellence. The UK believes that it is in our collective interests to promote prosperity and securi-

Members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) and Royal Antigua Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda were among security personnel from the Eastern Caribbean who successfully completed training in a virtual leadership course funded by the UK Ministry of Defence. Two courses were delivered by the UK's Defence Academy in partnership with Cranfield University

and the Regional Security System (RSS) team in Barbados. They covered important areas such as leadership models and ethics, critical decision making, the challenge of change and communication and influence within Defence and the wider security sector, internationally recognised best practices, and techniques to mitigate risks and failures. Resident British High Commissioner to An-



MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS & ENVIRONMENT



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ty - a stable, prosperous and secure world provides opportunity of prosperity for all.” Chief of Defence Staff Colonel Telbert Benjamin expressed profound gratitude to the UK Defence College as well as the RSS for facilitating the two virtual courses during these challenging times where strategic leadership is of utmost importance. He also congratulated the participants for their participation, while acknowledging that they have gained valuable information that would improve their leadership in a personal capacity and in that of their respective organisations.

Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney in his remarks noted that the significant value of continued training cannot be overly emphasised, especially at senior leadership level. He added that the two courses will advance the police force’s efforts to improve its leadership skills and its overall performance of providing high quality law enforcement services to the nation.

FOREIGN MINISTER JOINS EARTH DAY CONFERENCE



Antigua and Barbuda was among countries of Latin America and the Caribbean participating in activities marking the coming into being of the Escazu Agreement.

The Escazu Agreement is the first environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean. It opened for signature on 27th September 2018 at the UN headquarters. The UN, however, designated 22nd April 2021 to commemorate Earth Day.

“There cannot be a better way to celebrate Mother Earth Day than bringing to life the Escazu. The UN General Assembly designated 22nd April as International

Mother Earth day to raise global public awareness of the challenges to the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports. Today, with Mother Earth clearly urging a call to action, we as a region are leading by example,” Minister E.P. Chet Greene observed.

He told the conference that Antigua and Barbuda takes great pride in the coming into effect of the region’s first environmental agreement. “As its first signatory and one of its first parties, my country renews its strong commitment to the principles and the tenets of the agreement,” he stated.

FERNANDEZ OFFICIALLY RECEIVES 'CARIBBEAN TOURISM MINISTER OF THE YEAR' AWARD



Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez

Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez, has received the 'Caribbean Tourism Minister of the Year' award trophy he won last year.

This comes as the executives of Caribbean Journal (an online Caribbean tourism-centric news magazine) officially presented Fernandez his award in honour of the achievement of Caribbean Tourism Minister of the year 2020/2021. Executive Vice President, Guy Britton, and Editor in Chief and Founder of the magazine, Alexander Britel, both extended hearty congratulations to Minister Fernandez who won the award

based on his management of Antigua and Barbuda's tourism industry during the COVID-19 crisis.

Antigua was the first Caribbean country to re-open its borders to international flights in June 2020 (months

after a complete lockdown). This came following major restructuring alongside the compilation of official COVID-19 protocols to govern different aspects of the industry.

Minister Fernandez commits the award to all the members of his team within the Ministry of Tourism as well as all the workers within the tourism industry in Antigua and Barbuda who have worked assiduously to keep the sector alive.

A scenic view of a beach and ocean from a car. In the foreground, a car's side mirror and part of the dashboard are visible. A white sign with the text "Relax, it's Weekend" is in the upper left. A circular logo with "EVERY TRIP. BUCKLE UP EVERYTIME." is in the lower left. The text "#drivesafeantigua" is at the bottom left. On the right, a sign says "Seat Belts Save Lives!" and the "ATB" logo is at the bottom right.

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



SANDALS FOUNDATION COMMITTS TO PLANTING 10K TREES BY JUNE 2022



The Sandals Foundation – the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts International – is intensifying its Caribbean conservation efforts by committing to plant ten thousand trees by June 2022. The commitment came Thursday as nations around the world observed Earth day, 2021. “The effort forms part of a wider Caribbean Tree Planting Project coordinated by the Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance in collaboration with Trees That Feed Foundation, the Clinton Global Initiative, and other partners to plant one million trees across fourteen Caribbean countries by June next year,” a Sandals Foundation statement said. It noted that over the last twelve years, the

Sandals Foundation has engaged local schools, community groups, partners, team members, travel agents, and

guests to plant more than seventeen thousand trees across the Caribbean. “This intensified tree planting mission, while taking on a more controlled approach in line with national COVID-19 protocols, will undoubtedly strengthen the region’s climate resilience as it empowers even more persons to take action in line with this year’s Earth Day theme to ‘Restore Our Earth,’” the

statement continued. Through the efforts of environmental partners in each of the seven countries it currently operates, the Sandals Foundation will coordinate the planting of fruit trees, timber and mangroves to protect the terrestrial and coastal zones of the islands.

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property owned by Ms. Laura Nicholas of Cedar Grove, St. John's, Antigua.

The property is located at Mount Pleasant, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a vacant parcel of land of an area of approximately 11,835.22 sq. ft. / 0.27 Acre.

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PARCEL:
643

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On the South by: Public Road;
On the East by: Parcel 644 ;
On the West by: Parcel 642

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos
Licensed Auctioneer

Office: (268) 562-7653

Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653

Email: info@go-going-gone.com

Instagram: tts_auction_antigua

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30th April, 2021

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- Review existing products and identify new products to drive new and renewal business
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- Any other duties as assigned by the Executive Manager

REQUIREMENTS

- Decision making skills and attention to details
- Team player with excellent interpersonal skills and communication skills
- Negotiation skills and problem-solving ability
- Time and priority management skills
- Excellent computer skills
- Leadership skills

EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of 5 years industry underwriting experience

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

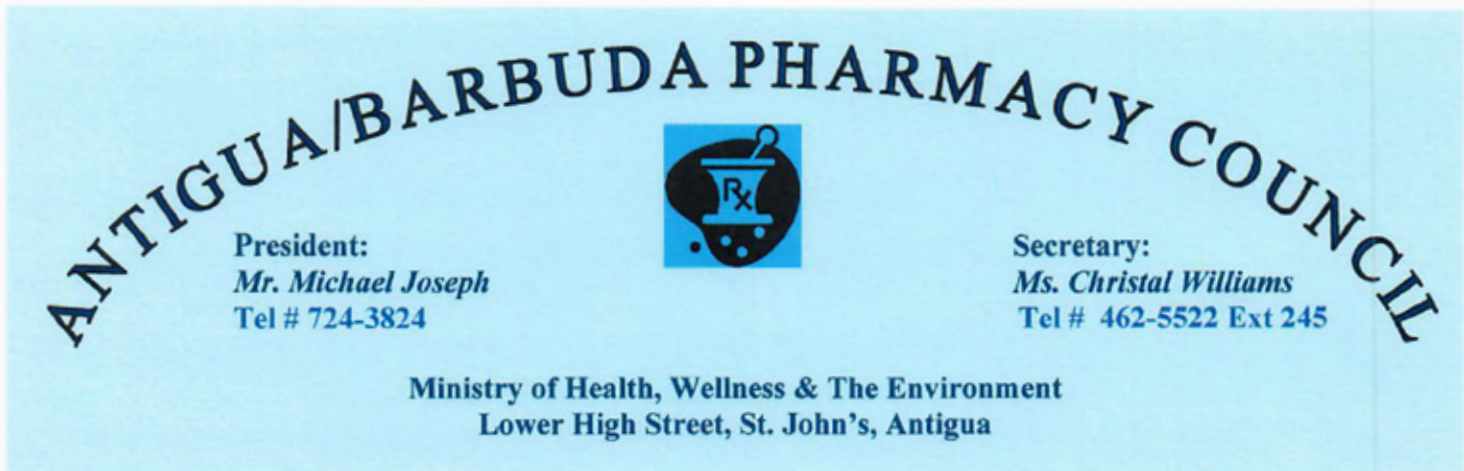
- Recognized insurance diploma or certification
- Bachelors in administration, finance or related field will be an asset
- Knowledge of insurance laws and practices

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15th April, 2021

Hon. Sir Molwyn Joseph
Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment
Ministry of Health
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St. Johns
Antigua

APPROVAL FOR USE SPUTNIK-V COVID-19 VACCINE ON THE POPULATION OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Dear Sir,

I write to you on behalf of the Antigua & Barbuda Pharmacy Council regarding our approval (issued on the 17th February 2021) to allow for the importation of the “Sputnik-V Covid-19 Vaccine”, also referred to as “GAM- Covid-Vac” developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Russia.

The Pharmacy Council extends its appreciation to the Government of Antigua & Barbuda for honoring its verbal agreement during our meeting with the Cabinet of Antigua & Barbuda on March 10th 2021 to restrict the use of the Sputnik-V covid-19 vaccine pending additional regulatory approval.

The Pharmacy Council further outlines that after fully reviewing the independently verified data on the Sputnik-V Vaccine by the world renowned peer review medical journal- ‘The Lancet’ and in light of the hesitancy of the population to continue to receive the AstraZeneca Vaccine given the nominal reports of possibly associated blood clots, we are prepared to **recommend use** of the “GAM-COVID-VAC” (Sputnik-V Covid-19 Vaccine) in the population of Antigua & Barbuda as per the responsibilities granted to the pharmacy council as set out in the Pharmacy Act, 1995.

To facilitate this process, the following documents are requested from the supplier of the Vaccine supply:

1. A letter of Authenticity from Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Russia verifying the batch as from their production. (Since the Sputnik-

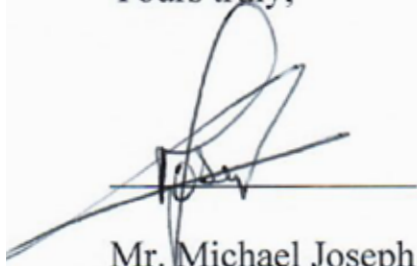
V is a Combined Vector Vaccine it is critical that it states which vector we are in possession of).

2. The Inner leaflet should be made available in English (at minimum) as legislatively stipulated by the labelling standards in the 2019 Pharmacy Regulations.

We understand the urgency by the Government of Antigua & Barbuda to inoculate the population. We remain committed to our functions entrusted to us as a council and therefore continue to carry-out all necessary due diligence in keeping with the expectations of those that rely on the decisions of the council in the greatest interest of their individual and collective health.

Once these documents are presented to us, this will finalize the due diligence process and make way for full usage of the Sputnik-V Vaccine in the population of Antigua & Barbuda.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Michael Joseph', is written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Michael Joseph
President
Antigua & Barbuda Pharmacy Council

CC: Honourable Prime Minister
Chief Medical Officer
Director of Pharmaceutical Services



MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WELLNESS & ENVIRONMENT



Virtual COVID-19 VACCINE PROMOTION PARTY



APPEARANCES BY:

DR. COURTNEY LEWIS
NURSE EMELDA PETERS
YUSEF MICHAEL
ZAMONI
MENACE
CLAUDETTE PETERS
ASA BANTON
MARKETING MACHINE
MYST CARNIVAL
WYCLEF JEAN
VOICE
LYRICS MAN
COLOUR COLOUR
RASHID WALKER
WHITNEY WILLIAMS

HOSTS: IBIS & DYMOND

PERFORMANCES BY:

DJ KEITH
TJ THA DJ
DJ ELEMENTZ
DJ QUEST
DJ JIME



LIVE STREAM:



+



SAT. APRIL 24TH 2021
TIME: 8PM

LESS OUTRAGE AT US CAUTION ON TRAVEL - MORE ACTION TO OPEN ECONOMIES



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)

In Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados there is outrage in

some quarters that the US Embassy, accredited to these countries, has listed them as 'Level 4 – very high' for risk of infection with the coronavirus. Under this categorization, the US Embassy cautions their citizens and residents not to travel to these countries. Even though it may be based on misunderstandings of the criteria being applied by the US Embassy, the outrage is understandable for two rea-

sons. First, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados rank at 26 and 33 respectively of the countries that have inoculated a high percentage of their population with at least one dose of a vaccine. Antigua and Barbuda has vaccinated 29.4 per cent of their inhabitants and Barbados 24.75 per cent as of April 22. Second, the numbers of infected persons are declining in both countries.

These factual situations suggest that the two countries should not be on the highest level of caution to US residents who comprise a significant number of the tourists to the Caribbean. However, to be fair to the US Embassy, its travel advisories have been issued in accordance with new measurements issued by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the US. Under those new

yardsticks, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados join eight other Caribbean countries at 'Level -4'. These eight countries are among the main Caribbean competitors for US tourism. They are: The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, US Virgin Islands and Saint Martin. Furthermore, much larger, and richer countries are also on the current 'Level 4' list, including Canada, the UK, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden. Therefore, the 'Level 4' categorization should not be regarded as an attempt to disadvantage Antigua and Barbuda or Barbados.

Through no fault of the governments or the health authorities of the two countries and, despite the herculean efforts that both have made amid gravely declining reve-

nues, the single event that ran afoul of the new CDC criteria is the spike in the number of infected persons over the 28-day cycle, preceding the travel advisory. These spikes took Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados over the threshold set for infected cases per 100 persons of the population.

Regrettably, what this boils down to is the refusal of some sections of the population to follow the rules set down for masking and physical distancing. Those, who have ignored safety rules, contributed to spikes in the number of infected cases. Those, who now refuse to be vaccinated, are ready hosts for the virus to infect. They, too, are contributing to the likelihood of increasing cases.

Governments understand both the frustration that people feel from living in the restrictions, caused by COVID-19, over the last year, as well as the fear that has been generated about being

inoculated. Therefore, they have been systematically trying to ease restrictions, recognising that no country in the world can eliminate them while the pandemic prevails.

Indeed, until at least 70 to 80 per cent of any country's population is vaccinated, the removal of restrictions, that everyone craves, will not happen. This is why everyone should be willing to endure the restrictions until inoculation reaches herd immunity.

If the spikes in infection continue because of disregard for safety rules and refusal to be vaccinated, then the US and other countries will be constrained, in their own interest, to recommend that their people do not visit.

What all this says is that people in the Caribbean can influence the level of caution at which their countries are placed by the CDC in the US and by agencies in other countries. Those who choose to ig-

nore the safety rules are endangering their own health and the persons with whom they are in most contact. They are also imperilling the livelihoods of everyone else in their countries by delaying the time when the economies can open, bringing back jobs; generating income and savings; and restoring freedom.

An observation of Dominican-born, Dr Carissa Etienne, the indefatigable Director of the Pan American Health Organization, is worth recalling: "Every person that is hesitant to get the vaccine can become part of the sad statistics – one of the thousands of deaths that occur daily due to COVID-19".

Given the current dire circumstances of most Caribbean economies, particularly the ones highly dependent on tourism, they need to open soon to have any chance of shortening a painful period to recovery.

Conversations will be held with the CDC

in the coming days by diplomatic representatives like me and agents of health authorities – as has happened in the past – to review the level at which Caribbean countries are listed. The CDC has no interest in harming Caribbean countries. Once the rate of infection is reduced and testing and inoculations continue, the agency will adjust the level.

How soon Caribbean countries get to levels 2 and 1, removing travel cautions, is dependent on how committed Caribbean people are to making themselves as free as possible of the coronavirus.

This is not a time to be outraged at the efforts of others to protect their own; it is a time for Caribbean people do everything necessary to protect themselves.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronald-sanders.com

CONCERN FOR PARENTS UNABLE TO SEND CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL



National Association of early Childhood practitioners president, Scholastique Elcock

LOOP News St, Lucia

The administrator of First Steps Cecilia's Day Care Learning Centre in Vieux-Fort, Scholastique Elcock, lamented that some parents are unable to send their children back to school at this time due to financial constraints.

"Some parents have lost their jobs," she said. Aside from that, Elcock says she has no major concerns as it relates to the reopening of preschools and has welcomed it.

Elcock, who is also the president of the National Association of Early Childhood Prac-

tioners, said the parents are happy to send their children back to school.

"It's good for the parents that their children are back to school. Many of them were waiting for that opportunity," she told Loop News. According to Elcock, some schools

have concerns, but her school has none.

As it relates to the attendance at her school, she said it has been very good.

"For me personally, my attendance is fine. All my students are back at school. I don't even have space for more children. I have children on a waiting list," Elcock said.

She said the majority of the students returned to school on 6th April, and the others on 19th April. As it relates to the response of the parents, she said they have responded positively.

"They are aware of the situation with COVID and have been very supportive. They see we have been following the protocols," Elcock said, adding that her school has been adhering to it from the start. According to her, what she is hoping for, is that things to improve in such a way that those parents who are unable to send their children to school at this time due to financial constraints, will be able to.

DOMINICAN ELECTORATE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTORAL REFORM SURVEY



Sir-Dennis-Byron

Dominica News Online - The Dominican electorate is being called upon to support an Electoral Reform Survey, which commences in Dominica on Monday, 26th April, 2021.

The call has come from The Rt. Hon. Sir Dennis Byron, KT, PC who was appointed by the government of Commonwealth of Dominica to conduct a review of the electoral process, systems and legislation on the island.

As part of the review and consultation process, Sir Dennis Byron invites all nationals of the Commonwealth of Dominica, eighteen years and above to participate in an elec-

tronic elections survey with the goal to obtain extensive feedback from the general populace in the Commonwealth of Dominica, particularly on matters related to the electoral process, systems and legislation. The survey will be accessible online via the Electoral Office's website <http://electoraloffice.gov.dm/> for a period of three weeks, commencing Monday, 26th April, 2021 and ending on Friday, 14th May, 2021.

According to Sir Dennis, "The public is assured that the review of the electoral process, systems and legislation in the Commonwealth of

Dominica is completely independent of the Government of Dominica, any political party, political appointee, or any other entity or individual. Additionally, the survey will be completely anonymous, and the back end of the survey will only be accessed by Sir Dennis Byron and his team. The research is informed by all ethical protocols, with particular adherence to issues of anonymity and confidentiality. There are no identifiers or names to the questionnaires. The public is therefore encouraged to participate in the elections survey, as it will provide critical information for

the review exercise being undertaken."

Sir. Dennis Byron is an expert jurist with over fifty years of judicial and related experience. He is currently serving as the Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Judicial Council. From 2011 – 2018, Sir Dennis Byron served as the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Judge and President of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal from 2004 to 2011, he also served as the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (1999-2004) and has been President and then Chairman of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute in Halifax, Canada since 2000. With over fifty years of experience in the judicial system, the ability to critically access situations with an unbiased and transparent lens has become somewhat innate to Sir Dennis Byron. Additionally, his wealth of experience in adjudication have bequeathed an unparalleled jurisprudential legacy.

SVG AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVASTATED

Barbados Advocate -

The violent eruption of La Soufrière has left a shocking scene of dead livestock, ash-covered crops, and damaged roads and structures in the north of the island.

This week, the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour conducted a visual assessment and tour of the volcano's devastation with the media and stakeholders. St. Vincent and the Grenadines' (SVG) Minister of Agriculture, Saboto Caesar, travelled to the windward side of the island and saw first-hand the destruction caused by recent volcanic activity. His team captured images of collapsed storage tanks and roofs, streets filled with several inches of ash and large boulders, dead chicken and sheep, and banana, eggplant and pineapple crops damaged by volcanic ash.

The Barbados Advocate contacted this ministry on Wednesday and was informed that a concise



Minister of Agriculture, Saboto Caesar examining some of the crop damage caused by the volcano

assessment and report has not been arranged as yet as they continue to collect data. Officials explained that this occurred as the volcano is still active and erupting. SVG's Minister Caesar announced during his tour that three hundred pounds of pumpkin from the private agricultural sector will be delivered to the local shelters. He explained that on his way to the red zone, the produce will be delivered to the shelters to be distributed to the villages.

"It is all a part of food security and we are really encouraging other farmers to participate in this programme. We started yesterday, the care pack-

ages programme and this is where farmers will bring their produce. The government will purchase these produce, place them in boxes, distribute to the different shelters and also to different communities where persons are in need," said Caesar.

He noted that SVG has significant production ongoing and the farmers are ready to get their feed from the feed support programme. Caesar expressed his appreciation to the farmers who are contributing to the relief efforts. In the Caribbean, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is one of the main suppliers of root crops and also supplies sister

island, Grenada, with mutton, beef and pork. St. Lucia, Trinidad and Barbados are expected to be impacted by the crippled St. Vincent agricultural sector.

Despite the destruction caused by La Soufrière to the agricultural sector, the island still exported root crops to Trinidad and Tobago this week. Trinidad and Tobago media reported that Admiral Bay I, one of three vessels, transported produce to the twin-island. The crops included dasheen, eddoes, ginger, soursop, green fig, coconuts and mangoes. These root crops are grown in the yellow zone of St. Vincent.

UN APPEALS FOR US\$29.2M FOR VOLCANO-RAVAGED ST. VINCENT



iWitnessNews - The United Nations, this week launched a US\$29.2 million global funding appeal, aimed at raising funds to help St. Vincent and the Grenadines meet its immediate needs after the 9th April eruption of La Soufrière volcano.

“This is an effort to protect the most vulnerable people that have been displaced, or the affected people by this crisis in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and also the effect that this crisis is having in all their neighbouring countries,” Didier Trebucq, UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados told a UN press conference.

Trebucq told the virtual briefing, which was also attended by Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, that the objective of the fund is “to scale up the humanitarian assistance and to initiate, as soon as possible, the recovery.”

He was speaking after touring the

worst affected areas in the north east of St. Vincent along with Gonsalves, on Sunday.

Trebucq said that in some places, the volcanic ash was ten to fifteen inches deep and assessed some areas as “apocalyptic.”

“I really want to use this word apocalyptic and desolate,” he said, adding that many roofs have collapsed, including that of the school in Sandy Bay.

He noted St. Vincent’s reliance on agriculture, adding that crops are all devastated in that part of the island and that animal husbandry has been affected “very, very heavily.”

“And this is going to have a critical impact on the economic sector, of course, of the island,” Trebucq said, adding that the impact of the eruption on thousands of people is really undeniable.

“... following this visit, I can only say that those images would really stay engraved in my memory

for many, many years.”

He said that the UN has concluded that the immediate humanitarian needs are very critical for fifteen thousand people — around fifteen per cent of the population — who have been displaced.

“And those people have been evacuated from the northern areas of the island, which has higher indices of poverty, hence a greater degree of vulnerability,” he said.

The UN official, however, said that the vast majority of the population of the island has been affected as the people who did not evacuate are also hosting evacuees, thereby resulting in greater socioeconomic stress.

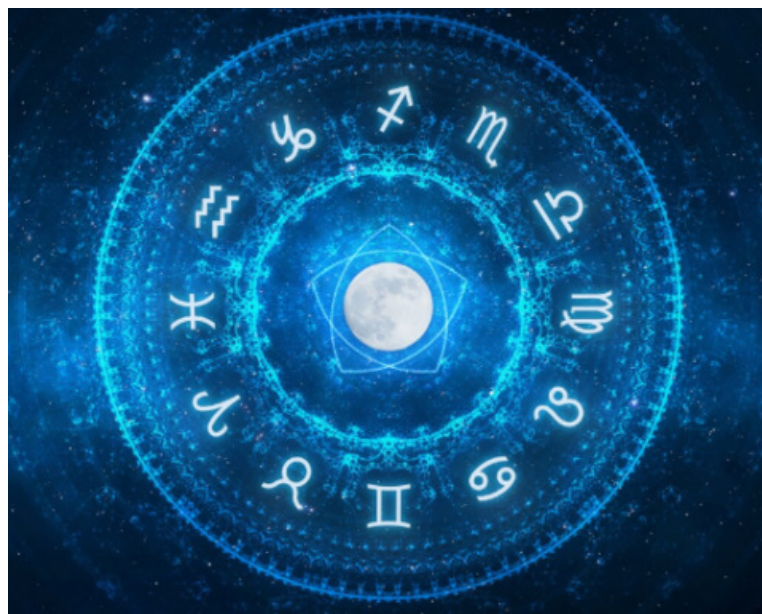
He said there were six thousand, two hundred people registered in government-operated emergency shelters, and around six thousand five hundred people registered as displaced in private homes.

In the Red Zone, Vincentian villages have been severely impacted by the volcanic ash

QUICK CROSSWORD

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YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Your innocent flirtations may just be a habit or a way of passing time for you, but someone may take it seriously. In the week to come, think of every meeting as a chance to show that you are sincere and real.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

It's the first day of summer, and your fancy may turn to thoughts of business affairs and money-making activities rather than love. Tackle practical subjects like your bank balance as the week begins.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

Play life like a game of chess. Sometimes it is necessary to sacrifice something unimportant in order to win the game. In the upcoming week, you can put your brainpower to work and upgrade your financial status.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

There is a New Moon in your sign, and although you cannot see it, you might feel it as the upcoming week unfolds. You may feel better able to express yourself once you accept your strengths as well as your limitations.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

It is hard to find a rainbow without seeing a little rain first. A few bumps may lessen your confidence in the beginning of the week, but your optimism will quickly return. You might prefer to think through a strategy by yourself.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Turn obstacles and dropped balls into learning opportunities. Take a few ideas that have been floating around in your head and put them into motion this week. You and a partner can draw up viable plans and find practical solutions.

♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

Some of your fantasies might come true, but there is a reason they're fantasies. Try not to make irrevocable decisions or major purchases unless they make good sense. You must be perceptive enough to read the writing on the wall.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Your ideas may be too big to handle alone. You could get a project off the ground if there's a good supporting cast to help you in the upcoming week. If you don't have all the answers, at least you know how to get them.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You have the hammer and someone else has the nails. In the week to come, you and a partner can work together to achieve your dreams. Your powerful enthusiasm can be the driving force behind intricate plans.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

The first day of summer can light up your life. Not only is the day longer but your patience can last longer, too. As the week unwinds, you may grow closer and more comfortable with a partner or special someone.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

The difference between failure and success could depend on whether you phone it in or do your best. Remember in the week ahead that a task done correctly the first time will not need to be done again.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

In the upcoming week you might be tempted to spend time on frivolous things that could rattle your bank account. Put creative energy to good use by focusing on a new artistic project or educational experience.

The Venezuelan Institute for Culture and Cooperation

The Venezuelan Institute for Culture and Cooperation invites the public to register for the Virtual Spanish Classes for the new academic term April 26th to July 30th 2021.

Registration will be administered online.
<https://forms.gle/u9FWmN8xGj8brVnd7>

For more information please contact us by email:
 ivccantiguaandbarbuda2021@gmail.com
 or by phone: +1 (268) 462-1574

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

<p>Fri 23 Day</p> <p>29° ☀️ 8% ESE 23 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. High 29°C. Winds ESE at 15 to 30 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 64% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 05:46 Sunset 18:24</p>	<p>Fri 23 Night</p> <p>24° 🌙 16% E 15 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. Low 24°C. Winds E at 10 to 15 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 74% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 15:09 Moonset 03:11</p> <p>☾ Waxing Gibbous</p>
<p>Sat 24 Day</p> <p>29° ☀️ 7% E 20 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. High 29°C. Winds E at 15 to 25 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 63% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 05:45 Sunset 18:25</p>	<p>Sat 24 Night</p> <p>24° 🌙 24% E 18 km/h</p> <p>Generally clear. Low 24°C. Winds E at 15 to 25 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 73% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 16:07 Moonset 03:54</p> <p>☾ Waxing Gibbous</p>

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

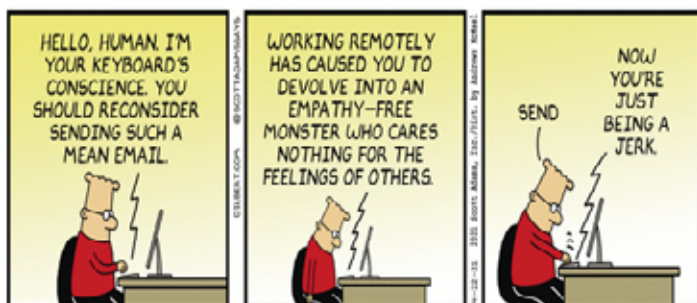
Submit community notices to

news@pointville.ag

COMICS

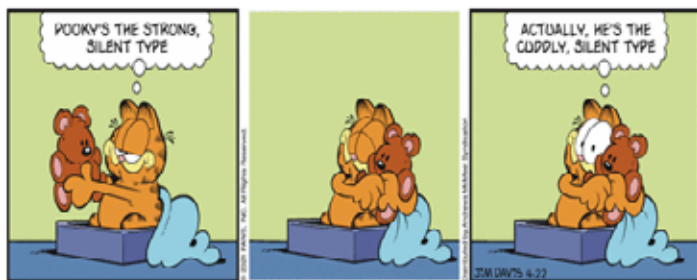
Dilbert

April 22, 2021



Garfield

April 22, 2021



Luann

April 22, 2021



GOT NEWS?

Send your news stories to
news@pointville.ag



CANADA, UNDER PRESSURE TO BAR INDIA, BRAZIL FLIGHTS, COULD SOON MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT - OFFICIAL

Passengers arrive at Toronto's Pearson airport

Reuters - Canada's government, under pressure to suspend flights from India and Brazil over fears about the spread of the coronavirus, could make an announcement on the matter shortly, a senior medical official said on Thursday. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said earlier this week that officials were studying the example of Britain, which is obliging foreigners who have been in India in the past ten days to spend ten days in quarantine.

Dr. Howard Njoo, Can-

ada's deputy chief public health officer, said officials were looking at developments in hot spots such as India and Brazil, where COVID-19 cases are surging. "I think perhaps we will have an announcement about the border soon," he told a briefing when asked about a clamp-down on travel from India and Brazil, but did not give details.

Prominent right-leaning politicians complain the center-left Liberal government of Justin Trudeau has not done

nearly enough to combat the threat as a third wave of infections rips through Canada, overwhelming healthcare systems.

"The Liberals' slow and incompetent pandemic response has allowed dangerous COVID variants into Canada. We must temporarily suspend flights from hot spot countries to secure the borders," said Erin O'Toole, leader of the official opposition Conservative Party. Trudeau, speaking to Global television on Wednesday night, said

community spread rather than international travel continued to be the main concern. Quebec premier Francois Legault said this week "we worry about flights coming from countries like India and Brazil."

The two countries have become the latest epicenter of the pandemic.

France is imposing a ten-day quarantine for travellers from Brazil, Chile, Argentina, South Africa and India, while the United Arab Emirates has suspended all flights from India.

Daunte Wright: Hundreds attend Minneapolis funeral of man shot by police

BBC World News - Hundreds of mourners, including family members and activists, have attended the funeral of a black man who was shot dead by police in Minneapolis. Daunte Wright, twenty, was killed during a routine traffic stop in the Brooklyn City suburb of the city on 11th April. The city was already on edge amid the high-profile trial of a white ex-police officer accused of murdering African-American George Floyd last year. That officer, Derek Chauvin, was convicted of murder on Tuesday. The spate of incidents in Minneapolis have triggered national outrage and widespread protests. They also prompted the US justice department to launch an investigation into the practices and conduct of the city's police department. The investigation will examine whether there has been a pattern "of unconstitutional or unlawful policing" in Minneapolis, Attorney General Merrick Garland said earlier this week.



Daunte Wright's mother (c) Rev Al Sharpton (second from right) and family members at funeral

Hundreds of mourners, many wearing face masks due to the coronavirus pandemic, gathered at a historically black church in the north of the city on Thursday afternoon to remember Mr Wright. The Reverend Al Sharpton, a veteran civil rights leader, delivered the eulogy at the Shiloh Temple International Ministries, just as he did at Floyd's funeral last year.

Rev. Sharpton spoke about the rallying cry "no justice, no peace" that has been chanted at civil rights protests for decades. "It became the chant of our

movement," he said. "The absence of justice is the absence of peace." "Peace is the presence of justice," he continued. "You can't tell us to shut up and suffer. We must speak up when there is an injustice."

Katie Wright, Wright's mother, remembered her son as a loving father before becoming so overcome with emotion that she had to cut her tribute short. "My son had a smile that was worth a million dollars. When he walked in the room he lit up the room," she told mourners through

tears.

"I remember when Daunte first became a father - his son was born at twenty-eight weeks so he was premature. The joy that Junior brought to Daunte's life was truly amazing. "He was so happy and so proud, and he always said he couldn't wait to make his son proud. Junior was the joy of his life, he lived for him every single day." The Reverend Jesse Jackson, also a civil rights leader, attended the funeral, as did Ben Crump, the lawyer representing the families of both Wright and Floyd.

COVID: India sees world's highest daily cases amid oxygen shortage

BBC World News - India has recorded the highest one-day tally of new COVID-19 cases anywhere in the world - and the country's highest number of deaths over twenty-four hours. It has close to sixteen million confirmed cases, second only to the US. The country is struggling with a second wave, raising more fears about its overwhelmed healthcare system. Crowds have formed outside hospitals in major cities which are filled to capacity. A number of people have died while waiting for oxygen.

Families are waiting hours to perform funeral rites, Reuters news agency reports, with at least one Delhi crematorium resorting to building pyres in its car park in order to cope with the numbers arriving. Meanwhile, some countries are bringing in stricter rules affecting travel to and from India amid fears over the rising cases. Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the number of flights between the two countries would be

cut, while the UK has added India to a red list, restricting travel and bringing in hotel quarantine for all arrivals from India from Friday morning.

India is struggling to cope with the soaring numbers - it recorded some three hundred and fourteen thousand, eight hundred and thirty-five new coronavirus cases in the past twenty-four hours, while deaths rose by two thousand, one hundred and four.

Oxygen supply has been a particular prob-

lem, with a number of hospitals in the capital Delhi running out entirely on Thursday, according to the city's Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia.

Numerous other hospitals are understood to be running dangerously low on supplies, including one treating another Indian politician, Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Delhi legislature member Bharadwaj posted a plea for help in Hindi on Twitter from his hospital bed, saying there were just

three hours of oxygen left.

"A lot of people are dependent on oxygen and without oxygen, these people will die just like fish die in the absence of water," he said, according to a translation by news channel NDTV. "This is a time for all to come together to work."

The crisis worked its way to Delhi's highest court on Wednesday, where judges publicly criticised the central government for its handling of the oxygen crisis in the city.



Saurabh Bharadwaj

World leaders pledge climate cooperation despite other rifts



World leaders gather for a major summit on climate change

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden convened leaders of the world's most powerful countries on Thursday to try to spur global efforts against climate change, drawing commitments from Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin to cooperate on cutting emissions despite their own sharp rivalries with the United States.

"Meeting this moment is about more than preserving our planet," Biden declared, speaking from a TV-style set for a virtual summit of forty world leaders. "It's about providing a better future for all of us," he said, calling it "a moment of peril but a moment of opportunity." "The signs

are unmistakable. The science is undeniable. The cost of inaction keeps mounting," he added.

Biden's own new commitment, timed to the summit, is to cut U.S. fossil fuel emissions up to fifty-two per cent by 2030, marking a return by the U.S. to global climate efforts after four years of withdrawal under President Donald Trump. Biden's administration is sketching out a vision of a prosperous, clean-energy United States where factories churn out cutting-edge batteries for export, line workers re-lay an efficient national electrical grid and crews cap abandoned oil and gas rigs and coal mines.

Japan announced its own new forty-six per

cent emissions reduction target Thursday, and South Korea said it would stop public financing of new coal-fired power plants, as the U.S. and its allies sought to build momentum via the summit. The coronavirus pandemic compelled the summit to play out as a climate telethon-style livestream, limiting opportunities for spontaneous interaction and negotiation. The opening was rife with small technological glitches, including echoes, random beeps and off-screen voices.

But the U.S. summit also marshalled an impressive display of the world's most powerful leaders speaking on the single cause of climate change.

China's Xi, whose country is the world's biggest emissions culprit, followed by the United States, spoke first among the other global figures. He made no reference to non-climate disputes that had made it uncertain until Wednesday that he would even take part in the U.S. summit, and said Chi-

na would work with America in cutting emissions.

"To protect the environment is to protect productivity, and to boost the environment is to boost productivity. It's as simple as that," Xi said.

Putin, whose government has been publicly irate over Biden's characterisation of him as a "killer" for Russia's aggressive moves against its opponents, made no mention of his feuding with Biden in his own climate remarks, a live presentation that also saw moments of dead air among production problems.

"Russia is genuinely interested in galvanising international cooperation so as to look further for effective solutions to climate change as well as to all other vital challenges," Putin said. Russia by some measures is the world's fourth-biggest emitter of climate-damaging fossil fuel fumes.

However, Russia and China announced no specific new emissions cuts themselves.



CASTER SEMENYA

WINS 5,000M TITLE IN SOUTH AFRICAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Caster Semenya is a two-time Olympic champion in the 800m

Caster Semenya says she will not attempt to qualify for the 200m at the Tokyo Olympics after defending her national 5,000m title in South Africa.

The 30-year-old won the title in 15 minutes 52.28 seconds - 42.48 seconds outside the Olympic qualifying time.

Semenya will be un-

able to defend her 800m title after a controversial World Athletics rule change around testosterone levels in female runners. "I'm getting old, I'm scared to tear my muscles," she said of the 200m event. The qualifying deadline for Tokyo is 29 June. Semenya is a two-time Olympic champion in the 800m

and won the 1,500m at the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

But under World Athletics rules, she is not allowed to compete in events between 400m and a mile unless she takes drugs to reduce her naturally high levels of testosterone.

She said in March 2019 that she would aim

to compete in the 200m in Tokyo, but now feels it would be too much pressure on her body.

"We had to sit down and make sure that the decision that we make makes sense. Distance makes sense. "We're happy with what we're doing, we're having fun. At training each and every day, we don't stress."

RAFAEL NADAL: BRIT CAMERON NORRIE TO FACE SPANIARD IN BARCELONA OPEN QUARTER-FINALS

Britain's Cameron Norrie will face Rafael Nadal in the quarter-finals of the Barcelona Open on Friday.

Norrie reached the last eight after Belgian eighth seed David Goffin retired injured. Goffin received treatment for a leg problem after seven games of the second set and, despite winning the next game, quit while down 6-0 3-5. Twenty-time Grand Slam winner Nadal beat Ja-

pan's Kei Nishikori 6-0 2-6 6-2 to set up a second meeting with Norrie. The Spanish world number three beat the 25-year-old Briton in the third round of the Australian Open in February.

Nadal is looking to claim a 12th Barcelona Open title, while Norrie's progress in the competition could see the British number two move back into the world's top 50.

British number two Cameron Norrie is ranked 58th in the world

VIRAT KOHLI BECOMES FIRST PLAYER TO SCORE 6000 IPL RUNS



Captain of the Royal Challengers Bangalore, Virat Kohli on Thursday became the first player in history to notch up 6000 runs in the Indian Premier league, while batting against Rajasthan Royals in Match 16 of IPL 2021 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Kohli, the leading run-getter in the IPL was on 5949 runs prior to the start of the game, and a little over 13 years after he played his first IPL match – against KKR back in 2008 – Kohli created history,

getting to Mount 6K and cementing his legacy even further. Kohli, along with Devdutt Padikkal provided a brilliant start to RCB's innings in chase of 178. After Mohammed Siraj and Harshal Patel picked up three wickets each to limit RR to 177/9, Kohli and Padikkal added a century-plus stand for the opening wicket with both batsmen scoring fifties. Padikkal took 27 balls to get to his maiden half-century of the season, while Kohli required 34 balls.

Kohli reached his half-century with a single down the ground, and got to the 6k-mark with a boundary off a full toss off the bowling of Chris Morris. Kohli had earlier registered scores of 33 against Mumbai Indians, 33 against Sunrisers Hyderabad and 5 against Kolkata Knight Riders and his fifty against RR is his first of the season and 41st of his IPL career.

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