

OVERCOMING 84-DAY COVID19 ORDEAL

SEE PAGE 2



*COVID19 survivor Aldo McCoy (r)
with his brother Vince McCoy (l)*

THE CORPORATE COMMUNITY RESPONDS POSITIVELY

Ever since Antigua and Barbuda acquired the first batch of forty thousand vaccines from India to help it with its commitment to vaccinate the country's entire adult population, the government has quietly been encouraging the corporate community to assist with what is clearly a very expensive exercise.

Antigua and Barbuda had quite early joined the COVAX facility that has been devised and administered by the World Health Organisation (WHO). However, it became obvious that, because of their financial might, the larger, wealthier countries would monopolise the vaccines that had been approved for use by the WHO and other agencies. Additionally, because of this and other reasons, these vaccines would not be distribut-

ed fairly to all nations.

The government recognised that if it wanted to ensure that it had access to enough vaccine to inoculate its population, thus achieving 'herd immunity,' then it would have to explore other avenues to achieve this. There was no skirting around the issue. One thing was also certain: acquiring vaccines would require substantial financial resources and this at a time when the government's financial situation was at its worst point in years.

Each Saturday afternoon when he addressed the nation on the Browne and Browne show on PointeFM 99.1, Prime Minister Gaston Browne was not shy to lay bare the facts and the gravity of the situation before the nation. Thankfully, and to their credit, without the

prime minister making a direct appeal to business owners, several came forward and made substantial donations to the vaccine purchase programme. Included are the Hadeed Group of Companies, ACB Caribbean, Antigua Investment Group, CIBC First Caribbean, Arton Capital, and State Insurance Corporation. Kudos to these business entities who responded to meet a grave need of the country. In this issue, there are three further examples of business entities helping with the ongoing vaccination programme. These are the Hadeed Group of Companies, Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy and Arton Capital. All three have found creative, yet very useful, ways of assisting with the vaccination programme. These examples speak to the spirit

of giving that is deeply engrained into the Antigua and Barbuda spirit. It also hoped that their generosity will not be lost on their colleagues in corporate Antigua and Barbuda and that some other companies will come forward and assist in their own special ways.

Antigua and Barbuda, rated as one of the most tourism-dependent countries in the world, took a severe hit from the COVID-19 pandemic. Recovery will require a national effort; that national effort begins with all eligible resident to take the vaccine. It is also dependent on the continued assistance from the corporate community putting some of their resources to the service of the nation.

As the slogan says: Each vaccinated, All protected!

EIGHTY-FOUR DAYS HOSPITALIZED WITH COVID-19,

FIFTY-SIX DAYS ON VENTILATOR - ALDO MCCOY SURVIVES AN ORDEAL OF A LIFETIME



*I'm a survivor (what),
I'm not gon' give up (what)
I'm not gon' stop (what),
I'm gon' work harder (what)
I'm a survivor (what),
I'm gonna make it (what)
I will survive (what),
keep on survivin' (what)*
After spending eighty-four days in the hospital as a COVID-19 patient, the above lyrics of the song from Destiny Child's Survivor aptly describe fifty-year-old Aldo McCoy's determi-

nation and his zest for life and for living. Now, the COVID-19 survivor is appealing to the general public to get vaccinated. On Tuesday 4th May, the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) announced that COVID-19 survivor Aldo McCoy has been released from the hospital. In a post by MSJMC, some of the medical team and staff, along with McCoy and family posed for a picture with the caption, "After being

hospitalized for 84 days and severely ill with COVID-19, Aldo McCoy has been discharged. The MSJMC team wishes Mr. McCoy a full recovery." Speaking with state media on Tuesday, Dr. Joyette Hall, a medical doctor at the MSJMC described how lucky McCoy was, after surviving COVID-19.

"He is one of our success stories. Many people who ended up with COVID, severe COVID and on the ventilator do not make it, but Aldo, he fought through," Dr. Hall said. McCoy, who is a banking professional, was in good spirits as he was wheeled out of the hospital. State media was



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on hand for media coverage of his historic discharge. He is now one of three persons to have been seriously hospitalised with COVID-19 for several months and survived. McCoy stated, "I walked in here on the 10th of February and now today is the 4th of May and now I'm in a wheelchair going out. I have lost over one hundred pounds. It's been a real tough situation." Describing his ordeal with the disease, McCoy admitted that he does not have full recollection since he was

unconscious for some time. According to hospital sources, he was placed on a ventilator for fifty-six days. "Some of it I don't remember, to be honest, seeing I was out for about three months in a vegetative state. I was told that I flat-lined a couple of times, they had to fight for my life, they had to fight for my life, and that I am grateful for, for the whole medical team," McCoy recounted. Grateful was the undertone of McCoy's interview with the press as he expressed

gratitude to the medical team and his family for helping him survive his ordeal. In expressing his gratitude, the COVID-19 survivor stated that his wife was his source of strength. "My wife has been a tower of strength. One doctor told me I made the right choice. He said my wife made the right decisions at the right times. She said I would not die. She said he will fight and I fought. That was my motivation. My motivation was for her and my son," he said with conviction.

McCoy, in high spirits, joked that eighty-four days in the hospital was too long, as he explained how happy he is to be going home. "They actually said they were going to name the ward after me, so it's time for me to go," the COVID survivor joked. Describing his ordeal was one aspect of his grand discharge from the hospital. The COVID-19 survivor also used the opportunity to appeal to the general public to get vaccinated. "Who can take the vaccine, take

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the vaccine so that you can save your life, save your neighbour's life, save your family's life because you can't see it coming, you don't know where this COVID is."

McCoy continued, "The doctors go to school to study medicine, they studied what they study; they are the experts and if they say it can work we need to try it, we need to give it a good effort. I was in banking and if I tell you about banking you would believe what I say. So let's believe the doctors and trust them."

To date, Antigua and Barbuda stands among the top countries to have rolled out their COVID-19 vaccine with just over thirty per cent of the population receiving their first dose. On Tuesday 4th May 2021, an additional one hundred and twenty persons received their

STUDENTS UNDERGO PREPARATION FOR NATIONAL ASSESSMENT EXAMS

The first in a series of workshops involving students preparing for the Grade Six National School Assessment examinations was held on Tuesday. A Ministry of Education release said the workshop covered key preparation tips, requirements and expectations of Grade Six students who will undergo the annual national assessment. "Students from Zones One, Two and Three heard from Education Officers and officials within the Measurement and Evaluation Unit of the Ministry of Education, who examined the requirements for the assessment and shared tips that will prove beneficial to public and private school students who will be tested in core subject areas. Students were also given an opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification on the upcoming assessment," the release revealed. Chairperson of the retreat, Mariella Miller, used the occasion to applaud educators and parents for their efforts in preparing the students, despite the inconveniences brought on by the COVID-19 pan-

demic. Ministry of Education officials also engaged the public and private school pupils on general exam guidelines, exam tips to boost performance, examination instructions and guidelines for navigating the various tests. Schools in Zone Four will be engaged in a similar retreat on 14th May 2021.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Minister of Education Daryl Matthew and Director of Education Clare Browne made guest appearances during the virtual event to offer best wishes to the students and encouraged them to review and adequately prepare in order to be successful. The 2021 Grade Six National Assessment will be administered on 9th and 10th June 2021 to one thousand four hundred and fifty-five students in Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science. The ministry said this activity is held each year to prepare the students for the important assessment which determines their placement within the government's secondary school system.

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“WE ARE ONE HUNDRED PER CENT COMPLIANT”

The owners/operators of the Twist Mall, located on Redcliffe Street in St. John's, say they are fully compliant with the recommendations of the Development Control Authority (DCA) which ordered the closure of the facility earlier in the year. The move brought a halt to the operations of the several businesses which ply their trade there.

“Twist Mall was required to add five new bathrooms (three standard and two wheelchair accessible), a fire escape ladder and additional fire escape markings as well as to install three new breakers in the main electrical

room and to disconnect a sewage pump installed by the mall's previous owners.

“Twist Mall was closed in mid-January by the DCA and reopened to the public on 27th April,” Twist director Brent Emanuel said.

He noted that while reopening the building was a group effort, he particularly wanted to thank the mall tenants and staff for their patience during this trying time and to thank the architect, Craig Knight Alexander, the contractors Paul Papadopoulos and Fitzroy Lavann, who were able to implement all the required building upgrades in less than ten business days.

After weeks of renovations and extensive upgrade, the operators received the green light from DCA to resume operations last week.

With the renovations and upgrade completed, Emanuel said they are looking forward to smooth operations between themselves and DCA. “We adopted all the recommendations made by the statutory body and now that we are fully compliant – one hundred per cent - we do not foresee any further issues with DCA,” he added. The spokesman also revealed that the different store owners who operated within the mall have since re-

turned and are “open for business.”

Meanwhile, a DCA spokesman confirmed to PointeXpress that following the upgrade carried at the commercial centre, the DCA has given the green light to resume operations at the mall. Emanuel also extended thanks to DCA, as well as the various agencies, including the Central Board of Health, the fire department, Public Works and the Ministry of Energy for their assistance in ensuring that the mall building met the required standards and would be as safe and welcoming as possible to the public upon reopening.



TWO HONORARY CONSULS RECEIVE LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT

Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene has presented letters of appointment to two honorary consuls to Antigua and Barbuda's.

At a brief meeting on Tuesday, Greene officially met and handed over exequaturs to Honorary Consul of France to Antigua and Barbuda, Carol Laurent, and in a separate exercise this was repeated with Honorary Consul of the United Mexican States, Dr. Vanessa Rogers.

Both honorary consuls will play a significant role in assisting the diasporas under their jurisdiction as well as maintaining healthy relationships between Antigua and Barbuda and their respective states.

A ministry official explained that exequaturs form an official recognition by a government of a consul or other representative of a foreign state,



Carol Laurent



Dr Vanessa Rogers

authorising them to exercise office. Exequaturs are issued by the receiving government, in this case Antigua and Barbuda.

The official further explained that honorary consuls are not career diplomats. They are usually citizens of the host country, where they live, work and pay taxes. They are designated by a foreign government to look after the affairs of its citizens.

Laurent was tapped by the government last year to replace Christiane Hansen as Honorary Consul of France to Antigua and Barbuda. The ministry sees the appointment of Dr Rogers as Mexico's Honorary Consul as further evidence of the close relationship between the two countries. It said relations between Antigua and Barbuda and Mexico extends beyond normal diplomacy into areas of mutual support, namely health, education, human development, and the development and management of local infrastructure.

POLICE MAKE BIG DRUG BUST, CONTINUE SEARCH FOR WANTED MAN



The police continue the search for a man for whom a wanted bulletin was issued over the weekend.

Up to late Tuesday, police spokesman, Inspector Frankie Thomas said the man – Benjamin ‘Ras’ Silcott of Cassada Gardens – has not given himself up to the authorities as he has been urged to do. The manhunt for the criminal suspect continues until he is either captured by the police or gives himself up. According to the police, Silcott is wanted in connection with several criminal offences in the Langfords



Area. He is described as slimly built, dark in complexion and about six feet, four inches in height. The police are asking members of the public not to offer aid or comfort to the wanted man as this is an offence. Meanwhile, the police are also

carrying out an investigation into a drug bust at the country's main seaport, the Deep Water Harbour last week. "The controlled drug, cannabis, weighing a total of two hundred and seventy-five pounds with a street value of over one million

dollars was seized at Deep Water Harbour on Friday 30th April 2021. "A joint anti-narcotics operation between the Narcotics, K-9 and Customs Departments discovered the illegal substance hidden inside a motor bus that was shipped

from Jamaica. The vehicle, along with the drugs, was taken to Police Headquarters, where further investigations continue," a police release stated. Inspector Thomas said the investigations into the drug bust are still active.

HALCYON STEEL ORCHESTRA ON ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The Halcyon Steel Orchestra, considered a musical giant within the Antigua and Barbuda cultural folklore, is today celebrating fifty years of providing steel pan music to the people. Halcyon Steelband has long been considered the 'pride' of the people of the Grays-Green area and it represented them well with its huge successes as a perennial winner of the steelband competition held as part of the annual carnival celebrations. Prime Minister Browne, who spent some of his formative years as a youth in the Grays-Green area, joined cultural icons across the island in expressing congratulatory mes-

sages to the members of the orchestra. In an address on the occasion of Halcyon's anniversary, PM Browne recounted the history of the steel orchestra, highlighting the chronological events leading up to their creation. "I join in celebrating fifty years of the Halcyon Steel Orchestra, founded on 5th May 1971, months following the historic February 1971 general elections. The newly elected parliamentary representative of the Rural West constituency, created a legacy by the founding of a new steel band. It was in 1949, ten years following the creation of the Antigua and Barbuda Trades and Labour Union (AT&

LU), that the first competition among steelbands took place in Antigua and Barbuda. The AT&LU saved the steel-

bands from extinction when elements in the society, as early as 1947, sought to legislate them out of existence. The up-

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per-crust elements saw them and the players as rowdy young men emitting cacophonous rhythms with little harmony, disturbing the peace. Mrs. Bertha Higgins, President of the Antigua Art Group, helped to train many of the young men leading to the 1949 competition, and so created a cadre of musicians whose progeny would cause the con-

tinuous emergence of steel pans that last, even up until today." "Twenty-two years after the 1949 competition, in 1971, the creation of the Halcyon Steel Orchestra marked a rejuvenation of steel pan throughout the land," Browne added. The country's leader went on to describe the steel orchestra's prominence in the arts and culture of Antigua

and Barbuda. "The steel band became deeply entrenched in the culture of our entire region. Halcyon Steel Orchestra would go on to win the Panorama Competition thirteen times in fifty years, including for four consecutive years—1992, '93, '94, '95. Its superb arrangements and beautiful renditions made it a winner." The prime minis-

ter continued, "The steelband encapsulates the magnificence of the inventiveness of the people of Antigua and Barbuda, and of the Caribbean." Browne ended by stating that the Halcyon Steel Orchestra captures the best in us and reflects the excellence of our creativity. Another fifty years are in its future.

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HADEED GROUP MAKES ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO VACCINATION PROGRAMME



The Hadeed Group of Companies is extending its assistance to the govern-

ment's efforts to fully vaccinate the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Following up on its major donation earlier of US\$100,000.00 towards the purchase of additional vaccines, the Hadeed Group on Tuesday presented the Ministry of Health with a Nissan refrigerated van to assist with the transportation of vaccines from the central storage area to the vaccination units.

According to Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph, currently the vehicle making deliveries to the registration



units is required to make multiple trips because there are no refrigerated vehicles in service. But, with the acquisition of the refrigerated van from the Hadeed Group, this will be a thing of the past. "Having this refrigerated truck now means that we would only have to make one trip per day to move vaccines from the storage unit to the registration centres," he remarked.

Director of the Hadeed Group, Francis Hadeed, said the Nissan refrigerated vehicle will assist the ministry in its efforts to take the vaccine to the most vulnerable in the society. He said those with mobility challenges can now be reached utilising the van.

Meanwhile, Sir Molwyn also announced that the third phase of the vaccination exercise will start in about two weeks with the administering of the second dose of the vaccine to those who received their first doses earlier alongside the administering of the first jab to those presenting themselves for the first time.

ARTON CAPITAL LAUNCHES "VACCINATE AND WIN"

COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

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**VACCINATE
AND WIN!**

1
WIN \$1500 CASH
Already Got the Vax? Encourage at least 15 persons for a chance to WIN! The person 18-35 who encourages / takes the most young people to be vaccinated between May 5 and May 12 will receive **\$1500.**

2
WIN A BRAND NEW LAPTOP
Any person between 18-35 between now and May 12 will get the chance to win a brand new Laptop. All you have to do enter is **#GetTheVax**

WHERE DO I GET VACCINATED?

- Villa Polyclinic
- Glanvilles Polyclinic
- Precision Centre
- Multipurpose Centre

MEDIA RELEASE FROM: ARTON CAPITAL

Recognising the need to hasten the pace towards herd immunity in Antigua and Barbuda, Arton Capital, an industry leader in global financial advisory and residency programmes, has joined local private and public agencies in promoting the COVID-19 Vaccine Programme. Antigua and Barbuda stands in the top twenty countries around the globe for the administra-

tion of the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines, with thirty per cent of the population receiving their first dose. However, for the twin-island state, with a population of just over one hundred thousand residents, it would require at least seventy per cent of the population fully vaccinated to achieve herd immunity. Understanding the connectivity between herd immunity and jump-starting the economy, Arton Capital is encouraging citizens and residents in Antigua and Barbuda to get vaccinated, soonest.

Adding to the call-to-action, Arton Capital has launched a “Vaccinate and Win promotion”. There are two ways to participate. If you are between eighteen to thirty-five years of age and have already gotten your first dose, all you have to do is encourage at least fifteen persons for a chance to win EC\$1,500.00.

The person, who encourages or takes the most people (eighteen to thirty-five years of age) to be vaccinated between 5th May and 12th May will receive the cash prize. You can also win a brand new laptop. Any person eighteen to thirty-five who receives their first dose between 5th May and 12th May will get a chance to win a brand new laptop.

Public health is a major concern for both the public and private sectors around the world. Through corporate social responsibility programmes, Arton continues to play a critical role in empowering people and governments where they operate. Arton Capital is encouraging all Antiguan and Barbudans to take the opportunity to get vaccinated, to protect themselves, their loved-ones, and to hasten the pace to normality.

EPICUREAN PARTNERS WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH’S VACCINATION PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Health has announced a partnership with the Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy in a “One World Protected” campaign designed at getting the Antigua and Barbuda population vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

The Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy One World Protected campaign offers a \$50 food voucher to each person receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine which is valid for the purchase of groceries at the Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy, Epicurean Drive at Jolly Harbour, Price Chopper at Woods Centre and Perry Bay Supermarket at Perry Bay. The voucher is not redeemable for cash or change and must be utilised in one transaction.

In making the announcement, Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph said that he is delighted that the Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy has come forward to support the government’s drive to reach herd immuni-

ty by offering a token to individuals who receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Getting vaccinated is not only a personal choice, but it is a choice that will impact positively on individuals, families, friends, communities and the nation of Antigua and Barbuda. The support of Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy in this public health initiative is vital to the overall wellness and development of our society,” Sir Molwyn stated.

Human Resource Administrator of Epicurean Foods and Pharmacy, Nola Clarke, said that the company recognises the importance of the nation being fully vaccinated and is delighted to support the government in offering a token to those individuals who make the responsible decision to become vaccinated. “We proudly stand resilient with the government in this fight against the COVID-19 virus,” said Clarke.

Minister Sir Molwyn Jo-

seph said that this initiative mounted by the Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy comes at an opportune time as the Ministry of Health ramps up its campaign to get more persons vaccinated. He said that he looks forward to other businesses on island partnering with the ministry to get the nation vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

In addition to the mobile vaccination unit criss-crossing the nation, vaccines are being administered at the Villa Polyclinic, the

Glanvilles Polyclinic, the Multipurpose Culture and Exhibition Center and the Precision Center in Paynters. The public vaccination sites operate on Mondays through to Fridays from 9:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Meanwhile, the public is encouraged to get vaccinated 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 normality, which will include the facil-

itation of economic, social and cultural activities and the ease of travel. Individuals who received their first dose twelve weeks ago will commence receiving their second dose this month

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment also reminds the public that pre-registration for the COVID-19 vaccine continues. For online registration, please visit www.vaccineantiguabarbuda.com and select the "Vaccine Registration" tab. Upon

clicking the tab, you will be required to fill in your general information and when completed, click "submit". Your registration is then completed. Registration call center numbers are 788-8299, 736-8295, 736-8298, 736-8299, 780-8618, 780-8652, 780-8678 and 780-8461, Mondays through to Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and closed on public holidays and weekends.

Pre-registration is vital for efficiency in the vaccination process.



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C&W COMMUNICATIONS APPOINTS SUSANNA O’SULLIVAN AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR NORTH CARIBBEAN OPERATIONS



Susanne O’Sullivan

C&W Communications (C&W), operator of Flow and BTC in the Caribbean, today announced the appointment of Susanna O’Sullivan as Vice President, North Caribbean, which includes Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks & Caicos, and St. Kitts and Nevis. Ms. O’Sullivan will also join C&W’s Executive Leadership Team succeeding Garfield “Garry” Sinclair who served in the position for the last two years. The

appointment is part of an organizational shift that also includes new roles for C&W in the Dutch Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, and the South Caribbean. Of the four new positions, two will now be held by women. Ms. O’Sullivan is an accomplished executive who started her journey with C&W in 2011 as Regional Operations Manager (B2B), then worked her way through various positions including Regional Technical Operations Manager and Senior Director, IT

for C&W. In February 2020, she became the first woman in C&W to hold the title of Senior Director of Technical Operations in charge of network transformation and customer experience for both the Jamaica and Cayman Islands markets. Inge Smidts, CEO of C&W, said, “I am delighted to appoint Susanna into this key role. She is a true testament to the wealth of talent we have within our organization and I am confident that she will bring great value to the role based on her experience and qualifications. I look forward to seeing her work with our North Caribbean team to create memorable experiences for our customers and to deliver on our business performance goals. Additionally, as we champion greater inclusion and diversity in the workplace, we are mindful of the need for more balance and female representation in our industry, and so

we are committed to appointing qualified women into leadership positions.” Ms. O’Sullivan expressed her excitement at landing the new role, commenting, “I have some big shoes to fill. Garry has been an excellent leader over the last few years for the Northern Caribbean and he has delivered exceptional results, earning the respect of his peers across the region. I know that I have Inge and Garry’s unwavering support, and the support of the other country managers and colleagues across the region, as we all work diligently to delight our customers and keep our communities connected. I am grateful to work for a company where we all have the opportunity to learn, grow, develop, and continue to take on positions with increased responsibility.” Garry Sinclair will transition into retirement later in the year.



GRENADA BANS TRAVELLERS FROM INDIA AND BRAZIL

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (CMC) — Grenada on Tuesday announced a ban on people entering the island with a travel history that includes visits to India and Brazil in the past 14 days, as it seeks to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. “This means that no one with a 14-day travel history from India or Brazil will be allowed to enter Grenada. Persons will

have to spend the relevant time in a third-party state that will allow them to enter,” Health Minister Nickolas Steele told reporters at the end of the weekly Cabinet meeting.

He said Cabinet had agreed to restrict travellers from these two countries on the advice of the COVID committee and the chief medical officer. Both countries have reported significant num-

bers of infections and deaths as a result of the virus, with India recording more than 20 million cases.

Grenada at present has one active imported asymptomatic case and, since the first person was diagnosed in March 2020, the total number of infected cases here is 161 with one death.

The island’s vaccination programme, which began on February 12, is

ongoing and the authorities have reported that more than 13,000 people have received the first dose while more than 3,000 are fully vaccinated using the AstraZeneca vaccine.

But the health officials have openly expressed concern about the slow pace of vaccination which is provided for every citizen above the age of 18.



President of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA), Clifton Reader.

Low COVID-19 positivity rate in tourism sector, says JHTA

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica (Jamaica Observer) — President of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA), Clifton Reader, says there continues to be a low COVID-19 positivity rate across accommodations and attractions in the country. In a JIS interview, he said that based on test results for tourists and staff, figures are showing that there is a less than one percent positivity rate in the tourism sector. “The level of positivity is so low, and we have the figures. The fact is that when tested, every single guest going back to the US, the figures prove that it is basically less than one percent positivity rate,” Reader explained.

He credited the widespread implementation of COVID-19 health and safety protocols in the sector for the continued low rate. These protocols, which are being promoted in the sector under the COVID-19 Ambassador Programme, focus on the four pillars –wearing of masks, sanitisation, physical distancing and washing of hands. “We still don’t forget the four pillars because they are very important and as you know, even when you get vaccinated, we still want them to wear the masks, we still want them to physically distance, because they can still transmit,” Reader pointed out. The COVID-19 Ambassador Programme was

launched by the JHTA in October 2020 and targets hotel staff and guests, as well as com-

munities in and around the various tourism corridors, on the practice of the four pillars.

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As we fight the spread of COVID-19 we stand together with resilience.
All vaccinated All protected.

SIR GARFIELD PAID TRIBUTE DURING ONLINE EVENT



Sir Garfield Sobers

Barbados Advocate - Tributes, well-wishes and gratitude were all poured out in torrents on National Heroes' Day as support came from far and wide for the Rt. Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers. During a special online tribute hosted by the Consulate General of Barbados in New York, the island's only living hero, whose achievements and accolades continue to be immortalised to this day, was toasted and honoured by his loved ones and many of his adoring fans. The hours-long event, which was streamed to hundreds via Zoom, was officially opened by Consul General Mackie

Holder who had nothing but praise for Sir Gary. Having been bestowed monikers such as the G.O.A.T. (greatest of all time) and the greatest cricketer on Earth or Mars, Sobers needs very little introduction, and Holder spoke to how one man seemed to carry the hopes and dreams of an entire region on his shoulders. "Sir Garth, as he was called, created a kind of ecstasy in the land when things were going great, as they normally did with him playing, and a true sense of sorrow on the occasions he and the West Indies failed. It was as if in him was concentrated the whole of Barba-

dos' hopes and dreams. And it delivered on our hopes and dreams with such magnificence that he soared to unforeseen stratospheric heights, and took along cricket, which has never been as popular and, of course, Barbados," he said. Going on to say that it was mind-blowing that someone of his ilk could have come from Barbados 50 years ago, Holder illustrated just how difficult it was to describe the majesty of the man. "To me, trying to capture the sheer combination of skills of Sobers, the consistency of excellence on the field, how he made the never-achieved look simple,

is like trying to describe nature. You are doomed to come up short. No matter how much you see nature unfolding, we are constantly mesmerised by its intricacies and beauty. That is Gary Sobers. Like nature, one of a kind," he said, adding that there were few who wore greatness as well. Noting that many persons in Barbados and the Caribbean were unable to understand the gift we were given in Sir Garfield, Holder said what we did benefit from was that he served as an inspiration to many. "Everyone knows he was a cricketing genius. For me, though, Garry was transcendent in how he created pride among us all and shaped critical aspects of our culture, including that any Barbadian could aspire to greatness and excellence should be our watchword. There was something about his walk, the raised collar, the open shirt and just how imperious he moved on the field, leaving no one in any doubt who was King [of] Cricket." (MP)

SPECTACULAR MUDFLOWS AT LA SOUFRIERE VOLCANO

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (CMC) — La Soufriere Volcano has been displaying “spectacular” mudflows over the past 24 hours, but scientists say the seismic activity has remained low since the tremor associated with the explosion and ash venting on April 22. Seismologist Roderick Stewart, speaking on the state-owned NBC Radio, on Tuesday, said the seismic network recorded signals from multiple lahars (mud flows) for a period of about six hours on Monday. “The lahars seem to have been spectacular again ... A couple of my colleagues were up there when it was happening ... They said at one point there

were boulders that were five meters in diameter, that is 15-foot diameter boulders, being rolled down by the lahars. “It was taking trees down ... and like the ones we saw last week Thursday ... the steam was indicating that there was hot water in there. So they were very spectacular and very damaging,” he said, adding that the nearby rivers were flooded as a result. The scientists said the lahars most likely took place in all the valleys around La Soufriere with the most intense lahars occurring around midday on Monday. Stewart said measurements of the sulphur dioxide (SO₂) flux at La Soufri-

ere yielded an average SO₂ flux of 1,036 tonnes per day. Stewart said the existing “quietude” at the volcano should not be used by persons to return en-masse to the disaster zones, adding, “We have to be careful to what we refer to as quietude. “Seismically, yes it is quiet, but we did a number of gas measurements on Monday and that is showing over a 1,000 tonnes of sulphur dioxide per day. That is a big number, so the volcano is seriously putting out gas and we really need to get a look into the crater to see exactly what’s going on. “So, until we get more information we will not be in a position

to say we can have a total relaxation. As we discussed yesterday, that doesn’t stop us allowing things into the Orange Zone. The Red Zone still has to be a no-go area,” he told radio listeners. Stewart said while it is understandable that human beings would want to get back to their homes, a form of normalcy since the volcano erupted explosively on April 9, “We cannot rule out the possibility of more explosions happening.” Stewart said unless the SO₂ gas is reduced to less than 100 tonnes per day, there is still a need to closely monitor the volcano.





Bill and Melinda Gates agreed 'separation contract' before announcing divorce

Bill and Melinda Gates in happier times

BBC World News - Bill and Melinda Gates agreed how to divide their property and assets before announcing their divorce on Monday, US media report.

The billionaire couple, who have been married for 27 years, reportedly signed a separation contract outlining how their estate would be split.

But they did not sign a pre-nuptial agreement before their wedding in 1994.

The couple run the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has spent billions on charitable causes around the world.

They have pledged to continue to work together

at the foundation once their divorce is finalised.

Bill Gates, 65, is the fourth wealthiest person in the world, according to Forbes, and is worth \$124bn (£89bn).

He made his money through the firm he co-founded in the 1970s, Microsoft, which is the world's biggest software company. The couple's estate is believed to include multi-million dollar properties in Washington, Florida and Wyoming. Their main residence is a lakeside mansion in Medina, Washington that is reported to be worth at least \$127m.

The couple filed for di-

vorce at a court in Seattle on Monday, according to documents obtained by a number of US media outlets and published by the TMZ website.

"This marriage is irretrievably broken," the petition for divorce states. "We ask the court to dissolve our marriage."

It says the couple's property, business interests and assets should be divided "as set forth in our separation contract". That contract, however, has not been made public.

The pair have three adult children and spousal support is not needed, the documents state.

They have each hired

three lawyers to represent them. The lawyers for Melinda, 56, include Robert Cohen who has previously worked for clients such as Ivana Trump, Michael Bloomberg and Chris Rock.

Bill, meanwhile, has hired three lawyers based in Los Angeles.

The pair announced their divorce in joint statements posted on Twitter on Monday, saying, "We no longer believe we can grow together as a couple.

"After a great deal of thought and a lot of work on our relationship, we have made the decision to end our marriage," they said.

Egyptian court rejects appeal against detention of ship in Suez Canal



Ship Ever Given, is still being held by Egyptian Authorities after it was refloated in March

An Egyptian court on Tuesday ruled that the container ship which blocked the Suez Canal in March could continue to be held in the waterway, rejecting an appeal by its Japanese owner against its detention, a judicial source said. The Ever Given

en, one of the world's largest container ships, got jammed across the canal on March 23 and remained stuck for six days, stopping traffic in both directions. It has been held in a lake between two stretches of the canal since being dislodged on March 29, amid a dispute

over a \$916 million claim by the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) against Japanese owner Shoei Kisen for compensation over the incident. The SCA has been conducting investigations into the cause of the ship's grounding, but has yet to announce the results. The court in the Suez Canal

city of Ismailia, which had approved the detention of the ship following the submission of a report by the SCA, upheld that decision on Tuesday, rejecting an appeal made late last month. The reasoning for the ruling was not immediately clear, but the SCA argued that the plaintiff had not notified all the required parties of its challenge to the ship's detention within the required time limit. The ship's protection and indemnity insurer, UK Club, said the owners were reviewing their options in light of the decision, and had until May 20 to appeal.

UK Club and the Ever Given's technical manager, Bernhard Schulte Ship Management (BSM), have expressed disappointment at the ship's detention. UK Club said last month the appeal was made "on several grounds, including the validity of the arrest obtained in respect of the cargo and the lack of supporting evidence for the SCA's very significant claim". International supply chains were thrown into disarray when the 400-metre (430-yard) Ever Given ran aground in the canal, with 18,300 containers on board.



India Covid: Opposition calls for full national lockdown

BBC World News - India's main opposition party has called for a full national lockdown, shortly after the country passed more than 20 million Covid-19 infections.

There has been a "virtual collapse of health services" and a lockdown is needed to "break the chain", a spokesman for the Congress Party said.

The prime minister is resisting the move due to the economic impact.

India added more than 355,000 cases on Tuesday, down from more than 400,000 daily infections on 30 April.

Cases are "slowing down", the government said, but testing num-

bers have also dipped, meaning the true case-load could be far higher.

"We are now forced - there is no option - [we] will have to resort to a national lockdown to break the chain, to restore some order in the health services," Pawan Khera, a spokesman for the opposition Congress Party told the BBC on Tuesday.

Rahul Gandhi, a senior Congress leader, said there was no other way to stop the spread of the virus.

Calls for a second national lockdown have also come from business leaders, international health experts and other senior politicians.

Members of India's Covid-19 taskforce, which advises the central government, are "pushing hard" for a two-week lockdown, The Indian Express reported.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, America's top public health expert, described the situation as "extremely serious" and said a nationwide lockdown was needed alongside a massive vaccination drive and the construction of makeshift hospitals.

The decision to impose restrictions in India is made by individual state authorities rather than the central government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said

that states should only consider restrictions as "a last option".

But many states have still introduced restrictions. The northern state of Bihar is the latest to have announced a full lockdown; while the capital, Delhi, and the financial hub, Mumbai, are also under restrictions.

Prime Minister Modi was heavily criticised last year for imposing a nationwide lockdown with less than four hours' notice. It caused a humanitarian crisis as tens of thousands of migrant workers were left without work and forced to walk hundreds of kilometres to their home villages.

Mexico promises answers after metro train collapse kills 24

Mexico will find out who was responsible for an overpass collapse that killed at least 24 people and injured dozens more when a train on Mexico City's newest metro line plunged onto a busy road below, the government said on Tuesday.

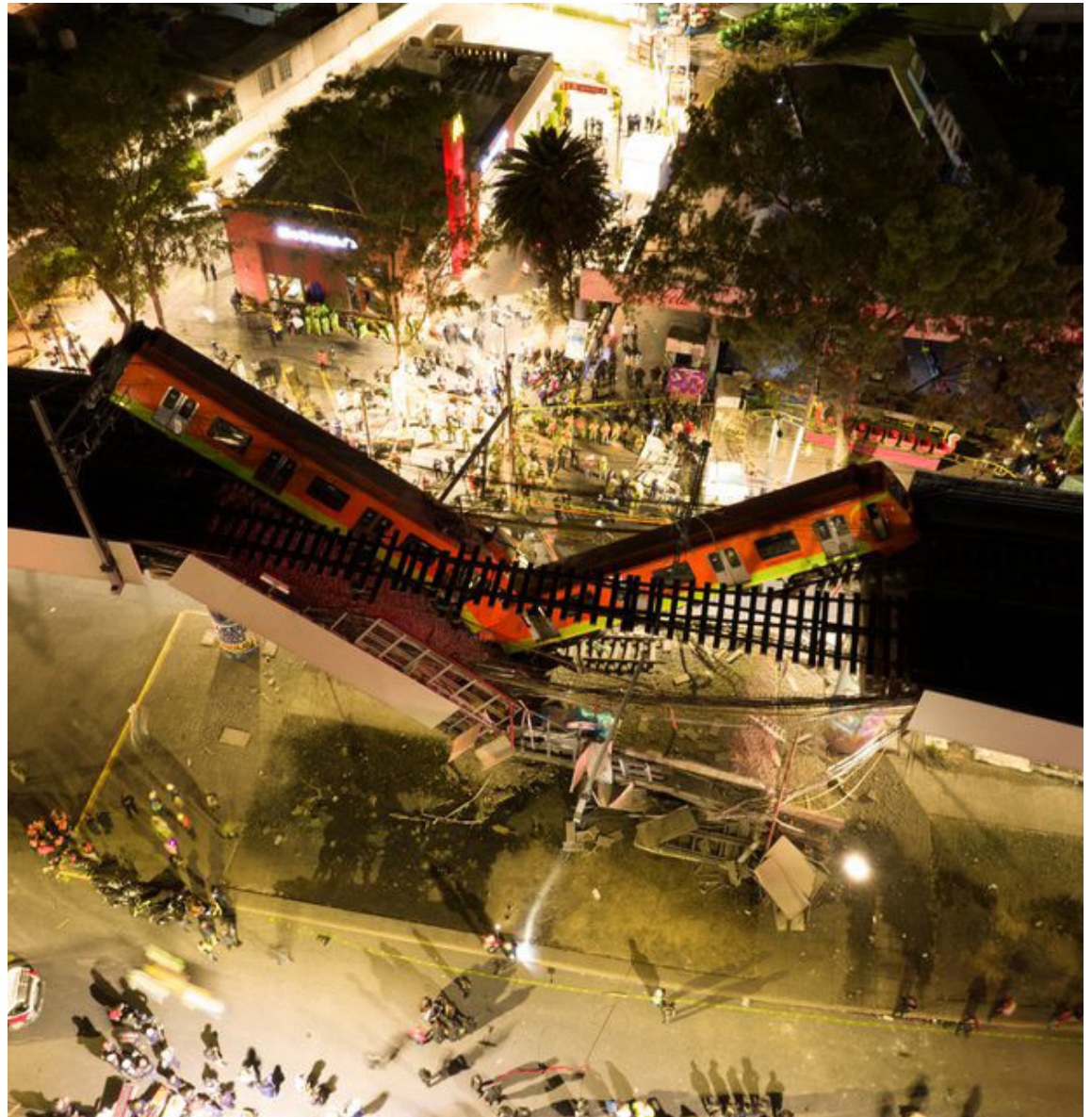
Mexican president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said the investigation should be done quickly and that nothing should be hidden from the public.

"There's no impunity for anyone," he told a news conference.

The crash has raised questions about safety on one of the world's busiest metro systems, which spreads across an urban sprawl home to over 20 million people. The city has been governed since the turn of the century by former mayor Lopez Obrador and his allies.

Firefighters using heavy chains to stabilize the site pulled bodies and survivors from the wreckage. Some 79 people were injured, including three children, authorities said.

Video on social media showed the moment when the overpass plummeted onto a stream of cars near the Olivos station in the southeast of the city at around 10:30 p.m. (0330 GMT on Tuesday), sending up clouds of dust



A general view of the damage caused after a railway overpass and train collapsed onto a busy road in Mexico City

and sparks. Monserrat, 26, said she was at the back of the train wagon when she heard a loud noise and the lights went out. "Everybody screamed and we fell on top of each other," she told Mexican radio, speaking from the Belisario Dominguez hospital where she was receiving treatment for an injured rib. Workers on Tuesday hoisted one of two

train cars dangling from the bridge using several cranes and slowly lowered it close to the ground. Twisted pieces of metal could be seen inside.

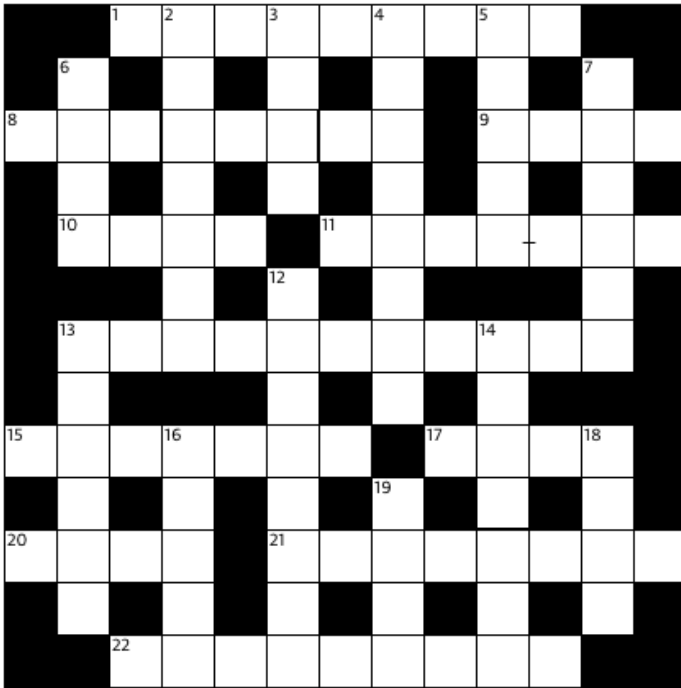
It was the second serious accident this year, after a fire at a central control building knocked out service on several lines for weeks. The overpass that collapsed was part of Linea 12, an addition to the

network finished less than a decade ago and long-plagued by allegations of corruption.

Four people who live in the area told Reuters they observed the support structures below the elevated tracks visibly shaking when trains crossed. Some recalled warnings about the humid soil being unfit for major construction.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Speedy crossword No 1,335



Across

- 1 Symbol for the word "and" (9)
- 8 Intermittently (3,3,2)
- 9 Quote (4)
- 10 Freshwater fish (4)
- 11 Panacea (4-3)
- 13 Streamlined (11)
- 15 White of an egg (7)
- 17 Off-straight (4)
- 20 Killer whale (4)
- 21 Moment of revelation (8)
- 22 Anyhow (9)

Down

- 2 Wander at random (7)
- 3 Whirlpool (4)
- 4 Positive, optimistic (8)
- 5 Suitable position (5)
- 6 Some way away (4)
- 7 Letter in sloping script (6)
- 12 Indolence (8)
- 13 Attraction, fascination (6)
- 14 Strike while the iron is hot (4,3)
- 16 Edict, decree (5)
- 18 Become weaker (4)
- 19 Prospect; opinion (4)



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.



<p>Wed 05 Day</p> <p>29° </p> <p>Partly cloudy. High 29°C. Winds ENE at 15 to 30 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 68% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 05:39 Sunset 18:28</p>	<p>Wed 05 Night</p> <p>24° </p> <p>Partly cloudy. Low 24°C. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 78% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 01:58 Moonset 13:42</p> <p>● Waning Crescent</p>
<p>Thu 06 Day</p> <p>28° </p> <p>Generally clear. High 28°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 68% UV Index Extreme</p> <p>Sunrise 05:39 Sunset 18:28</p>	<p>Thu 06 Night</p> <p>24° </p> <p>Generally clear. Low 24°C. Winds E at 15 to 25 km/h.</p> <p>Humidity 74% UV Index 0 of 10</p> <p>Moonrise 02:36 Moonset 14:32</p> <p>● Waning Crescent</p>



COMICS

Dilbert

May 04, 2021



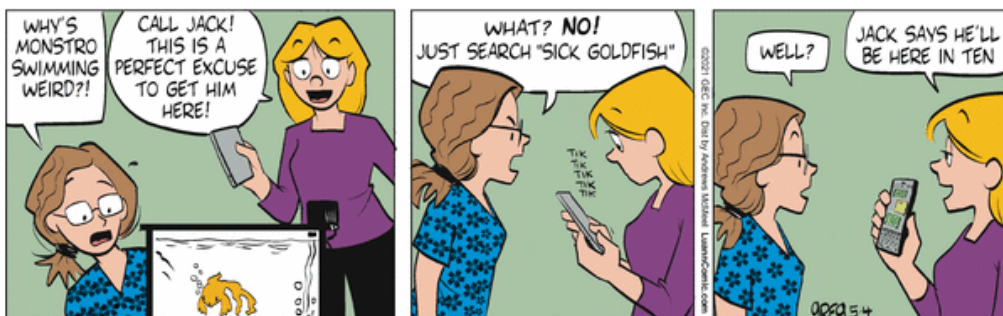
Garfield

May 04, 2021



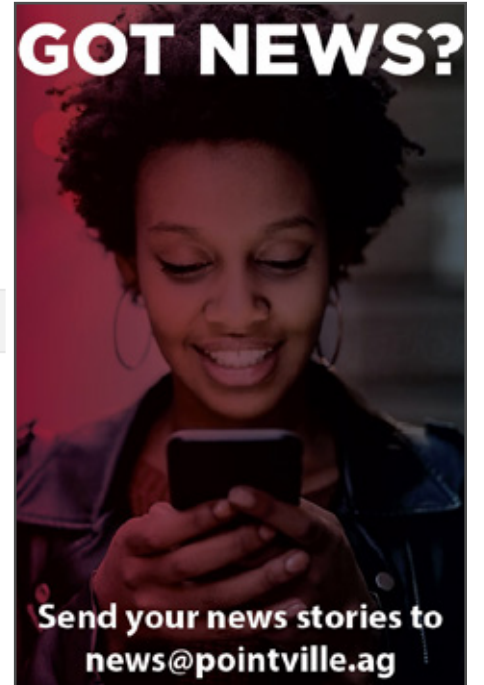
Luann

May 04, 2021



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COACH WALSH WANTS CONSISTENCY

SportsWorld - Courtney Walsh is hoping the West Indies Women's batters would be more consistent as he gets ready to put them through their paces at the second month-long preparatory camp ahead of this year's World Cup, starting Sunday at Antigua's Coolidge Cricket Ground. Walsh, appointed head coach late last year and having already conducted an initial get-together in January, said this expanded 30-player set-up will focus on trying to make the 'run-scorers' more consistent. "It's an area we'll focus on," the ex-great Windies pacer told a media conference via Zoom on Friday ahead of the camp. "We need more batters to perform at a consistent level, not just to depend on two-three players." He said they'll also concentrate

on "technical coaching ... (which) was started during the last camp ... we will continue in this camp." Walsh bemoaned the negative impact the novel coronavirus pandemic has been having on the entire programme, which resulted in no competitive matches last year, and has severely restricted the development programmes in all territories. "Everything is not going to happen right away because I can't see the players as much as I would want because of the pandemic. "The local programmes in each territory have been affected. There's hardly anything going on in Barbados. The Trinidad players did some work. But there was rain in Guyana. Now the volcano in St Vincent has impacted those players there. St. Lucia got some

stuff done, so too did Jamaica. The Leewards have not had a chance to do much." "With no opportunity to play practice matches against men's teams because of strict 'bubble' requirements, the players will have to resort to competing among themselves. "Since we can't play matches, we plan to have match-scenarios in the camp," he said, hinting that "a tour could take place" sometime during the year ahead of the Women's Cricket World Cup in October. The thought of pitting skills against an Antiguan male age-group team was entertained but COVID regulations negated it. "It is something I wanted to put in place, but because of the pandemic it is not applicable for this time. But it's something we want to try to get

back on track," the taker of 519 wickets in 132 Test matches at an average of 24.44 said. A few players who have been injured have also been included in the squad to monitor their rehabilitation status. "(Deandra) Dottin is still doing rehab. Kycia Knight is back in the set-up (after injury). Others have niggles and stuff like that. Shakera Selman and Chinelle Henry are also returning from injury," he said.

Because of the injury issues, Walsh said, the squad was widened to include eight uncapped players who will be assessed, including two teenagers. "Before the World Cup we need to see more players," he added. Rashada Williams is one of the newbies and Walsh thinks she's one for the future.



WELCOME TO TOP 10, MELO:

ELITE NBA SCORING LIST ADDS ANTHONY

ATLANTA (AP) — Carmelo Anthony looked like he was all done just a couple of seasons ago. Now he's part of a truly exclusive club in the NBA.

Welcome to the Top 10, Melo. Anthony scored 14 points Monday night in Portland's 123-114 loss to the Atlanta Hawks, moving him past Elvin Hayes for 10th place on the career scoring list with 27,318. "If you're in the top 10 of anything of all time, it's a special moment," said Anthony, who is in his 18th NBA season and turns 37 before the month is

out. Anthony cruised past Hayes early in the second quarter, hitting a 3-pointer while getting fouled by Danilo Gallinari and knocking down the free throw to complete a 4-point play. Anthony was fully aware of how many points he needed to surpass Hayes.

"I knew this moment," he said. "I didn't know those other moments — 15, 13, 11. But 10 is something I knew." It appeared Anthony was headed for a forced retirement after he played just 10 games during the 2018-19 season. He parted

ways with Houston, was waived by Chicago, and didn't hook up with Portland until the next season was several weeks old. Even though he went more than a year without playing a game, Anthony found new life and a new role with the Trail Blazers. A starter his entire career, he is coming off the bench now, playing a supporting role to younger stars — players who still look up to him — such as Damian Lillard.

"Being in the top 10 is a really special accomplishment," Lillard said. "For him, it's

probably a little more special. A lot of people counted him out and tried to finish him."

During his time with the Trail Blazers, Anthony has passed nine players on the career scoring list.

He knocked off Alex English, Kevin Garnett, John Havlicek and Paul Pierce last season. He has taken down Tim Duncan, Dominique Wilkins, Oscar Robertson, Hakeem Olajuwon and now Hayes this season.

Next up for Anthony: Moses Malone at 27,409 points.



KADEEM GETS ENGLAND STINT

SportsWorld - One of Antigua & Barbuda's promising young batsmen has been rewarded with an opportunity to play league cricket in England.

Kadeem Henry, ex-Leeward Islands Youth opener, is accompanying coach Robert Joseph on an initial four-month assignment in the English minor leagues. Henry has been practicing under Joseph's guidance for the past few months in Antigua, and the former Kent and Leicestershire

professional thinks the 20-year-old is ready to test his skills in unpredictable conditions. SportsWorld editor Colin James asked Joseph a few questions before they departed last Thursday. CJ: Give us an account on what you'll be doing in England and which club you'll be attached to. RJ: I am at Marshfield CC in Wiltshire where Kadeem will be playing. I'm the head cricket professional player coach.

CJ: How will this experience

improve Kadeem's game? RJ: The opportunity will provide much-needed experience in English conditions along with the opportunity for him to experience a different culture and way to play the game. CJ: How do you assess his game presently and where does he need to improve? RJ: His game is in a good place. There is evidence that the work he has been doing with his coach, Winston Benjamin, is setting a good foundation for his

further development. Going to England will highlight his strength and present potential for further improvements. Henry joins another six starlets from the twin-island, including a lone female who is in England at different minor league clubs. The latest is Ishmel Peters, a medium-pace bowling all-rounder. His coach, Winston Benjamin, thinks he's a talented prospect, but with some work to do.

DEWS



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