

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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MJOLNIR MESSIAH

IS THE TOP STUDENT
FOR CSEC, 2020

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BARS AND CLUBS TO BEGIN REOPENING NEXT WEEK

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EDITORIAL

VACCINATION PROGRAMME AT THE CROSSROADS

After a very promising start towards the end of February and well into the month of March, the vaccination roll-out exercise had gathered momentum with up to two thousand individuals presenting themselves to be vaccinated in a single day.

Antigua and Barbuda had reached a higher rate of distribution and uptake than any other country in the Caribbean at that point. We were all certain that at the current pace of the first few weeks of the roll out, the country would have achieved the state of 'herd immunity' by the month of June.

Unfortunately, there was one major factor over which the country had absolutely no control: availability of the vaccine. The government of India, in a remarkable demonstration of generosity, made available to several Caribbean countries varying amounts of doses of

the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. Here in Antigua and Barbuda our amount was forty thousand. With the uncertainty over when additional vaccines would arrive, and recognising that each person needed two shots of the vaccine to be fully inoculated, just over twenty-six thousand doses of the vaccine were administered. Additional vaccines did arrive, but not before the exercise was placed on a hiatus to await those vaccines. During this period of a lull in the roll-out, an aggressive misinformation campaign was launched, exploiting the fears and uncertainties about vaccines generally among many in the community.

Admittedly, much of this misinformation has caught root and has resulted in a higher than expected number of people who have decided to opt out of the exercise and who are refus-

ing to be vaccinated.

It is inevitable, some may say, that there appears to be some political mischief making that has somehow been able to wound its way into the misinformation and the sowing of seeds of doubt. Much as it is widely accepted that the vaccination exercise is in the best interest of the country and at least in their public discourses politicians of all colours and hues have voiced support for the programme, one wonders if perchance there are not those who view a potential failure of the roll-out as an opportunity to score political points. It really is a sad day that in matters as fundamental to the well-being of the country there may be some people who are playing on the genuine concerns of some people to achieve a political outcome.

It bears repeating that Antigua and Barbuda is

among the top ten most tourism-dependent countries in the world. In this edition of the paper is an article quoting the chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association stating unequivocally that potential visitors are inquiring about the rate of vaccination in the country as well as the status of people at the various properties.

This is not a game! Tourism is this country's lifeblood. The pandemic has caused severe harm to the industry and to the country generally. Our only way of returning to positive economic growth that benefits all is by up to seventy per cent of the adult population being vaccinated. This is not a scare tactic! This is not a joke; the nation stands at the crossroads of development or economic depression. How we decide collectively will determine the path we take!



MJOLNIR MESSIAH

IS THE TOP STUDENT FOR CSEC, 2020

Seventeen-year-old Academy sat and Mjolnir Messiah is passed twenty-one been named Antigua subjects, securing and Barbuda's Top sixteen Grade Ones Student for the Ca- and five Grade Twos. ribbean Secondary "In everything that Education Certificate comes with the de- (CSEC) for the year sired outcomes is the 2020. result of much hard

Messiah, a former work and dedication. student of St. Joseph's First, I must thank



God for his blessings and guidance as well as my teachers and parents for the support that they gave me as these efforts allowed me to do well in my exams," he told PointeXpress newspaper.

Messiah said he kept his focus on his studies and while he engages in extra-curricular activities, he strongly believes that there must be a balance between those activities and his studies. "Nothing comes easy in life. You have to put your best foot forward and work towards your goal. Once you have the drive to do well and you focus, everything else will

fall into line," he added.

He also reported that he intends to pursue a career in medicine, with a specialisation in pathology.

Director of Education, Clare Browne, on Thursday morning contacted Mjolnir's mother, Natasha Messiah, with the exciting news and conveyed congratulations on behalf of the ministry.

"I am thrilled to applaud Mjolnir Messiah on his outstanding achievement at the 2020 CSEC examinations. Make no mistake about it, even as I celebrate with him today, I make bold to say that I expect to hear

of his non-stop advancement well into the far flung future," Browne stated.

"I applaud his parents whose love and support have assisted in creating that enabling environment that has propelled him to this academic apex."

The faculty of St. Joseph's Academy has also been singled out by the director for the role it has played in Messiah's achievements.

"SJA has maintained an academic excellence and competitive will, which have placed it among the top secondary institutions in Antigua and Barbuda and the region. With-

out a doubt, SJA has continued to impact the educational landscape of our nation in indelible ways," director Clare Browne declared.

Mjolnir Messiah is currently enrolled in the baccalaureate programme offered by Island Academy.

J'Shawni Vickery of St. Joseph's Academy was named most outstanding student in second place and Ajonte Josiah, Baptist Academy of Antigua in third place.

The CSEC modified examinations were administered by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) from 13th July to 4th August 2020.

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CABINET MEMBERS FULLY VACCINATED

On the heels of healthcare workers receiving their second dose of the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine, members of Cabinet gathered at the Office of the Prime Minister to receive their second dose, officially making them fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Their vaccination took place with the presence of the media in an effort to help inspire the general population to get vaccinated. According to the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, "Health officials are reminding members of the pub-

lic that it is important to obtain the second dose to increase the efficacy of the vaccine and boost protection against COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine prevents serious illness, hospitalisation, and death." Dr. Courtney Lewis, Medical Director of Dr. Lewis Medical and Associates, issued a public service announcement reminding the public to get vaccinated. "Getting your second dose ensures you get your maximum protection against COVID-19 as well as the longest protective

effects of the vaccine. I am also imploring our young adults to go out and get vaccinated. We can't get to herd immunity without you." Dr. Lewis said. The general public is asked to pay attention to dates given within their vaccination card for their second dose. A subsequent announcement will be made for the second dose schedule for uniformed bodies and targeted groups. To date, Antigua and Barbuda has vaccinated over thirty thousand citizens and residents.

CAUTIOUS CARNIVAL RESUMPTION TWO MONTHS FROM NOW

By Shelton Daniel

A tentative and test-the-waters resumption of Carnival festivities is contemplated for Antigua and Barbuda this year.

But it will depend on

adherence to protective measures against COVID-19 that have been proposed and agreed to by authorities and organisers of mass crowd events.

During this week's post-Cabinet briefing it

was disclosed that "promoters of Carnival fetes and other kinds of large-group entertainment events were invited to Cabinet [at its weekly meeting on Wednesday] by the Minister responsible for the Creative

Industries [Hon. Daryl Matthew] in order to seek approval for ... conducting of ... large public gatherings in the months ahead, especially at Carnival."

According to the post-Cabinet briefing



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notes circulated by Office of the Prime Minister, “The promoters agreed that vaccination of the promoters, their patrons, and their guest artistes is a prerequisite to holding those parties and fetes during the Carnival holiday period and beyond ... After intense discussions, it was agreed that a vaccine regime for all fans and events’ organisers, requiring the presentation of vaccine certificates and a government-issued identification, in order to enter.”

The statement added that, “Tickets are to be purchased in advance of the events and the names of the purchasers and the date of their vaccination must be provided in order to purchase the tickets. There will be no

switching and the patrons will be provided coloured bracelets upon entry to ensure that they can mingle freely while obeying the protocols established.”

Alluding to a definite timeline taking this major step to some resumption of normality, following the suffocating restrictions occasioned by the pandemic since March 2020, the statement announced thus: “If all the systems are put in place, the first of these events will take place on July 16, 2021, the start of the Carnival season. Everyone is encouraged to be vaccinated, and everyone [intending] to attend these fetes must also be vaccinated almost immediately and not await the days before the events.”

During the live post-Cabinet me-

dia briefing on Thursday morning, Information Minister Melford Nicholas provided some further elaboration.

“We are satisfied now that the promoters are indeed aligned in their efforts and their approach, and in the observance of the protocols, to ensure that the first of those events – all things being considered equal – could be staged as early as mid-July ... This will be a first case and a test which will not involve extremely large numbers. The optimal number will be about three hundred in the first instance.”

Nicholas added that this would help “to make a determination as to how large these events could become as more and more persons become vaccinated.”



Bars and clubs to begin reopening next week



By Shelton Daniel

Owners of alcohol-serving bars and clubs can breathe a sigh of relief that the long period of forced closure they have had to endure because of the COVID-19 pandemic is about to be lifted.

This is according to a statement issued on Thursday morning by the Cabinet of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, following the

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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Cont'd on pg 9

apex executive body's weekly meeting the previous day.

The post-Cabinet briefing notes state that, "Bars and clubs will open next Wednesday, May 19, 2021." It explained that this was the result of operators "having assured the Ministry of Health, the Chief Health Inspector and other enforcement agencies that all the protocols agreed-to are in place and obeyed. Several meetings have been held with the owners of the bars and they have put forward acceptable arrangements, the basis of which provides them the opportunity to open."

These "acceptable arrangements" include all the bar and club

operators being vaccinated; patrons complying with all requirements for temperature checks, hand-washing and sanitisation; and physical distancing facilitated by the separated placement of tables and chairs.

The grant of reopening comes with a warning that, "Those bars found to be in violation of the rules will have their liquor licenses revoked, and will be compelled to shut down for long periods."

Speaking on this subject during the live post-Cabinet media briefing on Thursday morning, Information Minister Melford Nicholas pointed out that the reopening is expected to take place "on a gradual basis"

as bars and clubs implement and demonstrate compliance with agreed measures for applying and upholding the safety protocols.

"If the bar ... operators are not vaccinated they will not be permitted to operate ... This is a prerequisite step for any of these operations to go into effect again," Nicholas stated bluntly.

He further explained that the permitted reopening of bars will not result in any modification of the existing curfew hours.

"The curfew times continue to be from 11:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. on a daily basis, and that has not yet been changed ..." he declared.

However, the time-

line for reopening bars may not coincide with the three-month window within which persons who have already received their first-dose inoculation would have been eligible for the second – which is necessary for someone to be considered fully vaccinated; after which an additional two weeks after the second jab is medically indicated for the attainment of immunity.

It is therefore likely that the bar owners/operators who seek to avail themselves of this grant to reopen may in fact, at this stage, be only partially immunised. But further clarification of this is expected to be provided in the coming days.

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Soup Kitchen Gets \$40,000 Boost for Feeding Programme

The Soup Kitchen, one of the island's premier social protection initiatives for the vulnerable on the streets of St. John's, has received a major boost in its meals outreach programme.

On Wednesday, the Student Government Association at the American University of Antigua (AUA), donated fifteen thousand United States dollars (forty thousand East-



Ag Insepector Veldon Ragguette, founder of the Soup Kitchen and Nikita Shibalsan, President of Student Government Association, AUA



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Ag Insepector Veldon Ragguette, founder of the Soup Kitchen and Nikita Shibalsan, President of Student Government Association, AUA and Vernon Salmon, Vice President, Dean of Students' Affairs of AUA

ern Caribbean dollars) to The Soup Kitchen to aid in the development and continuity of the daily feeding programme. Ag Insepector Veldon Ragguette, the founder of The Soup Kitchen located on lower All Saints Road, explained that the programme provides free, wholesome meals for approximately sixty-five people a day. They are some of the country's most vulnerable, living on the streets or in impoverished living conditions.

"Each one can feed one" is a mantra The Soup Kitchen is said to live by, guided by the

idea that ending hunger is possible with the help of everyone, Ragguette noted.

The donation was handed over in a brief ceremony at the AUA campus. According to Ragguette, "We say a major thank you to Nikita Shibalsan, President of Student Government Association, AUA, who presented the cheque to us. The care demonstrated by the student government is a good example of the future leaders they will become. Gratitude is also expressed to Vernon Salmon, Vice-President, Dean of Affairs of AUA, Dara George-

John, and Sharon Brusck for helping to facilitate this. The Soup Kitchen, notwithstanding the harsh economic conditions the pandemic has brought, will continue to provide free, wholesome meals to those most in need. The Soup Kitchen wishes to express profound gratitude to the students, staff, and administration of AUA for making this timely and impressive contribution to the feeding programme." The founder went on to state, "This grand donation reminds me of the quote from Melody Beattie which states, 'gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.'" "The Soup Kitchen is eternally grateful for all the support, well wishes, and kind gestures AUA, citizens, and private sector businesses, have shown to the initiative," Ragguette continued. The Soup Kitchen serves lunch seven days a week, Sunday to Sunday, offering members of the public the opportunity to play their part in civic responsibility.

ANTIGUA POWER COMPANY WINS TENDER TO SUPPLY CLEAN-ENERGY POWER PLANT

The Antigua Power Company Limited (APC) has been awarded the contract to supply the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) with the country's first clean-energy power plant.

APUA sources said APC was among several entities which submitted bids in a tendering process administered by the Antigua and Barbuda Tender's Board. The APC proposal was selected by the board as the 'preferred bidder' and best suited for the country at this time.

The sources said that while the Tenders Board recommended the APC proposal, no final contract has been signed with the company as the recommendations are that further negotiations take place between APUA and the company.

Under the contract, APC will construct a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant to generate power which APUA will purchase at an agreed rate. LNG is de-



scribed as the cleanest of the fossil fuel energy sources as it does not do as much harm to the environment as heavy fuel and diesel, both of which are currently used to produce electricity in the country at the moment. It will also be the first plant of its kind to be in operation within the OECS. LNG is available from

a variety of sources, including Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and the United States.

The APUA sources say it is too early to say how the operation of this plant will affect the cost of electricity in the country as these are matters still to be negotiated.

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.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

REGISTRATION SECTION:
Hodges Bay & Thibous

BLOCK:
43 1896A

PARCEL:
643

Parcel No. 643 of Block No. 43 1896A is bounded by the following:
On the North by: Parcel 560 ;
On the South by: Public Road;
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Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos
Licensed Auctioneer

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IT'S TEACHERS' APPRECIATION DAY MAY 14, 2021



Today, 14th May 2021 is Teachers' Appreciation Day! A time when the society pauses to pay homage to members of this noble profession. This year, as has been the norm for the past several years, the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) and the Ministry of Education are taking part in an appreciation luncheon for over twenty teachers who are either retiring from the profession or who have completed over twenty-five years of service to teaching. The celebration of teachers forms part of

the activities marking Teachers Week 2021. In prepared remarks to be delivered to the function today, Director of Education, Clare Browne, is commending all teachers for the yeoman service they provided the nation in this its time of challenge caused by the coronavirus pandemic. "The Annual Week of Activities of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers is taking place within a context of national, regional and global uncertainties resulting from the effects of the

COVID-19 pandemic, but its excellent execution is yet another demonstration that amidst the uncertainties, there are possibilities - the contagions of hope that create pathways into a brighter future," he observed. Browne also spoke highly of the efforts of the ABUT in working along with the ministry to provide education to the nation's youth in a time of a crisis affecting the entire world. "Honest reflections on what has transpired in our schools since the COVID-19 virus made its unwelcome arrival to our shores and gushed into the field of education have led us to concede that we owe a debt of gratitude to the Union. If the leadership of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers had not stood alongside the Ministry of Education with the singular aim of ensuring that our education system proved to be as agile as any other in any part of the globe,

we could not have managed in this critical period as well as we have done. We salute you and we encourage you to continue to prioritise the interests of the youth we serve above all else," he declared. The teachers who are being honoured today are: (Retirees) Hya-cinth Gonsalves-Barreiro, Angella James, Rose-Marie Lake, Joy-celyn Henry, Violet Lake, Vernest Mack, Gwendolyn Willock, Jennifer Jarvis, Avon Rosemarie Browne, Lucina Nathaniel, George Edwards, Argyll Stevens, Aury Carter-George, Thomasene Daniel, Alice Webber-David, Veronica Haywood, Sherrylaine Bowens, and Donna Francis. Those with twenty-five years of service are: Andrea Richards, Gayle Samuel-Walter, Juliet Hazelwood, Winston Charles, Elton Isaac, Anthea Thomas, Covette Samuel and Latoya Wallace.



COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT TEAMS SHOW APPRECIATION FOR VACCINE NURSES

“Nurses: Resilient Frontline Healthcare Providers” is the theme for this year’s Nurses Week, where nurses across the world are celebrated for their resilience, commitment, and dedication to the nursing profession.

Locally, nurses in Antigua and Barbuda engaged in a week-long series of events to help celebrate.

Throughout the pandemic, nurses are said to be at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19 and now, some of the key players in the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

According to the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, “Despite the present pandemic with all its trials, nurses continue to demonstrate their commitment to administering quality healthcare. In an effort to offer relief and save lives, many continuously go beyond the call of duty.”

Joining the call to celebrate nurses were Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph, and the administrative staff of the COVID-19 vaccination centres, who presented tokens and gifts to the nurses involved in the vaccination process.

In a message to the nurses, the administrative staff wrote, “Save one life, you’re a hero; save one hundred lives, you’re a nurse. We will always appreciate you.”

The administrative staff noted that there are approximately thirty-five nurses involved in the day to day operation of the vaccination centres and mobile team, which includes the Principal Nursing Officer Margaret Smith, Superintendent of Public Health Nursing (SPHN) Almarie Coates, and the Deputy Superintendent of Public Health Nursing, Nurse Samuel.

HOTELIERS TO REQUIRE VACCINATION FOR NEW STAFF



Vernon Jeffers

People seeking employment in the hotel sector as first timers will soon have to present a certificate of vaccination as a condition of employment.

Executive Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association (ABHTA), Vernon Jeffers, said while this has not yet been formalised into a written policy, most hotels have indicated that

this is the way forward for future employment in the sector.

“Our members are telling us that there are numerous inquiries from guests making reservations, asking about the vaccination status of the staff and the hotel. Many of these potential guests are coming from areas where they have been vaccinated and it would be unwise to expect that they would

want to vacation in a country with a low rate of vaccination,” he explained.

According to the ABHTA executive chairman, the matter is quite serious as many people in the traditional source markets are paying attention to everything that is happening in the country. “They are watching to see the latest uptake in the vaccination rate in a country before they

travel. For example, the U.K. will review its traffic light system for approved travel in another few weeks and while we are tipped to be included any surge in the rate of infection of the coronavirus or a continued low rate of vaccination could determine a person’s choice for a vacation,” he remarked.

Jeffers said the hotels have agreed to continue to encourage existing staff members to be vaccinated and they have also discussed ways to assist their staff in the process.

As a condition of their reopening last year, hotels had to implement stringent health protocols thus creating a biosphere of their properties as they welcomed guests from abroad.

Antigua and Barbuda is one of the world’s most tourism dependent countries and these measures are being implemented to help protect the future of this critical sector of the tourism plant.



SIR MOLWYN TOURS FLOOD-PRONE AREA IN HIS CONSTITUENCY



A concerted effort is underway in the Cashew Hill area to eliminate much of the problem caused by perennial flooding during periods of heavy rainfall.

On Thursday, area representative, Sir Molwyn Joseph, toured the area to get a firsthand

look at the scope of the work being done to alleviate stagnant water that provides the condition for mosquito breeding.

The exercise provided an opportunity for the minister to assess the ongoing rehabilitative work in the area. Among the plans for

the low-lying community is better drain and gutter management, as well as the upgrading and resurfacing of the white mall roads in the area.

Work on constructing concrete roads in the area will commence next week. Sir Molwyn also visited the

Big Creek bridge area where work is also being done to repair damage to this important roadway caused by the heavy last November.

The work is being carried out by the government's Works Department.

FLOW AND MOE NAME TIK TOK VIDEO WINNERS

Flow congratulates Gabrielle Tuckett, a Grade Four student of the St. John's Catholic Primary and Kaylee Otto, a From One student of Christ the King High School. They were the winners of the Flow and Ministry of

Education Tik Tok video competition in the Primary and Secondary School categories respectively. The competition was held as part of the activities to celebrate International Girls in ICT Day 2021.

The young ladies both received mobile handsets from Flow for winning the competition. Samantha Daley, Flow's Retail Store Coordinator, presented the prizes to the winners.



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 06 July 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property under the administration of Mr. Sawandi Merchant, Administrator of the Estate of the late Ms. Colleen Lovence, formerly of New Winthorpes, St. George's, Antigua.

The property is located at Lamberts in New Winthorpes, St. George's, Antigua and consists of a parcel of land of an area of approximately 5,449 sq. ft./ 0.1 acre, with a single storey, two (2) bedroom, one (1) bathroom wooden dwelling thereon.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

REGISTRATION SECTION:
Cassada Gardens & New Winthorpes

BLOCK:
42 1995E

PARCEL:
256

Parcel No. 256 of Block No. 42 1995E is bounded by the following:

-On the North by:	Parcel 251;
-On the South by:	Public Road;
-On the East by:	Public Road;
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Particulars of the sale can be obtained from: Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos
Licensed Auctioneer
Office: (268) 562-7653
Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653
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VACCINATE OR SUFFOCATE – THE STARK CHOICE



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)

Sections of the population in many of the 14 independent CARICOM countries are in grave danger of undermining their own health and economic interests by their re-

fusal to be inoculated against the coronavirus, COVID-19.

At the time of writing (May 13), 159.5 million persons have been infected with the virus worldwide. Of this number, almost 3.4 million have died. Shockingly, the countries of the Americas from Canada to Argentina, including the Caribbean, account for almost half of the global infections and deaths - 64.1 million infections and 1.5 million deaths.

While this persistent rate of infections and deaths continues, the entire

Hemisphere, except for the wealthiest nations, will continue to experience a health and economic crisis. All who yearn for a return to the pre-COVID period of unrestricted activity will not only endure an exceedingly long waiting period, but they will also experience increased numbers of infections and deaths. The latter will overburden already fatigued medical capabilities and strain morgue and burial facilities.

Figures from Caribbean countries are worrying, despite the efforts of governments and their medical authorities, to prevent infections and deaths. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) records community spread in 8 of the 14 independent CARICOM countries – Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Cluster cases are registered in two countries, namely Antigua and Barbuda and The Bahamas. The other three

countries – Dominica, Grenada and St Kitts-Nevis – report sporadic cases.

While it is not a magic bullet that will eliminate the coronavirus, the anti-COVID vaccine is the best solution for the people of CARICOM countries to save themselves, their families and their friends, and to place themselves in a position to recover from their present health and economic crises. Those who refuse to be vaccinated or propagandize against it, are endangering themselves and all who live in their countries. Indeed, they could be described as choosing to commit suicide and to take along with themselves many other people. This not only lacks good judgement in personal terms, but it is also a clear and present danger to their entire societies.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started, all nations cried out for vaccines. The wealthier nations invested billions of dollars in the big pharmaceutical companies to develop and test vaccines. Four types were

quickly developed and approved after extensive testing by AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. On May 7 the World Health Organization also approved the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine from China.

Fear has been expressed about taking any of these vaccines based on the relatively rapid rate in which they were developed in comparison with vaccine development in the past. This trepidation should take account of the fact, that unlike as in the past, science and technology have vastly improved, allowing for reliable results to be obtained faster. Further, at no previous time in human history has such large sums of money been devoted to the research and development of a vaccine.

Regarding those who take the simple view that they reject vaccines as unnecessary and harmful, Caribbean history reveals that what made Caribbean people survive and lead productive lives, were vaccines against mumps, measles, chicken pox, Hepatitis A and B, diphtheria, whooping cough, polio and tetanus

(lockjaw). These vaccines were administered and accepted routinely because they saved lives. What those vaccines have done in the past, and still do, anti-COVID-19 vaccines can do today. But, vaccination rates in CARICOM countries are too low. The anti-vaccination propaganda seems to have overtaken government information and education machinery - something governments must reverse swiftly, including by better use of social media platforms and by direct communication with influencers in communities. Thus far in the vaccination success table, Antigua and Barbuda (31.74%), Barbados (26.9%), Dominica (26.2%), St Kitts-Nevis (24.3%), Guyana at 19.16%, and Grenada (11.1%) are the six leaders; all others are below 10% and four of them Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines are at less than 5%.

Where countries such as Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados have some vaccines, but people are falling prey to propaganda, endangering their own and other lives, as well as the recovery of their coun-

tries, they weaken considerably the argument that CARICOM governments have been advancing in the international community that we need access to more vaccines. Ten wealthy countries have secured 75 per cent of the 1.36 billion doses already administered to vaccinate 8.6 per cent of the world's population. Other countries are struggling. There is a strong moral argument for equitable distribution.

But, if Caribbean countries have vaccines that are not being taken-up and which must be discarded because they have expired, the argument about being deprived of vaccines by rich countries will quickly be discounted.

A few politicians in some countries, such as Antigua and Barbuda, while publicly supporting vaccines, have joined the anti-vaccination propaganda behind the scenes with what appears to be an intent to promote circumstances to blame the governments for a lack of progress. In Antigua and Barbuda, for instance, political focus has been placed on its Prime Minister Gaston Browne who was gifted with the Moderna vaccine


which he took to try to allay fears. Now, even with other safe and reliable vaccines available, some politicians are putting politics ahead of patriotism by promoting the idea that the only acceptable vaccine is Moderna. From my own discussions with Moderna and Pfizer, I know that no new supplies will be available until January 2022 at the earliest.

None of this anti-vaccination propaganda is helping the Caribbean. The region needs to reach herd immunity soon if economies are not to decline and wither, affecting everyone.

The fate or the future of the region is now in the hands of the region's people themselves - rejecting vaccinations is a sure way of widening the path to misfortune. The words of Dr Carissa Etienne, the Director of PAHO, should be the clarion call - "The best vaccine is the vaccine that is available".

The alternative is a prolonged period of misery, including an increase in infections and deaths. None of this is exaggerated.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



Injured eye of the school girl

Girl fears for life after being attacked at Choiseul Secondary School



LOOP NEWS ST. LUCIA - A student of the Choiseul Secondary School who was injured by another student says she does not feel like going back to school.

"I am afraid for my life," the 14-year-old Form 3 student told Loop News in the presence of her mother, who works at the school.

According to the student, the incident started after she was trying to stop an altercation between the attacker and her cousin.

"He choked me and I could not breathe. I fly my juice on him," she recounted. "He gave me a punch in my face, I could not see anything. I felt my whole head was bursting and my eyes popping out. I was 'black out'."

Mandatory vaccination for tourism workers as Dominica prepares for the return of cruise ships



Cruise ship berthed in Dominica

Dominica News Online - As Dominica prepares for the return of cruise ships, which officials say will commence in June 2021, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has announced that his government will amend the certification criteria to include vaccination for those involved in the sector.

According to the Prime Minister, these measures need to be implemented for the safety of both visitors and locals, and to grow the economy back to the place it once was.

“Similar to how the food handlers’ license is done – that you have to go and do a tuberculosis test,

etc., before you can get the food handlers license – and for good reason ... if you want our bank account to start receiving income in the manner in which we were receiving it in 2019.”

The Prime Minister also stated that along with the new protocols which will be put in place for tourism and hospitality workers, adjustments will also be made for cruise passengers wishing to explore the island. “You cannot be a tour guide and not want to get vaccinated, because the person who is going to want you to take them to Titou Gorge and Trafalgar Falls and the boiling lake, they are going

to want to know that you are vaccinated because they are going to want to protect themselves,” he reasoned. “And they are going to demand that they will only go on a tour with people who are vaccinated and the person would have a right to demand so.”

Skerrit further noted that vendors who will be in daily contact with visitors would need that added “amour of defence with the vaccine” and further emphasized the importance of those in the hospitality and tourism sector getting vaccinated.

“So, it is important for us to recognize that we have to set aside all these

things we read on YouTube and Facebook and all these social media platforms. It is important for us to read those things, but we need to understand what we are reading to comprehend what we are reading and to understand what is in our best interest,” the prime minister said.

Skerrit admitted that this comes with risks, “but we have to recognize the need for us to get back to a state of normalcy”.

He gave the assurance that his government had not taken the decision lightly and had done so in consultation with the cruise lines, regional counterparts and stakeholders in Dominica.

T&T RECORDS DEADLIEST DAY OF COVID



People still defy mask mandate

T&T has recorded the deadliest day for the COVID-19 pandemic to date. In the last 24 hours, nine people have succumbed to the disease. The country has recorded 55 deaths for the month, making May 2021 the deadliest month for the pandemic, averaging five deaths a day for the last 11 days. The previous record-high monthly death toll occurred in September 2020, with 54 deaths reported. According to the Ministry of Health, the nine deceased included seven people with co-

morbidities. There were three elderly males, three elderly females, and one middle-aged female. In addition, the remaining two were a middle-aged male and a middle-aged female without comorbidities. These deaths have taken the total number of COVID-19 related deaths to 224.

In the last 24 hours, 348 people have tested positive for the disease, marking the third-highest jump in daily reported COVID-19 cases to date. The cases reported yesterday reflect samples taken from May 8

through May 10, 2021. T&T's total COVID-19 cases stand at 13,802, with a record high of 4,078 cases considered active. Active cases include COVID-19 positive people isolated at home, in step-down facilities, or in hospitals across the country. As of May 11th, 2,972 cases have been recorded month-to-date, marking the highest number of cases recorded in a single month. The previous record occurred last month with 2,798 cases. Testing continues to occur across T&T at a record pace. In the last 24

hours, the total number of people tested at private and public facilities stands at 147,470, rising by 5,920. This marks the largest increase on record. However, 5,136 people were tested at private facilities in the last week. T&T's COVID-19 hospitals continue to be under strain due to rising cases. With a total of 335 in hospital, this marks the second-highest number of patients since the pandemic began.

T&T's overall COVID-19 hospital occupancy stands at 51 percent across all levels of care in both islands, with a slightly higher 54 percent when only accounting for Trinidad's beds. Based on the latest numbers from the Ministry of Health, there are 138 hospitalised at the Couva Hospital and Multi-Training Facility, marking a 67 percent occupancy. The Caura Hospital currently is at a 78 percent occupancy level. At Arima General Hospital, there is a 69 percent occupancy. The Augustus Long Hospital is also reporting a 75 percent occupancy. The St. Ann's Hospital, with 10 beds available, remains at zero percent capacity.



ULP MEMBERS 'FEEL THEY CAN FLEX WITH THEIR GUN' — LEACOCK

Member of Parliament for Central Kingstown, opposition lawmaker St. Clair Leacock speaking outside Parliament on Tuesday. (iWN photo)

iWitnessNewsSVG - Opposition lawmaker St. Clair Leacock says the gun-wielding allegation against government senator Ashelle Morgan is the latest in a series of incidents in which members of the ruling Unity Labour Party (ULP) "feel they can flex with their gun".

"In this country of St. Vincent, we have had more people lose their lives to the gun than we have lost through [the eruption of La] Soufriere, through COVID or dengue, and this is a culture that you all don't want to address," the Central Kingstown MP told the

media outside Parliament on Tuesday.

"Every time a member and the hierarchy of the Unity Labour Party has a problem, they feel they can flex with their gun," Leacock said.

"We had a situation of Hans King [former press secretary to Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves], if he was on mainland St. Vincent, what he would have done; we had [MP for North Leeward] Carlos James, [then a ULP candidate] pulling his gun [in 2015] and doing what he had to do; we had a guy beating his wife in America and coming here and be-

ing elevated to be press secretary to the prime minister. You have all the consulates doing all sorts of nonsense stories, no clear action."

Leacock was speaking immediately after he and other opposition lawmakers walked out of Parliament in support of opposition leader Godwin Friday who was ordered to leave after defying the Speaker's ruling. Friday had asked House Speaker Rochelle Forde to order Morgan, who is also Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly, to excuse herself from Parliament until the

completion of an investigation in an April 13 shooting at Diamond.

Morgan is alleged to have been present when Cornelius John, a 60-year-old businessman, was shot in the leg at his home in the East St. George community.

She is further alleged to have wielded a gun during the incident. Commissioner of Police Colin John has confirmed that Morgan and Assistant Director of Public Prosecution Karim Nelson are "persons of interest" in the investigation. Nelson has taken leave of his post, pending the outcome of the investi-



CDC: Fully vaccinated people can largely ditch masks indoors

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a major step toward returning to pre-pandemic life, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Thursday eased indoor mask-wearing guidance for fully vaccinated people, allowing them to stop wearing masks outdoors in crowds and inside in most situations.

The new guidance still calls for wearing masks in crowded indoor settings like buses, planes, hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters, but will help clear the way for re-opening workplaces, schools, and other venues — even removing the need for masks or social distancing for those who are fully vaccinated. “We have all longed for this moment when we can get

back to some sense of normalcy,” said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the director of the CDC.

The announcement comes as the CDC and the Biden administration have faced pressure to ease restrictions on fully vaccinated people — people who are two weeks past their last required COVID-19 vaccine dose — in part to highlight the benefits of getting the shot. The country’s aggressive vaccination campaign has paid off: US virus cases are at their lowest rate since September; deaths are at their lowest point since last April; and the test positivity rate is at the lowest point since the pandemic began.

Walensky announced the new guidance on Thursday afternoon at a White House briefing, saying the long-await-

ed change is thanks to millions of people getting vaccinated — and based on the latest science about how well those shots are working.

“Anyone who is fully vaccinated can participate in indoor and outdoor activities — large or small — without wearing a mask or physically distancing,” Walensky said. “If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing the things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.”

The easing guidance is likely to open the door to confusion, since there is no sure-fire way for businesses or others to distinguish between those fully vaccinated and those who are not. Walensky said those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks

indoors.

President Joe Biden was set to highlight the new guidance Thursday afternoon in a speech from the White House.

To date about 154 million Americans, more than 46% of the population, have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccines and more than 117 million are fully vaccinated. The rate of new vaccinations has slowed in recent weeks, but with the authorization Wednesday of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 12 to 15, a new burst of doses is expected in the coming days. Just two weeks ago, the CDC recommended that fully vaccinated people continue to wear masks indoors in all settings and outdoors in large crowds.



Colombia protests: Shortages in Cali as demonstrations rumble on

Long queues formed at petrol stations

Three weeks into nationwide anti-government protests, residents in Colombia's third-largest city, Cali, say they are struggling to get petrol and some food items.

Protesters have blocked some of the main access roads into the city, and deliveries have been severely disrupted.

Cali has been the scene of some of the worst clashes between protesters and security forces. At least 42 have died in the protests. While food and medicine have been reaching the city after a number of "humanitarian corridors" were estab-

lished last week, the disruption has been severe.

The demonstrations over the past two days in Cali may have been massive, but they were peaceful and colourful, with dances, music and artistic tributes paid to those who died or were wounded in previous protests. You don't see many police on the streets. However, reports of police violence continue to come in from other parts of the country. Not far from here, in Popayán, dozens of civilians were injured in clashes with security forces on Wednesday.

Cali, in any case, is paralysed. Everyday life has been affected by the blockades and petrol shortages: if you need a plumber or someone to fix your internet connection, you are going to have to wait for days or even weeks. Most shops are shuttered and their doors have been sprayed with anti-government graffiti. Young masked protesters have blocked roads with branches and wires. They tell me they are protesting "for a different country" and I can't see them giving up anytime soon.

Cali's Mayor Jorge Iván Ospina said it was vital that supplies be allowed through without any hold-ups. "Some supplies or limited supplies are not enough," he said about the agreement with protesters blocking the roads to let some delivery trucks pass.

The city depended on food from neighbouring regions to feed its residents, he explained. Traders at one market said there was a shortage of potatoes, while those at another market said they had received a delivery, but at a price 30% higher than usual.



Israel begins firing shells into Gaza as fighting escalates

Smoke rises following Israeli airstrikes on a building in Gaza City, Thursday May 13, 2021

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hamas sent a heavy barrage of rockets deep into Israel on Thursday as Israel pounded Gaza with more airstrikes and shells and called up 9,000 more reservists who could be used to stage a ground invasion. The hostilities intensified despite mediation efforts by Egyptian negotiators who held in-person talks with both sides.

In another potential escalation, at least three rockets were fired from southern Lebanon toward Israel, an attack that threatened to open a new front in the fighting.

The artillery and tank shells that began falling into Gaza in the evening forced scores of families to flee their homes, Palestinian witnesses said. The

use of artillery fire in Israel's four-day-old offensive raised the likelihood of civilian casualties.

Previous fighting between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers, including a devastating 2014 war, was largely confined to the impoverished and blockaded Palestinian territory and Israeli communities on the frontier. But this round seems to be rippling farther and wider than at any time since the 2000 Palestinian intifada, or uprising.

While some rocket attacks have reached the Tel Aviv area, Arab and Jewish mobs have rampaged through the streets, savagely beating people and torching cars. Flights have been canceled or diverted away from the country's main airport.

Weary Palestinians, meanwhile, somberly marked the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on Thursday as militants fired one barrage of rockets after another and Israel carried out waves of bone-rattling airstrikes. Since the rockets began Monday, Israel has toppled three high-rise buildings that it said housed Hamas facilities after warning civilians to evacuate. Gaza's Health Ministry said the death toll has climbed to 87 Palestinians, including 18 children and eight women, with 530 people wounded. Islamic Jihad confirmed the deaths of seven militants, while Hamas has acknowledged 13 of its militants killed, including a senior commander. Israel says the num-

ber of militants dead is much higher.

Seven people have been killed in Israel. Among them were a soldier killed by an anti-tank missile and a 6-year-old child hit in a rocket attack.

Many world leaders have condemned the violence and urged restraint, and a visit by Egyptian security officials was a significant development in international efforts to bring about a cease-fire. Such efforts have been key to ending past rounds of fighting. The officials met first with Hamas leaders in Gaza before holding talks with the Israelis in Tel Aviv, two Egyptian intelligence officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.



Sophie Gregoire Trudeau and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appear at a WE event

Trudeau cleared of ethics wrongdoing in political scandal

Canada's ethics watchdog has cleared Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of wrongdoing in the WE Charity scandal. The charity had been tapped by his government last year to oversee a volunteer programme for students during the pandemic. Mr. Trudeau later faced scrutiny when it was revealed he had personal ties to the organisation. But the report found former finance minister Bill Morneau had breached federal ethics rules in the scandal. Morneau resigned in August, although he

denied it was because of this case. Morneau faced pressure to step down last summer after it was revealed WE had covered some of his expenses while he was on two trips with his family to see some of the charity's work in Kenya and Ecuador. He said it was an oversight and repaid C\$41,000 (\$33,000; £ 24,000). In October, Federal Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion cleared Morneau of ethical wrongdoing for that, saying it appeared to be a genuine mistake. But on Thursday, Dion released

a report that found Morneau had placed himself in a conflict of interest "on several occasions" in other ways. The former finance minister's relationship with the charity and a friendship with WE co-founder Craig Kielburger, in particular, "afforded WE unfettered access to the Office of the Minister of Finance", Mr. Dion wrote.

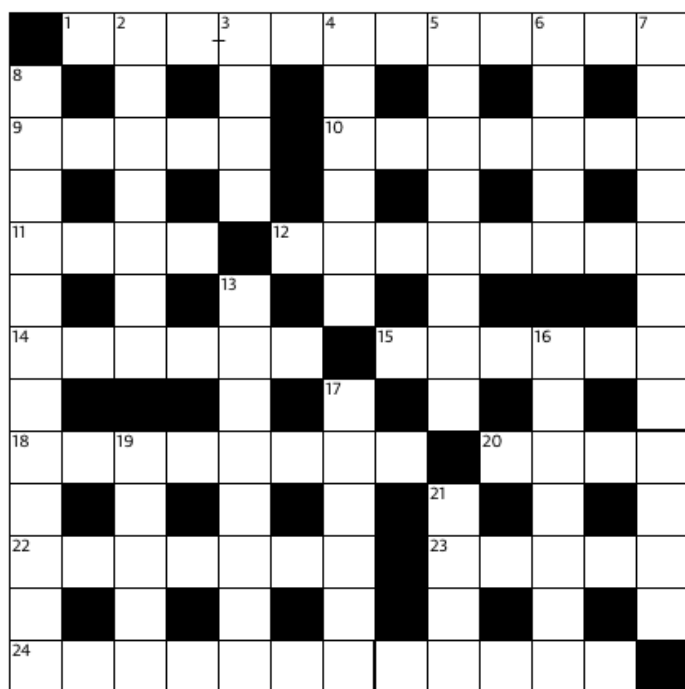
Mr. Morneau broke conflict of interest rules by "improperly furthering WE's private interests, by failing to recuse himself from decisions relating to WE, and by

giving WE preferential treatment", the report said. In a statement, Morneau reiterated that he should have recused himself from the government's discussion regarding the charity, given his personal ties. He had previously apologised for failing to do so.

The former finance minister also reiterated a finding of the report - that he did not have direct involvement in the recommendation of WE Charity for the programme.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Speedy crossword No 1,336



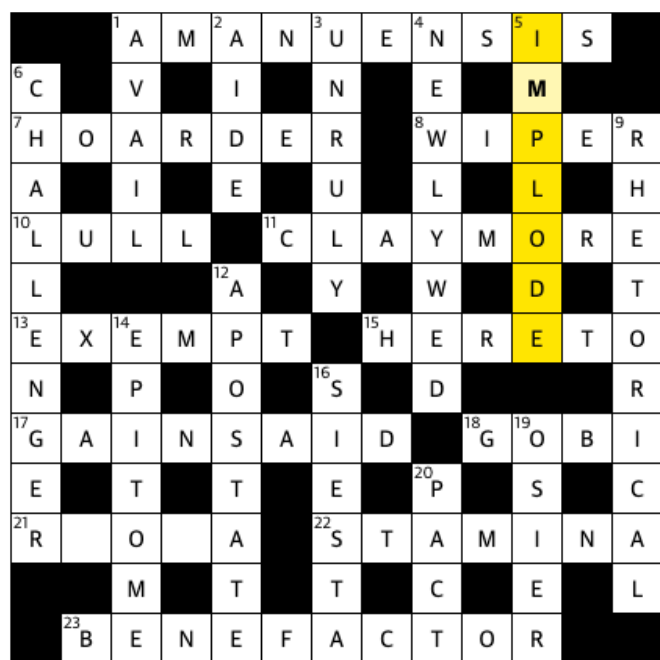
Across

- 1 Poorly thought out (3-9)
 9 Wear down (5)
 10 Rod used in making thread (7)
 11 Fake (4)
 12 Distinguished (8)
 14 Buy back (6)
 15 Breed (6)
 18 Dodge (8)
 20 Even-handed (4)
 22 Exploitation to the point of diminishing returns (7)
 23 Problems – difficulties (informal) (5)

Down

- 2 Do alter (anag) – a sporty one-piece (7)
 3 Hints (4)
 4 Cosy up (6)
 5 Move abroad (8)
 6 Technology for recording moving images (5)
 7 Where an actor prepares (8,4)
 8 Sponsored set (anag) – it's used to eat pudding (12)
 13 Hearten (8)
 16 Mixture (7)
 17 Cure (6)

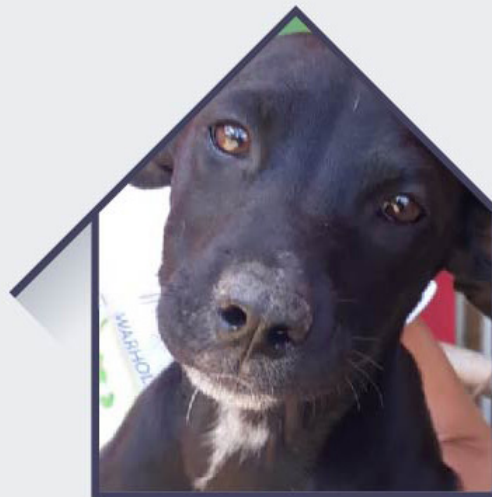
Speedy crossword No 1,336



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

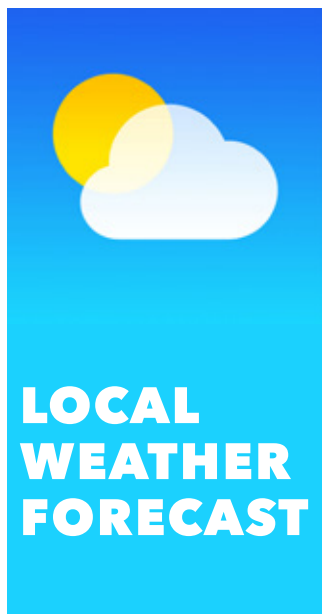


TAKE ME HOME



Blackie is just one of the darling pups available for adoption at the Humane Society's Animal Shelter near Bethesda. She has been wormed, dipped for fleas and ticks, and vaccinated. When old enough we will spay her to prevent unwanted puppies.

**IF YOU CAN OFFER BLACKIE A NEW HOME,
 PLEASE CONTACT US AT 461-4957
 FOR DETAILS OR VISIT THE SHELTER
 TUESDAY TO SATURDAY
 BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M.**



<p>Fri 14 84°/76° Mostly Sunny 22% ESE 13 mph</p>	
<p>Fri 14 Day 84° 22% ESE 13 mph Sun and a few passing clouds. High 84F. Winds ESE at 10 to 20 mph.</p>	
<p>Humidity 70%</p>	<p>UV Index Extreme</p>
<p>Sunrise 5:36 am</p>	<p>Sunset 6:31 pm</p>
<p>Sat 15 Day 84° 15% ESE 12 mph A few clouds from time to time. High 84F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	
<p>Humidity 69%</p>	<p>UV Index Extreme</p>
<p>Sunrise 5:36 am</p>	<p>Sunset 6:31 pm</p>
<p>Fri 14 Night 76° 23% ESE 10 mph Generally fair. Low 76F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	
<p>Humidity 80%</p>	<p>UV Index 0 of 10</p>
<p>Moonrise 7:35 am</p>	<p>Moonsset 9:07 pm</p>
<p>● Waxing Crescent</p>	
<p>Sat 15 Night 77° 20% ESE 10 mph Clear to partly cloudy. Low 77F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	
<p>Humidity 78%</p>	<p>UV Index 0 of 10</p>
<p>Moonrise 8:24 am</p>	<p>Moonsset 9:58 pm</p>
<p>● Waxing Crescent</p>	

COMICS

Dilbert

May 13, 2021



Garfield

May 13, 2021



Luann

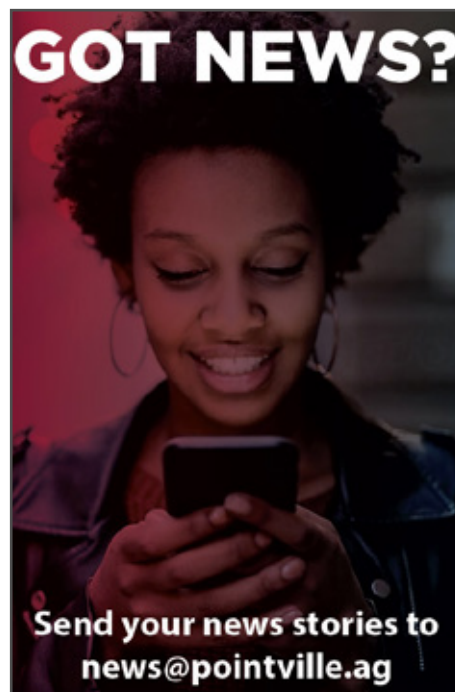
May 13, 2021



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GOT NEWS?



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MAN UTD 2-4 LIVERPOOL:

VISITORS END 7-YEAR WAIT FOR OLD TRAFFORD WIN



Sky pundits have been discussing the moment after full time when Sadio Mane chose not to acknowledge manager Jurgen Klopp ...

Graeme Souness: "Disrespectful. If I was the manager I wouldn't be happy. He should show a bit of respect. It's disrespectful to the manager and the club. How can he argue? He's not had a great season and Liverpool have won here 4-2."

Roy Keane: "The player is out of order, but when I was a player I didn't want the manager coming on giv-

ing me high fives. If he sees the player upset then back away." More from Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, speaking to BBC Sport: "[Roberto Firmino] was very helpful and these kind of things are really important. That's what we needed to stay in the race."

"We have really tough games coming up. West Brom will be completely free of pressure, which can do strange things. Burnley, with supporters, is a tough one and we will see what we have to do against Crystal Palace."

"We have to win all the games. That's why the draws we have had against Newcastle and Leeds felt like defeats. Being in a position where you have it in your own hands to qualify for the Champions League is a big thing. Two or three years ago that was our life."

On Sadio Mane's reaction: "It was because [on] Wednesday I changed things pretty late in training. My boys are used to me explaining and I didn't. No time, forgot it, whatever. And that was it. It's all fine."

A female umpire standing in a match



CWI RETAINS

13 SENIOR CRICKET UMPIRES

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua - Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced that annual retainer contracts have been offered to all 13 members of the existing Senior Panel of Umpires for the new contract period April 1st 2021- March 31st 2022. The significant reduction in regional cricket in the last contracting period, due to the impact of COVID-19, has resulted in no changes being made to the list of umpires to be offered contracts. CWI invests annually in the panel of umpires due to their fundamental role in ensuring that the spirit and integrity of cricket is preserved, and that the highest possible quality fair play is upheld on the field. Investing in a broader pool of umpires – who can be rewarded for their hard work and application in developing their skills – is vital for the health of cricket at all levels. CWI's Director of Cricket Jimmy Adams said, "I am pleased that even in the midst of our financial constraints, CWI will be re-engaging our Senior Panel of Umpires as we recognize and appreciate their important role within the game. We all hope that there will be increasing amounts of cricket within the region in the months ahead to allow our best umpires to continue their ongoing development." The Senior Panel of Umpires being offered retainer contracts is as follows:

CWI's Senior Panel of Umpires 2021/22

1. Zahid Bassarath
2. Johnathan Blades
3. Gregory Brathwaite
4. Deighton Butler
5. Nigel Duguid
6. Patrick Gustard
7. Danesh Ramdhanie
8. Leslie Reifer
9. Verdayne Smith
10. Christopher Taylor
11. Carl Tuckett
12. Jacqueline Williams
13. Christopher Wright

During the recent international home series between West Indies and Sri Lanka all match officials, for the first time, were of Caribbean origin due to the ICC temporarily permitting the appointment of locally-based match officials from the Emirates Elite Panel of match officials and the Emirates ICC International Panel of match officials. This was due to the logistics challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. One very positive outcome was for Barbadian and West Indies umpire, Gregory Brathwaite, to officiate in his first Test match.

CAPTAIN KRAIGG SAYS "SKY IS THE LIMIT" AS WEST INDIES RISE IN TEST RANKINGS

ST JOHN'S, Antigua – The West Indies team has made a significant move up the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test Match rankings, following the release of the latest rankings on Thursday morning. West Indies moved up two places to sixth, leapfrogging South Africa and Sri Lanka. West Indies are on 84 points ahead of the Proteas on 80 and Sri Lanka on 78. India lead the rankings on 121, with New Zealand (120), England (109), Australia (108) and Pakistan (94). The West Indies growth and progress is the result of the memorable 2-0 win away to Bangladesh and the hard-fought 0-0 draw in the Sandals Test Series at home against Sri Lanka. It signals an overall rise for the team. Last month it was announced they moved up one spot

in the ICC One-Day International (ODI) rankings, following the 3-0 clean sweep over Sri Lanka in the CG Insurance ODI Series. Test Captain Kraigg Brathwaite was full of praise for his players and support staff. He said this is the beginning of the climb towards higher rankings. The experienced opener spoke to CWI Media on Thursday morning from Bristol in England where he is playing for Gloucestershire in the County Championship.

Brathwaite said: "I'm very proud of the team to jump two places in the Test rankings. I think this is just the beginning of good things to come. As a group, it shows that we can climb up the ladder and it's just important for us to work hard and keep the belief and attitude to doing

things right in the preparation and the execution on the field. Once we continue to do the small things right, and have the right attitude – because Test cricket is never easy – the sky is the limit." Among the ICC MRF Tyres player rankings also unveiled, Jason Holder remains the Number 1 Test all-rounder and is also our highest ranked Test bowler at Number 8. Kemar Roach is the next highest at Number 12. Following the soon-to-be-announced Test Series against South Africa in June, the West Indies will then face fifth-ranked Pakistan in a Test Series due to be played in August 2021 as part of the next cycle of the ICC World Test Championship.



DEWS

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

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