

MONDAY 24 MAY 2021 | ISSUE 232 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

MURDER CHARGE

SEE PAGE 3

NO HOSPITALISED COVID-19 CASES IN THE COUNTRY

SEE PAGE 7

EDITORIAL

SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE VACCINATION ROLL-OUT

It is often said that the only constant in life is change. Change can often be slow, evolutionary or dramatic, revolutionary. The changes in the way people are informed today fall somewhere in the middle of this divide.

For decades, people in society were informed by major news organisations such as the BBC, TIME magazine, CNN or even here in Antigua and Barbuda, there are ABS Radio and Television or ZDK Radio just to name a few.

News organisations have been the natural gatekeepers in society; the purveyors of much of what we consume in terms of information. News organisations have also been known to influence society to think a particular way or to support a particular point of view.

Over the last decade the ubiquitous nature of smart phones and social media have

turned traditional news gathering and dissemination on their heads. No more are people tuning in for the 'nightly news' to hear of news events of the day as people on the scene of these events e.g accidents etc. are taking photos and sharing them instantly on social media. Often times these photos reach many overseas destinations before the police even arrive on the scene.

Social media platforms have arrived and have demanded a seat at the table; quite frankly there's not much that can be done at this point but to make room for them. There are many positives about social media but so too are the negatives, the downside.

Social media have become prolific purveyors of mis-information and what is widely referred to as 'fake news'. In the traditional media, there is respon-

sibility placed on accuracy and fairness. A news organization that breaches these tenets pays a price in both economics and reputation.

Social media do not have these concerns as there are no systems in place to 'vet' articles/information before they are posted. Very often too, opinions are posted as facts and 'facts' are promoted without verification, data or credible sources.

The unfortunate consequence is that the unsuspecting public is not able to make the distinction between facts and fiction with many, 'defending' untruth vehemently, noting that the information is available on social media.

This is the background within which the second roll out of the vaccination programme has had to contend. There is much information being circulated about vaccines;

that it would take an army of thousands just to keep apace if one decided on a course to correct the misinformation; it is a herculean task if ever there was one.

The social media campaign against the vaccine has effectively played on people's genuine concerns and fears with much mis-information, innuendos, half-truths and downright lies to keep people away from being inoculated.

The people in charge of the rollout have to be aware of this and in their strategies must find ways to offer an effective counter argument. Getting young opinion leaders as effective advocates in this campaign should also be a 'keep strategy' employed.

The task ahead is not going to be easy but, achieving the goal of 'herd immunity' will certainly be worth it!

MURDER CHARGE

Police have charged a 26-year old man following the country's latest alleged homicide that happened in Newfield Village on Friday. On Sunday morning, the police charged Jeffrey Daniel with the murder of David Roberts, also of Newfield. In a statement on Friday, the police alleged that there was an altercation between Daniel and Roberts, both of whom were said to be

known to each other. Roberts's body was later found in the vicinity of his home with what appeared to be injuries. The incident is said to have happened at Newfield at about 12:10 a.m on Friday 21st May 2021. A medical doctor arrived on the scene and pronounced the body dead around 9:05 a.m. Friday. Daniel was taken into police custody on Friday to assist with

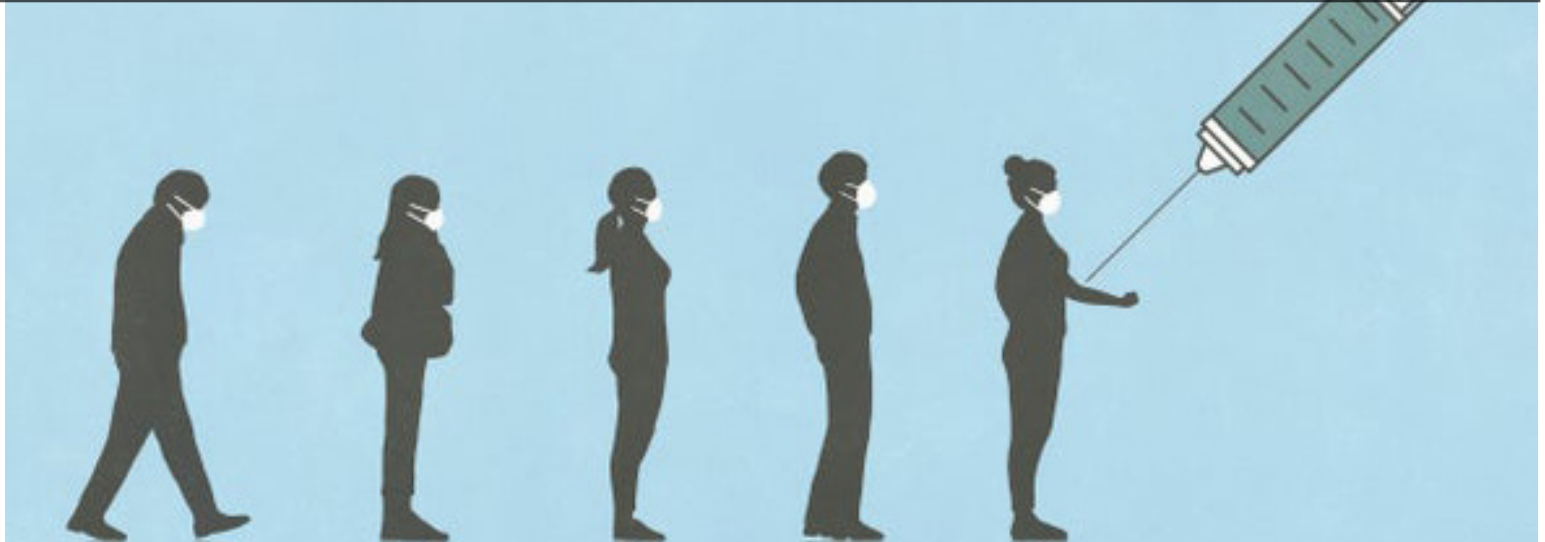
the investigation and the charge of murder was later filed against him, mid-morning on Sunday. Police are ap-

pealing to residents in the surrounding area who may have information on this latest homicide to contact

the Freetown Police Station at 460-4121 or the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/14.

This brings to two the number of homicides recorded in Antigua and Barbuda for the year 2021.

VACCINE ROLLOUT ENCOURAGING, DESPITE SLOWER-THAN-EXPECTED UPTAKE – PM



By Shelton Daniel

There will be dire consequences for all of us if we do not achieve herd immunity within a reasonable time,

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has reiterated for the umpteenth time. And he is not the only one. Throughout the twin-island state, doctors, nurses and other medical practitioners or healthcare workers – within the public and private sectors – have been sounding this warning incessantly for the past several weeks since a worrying slowdown in public uptake of vaccines against

COVID-19. Speaking on Saturday during his weekly radio program on Pointe FM 99.1 – The Browne and Browne Show – the Prime Minister noted that there has been “a reduction in the number of active COVID cases”, which he said, “are now down to 22.”

On Sunday, the Ministry of Health updated the figures to show that two additional cases had been confirmed, since the Prime Minister’s statement on radio the previous day. But these were partially offset by one recovery, thus settling the number of active cases to

23 up to that point. Observing that the number of COVID-19 fatalities in the state currently stands at 42; Prime Minister Browne reminded Antiguan and Barbudans that “42 deaths for a small population of 100,000 people [is] a lot.”

Dissecting the implications of this grim statistic, he said: “If there is to be a third wave, it could be far more debilitating and deadly. So let us not take this disease for granted. Let us respect COVID as a very menacing disease, and it is.” Referring to the more than 32,000 people who have, to date, received

their first round of the two-dose inoculation, the Prime Minister chose to focus on the encouraging aspect of this achievement, even as he acknowledged that the pace of uptake was well below expectations and desired targets.

“Inasmuch as it’s not at the rate that we would like to see, we have seen an increase in the vaccination process; that more people have gone out to get their first dose, and the second dose is going good – 4,733 people would have taken their second dose so far,” he stated.

The Prime Minister

declared that his government would not be fazed by those who were clearly bent on muddying public discourse about the disease and the vaccination pro-

gram, nor would government relent from its duty to provide leadership, guidance and encouragement for people to get vaccinated.

"We just have to press

on because, at the end of the day, it is what is important to return to normalcy so we can salvage our economy, to try and recover it as quickly as possible; and

the same time – most importantly – to protect lives. That is the most important issue here: to ensure that we reduce the amount of hospitalizations and deaths."



Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne

PRIME MINISTER BROWNE TO ADDRESS 74TH WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ASSEMBLY ON TODAY

Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne will on Monday tell the 74th World Health Assembly that it must agree to comprehensive and decisive action and commit to an urgent and binding implementation plan in order

to arrest the tragedies of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a recorded message to the Assembly which opens at 4 a.m. Eastern Caribbean time (10:00 am Geneva, Switzerland) Monday 24th May, Prime Minister Browne said

that if action is not taken, our one world will be injured irreparably with profound repercussions for all.

The WHO Assembly is expected to address a number of issues including a more effective and efficient World Health

Organisation providing better support to countries, Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Mental Health preparedness for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the WHO immunization agen-

da 2030. Prime Minister Browne, who is among a small group of selected leaders to address the high-level segment, along with WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, will also address the issue of vaccine equity which he said is critical to achieving global herd immunity and to contain the emergence of more deadly and debilitating COVID-19 variants.

The country's leader will also focus in his address, the issue of vaccine production calling on pharmaceutical companies to increase their production, which he says will mean more and faster inoculations of the global community.

Prime Minister Browne will also make an appeal for the relaxation of travel restrictions for vulnerable small states and rectification of

the qualifications for access to the COVAX facility. He said that account must be taken of the profound vulnerabilities of small island states, which should be one of the determinants for vaccine accessibility. Minister for Health, Wellness and the Environment, the Hon. Sir Molwyn Joseph and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas will also attend the vir-

tual WHO Assembly which runs from May 24 to 1st June under the theme, "Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safe and fairer world."

The World Health Assembly can be accessed via the following web link:

<https://www.who.int/about/governance/world-health-assembly/seven->

also attend the vir-



COLONEL'S CATCH

- Fish Burger \$13.50
- Fish Salad \$20.99
- Fish Burger Combo \$19.99
- Fish Twister \$14.99
- Fish & Chips \$18.99



5WAYS to get your **KFC**

- Walk-In** 10 to 4-DAILY AVAILABLE AT ALL 3 BRANCHES
- DRIVE-THRU** 10 to 4-DAILY AVAILABLE AT ALL 3 BRANCHES
- Call-In / Pick Up** 481-1528 Old Parham Rd. 481-1536 Fort Rd. 481-1549 All Saints Rd.
- Grab & Go** 3 to 4-DAILY 5 PIECE & 9 PIECE HAPPY HOUR
- Delivery** 11 to 3 - MON to FRI CALL 481-1536 TO PLACE ORDER Minimum order \$25 - FREE WITHIN ST. JOHN'S CITY LIMITS ORDERS LEAVE ON THE HOUR EVERY HOUR LAST ORDER FOR THE UPCOMING HOUR TAKEN AT 15MINS TO THE HOUR



#StaySafe



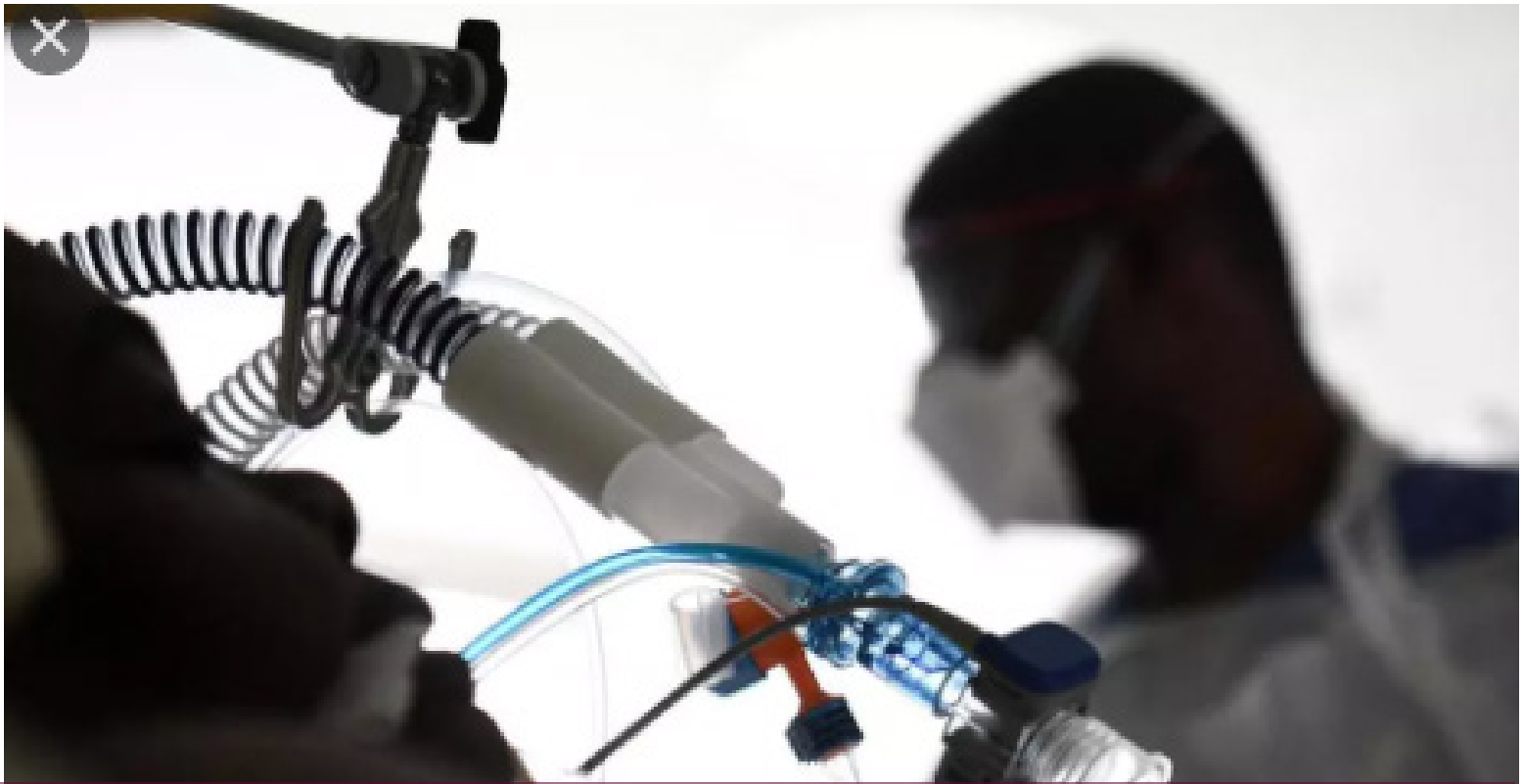
@kfcanu



@kfcanu

#KFCANU #SOCIALDISTANCING #MADEFRESHEVERYDAY

FOR DELIVERY
775-4621 / 775-4622
or DOWNLOAD THE APP...
apple Store / Google Play



No Hospitalised COVID-19 Cases in the Country

There is no one hospitalized with COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda, for the first time in many months. According to the latest dashboard released by the Ministry of Health, it showed that there were two confirmed COVID-19 cases reported as of Friday evening, but interestingly, there is no one hospitalized with COVID-19 as active cases continue their downward trend. The latest update reported that one hundred and forty-four (144) samples were processed by MSJMC. One (1) recovered case was record-

ed increasing the total recovered cases to one thousand one hundred and ninety-two (1192). Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one thousand two hundred and fifty-seven (1257); which is inclusive of twenty-three (23) active cases. Meanwhile, thirty-two thousand four hundred and sixty-nine (32,469) first doses of the Covid-19 vaccines have been administered while seven thousand and fifty (7,050) second doses were administered.



CALL & SIGN UP TODAY
(268) 562-9023/4
Email - antigua.info@kingocean.com

OUR NEW SERVICE

SHOP IT AND SHIP IT

ANTIGUA BROKERAGE AND PICK UP SERVICE

**YOU SHOP & SHIP
WE WILL
TAKE CARE
OF THE REST**



You will:

- Sign up for program
- Submit invoices by email
- Pick up your package(s) at our office

We will:

- Clear your package(s) at customs
- Bring it to our offices for collection
- Create one bill for your duties, BL cost, Brokerage and Handling fees

Call us for more information.

Public invited to tune into virtual Africa Day Public Lecture

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) joins the international community in celebrating Africa Liberation day/ Africa Day on May 25th.

To help commemorate the day, the ABRSC is hosting a Virtual Public Lecture dubbed, 'The Africa Group-CARICOM (AfCAR), "A Re-investment in Africa Caribbean Relationships" on Monday 24th May 2021, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Since 1972, there has been some mode of celebrations of African Liberation Day in Antigua and Barbuda initiated by the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement. There were a number of years when no celebration took place but since 2007, ABRSC has collaborated with the Rastafarian-led celebrations, which usually include a public demonstration and a rally.

ABRSC has independently – although not consistently – staged a public lecture on or around the 25th of May. The speakers have been selected from Caribbean academics/activists



**THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION
AFRICA DAY LECTURE**

**'THE U.N. AFRICA GROUP-CARICOM:
A re-investment in Africa Caribbean Relationships'**





H.E MR. COLLEN VIXEN KELAPILE
Ambassador of Republic of Botswana to the UN



Amb JOHANN HESSE
to the African Union

DISCUSSANT



Amb FRANKI FRANCIS
to Ethiopia/Ghana

CHAIRPERSON



DAMIEN BENJAMIN Esq
Chair, ADDI
C'bean Head Office

DISCUSSANT

JOIN US

Monday 24th May 2021 7.30pm - 9.00pm ECT

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83560473374?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83560473374?pwd=M3BpUI9mcTBSeWxxdGNLRXVYQWlIdz09)
[pwd=M3BpUI9mcTBSeWxxdGNLRXVYQWlIdz09](#)
Meeting ID: 835 6047 3374—Passcode: 715740
(Link will be circulated)
& Facebook Live

– perhaps the most illustrious of whom has been the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Hon. Ralph Gonsalves. This year 2021, the ABRSC has invited His Excellency MR. COLLENVIXEN KELAPILE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations to deliver the Africa Day lecture on Monday May 24th. Joining His Excellency will be Ambassador Johann Hesse: Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the African Union and

Mr. Damien Benjamin Esq., Co-chair - African Diaspora Development Institute. Ambassador King Frank-I Francis, Ambassador to Ethiopia and Ghana and member of the ABRSC, will chair the virtual lecture.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the public lecture will take place virtually through the use of Zoom and streamed live via the commission's Facebook page. A rebroadcast will be aired on state TV, ABS.

The lecture, which promises to be invigo-

rating, will see both the featured presenter and discussants examining issues surrounding the creation and development of the AFRICA GROUP-CARICOM (AfCAR), which is a grouping of sixty-eight UN member countries. Additionally, there will be discussions related to the two groupings, with interest in growing and deepening ties between Africa and the Caribbean, practical implications for the Caribbean re: social, economic, cultural and other issues of common interest with Africa; high-

lighting issues of trade, air (and other) transportation, diplomatic and cultural exchanges, and AfCAR's position on furthering the reparations struggle, among other pertinent issues. The public lecture will allow for questions and discussions with the panelists. For persons interested in taking part and viewing the ABRSC's Virtual Public lecture, they can do so via zoom - Meeting ID: 835 6047 337 Passcode: 715740, or Facebook live: Antigua Barbuda Reparations Support Commission.





ANITGUA'S #1 AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP
 HADEED MOTORS LTD. VISIT US ON OLD PARHAM ROAD TEL: 481-2500



FCCA-PortMiami Return to Sail Summit Moving Full Steam Ahead

Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA), the trade association that represents the mutual interests of destinations and stakeholders throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Mexico, along with Member Lines that operate over 90 percent of the global cruising capacity, is excited to again set sail on its itinerary of live events beginning this June 22 at the FCCA-PortMiami Return to Sail Summit.

Hosted and sponsored by PortMiami, the exclusive gathering will join a maximum of 200 persons along with FCCA Member Line executives for a day of workshops and networking opportunities to help prepare for the return of cruising to FCCA partner destinations.

"We are excited to again gather with our partners during this pivotal time to prepare how to make it out of this crisis, hopefully even stronger," said Michele Paige, President, FCCA. "PortMiami not only

plays a vital role for this event, but also for cruising's return from North America, and we are beyond grateful for their support." "We are ready for the resumption of cruising," said Port Director and CEO Juan M. Kuryla. "In anticipation of that return, we are joining our partners to share our updated procedures and exchange ideas as we eagerly await the restart. We can't wait to welcome cruise passengers back!" The event will take place on June 22 with a schedule of workshops and networking opportunities including a Meet & Greet and lunch, gathering attendees and the participating cruise executives. As of May 19, ten Presidents and/or CEOs had already confirmed – from Carnival Corporation & plc.; Carnival Cruise Line; Holland America Group; MSC Cruises USA; Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd.; Norwegian Cruise Line; Regent Seven Seas; Royal Caribbean Group; Royal Caribbean Interna-

tional; and Virgin Voyages – along with nearly 20 high-level cruise executives specifically selected for the event to drive mutual benefits for attendees.

The three workshops will include:

View from the Top

Presidents, CEOs and Chairmen from the FCCA Executive Committee discuss when and how cruising will return to the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Mexico. Grand Tour

Cruise executives from the FCCA Operations Committee give a detailed approach on the new protocols in cruise destinations, including the impact for tour operators and shore excursion operations.

You're Hired!

The newly formed FCCA Employment Committee shares some of the recent developments creating opportunities for destinations to have more of their populations join cruise line families.



APUA **ELECTRICITY** MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Tuesday, 25th May 2021	Wednesday, 26th May 2021	Thursday, 27th May 2021	Friday, 28th May 2021
SECTION OF ARMSTRONG ROAD	SECTION OF NUT GROVE, GOLDEN GROVE AND ANTIGUA STATE COLLEGE	SECTION OF HATTON MAIN ROAD	SECTION OF HATTON MAIN ROAD
8:30AM-11:30AM	8:30AM-11:00AM	8:30AM-11:30AM	8:30AM-11:30AM

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

US-Based National Celebrates 102nd birthday



Antigua and Barbuda national - George Theophilus Benjamin – who now resides in the United States, celebrated his 102nd birthday on Saturday.

Benjamin was born on May 22, 1919 to parents, Henrietta David (mother) and George Benjamin (father) in the village of Ebenezer.

He was the last of (5) five siblings. In 1950 he married the love of his life Gwendolyn Simon (deceased), a union which produced eight children.

He worked as a full time farmer by profession to provide for his family. In the late 1990's he migrated to Miami, Florida in the Unit-

ed State of America (U.S.A), where he still resides.

The Community Development Division in the Ministry of Social Transformation which usually organizes celebrations around these milestones said, at the family's request, there was no official event to mark the occasion.

Weekend Mobile Vaccine Rollout Dubbed A Success

On Saturday, members of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout team rolled out the mobile unit to offer residents of Antigua and Barbuda the opportunity to get vaccinated. The one-day weekend event saw collaboration with the M&M service station as the mobile unit set up shop from 6 am to 2 pm last Saturday. The partnership with the service station offered first-time patients, gas vouchers as they completed their 'jab'. Marking the initiative as a success, the

mobile unit reported over 200 vaccinations that day, the majority being first dose administrations. According to the rollout team, the public response was tremendous, citing several young adults, lining up for their jab. A member of the rollout team went on to explain that they were delighted that M&M service station, as a good corporate citizen, saw it fit, to partner with the ministry on this important, public exercise. The owner of the

service station, Mr. Philbert Mason, highlighted how important it is for the public, especially younger adults, to get vaccinated. "I felt it was important, that we get young people to understand that this COVID virus is very serious; and if it takes some measure of help to get them to come and be vaccinated, I decided that I could make that contribution to the society," Mason stated. The proprietor further indicated that COVID-19 is a pub-

NOTICE

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

(Probate)

In the Estate of **KINGSLEY ISAAC** late of **CLARE HALL, ST. JOHN, ANTIGUA, Deceased**

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **SAMUEL ISAAC** a.k.a **BEN ISAAC** of Villa, St. John in Antigua for a Grant of Probate of the will of the above named deceased who died on the 11th day February of 2019 without revoking a will bearing the date of the 16th day of August 2018 wherein the applicant **SAMUEL ISAAC** a.k.a **BEN ISAAC** is named as the Sole Executor.

Any person having an objection to the application for the grant of Probate shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 21st day of May 2021

SAMUEL ISAAC a.k.a **BEN ISAAC**

Filed by **Arnelle T. J. Michael** Attorney-at-Law whose address for service is Montgomery Chambers Inc., All Saints Road, St. John, Antigua and gailchristian@lawyer.com and +1 268 562 5470.

lic health crisis, and it would take the buy-in of the public to see a way out of the pandemic. Mr. Mason said, “Without feeling the full gravity, that our life depends on all of us being vaccinated, as I see it, if you are vaccinated, you are part of the solution, if you are not vaccinated, then you just might be part of the problem.”

As the country continues its steady pace toward herd immunity, more and more incentives from the private sector are seemingly rolling in. Recently, Epicurean Fine Foods offered \$50.00 food vouchers for first-time inoculators, while Neverland Toys store was seen offering a 10% discount on items when your vaccination card is presented.

In the latest update from the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, “thirty-two thousand four hundred and sixty-nine (32,469) first doses of the Covid-19 vaccines have been administered while seven thousand and fifty (7,050) second doses were administered.”



Public Servants to Resume Regular Office Hours Effective Tuesday

The shortened work-week which most public servants have been working since last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, has effectively come to an end.

A circular issued by the Chief Establishment Officer is advising all public servants to report for normal duties from tomorrow, Tuesday May 25. The circular, headed; Resumption of regular work operation/working hours for all public offices/agencies, said the decision for the return to pre-COVID-19 hours was made by the Cabinet. It is also advising that all permanent secretaries and heads of department are to ensure that all safety and health protocols are to be strictly enforced at each work station.

The decision affects

thousands of public sector workers who have been working on shift-systems or working staggered hours for approxi-

mately a year when the government took stern action to curb the spreads of the coronavirus.

Despite working for

half of their regular hours for more than a year, all public servants have received their full salaries during this time.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

GET COVERED
INSURANCE FOR HOME & CONTENTS

HURRICANE SEASON STARTS JUNE 1ST 2021
CALL STATE TODAY & GET COVERED

(268) 481-7800/4 | sicantigua.com | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#)

How the environment becomes a cryptocurrency concern



By Christal Clashing

Those with investments in cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin would have seen the value of their investments fall over the last week. That's in part because on May 12th 2021, Elon Musk, the creator of the energy-efficient electric car company, Tesla Motors, suspended payment through Bitcoin, the world's most prolific cryptocurrency. His reason? He has concerns over the environmental impact of Bitcoin's reliance on fossil fuels to generate the energy needed for Bitcoin to grow and function. The electricity needed to 'mine' Bitcoin is more than entire countries like Sweden or Malaysia consume.

For a futurist like Elon Musk who looks at what can be possible for decades and even centuries down the line, he understands that managing global energy generation and consumption is a great determining factor in the quality of life for generations to come. He's not the only one. Here in the Caribbean, organisations like Caribbean Pivot, the brainchild of the Inter Development Bank (IDB), are also envisioning the future Caribbean connected by renewable and effi-

cient energy generation. In a virtual convocation of minds across the Caribbean held in October 2020 through Caribbean Pivot, the Caribbean region of 2040 was imagined as being a leader in green energy application on the global stage. In April 2021, these imaginings were brought to life in a graphic novel that illustrates a potential future of a technological and energy-efficient region that preserves our cultural festivals and improves our climate resilience. However, getting to that reality takes intentionality, confidence in our collective Caribbean selves, and a concerted though not necessarily simultaneous effort across the region.

Decentralised systems of energy and finance could play a part in getting to such a future. Although we are not there yet, decentralised energy could look like homes and businesses running on their own solar, wind, and oceanic energy sources. We can glimpse the potential benefit of decentralised systems through the lens of cryptocurrencies. Decentralised finance, like that of cryptocurrency, has the benefit of offering persons in smaller countries like Antigua and Barbuda, the ability to trade in a

global market when traditionally they would be locked out of more lucrative financial markets like the US Stock Exchange. This is the advantage of the decentralised finance model of cryptocurrencies. There are no major regulatory bodies dictating compliance procedures, with the associated fines and fees that banks and individuals in small island nations like those of the OECS have to currently comply with.

Although decentralisation offers more freedom and autonomy to the global citizen, it also comes with the need for self-education, intentionality and responsibility. Living in the age of information, we have many tools and resources of knowledge but it is up to us to what we expose ourselves to and how we use this knowledge for the betterment of ourselves, our society and our planet. We could take a page out of Elon Musk's book and be conscious about which technologies and innovations will truly help the future of the planet and our region and choose to question those that don't seem to support our values and futures.

NLCB PanoGrama Wraps up Successful Second Season

The creator of the NLCB international pannists competition is thankful after the event successfully completed its second outing. The finals of the competition were held virtually on Saturday night. Nevin Roach, the creator, stated that upwards of ten thousand people tuned in during the competition to follow the competitors. "I can report that there were in excess of 10,000 viewers throughout the course of the entire competition on YouTube alone. Just over 3,000 persons tuned in throughout the night, on Facebook for tonight's finals," according to Roach.



T&T - Keishaun Julien [Finals]

The results of the competition in the key categories are as follows;

People's Choice

(Voted by the people. 2,314 voters.
All participants for this year were eligible)

1. Tyeesha Alexander (T&T) - 525
2. Detroy Dey (Guyana) - 396
3. Keishaun Julien (T&T) - 249

Best Dressed

(Voted by the people. 2,094 voters.
All participants for this year were eligible)

1. Tyeesha Alexander (T&T) - 456
2. Detroy Dey (Guyana) - 367
3. Keishaun Julien (T&T) - 230



T&T - Dejean Cain [Finals]

The full results for the finals on Saturday night are as follows:

1. Keishaun Julien (T&T) 93.2
2. Dejean Cain (T&T) 92.4
3. Tyeesha Alexander (T&T) 92.2
4. Earl Brooks Jr. (T&T) 91.6
5. Mathieu Borgne (France) 89.6
6. Andre Forde (Barbados) 89.2
7. Hanif Goodridge (T&T) 84.6
8. Charlton Alfonso (T&T) 77.8
9. Jamel Cadette (T&T) 76.4
10. David Yundi (USA) 75.8



T&T - Tyeesha Alexander [Finals]



A Weekly Business News Aggregation Service

**COMPILED AND EDITED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF TRADE
AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AT THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT**

BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

Haiti and Jamaica account for 86.2% of CARICOM remittances

Remittance flows to Latin America and the Caribbean grew an estimated 6.5% to \$103 billion in 2020, supported by a recovering economy and moderately improving the labour market in the USA. CARICOM Member States however only accounted for 6.8% with total remittances equaling \$7.074 B. According to the Migration and Development Brief published by the World Bank, Haiti (US\$3.1 B) and Jamaica (US\$3.0B) accounted for 86.2% of remittances in CARICOM. Other CARICOM Member States received the following remittance flows: Guyana (US\$361 M);

Trinidad & Tobago (US\$178 M); Barbados (US\$108 M); Belize (US\$93 M); Dominica (US\$49 M); Grenada (US\$48 M); St. Vincent and the Grenadines (US\$44 M); St. Lucia (US\$41 M); St. Kitts and Nevis (US\$26 M); Antigua & Barbuda (US\$25 M); and Suriname (US\$1 M). According to the Brief, the cost of remittance transfers to the region was 5.6% in the fourth quarter of 2020. Banking regulations (related to AML/CFT) raise the risk profile of remittance service providers and thereby increase costs in some corridors.

Three (3) Caribbean countries on new UK high-risk list

3 Caribbean countries Barbados, Cayman Islands and Jamaica are to be placed on the United Kingdom's list of "high-risk third world countries" when it comes to money laundering and terrorist financing. The UK's list, which is contained in its amended Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on Payer) Regulations 2017 (MRLs), was approved by the UK Parliament and came into force at the end of March 2021. No longer fettered by designations by the European Commission, the UK classification of a high-risk country reflected as a Schedule 3ZA list, in keeping with the amendment to regulation 39 (4) of the MLRs

Caribbean assessed high risk in recent S&P Global report

Global financial information and analytics company S&P Global has listed The Bahamas as having a level 4, moderately high-risk profile in the April country risk assessments. The S&P Global country risk assessments, rank country risk on a scale of level 1 (very low risk) to level 6 (very high risk). The Caribbean region as a whole carries an average rated risk of 5. Jamaica, Barbados, Dominican Republic and Grenada are listed as level 5 (high risk). On the other

Cont'd on pg 15

hand, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda are listed at level 3 (intermediate risk). Turks and Caicos as well as Trinidad and Tobago are listed at level 4 along with The Bahamas. "We define 'country risk' as the broad range of economic, institutional, financial market and legal risks that arise from doing business with or in a specific country and can affect a non-sovereign entity's credit quality," notes S&P Global.

Jamaica launches \$1 billion "Go Digital" initiative

The Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce has earmarked \$1 billion to fund the 'Go Digital' initiative, being spearheaded by the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) to support small businesses. That's the word from Jamaica's Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Audley Shaw, in his recent contribution to the 2021/22 Sectoral Budget. According to Mr. Shaw, the JBDC reported that among other COVID-19-induced adverse impacts, some 34% of its clients experienced a reduction in sales and 22% had to close temporarily. He also highlighted that the JBDC in association with Sagicor Bank are designing innovative funding solutions targeting MSMEs.

OECD pushes for higher inheritance taxes

Inheritance taxation can be an important instrument to address inequality, particularly in the current context of persistently high wealth inequality and new pressures on public finances linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new OECD report. The report

highlights the high degree of wealth concentration in OECD countries as well as the unequal distribution of wealth transfers, which further reinforces inequality. On average, the inheritances and gifts reported by the wealthiest households (top 20%) are close to 50 times higher than those reported by the poorest households (bottom 20%). The report points out that inheritance can reduce wealth concentration and enhance equality of opportunity. It also notes that inheritance taxes, have generally been found to generate lower efficiency costs than other taxes on the wealthy, and to be easier to assess and collect than other forms of wealth taxation.

Carla Barnett named as new CARICOM Secretary General

The Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on May 11, named Belizean economist Dr Carla Barnett as the 8th Secretary-General of the Community effective August 15, 2021. She succeeds Ambassador Irwin LaRocque who was not eligible for a third term. A former Deputy Secretary General of CARICOM, Dr. Barnett was formerly Vice President of the Senate in Belize and has served in various ministerial capacities in her country's government. She has also served as Financial Secretary of Belize and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank Belize, as well as Vice-President (Operations) of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).



TALKING POINT

DR. MASERATI

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

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE



THE TRAGEDY OF PALESTINE

By Donald Ramotar, former President of Guyana

On Monday May 10, clashes between Palestinians and Israelis erupted once again.

The reason for the clashes this time was due to the fact that the Israeli regime have moved to expel Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem to make way for new Israeli settlers. They are people who were not just born in East Jerusalem but whose ancestors have been living there since time immemorial. Naturally the people are resisting, fighting to protect what little they are allowed to have in that tragic Israeli Apartheid state. What is even more sad is that the repressive, racist Israeli regime is being supported by some of the most powerful countries in

the world, including the United States, which is the most powerful. These are the same countries that are most vociferous in speaking about Human Rights. Yet in the issue of Israel and Palestine they are fully on the side of the Apartheid Israeli State. It is that support that has allowed the Israeli regime to act with such impunity. To justify this inhuman position, they have been manipulating the news. On Tuesday May 11 they BBC reported that the Israelis were bombing "military targets" in the Gaza Strip. Aljazeera is more or less saying the same thing. What is the reality? Israel is a nuclear power. It has one of the strongest army in the world. It is

also generously supplied with the most modern weapons, airplanes, tanks, drones etc. It is a producer of modern sophisticated weapons. It has its own military industrial complex.

The Palestinians, on the other hand, have been made into one of the poorest people in history. It has no army, no factories, no airplanes, no tanks and limited amounts of light weapons. They fight mainly with stones and sling shots. What military targets are they speaking about?

The rockets that are spoken about being fired from the Gaza Strip into Israel is probably the only weapons they have. Yet it is almost nothing compared to what Israel has. Indeed, there

are locally produced in some kitchen in someone's home.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union international support for the Palestinians have been drastically reduced. All of these powerful states in the world have diplomatic relations with Israel and have become conspicuously silent to the plight of the unfortunate people of Palestine. The strongest statement that they have made is that both sides must show restraint. As the slaughter continues Palestinians are losing their lives and limbs at an accelerating rate. As of May 11, thirty-two Palestinians have died, about a dozen children among them and hundreds seriously injured. Only three Israelis lost their lives. This is the most unequal struggle

in history. It is also the most injustice being perpetrated anywhere in the world. Yet the Palestinians are being equated with Israel and are being told to show restraint. This is while they are being forcibly evicted from their humble homes. The Arab world has become so compromised that they have been reduced to making meek statements but unwilling to take any action. Egypt, Saudi Arabia and others make feeble statements because they have become dependent on Israel.

Even many Muslim Organizations, example those in Guyana, are deafeningly silent. They seem more afraid of losing their US visas than standing up against the injustice and genocide that have been constantly visiting

the Palestinian people.

It is time that democratic states take a firm stand on this matter. They can make a big difference if they do.

Let us recall that before the Apartheid Regime in South Africa fell it was the powerful countries, that refused to sanction that hated regime. Recall too that Israel was Apartheid South Africa main ally.

It was the stirring of the masses, the people in the street and small states that made the difference. That movement eventually forced the large countries to take a stand. Today the same states that collaborated and supported the racist South African regime, the very same forces that described Nelson Mandela and his comrades in the ANC as terrorists became the loudest in

extolling the virtues of Mandela.

Well the Israeli Apartheid regime is much worse than what existed in South Africa. To change this, we must stand up with the oppressed people of Palestine, we must force the leading countries in the world to condemn the murderous actions of Israel. We in the Caribbean should take the lead and, as a first step, break diplomatic relations with the racist, apartheid regime in Israel. We must work to uphold human rights wherever it is being trampled upon.

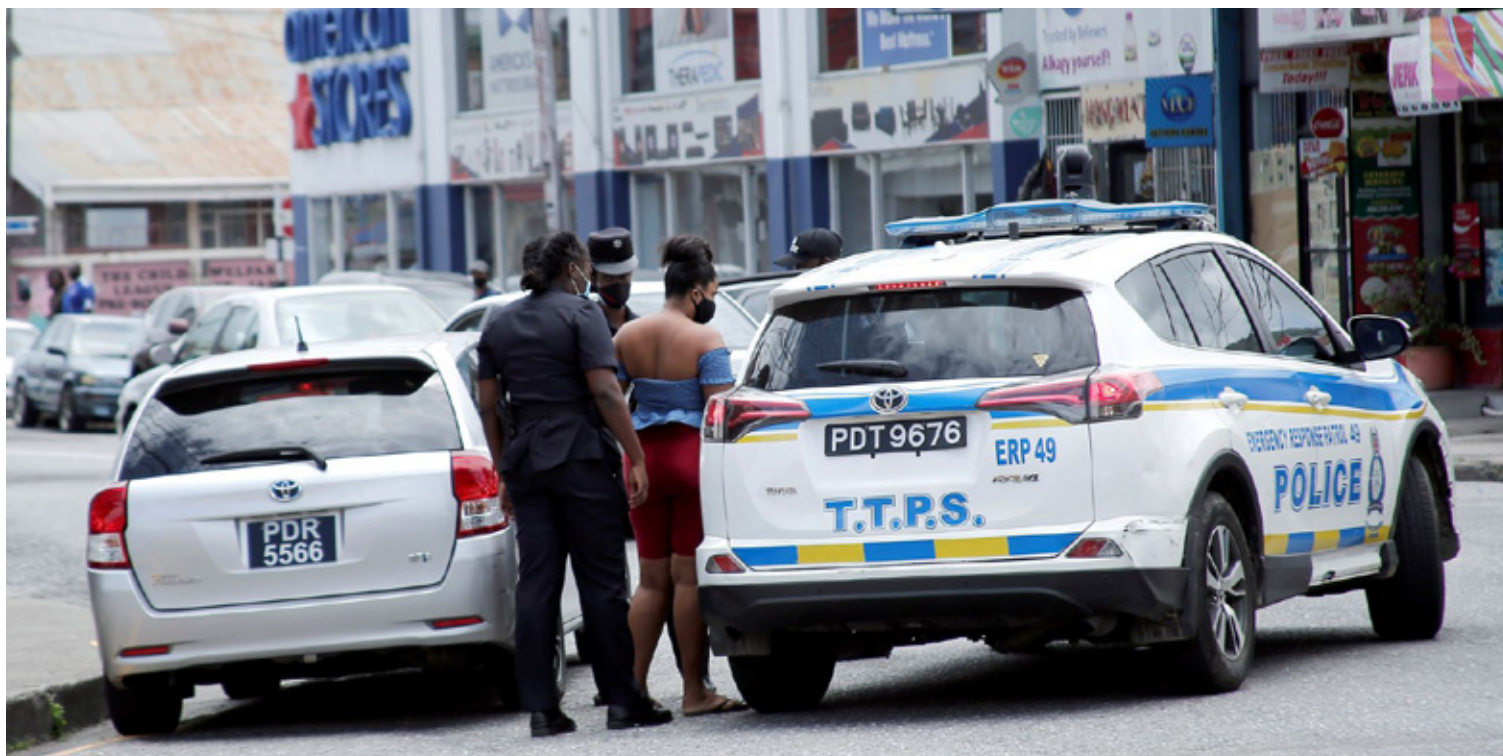
Failing that the blood of the people of Palestine will continue to be shed and they could lose everything including their lives. Let us show some humanity. Let your voices be heard!!

STARTING POINTE
with
Shelton Daniel
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8:30am-10:30am

ON AIR

POINTE FM

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
99.1 FM



An unidentified motorist is detained by police officers along the Western Main Road, St James, Saturday.

Lockdown extended to July 4 in T&T

Trinidad Guardian - Public health restrictions announced by Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley three weeks ago have been extended until July 4, while the State of Emergency could be extended for another 90 days.

This means that restaurants, malls, beaches, gyms, places of worship and bars will remain closed, while non-essential services are still prohibited. The public health regulations were due to expire Sunday.

"The date has been reached but the expected condition has not been reached. In fact, it has been worsened, so we are now looking further down the road. We are looking at the 4th of July," Prime Minister Rowley said at a press conference at the Diplomatic Centre in St Ann's Saturday.

Rowley said he was not prepared to give any definitive marker or timeline for the rollback of the regulations, as that will likely create unnecessary speculation. However, he said, the more disciplined

and cooperative the public is, the sooner the rollback date will be. "It doesn't mean we are going to be in this situation for 90 days. We will revoke it as soon as that is the prudent action to take, whether it is one month after, six weeks after, or whatever time. We will want to come out of it as quickly as possible ... but we will have the legal ability to go for 90 days," he said. Ministry of Health Epidemiologist Dr. Avery Hinds said it was too soon to tell if the State of Emergency has yielded the desired effect by reducing the number of cases.

"A week post the SoE announcement, you don't have enough time just yet to make an assessment whether that very recent intervention would have been very effective or not. It usually takes two weeks to show whether an intervention begins to take effect," Dr. Hinds said. According to Principal Medical Officer Dr. Maryam Abdool-Richards, the Ministry is seeing an increasing number of new cases, but

the gap between admissions and discharges has been closing over the last four to five days. Hospital occupancy reduced slightly to 70 percent, she said. "The seven-day rolling average, as Dr Hinds said, continues to increase. We are at 508 (cases). The daily admissions, we actually saw a decline in that trend recently within the past week," Abdool-Richards said.

"Do not become comfortable with the very small decline in hospital occupancy. This is because of an increase in the supply of hospital beds ... but our resources remain strained."

Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh assured that at least 10 percent of the population will be vaccinated by August. He said he was encouraged by the vaccine confidence being shown by the public, with 1,936 people getting vaccinated with the Sinopharm jabs on Friday.

NEW NUTRITION POLICY FOR BARBADOS SCHOOLS



*Chief Education Officer at the Ministry of Education,
Joy Adamson*

Several regional agencies and stakeholders have collaborated with the Ministry of Education to create a school nutrition policy that will benefit the health of Barbadian children.

Chief Education Officer in the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, Joy Adamson, indicated this during her remarks via a pre-recorded video recently. She noted that the new policy will be implemented in the upcoming academic year 2021-2022. During the next school year, the Ministry will be focusing on three main areas – officials will be reviewing the menus of the School Meals Department; there will be the emphasis on health

and activity in schools; and the Ministry will inform parents on how to prepare healthy meals and encourage their children or wards to consume healthy foods. She acknowledged that students are eating lunches that are high in fat, sugar, and salt. Adamson noted that this practice is worrisome, but the Ministry of Education's focus is to ensure that meals are wholesome and appealing to students.

Meals must be more appealing

The National Nutrition Centre has given technical assistance to the School Meals Department by reviewing the menus to make them

more appealing to the students. “Vegetables and legumes will be incorporated into the protein or starch to ensure that the students are receiving the vitamins, minerals and fibre that are often missing from their meals,” said Adamson. She added that there will be the inclusion of fruit and vegetable salads as the Ministry believes students must acquire the taste for consuming these foods in raw form. The National Nutrition Centre will also provide support by guiding the correct portion sizes by the age of the child. Adamson said the goal is to help schools become less obesogenic. “We are seeking to reduce the sugar-sweet-

ened beverages sold at schools. It must be noted that a bottle of sugar-sweetened beverage can have as many as 16 teaspoons in one bottle. The amount of sugar that a child should consume in a day is no less than six teaspoons,” said Adamson.

She revealed that she was recently informed that many children do not drink hot beverages in the mornings, but instead consume sugar-sweetened drinks. This means that children are drinking three to four sugar-sweetened beverages in a day – which is about 48 teaspoons daily. This excludes the other sugar-laden foods that they are consuming.

PM SAYS INTEGRITY COMMISSION INVITED TO OBSERVE MOBAY PROJECTS

MONTEGO BAY, St. James (Jamaica Observer) — Prime Minister Andrew Holness has revealed that the Integrity Commission has been invited to be observers on the negotiating team of the multimillion-dollar Montego Bay Perimeter Road Project. “I have asked the permanent secretary to write to the Integrity Commission to invite them to sit as observers on the negotiating team. I have asked the permanent secretary to invite them, if they so wish, to come on board because we have nothing to hide,” Holness shared. “The Integrity Commission, I hope, will respond to us in a positive way and come on board to be an observer in the process.” The prime minister, who was speaking on Friday at the official opening of the \$1.3-billion, world-class Harmony Beach Park in Montego Bay, informed that he had a meeting with the negotiating team on Thursday. He shared that, during that meeting, the team was

informed that the objective is to get the best quality output and “to ensure that whatever it is we do it accords to international standards. “We are targeting the American highway standards. We have said to the team that you must get the best prices, and these prices are not secret or mysterious. There are standards for them, and we can negotiate them. And the truth is that this negotiating team is experienced; it is the same negotiating team that negotiated all the works under the Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP) project. It is the same negotiating team that is dealing with the issues of the South Coast Road Improvement Project. So they know what they are looking for, and we said that we must ensure the work is completed on time,” the prime minister said. Initially, Jamaica was engaged with the government of China to obtain a loan from that country’s Ex-Im Bank to fund the project. But the

prime minister argued that, upon recognition that the government [of Jamaica] was able to finance the project, it was decided not to take on any additional debt.

“It [the project] was engaged to be done bilaterally. This administration looked at it and we said our overriding economic obligation is to reduce debt. Why should we take on more debt when within our budget we would be able to finance the project over its life? Because the truth is that when

we do put forward our capital budgets there have been years when we don’t spend all our capital budgets. So, we have fiscal capacity. We just need the project and the efficient public sector bureaucracy to get them done. So we took a decision to change that developing trend of bilateral engagement,” the prime minister explained. China Harbour Engineering Company, however, remain the contractors for the project.



Chinese workers attached to China Harbour Engineering Company get down to business on the north south coastal highway.



SLMDA STRONGLY ADVISES AGAINST IVERMECTIN AS COVID TREATMENT

SLMDA opposes Ivermectin as a treatment for COVID-19

The Saint Lucia Medical and Dental Association would like to unambiguously state that we do not support the use of Ivermectin for treatment or prevention of COVID-19.

This drug has long been approved for use in humans as an antiparasitic/ antihelmintic. It is also widely used in veterinary medicine. Clinical trials thus far have shown very little evidence of benefit associated with the use of this drug in the treatment of COVID-19. It is clearly documented that the dose required to potentially reduce the duration or severity of symptoms causes in-

numerable side effects. The risk/benefit analysis at present, therefore, does not support the use of this drug. COVID-19 is dynamic and if large scale reputable trials done with adequate scientific rigour and sound methodology showing some benefit were to be published, we would as science-based practitioners change our position. We firmly believe that every safe and effective tool in our arsenal should be used to fight this invisible enemy which has over the last year wreaked havoc on healthcare systems around the world.

As guardians of our nation's healthcare, our ul-

timate responsibility is the welfare and protection of the public which we serve. We, therefore, continue to urge you our fellow Saint Lucians to take the opportunity to get vaccinated, consume a healthy balanced diet, guard your mental health, and continue to adhere to the tried and tested public health measures. We acknowledge that there is fatigue and frustration, but this is the best strategy to beat this virus and emerge from this pandemic. Allow me in closing to reiterate our firm scientific stance which is in keeping with that of every reputable public health agen-

cy, in strongly advising against the use of Ivermectin for prevention or treatment of COVID-19 or as an alternative to the COVID-19 vaccine.

We remain open to your queries and concerns and, in keeping with our "open door" policy, we will be hosting a virtual town hall meeting in the coming days to answer questions from the general public. You can contact our Secretariat at telephone number 451-8441 for further details. Have a safe and blessed holiday weekend. We are at the cusp of winning this war, but we can only do it together.

Two dead, 12 injured in shooting at New Jersey house party



Investigators work the scene of a shooting in Fairfield Township, N.J

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — A family house party in South Jersey turned into a crime scene where at least two people were fatally shot and 12 others were wounded, state police said.

Authorities arrived at the house in Fairfield Township, about an hour outside of Philadelphia, late Saturday night. A resident who runs a local anti-violence organization said he was called out to assist families at the 90s-themed party. John Fuqua, of Life Worth Living, said guests who attended the party were of all ages.

New Jersey State police said a 30-year-old

man and 25-year-old woman were fatally shot. There were 12 other people who were injured and transported to local hospitals. No arrests have been made.

Photos show overturned pop-up party tents, tables and chairs, and debris throughout the home's yard. A long driveway was still filled with cars late Sunday morning.

Two cousins who live in the area of the shooting said they heard music from the party until after midnight, then a series of shots — at least 15 of them over a few minutes.

Joeron Pierce and James Pierce, who live in homes next to each oth-

er, said there was chaos after that. Partygoers ran through their yards and asked to come into their houses. They said cars ran into one other trying to speed away.

Fairfield Township Mayor Benjamin Byrd Sr., who was at the scene Sunday, said New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy offered his support and help.

"Nobody knows when someone's going to come out of the woods with a gun," Byrd said. He did not have any details about the shooting.

Murphy called the shooting "horrific."

"This despicable and cowardly act of gun violence only steels our commitment to ensur-

ing New Jersey leads the nation in passing and enforcing strong and commonsense gun safety laws," Murphy said in a statement. "No community should ever experience what occurred last night in Fairfield."

WPVI-TV reported that the reverend of a nearby church heard the gunfire.

"I just started hearing at first what I thought was fireworks, it was really gunshots, and I heard nine in rapid succession," said the Rev. Michael Keene of the Trinity AME Church.

Messages seeking additional information have been left with multiple organizations.



Belarus diverts Ryanair flight to arrest journalist, says opposition

Supporters of Roman Protasevich wait for his arrival at Vilnius airport

BBC World News - A Ryanair plane flying from Greece to Lithuania has been diverted to Belarus, with the country's opposition figures saying it was done so a dissident journalist on board could be arrested.

The Nexta media network said its ex-editor Roman Protasevich was detained. Belarus state media said the plane was diverted to Minsk because of a bomb scare but no explosives were found. European nations have reacted with outrage, accusing Belarus of "state terrorism" and demanding punishment. Political figures across Europe have al-

ready called for the EU and Nato to intervene. UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab warned the "outlandish action" would have "serious implications". Belarus opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya - who was beaten by Alexander Lukashenko last year in presidential polls widely denounced as rigged - was among those demanding Mr. Protasevich's release.

Since August's election, 66-year-old Mr. Lukashenko, who has ruled the country since 1994, has cracked down on dissenting voices. Many opposition figures have been arrested or, like

Ms. Tikhanovskaya, fled into exile.

The plane has now left Minsk, Belarus's capital, for Lithuania, after spending several hours on the ground.

Flight FR4978 was en route from Athens to the Lithuanian capital Vilnius on Sunday when it turned east to Minsk shortly before it reached the Lithuanian border. Greece and Lithuania put the number of passengers on board at 171.

In a statement, Ryanair said the crew were "notified by Belarus (Air Traffic Control) of a potential security threat on board and were instructed to divert to the

nearest airport, Minsk".

The flight path, visible on the Flightradar24 website, suggests the plane was actually nearer to Vilnius than Minsk when it turned.

Ryanair said checks in Minsk found "nothing untoward" and the aircraft was cleared to depart after about five hours on the ground.

"Ryanair has notified the relevant national and European safety and security agencies and we apologise sincerely to all affected passengers for this regrettable delay which was outside Ryanair's control," it added.

Italian cable car plunges to the ground, killing at least 14



Rescuers work by the wreckage of cable car after it collapsed near the summit of the Stresa-Mottarone

ROME (AP) — A cable car taking visitors to a mountaintop view of some of northern Italy's most picturesque lakes plummeted to the ground Sunday and then tumbled down the slope, killing 14 people. A young child was hospitalized in serious condition with broken bones, authorities said.

Stresa Mayor Marcella Severino said it appeared that a cable broke, sending the car careening until it hit a pylon and then fell to the ground. At that point, the car overturned "two or three times before hitting some trees," she said. Some of those who died were thrown from the cabin.

The Italian government announced a commission to investigate the disaster which

is likely to renew questions about the quality and safety of Italy's transport infrastructure. Images from the site showed the crumpled car in a clearing of a thick patch of pine trees near the summit of the Mottarone peak overlooking Lake Maggiore. The car was believed to have fallen around 15 meters (50 feet), according to Italian media.

"It was a terrible, terrible scene," Severino told Italy's SkyTG24.

The plunge on the Stresa-Mottarone line happened about 100 meters before the final pylon, said Walter Milan, spokesman for Italy's Alpine rescue service.

By Sunday evening, the death toll had risen to 14 dead after one of two children taken to

Turin's Regina Margherita children's hospital died. The child died after several attempts to restart his heart failed and "there was nothing more we could do," said hospital spokesman Pier Paolo Berra. The other young child, who arrived at the hospital conscious, remained in serious condition, authorities said.

Milan noted that the cable line had been renovated in 2016 and had only recently reopened after coronavirus lockdowns in Italy curtailed travel and forced the suspension of many leisure activities. Milan suggested many families may have flocked to the mountain on a sunny Sunday after months of restrictions.

The line is popular with tourists and locals

alike to scale Mottarone, which reaches a height of 1,491 meters (4,900 feet) and overlooks several picturesque lakes and the surrounding Alps of Italy's Piedmont region. The mountain hosts a small amusement park, Alpyland, that has a children's rollercoaster, and the area also has mountain bike paths and hiking trails.

Premier Mario Draghi offered his condolences to the families of the victims, "with a particular thought about the seriously injured children and their families."

Sunday's tragedy appeared to be Italy's worst cable car disaster since 1998 when a low-flying U.S. military jet cut through the cable of a ski lift in Cavalese, in the Dolomites, killing 20 people.

MOUNT NYIRAGONGO: VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN DR CONGO LEAVES PEOPLE HOMELESS

Locals have been sifting through the remains of flattened houses



BBC World News - People in the Democratic Republic of Congo are returning to scenes of devastation after a large volcano erupted. Mount Nyiragongo turned the sky red and spewed out a river of lava when it erupted on Saturday.

Thousands of people fled Goma – a city of two million people just south of the volcano – overnight. There are some reports of five deaths during the evacuation process, though this has not been officially confirmed. It is unclear if anyone died in the eruption itself, but houses have been lost north of the city.

As the lava moved slowly, many people had time to leave the area.

The volcano, located 10km (six miles) from Goma, last erupted in 2002, killing 250 people and making 120,000 homeless.

Communications Minister Patrick Muyay said the government was having a second emergency meeting on Sunday afternoon. He also said seismic tremors had been felt in the area in the aftermath. “People are advised to remain vigilant, avoid non-essential travel, and follow directions,” he tweeted.

Some locals had complained about the lack of information from the authorities during the eruption. Crowds were seen with mattresses and other belongings, fleeing even before the govern-

ment’s announcement, which came several hours after the eruption started.

One Goma resident, Richard Bahati, said he was in his house when he heard screaming and became extremely worried as he saw the sky reddening outside. “I lived through the problem with this volcano in 2002. The volcano devastated all our homes and possessions,” he said.

Meanwhile, some younger residents saw the volcano erupt for the first time. Student Aline Kanyere said she had studied it and that it was talked about all the time, yet it had been shocking to see it burst into action. “We’re all shaking,” she said.

A local trader, Kambere Ombeni, was among those who returned to the scene on Sunday afternoon as the rubble still smouldered. “We watched the whole neighbourhood in the Nyiragongo territory go up in smoke. The fire came right down to here. Even now we can still see lava,” he said.

Another resident, Irene Bauma, said people would need help from the government to rebuild their lives. “There’s land, people, a population that has lost everything, maybe there are also deaths, who knows? We are asking the government to come and help the survivors of this eruption.”

READY TO CONQUER THE WILD



Jimny

Pack your bags! It's time to conquer "the wild"

\$76,400



ANITGUA'S #1 AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP
VISIT US ON OLD PARHAM ROAD TEL: 481-2500



Mon 24 | Day
29° ☀️
 Partly cloudy. High 29°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h.

Humidity **69%**
 UV Index **Extreme**
 Sunrise **05:33**
 Sunset **18:34**

Mon 24 | Night
25° ☁️
 Partly cloudy. Low 25°C. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 km/h.

Humidity **78%**
 UV Index **0 of 10**
 Moonrise **16:51**
 Moonset **03:54**
 ☾ Waxing Gibbous

Tue 25 | Day
29° ☀️
 Partly cloudy. High 29°C. Winds E at 15 to 30 km/h.

Humidity **67%**
 UV Index **Extreme**
 Sunrise **05:33**
 Sunset **18:35**

Tue 25 | Night
25° ☁️
 Partly cloudy. Low 25°C. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 km/h.

Humidity **76%**
 UV Index **0 of 10**
 Moonrise **17:56**
 Moonset **04:41**
 ☾ Full

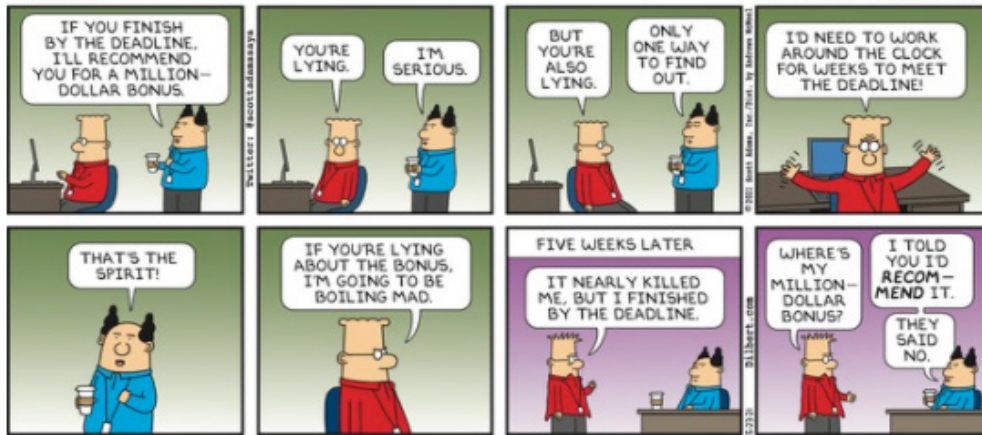
COMICS

Dilbert

May 23, 2021

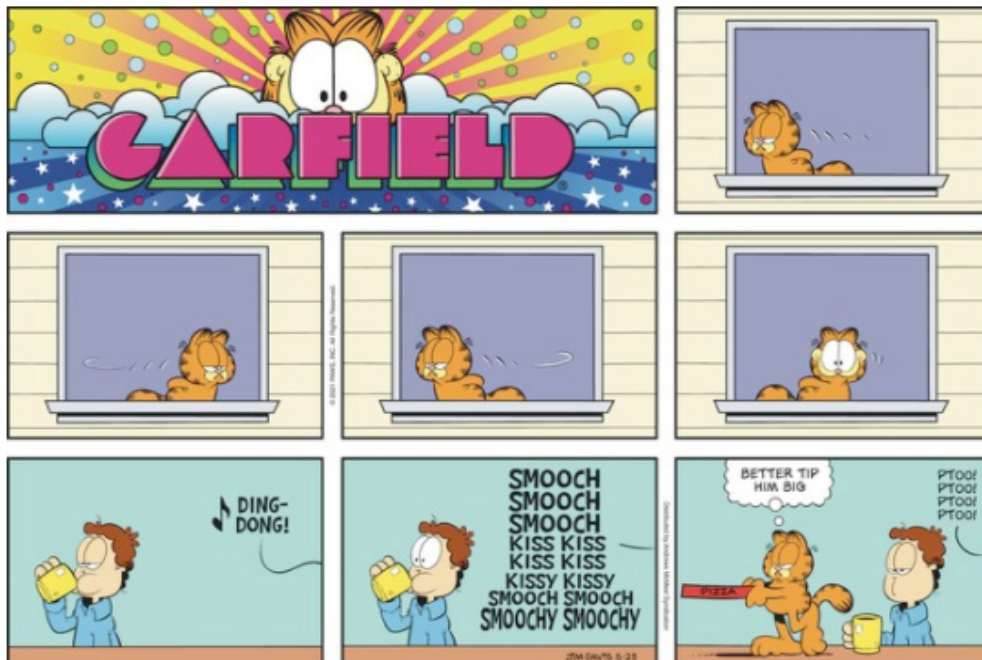
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



Garfield

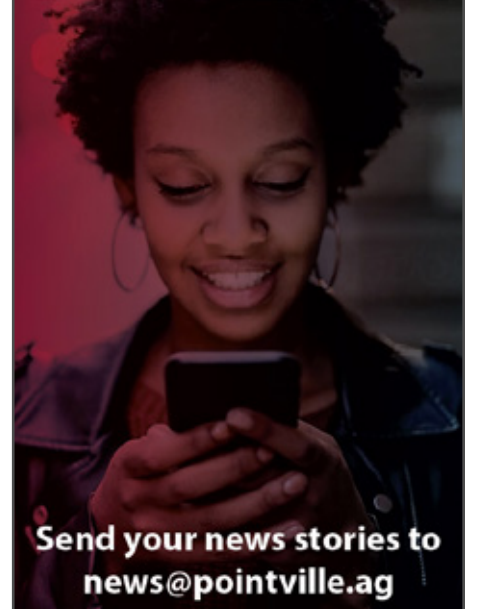
May 23, 2021



TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Submit community notices to
news@pointville.ag

GOT NEWS?



Send your news stories to
news@pointville.ag

CWI TO HOST PROFESSIONAL CRICKETERS

DRAFT FOR 2021/22 SEASON

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua - Cricket West Indies (CWI) will host the West Indies Professional Cricketers Draft for the 2021/2022 cricket season on Tuesday 25th May via video call. The Territorial Board Franchises will be convening to draft their final two players for their squads to play in the forthcoming season which will hopefully include the CG Insurance Super50 Cup and the West Indies Championship.

The draft will be conducted over two rounds, where each franchise must pick a player in each round. Each franchise will pick two players to add to their pre-selected squad of thirteen (13) protected players, to make a full squad of fifteen (15) players. The franchises will be selecting their two picks from a pool of nearly 100 players. For the 2021-22 season, each franchise will be allocated a pick number according to their final league position and performance of the franchise in the last West Indies Championship, held in 2019-20 and won by the Barbados Pride (see table below for sequence of draft picks). Each franchise will have 90 seconds in each round to make a pick. Where

a selection is not made within this time period, the franchise will miss their turn and will have to wait until all the other franchises have made their selection in that round, before making its selection.

Once the franchises have made their full picks to confirm their fifteen retained players, a total of 90 cricketers across the six franchises will be retained on full-time regional contracts for the next twelve months. CWI's Cricket Operations Manager, Roland Holder said,

The draft, now in its eighth (8th) year, demonstrates that CWI remains committed to our professional cricket structure and system, even in these times of uncertainty from the COVID-19 pandemic. The ninety (90) regional players who will be awarded regional franchise contracts, will be able to train and practice professionally as CWI hopes for a return to normalcy in regional cricket later this year.

Each choice by each Franchise selection committee will be monitored and recorded by the draft overseer (s), as notified to the Franchises by CWI.

League Place 2019/2020	Name of Team	Draft Selection Position
6 th	Leeward Islands Hurricanes	1 st
5 th	Windward Volcanoes	2 nd
3 rd	Jamaica Scorpions	3 rd
3 rd	Guyana Jaguars	4 th
2 nd	Trinidad & Tobago Red Force	5 th
1 st	Barbados Pride	6 th



LAKERS GO DOWN IN GAME 1

The Los Angeles Lakers began the defense of their title with a shaky start going down 90 -99 to the Phoenix Suns. During the game, LeBron James gets undercut and goes down hard, leading to chaos breaking out as the Lakers and Suns get involved in a dramatic altercation. It was however a lackluster all round performance from the defending NBA champions who would need to improve if they are to get past the talented Suns team. The Lakers were not the only ones with injury concerns as Chris Paul was pulled from the game twice to go to the locker room to get his shoulder checked out by the training staff. Other notable scores: Philadelphia 76ers 125 vs Washington Wizards 118.

MARQUINO MINDLEY TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Training to start in small groups on Monday following negative repeat tests for training squad

Gros Islet, St. Lucia — Following PCR Tests administered on Friday 21st May for all members of the West Indies Men's red ball training camp being held in St Lucia, Jamaican fast bowler, Marquino Mindley, tested positive on his second COVID-19 test. In accordance with the medical protocols established with the St. Lucian Ministry of Health, Mindley, who is currently asymptomatic, will now self-isolate in his hotel room under the supervision of the Crick-

et West Indies (CWI) Medical Team until he returns two back-to-back negative results.

All other members of the training squad and coaching team were re-tested and isolated in their rooms, with training cancelled for the weekend. All of the training squad and coaching team members have now tested negative following their repeat tests and the squad will train in small groups starting on Monday 24th May, at the Daren Sam-

my Cricket Ground. The West Indies red ball training camp is being held in a bio-secure environment ahead of the ICC World Test Championship two-match Series against South Africa, scheduled to start on June 10. CWI continues to work with all the regional governments and CARPHA to encourage and assist all squad members to get vaccinated. To date, 43 members of West Indies Men's playing and coaching staff have received vaccination doses.

DEWS

TOUCH LINE

with

**VERON 'EPLIUS' EDWARDS JR.
VERNON A. SPRINGER**



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



99.1 FM