



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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A&B GRANTED TRAVEL BREAKOUT!

SEE PAGE 3



No vaccines will be dumped (see EDITORIAL on page 2)

Another gun crime incident (page 5)

A notable victory that must not be squandered

One major serving of good news worthy of national rejoicing broke yesterday, that Antigua and Barbuda will not have to dump any of the remaining thousands of COVID-19 vaccine doses that, if unused, would expire at the end of this month and then be discarded – wasted!

It was a depressing prospect, given the hoops through which we had to jump, the somersaults and contortions we had to put ourselves through in order to obtain those vaccine supplies to fully inoculate the first 40,000 of our population – a mere half of the total number that needs to be double-jabbed in order to acquire herd immunity.

Painstaking, arduous and nail-biting as it was initially, we got the shipments and at first it seemed as if our people could not get enough, stamping their feet in petulant impatience on the long wines, hating the wait to get those shots into their arms.

The early restrictions into various categories of front-line workers, parliamentarians, over-65s, etc., frustrat-

ed many who regarded the delay in getting to them as time-wasting discrimination – perhaps even a tad of elitism.

That is, until the great flood of hesitancy set it with an obduracy outmatching the deadly imperiousness of that post-Christmas second wave of COVID which had panicked us into finally taking the pandemic as seriously as we ought to have from the start – yes, the second wave panic that had us demanding and clamouring for the vaccine.

But then came the international blood clot hysteria, subversive misinformation and retaliatory propaganda that froze many of us with fear, reluctance, hesitation and refusal. We could be shamed out of the conspiracy theories spawned by wild imaginations, fantasies and speculation – but this time it was hard empirical medical science seeming to validate and vindicate the prejudices we had only grudgingly suppressed when that New Year second wave threatened to engulf and eradicate us within the vaccine-less desert of

our globally marginal borders.

Credit for this late rally in vaccine uptake must be given where it is due, and the leadership provided by our Cabinet of Ministers – led from the front by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health – well supported by their colleagues, the medical practitioners and other healthcare providers such as the nurses, the media and the providers and sponsors of incentives must all be commended.

We must now ensure that this momentum is not allowed to slacken or stiffen (die) and that the subsequent 16,800 additional doses that we received will have a much smoother and quicker rollout before any of those other and scarier COVID variants that we keep hearing about reach and breach our borders.

Should that midnight of misfortune ever befall us, the last thing we need betraying our defences from within is an irresponsible second half of our population – equivalent to the five foolish virgins – who chose to spurn the backup oil of inoculation.

Antigua and Barbuda to join UK Green List

The United Kingdom government is adding Antigua and Barbuda to its Green List of countries from which UK visitors who return from these destinations would not be required to undergo quarantine. A statement posted on the UK Government website said Antigua and Barbuda will be added to the list next Wednesday at 4:00 a.m.

Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper reported that millions of British holidaymakers will finally be able to get some

summer sun abroad after a handful of holiday islands were put on the travel "green list". Brits will be able to travel to much of the Caribbean, Ibiza and Mallorca, Madeira, and Malta, without having to self-isolate when they get back from 4:00 a.m. on Wednesday 30 June.

But all the new additions, except Malta, will be on a special "green watchlist" - which is a major warning to holidaymakers. The green watchlist has the same rules

as the green list, but with the warning that those countries are at risk of turning amber again soon. Meanwhile, other popular destinations including France and Spain stayed on the amber list for now - meaning travellers will still have to self-isolate for 10 days at home on return.

This is welcomed news for the Antigua and Barbuda's tourism industry, as the UK is the country's second most important source market for stay-over visitors.

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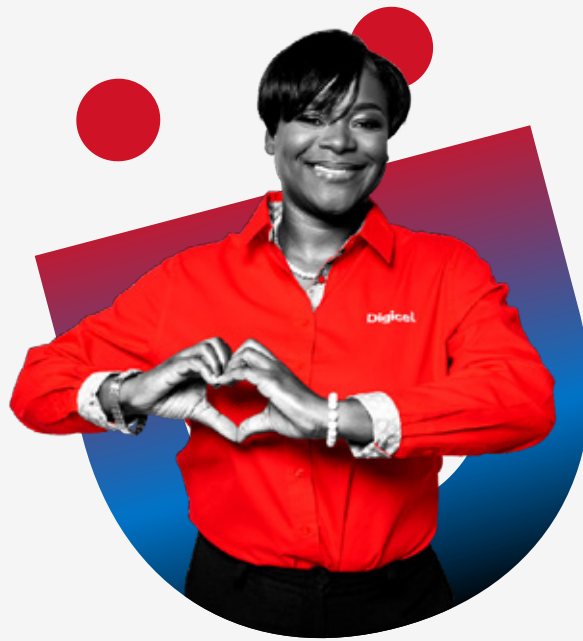
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TRANSPARENCY IS OUR PROMISE

Digicel is giving customers a better way to enjoy data by removing Pay-As-You-Go data in keeping with the promise of being transparent - with no hidden charges, no tricky terms and conditions and no leaving customers hanging. Pay-As-You-Go data, otherwise known as Pay Go, refers to paying per MB for data consumption outside of a Digicel Prime Bundle or plan.

Joanna Spencer - CEO Antigua Barbuda & Montserrat said, "We're putting customers back in control of their digital life. Many of our customers would have expressed that accidental data usage of background apps was a pain point as it resulted in loss of credit. Today we are ensuring that data will only be used when a customer agrees to do so."

With the removal of Pay Go, Digicel is simply giving customers a better way to enjoy data. Digicel's customers can now activate a Digicel Prime Bundle and always have data on-the-go with an abundance of any use data, along with dedicated data allotments to use with each app in the Digicel ecosystem. That includes BiP, Billo, D'Music, GoLoud, Loop, PlayGo, and SportsMax, along with the self-service platform, MyDigicel app where customers can check their usage, top up, activate plans and even pay bills.

Joanna added, "The removal of Pay Go is all about trust and transparency and holding ourselves accountable. It's about doing the best and being the best for our customers. We are working with our customers to make sure that a promise made is a promise kept, and it's our aim to continue to listen to our customers and to work on overcoming their pain points as we strive to be Better Together."





Police probe home invasion shooting

The Police are continuing investigations into an alleged shooting incident on Lower Newgate Street which has left a 60 year-old man at the Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John Medical Center nursing a gunshot wound to his lower body.

The elderly man was reportedly at his home when a male figure entered, assaulted and shot him in the process.

The victim is said to be in stable condition at the hospital. The alleged incident occurred shortly after midday on Thursday 24th June. Police are appealing to anyone who may have wit-

nessed any suspicious activities in the area to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462- 3914

The victim's name has since been given by other sources as Oswald Matthison. He is said to have been shot once in the lower abdomen by an assailant who allegedly sauntered from the house after committing the act and then rode away on a bicycle.

Matthison was reportedly taken to hospital by police when they arrived at the scene. It is not known what, if anything, was stolen.

Invitation for Bids

Structural Steel Frame

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda through its executing agency, the Antigua & Barbuda Port Authority has embarked on a complete reconstruction of the St. John's Deep Water Harbour Port. As such, a new Transit Shed (warehouse) has been constructed with the old one being dismantled. The steel frame of the old Transit Shed together with other auxiliary elements has been inspected by the Port's Engineers and have been determined to be in a condition that allows for its reuse.

The Board of Directors of the Antigua & Barbuda Port Authority has therefore decided to put up for auction the said structure and hereby invite interested individuals or organizations to send in private bid for the structure.

Bid Documents are available from the Port Authority's Administration Building, Bay Road for a nonrefundable nominal fee of \$200.00. The Bid Documents provide further details of the size of the building, structural elements which forms part of the auctioned building and the Bill of Quantities (quantities of the various components) to assist in determining the value. The design of the building is also presented.

The structural elements may be view on receipt of your Bid Documents and any questions which you may have may be raised with our Engineers. A formal response will be sent out to all bidders addressing all issues raised by each bidder.

The deadline for submissions of Bids is 30th June 2021. Further details are provided in the bid Documents.

By Order Of:-

 Darwin Telémaque
 Port Manager
 Antigua & Barbuda Port Authority



Police Investigate Sudden Death

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the sudden death of 42-year-old Kishin Wright of Glanvilles.

Wright, originally from Jamaica, was discovered around 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, lying motionless along the Glanvilles

main road, and appeared to be dead. A medical doctor arrived on the scene and pronounced him

dead approximately 7:00 p.m. Investigations are ongoing into the matter.

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
THE REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34 of the Act

REGISTRATION SECTION SOUTH EAST BLOCK 56 2184C PARCELS 19

LAND REGISTRY Antigua & Barbuda

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on the 12th day of April, 2021 by Peyton J. V. Knight, Attorney-At-Law of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates of Upper Newgate Street, Saint John Parish, Antigua on behalf of VIOLET BROWNE Personal Representative for the Estate of Mr. Ephraim Jarvis aka. Mr. Ephraim Marassah Jarvis the Applicant herein for the replacement of Land Certificate # RL-828/1985 dated the 12th day of March, 2017 issued to EPHRIAM JARVIS, being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.





Dated the 12th day of May, 2021

Registrar of Lands



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Marine trades specialist now an MBE

His Excellency the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams has written to Mr. Franklin Braithwaite, informing him that he has been appointed to be a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the latest Queen's Birthday Honours List.

What follows is the text of Sir Rodney's letter to Mr. Braithwaite, followed by a biography of the awardee as supplied to us via an official email from Government

House on Thursday.

Mr. Franklin Theodore Braithwaite

Paradise Road, Picadilly

St. Paul's, Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda

Dear Mr. Braithwaite,

This serves to confirm that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on the occasion of the official celebration of her birthday in June 2021, has been pleased to appoint you as a *Member of the British*

Empire (MBE) for services to economic and community development in Antigua and Barbuda.

Your appointment was officially announced in the London Gazette on June 12, 2021. Lady Williams and I convey heartiest congratulations to you!

I am also pleased to advise that your appointment by Her Majesty *authorizes the use of the letters (post-nominal) MBE after your name.*"

Stedroy Franklyn Theodore Braithwaite, GOH

The early years

Born in the picturesque coastal village of Falmouth, Franklyn, known to many by his

second name, can be characterized as a born lover of the sea, contributed perhaps by

growing up just yards from the sea shore.

From an early age he sailed little handmade boats made from the dried husk of the coconut and plastic for sails. By age 9 he was confidently sailing on a homemade raft. As a teenager, he took part in the then weekend model boat races next to

the Catamaran Hotel. They ... were done competitively and also just for a good fun Sunday afternoon. This was a popular sport in the 70's that continued throughout the 90's and waned in the early 2000's. In 1976, after leaving school, Franklyn commenced working at Antigua Sails as a sailmaker. This he did for approximately six years. During that time he also received formal training at Bruce Banks Sails Ltd. in Southampton, England. He also did follow-up refresher courses in the years 1980, 1984, 1991 and 1992. In 1982, still very much an avid sailor, he went into business.

Himself and co-worker Adolphus Lewis embarked on starting their own sailmaking company, operating under the name of A & F Sails, located in the historic Sawpit shed in Nelson's Dockyard, renovated to suit their product. A & F Sails was the first professional marine service business owned and managed by Antiguans. Over the years, A & F Sails has grown to be one of the top sailmaking businesses in Antigua and the region.

Due to increasing demand, Adolphus later branched out into the successful undertaking of A & F Manufacturing.

The sailmaking business came with its challenges but it also allowed Franklyn to meet owners and captains of many prestigious and well-known yachts from around the globe.

Achievements

Franklyn represented Antigua and Barbuda in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

He sailed in the Finn class and though he did not sail to victory, his participation helped to etch Antigua firmly on the map as a reputable sailing and much-loved destination. Antigua can easily be classed as the sailing capital of the world.

To broaden his knowledge of the marine world, Franklyn has attended and taken part in many trade shows around the world: in Miami, Italy and Spain to name a few. As a result, A & F Sails landed a lucrative assignment in South Africa, last year, to refit a yacht owned by a very successful business mogul.

Franklyn is presently the Commodore of the Antigua Yacht Club and this is his 6th year in that position. He wears many hats, as he's also the president of the Antigua and

Barbuda Marine Association, as well as being a member of the National Olympic Committee

(NOC) board. He's the past president of the parent/teachers association of the Adele School for special children, of which his daughter is a past student. He is still involved in the special education that the school offers to special needs children.

Keeping in touch with his spiritual side has seen Franklyn become an ordained Deacon of the Bible Believers church. That ministry has helped to shape him positively with inner strength and unwavering perseverance. He stands ready to support others, if only to offer encouraging and inspirational words as well as spiritual guidance.

A & F Sails have partnered with the Guard Centre, an established learning centre that trains school leavers and young adults to garner successful careers in various fields. A & F Sails has trained many of the students in sailmaking and presently two of the former students are now full time employees.

Presently, the COVID-19 pandemic has globally disrupted normalcy in many countries.

Antigua and Barbuda has set up a Tourism COVID Task Force and Franklyn is a member. They meet to

discuss the way forward for the yachting industry in Antigua and Barbuda during these unprecedented times.

In 2014, Stedroy Franklyn Theodore Braithwaite was recognised for his work in the community. He was awarded the title of GOH (Grand Officer of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage). He officially accepted his instruments at Government House from the Governor General, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams.

Activities

Franklyn is an ardent sailor and annually takes part

in Antigua Sailing Week and the

Classic Yacht Regatta. He has crewed several times on the Antiguan boat "Hugo", owned by Sir Hugh Bailey. Hugo has been successful in many races in the Antigua Regatta. Franklyn has also raced successfully in the Heineken Regatta in St. Marteen and St. Barts, and in earlier years in St. Thomas, Tortola, Guadeloupe and Martinique. The Yachting Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda is a well suited name for

Stedroy Franklyn Theodore Braithwaite.

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Queen's Police Medal (QPM) goes to Claudette Mason

His Excellency the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams has written to Mrs. Claudette Mason, informing her that she has been awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in the latest *Queen's Birthday Honours* List. What follows is the text of Sir Rodney's letter to Mrs. Brathwaite, a retired police officer, followed by a biography of the awardee as supplied to us via an official email from Government House on Thursday.

*Mrs. Claudette [Mason]
Retired Police Officer
Cassada Gardens
St. John's, Antigua
Antigua and Barbuda*
Dear Mrs. Mason,
This serves to confirm that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on the occasion of

the official celebration of her birthday in June 2021, has been pleased to appoint you as a recipient of the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) for services to the Royal Po-

lice Force of Antigua and Barbuda. Your appointment was officially announced in the London Gazette on June 12, 2021. Lady Williams and I convey

heartiest congratulations to you! I am also pleased to advise that your appointment by Her Majesty authorizes the use of the letters (post-nominal) QPM after your name.



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PROFILE

2

MRS. CLAUDETTE BRATHWAITE MASON

Mrs. Claudette Brathwaite Mason was born on 3 April 1954 in the village of Willikies, Antigua and Barbuda. She grew up in very humble beginnings and always had a desire to be of service to the nation and to help others. It was therefore no surprise that on May 3rd 1972 without hesitation she joined the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

As a female Police Officer, she has done very well and achieved admirable heights. Mrs. Mason contributed and served with pride and professionalism to the law enforcement of Antigua and Barbuda.

During her 42 years of service as Police Officer, she managed many departments to include the "C" Division, which she described as very challenging. In that Division she was successful in establishing Community and Neighborhood Watch Groups through her constant engagements with the schools, churches and other groups in the district.

As a member of the International Association of Women Police, Mrs. Mason played a very active role in helping to increase Antigua and Barbuda's involvement in the "August body" which features all Female Officers throughout the World. Antigua and Barbuda is a member of Region 17 which was coordinated by Deputy Commissioner of Police Ann-Marie Arlene from Trinidad and Tobago.

Mrs. Mason attended several conferences throughout the world. In 2013, Region 17 conducted a seminar and a special invitation was sent to Mrs. Mason to attend in Trinidad where she was the winner of 2 awards. In attendance at this memorable activity was the President of the IAWP Sgt. Jane Townsley of England as well as the North America Board of Directors. For Mrs. Mason, this was a very special occasion in her life and often reflects

on the standing ovation she received as she walked to the podium to the song 'She is Royal,' played by the Trinidad and Tobago Royal Police Band.

Throughout her tenure as an Officer and her engagement in the community, Mrs. Mason strived to uphold law and order, preserve the peace, protect life and property, prevent, detect and investigate crime and apprehend offenders and enforce the law.

As a result of her desire to always help others and her love for community work, Officer Mason played a very active role in facilitating, managing and organizing many social, sporting and philanthropic activities both within and outside the ABRPF.

Over the years she has been involved in organizing many events for Police Week especially for Brooke's House and has successfully managed several Police Pageant shows and events. Mrs. Mason has written a few articles and given speeches on policing and law enforcement. She cherishes her article on "VOLUNTEERISM AND SERVICE, KEY ELEMENTS IN BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP - HOUSEWIFE, MOTHER AND POLICE OFFICER." In 2016, the first ever Female Officers Retreat was held at Royal Antigua where she delivered the feature address.

Mrs. Mason is a member the ABRPF Cooperative Credit Union for over 40 years and played a very active role in helping to improve and transform the operations and management. The Credit Union was born in 1957 and only members of the Force and their families were allowed to be a member. She served on the Credit and Supervisory Committees and later became the first female President.

Following her retirement in 2014, she was asked to return and to help with the implementation of the Credit Union's strategic planning. As a result, Mrs. Mason was re-elected as President and was successful in transforming the Credit Union to allow the general public to join and now become members. To date, the membership has grown considerably and she still serves as President to this date.

4

Mrs. Mason served for many years as the Manager for the Police Netball Team which was very successful in a number of local tournaments, they also travelled for tournaments regionally and internationally. Additionally, owing to her motivational and good communications skills, she was successful in also helping the male netball team to win most of the Netball tournaments they participated in.

In 2002 she became a member of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association and was afforded the opportunity to manage the National Under 16 team to Nevis in 2007 and the under 23 to Florida in 2009. In 2003, she travelled to Jamaica as part of the management team for the World Tournament.

Even though she retired from active management of Netball in 2010, Mrs. Mason was re-appointed in 2018 as Events Coordinator of the Under 16 National Tournament and continues to perform that duty for the National Netball Association.

As a devout Christian and active member of the Christian Union Church, Mrs. Mason served on the Church Board for many years as Trustee and Treasurer. She retired from the church board in 2009. Currently, she serves as the chairperson of the district Church Board Award and Incentives Committee.

Over the years Mrs. Mason received the following Awards:

2001 Team Manager from the Business League Tournament

2004 The Church Hard Work and Committed award

2012 Public Service Dedication Service Day

2017 Sons and Daughters of Willikies Outstanding Service to the Community and Country.

Mrs. Mason over the years has received courses from around the world: she attended a Prosecution Course in Barbados and was chosen as the Class leader and gave the Vote of

Thanks on behalf of the students; she also attended the Organization of American States (OAS) and was chosen as the Leader and gave the vote of thanks. Mrs. Mason attended a course in El Salvador and was nominated as Class leader along with a Magistrate from El Salvador. As a result of the two nominees, there had to be a re-vote to which she emerged the winner. She gave the Vote of Thanks at the end of the course. In 2014, she was awarded a plaque from the Ministry of National Security And Labour, for Dedicated Service to the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

Mrs. Mason is very active in her Cassada Gardens Community. Every year she provide students with school supplies to include snacks and food. She also takes care of the elderly, organizing social programs, cooking and distributing food for them. Her last major event was a summer camp in 2019 which was held for the first time for the entire community. Mrs. Mason continues to assist her community during the COVID 19 Pandemic.



Drugs and ammuniton found at Deep Water Harbour

Three hundred and eighty-one rounds of ammunition and a total of 176 grams of cannabis were discovered at the Deep Water Harbour.

The illegal items were found inside several cans of soft drinks during a joint operation between the Customs & Excise Department and the Police on Wednesday. One hundred and twenty-seven .45mm rounds along with 254 nine millimetre rounds of ammunition were among the items seized and taken to Police Headquarters. No arrest has been made, but further investigations are ongoing into the matter.

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ATB
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

JOINT ENDEAVOUR OR COLLECTIVE SURRENDER: RESISTING GLOBAL TAX



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)

The proposal by the U.S. government to establish a global minimum corporate tax is not a remote matter from the lives of people in the Caribbean. It is a real issue

with deep implications for Caribbean economies and, indeed, for the capacity of Caribbean countries to continue to participate meaningfully in the global trading and financial system.

Neither Caribbean governments nor Caribbean people should ignore it. Their livelihoods depend on it. Further, the countries of the region should already have launched an initiative to respond to the U.S. government's proposal collectively.

When the idea was mooted by Treasury Sec-

retary Janet Yellen on April 5, every experience I had as a representative of Antigua and Barbuda – dating back to 1998 when the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) launched its assault on low-tax jurisdictions – told me that developing countries would be steamrolled into acquiescing to it.

Consequently, I organized a meeting between officials of the U.S. Treasury Department and a few Caribbean ambassadorial colleagues on May 7, to better understand the scope of the initiative and the pace at which it would move.

It was clear from that meeting, at which the Caribbean ambassadors present made their concerns and fears clear, that a minimum global corporation tax would be a juggernaut that would not easily be stopped.

It would have been foolhardy to believe that, even in its transition period, the Biden finance team had not canvassed

the minimum tax with officials of the OECD and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It was no coincidence that, shortly after Secretary Yellen made the announcement of a minimum global corporation tax of 21 percent, IMF officials were endorsing the idea. It took no more than two months for the G7 countries – the US, the UK, France, Germany, Canada, Italy and Japan, plus the European Union (EU) – to adopt a minimum tax for corporations of 15 percent. They did so on June 7, proclaiming it “a landmark deal”.

The G7 agreed figure is 6 percent less than the US had proposed, but no one should believe that the matter has ended. It is only the beginning of a new phase in the onslaught that the OECD officially started in 1998 to end what its members called ‘harmful tax competition’. There is no guarantee that the minimum global corporation tax will remain at 15 percent, or that intrusion

into setting tax rates will not extend into other areas.

The OECD members then – and now – regard low tax jurisdictions as competitors in attracting corporations and, therefore, their ability to tax them. Having heavily taxed their populations from the cradle to the grave and beyond (no hyperbole) and faced with little possibility of taxing them further without voters heaving governments out of office, these governments focused on low-tax jurisdictions, demonized them in the media and elsewhere. The OECD governments claimed they were operating on a playing field which was not level for them. Blacklists and threats of sanctions quickly followed, causing a procession of governments of developing countries to concede their sovereignty over tax matters.

This 'level playing field' effort is now an attempt to force corporations to stay in rich nations by securing a minimum global rate of tax that would give them no great advantage in shift-

ing to lower tax jurisdictions. The next step is to get the agreement of the G20 countries when they meet in October. These countries are the G7 and the European union with 12 others, including China, India, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

If Caribbean countries and other small developing states are to try to put a brake on the steamroller, getting their case before the large, developed countries in the G20 is crucial. For, if the G20 endorses the plan, smaller countries will again be cast aside – the hapless victims of the world's powerful states, as they are with Climate Change and getting vaccines to fight COVID-19.

That is why vital alliances need to be struck now, starting within the Caribbean, extending to embrace countries in Asia and the Pacific, and then with other nations that are far from happy about being coerced into losing revenues and business to satisfy the tax hunger of a few.

For instance, Switzerland is reported to be

planning to give subsidies to companies headquartered there, to offset the 15 percent tax. Ireland – an EU nation – has an advantageous corporate rate of 12.5 percent that has helped to grow its economy and improve its people's lives. It wants no increase. These two countries and others could be important allies.

The fact that Caribbean countries – and other developing countries – oppose the imposition of a global corporate tax rate, should not be mistaken as hostility toward the US or any other country that favours higher taxes. But setting tax rates is a right of nations, not an international prerogative of the powerful.

All nations understand that, in the US, President Biden has an ambitious plan to build-out needed infrastructure to keep the US globally competitive, to create jobs and to rebuild after the COVID-19 pandemic. Other countries – especially small, developing ones – have the same problems, but without the resources or the clout to establish

a global rule that would suit them. They have to continue to compete on un-level playing fields in almost every area of economic and commercial activity.

Low taxes help Caribbean countries and others to attract investment they desperately need, because their exploitation and under development, for centuries, have made it difficult for domestic investment alone to drive their needed economic growth and social improvement.

No time should be wasted by Caribbean governments to assemble a strong team to advance their joint cause. There is not much time until the G20 meets in October, and much work needs to be done to give its developing member countries a convincing case to champion.

Giving-in again should not be an option, but no one country can stand up alone. This is a joint endeavour, or it is surrender – one by one.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

BE YOUR OWN ENTOURAGE

By Risa V

Now I'm going to switch from my usual optimistic tone to address what I feel in my heart right now.

Because, trust me, if I don't come out of my skin I will not be doing this article any justice.

TOPIC: Friends. TONE: Irritated. FEELING: Disgusted!

Now, I don't know what is wrong with people in this world today; but Father Jesus help us! Lord knows, You alone are the reason why the end of the world is not here as yet, with so many dangerous people in it!

Is there anyone out there who can define the term 'friend'; because it needs a new definition; one that equates to the foul mess they are doing.

What's worst is that this is two-fold, because I don't know who is more sick: the individual who claims to be a friend, or the other person who calls them their

friend. You are unlikely to be a favorite of those you let know in no uncertain terms that, 'We're not friends, we're merely acquaintances.'

It's hard for a sober-minded or level-headed person to come up with any justifiable reasons to harbor dem kinda two-faced, bad-minded, selfish, insensitive, sad excuse for human beings within your personal space – be it physical, mental or virtual. In my opinion, what such people need is therapy, and there is no shame in that. What they should be ashamed of is walking around like some infectious disease contaminating persons with their bad energy. Please get help!

However welcoming and patient one might be, it is risky and ill-advised to keep friends with people who strain, threaten and harm your mental health.

However, as a person interested in journalism, I often make it

my business to hear other people's stories and, in the course of such interactions, the term 'friend' is often used loosely.

Wanting to dictate where, when and how others live their lives (in an effort to ensure they never look, live or do better than you) definitely does not qualify you to be a friend. Damn! That hardly qualifies you for any sort of recognition.

But somehow, it's these same persons who walk around with the kind of confidence that says there should be two of them. My simple question to them would be, 'If the Creator – in all His infinite wisdom – did not see fit to clone or otherwise double you, then who are you to think that the world would have been any better with even a hair more of you?'

By the way, let's not confuse being genuinely confident with being a smug nincompoop, because defecating on someone

else's day can never truly make you feel better about yourself.

Everybody looks, talks, walks and acts the same; same clothes, hair, shoes, bags and faces. Whatever happened to good manners and proper English? Then again, that would be too much to ask of adults who have forgotten how to dress appropriately. Time and place, people. We have not even gotten into trends or social media. Getting high, getting drunk, making friends only for benefits, bleaching our skin, dressing half-naked – no wonder so many of us arrive at the end of ourselves with such despair that

we feel like jumping off a cliff!

Peer pressure is alive and well among adults. However, living your life trying to impress individuals and seeking their approval will only cause you to lose sight of yourself. True friends accept you for who you are, but it is still your responsibility to work on being a better you – whatever that is. No two people are alike, not even twins. You may not favor someone's personality, but that is no reason to hate them. God blessed us with the freedom of choice, so choose to be our own entourage. To all my individually independent personas, let it be known that you

don't need followers, because you are the president, vice president and every last member of your own state and constitution. Continue to embrace your inner beauty and strive NOT to be like others. Remain true to yourself. Bring an end to this horror movie.

P.S.: This whole article reminded me of the unpleasant scent of chicken poo growing up, and now nobody loves picking off the fowl's oily (and tasty!) behind from a whole baked chicken more than me ... lol.

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Sizzling Hot Skoka

Riddim launches for summer



Music producer *Consciousnaes* is officially heating up summer with the global release of his hype psychedelic 'Skoka Riddim' that diehard j'ouvert and soca fans are sure to blast out in the streets or indoors.

Music producer Consciousnaes

Cont'd on pg 19

Up-tempo and full of non-stop vibes, the Skoka Riddim is a completely new twist on soca. “This riddim is actually electronic, or psychedelic soca. It’s a whole new genre of soca,” says Consciousnaes.

Consciousnaes, formerly known as Sean Browne, grew up in Antigua and is now based in the USA. Working as a music producer since 2006, he has previously released a Maad Crab Riddim. The Skoka Riddim is his latest musical project.

The music producer says, “Surfing a wave of inspiration in December 2013, I stayed up one night and made several different beats and finally laid out this riddim, which sounded slightly different then. It was put on hold until last year when COVID-19 allowed myself, along with other musicians, to set aside more time to make music and get creative. Working with Byron Belle Music, the Skoka Riddim was refined to what it is today.”

The Skoka Riddim is gaining a lot of traction amongst DJs from the region who received the beats, as part of an exclusive pre-release listening circle. In a sneak peek prior to the official release date of June 22, DJs have been playing and “bigging-up” the soca riddim on radio stations, encouraging their fans to be on the lookout for

the “sizzling music” this summer.

Consciousnaes is collaborating with popular regional soca artists – including Lyrical Reds out of Antigua; Trinidad Mad Man from Trinidad; and Mandella Linkz from Grenada – who have recorded some of their best music on the beat.

Lyrical Reds’ new track ‘Pipe’ and Trinidad Mad Man’s ‘Oil and Water’ release on June 22. Mandella Linkz sings on the riddim “And from you hear de mass start/doh bother me/you know is fete straight/ah roaming, the jab start now” with his hot tune ‘No Calls’ released in January 2021.

The producer is presently working with several other well-known national and regional artists about releasing music on the riddim.

Although Covid-19 may have caused a delay in the regional carnival season and the release of music, in choosing to release his riddim now, Consciousnaes says, “Music is always relevant, music is life; nurturing our souls, uplifting us; it is feel-good and creates our carnival soca vibes in our minds and hearts.”

Music lovers can enjoy the Skoka Riddim and artists’ tracks here: <https://soundcloud.com/consciousnaes/tracks>

ABOUT CONSCIOUSNAES

Consciousnaes was born in

Louisiana in the United States of America and grew up in Antigua and Barbuda, having moved to the Caribbean country when he was three months old. At age 19 he returned to Louisiana to attend the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering. Following this, he returned to Antigua for the next six years where he developed his music production business, learned web marketing and networking, studied real estate, and researched consciousness and the meaning of life — thus becoming a philosopher.

In September of 2013, Consciousnaes returned to America and brings all his visions to fruition now. One of these is producing ATOMS - his feature 3D animated psychedelic adventure. He also launched the Algorithm clothing line after being inspired while watching the movie “This is 40”, which helped him remember some T-shirt designs he had conceptualised in 2003.

Presently, Consciousnaes is CEO of his LitLox Media Inc company, and is producing and directing his film - ATOMS, producing his Cosmic Jiggle Riddim, selling his #1 bestselling and award-winning children’s book and film *The Very Loving Caterpillar*, and expanding his Algorithm Clothing Line.



One song, six countries: What's next for AC Tafari?

by Lee Williams

Breakout artiste AC Tafari says he is still reeling from the success of his most recent single which has quickly turned into a fan favourite.

In an interview with Platinum FM last Friday, the soca/dancehall fusion artiste explained how his 'Vroom Vroom' track has given rise to a wildly popular social media challenge which goes by the same name.

"So, people this one yah name vroom vroom; brand new song. Me have a competition going on right now for it. The vroom vroom competition [is] going hot on Facebook..." Tafari disclosed.

"Most people them take it as one dance challenge. But me ah tell you [all] to be more creative; maybe inna one car or maybe on a bike. But most people they do the dancing ones. As you know, people like see the little dance and shake up and them things dey." The views for the challenge are currently in the thousands across several social media platforms, and the soundtrack that fuels the gyrating also features up and coming artiste, Yung LK Song.

Tafari says that being able to collaborate with a lesser-known artiste is something he's proud to have accomplished with this project, and he is encouraging established artistes to do the same.

"Me feature an artiste name Yung LK on the song. He is a friend from since school days and he has been doing music. So, me is a person me like to help out people," Tafari stated.

"It makes me feel a good spirit to just continue help people and that's just the vibes right now [that] me want to put out for the artistes them in Antigua. Just help out artistes."

However, despite the popularity of Tafari's new track, it was his 2019 single 'Boom Pon It' that gave the multi-talented singer/songwriter his rise to stardom and the confidence to pursue music professionally.

"When me get serious now ah



Antigua can look out for big things from him as he has spent the last year working on new music that he's looking forward to releasing.

The results of the 'vroom vroom' challenge will also be coming soon and, in the meantime, he is encouraging persons to check out his previous tracks that include Ride (2020), Jiggle (2020), Soca Purge (2019) and Night Party (2016).

For live interviews, tune in to Platinum 97.7 FM, Mon-Fri, 9am-10am

2019 when me get the big song... It's like everybody them tune into me talent. Because that song deh tek me to about six Caribbean countries that same year deh; travelling; for that one song!" he exclaimed.

"Me mother been so proud. And one of the performances, me even carry me mother. That whole year was just a vibes for me. Me just ketch the pace and [me] just move with the drive. Never back down!" Unfortunately, Covid19 effectively forced the entertainment industry into a prolonged closure and halted the momentum Tafari had begun building. But now that some kind of normalcy seems on the verge of returning, Tafari says that

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Bahamas: Health visa purchases generate \$2.4 million surplus

EwNews - While defending its decision to engage electronic payments provider **Kanoo** for its health visa program, the Ministry of Health said on Wednesday that up to March 31, health visa purchases generated \$9.8 million, of which 82 percent derived from visitors and \$2.4 million in surplus after expenses.

The opposition has called for transparency over the government's decision to engage Kanoo and suggested the move was motivated by political affiliation — an assertion the government has refuted.

In a statement, the Ministry of Tourism said when airlines were approached — including American Airlines, Delta and Jet Blue — about screening their passengers for negative COVID-19 tests prior to boarding a plane to The Bahamas, the airlines advised that their check-in personnel were unable to do so and recommended the government implement a system where travelers could upload their results.

The Bahamas Health Travel Visa was rolled out on November 1, 2020. According to the Tourism

Ministry, developing the website prior to reopening the country was a “huge undertaking” with six weeks to develop the software and meet the deadline for reopening the industry.

The Ministry said given the tight time frame involved, it undertook a sole-sourcing arrangement as opposed to an open-bid process, which it said would have taken three months or longer to complete.

“Tourism was reopening in five days, the website was going live in five days and there simply was not enough time to develop and issue a request for proposals and then wait for and evaluate the proposals,” read the statement.

“This is not unusual in circumstances such as this. Indeed, even the imminent Public Procurement Act makes provision for limited bidding in similar exceptional circumstances.”

The Ministry said Kanoo, which had previously worked with its online software developer, was engaged on commercial terms that were well within the Ministry of Finance's guidelines for third-party revenue collectors.

“Further, the relationship of Kanoo to the software developer meant that the setup of the electronic payment system for the health visa would be able to be facilitated within the tight time frame,” the statement read.

“To say that Kanoo was selected because of some political affiliation between the governing party and its shareholders is wholly untrue. “No such consideration was ever part of the decision-making process.”

There was no upfront fee to Kanoo, according to the Ministry.

The service fee paid per transaction is 1.5 percent.

The government said this was well within the MOF's fee structure and consistent with what is paid to other approved third-party payment providers such as Cash N' Go, Sun Cash, Island Pay and Omni Financial.

The Ministry contended that assertions Kanoo is controlling funds earned through the travel health visa process are “completely erroneous”.

It said providers hold the funds temporarily before remitting it to the government.

It assured that, at all times, the funds in the account are controlled and monitored by the accounting department within the Ministry of Finance and no funds are transferred out of the account without the express permission of the government. Up to March 31st 2021, \$9.8 million was received from the Travel Health Visa and \$7.4 million in expenses were made — leaving a surplus of \$2.4 million.

Around 82 percent of the revenue was derived from visitors, while 18 percent was made up from returning citizens and residents, as well as domestic travelers.

Additionally, the Ministry said 65 percent of expenses covered the cost of health insurance and 30 percent of expenses covered the cost of administering the rapid antigen test. “We remind the public that all monies held on behalf of the government are subject to the review and audit of the auditor general,” read the statement. “Further, during the current budget exercise, the government has taken an additional step to bring forward an amendment to the Public Financial Management Act 2021 that requires the Ministry of Finance to report on all sums received and taxes collected by third-party entities when it prepares its annual report.”

All vaccinated people traveling domestically can obtain a travel health visa free of charge.

CXC inks deal with US university to have CAPE qualifications recognised



BVI NEWS - The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Western Illinois University (WIU) that will see the US-based tertiary institution recognising qualifications from CXC. Under the agreement, signed at a virtual ceremony last Thursday, Caribbean students seeking to take advantage of degree programmes at WIU will benefit from the matching of coursework requirements at WIU against the CXC syllabus.

This, CXC said, will allow for more seamless matriculation. The CXC Associate’s Degree and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) qualifications will also be recognised by WIU.

As such, students can use their CAPE qualifications to fulfil partial credit requirements towards their Bachelor’s degree, allowing them to complete their degree in less than four years.

“This has significant cost-saving implications for students at the undergraduate level and means that the prospect of further studies for these students will be more easily within their reach,”

CXC said in a statement announcing the MOU last week.

In the meantime, Registrar and CEO of CXC Dr. Wayne Wesley said the signing was “in line with CXC’s transformational agenda and its commitment to the people of the Caribbean, and opens another pathway for students to receive quality tertiary-level education”.

Provost and Academic Vice President of WIU Dr. Martin Abraham said the American university recognises “the quality and rigour” of the CAPE and is therefore delighted they signed the agreement which will also allow for “collaboration between CXC and WIU on research for the digital transformation of the education system, as well as the collaboration on faculty and staff development to advance teaching, learning and assessment in the Caribbean”.

WIU now joins 13 other tertiary institutions in the US and the Caribbean that have signed articles of agreements with CXC. Several other institutions in the UK and America do not do articulation agreements, but have published CAPE equivalency charts to show their credits for CAPE courses.

Prominent Jamaican businesswoman 'bats for sex workers'



Prominent Jamaican businesswoman Janet Silvera: “We can’t leave them [prostitutes] out of the equation.”

Jamaica Observer - Prominent Montego Bay businesswoman Janet Silvera is recommending that part of the \$150 million set aside to start preliminary work for a massive upgrade of the Jimmy Cliff Boulevard in the resort city be used to establish a designated area for prostitutes to operate.

“I hope that the money that is being put in the strip ... I hope we will find a place in it to accommodate the ladies of the night. It is a fact that the women who service the strip at nights will always be there. We can’t leave them out of the equation. They are an integral part of the strip,” said Silvera as she underscored that this was her position and not the position of the Montego Bay

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MBCCI) which she serves as president.

The Jimmy Cliff Boulevard, formerly Gloucester Avenue, popularly called the Hip Strip, boasts a number of entertainment spots, gift shops and hotels, and is one of the most traversed areas by visitors to the resort city seeking entertainment.

Silvera noted that her position might not sit well with Government because prostitution is illegal, “but it is a profession that needs to be regularised”, she charged.

“It is the oldest profession in the world and it is something that nobody can stop. So if we are not going to stop it, at least give them somewhere where

they don’t seem as if they are harassing the tourists. If a man wants it he goes there and get it.”

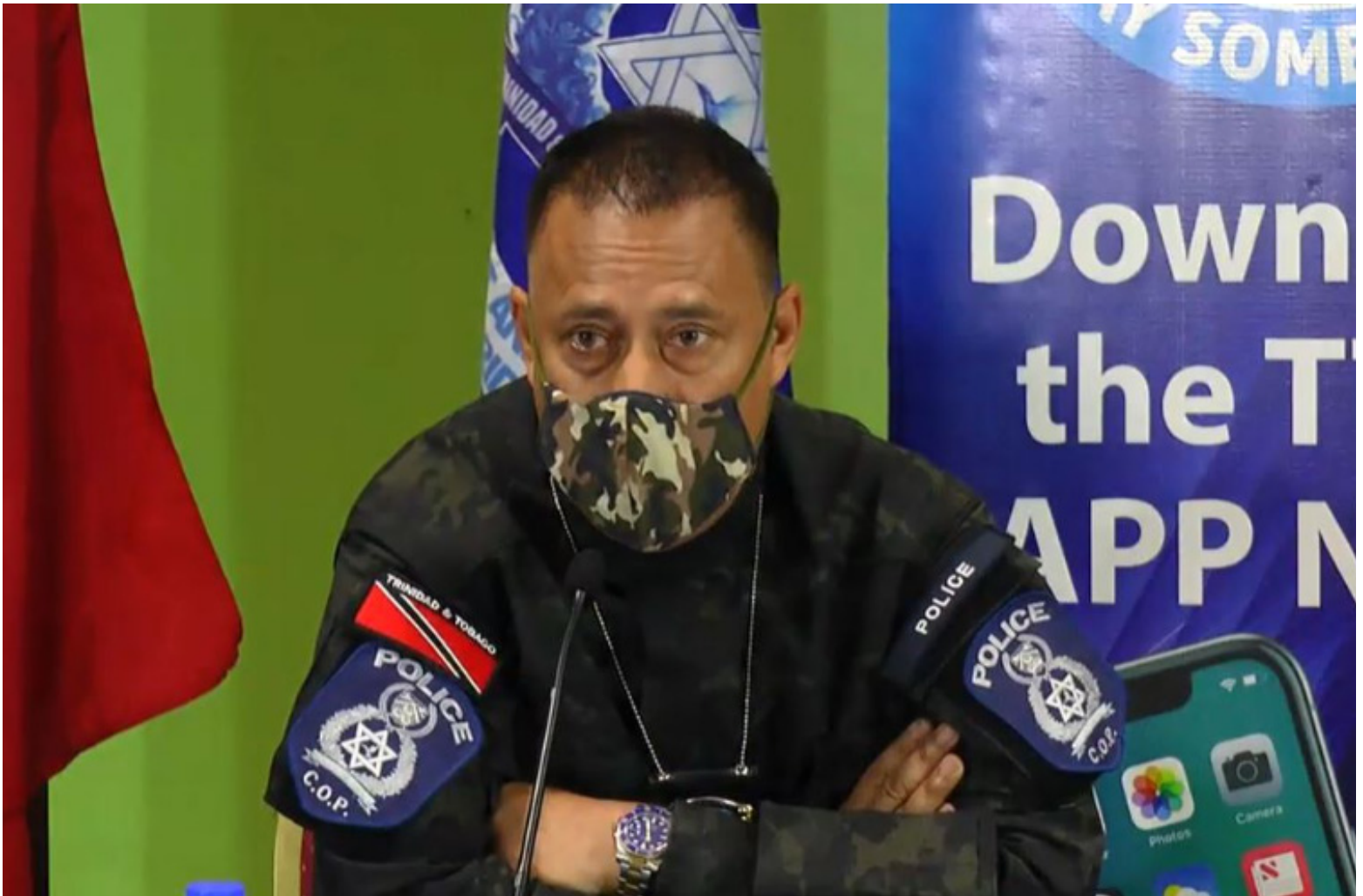
Robin Russell, general manager of Deja Resorts, situated on the Hip Strip, expressed similar sentiments.

“I am not opposed to a red light district, but I can’t see it being in the middle of the Hip Strip,” Russell told the *Observer West*.

“Jamaica is known to have a family destination, it’s a full destination and all different people come to the Hip Strip... to put a red light district in the middle of it would brand it as such.”

Last week, Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett, during his sectoral debate presentation, announced that the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) and the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) will be embarking on a massive upgrading project on the popular Hip Strip.

Citing the successful partnership between the TEF and the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) in the development of the Harmony Beach Park in Montego Bay, the Tourism Minister said the mega transformation plan, which was conceived in 2009, includes physical improvements, new product development, heavy landscaping, and ‘pedestrianising’ of the area.



Commissioner of Police Gary Griffith.

Police officer suspended over political social media posts

LoopTT - Police Constable Brad Lee Lum has been suspended following an investigation into his breach of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service regulations.

The officer, who has seven years of service, was last attached to the CID Anti-Kidnapping Unit.

On Saturday, June 19, PC Lee Lum posted something political as comment on social media. This is contrary to Regulation 138 (1) of the Police Service Regulations 2007.

On the issue of the officer's suspension, Commissioner of

Police (CoP) Gary Griffith said he could not condone the irresponsible behavior of the officer, who alluded in his social media post that it was time for an insurrection.

The Commissioner added that, having served this country during the violent 1990 insurrection and having seen the damage done to our country and our democracy, he was appalled that an officer would even hint that insurgents should overthrow the Government.

The CoP made it clear that, in comparison to the average citizen, when a person joins the

Police Service, they lose certain liberties regarding freedom of speech. He added that the TTPS expects strict adherence to the regulations and recalled that another officer was recently suspended and remains on suspension because he appeared on the front page of a daily newspaper openly endorsing a political party and showing party affiliation, contrary to the said regulations.

Commissioner Griffith reiterated that the TTPS will not tolerate officers who show political partisanship and make comments against the State.

US government prepares to issue landmark report on UFOs

(Reuters) – The US government, once openly dismissive of UFO sightings that for decades sparked the popular imagination, is poised to issue an expansive account of what it calls “unidentified aerial phenomena,” based heavily on observations by American military pilots.

The US intelligence community, in conjunction with the Pentagon, is due in the coming days to submit a report to Congress on the subject. The Pentagon in recent years has released or confirmed the authenticity of video from naval aviators showing enigmatic aircraft exhibiting speed and maneuverability exceeding known aviation technologies.

In the lead-up to its forthcoming report, Defense Department officials have made clear they take the issue seriously while sidestepping questions about any potential extraterrestrial origins. The report marks a turning point for the U.S. military after decades of deflecting, debunking and discrediting observations of unidentified flying objects and “flying saucers.”

“We take reports of incursions into our airspace – by any aircraft, identified or unidentified – very seriously, and investigate each one,” Pentagon spokesper-

son Sue Gough said.

The experience of retired US Navy Lieutenant Commander Alex Dietrich is a case in point. The fighter pilot was among several aviators from the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz involved in a 2004 encounter off California’s coast with unknown aircraft described as resembling large “Tic Tac” breath mints.

Dietrich recalled in an interview with Reuters this week that the oblong object lacked “any visible flight control surfaces or means of propulsion.” Dietrich said she believes the episode was “analyzed in a professional, sober way” by the military chain of command after she and her colleagues were debriefed. She said she hopes her ability to go public will help ease the stigma others once faced under similar circumstances, encouraging them to “speak up, even if they don’t know what they saw.” “I’m trying to normalize it by talking about it,” Dietrich said, adding, “I hope I’m not the ‘UFO, Tic Tac person’ for the rest of my life.”

The New York Times reported on June 3 that US intelligence officials have found no evidence that unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) witnessed by Navy pilots are alien spacecraft, but cannot explain the unusual

movements of these objects and cannot definitively rule out extraterrestrial explanations.

The Times, citing senior administration officials briefed on a classified version of the report, said officials found that the vast majority of more than 120 UAP incidents over the past two decades - many observed by personnel aboard US Navy aircraft and warships - did not originate from any American military or other advanced government technology.

The term “unidentified flying objects,” or UFOs, long associated with the notion of alien spacecraft, has been replaced in official government parlance by “UAP”. In addition to the UAP 2004 incident, others from 2014 and 2015 occurring off the US East Coast have been confirmed by the Navy, with the objects deemed “unidentified”.

The report, to be issued by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, will include the work of a US Navy-led task force established by the Pentagon in August 2020 to examine UAP incidents. US Senator Marco Rubio was instrumental in commissioning the report, ordered as part of broader legislation passed last year.



Cathay Pacific has told its aircrew that they must get a COVID vaccination by 31 August or risk losing their jobs.

Airline crew told to get vaccine or risk losing job

BBC - Cathay Pacific has told its aircrew that they must get a COVID vaccination by 31 August or risk losing their jobs. The airline said staff rostering has become “difficult and complicated” because of a need to segregate vaccinated and non-vaccinated crew.

Cathay Pacific said it could, in the “short-term”, accommodate those employees not able to take the vaccine.

But it said: “We will review the future employment of those who are unable to become vaccinated.”

The carrier added that it would “assess whether they can continue to be employed as aircrew”. The Hong

Kong-based airline said that 90% of its pilots and 65% of its cabin crew have been vaccinated or have appointments to receive the injection.

But it said it was “becoming clear that only fully vaccinated aircrew will be able to return without quarantine from most places”.

It said that in order for Cathay Pacific and the global airline industry to recover, “vaccination is a critical component”.

“After very careful consideration, we have now made the decision that all Hong Kong-based crew members must be vaccinated against COVID-19 by 31 August 2021,” it said. It comes as Hong

Kong prepares to relax some COVID travel restrictions as early as the end of this month.

Hong Kong residents will have to quarantine for seven days, instead of the current two-week period, if they are fully vaccinated and take a test at the airport to show they are negative for COVID and positive for antibodies.

According to the South China Morning Post, it is hoped the arrangement could then be extended to Hong Kong residents currently overseas as well as other travellers.

Vaccination rates in Hong Kong are relatively low, with 27% of the population receiving the first jab and 17.6% of the popula-

tion fully vaccinated. That compares with 65% of people in the UK who have had the first dose and 47% who have had both.

Airlines have taken differing approaches to cabin crew vaccinations. Earlier this week, US carrier United Airlines said that from August only fully vaccinated pilots and cabin crew would be allowed to work on flights to high risk destinations.

It would apply to flights operating in countries such as India, Brazil and Chile.

United Airlines, as well as US rival Delta, are requiring that all new recruits joining from 15 June are fully vaccinated against COVID.

Hungary 'has no place in the EU anymore,' Dutch leader says



Mark Rutte on January 12 in The Hague, Netherlands.

(CNN) - Hungary "has no place" in the European Union after passing a controversial new bill banning LGBTQ content in schools, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said on Thursday.

Earlier this month, Hungary's parliament passed legislation which bans all educational materials and programs for children which are considered to promote homosexuality, gender reassignment, and the concept of sexuality deviating from the one assigned to a person at birth.

The move prompt-

ed intense criticism from human rights groups and opposition parties. On the day it passed, crowds gathered in Budapest outside the parliament to protest the bill.

The legislation is one of a string of divisive policies championed by Hungarian leader Victor Orban, a hard-line nationalist who has previously railed against LGBTQ people and immigrants.

"For me, Hungary has no place in the EU anymore," Rutte told journalists before attending an EU summit in Brussels alongside Orban.

He added: "But, unfortunately, in the system that we have, I can't do it on my own, but [with] 26 other member states saying: 'you have to leave. This has to happen step by step and, in the meantime, you hope that they will adapt.'"

As he arrived for the summit, Orban strongly defended the new legislation. "It's not about homosexuals, it's about the kids and the parents," he said.

"I am a fighter for the rights. I am a freedom fighter in the communist regime," Orban continued.

"Homosexuality was punished and I fought for their freedom and their rights. So I am defending the rights of the homosexual guys, but this law is not about that. It's about the right of the kids and the parents."

On Tuesday, 14 out of 27 EU countries expressed their "deep concern" at the law in a joint declaration initiated by Belgium.

European Commission President Ursula

von der Leyen also denounced the bill.

Speaking during a press conference in Brussels on Wednesday, Von der Leyen said the bill "clearly discriminates against people on the basis of their sexual orientation".

"It goes against all the values, the fundamental values of the European Union, and this is human dignity, it is equality, and is the human fundamental rights," she said.

Von der Leyen said she had instructed EU Commissioners to write to the Hungarian authorities expressing the EU's concern over the bill before it comes into force.

Hungary has passed similar legislation before. In December 2020, the country's parliament voted to redefine the concept of "family" in the country's constitution, a move which effectively bars same sex couples from adopting children. That too was met with outcry from human rights groups.

Many feared dead after Florida beachfront condo collapses



(AP) — A beachfront condo building partially collapsed Thursday outside Miami, killing at least one person and trapping others in the tower that resembled a giant fractured dollhouse, with one side sheared away. Dozens of survivors were pulled out, and rescuers kept up a desperate search for more.

A wing of the 12-story building in the community of Surfside came down with a roar around 1:30 a.m. By late afternoon, nearly 100 peo-

ple were still unaccounted for, authorities said, raising fears that the death toll could climb sharply. Officials did not know how many were in the tower when it fell.

“The building is literally pancaked,” Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett said. “That is heartbreaking because it doesn’t mean, to me, that we are going to be as successful as we wanted to be in finding people alive.”

Hours after the collapse, searchers were trying to reach

a trapped child whose parents were believed to be dead. In another case, rescuers saved a mother and child. But the woman’s leg had to be amputated to remove her from the rubble, Frank Rollason, director of Miami-Dade emergency management, told the Miami Herald.

Video showed fire crews removing a boy from the wreckage, but it was not clear whether he was the same person mentioned by Rollason. Teams were trying to enter the building from a parking garage beneath the structure.

Gov. Ron DeSantis, who toured the scene, said television did not capture the scale of what happened. Rescue crews are “doing everything they can to save lives. That is ongoing, and they’re not going to rest,” he said.

Teams of 10 to 12 rescuers at a time entered the rubble with dogs and other equipment, working until they grew tired from the heavy lifting, then making way for a new team, said Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, the State’s fire marshal.

“They’re not going to stop just because of nightfall,” Patronis told Miami television station WPLG. “They just may have a different path they pursue.”



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- Application forms are available from the One Stop Employment Center (OSEC) located on 3rd Floor, Aflack Building, Redcliffe Street, St. John's.
- Completed forms should be returned to OSEC with the passports or birth certificates of the applicant along with Medical Benefits and Social Security cards.
- Deadline for the submission of applications is 2nd July, 2021.
- Please note that a limited number of persons may qualify for modest assistance towards attending training upon demonstration of need.

Tel: 562 0533/4/5

NOTICE

The Antigua and Barbuda Humane Society is pleased to advise that all staff and volunteers at its Animal Shelter and Donkey Sanctuary in Bethesda have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Temperature checks, hand sanitizing and wearing of masks are also in place..

Whether you come to adopt a dog or cat, sign up for one of our spay/neuter clinics, or come to visit the donkeys, the Humane Society has spared no effort make your visit safe.



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This cute female kitten is available for adoption at the Humane Society animal shelter in Bethesda. The adoption fee of \$80 covers worming, treating for fleas, litter box training and spaying when she is old enough. If you would like to adopt Bootsy or any of our cats or kittens, We are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you would like to offer her a home, please call the
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Transgender athlete to compete in Tokyo Olympics



(WASHINGTON Times) – New Zealand weight lifter Laurel Hubbard made history on Sunday when she became the first openly transgender athlete chosen for the Olympics, but those

fighting to keep biological males out of women's sports say she only proves their point. At 43, Ms. Hubbard is nearly twice as old as many of her competitors. She transitioned at

age 35 and then rose to the top ranks of international women's weightlifting after a solid but unspectacular career as a junior male lifter.

She qualified for the New Zealand Olympic team in the super-heavyweight category despite suffering a potentially career-ending injury in 2018. Fair Play for Women called her a textbook example of “why female sport must be reserved for the female sex only.” “Just think about it for a moment,” the British group tweeted, “a testosterone-fueled puberty provides such a large physical advantage in weightlifting that someone can still qualify for the female category at the Olympics at the age of 43 after breaking an arm.” The New Zea-

land Olympic Committee announced Sunday that Ms. Hubbard had earned a spot on its five-member weightlifting team, fueling a firestorm ahead of the Tokyo Olympic Games which will run from 23rd July to 8th August 2021. The permission for Hubbard to compete in Tokyo came from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), while the denial in Caster Semanya's case was from World Athletics, the sports' governing body. New Zealand officials defended the selection. They noted that Ms. Hubbard met the International Olympic Committee and the International Weightlifting Federation criteria by keeping her serum testosterone level below 10 nanomoles per litre for at least 12 months before competition, and declaring her gender identity as female for at least four years. The fact that permission to compete [at the Olympics] is coming from two different agencies, and one athlete was born with a hormonal imbalance, while the other through a deliberate act on her part has made the transition from man to woman cannot be ignored. The other difference between the two athletes is obvious.



Caster Semenya



Trae Young (r)

NBA Roundup

Phoenix Suns take 2-0 lead over the Los Angeles Clippers

The Phoenix Suns took a 2-0 lead on Tuesday night when they pulled off a razor thin 104-103 win over the Los Angeles Clippers in Game 2 of the Western Conference final.

The Suns were down one point with 0.9 seconds left when Jae Crowder lofted an alley-hoop to Deandre Ayton who came down the lane and stuffed it through the nets over the Clippers' Ivica Zubac as the crowd roared in disbelief.

Ayton finished with 24 points and 14 rebounds. But it was Cameron Payne's 29 points that led all scorers on the night.

Paul George, who had 26 points missed two crucial free throws with 8.2 seconds left in the game. Reggie Jackson's 19 points was not enough for the Clippers. The Clippers are

once again in a familiar position after they had to battle back from two games down against the Dallas Mavericks and the Utah Jazz to win their series.

The series now shifts to the STAPLES Center in Los Angeles.

Bucks lose Game 1 to the Hawks

The Atlanta Hawks lead the Milwaukee Bucks 1-0 after a thrilling 116-113 win during Game 1 of the Eastern Conference final. After leading 59-54 at the half, the Bucks were scrappy and hardly played any meaningful defense during the second half which ended in heartbreak for their fans inside the Fiserv Arena, plus the thousands more outside who watched on giant screens.

The Atlanta Hawks went on a 20-8 run in the fourth quarter. The Hawks used the pick-

and-roll play to great effect, and the Bucks didn't seem to have any answer. Trae Young was the main assassin, scoring a new playoff career-high 48 points and added 11 assists, participating directly in 72 of Atlanta's 116 points.

Giannis Antetokounmpo's 34 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists seemed enough to give the Bucks the victory, but the Hawks were relentless in their desire for the win.

"There was some good stuff, particularly from Jrue and Giannis' two-man game," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We need everybody to participate, and I think everybody will just continue to get better going into the second game."

This was the Bucks' first loss at home during the 2021 NBA playoffs. The series continues tonight, also in Milwaukee.

Former Captain Sammy appointed as independent director

Two time T20 World Cup winning captain Daren Sammy has been appointed an independent, non-member director of Cricket West Indies (CWI). The 37-year old, currently the head coach of Peshawar Zalmi in the Pakistan Super League, was chosen at the CWI Board meeting last week, with the aim of bringing a “fresh and more youthful perspective” to the administration, the governing body said in a statement.

Sammy, who at one stage led West Indies in all formats, was one of three independent directors approved by CWI, with Trinidadian attorney Mrs. Debra Coryat-Patton and Jamaican doctor and university administrator Dr. Akshai Mansingh, both re-appointed for second terms. They will serve for the next two years.

“It’s an honour to be appointed as a CWI Director. This is another great opportunity for me to give my best

to West Indies cricket in a new way, off the field,” said Sammy who played 38 Tests, 126 One Day Internationals and 68 T20 Internationals.

“All my local, regional and international experience have prepared me for a significant ongoing impact in West Indies cricket. I am excited and thankful for the chance to serve and look forward to giving back to the sport and region that I love so much.”

The first international player from St. Lucia, Sammy now serves as a Goodwill Ambassador for the country, with the national stadium bearing his name.

CWI President Ricky Skerritt said Sammy’s appointment would bring a player’s perspective to governance and also reflected the principles of his administration.

“I am delighted to welcome Daren Sammy as an independent, non-member director, whose role will be to ensure

that all the right questions are being asked, while contributing to the shaping of new ideas and solutions,” said Skerritt, recently elected unopposed for a second term.

“His appointment is testament to our commitment to strengthen CWI’s governance and to utilize expertise from across all stakeholder groups.”



Daren Sammy

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Cricket: West Indies v. South Africa (T20 Internationals)



ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada – Fully vaccinated fans will be allowed to attend the CG Insurance T20 International (T20I) series between the West Indies and South Africa, which starts tomorrow. The move comes following a request from the Government of Grenada, and was implemented through a collaboration between the country's Ministry of Health, the Grenada Cricket Association, and Cricket West Indies. Unlike St. Lucia, however, where only 400 fans were allowed per day, no cap has been placed on attendance for the June 26th to July 3rd series.

"Following the return of fans during the second Test in St. Lucia, we are delighted to gradually welcome back fans into the stands at the Grenada National Stadium," said CWI Chief Executive Officer, Johnny Grave.

He added: "We know that they will have a great time watching our World champions take on our visitors from South Africa. This is a step in the right direction, and we again want to thank all the health officials and organizers who made sure all systems are in place to keep everyone safe for what promises to be an exciting series." Fans attending must have received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine 14 days prior to the game they plan to attend, and must provide proof of vaccination along with a national identification before being allowed to purchase a ticket to enter the stadium. Unlike St. Lucia, a limited number of vendors will be allowed, but fans will also be permitted to bring their coolers.

West Indies provisional squad: Kieron Pollard (Cap-

tain), Nicholas Pooran (Vice Captain), Fabian Allen, Dwayne Bravo, Sheldon Cottrell, Fidel Edwards, Andre Fletcher, Chris Gayle, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Evin Lewis, Obed McCoy, Andre Russell, Lendl Simmons, Kevin Sinclair, Oshane Thomas, Hayden Walsh

Match Schedule:

1st CG Insurance T20I at National Cricket Stadium: 26th June

2nd CG Insurance T20I at National Cricket Stadium: 27th June

3rd CG Insurance T20I at National Cricket Stadium: 29th June

4th CG Insurance T20I at National Cricket Stadium: 1st July

5th CG Insurance T20I at National Cricket Stadium: 3rd July