

ANOTHER REGIONAL STALWART CHECKS OUT

SEE PAGES 12 & 18

During intense and at times heated discussions on a proposed OECS Political Union for which an expansive Regional Constituent Assembly (RCA) was convened in the early 1990s, then St. Lucia Prime Minister, the late Sir John Compton, quipped that some had taken to referring to OECS as The 'Organization of Eugenia, Compton and Son'. Never any doubt who the first two were, referred to as they were by their actual names – Compton himself and the now also long-and-dearly-departed former Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Dame Eugenia Charles. But 'Son'? Yes, the well-known nickname of the then Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, James "Son" Mitchell – a sobriquet almost always uttered with fondness even by those bitterly opposed to and critical of him (in the polarizing realm of politics, of course). The last of these three "owners" of the OECS has now joined the others in the Great Beyond. Sir James has died at the age of 90.

- INSIDE:**
- Monroe College to set up Hospitality Training branch in Antigua
 - Another woman's life taken by domestic gun violence
 - Fake vaccination certificates and suspect nurse being investigated

WE CANNOT LET DOWN OUR GUARD: Europe likely to see more than 2 million COVID deaths by March!

Europe is likely to experience more than two million COVID-19 deaths by March, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned.

The WHO said the European region remains “in the firm grip” of the coronavirus pandemic, with reported daily deaths rising to almost 4,200 a day

– double the 2,100 deaths a day at the end of September. Reported deaths from the virus have already passed the 1.5 million mark for the 53 coun-

tries that make up the WHO European region, the global health agency said. COVID-19 is the number one cause of death across Europe and central

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Asia. WHO said it expects there to be “high or extreme stress on hospital beds in 25 countries, and high or extreme stress in intensive care units (ICUs) in 49 out of 53 countries between now and March 2022”.

Cumulative reported deaths are projected to reach more than 2.2 million by spring next year, based on current trends, it added.

Dr. Hans Kluge, WHO regional director for Europe, said: “In order to live with this virus and continue our daily lives, we need to take a ‘vaccine-plus’ approach.

“This means getting the standard doses of vaccine, taking a booster if offered, as well as incorporating preventive measures into our normal routines.

“Taken together, wearing a mask, washing hands, ventilating indoor spaces, keeping physical distance and sneezing into your elbow are simple, effective ways of gaining control over the virus and keeping societies going.

“All of us have the opportunity and responsibility to help avert unnecessary tragedy and loss of life and limit further disruption to

society and businesses over this winter season.”

According to WHO, the three main factors driving the high cases in Europe are the spread of the Delta variant, which is highly transmissible; people being unvaccinated and waning immunity; and the fact that many “countries have indicated to their populations that COVID-19 no longer represents an emergency threat and have eased measures such as mask-wearing and physical distancing in crowded or confined spaces”. WHO said that now the weather has turned colder, people are also more likely to gather indoors.

It comes as NHS England said more than 417,000 people booked in for their booster jabs on Monday as the booking service opened for people aged 40 to 49.

Around 500,000 people in their 40s had their second dose at least six months ago and are now eligible for a top-up jab.

Dr. Kluge said: “As we approach the end of 2021, let’s do everything we can by getting vaccinated and taking personal protective measures to avoid the last

resort of lockdowns and school closures.

“We know through bitter experience that these have extensive economic consequences and a pervasive negative impact on mental health, facilitate interpersonal violence, and are detrimental to children’s well-being and learning.”

The warning comes after German health minister Jens Spahn said on Monday that citizens there will be “vaccinated, cured or dead” by the end of this winter.

WHO said vaccination has saved “hundreds of thousands of lives” but it was essential to drive up vaccination rates among all those who are eligible for one.

Dr Kluge said: “Today, the COVID-19 situation across Europe and central Asia is very serious. We face a challenging winter ahead but we should not be without hope, because all of us – governments, health authorities, individuals – can take decisive action to stabilise the pandemic.” **(RE-PRINTED from The Evening Standard)**

Monroe College to open Hospitality Training Institute branch in A&B

Monroe College, a national leader in educating first-generation and international students, on Tuesday 23rd November announced an expansion of its partnership with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to provide additional academic opportunities and vocational training programmes.

Marc Jerome, president of Monroe Col-

lege, finalized the details at a meeting with Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Ariel Titus, an Antiguan and proud Monroe College alumna, also attended Tuesday's meeting.

There are three core components to the exciting new collaboration emerging from Tuesday's meeting. All are designed to prepare local residents for sustainable jobs

that align with the country's economy.

The first component is a three-year agreement to provide matching scholarship funds to make a Monroe College education highly affordable to residents, regardless of whether they study online or on the College's campuses in New York or St. Lucia. The scholarship would cover tuition and fees related to any

degree programme Monroe offers. Students would cover the room and board costs associated with on-campus studies.

The next two components will be especially well-received by those seeking careers within the travel and tourism industry – a significant contributor to Antigua and Barbuda's economy.

Residents seeking a professional career



The advertisement features a yellow Suzuki Vitara SUV shown from a rear three-quarter view, driving on a road with orange and white diagonal stripes. In the top right corner, there is a logo consisting of two hexagons. The text on the right side of the ad reads: 'Suzuki Vitara', 'Fully Loaded All Grip 4WD', 'Time to Play', and 'Starting at \$76,600'. At the bottom right, there is a logo for HADEED MOTORS LTD. with a stylized mountain and the text 'Give us call 481-2500'.

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track will be delighted to know that, through the Prime Minister's office, the College will seek to partner with the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) and The University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Island Campus on a baccalaureate degree programme in hospitality management that includes a two-semester study abroad opportunity at Monroe in New York.

During their time at Monroe, students will participate in internships designed to gain practical work skills while learning the fast-paced, high-touch customer service expectations of today's business and recreational travelers.

The third component of the expanded partnership between Monroe and the Government is designed to meet the needs of those eager to prepare for entry-level, non-managerial jobs within the hospitality sector.

Monroe will open a new branch of its International Hospitality Training Institute (IHTI) at a location yet to be decided within Antigua and Barbuda. It will be modeled after the highly successful programme launched in St. Lucia with the country's National Apprenticeship Programme to prepare young residents there for starting positions with cruise ships, resorts and hotels.

The Institute offers five certificate programmes with training in professionalism and the essential "soft skills" that hospitality employers demand to be incorporated into each track. The available programmes are: Bartending; Event Planning and Logistics; Front Office/Guest Services; Food & Beverage Service; and Housekeeping.

The College will work with leading hoteliers in Antigua and Barbuda to ensure IHTI's vocational training meets local

employers' needs.

"We are delighted to embark on this new partnership with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and are honoured to work with Prime Minister Browne in realizing his vision for improving educational access and affordability for local citizens," said Marc Jerome, president of Monroe College. "Monroe has a long and proud history of educating Antiguan and Barbudan students, which will continue to grow under today's announced programmes."

Prime Minister Browne said: "Antigua and Barbuda has been building relationships with outstanding tertiary institutions in the USA and elsewhere. The relationship between Monroe College and UWI Five Islands can only be beneficial to the ambitions of our youthful citizens who are pursuing college education. I welcome this new drive."

Police say boyfriend is 'cooperating' with investigation

The boyfriend of a woman who was found dead in her house at Golden Grove on Monday was on Tuesday spending a second night in police custody assisting with the investigation into her death.

The man has not yet been identified by the police, but sources close to the investigations confirm that the man is still in police custody assisting what they are treating as a homicide. According to the police, he is cooperating with the investigation.

The deceased has since been identified as Zorina Benjamin, 40, an employee of the Customs Division where she has worked for more than 11 years.

The deceased was discovered shortly after midday on Monday by coworkers after she failed to show up to her workplace and several attempts to contact her by phone were unsuccessful.

Reports are that the woman was found with a bullet wound to her head.

The police have not indicated if and when the man will be charged with any crime.

Meanwhile, the Antigua and Barbuda Customs & Excise Division is once again mourning the loss of one of its faithful employees, the third to die in violent circumstances during the last 18 months.

In a statement, the Division has confirmed the death of "colleague and friend, Zorina Benjamin". It added that her warm and gracious smile and friendly



Customs & Excise employee Zorina Benjamin was found dead at her home with an apparent gunshot to the head. Her boyfriend is in police custody "assisting with the investigation".

personality left a lasting impression on everyone with whom she came into contact.

Accordingly, the Customs Division noted what it said has been "a tough and bitter season", as it was only mere weeks ago that the division was left reeling with the shocking news of the demise of another employee, Margaret 'Maggie' Harris.

Eighteen months ago, Customs Inspector Nigel Christian's bullet-ridden body was found at New Winthropes.

The Customs Division said it welcomes the news that a suspect is in the custody of the police,

who have also confirmed that the homicide – based on their investigations so far – was purely a domestic matter and not related to any issue involving Customs.

In the meantime, the Customs & Excise Division says it will continue to pray for Benjamin's family and friends who are dealing with the painful circumstances of her untimely death and lean on each other for support in getting through these tough and challenging times.

Heartfelt condolences go out to all who have been personally hurt by her loss.

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Improved ferry services for travel between islands



Local businessman Patrick Ryan has announced the resumption of regular ferry services between Antigua and Barbuda with the vessel *MV Island Escape*.

Ryan has entered into a business arrangement with the vessel's owner, Mark Rosendich, who

previously operated the *Island Escape* providing charters for the PLH Group.

When that operation came to an end, both Rosendich and Ryan entered into an agreement for the vessel's return to the area.

Under the new ar-

range, *MV Island Escape* will offer twice-weekly return trips to Barbuda, Mondays and Fridays, as well as offering charter services.

Ryan said the plan is to begin laying the foundation for regular ferry services to neighbouring

Montserrat as well.

The *MV Island Escape* can seat up to 150 passengers in air conditioned cabin and with airline-type seating. It also has an upper deck that can accommodate up to 40 passengers. The vessel is 80 feet long and 30 feet wide.



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Stewart upbeat about unity, expansion in tourism sector

Adam Stewart went to *Travel Weekly's CruiseWorld* confab last Friday highlighting the wisdom of expansion in the tourism industry at this time and commending stakeholders for refusing to yield to the debilitating effects of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Stewart, the executive chairman of Sandals Resorts International, acknowledged the cruise industry's unique difficulties during the pandemic and commended everyone in that sector for weathering what he described as "one of the most complicated situations in the history of travel".

"Tourism doesn't operate without the entire ecosystem, so when cruise is not there and tours are not taking place and there is not the movement of people back and forth, something is just missing," Stewart said.

According to Stewart, 2019 was "the best year in Caribbean travel, period". But the "unthinkable" — the outbreak of the novel coronavirus — happened in March 2020.

"Travel exposes us to the world. It's this incredible thing that's hard to explain, and we lost that," Stewart said, adding that he was grateful to travel advisors "who have stood behind our organisa-



Executive chairman of Sandals Resorts, Mr. Adam Stewart.

tion and have allowed so many people to thrive and prosper in my neck of the woods called the Caribbean".

He told the cruise industry delegates that at the outset of the pandemic early last year he and his now late father Gordon "Butch" Stewart had decided that Sandals Resorts International would engage in an aggressive expansion and, as such, acquired properties in Jamaica, St. Vincent, and Curaçao.

In April this year Sandals announced that it was adding three new hotels to its Jamaica portfolio that will create over 2,000 jobs and increase the country's room

count by more than 900.

The development, Sandals said, will bring its hotel count in Jamaica to 14 with more than 3,400 rooms, and represents a doubling down on its commitment to Jamaica.

Last year, Sandals had announced plans to bring its Beaches brand to St. Vincent, a move which promises expansive economic growth for the Eastern Caribbean island. Additionally, the resort group announced the acquisition of a new property in Curaçao.

Stewart said that after his father died, he and his siblings got together to decide the direction in which to take the company. "We could sell the company, we could pause and do nothing or we could double down," he said. "We decided to take this company to the moon and double the size over the next 10 years."

He said that while doing Zoom calls at home he recalled watching the "sky is falling" reports on cable news. "So from the get-go our organisation took a policy decision that this, too, shall pass, and everything we're going to do on a day-to-day basis is for the resumption of Caribbean travel."



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.

Wednesday, 24th November 2021	Thursday, 25th November 2021	Friday, 26th November 2021	Saturday, 27th November 2021
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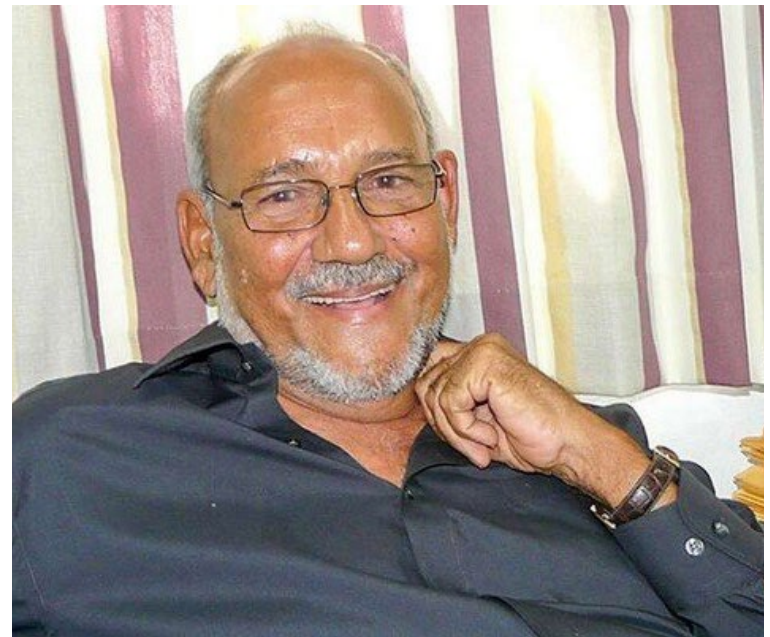
Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

CARICOM Chair expresses condolences at passing of former SVG PM Sir James Mitchell

The Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Prime Minister Gaston Browne, has expressed deepest sympathy at the passing of Sir James 'Son' Mitchell, the former Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG).

his SVG counterpart, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, on Tuesday morning to convey the condolences of the Caribbean Community's Heads of Government to the nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the death of one of their iconic figures.

The CARICOM Prime Minister Chair recalled that Browne telephoned Sir James had served



Former Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sir James Mitchell has died at the age of 90.

for 16 years as Prime Minister of his country, and during that time was an active regionalist, promoting several initiatives to deepen integration in the region.

"The region has lost a true champion of our CARICOM integration and a significant figure in advancing the region's causes in the global community.

We join the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, especially the people of the island of Bequia where he was born and in which he spent his happiest times," Prime Minister Browne concluded.

Prime Minister Browne also noted that Sir James had been an active advocate of the idea of a political union of the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in the early 1980s.

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Health Minister pledges to fully investigate fake vaccination card scheme

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph is promising a full investigation into a scheme that recently came to light where a member of the health profession was allegedly involved in the sale of fake vaccination booklets.

According to Sir Molwyn, while the ministry can confirm the existence of about 40 such documents, the number could be as high as 100. An internal investigation is now underway to determine the extent of the fraud and take immediate steps to remove the alleged perpetrator, a volunteer nurse, from the entire process.

The Health Minister is confident that the system will unearth all attempts at fraud, as he believes this has not been a widespread problem.

Sir Molwyn assured the public that the ministry's database will allow it to identify those individuals who obtained



Health & Wellness Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph.

the fake vaccinations the fake documents to booklets. He promised persons who wanted to that when the ministry avoid taking vaccines but concludes its investigation, the matter will be needed to show proof of turned over to the police. vaccination where such is required, such as bars and restaurants.

Reports are that the individual was selling

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I, Harrison Floyd, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 6th January, 2022 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Redz Bar" situated Bethesda Village, in the Parish of St. Phillip's, Antigua pursuant to section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 17th day of November, 2021
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CHOOSING A COMPANY PHYSICIAN

Recently many organizations have found it more practical to engage a company doctor to attend to the healthcare of their team members. This has caused others to wonder if it may be time to consider this option, based on recent health concerns and the need for regular medical advice on pressing issues.

If your organization functions in a highly industrialized environment – such as construction, engineering and heavy-duty equipment – or if there is any risk or hazard to any of the duties your employees perform, you may need to start researching your options for a Company Physician.

Also, if you require a pre-employment physical or a psychiatric evaluation as a condition of employment or have a Collective Bargaining Agreement

in place that mandates annual employee physical examinations, you probably need a Company-Designated Medical Practitioner.

First, let us discuss the role of a company doctor: A company doctor can contribute to the maintenance of a healthy workforce, acting in the interest of the company as well as of the employee.

The functions of a company doctor include (but are not limited to) conducting pre-employment physicals where necessary; providing best practice advice on how to maintain a safe and healthy work environment; assessing and caring for employees with chronic occupational injuries; providing first response in the event of an accident or emergency; providing written reports in the event of a Workman's Compensation

claim; and last, but not least these days, COVID-19 testing.

In our experience, the benefits of having a company doctor range from preferential rates and after-hours care for employees in emergencies, to faster attention in terms of care and scheduling of appointments.

A company medical practitioner would also have an in-depth understanding of your company's operations which strengthens his/her ability to provide you with reasonable solutions and employee accommodations when necessary. This awareness of how your organization functions would also enable them to provide sound medical advice, particularly in legal matters.

So, how do you proceed with selecting a medical practi-

tioner that suits your need? There is no right or wrong way to this process, but here are some pointers for your consideration:

Services Provided – If your employees regularly or even infrequently need care for injuries such as stitches, a medical practitioner with considerable experience in trauma care is a good idea.

Experience of the medical practitioner – While a more recently qualified doctor may be more accessible, it may be practical to consider the years of experience the practitioner has, especially in emergency medicine.

Accessibility – If your business operates on the weekend, having a medical practitioner who agrees to be available on the weekend, and even at nights, is necessary.

Size of practice – This may be a generalization, but the more popular a physician, the more difficult it may be to have an employee seen at short notice, unless the medical practitioner

agrees to extend preferential treatment to your company's employees.

Willingness to provide the required services – Is the medical practitioner of your choice willing to provide all the services your organization needs? If not, continue your search.

Making the right decision involves many in-depth discussions with the medical practitioners you are considering engaging. In addition to the going rates for medical services, be prepared to enter into a retainer agreement to secure

the preferential access to services you may need. As the HR practitioner, you will likely be the contact person with the company doctor. Ensure that you have a good rapport and will be able to collaborate effectively with whomever you choose. Antigua and Barbuda has many medical practitioners to choose from, so choose wisely and seek referrals where you can.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated

to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.



No ease on vaccine mandate in Guadeloupe

Loop Caribbean - The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine mandate for nurses and firefighters in Guadeloupe will not be removed.

This confirmation came from French Prime Minister Jean Castex after he held a two-hour meeting with Guadeloupe's Prefect, Alexandre Rochatte, Regional President Ary Chalus and other elected officials on the violent uprising that has gripped the territory since last week.

Trade unions called a general strike against the vaccine mandate as they said their members are losing their jobs because they exercised their right not to be vaccinated.

But Castex said nursing staff and firefighters represent "people particularly exposed to the risks of contracting COVID and who work daily in contact with fragile or vulnerable people".

In the health sector, Castex noted that 85 percent of professionals are now vaccinated.

Just about 33 percent of Guadeloupians are vaccinated against COVID-19, compared with 75 percent nation-



French Prime Minister Jean Castex.

wide.

A team from the Ministry of the Interior will arrive in Guadeloupe tomorrow to meet with firefighters to examine "the means to allow the conditions for the deployment of the vaccination obligation".

The prime minister

condemned the violence and warned that, "The perpetrators are and will continue to be arrested and tried."

At least 30 people have been arrested for breaking the curfew.

Castex promised, "Everything will be done to restore republican or-

der."

He appealed for "calm and responsibility" among those who are against the vaccine mandate.

France has already sent over 200 security forces personnel to the island to quell violence.

Gunshots fired at police amid continued unrest in Martinique

St. Lucia Times - Police in neighbouring Martinique came under gunfire overnight amid continued unrest, but local reports said although vehicles were damaged, no one sustained any injury.

According to media outlets, between 11:00 p.m. Monday and 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, marauding youths – some wearing hoodies and carrying arms – blocked roads with cans and tyres that they set on fire.

They also set vehicles alight and firefighters who responded had to be protected by the police.

Protestors have been demonstrating their anger over a vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, which is also in place in mainland France, and other restrictions implemented to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

In addition, on Monday, a trade union coalition launched a general strike calling for – among other things – an end to the vaccine



mandate, salary increases, and lower gas prices.

Martinique 1 Ere reported that trade union leaders met behind closed doors with the prefect of Martinique, Stanislas Cazelles, on Tuesday.

In the afternoon, the leaders were to meet with the President of the Territorial Collectivity of Martinique (CTM), Serge Letichimy.

But Martinique 1 Ere quoted Bertrand Cam-

busy, secretary-general of the CSTM union, as indicating that the strike continues.

Although reports from Martinique indicate that things have calmed since the overnight unrest, several shops remained closed and, on Tuesday morning, certain roads were impassable.

The unrest in Martinique mirrors similar protests taking place on the French Caribbean Island of Guade-

loupe, primarily over the vaccine mandate and COVID-19 restrictions.

After a week of violent protests, the Guadeloupe unrest prompted France to dispatch Special Forces to the Island.

Police said they arrested over 30 people caught looting and smashing shops.

French President Emmanuel Macron described the situation as explosive.

Former SVG Prime Minister Sir James Mitchell has died

IWN SVG - Sir James Mitchell, the second prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, died on Tuesday, his daughter Louise Mitchell has confirmed to iWitness News.

He was 90-years-old.

Sir James' death brought to an end an era in the history of SVG, as he was the last surviving Parliamentarian at the time of Independence on Oct. 27, 1979.

In an immediate reaction to his death, the main opposition New Democratic Party (NDP), which Sir James founded in 1979, said:

"We are saddened to hear the news that the founder of the New Democratic Party, Sir James Mitchell, has passed away. He was one of the founding fathers of our nation and served as the second Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 1984 to 2000, as well as premier to St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 1972 to 1974.

"During his time serving our nation, he achieved huge amounts in steering St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the right direction, by providing economic stability and improv-

ing housing across our islands. The IMF once said of his economic leadership, 'There's much to please and little to fault'.

"Sir James is undoubtedly to be credited for numerous developments in our country. He was the embodiment of a true statesman and a nation builder. Sir James was much loved by everybody that knew him and we pray for his family during this difficult time. May he rest in peace."

Sir James, who was popularly known as Son Mitchell, died five days after being discharged from the Intensive Care Unit of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados where he had been taken after falling ill at his home in Bequia on Oct. 30.

He was initially diagnosed in Bequia as having a gallstone, but was medevaced to Kingstown where doctors said he had an infection.

In a telephone conversation from his hospital bed in Kingstown on Oct. 31, Sir James said he fell in his kitchen about four months ago and while he suffered no broken bones, he had been experienc-



ing some health challenges since.

Doctors later decided to transfer Sir James to Barbados where he was treated for severe dengue and sepsis, among other complications, his family said.

After being discharged from hospital in Barbados last Thursday, Sir James was taken back to Bequia where he died.

"Throughout this entire ordeal, Sir James has been comforted by the support and love expressed on a daily basis by his former cabinet ministers, colleagues, constituents and his

cherished NDP family," the family said in a statement last Thursday after his release from hospital.

"We appreciate the outpouring of concern from every segment of the Vincentian populace for Sir James. We also thank his friends and colleagues from across the world who have reached out. The family is truly humbled by the tremendous solicitude and support at this time," said the statement by Sir James' daughters, Sabrina, Gretel, Louise and Gabija.

Document signed for EC\$5.42 million to fund St. Lucia Youth Economy



Prime Minister, Hon. Philip J. Pierre and the H. E. Peter Chen, Ambassador of Taiwan to Saint Lucia

St. Lucia Times - Prime Minister, Hon. Philip J. Pierre and H.E. Peter Chen, Ambassador of Taiwan to Saint Lucia, officially signed the document which will funnel EC\$5.42M to the Youth Economy to facilitate turning hobbies into entrepreneurship and skills into business by providing finance, training, marketing and mentoring to young people seeking self-sustainable employment.

In a ceremony attended by the Cabinet of Ministers and officials from the Embassy of the Republic of China, Taiwan, Prime Minister

Pierre explained that, "The Youth Economy is one step in the pursuit of a dream to create a new economy based on technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship where young business people will be participants and not merely observers."

This statement was supported by H.E. Chen who stated that, "Through capacity-building of aspiring entrepreneurs and enhancing business and employment as well as training opportunities in the post-pandemic period, Taiwan hopes to help dreams and aspirations become concrete and

practical assets and goals."

The ceremony signaled the introduction of yet another manifesto pledge of the Philip J. Pierre-led administration "to create an economy for the young" who he urged to be disciplined and committed to their business venture and seek to aim for global standards and efficiency.

The Youth Economy will be housed within the Ministry of Finance & Economic Development headed by Prime Minister Pierre and Hon. Wayne Girard.

Walgreens, CVS and Walmart fueled opioid crisis, Ohio jury finds

BBC - Three big US retail chains have been found guilty of helping fuel a painkiller crisis in two Ohio counties, in the first case of its kind.

A federal court found that actions by Walgreens Boots Alliance, CVS, and Walmart helped create an oversupply of addictive opioid pills.

The scale of compensation to be paid to the two Ohio counties will be decided at a future hearing.

CVS said it would appeal against the judgement.

The other retailers, who all contested the cases, did not immediately comment.

More than 3,300 similar cases have been brought, largely by US state and local governments which have faced huge costs in managing an epidemic of painkiller addiction.

Over the last few decades, millions of Americans have become addicts through over-prescription and abuse of legal opiate-based painkillers such as Fentanyl and OxyContin. Nearly 500,000 deaths were attributed to painkiller overdoses between 1999 and 2019.

As well as the pharmacy chains, big pharmaceutical companies and medical professionals have been accused of turning a blind eye to the problem.

Lawyers for the two Ohio counties, Lake and Trumbull, said the costs are potentially \$1bn for each county to cover social and legal expenses related to the impact of the opioid epidemic.

"The judgment today against



Walmart, Walgreens and CVS represents the overdue reckoning for their complicity in creating a public nuisance," they said in a joint statement.

They argued that the pharmacies created a public nuisance by failing to ensure opioid prescriptions were valid, and [thus] allowing excessive quantities of addictive pain pills to flood their communities.

Walgreens Boots Alliance, CVS and Walmart denied the allegations, saying they had taken steps to prevent painkillers being diverted from their intended legal use.

CVS in a statement said it strongly disagreed with the verdict

and would appeal.

"As plaintiffs' own experts testified, many factors have contributed to the opioid abuse issue, and solving this problem will require involvement from all stakeholders in our healthcare system and all members of our community," CVS said.

Other cases around the country are relying on the "public nuisance" argument to target the companies involved in making and distributing the opioid painkillers.

However, earlier this month, courts in Oklahoma and California rejected it as a legal argument in cases against drugs makers.

Biden announces release of oil reserves, but says gas prices will not drop overnight



but its actual effect may be limited. In 2019, US petroleum use averaged approximately 20.5 million barrels of oil per day and in 2020 the US used on average about 18.1 million barrels per day, according to the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA), which reports that petroleum usage was lower in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The barrels of oil involved in Tuesday's announcement will not hit the market until "mid- to late December, depending on market take-up," according to a senior administration official.

"We're taking action. The big part of the reason Americans are facing high gas prices is because oil producing countries and large companies have not ramped up the supply of oil quickly enough to meet the demand. And the smaller supply means higher prices globally ... for oil," Biden said during remarks at the White House.

This release will be in coordination with several other countries, including China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom. Officials believe the coordinated

effort could potentially have more of an effect on lowering gas prices.

As of Friday, there were 604.5 million barrels of oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, according to the Department of Energy.

The move comes as the White House faces mounting pressure to lower skyrocketing prices at the pump that are contributing to the biggest inflation spike in decades, causing frustration and anger among Americans.

The President on Tuesday called the issue a "problem" both in the US and around the world, and stressed that while spikes in prices are usually temporary, "It doesn't mean we should just stand by idly and wait for prices to drop on their own."

Thirty-two million barrels will be in exchange "over the next several months", the White House said, and those barrels will eventually return to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve "in the years ahead". Eighteen million barrels "will be an acceleration into the next several months of a sale of oil that Congress had previously authorized".

(CNN) - President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced the release of emergency oil reserves to combat high energy prices ahead of the busy holiday travel season, but it will be weeks before the barrels hit the market.

The Department of Energy will release 50 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, according to the White House -- the largest release from the reserve in US history,

Biden said.

Biden on Tuesday noted that the administration's actions "will not solve the problem of high gas prices overnight".

"It will take time, but before long you should see the price of gas drop where you fill up your tank," he said during his remarks. "And, in the longer term, we will reduce our reliance on oil as we shift to clean energy."

The release is aimed at addressing the lack of oil supply around the world,

Supply crisis spurs South Africa retailers to end Asia reliance

(Reuters) – Spiralling shipping costs and COVID-19 supply chain disruptions are accelerating a shift by South African retailers to end their heavy reliance on Asia and move to source products locally.

More than 50% of South Africa's clothing textiles, shoes, and leather products are imported – mostly from China – putting Africa's leading economy and its retailers at the mercy of forces beyond their control, such as Chinese power shortages.

While the government launched a programme in 2019 offering tax incentives to source goods locally, the recent spate of problems arising out of Asia has added urgency to what had been a slow shift, four top retailers in South Africa told Reuters.

"Most furniture in South Africa is currently imported. We are looking at various options to manufacture more here, particularly at the moment when shipping costs are up 400%. So it's even more of a reason if you needed one," TFG chief executive Anthony Thunström said in an interview.

TFG, which sources 72% of its clothes locally, said earlier this month it wants to locally manufacture 30 million pieces a year within four years – up from 11.5 million currently – and is adding furniture and jewellery to its growing local list.

Thunström said a lot of TFG's jewellery is already made in South Africa, but he wants to further increase local sourcing.

The owner of British women's wear brands Hobbs and Whistles and South Africa's @Home home-



ware brand wants these products to be manufactured on a quick turnaround basis to improve lead times and be competitive against global chains such as Zara, owned by Inditex and Swedish rival H&M.

TFG said on Nov.11 that it will spend a further 575 million rand (\$37 million) over the next three to five years to build local manufacturing capability.

South African retailers are not alone in looking local as constraints expose the vulnerability of globe-spanning supply chains and low-cost manufacturing hubs which have led to an over-dependence on imports, particularly from Asia.

Italy's Benetton and Hugo Boss have already indicated they are sourcing clothes closer to home.

Norman Drieselmann, CEO of South Africa's Retailability which owns the Edgars department store chain, said China's power cuts have added a two-week delay to clothing – on top of four weeks due to COVID – ahead of the critical festive season.

Woolworths told Reuters it expects the power cuts will impact its orders for March next year. The retailer – which sources about 30% of its fashion, beauty and home products from China – said it is making arrangements to buy more locally.

Retailers who spoke to Reuters did not share potentially competitive information about who would be producing goods for them in South Africa, or exactly where in the country.

Vaccinated, recovered or dead': Europe fights COVID wave — and itself!

New York Times - Austria went into a major lockdown on Monday to try to break the strong fourth wave of COVID spreading across Europe, while the German health minister, Jens Spahn, warned that by the end of this winter "just about everyone in Germany will probably be either vaccinated, recovered, or dead."

"Immunity will be reached," Mr. Spahn said at a Berlin news conference. "The question is whether it's via vaccination or infection, and we explicitly recommend the path via vaccination."

European governments are toughening their measures against COVID in the face of soaring infection rates — more than two million new cases each week, the most since the pandemic began — and popular resistance, with violent protests over the weekend in numerous countries.

Tens of thousands of people protested official crackdowns and vaccine requirements in Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland and Croatia, with scattered violence and police use of tear gas and water cannons.

Some protesters were organized by far-right parties, but many were simply fed up with almost two years of intermittent state controls

over their lives in the name of public health.

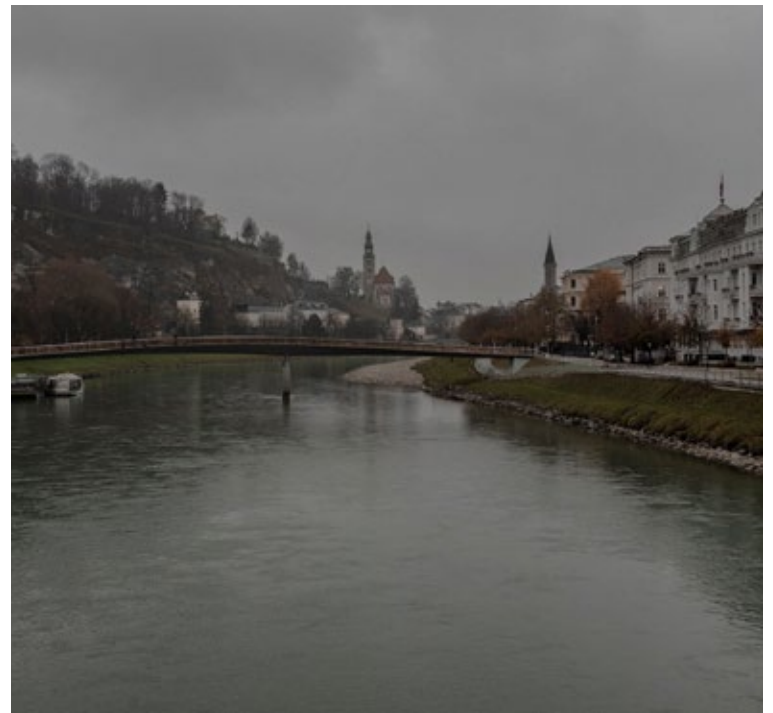
Ahmed Aboutaleb, the mayor of Rotterdam where some of the worst protests erupted, called them an "orgy of violence" and said football hooligans were believed to have been involved.

Mark Rutte, the Dutch prime minister, defended the right to demonstrate. "But what I will never accept is that idiots use sheer violence against the people who work for you and me every day to keep this country safe under the guise of: 'We are dissatisfied'."

Europe is once again the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, accounting for more than half the world's reported COVID deaths this month, according to the World Health Organization. The four countries with the world's highest rates of reported new cases in the past week are Austria and three that border it: Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic — 27 of the top 29 are in Europe.

With vaccination rates lagging and winter approaching, more governments are ringing alarm bells.

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany told her Christian Democratic party on Monday that the situation is "highly dramatic" and that the latest surge is worse than anything Germany had



Europe is again at the center of the pandemic and, amid vaccine resistance and protests, nations are imposing new rules and pressuring people to get inoculated.

suffered so far.

In what may be her last month as chancellor as a new government is being formed, she warned that hospitals would soon be overwhelmed unless the fourth wave of the virus is broken, and called on Germany's 16 states to enforce even tighter restrictions to block the spread.

Germany, like many European countries, is at the same time pressing for citizens to get booster shots. But it faces a dwindling supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine which was partly developed in the country.

While the European Medicines Agency is poised to approve the vaccine for use on chil-

dren ages 5 to 11 this week, first doses for children are not scheduled to be delivered to European Union countries until Dec. 20, Mr. Spahn said.

On Thursday, 553,000 vaccines were administered in Germany in one day, a daily total not seen since early August. Three quarters of those shots were boosters, according to the health ministry.

Neighboring Austria on Monday began its fourth lockdown, one of the few in Western Europe since vaccines became widely available. Most stores, restaurants, sporting venues and cultural institutions shut, leaving the streets cold and quiet in the weeks before Christmas.

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ASSISTANT BAR MANAGER

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Tertiary qualification in Hotel or Bar Management or its equivalent from a recognized university

Must be HACCP Certified | Must have current food & beverage handling licenses/permits

Complete working knowledge of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages

Must have a passion for teamwork and very strong leadership skills

ASSISTANT FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

Minimum 4 years' experience as a Food & Beverage Manager at a five star hotel

Diploma/Degree in Hotel Management required | Second language would be an asset

Must have a genuine passion for food and able to work within a busy environment & thrive under pressure | Must be a team-player | Must be service-oriented

Effective communication skills | Leadership/People Management skills

AUTO MECHANICS INSTRUCTOR

Minimum 3-5 years' experience working in the Auto Mechanic industry

5 CXC Passes (including English & Mathematics) or Tertiary Level Completion

Knowledge of career and technology skills and competencies in Auto Mechanics

Experience in teaching in a classroom setting with diverse students is a plus

AUDIOVISUAL TECH/ IT SUPPORT

Associate degree in instructional media and technology or related field in addition to a minimum of two years' professional audio-visual experience | InfoComm CTS certification highly desirable

Advanced knowledge of circuitry, electricity, electronics, and the ability to read and follow schemata and technical manuals | Experienced with video recording, editing and production

Strong working knowledge of AV switching control systems (e.g. Extron, Crestron)

Superior interpersonal skills with demonstrated ability to work well with people.

Excellent communication skills | Must be available to work evening and weekend hours

Must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds on a regular basis

BABYSITTER/NANNY

Minimum 1 year experience in a similar role | Must be **FULLY VACCINATED**

Early Childhood Certification required | Must have experience working with babies

High School Diploma | Must have a valid Driver's license

BAKER/PASTRY MAKER

Minimum 4 years' experience in a similar role | High School Completion

Artistic and creative in decorating cakes and other confections including chocolate and sugar art decorations | Excellent knowledge in the use of patisserie and their various possible combinations

BARBER

Minimum 2 years' experience

BEACH & SPORTS SUPERVISOR

Minimum 1 year experience in a supervisory role and two years' experience in similar Beach & Sports role | Minimum High School Diploma or equivalent | Must be able to lift at least 40 pounds

Must be able to Windsurf, Sail (e.g. Sunfish, Hobby Cat), Kayak, Water-ski, Snorkel and provide instruction/lesson in the same | First Aid, Boat Masters & Valid Driver's License required

Must be able to speak, read and write English | Fluency in other languages preferred

CHEF

Minimum 2-3 years' experience in a similar role | **MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED**

CLUB SANDALS SUPERVISOR

Minimum two (2) years' supervisory experience | Associates Degree/Diploma in Hotel/Business Management | Certification from a recognized vocational/technical institution in relevant field

COOK (RESTAURANT)

Minimum 1 year experience | Must be trustworthy & reliable

DECKHAND/SNORKEL GUIDE

Basic Boating experience required; Must not be prone to motion sickness | High School Completion

Must be a competent swimmer | Boatmaster 3 license desirable but not required

DENTAL ASSISTANT/HYGIENIST

5+ years' experience as a Dental Assistant/Hygienist | Good Understanding of Dental/Medical software

Ability to assist in making clinical diagnosis | Perseverance, Motivation, Confidence

Flexibility, Communication, Teamwork | Problem Solving, Leadership, Organization

General computer skills including Microsoft Suite & Google Docs

DOMESTIC CLEANER

Minimum 2 years' experience as a Domestic Cleaner

FARM HELPER

Minimum 1 year experience working on a Farm

FINANCE ASSISTANT

Minimum 1-2 years in a similar role | Minimum Associate's Degree in Accounting

Experience in accounts payable, accounts receivable, bank reconciliations

Positive attitude and willingness to grow and learn | Organized and can work with tight deadlines

Ability to be extremely flexible, efficient and punctual | Analytical & critical thinker

Strong verbal and written skills | Must be able to work independently as well as part of a team

Proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel is a must)

FINANCIAL RISK OPERATIONS ANALYST

Minimum 2 years' experience | Flexible schedule is a must

High School & College Completion necessary | Excellent management of customer service skills

Knowledge of financial-management principles, policies, and procedures is an asset

Must be self-motivated, innovative, with strong interpersonal skills, and possess the ability to work effectively with limited supervision

Ability to work autonomously or in a team environment | Strong proven verbal and written skills

Exceptional attention to detail to ensure high level of accuracy on all activities

Technologically self-sufficient on MS Office applications, specifically Excel, with the ability to learn new software, as required

Customer Service, Analytical, computer skills, attention to details, strong interpersonal skills

FINANCIAL RISK OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Minimum 3 years' experience in financial and risk data analysis

High School & College Completion necessary

3+ years' people, process, and operational management experience

Familiar with online financial risk, trends, analysis, and third-party verification and management solutions | Understanding of current internet technologies, regulation trends, policies and legal rulings | Strong written and verbal communication skills

Understanding of governance and compliance activities, processes, and standards

Proven track record in communicating and influencing senior leadership

Draws on experience and knowledge to assess and analyze facts and available information to come to quick and appropriate decisions | Advanced MS Office working knowledge

FOOD & DRINKS MANAGER

Minimum 5 years' experience in a similar role

Must be certified in Food & Beverage | Must be able to multi-task

FOOD & SERVER ATTENDANT

Minimum 3-5 years' experience | High level of Professionalism & Confidentiality required

Must have a friendly personality with excellent customer service skills

FRONT OF HOUSE ASSISTANT (SERVER/BARTENDER)

Minimum 1-2 years' experience in a similar role | **MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED**

GYM TRAINERS (PART-TIME)

Minimum 2 years' experience as a Personal Trainer

HAIRDRESSER

Minimum 2 years' experience

HANDYMAN

Minimum 2 years' experience in the construction field | Secondary School Completion

Knowledge of different areas in the construction field | Must be able to work independently

HEAD CHEF (RESTAURANT)

Minimum 5 years' experience in a similar role

KITCHEN ASSISTANT (FAST FOOD RESTAURANT)

Minimum 1-2 years' experience in a similar role | **MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED**

LABOURER

Minimum 3 years' experience in a similar role | Secondary School

Completion | Must be physically fit

LABOURER/GROUNDS ATTENDANT

Minimum 5 years' experience in a similar role

Must have knowledge propagating and maintaining plants

Must be a team player & must have a Driver's license | **MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED**

LABOURER TO THE CARPENTER

Minimum 7-10 years' experience in working with a Carpenter

Knowledge in the field of Woodwork required | Must be physically fit & have personal transportation

Must be honest, skilled and fluent in the English Language

LINE CHEF (FINE DINING RESTAURANT)

Minimum 3 years' experience in a similar role | Food Handlers Certificate required

Certificate from a Reputable Culinary School OR 5 years in Reputable restaurant

Must be punctual, motivated, passionate & disciplined | Able to work unsupervised

MANICURIST

Commission-based

3+ years proven work experience in manicures, pedicures, Gel application and nail art

Excellent customer service and communication skills

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Minimum 12 years' experience | Boatmaster 1 Qualification required

High school Diploma | Strong communications skills required;

Must be able to drive and operate Boats | At least a little navigational knowledge

Practice experience with tools and equipment used in marine maintenance

Ability to read and understand technical manuals | Good verbal and written communication skills

MARKETING MANAGER (HOTEL)

Minimum 5 year experience in a similar role | Minimum High School Diploma or equivalent

Must be able to perform job functions with attention to detail, speed and accuracy; Must be creative and a clear-thinker | Must reflect a positive attitude at all times

Relevant Qualifications required | Must have a valid Driver's License

Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite & Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere, After Effects etc.) | Web design preferable

MASONRY INSTRUCTOR

Minimum 3-5 years Mason experience | Experience teaching in classroom

setting with diverse students a plus | Technical Diploma and/or Certification in Construction trade

5 CXC Passes (including English & Mathematics) or Tertiary Level Completion

MECHATRONIC TECHNICIAN

Experience in Blow Molding and Distillery applications | Hi and low-pressure compressor process

Ability to troubleshoot electromechanical system | Boiler overhauls and maintenance

Knowledge of Fiber Optic communications & VFD programming | Process Operations

Plc experience | Experience dealing with Pumps and motors repairs

MULTILINGUAL BARTENDER

Minimum 3 years' experience | Fluency in English & Additional Language required

MULTILINGUAL CLERK

Minimum 3 years' experience | Fluency in English & Additional Language required

NIGHT DUTY MANAGER

Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Management, Business Management or any related field

Experience in a Night Manager role within the hospitality industry

Good communication and written Skills | Excellent leadership skills & Customer service skills

Ability to work independently as well as part of a team

Proven experience with front office management systems

ONCOLOGY NURSE

Degree in Nursing required | Oncology Nursing Certification preferred

Experience in Oncology Nursing & Chemotherapy IV Infusion

Must be knowledgeable and competent in care and access of central lines and in-dwelling catheter

Ability to work independently and as a member of a multidisciplinary team

Well-developed communication and interpersonal skills

OPERATIONAL CONTROL ANALYST (FINANCE)

Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role

Phenomenal verbal/written communication skills and grammar required

Excellent computer skills (Windows, Excel, Outlook, etc.)

Ability to learn new tasks, procedures and software quickly

Strong analytical abilities and effective follow-through | Exceptional attention to detail

Excellent ability to prioritize and complete a high volume of tasks quickly and professionally with minimal guidance | Ability to meet deadlines, maintaining a sense of urgency

Exceptional organization and multi-tasking skills | Ability to work extended and flexible hours if required | High degree of initiative and commitment along with a strong work ethic

PLUMBING INSTRUCTOR

Minimum 3-5 years' experience working in the Plumbing industry

5 CXC Passes (including English & Mathematics) or Tertiary Level Completion

Technical Diploma and/or Certification in Construction trade

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

Minimum 2 years' experience | High School Completion | **MUST** be Early Childhood Certified

ROOM ATTENDANT (PART-TIME)

Minimum 1-2 years' experience | High School Completion | **MUST** be fully vaccinated

ROOM ATTENDANT (HOTEL)

Minimum 3-5 years' experience

Must have a friendly personality with excellent customer service skills

High level of Professionalism & Confidentiality required

SECURITY OFFICER

Minimum 1-2 years' experience | Must be able to lift at least 60 lbs. | **MUST** be fully vaccinated

SKILLED CARPENTER

Minimum 10 years' experience as a Carpenter | Secondary/Vocational School Completion

SPA THERAPIST

Minimum 3 years proven work experience as a Spa Therapist

Must be certified as a Massage Therapist

Hands on experience in massage techniques, manicures, pedicures, waxing and face/body therapies

Excellent customer service skills | Positive attitude

Computer literate with Microsoft Office experience | Great oral and written communication skills

WAREHOUSE MANAGER

A degree in Management, Inventory and/or Supply-chain management or related discipline

3+ years' experience in warehousing/fleet management | Good organizational skills

Computer literate | Knowledgeable of inventory and supply management policies and procedures

Knowledgeable of dynamics inventory system | Good oral & written communication skills

DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS is Friday 26th November, 2021

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Save money - Use a MEAL PLAN

Plan your meals for the next few days or week ahead. It takes a bit of time, but it will help you save money later.

- Decide which recipes you will make for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Look for seasonal recipes. Fruits and vegetables are cheaper when they are in season.
- Avoid recipes that need a special ingredient that you may not have or may be costly.
- Enjoy grains more often. Grains such as rice and pasta are inexpensive and can be used in many different recipes.
- Plan to use leftovers. If you are cooking baked chicken with rice and vegetables for Sunday dinner, then make chicken sandwiches for Monday's lunch

For more information on price control goods contact
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Weekend Vaccination Saturday 27th November



Multipurpose Centre

Ministry of Health, Wellness
and The Environment

9am- 3pm

First and Second dose of AstraZeneca, Pfizer,
Sinopharm vaccines and single dose J&J vaccine.

Olympic 100m champion challenges Bolt to team sprinting contest for charity



Combination of photos showing Usain Bolt (left) and Lamont Marcell Jacobs.

Italy's Olympic 100m champion Lamont Marcell Jacobs has challenged Usain Bolt to a charity team sprinting contest after the retired Jamaican said he could have won the blue riband race in Tokyo.

Bolt told AFP in an interview last week that it was frustrating to watch the delayed 2020 Games

from his home in Jamaica as his male countrymen flopped and Jacobs—a relative unknown before the Olympics – claimed a shock victory.

The 35-year-old Jamaican – the world record holder over 100m with a best of 9.58 seconds, set back in 2009 – said Jacobs' winning time of 9.80sec in Tokyo was still

within his reach despite having hung up his spikes in 2017.

Jacobs – who has not raced since winning the coveted sprint gold – turned to social media on Monday to challenge Bolt, the winner of eight Olympic gold medals and an 11-time world champion.

"You are my hero, so

thanks for the hat's off!" said Jacobs, born in the United States to an American father but raised in Italy by his Italian mother.

"But you also said you're sure you'd win, so I'm up for the challenge!"

"How about starting with a charity capture the flag? You bring your team and I'll bring mine!"

LeBron James, Isaiah Stewart suspended over clash during Lakers vs Pistons on Sunday



Isaiah Stewart had to be held back from further pursuing LeBron James

LeBron James has been suspended for one game for an altercation with Isaiah Stewart during Sunday's clash between the LA Lakers and Detroit Pistons, with Stewart banned for two games.

James was ejected – for only the second time in his glittering career – after an ugly incident in the third period which left Stewart bleeding from a wound above his right eye.

He clearly caught Stewart with an elbow as they battled for position at a

free-throw, but Stewart then escalated things and went after the perennial All-Star, drawing multiple technical fouls and also being ejected from the game.

James would therefore miss Tuesday night's game against the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden for "recklessly hitting Stewart in the face and initiating an on-court altercation", [according] to a decision announced by President of League Operations Byron Spruell.

Stewart's two-game

suspension means he will miss a home date with the Miami Heat on Tuesday and Thursday's road game against the Milwaukee Bucks.

The 2020 draft pick was found guilty of "escalating an on-court altercation by repeatedly and aggressively pursuing Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James in an unsportsmanlike manner".

Pistons head coach Dwayne Casey had said after the game that he didn't believe Stewart deserved to be punished

any further than his ejection after being provoked.

Casey said: "He's a great kid but he felt like he got cheap-shotted across his brow ... On the street it would be a different story.

"I don't think he should be facing anything from the league. He didn't get off the floor in time, and the league will have to decide about that, and I thought that was why he was ejected from the game."

Trump receives honorary ninth-degree black belt in taekwondo

He got a kick out of this honor.

Former President Donald Trump was presented with an honorary ninth dan black belt in taekwondo over the weekend by the head of one of the sport's governing bodies at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida.

Trump was presented with the honor by Lee Dong Seop, the president of Kukkiwon, the world taekwondo headquarters located in South Korea.

A South Korean living in the US organized the meeting, the Korean newspaper Dong-A-Ilbo reported on Monday.

"I heard that Donald Trump is highly interested in Taekwondo," Lee was quoted as saying by the outlet.

The 45th President posed with Lee while wearing traditional taekwondo garb in several photographs that were posted on Kukkiwon's Facebook page. The photos were accompanied by a disclaimer saying that the ceremony was "not related [to] any other political issues".

"It is my pleasure and honor to receive this honorary certificate. Taekwondo is a great martial art for protecting oneself in these times (when COVID-19 prevails)," Dong-A-Ilbo quoted Trump as saying.

The former president reportedly added that he will wear the taekwondo outfit to Congress if he is elected president again and invited the Kukkiwon demonstration team to the United States to perform.

Following the ceremony, Trump

and Lee posed in front of a photo at Mar-a-Lago showing the former president shaking hands with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during their meeting at the Korean demilitarized zone in 2019.

Trump is not the first prominent world leader to receive a ninth-degree black belt. Russian President Vladimir Putin was awarded the honor during a visit to Seoul in 2013.

Like Trump, Putin never practiced taekwondo. However, the Russian leader does have a black belt in judo.

A ninth dan black belt is the highest level that can be achieved by professional martial artists. Trump and Putin outrank martial arts expert and "Walker, Texas Ranger" star Chuck Norris, who has an eighth-degree taekwondo black belt.



Trump (left) received the black belt at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, from Lee Dong Seop, president of the World Taekwondo Headquarters in South Korea.



West Indies batsman Rahkeem Cornwall plays a shot during Day 3 of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle, Sri Lanka, on Tuesday.

WINDIES AVOID FOLLOW-ON BUT RAIN FORCES EARLY END TO 3RD DAY'S PLAY

THE WEST INDIES managed to avoid the follow-on but rain forced an early end to the third day of the first Test match against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium, in Galle, Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

Resuming from a precarious position of 113 runs for six wickets in response to Sri Lanka's first innings score of 386, the West Indies reached 224/9 before a downpour – after five overs in the second session – brought a halt to proceedings.

The West Indies' over-

night batsmen of Kyle Mayers and Jason Holder carefully handled the Sri Lankan spinners before Mayers, on 45, was unable to deal with a delivery from off-spinner Dhananjaya de Silva that bounced and he spooned a catch to Sri Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne at cover with the score on 163.

Twelve runs later Holder (36) fell in similar fashion as Dushmantha Chameera dived to his right at point to hold on to a catch off left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama.

Wicketkeeper/batsman Joshua Da Silva and Rahkeem Cornwall carried the WI past the follow-on score of 186 and at lunch the scoreboard read 215/8.

Cornwall (39) topped a pull shot from pacer Suranga Lakmal to Ramesh Mendis at square-leg before the umpires Kumar Dharmasena and Ruchira Palliyaguruge called on the groundsmen to bring in the covers as the heavens opened up.

Da Silva was the not-out batsman on 11.

Scores:

SRI LANKA 386 - Dimuth Karunaratne 147; Dhananjaya de Silva 61; Pathum Nissanka 56; Dinesh Chandimal 45; Roston Chase 5-83; Jomel Warrican 3-87; Shannon Gabriel 2-69

WEST INDIES 224-9 - Kyle Mayers 45; Kraigg Brathwaite 41; Rahkeem Cornwall 39; Jason Holder 36; Jermaine Blackwood 20; Praveen Jayawickrama 3-38; Ramesh Mendis 3-75.

IDEWS