

Complimentary

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Pacquiao defies the odds again

We are the Champions!

By Christopher Tobutt

Cayman Academy' Under 12 Boys' and Under 12 Girls soccer teams brought home the treasure for Cayman yet again, just a week after winning more than 30 medals in the Island Games at Gibraltar. This time, the U12 Boys' team won the Gold Cup Championship at a major soccer tournament in Blaine, Minnesota after being victorious in all their matches at the tournament. The U12 Girls' did amazingly too, bringing home a huge silver cup.

A small crowd of moms, dads, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, friends, and members of the Academy Sports Club were there to welcome home the teams at Owen Roberts International Airport on Sunday 22 July. The Arrivals door swung open, and the Under 12 boys' team members proudly held the magnificent gold cup high, for everyone to see. Of course, the Under 12 girls' team, too, who showed off their beautiful silver cup. They were all greeted by loud cheering and applause, hugs as camera phone flashes – a true heroes' welcome.

One of the under 12 boys, 11-year-old Preston Duval said: "It was a good experience we learnt a lot; met different people from different teams and we came out to be champions." Another member of the under-12 team, Joshua Scotland, 12, said: "we all played well, and we per-



... Continued story on page A6

► We are the Champions! U12 Boys' team brings home the Gold for Cayman, pictured with: Paul Byles, Sharleen Duval, and Claudio Garcia

GT Revitalization Initiative Public Meeting

Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure officials, along with members of the public and media representatives gathered at Constitution Hall in George Town on Thursday, 18th July for an interactive presentation regarding the George Town Revitalization Initiative.

The evening was an opportunity for the community to learn firsthand about the plans for the re-gensis of 'the City'.

Led by George Town Manager for the Ministry, Mr. Colin Lumsden, participants were able view and use aerial maps to make suggestions about everything ranging from where they thought parks should be to where they would want to live and what their favourite parts of the Capital are.

... Continued story on page A3



Minister Hew Tours NiCE work sites, Talks to Crews



► NiCE workers Nella Stone and Author "Ranford" McLean talk to Minister Hew during his tour of NiCE beautification sites

Minister for Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure, Hon. Joey Hew visited National Community Enhancement (NiCE) workers at locations across Grand Cayman on Wednesday, 17 July.

The two-hour bus tour took in ongoing and recently completed beautification work that had been earmarked ahead of the two-week initiative which ended last Friday, 19 July.

Minister Hew welcomed the chance to meet project workers in person. He also used the field trip to speak with supervisory staff from the National Roads Authority and the Departments of Environmental Health and Public Works about the initiative.

... Continued story on page A4

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EDITORIAL

Tourism: Major Pillar of the Local Economy

The two main industrial drivers of the Cayman Economy are Banking / Financial Services and Tourism. They may also be considered as the pillars of our financial well-being as they provide support for the economic engine that feeds our existence.

Keeping Tourism in the forefront highlights its importance and provides the opportunity for readers to comment, review and suggest improvements that will benefit all residents of this island paradise.

We have chosen to highlight one of these two industrial giants, Tourism, for our next series titled "Spotlight on Tourism." The weekly Friday column is written by Brooke Meyer who is the managing partner of Caymera International, a Grand Cayman-based hospitality and tourism consulting and advisory firm.

Brooke has an unwavering commitment to mastering the dynamics of the



hospitality industry – and sharing that wisdom with her peers, clients, and stakeholders.

There are lots of information that we wish to share to educate and empower our readers. Knowledge is power and as a media source, we will do our part to disseminate important information."

Visit Caymera online at caymeragroup.com or email info@caymeragroup.com

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Release of Prisoner under the Prerogative of Mercy

The Governor's Office has confirmed that His Excellency the Governor, Mr Martyn Roper has authorised the early, immediate release of Mr Sheldon Brown from Her Majesty's Prison Northward under Section 39 (1)(d) of the Constitution.

The decision to remit the remainder of Mr Brown's sentence was taken in consultation with the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy.

Mr Brown was due to complete his sentence and be released unconditionally in mid-October 2019 for an attempted murder.

The decision was taken given the short period remaining on his sentence, and due to the fact that he has recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer.



ODPP Responds to Cayman Marl Road Article

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) makes the following statement in relation to an article published on the Cayman Marl Road website on Tuesday, 9 July 2019.

The article alleged impropriety on the part of the ODPP, and in particular Senior Crown Counsel Mr. Scott Wainwright, in relation to the conduct of a criminal case.

A thorough review of the case in question, conducted by the current Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, has determined the allegations made in the article to be completely without foundation. There was no impropriety on the part of Crown Counsel or any other person involved in the case.

The article is factually inaccurate in a number of crucial respects.

It was alleged that Crown Counsel sought to improperly influence complainants in the case. This claim is false. The prosecutor's engagement with the witnesses was at all times legally permissible and is allowed for by the Code

for Crown Prosecutors. There was nothing improper about it.

It was further alleged that the Commissioner of Police complained to Mr. Patrick Moran, the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, about Crown Counsel having contacted the complainants. There was no such complaint.

It follows that there was no warning meted out to Crown Counsel by the Acting Director in respect of this matter as his conduct throughout was entirely proper.

The ODPP further notes that, unfortunately, this Office was not contacted by the writer of the article prior to publication in order to verify any aspect of the allegations made. The publication of baseless and unverified allegations of misconduct on the part of an officer of the Court threatens to undermine the confidence of the public in the administration of criminal justice. Those reporting on such legal proceedings therefore have a responsibility to do so accurately.

Crown Counsel is considering his own action in terms of any civil redress.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

The Cayman Island Red Cross Thrift Shop: Community Calendar Information

Due to renovations at the Cayman Islands Red Cross (CIRC) Thrift Shop and HQ, the Shop has temporarily moved to Cannon Place, 294 North Sound Road, unit 130.

Please do not drop off donations at the original shop, as it is unsafe due to construction.



Small donation bags can be dropped off at the Cannon Place shop during opening hours. For donations, such as furniture, household appliances, etc, please contact the Thrift Shop to coordinate a pick-up. Phone: 949-SHOP (7467) or the Thrift Shop manager at 916-8954

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Get your tickets now for Miss Cayman Universe pageant!

Less than a month away, the Miss Cayman Universe pageant is fast approaching, and the committee encourages you to purchase your tickets at Funky Tang's or Sand Angels before they sell out. The 2019 pageant theme is 'A Magical Affair'.

This year's event will be held in the main ballroom at the Ritz Carlton Resort on Saturday, 17 August. As there is a seating capacity, there will be a very limited quantity of tickets available at the door.

"This year's six contestants have been working tirelessly on runway and fitness training, in addition to their upcoming etiquette training session. They are very much looking forward to the event and we are excited to introduce them on the big stage," said Committee Chairperson Derri Dacres.

The committee would like to extend a huge thank you to this year's contestant sponsors:

- Contestant # 1 – Mahalia Seymour, sponsored by **Wauve's Fashion**
- Contestants # 2 – Samantha Dixon, sponsored by **Mega Foods Distributors**
- Contestant # 3 – Mariah Tibbetts, sponsored by **ACE**
- Contestant # 4 – Aleka Beckford, sponsored by **Airport Professional Services Ltd.**
- Contestant # 5 – Francine Wright, sponsored by **Fashion Mart**



• Contestant # 6 – Kadejah Bodden, sponsored by **Personnel 2000**

Seating is on a first-come-first-serve basis, so it is recommended that you get there early to secure your spot. The price of tickets remains at CI\$75, which includes a welcome drink and canapes.

Corporate sponsors, once again, are the Ministry & Department of Tourism, Cayman Airways, Hurley's Media and Radio Cayman, who continue to offer tremendous support leading up to the event.

Visit <http://www.missuniversecayman.com/> to learn more about the contestants and our reigning Miss Cayman Islands Universe, Caitlin Tyson. Follow us Facebook @Miss Cayman Islands Universe and Instagram @officialmissuniversecayman.

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Caymanian Times

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GT Revitalization Initiative: Presentation and Interactive Public Meeting

... Continued story from page A1

A fairly new form of participation was also used, allowing individuals to log onto a special website to give input and answer questions 'live' and in 'realtime'.

Since 1971 there has been a development boom in George Town, though in 1994 the area saw an increase that was exponentially greater than at any time before. The ethos behind the planning of George Town's redesign today is based on a holistic approach.

"We have to consider some of the major challenges and problems such as lack of parking, lack of housing and not enough diversity of housing," noted Mr. Lumsden, who added that single use zoning and public transport were also areas of great concern.

The George Town Manager explained that access to buses and payment systems were also on the agenda for change and indicated that the team have been engineering with these challenges in mind.

"Essentially what we want to do is maintain the historical characteristics, while improving health and safety and generating pride and confidence. It's about being proud of our home and where we live," Mr. Lumsden.

"We would like to see more family activities and also create a vibrant night life," he remarked; telling the audience that building codes had compromised the connectivity of George Town, leading to people having to drive too much."



Mr. Lumsden said great emphasis was being put on 'walkability' and connectivity.

"There is very little walkability and the Town is not lit," he implored, while deducing that this was not conducive to ease of movement without the use of a vehicle.

He said the current code was not in line with best practice, as it relates to urban living but acknowledged: "It is still important to be sensitive to the needs of the people."

Some of the plans that were revealed included parking facilities, and 33 single family dwellings, with 'blocks facing more north-south for solar purposes.

The team also proposed 'pocket parks' as a "great place to stop to do work (laptop use, etc.), drink water, have conversations and foster diversity"

One of the areas of interest with regard to connectivity in Town is McField Lane.

"Streets are not just for cars, streets are for everyone," said Mr. Lumsden. He went on to point out the concept of 'complete streets,' wherein bike lanes, active sidewalks and trees would be essential.

The plan also includes making intersections more decorative and generating action in Town after hours with events such as Saturday Night Live, where live entertainment would be featured, along with street food festivals. However these would not be huge production shows but rather more intimate and accessible happenings that promote interaction.

There will also be concessions for growth of small businesses as part of the new plan for Cayman's Capital City.

"There should be shoe shops, supermarkets and diversity of business," noted the panel, which included Ministry Deputy Chief Officer Tristan Hydes, Sen-

ior Policy Officer Charlie Brown and National Roads Authority Transportation Planner Marion Pandohie.

The George Town Revitalization Project began in 2015 and started with research and planning. Currently the undertaking is in the stage where building codes are being reviewed/ revised and funds are being made available for roads, lighting and programmes, which are crucial to the plan being developed.

Additionally, the team is partnering with Non Profit Organizations such as the Cayman National Cultural Foundation and the Cayman Music and Entertainment Association for performances and input regarding entertainment.

There has been no outside consultation for the GT Revitalization up to this point, which is uncommon for an initiative of this magnitude in the Cayman Islands. However, the Minister for Planning, Infrastructure and Planning, The Hon Joey Hue said the entire Ministry and Department had the utmost confidence in Mr Lumsden and his team's abilities.

"These men have been nothing short of amazing during this entire exercise and we did not have the need at any point to go outside. We were able to source the talent to take the project his far right her in the Cayman Islands," said Mr. Hue.

He added that when the project got to the stage of waste management, etc. outside architects and experts would be involved.

George Town Manager Collin Lumsden's background is in architecture. He is also credited with designing the new George Town Library. 🌐



Ministry of CPI Announces Appointment of Communications Manager

The Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure announces the appointment of Alethia Lambert as Communications and Public Affairs Manager, effective July 2, 2019.

In her new role, Ms. Lambert will be responsible for developing and managing the communications initiatives within the Ministry and assisting its relevant departments and authorities to publicise programmes and activities through traditional and new media.

Ms. Lambert has over twelve years of experience in communications with emphasis on corporate communication, public relations, media relations, social media management and stakeholder engagement. Over the last decade, she has worked in communications for a number of regional and international entities including the United Nations Jamaica Office, United States Embassy Kingston Office, Jamaica's National Irrigation Com-

mission, HEART Trust National Training Agency, and the Jamaica Information Service.

She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Mona campus, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literatures in English and Baruch College, City University of New York with a Master of Arts in Corporate Communication. In addition, she has completed studies in law at the University of London and the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica and is a qualified Attorney-at-Law called to the Jamaican Bar in 2011.

Ms. Lambert, who has a strong interest in education and training, has taught courses in public relations, social media management and law at several tertiary level institutions including the University of Technology and University College of the Commonwealth Caribbean in Jamaica.

Hon. Joey Hew, Minister of Commerce, Planning and Infra-

structure said he was pleased to have Ms. Lambert on-board. "The ministry is making every effort to improve the flow of information between its agencies and various internal and external stakeholders. We want to facilitate participation, increase service delivery and

build accountability and trust. Ms. Lambert brings enthusiasm and solid expertise in the area of communications and we feel confident she will add value to our team."

Ms. Lambert said she looks forward "to promoting the programmes and initiatives of the

Ministry in a timely manner so the public will be armed with accurate information to make informed decisions".

A published author, she sits on the Board of Visitors for the Saint Andrew Hostel in Jamaica and is a member of the Jamaican Bar Association. 🌐



► Alethia Lambert assigned new Communications and Public Affairs Manager

The Mighty Oaks Pension Plan administrator wishes to locate the following persons to provide important information regarding their Pension Plan:

- Andrew Eastabrook
- Anthony Baker
- F. Myles
- Jansen Campbell
- Jason Sequeira
- Jenny Smith
- Keisha Kay Edwards
- Leira Bryan
- Louise Russon
- Michael Bradley
- Minaben M.E. Ebanks
- Natasha McLaughlin
- Rebecca Silva
- Rochelle Bodden
- Valerie McMillan-Scott
- Warley Rene Naranjo

The Mighty Oaks Pension Plan, was established for employees of CIBC Bank and Trust Company (Cayman) Limited and Ogier (formerly Ian Boxall & Co).

If your name is included in the above list, please contact either of the below persons immediately, in order that we may update your contact details.

Gabriella Conte
Tel: 345 914-9481 | Email: Gabriella.Conte@cibfcib.com

Or

Janet Owens
Tel: 345.914.9421 | Email: Janet.Owens@cibfcib.com

Or

Esme Watler-Hydes
Tel: 345.914.9423 | Email: Esme.Watler-Hydes@cibfcib.com

THE MIGHTY OAKS PENSION PLAN
CIBC Bank and Trust Company (Cayman) Limited
CIBC FirstCaribbean House, 25 Main Street, P.O. Box 694, Grand Cayman KY1-1107, Cayman Islands



► Minister for Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure, Hon. Joey Hew talks to a NiCE team dedicated to sargassum clearance at South Sound dock and beach during his tour of NiCE locations last Wednesday



► NiCE operative, Keisha Webb wants her picture taken with Minister Joey Hew near Old Man Bay dock, North Side

Minister Hew Tours NiCE work sites, Talks to Crews

... Continued story from page A1

Starting off at South Sound dock to see how the sea and wind state affected the amount of sargassum reaching the shore, he travelled eastward to other sites. Minister Hew's tour included meeting crews undertaking roadside verge clearing in Midland Acres, and another team collecting litter and cleaning the beach near the Old Man Bay dock. He was particularly impressed with the results of the sargassum clean-up efforts at Frank Sound Junction Launch Ramp.

Having seen the impact of NiCE remediation work accompanied by Project Manager Lois Kellyman and his Ministry team, the Minister was impressed by the attitudes of the participants.

"The tour was a good opportunity for me to talk directly with NiCE workers and find out their day-to-day experiences of working on the project," he said.

"The NiCE crews have been a common sight recently particularly on our



► Minister Hew meets NiCE worker Quincy Scott whose crew were doing roadside clearing at Midland Acres, Boddan Town



► Department of Environmental Health operative and NiCE Supervisor Armando Range shows Minister Hew and Project Manager Lois Kellyman Frank Sound Junction Launch Ramp and beach after sargassum had been cleared from the area

beaches, roadsides and parks. It was important for me to take the time to meet and thank them on behalf of the government and my ministry for their efforts.

"This trip clearly showed the pride many participants take in beautifying the community and further confirmed my opinion that sargassum is a long-term issue that requires a con-

certed long-term and cross-agency solution.

The NiCE Winter Project 2019 is scheduled to run for three weeks from Monday, 25 November to Friday, 13 December. 🌐

Speaker Bush Addressed Youth in Trinidad

House Speaker Hon. McKeeva Bush addressed youth participants from high schools and tertiary institutions at a "Roadshow" to highlight parliamentary democracy. The event was organised by the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

Mr. Bush, attending the CPA's 44th annual conference of the Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region this week in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, was a guest speaker at the Roadshow. Begun by the CPA Secretary General, Mr. Akbar Khan in 2016, with the first one held in Grand Cayman, the Roadshow is now a part of the CPA regional conference.

Mr. Bush highlighted the rules of Parliament, the code of conduct that Mem-



► CPA Secretary General Mr. Akbar Khan



► Montserrat House Speaker Hon. Shirley Osbourne

bers must abide by as well as the rules which govern the business of the House.

He said that one rule decrees that the Speaker cannot join in the debate in the House. Yet there is no rule which forbids the Speaker as an Elected Member to voice the feelings of his constituents and speak for them outside the House, within the Cayman Islands or outside the nation, he noted.

Those who oppose the Speaker because he voices his opinion on matters of development or any other important issue "are not in touch with the reality that confronts constituents," Mr. Bush told the youth.

"In contrast to thinking, well in the past, that the Speaker can't speak at all, there is many a dispensation that brings the imperative of a Speaker in today's world speaking for or against a matter that affects his constituents," he commented.



► A section of the audience at the CPA Roadshow

The Speaker encouraged the young people to get involved in their commu-

nities to put forth their ideas for the welfare and harmony of all community members.

He advised them to have patience, nurture a loving spirit and care for one another in their school which would shift over into the wider community where they lived. "However, in all this distraction of your being, ensure that you go to school and pay attention to your school work, for nothing in today's world beats a relevant education," he underscored.

The Speaker added, "If you have ideas about becoming a Member of Parliament, most of all you must be willing to serve and appreciate and genuinely care for people. That will be your best tool in getting the people to support you, when they see and feel that they can put their trust in you." 🌐



► Speaker Hon. McKeeva Bush, at the CPA Roadshow, where he addressed youth



► President of Southern University Student Council



► Student asking question



NCU Alumni Chapter Announces Scholarship Awards

Following the Jekalyn Carr fundraising concert on June 30, 2019, the Cayman Chapter of the Northern Caribbean University (NCU) Alumni Association announces the availability of its second four-year scholarship to attend the Jamaica-based university.

The first four-year scholarship was awarded to Sonia Asharie Bailey at the June 30 Lions Centre concert. The scholarship, fully funded by a local donor, covers tuition, books, and boarding.

The chapter also announces its top concert ticket seller, Dr. Martin Richards. Dr. Richards sold 120 concert tickets, winning him two nights for two at the Little Cayman or Cayman Brac Beach Resort, courtesy of Clearly Cayman Dive Resorts.

Commenting on the generous support by the community for the five-day youth outreach initiative that culminated in the June 30 concert, Ms. Patricia Ebanks, president of the Cayman Chapter of the NCU Alumni Association, said: "We were moved by the enormous demonstration of goodwill by the community."

The availability of both scholarships is a direct result of the many donors' concern for, and commitment to, the wellbeing of the youth of the Cayman Islands, Ms. Ebanks said, adding: "We thank them for their community spirit and generosity."

The June 30 concert and a youth convocation sponsored by the Judicial Administration were the high points of the

chapter's five-day youth outreach effort that featured US motivational speaker and three-time Grammy-nominated singer Jekalyn Carr.

All public and private secondary schools and more than 50 youth organisations were invited to nominate representatives to attend the June 28 Judicial Administration's youth convocation held at the Grand Court.

In addition to the youth convocation and the concert, the singer's Cayman tour, with the theme "Unleash your Potential; Hold Fast to your Values," included visits to Northward and Fairbanks prisons, Cayman Academy, and churches.

Meanwhile, scholarship-awardee Bailey will commence her studies at NCU in September, 2019. She will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in education to prepare her for a teaching career.

On hand at the concert to welcome Ms. Bailey to NCU was the university's president, Dr. Lincoln Edwards, who congratulated Ms. Bailey on her achievement.

Presenting the award, Ms. Ebanks commented on Ms. Bailey's tenacity in qualifying to attend NCU via night classes at the Adventist Church's CXC programme while holding down a full-time job.

Ms. Bailey, in turn, thanked the chapter for affording her the opportunity, saying that it had put on her track to realise her dream of becoming a teacher and equipping her to help other young people.



The chapter's second four-year scholarship will be tenable at NCU in September 2020. Candidates may elect to pursue any of the university's bachelor's degree programmes. For further information, email NCU.KyAlumni@gmail.com.

Among recent achievements, NCU retained its first place in the National Science and Technology Competition hosted by the Scientific Research Council (SRC) of Jamaica, on July 4, 2019. (See recent report in Jamaica Observer: http://m.jamaicaobserver.com/career-education/ncu-dominates-national-s-tcompetition_169767?profile=1286&template=MobileArticle)

Other Jamaica and international wins for NCU include the Microsoft Imagine Cup, on behalf of Jamaica (2010); the International Business Model Competition (2018); the Girls in ICT Caribbean Hackathon (2017-2018); the National Science and Technology Competition (2018-2019); and first runner up in the Girls in ICT Caribbean Hackathon (2019).

NCU is among three universities in Jamaica that are fully accredited by the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ).

Island Wide School Supply Drive Back for Fifth Year

Caribbean Alliance Insurance, alongside media partner Hurley's Media and transportation partner Whittaker's Transportation, is proud to announce the return of the annual "Stuff the Bus" school supply drive.

This year's event will run between July 26th and August 17th and will be the fifth year of the island-wide donation drive. Every year the campaign attempts to fill a yellow school bus with various school supply donations to support school-aged children between the ages of six through 16.

Since 2015, the initiative has collected more than 27,000 school supply items and hopes that the total number will increase to 45,000 after this year's event.

Recipients of supplies in the past have included The Cayman Islands Cancer Society, The Special Needs Foundation, The Needs Assessment Unit, and several other charities.

This year donations will go to The Department of Education, The Department of Children and Families, The Family Resource Centre, The Crisis Center, and The Boys and Girls Homes.

New for 2019 will be the transportation of a portion of the collected items directly over to charities in Cayman Brac, as well as provide some support to the Education Department for help with the roll-out of new interactive classrooms in primary schools across the islands.

"Stuff the Bus is a great way for the community and businesses to get involved and to do some good and make an impact," said Aleisha Lalor, Cayman Islands Branch Manager of Caribbean Alliance Insurance. "We started this event five years ago to help support underprivileged families with basic school supplies, but each year we learn more about the changing needs of students, so we try to add new components to enhance the campaign and meet those identified needs. We also get other businesses and individuals involved, so that together we can truly support kids in need in ways that are going to make an impact for them."

During the three week campaign, anyone who wishes to purchase and donate school supply items can do so by purchasing items and drop them off at



► Help Caribbean Alliance Insurance and partners make the fifth annual Stuff the Bus campaign, the biggest one yet by donating school supplies between July 26th and August 17th. Pictured from L-R Aleisha Lalor, Latoya Webb and Sabrina Dennis-Elgueta from Caribbean Alliance during 2018 drive efforts

Caribbean Alliance Office at 203 Alissa Towers or Hurley's Media in Camana Bay or directly in the Stuff the Bus donation collection boxes located at Buy Smart, Foster's at Countryside and Cost U Less.

For more information on "Stuff the Bus," or to organise a collection drive to support the event, visit us on Facebook or Instagram @StuffTheBusCayman or contact Aleisha Lalor at Aleisha.lalor@caribbeanalliance.com or 949-9744

POLICE NEWS

Police Respond to Robbery on West Bay Road, 1 Man Arrested and Charged, Property Recovered

Early on the morning of Saturday, 20 July, the 9-1-1 Communications Centre dispatched officers to a report of a robbery in the vicinity of Margaritaville Resort on West Bay Road, where a man had been robbed of his cell phone.

Officers responded immediately, arrested a man, age 19, and recovered the stolen cell phone.

The man has been formally charged with robbery and was scheduled to appear in court on Monday morning, 22 July.





▶ A group of Under 12 Girls proudly hold their silver cup, with one of the dads



▶ The champions come home

We are the Champions!

... Continued story from page A1

formed well and worked hard for the trophy.”

Cláudio Garcia, the U12 Boys’ Coach, said: “This is a USA cup that has over 15,000 players in our age-group, and our Academy team won the Gold Cup, which is the highest level in that USA tournament, and our boys performed so magnificently and so well, they won the trophy, in a country like America that is literally huge, and I think everyone should be really really proud from the Cayman Islands. In the first game we won 4-2, the second, 14-0, the third, 10-1. In the quarterfinals we won 4-2, and in the semifinal, 5-4, and in the Finals, 6-1.”

Sharleen Duval, U12 Boys’ Team Manager said: “We are the Gold Cup Champions. The boys played excellently; they were given some competition but had a clean sweep. They did amazingly, and only conceded three goals and we had over 30 goals in the whole tournament. and they earned the respect of everyone there.”

Fibian Malcolm, Coach of the Under 12 and Under 14 Girls’ teams, said: “The girls did very well; it was the first time out side of the Cayman Islands playing a tournament; and they performed so well to gain the trophy.” Ten-year old Sharday, a member of the Girls U12’s said: “The best thing about going to Minnesota was probably being able to hang out with my

team and being able to have the opportunity and the experience to play.”

Paul Byles, head of youth development at Academy Sports Club and U17 and U16 head coach said “So we had a very large contingent probably the largest number of teams we have ever taken anywhere; about 200 people including players and spectators. Two girls’ team and five boys’ teams they all did very well; a lot of teams made it to the quarter finals.”

Deputy Premier, Hon. Moses Kirkconnell was also there sharing in the celebrations: “I am very proud of Paul Byles, the Academy, the home team and the fantastic results. Very proud of the kids, couldn’t be better,” he said.



▶ U12 Girls’ team member, Sharday

CAYMAN GETS REVENGE ON TEXAS

In their first matchup, The Texas Elite Squad were able to get the better of the Cayman team, defeating them by 10 points in a very competitive and exciting matchup. It was obvious that champions of the tournament would emerge from these two teams. In Game 1, Texas was able to pull away in the dying minutes of the game, taking advantage of their physical strength as a team which seemed to wear down the Cayman defense. Texas had a slight edge in rebounds, Cayman shot slightly better from the field (34.6%) vs Texas (34.5%), Both teams struggled from the free throw line, shooting less than 60%. Rebounding, turnovers, assist and blocks were nearly identical. After the final buzzer, the bitter taste of defeat was one that the Cayman team would not experience again.

The rematch came on July 20th at 7:00 pm as the final game of the Festival. Cayman would look to slow down the eventual tournament MVP – Isaac Jackson



– who posted 25 points, 15 rebounds, 3 steals and 4 assists to lead the team to victory in game 1. Cayman played its classic In-your-face defense; applying full court pressure on the Texans who seemed to be up for the challenge. But as the 4th quarter came around, the pressure appeared to finally get to Cayman’s

opponents as some costly turnovers came around in the final minute of play.

Cayman was led by Joshua O’Garro’s monster game of 29 points, 16 rebounds, 8 steals and 9 assists, just shy of a quadruple double! Teammate Joanki Espinal came out hot and stayed hot the entire game, posting his tourna-

ment best 25 points. Tareaque Simpson added a solid 15 points and 9 rebounds while Brad Lansdell added 9 points, 6 rebounds and 3 steals including the go ahead bucket in the 4th quarter from which Cayman would not look back.

Cayman made the home crowd extremely happy and it was a fitting end to the inaugural Cayman basketball festival. Cayman finished 2nd only because they defeated Texas by less points (8) than their opponents win in game 1 (10), giving the Visitors the win based on head to head result. However, Cayman was electrified by the performance of its home team and looks forward to more boys and girls action in the near future.

Technical Director Victor “Voot O’Garro, said a very special thank you to the Sponsors; Ministry of Sports, Cayman Islands Olympic Committee and Hertz Rent-A-Car for their instrumental support in making the tournament a success.

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THEN AND NOW: CELEBRATIONS



► Cayman Islands Regatta 1935. Schooner Rembro, trawl Caymania, Cayman Islands Yacht and Sailing Club (Photo credit: The Cayman Islands National Archive Photographic Collections)



► Regatta, start of Sunfish Boat Race, in front of Beach Club, 1967 (Photo credit: The Cayman Islands National Archive Photographic Collections)

Community celebrations

This time our series takes a look at how Caymanians have traditionally celebrated as a community throughout the decades.

By Lindsey Turnbull

Taking part in special festive occasions with family and friends has always been something to look forward to for Cayman residents in years gone by, just as much as in present-day times, providing a chance to relax, kick back and have some fun.

Regatta was a community affair

The annual sailing regatta was one such event that brought the community together for celebration each year, all the way back from when it first started, in 1935. The first Cayman Islands Regatta was held in January of that year, produced by the Cayman Islands Yacht and Sailing Club. The club itself provided local residents with a great place for people to gather and enjoy each other's companionship. The club house was located north of George Town where members held meetings on Sunday mornings throughout the year. The idea for a regatta came about from the Commissioner Allan Wolsey Cardinall, who founded the club, as a means to encourage more visitors to the island.

In those days the regatta consisted of races between commercial schooners, and some years there could be as many as 20 white-sailed locally built schooners and about 100 blue-painted catboats participating in the event. According to a

June 1990 report in Newstar, "the racing was probably unique in its intense closeness, as everyone competing knew the seamanship and mannerisms of his rivals and sea qualities of the other vessels."

The course itself started at the George Town harbour, stretching all the way to North West Point in West Bay, where buoys were anchored to show the turn around point, from where the vessels would race back to George Town. The event closed with a gala in the George Town Hall on the evening of the third day when the winners would receive their trophies and prizes. According to the Grand Cayman CISC, the regatta was considered the climax of the social season. George Town would be bedecked with flags and bunting and the entire population would be on the sea front, watching the excitement that would be unfolding over the three-day event.

In an interview recorded with Ms Una Bush noted in the Cayman Islands National Archives Memory Banks, she describes how "...they used to have a day or two, when our boats...cat boats, and the big schooners...sailed, and people had a lovely time... they had dances and they also catered to entertain those who came; picnics and things like that."

The regatta paused for a few years, until it was reinvented as the Easter Regatta in 1964. The foreword in the 16th Galleon Beach Easter Regatta commem-



► Pirate's Week is loved by young and old

orative magazine from the 1980s, written by Acting Governor Dennis H Foster, states "Those who come to the beach to relax on the sand, in the sun, are as much a part of the Regatta as the little boats with sails many colours and the men and women who tack, plane, reach, beat or run in the sea all along the fine Seven Mile Beach and a spirit of camaraderie makes the holiday pleasant for all." Sure enough, visitors to the event could enjoy amusement at the Galleon Beach location in the form of a bar and BBQ, greasy pole, live band and water ski show.

Parades, music and fun

In that same decade, the Rotary Club launched the first Batabano carnival in 1983 in early May. The volunteer committee tasked with organising Batabano was chaired by the 'face' of Batabano, Donna Myrie-Stephen, a Miss Cayman Islands winner in 1981. Still running today, Batabano, split into the adults' parade and another one specially for children, sees hundreds don brightly coloured, exquisitely decorated costumes and parade along the West Bay Road into George Town, dancing to the pulsating rhythms of the Caribbean.

CayMAS is a relative newcomer to the festival scene, another colourful event held in May that also attracts hundreds to the streets of George Town and the West Bay Road. Next year these two carnivals will be combining into one single national carnival, to be held on the second weekend in May going forward.

Incidentally, the name batabano comes from the name of the tracks that are left in the sand when turtles come onto the beach to nest.

A discussion on national carnivals and festivities can never take place without a mention of Pirate's Week, now in its 42nd year. Initially developed to encourage more tourists to Cayman, Pirate's Week is probably the most well-known of all Cayman's festivals. It always consists of amazing fireworks, an energetic pirates landing, heritage displays, street dances, and of course, a buzzing parade through George Town.

The event centres on the traditional mock invasion by pirates, followed by the 'capturing' of the Governor while pirates run amok before being cast off again for another year. It's a highly popular spectacle that's always well-attended by visitors and local residents alike.



► The annual Pirate's Week invasion

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TROPICAL UPDATE

Atlantic Tropical Cyclones and Disturbances

200 PM EDT Mon Jul 22 2019

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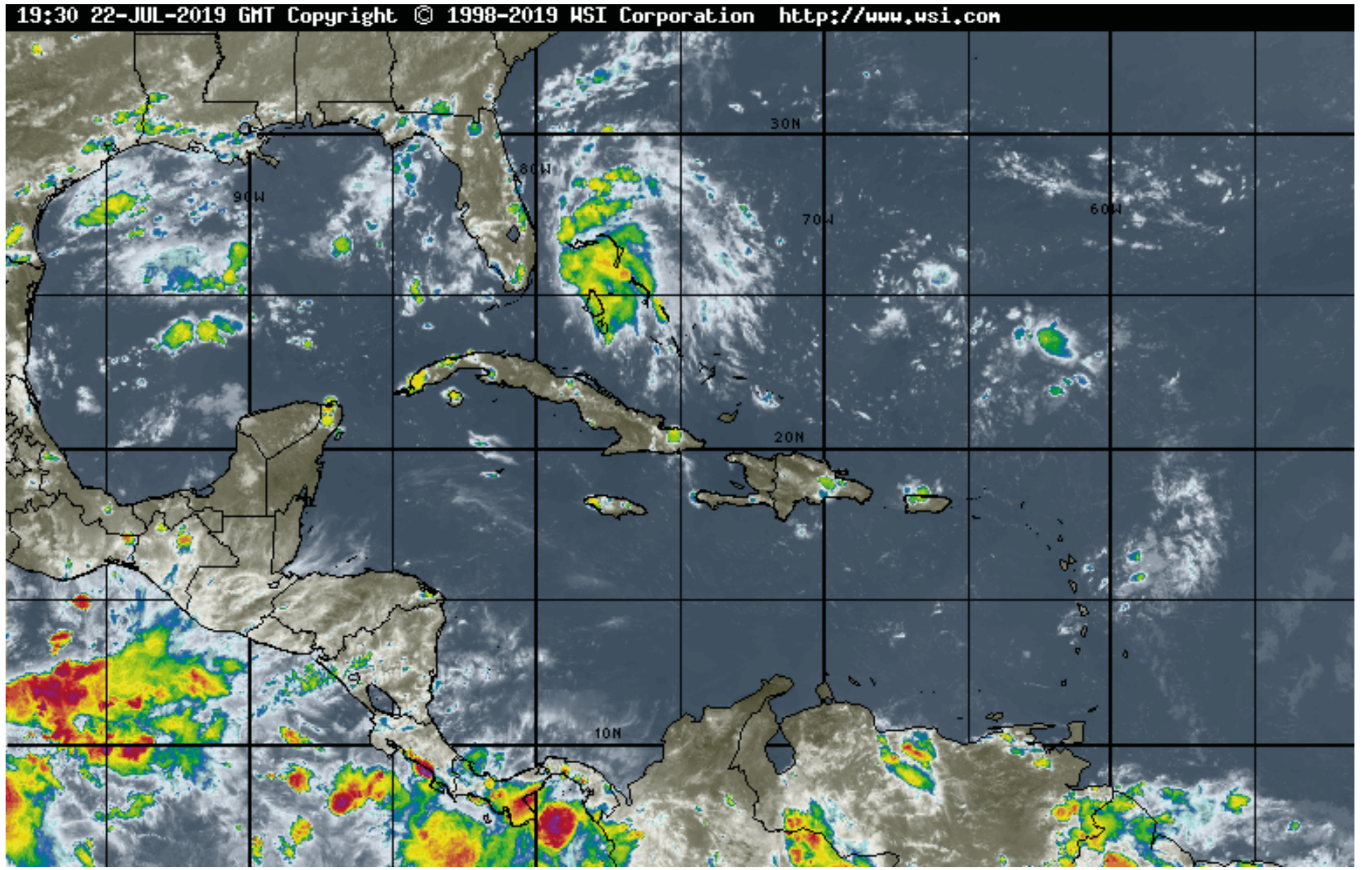
Showers and thunderstorms have increased in association with an area of low pressure located near Andros Island in the Bahamas. While environmental conditions are only marginally conducive for development, only a slight increase in the organization of

this system could result in the formation of a tropical depression later today or tonight. Additional development is not anticipated after that time due to strong upper-level winds. The low is expected to move northward around 15 mph today and north-northwestward to northward tonight and Tuesday, remaining offshore of the east coast of the Florida peninsula. This system will continue to produce locally heavy rainfall

and gusty winds over portions of the northwest Bahamas through tonight. Showers and thunderstorms could also spread over portions of the east coast of the Florida peninsula tonight and Tuesday.

* Formation chance through 48 hours...medium...60 percent.

* Formation chance through 5 days...medium...60 percent. 🌐



Travel Trends: Embracing the Rise of Experiential Travel

Strategic business planning, can help hospitality-related businesses invent new ways to engage with their customers, expand reach, and boost market share

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You feel good when you look good!!!

Summertime in the Cayman Islands signifies many things - from the long-awaited summer holidays, to enjoying a succulent mango while the juices drip down your chin, and outdoor adventures with family and friends. It also signifies a crucial time when many hospitality businesses and service providers wind down the season and begin to tactically prepare for their busiest time of year -all over again.

Small businesses dominate the hospitality and tourism industry worldwide and are of critical importance for the competitiveness of destinations such as the Cayman Islands. A key to success for businesses and to ultimately remain a competitive destination in the region is understanding and strategically planning for current hospitality trends- such as, the systemic trend of experiential travel, a form of tourism in which travelers focus on experiencing a country, region or place by actively and meaningfully engaging with its history, people, culture, food and environment. In other words, they want to sit and hear stories from our historians, learn to make cassava cakes, and take part in purposeful activities to help the community as they often gain a much deeper understanding of, and empathy for, the places travelled when making more personal connections to local issues.

In the world of hospitality and tourism, consumer attitudes are changing, and as an industry we must adjust with them. Shifts away from a "value-in-exchange" approach to purchasing goods and services, to a "value-in-experience" approach has given rise to travelers purchasing more than just a meal - just a tour - just a hotel room, but an overall transformative, life-changing experience.

While making plans for next season, businesses would do well to explore and plan for new innovative ways to elevate current offerings beyond the traditional notions of hospitality - and hone in on creating more authentic, meaningfully en-



gaging, and sustainable visitor experiences that are locally focused, - to keep locals and travelers alike coming back for more.

The idea or concept of the "tourist" is itself becoming outmoded. The experiential trend is moving towards, and already uses, the idea of the "traveler" rather than the "tourist". For example, by going on an experiential tour the traveler can see something from a completely novel and fresh perspective, experiencing regions through living the lives of locals. This provides the traveler with much more than simple click photographs, but with memories of a great, new, once in a lifetime experience. Once in a lifetime and cultural experiences is also leading the travel trend in 2019.

At the end the day, providing unique and personal experiences are one of the most effective ways to foster one-on-one connections with target consumers. A truly immersive experience will engage consumers' sense of touch, smell, sight, sound, and sometimes even taste. When it's done well, consumers will treasure the experience for life - and they will talk about it when they return home. According to data from the Event Marketing Institute, 72% of consumers say they view brands that provide quality experiences more positively, and nearly three-quarters noted that when they can engage with a brand's experience, they're more likely to invest in its products or services.

As businesses strategize their business and marketing plans for the year ahead -- taking experiential travel trends and potential offerings into consideration will help ensure the mark is hit for a profitable season.

Brooke Meyer is the managing partner of Caymera International, a Grand Cayman-based hospitality and tourism consulting and advisory firm and has an unwavering commitment to mastering the dynamics of the hospitality industry - and sharing that wisdom with her peers, clients, and stakeholders. Visit Caymera online at caymeragroup.com or email info@caymeragroup.com



Pacquiao defies the odds again

Manny Pacquiao's amazing career continues to rumble on at the highest level after another unexpected win against a top fighter. The 40-year-old Filipino legend beat by a split points decision the previously unbeaten Keith Thurman on Saturday.

Pacquiao claimed the 62nd victory of his 71-fight career to beat the 30-year-old American at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. Predictions were that Thurman would be too young and strong for Pacquiao, but the brilliant veteran had other ideas.

Pacquiao said after that he is not sure who he fights next but it's unlikely to be Britain's Amir star Khan who claimed last week he and Pacquiao's team had reached an agreement for a Middle East showdown in November – a claim denied by Pacman.

And after he was quizzed on when he will be back in the ring following his successful defence of the WBA welterweight title, Pacquiao said: "I think my next fight will probably be next year. After this fight I am going back to the

Philippines to start work again in the Senate."

Pacquiao still has one fight remaining on his three-match deal with Premier Boxing Champions.

But it looks as if he has his eyes on the victor of Errol Spence Jr and Shawn Porter's clash in LA in September. He confirmed: "Yes, I will be going there to watch the fight."

Pacquiao dropped Thurman in the opening round and seemingly busted Thurman's nose in the fifth round. In the tenth, Pacquiao staggered Thurman with a body shot. The judges scored the bout 114-113 for Thurman, and for Pacquiao two scores of 115-112.

"I think I can compare this to the Margarito, De La Hoya, Morales fights," Pacquiao said. "I mean, you saw tonight what we did in the ring. You saw my opponent. He's very tough and heavy-handed. Keith is like Margarito."

Pacquiao added that even at his age he is not through. "I can still fight and give a good fight. The ability that I have, God gave me this ability. I'm here to inspire the fans."

Thurman (29-1, 22 KOs) of Clearwater, Florida said: "Tonight was a great night of boxing. The opening rounds didn't start like I wanted them to. Manny Pacquiao got momentum with the early knockdown. Obviously, he caught me in the first round. I'm not going anywhere, and I will be back."

Meanwhile, in a clash for the vacant WBC interim heavyweight title, Dillian



► Manny Pacquiao, right, is still a force at 40

Whyte (26-1, 18 KOs) scored a 12 round unanimous decision over previously unbeaten Oscar Rivas (26-1, 18 KOs) on Saturday night at the O2 Arena in London. Whyte appeared headed to an easy decision, but in round nine Rivas dropped him with an uppercut. Whyte survived Rivas' follow-up barrage and Rivas was never able to mount another charge. Scores were 115-112, 115-112, 116-111. Whyte is now the WBC mandatory challenger.

Boxing fans in the know are looking for the return of lightweight champion Vasily Lomachenko (13-1 10 KOs) who will face Luke Campbell (20-2, 16 KOs) for the WBC, WBA, and WBO world titles on Aug. 31 at The O2 in London. Lomachenko is considered the pound-for-pound king. The 31-year-old Ukrain-

ian's repertoire is astounding. His hand speed, precision, power and footwork are marvellous. Campbell doesn't have much chance.

Lomachenko said: "This is a fight for history because my goal is to unify all of the belts in the lightweight division. Luke Campbell is the next challenge for me on that journey. He is an excellent fighter who I remember well from the 2012 Olympics. He has a difficult style, and I cannot afford to overlook him."

Campbell said: "I think that I can knock out anyone that I hit right, I believe that I am one of the biggest punchers in the lightweight division. This is going to be the toughest fight of my life and I'm preparing for it, physically and mentally. This is Luke Campbell's year, it's my time." 🌐



► Dillian Whyte is in line for a world title shot

Lowry's eyes are smiling

Shane Lowry claimed a first major championship win in front of his compatriots with a dominant six-shot victory on 15 under par amid raucous scenes at The Open.

Tiger Woods entered but his form was so poor that he didn't make the cut.

Lowry started the celebrations early, his arms aloft as he squeezed through the crowds who swarmed the 18th fairway at Northern Ireland's Royal Portrush.

"This feels like an out-of-body experience," said the 32-year-old Irishman.

Lowry held his nerve in the wind and rain to shoot a one-over 72, with Tommy Fleetwood second on nine under.

England's Fleetwood briefly threatened but a double bogey on the 14th effectively ended his challenge as he finished with a three-over 74.

"I can't wait to wake up on Monday morning and find out what it's going to feel like

then. It's just going to be incredible," added Lowry who was mobbed before he reached the green on the last hole.

Thousands of partisan fans lined the 18th to cheer Lowry's victory procession and as he turned to embrace his caddie Brian 'Bo' Martin after hitting his second shot to the green, hundreds flooded the fairway ahead of him.



► Shane Lowry surprised himself with his Open win

Lowry and Martin were shepherded through the crowds and under a rope by marshals to allow them safe passage.

There will also have been a sense of redemption for Lowry following his final-round capitulation at the US Open three years ago when, like on Sunday, he started with a four shot lead but a 76 saw him fall away as Dustin Johnson won. 🌐

Pocket Rocket fired up for worlds

Shelly-Ann "Pocket Rocket" Fraser-Pryce fired a warning to her sprint rivals ahead of the world championships at the London Anniversary Games on Sunday.

Fraser-Pryce got away quickly in the 100m final and never looked like being caught by home favourite Dina Asher-Smith, winning in a time of 10.78 seconds.

World 200m champion Dafne Schippers was disqualified after a false start at the Diamond League event.

"It's a long season and I've been training and training," said 32-year-old Jamaican, who won Olympic 100m gold in 2008 and repeated the feat on the same London track four years later.

"To come out here and run 10.78 is a fabulous time. I feel good. The aim is to make sure when I get to Doha (world championships) that I'm on point."

No Americans were in the 100m field at the London Stadium because their world championship qualifiers are coming up this week. 🌐



► Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce is back to her best

De Gea gets amazing pay rise

The European transfer market is at its busiest and most of the interaction is happening around British clubs, mainly because the English Premier League is the most lucrative. Spain's David de Gea, 28, has agreed a new six-year contract with Manchester United which will make him the world's highest-paid goalkeeper on around \$370,000 a week. This is a surprise considering de Gea's erratic form at the end of last season.

Newcastle's new boss Steve Bruce is weighing up a move to bring former Magpies striker Andy Carroll back to the club. The 30-year-old Englishman is a free agent after being released by West Ham last month. Tottenham and Netherlands striker Vincent Janssen, 25, is set to complete a move to Mexican side Monterrey this week.

Manchester City look set to win the race for Argentine midfielder Thiago Almada, currently playing for Velez Sarsfield in his home country. The Premier League champions are reportedly considering a \$17m deal for the 18-year-old.

Manchester United have advanced discussions with Lille over a \$72m deal

for Ivory Coast forward Nicolas Pepe. The 24-year-old has also attracted interest from Liverpool, Arsenal and Everton.

Arsenal are interested in signing Juventus and Italy forward Moise Kean, 19, and have contacted his agent.

Nigeria winger Alex Iwobi says he could be forced to quit Arsenal if he loses his place to \$85m-rated Crystal Palace winger Wilfried Zaha.

Watford are in talks with French side Rennes over a potential deal for 21-year-old Senegal forward Ismaila Sarr.

Crystal Palace have held talks with Liverpool over the potential transfer of 28-year-old right-back Nathaniel Clyne. The Eagles want the Englishman, who played on loan at Bournemouth last season, to replace Aaron Wan-Bissaka, who joined Manchester United in June.

Saint-Etienne's French defender William Saliba, 18, will have a medical at Arsenal on Tuesday before a \$29m move.

Tottenham will have to pay \$68m if they are to sign Real Betis and Argentina midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso, 23, this summer.

Sheffield United and Aston Villa are both interested in signing Brentford



► David de Gea is in the money

striker Neal Maupay. The 22-year-old Frenchman is one of the Blades' key targets this summer.

Tottenham look set to fend off competition from Inter Milan and Borussia Dortmund to sign Fulham's England U21 forward Ryan Sessegnon. They are prepared to offer \$25m for 19-year-old, as a potential replacement for PSG target Danny Rose. Tottenham have offered

England left-back Rose, 29, to Spanish champions Barcelona. However, Italian champions Juventus are also interested in signing the experienced defender.

Celtic and Scotland defender Kieran Tierney, 22, has agreed personal terms with Arsenal. West Ham have been offered New York Red Bulls and USA centre-back Aaron Long. The 26-year-old has a £4m release clause in his contract. 🌐

Gay Man Files Legal Challenge Against Dominica's Anti-LGBT Laws

A gay man, who has chosen to remain anonymous for his own protection, has filed a landmark claim challenging Dominica's homophobic laws that criminalize "buggery" and "gross indecency".

A statement from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, which is providing legal support along with the University of Toronto's International Human Rights Programme and other like-minded groups, said this case "will demonstrate that these horrific and outdated laws violate human rights guaranteed in the Constitution of Dominica."

Yesterday's official filing was announced by Daryl Phillip, Founder and Head of Minority Rights Dominica (MiRiDom) and Maurice Tomlinson, Senior Policy Analyst at the HIV Legal Network and a dual citizen of Jamaica and Canada.

"Brutal and often life-threatening experiences are a daily reality for many LGBT people in Dominica, and elsewhere in the Caribbean. Because the law criminalises all LGBT individuals, it sends a powerful message that other people — whether law enforcement or regular citizens on the street — are enti-

tled to discriminate and commit human rights abuses against LGBT individuals," said Phillip.

"While Britain decriminalised homosexuality in 1967, a majority of Commonwealth countries have not followed suit. LGBT people still face harsh laws in many parts of the world."

The case builds on the global movement for decriminalising LGBT sex, as seen recently in Botswana and India. It also builds on precedents from sister Caribbean countries Belize and Trinidad and Tobago, and will assist similar cases underway in Barbados and Jamaica, both also supported by the HIV Legal Network.

The HIV Legal Network said the claimant at the centre of the Dominica case has experienced "homophobic hostility, discrimination, harassment, threats, and physical and sexual assaults fuelled by these hateful laws". It said that in one instance, he was viciously attacked in his own home but police refused to investigate and allowed his attacker to remain free.

"Canada is an important safe haven for LGBT refugees who are forced to



flee their country of origin to escape anti-gay laws and the violence that often accompanies them. But we must recognize that some people do not have the opportunity to flee, nor do they wish to leave their home," said Tomlinson.

"With this case, we hope to provide the LGBT people of Dominica with the important, life-affirming option to stay, if they so choose. We want to bring an end to the hateful laws that plague our countries, one legal challenge at a time." 🌐

Jamaica Could See States of Emergency for up to Seven Years

As the Jamaica government aims to reduce murders significantly, Prime Minister Andrew Holness says the country should see states of emergency (SOEs) sustained for up to seven years.

Speaking in the House of Representatives in the debate on extending the state of emergency in the St Andrew South Police Division until October 5, he argued that the SOE was the best tool at this time for achieving a meaningful reduction in murders.

"If we continue to use this strategy in a selective way, give ourselves five to seven years and we can bring our murder rate down to 16 per hundred thousand, or 500 (per year). We would then be in a position to use conventional methods to maintain and reduce crime fully," he said.

Between January 1 and July 15 this year, Jamaica recorded 726 murders and 726 shootings across 19 police divisions. The total number of people killed last year was 1,287.

Holness said the SOEs are very effective in controlling the geographical spaces in which murders are occurring.

"In 2018, we saw 360 fewer murders than in 2017. And that was purely as a

result of the implementation of the SOEs in Kingston Western, St James and St Catherine. So, it is, without question, a very effective tool," he emphasized.

"In Kingston Western, we would have seen a reduction of 17 murders compared to this time last year. In St Catherine North, we would have seen a reduction of 22 murders amounting to 32.8 per cent, relative to last year this time, and, of course, we would recall that St Catherine North benefited from an SOE which was declared last year. It is important that we continue the national effort to reduce crime, and, in particular, continue to use the tool that is the State of Public Emergency."

Arguing that without sustained police-military intervention, crime will spiral out of control, Holness added: "And the theory behind it is quite easy to understand. One murder, just one murder, will have a reprisal effect, and depending on the context, the reprisal effect can be more than one murder."

The House approved the 90-day extension of the SOE for the St Andrew South division. That SOE — which gives the security forces temporary additional



► During the States of Emergency, the security forces will have the power to search, curtail operating hours of business, restrict access to places and detain persons without a warrant

powers, including to search, arrest, curtail operating hours of business, restrict access to places and detain persons without a warrant — first went into effect on July 7.

St Andrew South has recorded the highest number of murders since the start of the year, with 94 cases — 15 more than the 79 murders recorded for the corresponding period last year. 🌐

Barbados Lawyer Gets Landmark Ruling to Go Directly to CCJ After Six-Year Wait at Court of Appeal

Queen's Counsel Andrew Pilgrim has won a monumental victory over the Barbados Court of Appeal that gives him the greenlight to take an outstanding matter directly to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) for resolution.

In a landmark ruling, the CCJ gave Pilgrim the authority to "leapfrog" the local Court of Appeal and have a matter heard before the regional judicial tribunal.

The decision of the final appellate court was reportedly made due to the inordinate length of time it was taking the Court of Appeal to rule in the case of Omar Dacosta Holder.

Holder had been found guilty of the triple murders of 20-year-old Sakina Walrond, her three-year-old son Shaqkem Gittens and two-month old daughter Sha-Mya Mapp on March 31, 2005 and was sentenced to death by Justice Margaret Reifer in 2010. However, Pilgrim appealed the sentence before the Court of Appeal in 2013, but has been unable to get a judgment since then.

In an interview with online newspaper Barbados Today, Pilgrim said after listening to the case management of

Omar Holder vs the Queen on Monday, the CCJ made a determination that the Court of Appeal, headed by president Chief Justice Sir Marston Gibson and comprising Madam Justice Sandra Mason and Justice Andrew Burgess, by failing to make a decision had effectively rendered a decision.

Pilgrim said the Trinidad-based CCJ treated the absence of a decision as if the Court of Appeal had affirmed the conviction and sentence.

He said the CCJ granted the appellant leave to appeal and file grounds.

The surprising ruling has come exactly two weeks after the outspoken attorney-at-law publicly criticized the Chief Justice and the Court of Appeal for the tardiness in handing down judgments.

What had made the situation more complex was the fact that Madam Justice Mason, now Dame Sandra Mason, was elevated to the post of Governor General, and Burgess is a member of the CCJ, which precludes either from issuing a judgment on the matter.

Pilgrim said he was delighted that his client was finally making some headway



► Queen's Counsel Andrew Pilgrim has won a victory over the Barbados Court of Appeal after a six-year wait for an appeal for his client who was convicted of three murders

with his appeal, but he said it was a bittersweet moment.

"It's our hope that we can file our documents now and basically begin the pro-

cess anew, because we have wasted over six years waiting on the Barbados Court of Appeal which failed to do its job completely," Pilgrim said. (Barbados Today) 🌐

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