

# T Caymanian Times

Monday, February 4, 2019

Issue No 332

www.caymaniantimes.ky



Complimentary =

## WEATHER FORECAST



80°/77°F

Plenty of sunshine; pleasant

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## Community Voice: Help Us Help Them Stay Strong!



Dear News Editors,  
We, an independent group of concerned Cubans as well as people with Cuban ties, have come together to help as many families affected by Sunday's deadly tornado in Havana City, Cuba.  
To do this a garage sale will be held on Saturday, February 9. The people we are focusing on include the elder who have no family assistance, single mothers with no alternative resources and the physically or mentally impaired.

... Continued story on page 2

## Little Cayman's Southern Cross Club Honored

For the 4th year in a row, Southern Cross Club has received outstanding designations from online travel site TripAdvisor.com. Honored with not just one, but two of the coveted 2019 Travellers' Choice Awards, this boutique property scored high in the categories of "Top 25 Hotels for Service - Caribbean" and "Top 25 Hotels for Romance - Caribbean," moving ahead of many larger properties in the highly popular Caribbean region. These designations are awarded annually to only the top 1% of resorts in their respective categories.

The 14-bungalow Southern Cross Club works hard year-

... Continued story on page 3



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# Help Us Help Them Stay Strong!

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The EF4 tornado ripped through a substantial portion of Havana City for 16 minutes, with wind speeds of up to 62 miles per hour; uprooting trees, tearing down power lines and ripping off hundreds of roofs. The tornado was a part of a larger storm that resulted in flooding in low-lying provinces of Pinar Del Rio, Artemisa, Regla, 10 de Octubre, Guanabacoa and Mayabeque.

Current reports indicate that the deadly twister claimed four lives and injured at least 192; and left hundreds

more without shelter. Initial relief efforts have begun, with many people now living in tents and receiving daily rations of food and water.

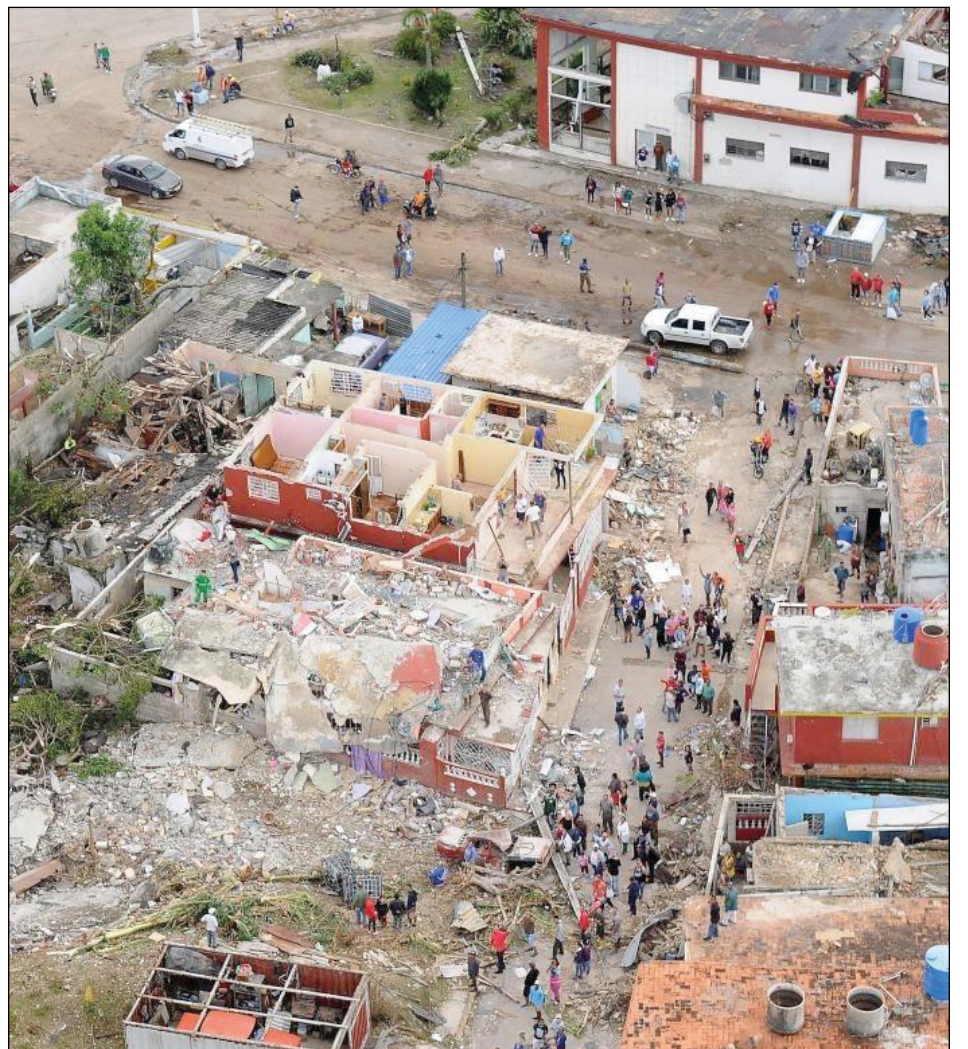
Due to restrictions imposed by the Cuban Laws, we are sending only cash. Members of the public can help by donating cash the same day of the Garage Sale or by approaching a group member before the event. Due to Cayman Islands banking regulations the use of bank accounts is not permitted for this purpose. Instead of cash, goods can be delivered to Tortuga Warehouse on Redgate Road in Industrial park by contacting Cesar

Cruz at 326-4748. The goods received will be resold at the garage sale which will take place at the Tortuga Headquarters in Industrial Park. Unsold items will be donated to the Red Cross. The proceeds raised from this event will be sent to trusted members from the three most affected communities, Regla, 10 de Octubre and Guanabacoa. They will be responsible for gathering information, dispersing the funds to the families in need and documenting how it is spent.

We have seen the power of the Cayman community, and its generosity

when it comes to supporting our brothers and sisters afflicted by natural disasters, whether that be here in Cayman or even on the other side of the world. Now more than ever our Cuban brethren need our help, and we are asking you to help us, help them stay strong!

To arrange an interview or for more information, please contact Cesar Cruz at 326-4748, Gema Brett at 922-3884, Mayfran Corbalan at 322-1791, Sully Rodriguez at 929-8425 or Lianet Hydes on WhatsApp at 328-3409. Please, see attached images of the devastation. 🌐



# Little Cayman's Southern Cross Club Honored with Dual 2019 Travellers' Choice Awards

*Voted #5 for service and #24 for romance among Caribbean destinations*

round to ensure their guests have the experience of a lifetime. From their location directly on a dazzling white sand beach with crystal clear water, to the refurbished accommodations and top-notch diving and fishing staff, Southern Cross Club offers guests a brand of "barefoot elegance" that's hard to surpass.

"To be recognized as the best-of-the-best by Trip Advisor's Travellers' Choice Awards 2019 is a tremendous honor, and we're thankful for our guests who have taken the time to share their love of our resort," said owner Peter Hillenbrand. "These awards are a testament to the work of Southern Cross Club's exemplary staff, and our dedication to sharing Little Cayman's natural environment for all to enjoy."

For the past 17 years TripAdvisor has been naming winners based on guest reviews collected in a single year, recognizing properties for service, quality and value. The top rankings for service and romance at the



Southern Cross Club is a direct result of guests posting reviews following a great experience:

*"Luxurious and low-key accommodations with top notch diving"*  
*"Southern Cross Club is extraordinary... stunningly beautiful, incredibly quiet, and the diving is absolutely amazing."*

*"They have assembled a stellar staff, all friendly and doing everything to make sure their guests are having a good time."*

Asked about their incredibly high guest return rate, General Manager Jennifer Mills commented, "We are so proud of our lovely resort. Everyone puts in 100%, and that keeps our visitor's coming back again and again. There's really a reason why more than 75% of our guests are return visitors."

### About Southern Cross Club

Established in 1958, the casually-sophisticated Southern Cross Club on Little Cayman is the Cayman Islands' oldest resort. Features include 14 beachfront bungalows with breath-taking views, a top-rated professional in-house diving and fishing operation, outstanding cui-

sine and a staff dedicated to the highest levels of service. For reservations please call 800-899-2582 (CLUB), email info@southernclub.com or visit www.southernclub.com.

### About TripAdvisor

TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel site enables travelers to unleash the full potential of every trip. With 702 million reviews and opinions covering the world's largest selection of travel listings worldwide - covering 8 million accommodations, airlines, experiences, and restaurants -- TripAdvisor provides travelers with the wisdom of the crowds to help them decide where to stay, how to fly, what to do and where to eat. TripAdvisor also compares prices from more than 200 hotel booking sites so travelers can find the lowest price on the hotel that's right for them. TripAdvisor-branded sites are available in 49 markets, and are home to the world's largest travel community of 490 million average monthly unique visitors, all looking to get the most out of every trip.





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## Caymanian Times

Issue # 332

Publisher: Ralph Lewis  
 Company: Lewis Cayman Islands Ltd  
 #19 Walkers Road (next to Tomlinson Furniture)  
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 Email: sales@caymaniantimes.ky, or info@caymaniantimes.ky  
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# Cayman showcased as a premier financial services jurisdiction to New York audience

The strength of the Cayman Islands financial services industry and its benefits to global partners, particularly those in the United States, was on show as Cayman Finance hosted a pair of events in New York on 22 January.

More than 170 attendees gathered at the Harvard Club of New York City for the 6th Annual Cayman Finance New York Breakfast Briefing, where they heard from featured speakers including His Excellency the Governor, Martyn Roper; Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin; Minister for Financial Services and Home Affairs, Hon. Tara Rivers; and Head of the Investments and Securities Division at the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) Heather Smith. Also in attendance were other government and regulatory officials including Attorney General Hon. Samuel Bulgin and Managing Director of CIMA, Cindy Scotland.

Later in the day, a Cayman Finance Reinsurance Roundtable event showcased the Cayman Islands as an ideal jurisdiction to establish and grow a reinsurance business by offering unparalleled access to capital and investment opportunities.

"We are very appreciative to have had such strong support from Government and the Governor's Office with both the Governor and Premier adding to an already impressive line-up of speakers. Their presence illustrated the partnership between industry and Government, as well as demonstrating the United Kingdom's support for the Cayman Islands financial services industry," Mr Scott said.



► Cayman Finance CEO Jude Scott hosted the events

In his remarks to the gathering, Mr Roper signalled the UK's commitment to promoting the best interests of the British Overseas Territory. "The UK continues to work closely with the Cayman Islands Government to ensure that the industry's interests are protected. My attendance today demonstrates my personal support for the industry and also that of the United Kingdom," the Governor said.

"We believe it is important for the UK and the Cayman Islands to cooperate in helping Cayman's businesses maximise the economic opportunities that our relationship presents."

Speaking at the reinsurance event also held at the Harvard Club, Premier



► L-R: Heather Smith and Cindy Scotland of CIMA, Cayman Finance CEO Jude Scott, Minister for Financial Services and Home Affairs Hon. Tara Rivers, His Excellency the Governor Martyn Roper, Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin, Attorney General Samuel Bulgin, and Cayman Finance Chairman Conor O'Dea

Hon. Alden McLaughlin outlined steps taken to demonstrate his government's support for the financial services industry, which contributes over 50 percent of Cayman's GDP.

"Our commitment to show that Cayman is open for business for reinsurance and other financial services sectors was at the core of a significant change we have made in our government structure," he said, pointing to the establishment of the new Ministry of International Trade, Investment, Aviation and Maritime Affairs.

"Cayman is a familiar, trusted and respected domicile with a long-standing reputation for strong cooperation between our government and our financial services industry. The Cayman Islands Government is both accessible and receptive to input from the industry. We want you to succeed so our door is always open to discuss how we can best work together to achieve that," Mr McLaughlin said.

Hon. Tara Rivers echoed those sentiments in her address at the Breakfast Briefing earlier in the day.

"Cayman will continue being a place for sound business long into the future, because we will continue to meet internationally adopted standards," she said, pointing to recent legislative and regulatory measures to adhere to evolving global requirements.

"Over the many decades we have demonstrated that we have the expertise

and the resiliency needed in order to successfully navigate change, for the benefit of our clients and our country as a whole."

While Cayman has already been established as a leading jurisdiction for strong diversified sectors such as funds, banking, insurance, reinsurance, capital markets, and trusts, attendees at the Reinsurance Roundtable heard from industry partners, including those who recently set-up Cayman reinsurance companies.

CIMA Managing Director Cindy Scotland said: "It is important that we work along with Government and industry to position the Cayman Islands as a well-regulated and stable jurisdiction in which to conduct business. CIMA was pleased to be able to be a part of the New York events, sharing information of importance to our stakeholders in the New York area, both generally and at the reinsurance event."

Mr Scott said the two New York events combine to form an important part of the Cayman Finance calendar of events. I would like to thank the Governor, the Premier, the Government, the regulator, our member firms and New York business partners for making this another success as we protect, promote, develop and grow our financial services industry. 2019 is a year of great promise for the jurisdiction and we are proud to play our role in ensuring the Cayman Islands maintains its position as the premier global financial hub," Mr Scott said.



► Panellists at the Cayman Finance Reinsurance Roundtable L-R: Ruwan Jayasekera, Johan Slabbert, Adrian Lynch (moderator), Gary Dombowsky, Alex Lehman, and David Towriss

# Walkers Bolsters Global Regulatory & Risk Practice Group with New Hire

Walkers is pleased to announce that Sara Hall has joined as senior counsel in the Global Regulatory & Risk Advisory practice group. Sara will be based in London, as a part of a continued expansion strategy for the firm. Walkers' Global Regulatory & Risk Advisory practice group is now fourteen lawyers strong, has staff based in the BVI, the Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Ireland and London, many of whom have experience of working within financial regulators, and offers a truly global service to its clients.

With more than 20 years' experience in advising clients, Sara specialises in financial services law and regulation, with particular expertise in cross border compliance and risk management. Sara regularly advises regulated and un-

regulated financial institutions including a wide range of businesses in the banking, investment fund, administrator, fiduciary and investment management sectors.

Prior to joining Walkers, Sara was Global Head of Regulatory Compliance at a European headquartered global bank. She has also worked at the UK financial services regulator.

Lucy Frew, Global Head of Regulatory & Risk Advisory comments, "We are very pleased that Sara has joined our team. Our Regulatory & Risk Advisory services are of vital importance to our international clients and Sara's expertise and experience will further enhance our global service offering and reputation."



► Sarah Hall

# Conference set to look at future trends

By Lindsey Turnbull

Conference season is in full swing in Cayman right now, with one of the most anticipated conferences on the agenda for 28th February, the Cayman Economic Outlook (CEO) Conference. Over the years this conference has always been led by main sponsors Fidelity, but this year sponsor Royal Fidelity are taking the helm, as the company are entering into the Cayman market in 2019, hence the slight shift in title to RFCEO conference.

The one-day conference is again packed full with presentations from key speakers whose opinions on global economies, trends and outlooks are sought-after the world over, thereby attracting attendees from a wide spectrum of the business world.

The theme for this year's conference is 'Dynamic New World: Braving the Turmoil' and will examine some of the most pertinent topics of the day.

Michael Anderson, President of Royal Fidelity, gave some background to what attendees could expect:

"Nationalism is on the rise around the world, perhaps most of interest in Europe today and America, in particular with Trump's 'America First', so what are the impacts of nationalism on the world and how does it affect us?"

Mr Anderson also spoke about a new field on which the conference had not as yet touched on before now.

"Integration of healthcare technology is driving rapid innovation in new medical fields including biogenetics. This is the first time we've had anybody speak on biogenetics, with our speaker, Jamie Metzl. He spoke last year in a geopolitical sense. I think this will be very interesting not only in terms of the business side of biogenetics, but also what happens to us as human beings in terms of how society will be changed," he confirmed.



► Back row, L-R: Chris Duggan, Dart Enterprises; Diane Creciun, PwC, Marlon Bispath, PwC; Brett Hill Fidelity Bank (Cayman) Ltd; Nicole D'Heer-Watson, Campbell's, Leticia Lawrence, CUC, Jessica Coni, Evolving Island. Front row, L-R : Melanie Shambaugh, Yello Media Group; Michael Anderson, Royal Fidelity; Des Kinch, OAM

Mr Metzl is a biotechnology futurist who has served in the US National Security Council, State Department, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as Executive Vice President of the Asia Society and with the United Nations in Cambodia, among many other positions. He appears regularly on national and international media discussing global issues and his syndicated columns and other writing on Asian affairs, genetics, virtual reality, and other topics are featured regularly in publications around the world.

Other speakers who will be tackling these complex issues include economist, author and host of her own show, 'Megahertz: London Calling,' on SiriusXM, Noreena Hertz, who is a renowned writer and thought leader with an impressive track record in predicting global trends.

Ms Hertz's opinion pieces have appeared in publications including The New York Times, The Guardian, The Washington Post, The Financial Times, Die Zeit, El Pais, The South China Morning Post and The Wall Street Journal.

As well as being a prolific author and highly acclaimed speaker, Ian Goldin is Founding Director of the Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford and Professor of Globalisation and Development, University of Oxford.

Digital revolution journalist Andreas Ekstrom focuses on the online world, media, and digital equality as a senior staff writer for the Swedish daily newspaper Sydenskan. He wrote the best-seller 'The Google Code', taking a look at the search giant and what it said about society and the world. Mr Ekstrom is one of Europe's most sought-after fu-

turists and has been a TED speaker, and, with over a million viewers, he has spoken in more than 20 countries and has been translated in over 30 languages.

Perhaps one of the most interesting speakers of the day will be Mark Mathews, a professional surfer, Red Bull athlete and motivational speaker. As a world class big wave surfer, Mr Mathews has become obsessed with the relationship between personal growth, high performance and fulfilment. Winner of an unprecedented three back-to-back Oakley Big Wave Awards, Mr Mathews is one of the best big wave surfers in the world.

The conference takes place at the Kimpton Seafire Resort on 28th February, 2019 from 8am to 5pm with a cocktail reception afterwards.

For registration, go to: <https://www.rfceo.ky/registration>

# PwC renews support for junior tennis

Thanks to generous sponsorship by PwC, Cayman's junior tennis fans can look forward to another year of challenging tournaments.

PwC has again stepped up to sponsor 2019's series of seven two-day junior tournaments, known as the PwC junior circuit, for players aged 10&U, 14&U and 18&U. In 2018, the circuit attracted nearly 60 contestants, most of whom played in at least four tournaments. In addition, PwC's sponsorship is used by the Tennis Federation of the Cayman Islands to finance the Elite Squad, a group of top players from each age group who receive weekly specialist coaching.

PwC Partner Mr. Craig Smith stated: "We are pleased to support another year of the Cayman Islands' PwC Junior Tennis Circuit. The Circuit is a way to encourage and reward the dedication that our young players put into improving their game year-round. As

well as giving the kids a challenge and a lot of fun, these tournaments encourage and develop good sportsmanship and fitness, as well as pushing mental and physical limits. These multiple positive features are the reason we continue to be a long-standing sponsor."

"We are very grateful to PwC for their continued support of junior tennis in Cayman," said Susan Lindsay, president of the TFCI, which runs the PwC junior circuit and Elite Squad. "PwC's is a major contribution. It would not be possible for the TFCI to run these events, which dozens of juniors thoroughly enjoy, without PwC's generous funding."

Mr. Smith and PwC's marketing and communications manager, Leslie Wilson, were proud to present trophies to winners of the PwC Junior Masters Invitational, 2018's concluding tournament, at the Cayman Islands Tennis Club in South Sound.



► PwC's Craig Smith and Leslie Wilson congratulate Sebastian Bjuroe, winner of the 14&U division of the 2018 PwC Junior Masters Invitational

# “Flirt” with Illusions Mas Band for Cayman Carnival Batabano 2019

Beautiful women in beautiful costumes launched the 2019 Batabano presentation by mas band Illusions. Models strutted the u shaped runway at the Grand Pavilion to soca music showing off resplendent costumes with names like Coquette and Lure.

The theme - Flirt - was conceptualized by band leader Tiffany Rankine who says that she was influenced by the behavior of her friends at Carnival time in their beautiful costumes, enjoying

themselves and flirting. She wants to bring this joyful feeling to the masqueraders of her band.

The four sections - Coquette, Lure, Coax and Vixen are an array of colourful feathers with headbands and leg ties in intricate beaded details. Prices range from CI\$215 to S400 with upgrades of your choice . Also available is a limited T shirt package with bottoms. For more information, check out Illusions on social media. [f](#)



POLICE NEWS

## George Town Man Arrested for Assault GBH

Just before midnight on Wednesday 30 January, police and other emergency services were dispatched by the 9-1-1 Communication Centre to a residence on Watler's Road, George Town, where it was reported that two (2) men who are known to each other had an altercation, resulting in one of the men receiving a knife wound.

The wounded man was transported to the hospital where is undergoing treatment. He is believed to have sustained serious injury.

A 25-year-old-man of George Town was arrested on suspicion of assault



GBH and is currently in custody pending further investigation.

This incident is being investigated by the police. 🌐

## Police Make Several Arrests During Operations in Eastern Districts

Recently on 25 and 27 January, officers in the Eastern Districts conducted two operations in response to concerns from members of the community about anti-social behavior and illegal activity, which resulted in several arrests for gambling and drug offenses.

On Friday, 25 January, officers conducted an operation at Coe Wood Beach, in Bodden Town. During the operation officers recovered several lottery tickets, receipt books, and lottery books, along with a quantity of cash. Four persons: two men, ages 48 of George Town and 26 of Bodden Town; and two women, ages 26 of West Bay and 56 of Bodden Town, were arrested on suspicion of unlawful gaming and possession of criminal property.

They were later granted bail as investigations continue.

On Sunday, 27 January, officers conducted a search under the Misuse of Drugs Law at an address in the vicinity of Further Road, North Side, in response to concerns from members of the community about the selling of drugs in the area. The search was conducted with the assistance of K-9 officers and a quantity of ganja and containers were found in and around the premises, along with a ganja plant. A quantity of cash was also recovered.

Two men, age 56 and 24 of North Side, were taken into police custody. The 56-year-old has been formally charged with Possession of Ganja and appeared in court today, 30 January. The 24-year-old was granted police bail. 🌐

## Woman Arrested for Drug Charges during Police Operation on Cayman Brac

On Friday, 25 January, police and customs officers on Cayman Brac conducted an operation at a residence on Dantzer Drive following information and complaints from the community regarding drug activity in the area. The premises were searched under the Misuse of Drugs Law and a quan-

tity of substances appearing to be ecstasy, cocaine and ganja were recovered.

A woman, age 31 of Cayman Brac, was arrested on suspicion of possession and consumption of ecstasy, cocaine and ganja, and is now on Police bail. 🌐

## Water-Related Death at Cemetery Beach

On Wednesday afternoon police responded to a report of a person in distress at Cemetery Beach in West Bay. A man had been in the water snorkeling when he experienced and was assisted to shore by another person at the location. Upon reaching the shore he collapsed and was attend-

ed to shortly afterwards by officers from the CI Fire Service who assisted with CPR until EMTs arrived. He was transported by ambulance to the Cayman Islands Hospital and later pronounced dead.

The man, age 63, is a visitor from Canada. 🌐

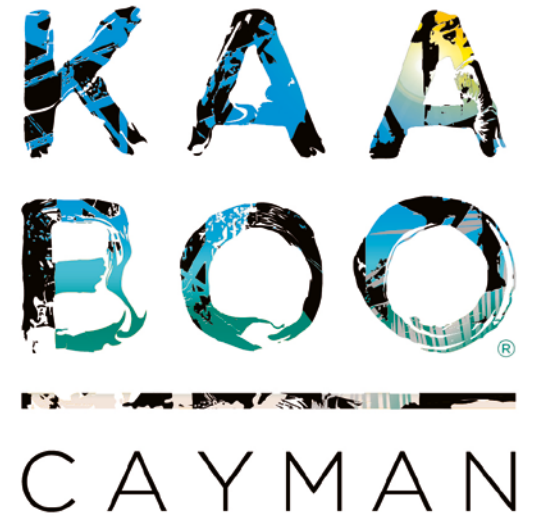
## Road Closures and Traffic Diversions for KAABOO Festival

The RCIPS is advising the public of the following road closures and traffic diversions along West Bay Road and the Esterley Tibbetts Highway in order to facilitate the KAABOO Music & Arts Festival on Friday and Saturday, 15 and 16 February.

These road closures and diversions will be in place beginning from Thursday, 14 February at 12:00PM and continuing until Sunday, 17 February at 6:00AM.

There will be traffic diversions along West Bay Road at Lime Tree Bay Avenue and Seven Mile Public Beach and on Esterley Tibbetts in the vicinity of the Kimpton Resort.

All public traffic travelling towards West Bay must remain in the right lane of the Esterley Tibbetts Highway upon passing the Public Beach roundabout. This traffic will not be permitted to turn onto West Bay Road at the Yacht Club roundabout but must continue on the Esterley Tibbetts Highway towards West Bay or turn right onto Yacht Drive.



Further details of traffic flow adjustments will follow at a later date. Road users travelling on West Bay Road and the Esterley Tibbetts Highway during these times are advised to pay attention to all road signs and to follow all traffic directions given by police officers.

To view this press release on our website, visit: <http://www.rcips.ky/georgetown-man-arrested-for-assault-gbh-30-january> 🌐

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## Earthquake Hits Close to Trinidad

The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre recorded a 4.4 earthquake off Trinidad and Tobago early today.

The quake struck at 12:10 a.m. about 50 km west southwest of the capital, Port of Spain, 61 km northwest of San Fernando, and 74 km west southwest of Arima.

There were no reports of injuries or damage. But several residents reported feeling the tremor and noted their experiences on the SRC's Facebook page.

# European Leaders Vote to Recognize Venezuela's Self-Declared Interim President

European leaders today voted overwhelmingly to recognize Venezuela's self-declared interim president Juan Guaidó as de facto head of state.

At a special session in Brussels, politicians in the European Parliament voted 429 in favour to 104 against, with 88 abstentions.

The vote is non-binding, but the parliament urged the bloc's 28 governments to consider Guaidó "the only legitimate interim president" until there are "new free, transparent and credible presidential elections".

They join the United States, Canada and Mexico in supporting Guaidó—who declared himself interim president last Wednesday—and pressing for President Nicolas Maduro, who was sworn in for a second consecutive term earlier this month, to step down.

Britain, France, Germany and Spain said last Saturday that they would recognize Guaidó unless Maduro called elections within eight days.

Guaidó said the recognition by the European Parliament represented a "great step" towards the fight for democracy in Venezuela.

"We have taken a big step in our struggle for democracy!" he tweeted.

"We appreciate the decision [taken by] the European Parliament [it] recognize[s] all the effort that we Venezuelans have put forward for the restitution of constitutional order in our country."

The show of support from European leaders follows moves against Guaidó within Venezuela.

On the heels of the US saying it had handed control of Venezuela's US bank accounts to Guaidó, the Supreme Court, which is aligned to



► Opposition Leader Juan Guaidó is recognized as de facto leader of Venezuela

Maduro, put a travel ban on him and froze his bank accounts.

Chief prosecutor Tarek William Saab who requested the action be taken, said a criminal probe into the opposition leader's anti-government activities has been launched.

Guaidó is prohibited from leaving the country until a preliminary investigation is complete.

## Regional Collaboration Encouraged To Boost Tourism

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett, is encouraging Caribbean leaders to collaborate on ways to collectively strengthen tourism across the region.

He says that while there is high demand for the product, collaboration will further boost its allure and competitiveness.

Bartlett was speaking at the 26th World Travel Awards (WTA) Caribbean and North America Gala Ceremony at Sandals Montego Bay on Monday.

Noting that 30 million tourists visited the region in 2018, he said Caribbean countries remain highly dependent on tourism to drive economic growth.

The Jamaican Tourism Minister said it is therefore imperative that regional tourism leaders "work together as a team... to build the strength of tourism and make [it] work for the people of these countries".

Approximately 1.4 billion visitors travel annually, spending approximately US\$1.3 trillion. Pointing out that about 30 million of those tourists visit the region, Bartlett argued that "we are using that as a means of building the Caribbean and we can only do it if we collaborate...if we understand the importance of the economic logic that says to collaborate is better than to compete".

Meanwhile, Minister Bartlett expressed appreciation to WTA founder, Graham Cooke, for bringing the awards to Jamaica for a sixth time.

"The world of tourism owes you a debt of gratitude because when you are inspired to bring the Oscars of tourism to countries like Jamaica, it [gives] us a feeling that we could indeed shine so



► Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett speaking at the 26th World Travel Awards (WTA) Caribbean and North America Gala Ceremony at Sandals Montego Bay in Jamaica. (Credit: JIS)

that the world could see the lustre of our destinations," he said.

Jamaica and several local tourism and hospitality companies emerged big WTA winners, sweeping 23 coveted awards.

Jamaica received the award for Caribbean's Leading Cruise Ship Destination and Caribbean's Leading Destination.

The island's ports of entry were also big winners, with Ocho Rios copping the award for Leading Cruise Port.

The award for Caribbean's Leading Home Port went to Montego Bay, while Sangster International Airport landed the Leading Caribbean Airport award.

The award for Caribbean's Leading Meetings and Conference Centre was picked up by the Montego Bay Convention Centre, with the Jamaica Tourist Board being named the region's Leading Tourist Board.

Other winners were Dolphin Cove – Caribbean's Leading Adventure Tourist Attraction; and Half Moon Hotel – Caribbean's Leading Conference Hotel.

## After Record Sargassum Influx, Fact-Finding Study Initiated in CARICOM States with Japan's Support

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) has initiated a regional fact-finding study to document the record-breaking influx of Sargassum seaweed in the Caribbean Sea in 2018, and the impacts this phenomenon has been having on countries in the region since 2011.

The fact-finding survey is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that has coordinated official development assistance from Japan to CARICOM States for over two decades.

Over the past seven years, massive Sargassum influxes have been having adverse effects on national and regional economies in the Caribbean, with substantial loss of livelihoods and economic opportunities, primarily in the fisheries and tourism sectors. Large Sargassum influxes had been experienced in this region in 2011, 2014 and 2015, but it reached unprecedented levels in 2018, with more Sargassum affecting the Car-

ibbean for a longer period of time than had previously been observed.

It is estimated that clean-up could cost the Caribbean at least \$120 million in 2018. The CRFM Ministerial Council adopted the "Protocol for the Management of Extreme Accumulations of Sargassum on the Coasts of CRFM Member States" in 2016. The protocol has been guiding the drafting of national Sargassum management protocols for Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with support from the CC4FISH project, an initiative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

In the coming weeks, the CRFM Secretariat will lead extensive consultations with key national stakeholders in the public and private sector, including interests in fisheries, tourism, and environment, as well as with coastal communities and other related sectors. Remote surveys and field missions in select Member States will provide a

broad knowledge-base on exactly how the phenomenon has been affecting the countries.

Through the project, the CRFM will identify heavily affected areas, the time and frequency of extreme blossoms and accumulation of Sargassum, the quantity of accumulation, and elements associated with it, such as the species of fish and types of debris. A review of the history and scope of the impacts (both positive and negative) will be conducted and the extent of financial losses quantified. The CRFM will also identify research and countermeasures taken by the national governments, regional organizations, research institutions, and other development partners and donors. Finally, the study will suggest actions and scope of support that Japan may provide to help the countries address the problem.

During the study, the CRFM will engage other regional institutions such as Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCC), the Centre for Resource



► Consett Bay, on the east coast of Barbados, experienced major Sargassum inundation last year

Management and Environmental Studies at the University of the West Indies (CERMES-UWI), the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, (CIMH), the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI), and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission.

... Continued story on page 9



# Guyana Government Plans Appeal After Court Rules That No-Confidence Vote Against it Stands

The Guyana government is preparing itself to appeal yesterday's ruling by Chief Justice Roxanne George-Wiltshire that the no-confidence motion against it, which was passed in the National Assembly on December 21 last year, is indeed "lawful and valid" and elections should be held by March.

In fact, the ruling coalition A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) intends to challenge the ruling all the way to the country's highest court, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), if necessary.

After considering arguments she heard earlier this month in three cases related to the validity of the motion—which the government lost 33-32 when one of its backbenchers, Charrandass Persaud, voted with the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP)—Justice George-Wiltshire kept her word to deliver a judgment by monthend.

Among the arguments advanced by the government in challenging the vote, was that an absolute majority of 34—half of the number of members in the 65-member National Assembly, plus one—was needed for the motion to carry. The contention was that since half of 65 is 32.5 and there can be no half person, the number had to be rounded up to 33 and an absolutely majority would therefore have to be one more than that.

According to Attorney General Basil Williams, the failure to obtain 34 or more votes breached article 106 (6) of the Constitution and the Speaker could not therefore certify the motion as having been passed.

However, the Chief Justice did not accept that argument, saying that 33 constituted an absolute majority, and the President and Cabinet ought to have resigned immediately after the passage of the motion.

"This court cannot set aside or defy a ruling that was validly made," she said.

"The no confidence motion is carried, the requisite majority is obtained by a vote of 33 to 32. The President and the Ministers can't therefore remain in government beyond the three months within which elections are required to be held in accordance with Article 106 of Article 7, unless that time is enlarged by the National Assembly in accordance with the requirements of said Article 106," she said, adding that the government should remain in office until elections are held and a new President sworn in.

Another one of the grounds for the challenge to the no-confidence vote was that Persaud has dual citizenship and was therefore not eligible to be a sitting member of the National Assembly.

Justice George-Wiltshire ruled that it is unconstitutional for Members of Par-

liament to have dual citizenship. Therefore, she said, Persaud, who has citizenship of Canada—where he travelled to the morning after the vote—is "not qualified for election as a member of the National Assembly by virtue of his own act and acknowledgment of allegiance, obedience and adherence to a foreign power...in contravention of the Constitution of Guyana".

"Anyone who holds dual citizenship as envisaged by Article 155 and therefore falls into this category...should not and cannot be a Member of Parliament... While some may say that this does not permit the fullest participation of diaspora Guyanese in the political leadership of Guyana, this is not for this court to pronounce on. The Constitution is clear...Until it is amended to provide otherwise, the Constitutional provision must be adhered to," the Chief Justice added. "Any change to reflect a different view may be undertaken by way of constitutional amendment if the public and their parliamentary representatives so inclined."

However, she said Persaud's dual citizenship did not invalidate the results of the vote.

In her judgement, Justice George-Wiltshire also said that although Persaud should have informed the Speaker of



► Chief Justice Roxanne George-Wiltshire

the House that he had decided to break ranks with the list of candidates from which he had been selected, he had not ceased being a parliamentarian.

Responding to the judgment in a brief statement last night, the David Granger-led administration said it had taken note of and respects the ruling, but does not intend to let the matter die here.

"Due process continues and the government will file an appeal in the Court of Appeal. The government continues to believe that the full adjudication of this issue is in the national interest," it said.

"Until the matter is concluded at the highest court of appeal, the status quo remains and the business of government continues as usual. The government reassures the Guyanese people that it will continue to act in accordance with the Constitution of Guyana." 🌐

## Caribbean Getting Access to Millions of Dollars More to Enhance Climate Resilience and Adaptation

The European Union (EU) has signed two agreements with the World Bank's (WB) Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GDRR) to provide funding totaling €30.7 million (US\$35.2 million) that will strengthen disaster risk management (DRM) in the Caribbean.

The programmes will support Caribbean countries to plan for long-term resilience and climate-smart growth strategies, and to design and implement innovative policy and investment initiatives. The two initiatives that will benefit are the Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility and the Technical Assistance Programme for Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance in Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs).

"If there is no doubt that all countries and people are affected by climate change, there is also no doubt that some countries and some people are more vulnerable than others to natural disasters," said Daniela Tramacere, European Union Ambassador to Barbados, Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM. "This contribution is a token of solidarity of the European people, and recognition of the very difficult challenges the Caribbean nations face. Hopefully this support will enable

people and businesses to be more resilient to climate change."

The Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility will support 15 Caribbean countries by providing technical assistance to mainstream resilience, leveraging investments to reduce vulnerability, and expanding financial protection against disasters.

The Technical Assistance Programme for Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance in Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories will help the OCTs understand their financial exposure or contingent liability to disasters, provide an overview of financial protection tools available, assess the feasibility of participating in insurance mechanisms, and facilitate the sharing of knowledge among OCTs. This Technical Assistance Programme will be carried out jointly with the Caribbean OCTs' Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity Programme – ReSEMBiD, implemented by Expertise France, which has the objective to strengthen environmentally sustainable economic development in Caribbean OCTs.

The Caribbean Region Resilience Building Facility will benefit Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic,

Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Technical Assistance Programme for DRF and Insurance in Caribbean OCTs will benefit Anguilla, Aruba, St Barthélemy, British Virgin Islands, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Montserrat, Saba, Turks and Caicos Islands, St Eustatius and St Maarten.

The programmes will be managed in close coordination by two EU Delegations in their respective geographic area of responsibilities.

World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean, Tahseen Sayed, said that with the growing impact of climate change, Caribbean countries have to adapt and prepare for more frequent and severe storms.

"Together with our partners, the World Bank is committed to support the islands in strengthening resilience so that development gains made over the past years are not lost in a day. This partnership with the European Union is part of a multi-pronged approach to build resilience in the region by investing in preparedness, building stronger infrastructure, creating fiscal buffers and protecting the most vulnerable," he said.



► The Caribbean is exceptionally vulnerable to natural hazards like hurricanes which impact the region every year

According to Ambassador Jernej Videtič who heads the EU Delegation to Guyana, Suriname and for the Dutch OCTs and St Barthélemy, 2017 highlighted the Caribbean's exceptionally high exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards, with two Category 5 hurricanes hitting the region causing major damage. He said the period of recovery from these hurricanes "offers an opportunity to mainstream resilience in countries' governance and in all sectors of their economies".

Ambassador Videtič further emphasized that it was due to these vulnerabilities that resilience has been placed firmly at the heart of the EU development agenda for the Caribbean OCTs. 🌐

## After Record Sargassum Influx, Fact-Finding Study Initiated in CARICOM States with Japan's Support

... Continued story from page 8

The CRFM will also engage development partners which have been doing Sargassum-related work in the region, including the FAO, UN Environment Regional Coordinating Unit, the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and IO-CARIBE, the Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), an agency of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

According to the CRFM, Sargassum influxes disrupt fishing operations through gear entanglement and damage; impeding fishing and other vessels at sea; reducing catches of key fisheries species, such as flyingfish and adult dolphinfish; changing the availability and distribution of coastal and pelagic fisheries resources; and disrupting coastal fishing communities and tourism activities.

However, this challenge has also inspired innovative interventions, and opportunities for revenue-generation

include value-addition through the production of fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, animal feed, and biofuel. The CRFM notes, though, that the financial or other benefits remain to be quantified.

The Sargassum phenomenon is believed to be driven by several factors, including climate change and increased sea surface temperature; change in regional winds and ocean current patterns; increased supply of Saharan dust; and nutrients from rivers, sewage and nitrogen-based fertilizers. 🌐

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 45 Printed

- 1 Flat floater matter
- 5 Horse-related
- 11 Clarinet's cousin
- 12 CNN founder Ted
- 13 Laura of "Jurassic Park"
- 14 Big schnozz
- 15 Shade tree
- 16 Obtains
- 17 Not out of it
- 19 Hornets' org.
- 22 Greek letters
- 24 Thread holder
- 26 Dry
- 27 Prepares for battle
- 28 Surrenders
- 30 Large-size
- 31 Spot
- 32 Eucalyptus eater
- 34 Minute
- 35 Faucet
- 38 Cellist Pablo
- 41 Pacific island nation
- 42 Winter dripper
- 43 Notorious czar
- 44 With no markup

C	A	P	P		N	U	M	B	S	
A	R	R	O	W	A	P	A	R	T	
V	I	O	L	I	N	M	A	K	E	R
E	S	P	Z	E	E		E	A	U	
S	E	E	S	A	W	L	U	S	T	
S	L	U	R	S		O	P	T	S	
				A	D	M	E	N		
A	V	I	V		A	N	G	S	T	
R	E	N	E		K	I	S	M	E	T
A	L	L		P	E	G		O	N	E
B	O	I	L	E	R	M	A	K	E	R
L	U	N	A	R		A	B	E	T	S
E	R	E	C	T		E	R	S	E	

**Yesterday's answer**

- 18 Walk in water
- 19 Derived from a standard
- 20 Movie flop
- 21 To boot
- 22 Changes direction
- 23 Buffalo's county
- 25 Painter Klee
- 29 Useful abilities
- 30 Crested bird
- 33 Beginning
- 34 Folded food
- 36 Trojan War hero
- 37 Milk buy
- 38 KGB competitor
- 39 Do something
- 40 [Not my spelling]
- 41 In shape

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					
13				14					
15				16					
		17	18			19	20	21	
22	23				24	25			
26						27			
28				29	30				
31				32	33				
			34				35	36	37
38	39	40					41		
42							43		
44							45		

6-27

**SUDOKU**

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

**Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green

			3	1	6			
	3		9		2			6
2		3				4		1
9				7				3
1		5				7		9
	8		5		4		3	
			2	8	9			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/03

**Answer to previous puzzle**

8	9	1	2	6	4	5	3	7
7	3	6	1	5	9	4	8	2
4	5	2	7	8	3	1	6	9
9	7	5	6	3	2	8	1	4
2	8	3	4	1	5	7	9	6
1	6	4	8	9	7	3	2	5
5	1	8	9	4	6	2	7	3
3	2	9	5	7	8	6	4	1
6	4	7	3	2	1	9	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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**CURTIS**

By Ray Billingsley

**THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN**

By Stan Lee

**JUDGE PARKER**

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

**Word Search**

S	O	M	A	S	O	L	E	D	H	B	C	L	G	L
R	O	R	F	N	P	H	O	C	I	S	C	F	O	S
M	B	I	Y	G	M	C	A	I	O	V	O	L	O	S
Y	P	N	H	D	P	H	I	M	M	T	T	X	S	A
Y	L	M	T	C	B	E	L	A	Y	E	A	F	O	K
S	A	R	T	A	P	R	P	A	T	N	E	I	B	I
V	R	C	E	S	S	A	U	I	I	R	C	W	S	N
E	I	O	M	A	T	K	A	T	L	T	A	H	E	O
U	S	R	P	H	N	L	N	R	I	E	O	P	L	L
B	A	I	E	Y	V	I	H	O	N	R	V	E	S	A
O	O	N	E	I	C	O	G	C	I	T	F	K	O	S
E	S	T	M	R	D	N	O	E	R	N	U	R	A	B
A	V	H	E	E	U	R	C	U	A	L	A	L	I	S
A	A	T	S	B	F	Z	A	K	Y	N	T	H	O	S
A	E	N	W	U	U	A	G	T	W	L	G	T	E	N

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.

- Aegina
- Athens
- Boeotia
- Chios
- Corfu
- Corinth
- Crete
- Delos
- Euboea
- Heraklion
- Larisa
- Lesbos
- Levkas
- Mytilini
- Nauplia
- Naxos
- Patras
- Phocis
- Rhodes
- Salonika
- Samos
- Sparta
- Volos
- Zakynthos

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