Caymanian

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Issue No 330

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= Complimentary =

WEATHER FORECAST



Partly sunny; beautiful

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Reducing Gap in District's **Shelter Provisions**



Lions Club's Melvin Jones Awards at Grand Old House

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Canada has best quality of life

Hundreds stride against cancer



Celebrating our Heroes

By Christopher Tobutt

With the theme: 'Honouring Contributions to Our Coat of Arms' National Heroes Day was a celebration of all that is the very best of Cayman, over the past sixty years.

The official opening began with the blowing of a Conch Shell, which is how people used to get everyone's attention in the Old days. School children are truly our future, so there was a proud procession of primary school children representing all the primary schools from all the districts.

Ms. Levonne Ryan Cert. Hon., OMH's prayer was about many things, but especially about our collective commitment to God, and how we need to remember always to 'seek his

kingdom first.' "Bless every Adult, every child...and all the MLAs. Most of All, help our country come close to Jesus Christ. We thank you for the liberty to pray to Almighty God. Thank you for all who have labored and served and passed on," she said. After she had prayed, the sun came out and shone on everyone.

Mr. Alfonso Wright, Celebrate Cayman's Executive Chairman, spoke about all the activities surrounding the sixtieth anniversary of the Coat of Arms. He spoke about his mandate inspire Na-



► Captain Marvin's Watersports Ltd was recognized

tional Pride and to reach out to all the people in the Cayman Islands.

Celebrations began on 14 May 2018 and began with a special event in London, with the purpose of highlighting Cayman's close links with Britain. He spoke about the success of the travelling display, and the collaboration with the National Museum, and about the commemorative stamps and coins that had been issued.

... Continued story on page 4

Venezuela in Crisis

The crisis in Venezuela could very well turn out to be a major problem for the Caribbean if that south American country continues to unravel socially, politically and economically the way it has over the past several months - and especially at the pace and intensity it has over the past few

With the rapidly escalating crisis showing only signs of worsening, global powers have been digging in their heels on both sides of the Venezuelan political and ideological di-

That of itself is seen as a contributor to and further fuelling an already delicate and potentially explosive international diplomatic crisis, and a seemingly (for now) intractable political stalemate in Venezuela.

The economy is in free fall, although the country is sitting on vast resources of untapped oil wealth.

Its social systems are collapsing under the weight of a socialist ideology whose otherwise laudable national (and regional) intentions the government is struggling to realise.



► Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, left, during a ceremony to celebrate the 81st anniversary of the National Guard in Caracas

Despite the largesse of late president Hugo Chavez's regional Petro-Caribe oil supply, Venezuela might be learning the hard way that charity begins at home.

The country's already divisive politics are self-strangulating, locked in ideological silos that its adherents refuse to budge from - and many of its citizens are running away from... literally packing up and leaving, or just leaving without even doing much packing.

The long-standing political standoff pre, during and post-Hugo Chavez, between his 'Chavismo' socialist ideals and the capitalist outlook of more right-wing opposition has become even more entrenched under Chavez's successor Nicolas Maduro.

But with Maduro's hold on power now gate-crashed by the rapid and dramatic ascendancy of the hither-

... Continued story on page 5

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CAYMANIAN TIMES

EDITORIAL

It is time to come together

Government Shutdown in the United States play out amid the rhetoric from both parties, it is clear to me that the damage caused will result in economic damage and a level of division in American society.

However, it must be noted that division has existed in societies for ages but the fact is that

smaller societies have the most to lose from division.

The sheer size of the American population will allow division and success to co-exist and we will see our neighbours to the North go back to business as usual with a President recovering from deep bruises inflicted during the recent debacle.

Here at home we are gearing up for a critical decision in relation to a major capital project and by the end of the year we will see or not see a new port in the making. There is also division in some segments of local society and if you listen hard enough you will hear screams of discrimination in the work-



place, limited access to real opportunities, Same Sex marriages and the high cost of living.

No one is perfect but we should seek to maintain and build upon our family values that existed for many ages that taught love, respect and tol-

As we start a new year, let us respect all and campaign for the good of this island paradise. We will not agree all the time and at times and may give support to different sides.

However, we must rise above division and remain united for it is with true unity that we will overcome all obstacles. 😚

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Premier congratulates Governor Martyn Roper on formal appointment

McLaughlin said he is pleased that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has confirmed that Martyn Roper's post as Governor of the Cayman Islands has been made substantive and he is to serve a four year term.

"HE Martyn Roper has been working closely with me and the Government since his arrival and has been very helpful already in several areas," said Mr. McLaughlin. "Just this week he travelled to New York to support the Cayman Islands Government and Cayman Finance

delegations at the Cayman Finance New York Breakfast Briefing and a Reinsurance Roundtable discussion. This was a first, as far as I am aware, for a Governor to actively support and endorse our Financial Services Industry on an international stage and to publicly note the United Kingdom's support of our Financial Services Industry.

"He has also been very helpful in our conversations with the UK Government on constitutional discussions and of course his support for the purchase of a new helicopter to expand our aerial law enforcement operations was welcomed and we look forward to the new heli-



▶ (L-R) Former Governor Duncan Taylor, Former Governor John Owen, Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin, HE Governor Martyn Roper, Former Governor Bruce

copter arriving later this year," said Mr. McLaughlin.

"As I said when the Governor arrived, he has come at a particular juncture in these Islands when we are again facing some significant international challenges. I know he has some considerable experience in dealing with agencies such as the OECD and I look forward to working with him on these issues over the coming months as we seek to address the serious challenges regarding the EU's listing process," he said.

On behalf of my Government and the Cayman Islands I offer him congratulations on his formal appointment. 🏵

Congratulations to our Contest Winners

Mr. Lance Simmonds | Ms. Jesie Navarro



Mr. Lance Simmonds (right) receives his prize from CUC's Ellstine Mitchell, Senior CSD Representative

In October, November and December 2018, CUC promoted a campaign urging residential and commercial customers to assist with updating the Company's Customer Information Database. To be eligible to win one of two Ecobee3 Smart Thermostats for air conditioners, customers were asked to complete and submit a form to CUC's Customer Service Centres prior to Friday, December 14. Only residential customers were eligible to win the prizes.

The two lucky winners, Mr. Lance Simmonds and Ms. Jesie Navarro, were presented with their prizes in January.

CUC encourages all customers who have not yet completed forms updating their customer information, to do so as soon as possible. Go to www.cuc-cayman.com and navigate to the "Forms" section under the "Customer Service" tab. Click on the Residential Customer Information Update Form or the Commercial Customer Information Update Form, complete it online, print, sign, scan and e-mail it to service@cuc.ky with a copy of your ID or drop it off at one of our Customer Service Centres at CUC's Administration Building or at Caribbean Plaza.



Contact our Customer Service Team at 949-5200 or via e-mail at service@cuc.ky for more information

Smoking Cessation Classes: 'I Can Quit'

The Public Health Department advises smokers who wish to quit that there are some spaces left in an upcoming smoking cessation class. The sessions will run every Wednesday from 5.15 p.m. to 6.45 p.m, beginning on 6 February 2019. The venue for classes is the new Public Health Administration office located at the Smith Road Centre on the second floor. For more information or to sign up contact the Public Health Department on 244-2889 or 244-2621. Interested nersons may also email sarah.hetley@ hsa.ky or nola.sanderson@hsa.ky 😚



Deadline for Input Extended

The public now has more time to give their input on the National Planning Framework.

Members of the public who wish to submit their feedback now have until Thursday, 28 February 2019. The document can be found on www.plancayman.ky, and feedback can be submitted through the

website as well. Printed copies of the document can be viewed at the Plan-Cayman Information Counter, located in the lobby of the Government Administration Building.

The National Planning Framework sets out the long-term goals for land use



and physical development and is the first part of the Cayman Islands Development Plan review. The document covers a number of areas of interest including land use, the natural environment, transportation, infrastructure, recreation and open spaces. ③

Hundreds stride against cancer

By Lindsey Turnbull

It was a beautiful morning last Sunday when hundreds took to the West Bay Road to stride, run, jog and gently stroll all for a good cause: to help the Cayman Islands Cancer Society raise funds for the important work they do.

Leading the pack this year was the newly sworn-in Governor Martyn Roper, his wife Elisabeth, along with Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure Minister Joseph Hew, Deputy Governor Franz Manderson and the Cancer Society's Dr Sook Yin and Jan Weber.

The Stride event happens every year on the last Sunday in January and consists of a variety of races that people can pay to take part in. The most popular is the Big Stride quarter marathon event (6.5 miles) that starts at Public Beach. People can walk or run the event and there is never a shortage of pram-pushers and dog walkers among the participants as well. The course runs down to the Wharf restaurant and then turns back up to Public Beach, where course finishers can enjoy refreshments at the water's edge.

For the more serious runner there was a timed half marathon course of 13.1 miles which began an hour earlier than the quarter marathon, at 6am,



▶ The Governor leads the pack

and took the runners all the way from Public Beach to the Caribbean Paradise apartments in George Town and back again. There are always plenty of water and Gatorade stops along the way, with booth holders doing their best to cheer participants along.

Other events included the Mini Stride in Northside, from Kaibo to Old Driftwood and also a Little Stride in Little Cayman.

This is the Cancer Society's biggest fundraiser of the year and organisers said they hoped to raise about \$50,000 from the Stride against Cancer event.

Funds will go towards their financial aid programme that helps people with cancer in the community pay for vital services and also helps the general public with screening, such as paying for an annual cervical screening for women who would otherwise not be able to pay for the service. Last year the Cancer Society paid out about \$400,000 in financial aid so the funds raised will go a long way to helping the Cancer Society help others. 😚



▶ The Governor Martyn Roper and Mrs Roper with Minister Joey Hew and the Cancer Society's Sook Yin and Jan Weber and other volunteers at the start



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For more information, please email human.resources@cishipping.com or call (345) 949-8831. Yisit us at facebook.com/caymanislandsshippingregistry

Application deadline: 31 January of each year



▶ All the government officials stood, during the singing of the National Song



▶ The crowd braved the windy and rainy weather for Cayman's most important day

National Heroes Day 2019 celebrates coat of arms

... Continued story from page 1

"The Coat of Arms truly was the starting point of a wave of change and progress that helped to develop the modern say society we all know and love...While Celebrate Cayman honors our past, it also celebrates our present and strives



► Ms. Levonne Ryan, Cert. Hon., JP, opened in prayer

to inspire our future," he said. "We have seen simple curiosity transfer over to a deep hunger to know more about our Islands' history and culture...Our culture will only survive if we embrace it," he said.

In his Keynote Address, the Premier. Hon. Alden McLaughlin MBE, JP said: "It gives me great honour to recognize Mr. Linberg Eden and Capt. Owen Farrington, Cert. Hon., the two living vestrymen who supported the resolution moved in the Legislative Assembly on 5 February, 1958, to send to Her Majesty's Government for approval. There were three key features the people of the Cayman Islands placed great value on and wanted represented in the design. Those were: The representation of the British connection; the representation of the sea as the home of Caymanians; and something to symbolize the three islands," he

Hon. Dwayne Seymour, JP, Minister for Health, Environment, Culture & Housing said: "National Heroes Day is a wonderful opportunity for us as a community to take pause from the demands of our daily lives and reflect on the rich heritage and culture that has defined and united us, as Caymanians." 😚



▶ Heroes of the future: Primary school children marched past the platform



Cayman Islands Aviation Authority's CEO Albert Anderson received an award from MLA



▶ A representative from Sunset House was recognized

Venezuela's crisis; a Caribbean concern

... Continued story from page 1

to little known opposition leader, Juan Guaidó, Venezuela's political play-book is being rewritten.

Mr Guaidó has thrust himself centre stage into the Venezuelan political spotlight, the international headlines and global political prominence, by self-declaring as 'Interim President'.

This was a bold and direct challenge to Nicolas Maduro's swearing-in this month for another term as President, following last year's controversial presidential elections.

Not only has it added fuel to the Venezuelan political divide, his move has set alight a split in the global response to the political and leadership crisis gripping the country.

Each day brings a new twist with the US and a growing number of its allies in the pro-Guaidó camp, while Russia, China and several other countries back Maduro.

Britain has joined a number of European Union states in setting an ultimatum to the Maduro government to call fresh elections or they too will throw their support behind Mr Guaidó.

The United Nations secretary general has appealed for dialogue to at least prevent the situation from descending into further uncertainty.

What seems certain is that unless there is some internal compromise or delicately-handled international intervention, Venezuela could be headed for even more chaos with consequential effects for its Latin American and Caribbean neighbours.

The potential to trigger an international diplomatic stand-off over the issue looms large and quite worrying.

Once again, the Caribbean by sheer force of circumstance finds itself at the crossroads and in the cross-hairs of an international diplomatic (for now) showdown over which it hardly has much influence - and over which itself is already divided.

The region for its part seems riven between more of 'PetroCaribe/Chavez era' memorial support camp (a result of the concessionary oil largesse of the former Venezuelan leader), and those who back the self-declared interim-president Guaidó.



▶ Thousands gather for rally against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro

Recent pro-Maduro military manoeuvrings by Russia, and not-so-veiled anti-Maduro threats by the Trump administration, highlight how increasingly tense and delicate the atmosphere surrounding the Venezuela crisis has become.

Once again, the Caribbean, by accident of someone else's politics, finds itself not just centre stage, but quite possible the stage in a growing international crisis.

The United Nations has appealed for dialogue, so too have Caribbean leaders via their regional organisation Caricom - despite their own regional divisions over the Maduro-Guaidó rift.

The stage is set...for something.

One hopes that at this increasingly late stage there is indeed dialogue and a diplomacy-led resolution of this worrying situation.

Already, the effects are being felt.

An exodus of Venezuelan citizens is creating immigration challenges for both its Latin American neighbours and the Caribbean, especially the southerly Dutch islands (Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire), along with Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana.

And that might just be the beginning. ③





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CAYMANIAN TIMES

Newlands MLA Expresses Satisfaction: Prospect Brightens for Reducing Gap in District's Shelter Provisions

Following the posting of an advertisement in connection with the completion of the long-delayed Bodden Town Church of God multipurpose hall, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Newlands MLA Alva Suckoo, this week thanked Government for activating the project designed to help close the gap in the district's hurricane shelter provisions.

On completion, the building, whose construction works were abruptly cut short in 2011, is expected to significantly boost both capacity and capability of the district's hurricane shelter facilities.

Government has set a February-11 deadline for submission of bids by qualified architectural design consultants. This will set in motion arrangements for the construction works and all that that

As far as the current status of the building, it has had a roof on it as part of the original construction works, since when the church has been engaged, at its own initiative and expense, in the installation of windows and doors. As part of the final effort to close the building, the church is awaiting some steel doors that have been on order for some time

According to church officials, the main structure having been done, the works to come include electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, and internal and external finishing. A generator will complete its readiness as a purpose-built Category 5 hurricane shelter, although unlikely to be completed by the end of the 2019 hurricane season. Current projections are more in line with readiness for the 2020 season.

Church officials say that they intend to remain closely involved and will be organising a core group of members skilled and experienced in construction to maintain a level of oversight to ensure maximum efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Plans for upgrading of another of the district's shelter, the Bodden Town Primary School assembly hall, are reported to be progressing as well.

"This is also welcome news, although I have not been informed as to whether the upgrading of the school auditorium will be ready for the 2019 season," Mr. Suckoo said. "Nevertheless, I am grateful that Government has at last taken action to enable the Church of God multipurpose hall to take its place in due course in boosting the quota of hurricane shelter facilities for the district."

The news of the planned resumption of works for the church hall comes against a background of advocacy by Mr. Suckoo and his colleagues, MLAs Anthony Eden and Christopher Saunders, that began at the parliamentary level in a Finance Committee meeting back in June 2017. At the time Finance Committee



▶ Bodden Town Hurricane Shelter In Progress

was debating a \$2-million additional shelter for Cayman Brac.

In conjunction with the Brac shelter proposal, Mr. Suckoo had contemplated a motion to secure \$125,000 to re-start the stalled Bodden Town building to make it serviceable as a shelter. However, he had dropped the idea, the MLA said, when the Hon. Moses Kirkconnell, Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for District Administration, promised help in securing funding.

Last September, the promised funding having failed to materialize, Mr. Suckoo revived the issue in a parliamentary question tabled at the Cayman Brac meeting of the Legislative Assembly.

With this week's announced developments, Mr. Suckoo paid tribute to the Hon. Joseph Hew, Minister for Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure, for his formal initiation of the long-stalled project.

Nevertheless, while heartened that the church hall project is now moving, the availability and standards of hurricane shelter provisions for the district for the 2019 season are once again at the fore of his and his colleagues' worry list, Mr. Suckoo said.

"Beyond the immediate concerns, we hope that there will be no delays in the resumption of works for the completion of the Church of God multipurpose hall, and that the upgrading of the school's auditorium will move forward with the necessary haste," the MLA said, as "these delays are not without serious associated risks."

In the interim, Mr. Suckoo said that he and his colleagues would be meeting in the next few weeks with Government's Hazard Management to discuss arrangements for shelter accommodations for the district of Bodden Town for the 2019 season. 😚

Lions Club's Melvin Jones Awards at Grand Old House

The Lions Club of Grand Cayman held a special Melvin Jones Fellowship Ceremonial Awards Luncheon at Grand Old House. The Lions Club works tirelessly and quietly behind-the-scenes, raising funds and working on important projects for the community, and so without their hard and dedication for more than four decades, Cayman might well be a very different place.

"The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) is the backbone of the Lions Club International Foundation. The awards are presented to those who donate US\$1,000 to LCIF or to people for whom a donation was made by others, it's a tremendous contribution to humanity and to the legacy of our founder, Melvin Jones," said Lion John Ebanks who was presenting the awards to members.

There were a total of five new recipients of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award: Elesha Graham, Joel Walton, Reshma Ragoonath, Rodclif Thompson, and Siri Jones Russel. In addition, there were four recipients of the Progressive



A proud moment as new Lions, Shanna Bodden and Reshma Ragoonath get to wear their new yellow Lions jackets for

Melvin Jones Fellowship: Limbern Eden, Malcolm Kirwan, Peter Wight, and Robert Powell. The Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship program is a way for donors to extend their commitment to the Lions Club International Foundation. There are 54 recognition levels beyond the initial US\$1,000 MJF contribution with a unique pin for each giving level.

Before the lunch began, there were toasts: to Her Majesty the Queen, the Lions Club International Founda-

tion; and to the Melvin Jones Fellowship itself. Then there was an invocation, said by Lion Mary Graham: "Gracious and ever-loving God, thank you that we know vou are present with us, and on this special day we remember our visionary founder, Melvin Jones. Even now as we celebrate his selfless service, we thank you for the members of the Lions Club



► Reshma Ragoonath receives her Melvin Jones Felllowship Award from Malcolm Kirwan, Vice Area Leader



ham, Siri Jones Russel and Rodclif Thompson become Melvin Jones Fellows

of Grand Cayman and the Lions Club of Tropical Gardens. Continue to empower them. Give them eyes to see, and ears to hear the cry, of those who need a special touch from vou."

There were also two new inductees into the local Lions Club: Ms Reshma Ragoonath, whose sponsor was Lion Tannya Mortimer, and Ms Shanna Bodden, whose sponsor was Lion Roy Charlton. Both of



▶ Elesha Graham receives her award from Lion Malcolm Kirwan, Vice Area Leader

them, along with their sponsors, came forward to be officially inducted, by Lion Phillip Barnes, who welcomed them into the club by saying:

"You are becoming part of a distinguished service history that dates back to 1917, when Lions Club International began as the dream of insurance man Melvin Jones. He believed that local business clubs should expand their horizons from purely professional concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at large.

"Since that humble beginning, Lions Club members have volunteered their time to meet needs wherever they exist. Lions are especially dedicated to serving the blind and visually impaired, a commitment made after Helen Keller challenged our members to become the 'Knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness,' during the 1925 convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA.

Our local club was founded in 1972, and for 47 years we have been tirelessly serving those in need in the Cayman Islands, from projects ranging from sight screening to numerous other community social assistance The Grand Cayman Lions Club is committed to bringing the unparalleled services of Lions Clubs International to our community."

The proud moment for everyone came when both of the new Lions were allowed to put on their smart yellow Lions Club Jackets.

GLOBAL NEWS BRIEFS

Canada has best quality of life

Canada is considered one of the best places in the world to live for lots of reasons and it has once again finished in the official top three.

Canada has been ranked as the third best country globally, according to the 2019 Best Countries report by US News & World Report, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and Y&R's BAV Consulting.

Canada only trails behind Switzerland and Japan of 80 countries listed. (The Cayman Islands was not included).

Canada dropped one spot from last year's ranking, but it did manage to hold onto top spot in the world for Quality of Life for the fourth year running. It is famous for its low crime rate, astonishing landscape, a tolerant and broad-minded society and economic strength and stability. Apart from the long, harsh winters, there seems little not to like about Canada.

The report notes that millennials rank Canada as the best country overall, viewing its business environment and citizenship favourably. Its favourite cities are Vancouver, Montreal, Calgary and Toronto although Ottawa is the capital.

Japan has moved up three spots from 2019. According to the report, Japan earned high marks for "entrepreneurship and being forward-looking."



► Vancouver is one of Canada's most popular cities

The 2019 Best Countries report and rankings are based on how global perceptions define countries in terms of several qualitative characteristics, impressions that have the potential to drive trade, travel and investment and directly affect national economies.

Top 10 best countries in the world 2019:

- 1. Switzerland
- 2. Japan
- 3. Canada
- 4. Germany
- 6. Sweden
- 7. Australia
- 8. USA
- 9. Norway
- 10. France 😚

Filipinos overstay US visas

Filipinos working in the United States on short-term visas have been overstaying so much that the American government has temporarily banned issuing visas. The US government has imposed a one-year ban on issuing some temporary work visas to Filipinos over concerns of "severe" overstaying and human trafficking.

As a result, the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Philippines has advised Filipinos abroad, especially those in the United States, to follow immigration rules and to avoid overstaying in their host countries.

This statement comes after the US Department of Homeland Security announced that the Philippines will no longer be eligible for H-2A and H2B visas, which are issued to foreign workers seeking agricultural and non-agricultural work, respectively.

Washington noted that the Philippines has a high H-2B overstay rate and raised concerns of rising human trafficking. The US also removed Manila from the H-2A visa program due to such concerns.

The DFA noted the concerns of the DHS as visa issuances are a country's



▶ Filipino workers are overstaying in the US

prerogative. The US government also expressed concern over the high volume of trafficking victims from the Philippines who were originally issued H-2B visas.

"First we need to know if there is basis for the decision. If we see no evidence then we will ask for a reconsideration," Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a media briefing. "We will respect if they have basis for that. We will only react if our workers are being mistreated, maltreated, or being discriminated against but if they violated the laws of the US then they have to face the music."

For now, Mr Panelo said Filipinos seeking to work abroad can do so in countries other than the US.

Cuban gays under attack

Cuba has an increasing problem with homophobic attacks which seem to be going unpunished.

The report of an alleged violent act of homophobia in Guira de Melena has revived repeated demands on social media to take perpetrators to court as soon as possible and to pass stricter anti-discriminatory laws in Cuba.

Sources from the state-run National Centre for Sex Education (CENESEX) have confirmed that on Jan. 21, the Legal Services Department received a complaint about this case from the victim, actor and set designer Alex Garcia, and

passed this information on to the Attorney-General's office and the National Office of Cuba's Revolutionary Police Forces.

Thanks to Riuben Alarcon, a social activist and quick-change artist who plays the popular character Margot Parapar, Alex's attack by three young men emerged on social media with photos of the injuries he sustained to his face.

"They jumped him, for no other reason than him being gay and saying this, they cut his face with a bottle and beat him without mercy," Alarcon wrote on Facebook.

He also criticised the local police for "still letting the perpetrators run loose and on the fringes of the law, while my friend was sent home and told to come back on Monday, so they could decide how serious the attack

had been, not knowing or being able to predict if he would be threatened or attacked again."

CENESEX said that they had received a response and are moving ahead with the investigation of this shameful event.



► Cuba has a large gay community

Numerous alleged hate crimes have emerged on social media, in a country where there isn't a framework to specifically identify and condemn crimes motivated by prejudice against a person's race, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Honduras protects its wildlife

Honduras has committed to protecting part of the tropical rainforests found in the Moskitia region, a move that conservation groups say will protect the region's rich wildlife, carbon stocks and indigenous groups from recent incursions by ranchers.

"The Moskitia is Central America's second largest rainforest, one of the last wild places in the region, and contains expansive areas of primary forest," Chris Jordan, who heads the Central A

Jordan, who heads the Central America and Tropical Andes programme for the NGO Global Wildlife Conservation, said. "Putting a stop to deforestation in the Moskitia will change the course of history for Honduras."

Smaller cats found in the Moskitia include ocelots and margays. There are also white-tailed deer, coyote, tapir and spider monkeys. The scarlet macaw is the national bird of Honduras.

President Juan Orlando Hernández announced the programme "SOS Honduras" two months ago, aimed at ridding the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve in the Moskitia of cattle and livestock ranching. The US-based Wildlife Con-



► The Scarlet Macaw is the national bird of Honduras

servation Society says illegal ranching has caused 90 percent of the deforestation in the 21,000-square-kilometre (8,100-square-mile) Moskitia. Also beset with wildlife trafficking and the looting of its archaeological sites, the Moskitia has lost 30 percent of its forests in the past 15 years.

"As a state, we have taken actions to protect Río Plátano, but the problem is so serious and delicate that it is necessary to redouble efforts to guarantee that it remains one of the most important protected areas of Honduras and at the same time a UNESCO World Heritage site," a spokesman for the Institute of Forest Conservation said.

EU citizens must register in UK

Millions of European Union citizens now have until June 2021 to apply for settled status in the UK, as the post-Brexit registration system opens nationwide.

The government say it has made the process as easy as possible, developing a smartphone app, hiring 1,500 new caseworkers and investing £175m in the scheme.

But it is feared it could sow the seeds of a new Windrush scandal with hundreds of thousands of people potentially unaware or unable to register their right to remain in the UK.

Think-tank British Future warned that of the 3.5 million Europeans currently living in the UK, one third could struggle to properly make an application.

It warns that vulnerable groups like the elderly, people with limited English or IT skills, or people isolated from the wider community may be particularly affected.

And if just 5% of applicants have their bid to remain in the UK refused or disrupted by problems, 175,000 people could be left without legal status.

Alexandru, who was born in Romania but has lived in the UK for six years, applied for settled status as part of a pilot scheme completed last year.



▶ Brexit is a huge issue in the UK

He told Sky News he struggled with the app, which requires users to upload documents, answer questions and submit photographs of themselves using a smartphone.

"I don't know how to use a computer, I don't know how to put my personal data into an application, I didn't even know what steps I had to take," he told Sky

"I didn't have any information. It was very stressful."

Alexandru was able to complete the application with help from Roma Support Group, a local organisation.

But Mihai Bica, who works at the centre, said many more people who are older or can't use a computer will struggle to complete it without help.

Holder tells team to stay focused

West Indies captain Jason Holder was pleased with the team's thrashing of England but insisted that they must stay grounded and carry the winning momentum into the second Test in Antigua starting Thursday.

Starting the year with a win as convincing as the 381-run victory in Bridgetown was quite satisfying but this is just the first stop towards achieving consistency, reckoned Holder.

"We still have a long way to go. I think we ticked a few boxes in this Test match. It's about turning up in Antigua and doing the same," the West Indies skipper



► Shane Dowrich hit a century against

said. "One Test match doesn't make a summer. We've got two Test matches to go and have to make sure we close out

As delightful as the win was, the Test was equally significant for Holder personally. The allrounder struck an unbeaten 202, becoming only the third man batting at No. 8 or lower to score a Test double-ton. In front of his home crowd, Holder went on to pick two wickets and claim three catches to be named Player of the Match.

"It's been a while since I've been playing Test cricket and it's really good to come back in the game like this. I put a lot of hard work in just to get back to full fitness," Holder, 27, said. "It's difficult to explain. A bit of emotion getting out. I've had a lot bottle up for a long time and I had the moment there to express myself a little bit. It's really pleasing to know I can bat a whole session."

Criticism of West Indies by former England players has been "borderline disrespectful", said West Indies Cricket chief executive Johnny Grave.

West Indies bowled England out for 77 to set up a 381-run win inside four days. Former all-rounder Andrew Flintoff said the "world's gone mad" after Holder's double ton.

Former batsman Geoffrey Boycott described the hosts before the series as 'very ordinary, average cricketers".

West Indies are above only Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in the International Cricket Council rankings. Grave said



▶ Jason Holder is confounding his critics

negative comments about his side was "completely unwarranted".

He said: "Criticism of our players and suggestions that they're not world class is unfair. They are so dedicated. We've got 11 cricketers here and many more in the region who want to play Test

England failed to take a wicket on day three as Holder and Shane Dowrich, who scored an unbeaten 116, helped West Indies declare on 415-6.

Grave added: "I saw Andrew Flintoff say he can't believe Jason Holder got a double hundred, yet I think Jason Holder is a fantastic cricketer and has been

Brady's experience should tell

performing so fantastically over the last 18 months - a brilliant captain."

Flintoff, 41, averaged 31.77 with the bat and 32.78 with the ball in his 79-Test career, while Holder is currently averaging 33.86 with the bat and 28.29 with the ball in 36 matches.

England, third in the ICC rankings, have won only one series in the Caribbean in the past 51 years.

They lost 1-0 in 2009 after being bowled out for 51 in the first Test and drew 1-1 on their most recent tour in 2015, against a side described as "mediocre" by England and Wales Cricket Board chairman Colin Graves. 🏈



▶ Seth ad Steph Curry are three-point shooting rivals

Curry brothers

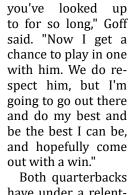
Brady will be playing in his ninth Super Bowl on Sunday when the Patriots face the Los Angeles Rams at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. Super Bowl LIII will be the first for Goff, now 24 and the same age as Brady was

Tom Brady won his first Super Bowl as quarterback of the New England Pa-

triots in 2002 when Jared Goff was 7

"It's a guy that you've looked up to for so long," Goff said. "Now I get a chance to play in one with him. We do respect him, but I'm going to go out there and do my best and be the best I can be, and hopefully come out with a win."

Their 17-year age gap is the biggest between starting quarterbacks in Super Bowl history. Yet the passing years apparently mean little to Brady, and they're just as unimportant to Goff, who sees no advantage in his youth and no disadvantage in his inexperi-



"It's a guy that

Both quarterbacks have under a relentless spotlight. Brady lives his life under years of being a No.

established himself soon after.

Goff doesn't admit to seeing this Super Bowl as a chance to step into Brady's echelon as one of the league's

elite passers, even if that's what much of the football world is telling him. But after Goff led the Rams to 24 wins and two playoff victories over the past two years, the Rams already think he's there.

"We're very confident in his ability to lead us, knowing that it's a big game," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "I think Jared will be himself, which is exactly what we want him to be."

Goff clearly has the arm and the ability to



▶ Jared Goff claims he is not intimidated

spice it up Golden State Warriors superstar Stephen Curry and his younger brother Seth will battle in the NBA All-Star weekend three-point shooting contest.

"The three-point shootout will be fun with the Curry brothers," Stephen said. "I know he's going to be gunning for me, though. That's the problem."

Seth, who plays for the Portland Trail Blazers, is shooting 48 percent from three-point range this season - second-best in the NBA.

Stephen, who is third all-time in made three-pointers, is making 44.4 percent of his shots from beyond the arc.

This year's All-Star weekend Feb. 16-17 in Charlotte, North Carolina, will be a homecoming for the Curry brothers.

Their father, Dell, played 10 seasons for the Charlotte Hornets.

Stephen Curry will be appearing in his sixth three-point contest. He won it in 2015 but skipped the event since then. 🈚

that glare, while Goff is still getting used to it after just three

succeed in McVay's of-

1 overall pick who stumbled early but fense. In New Orleans last weekend, he demonstrated his ability to do more.

> "It's big, I think, anytime you can go into an atmosphere like that, go down 13 (points) early, and then show the poise and perseverance and get through adversity the way we did and be able to come out on top late in the game," Goff said.

> Goff and Brady have only faced each other once before. In December 2016, Brady became the NFL's career victories leader in a 26-10 victory at New England, while Goff threw two interceptions in his third career start.

> Goff met Brady for the first time at that game. They're friendly, but not yet close.

> When asked if it feels surreal to be heading toward a Super Bowl showdown with the mighty Patriots and a quarterback who has been winning championships for his entire life, Goff stifled a grin.

> "No," he replied. "I've played these guys before." 😚



► Tom Brady is in his ninth Super Bowl

Barbados' Financial Regulatory Body Warns **Consumers Against Investment Scams**

Amid reports that members of the public are being invited to invest in a trading platform under an entity referred to as "The Bitcoin Wealth", the Financial Services Commission (FSC) is warning Barbadians to be on their guard against financial scams.

In an article recently posted on what appears to be a fake news site, a claim was made that Barbados' Ministry of Finance had invested sums of money in the acquisition of a bitcoin startup company. The article stated that Barbados had finalized a \$500 million deal with the entity. Other articles with similar claims have allegedly also been made regarding other countries, and warnings have been issued via electronic media signifying that the purported platform and offer by this entity is a scam.

FSC's CEO, Kester Guy, has consequently advised the public to exercise extreme caution when considering investment decisions in any type of offerscams will continue to surface from time to time and that with crypto currency still being a novel concept to many people, there is a lot of room for misinformation, misunderstanding and misguidance. As a regulator, we want to protect the public from that, as far as we are able to," he said.

Guy explained that there are legitimate investment opportunities out there, and advised that people should, at the very least, do a basic search to see if and where the company is registered to do business.

"Of course people want to find opportunities that offer them the best returns on their investments, but we need them to be prudent and exercise good judgment," he said.

The FSC CEO further advised that the public should not solely rely on information provided by the company encouraging investment, but should consider four common warnings of investor scam: is it promising you high



returns and low risk; did you get a hot tip or insider information; are they pressing you to buy/act now; and is the seller registered to sell invest-

"What we are stressing to the public, beyond and above all information presented to you, packaged in whatever form, is to check before you invest," said the chief regulator. 🏵

Jamaican Tourism Authorities See Earning Potential for Hotels in Special Needs Segment of the Industry

Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett is encouraging hoteliers to tap into the niche market of special needs tourism and provide services to members of the disabled community.

Speaking at a recent JIS 'Think Tank', the Minister said that some of the small hotels that are not competitive in the landscape could very well morph into specific areas for special needs

He pointed out that the Ministry of Tourism has been pushing special needs tourism in Jamaica and has been having talks with these ho-

"Special needs tourism is one of the new and exciting areas that have potential in Jamaica," Bartlett said, noting that Jamaica's tourism industry is segmented, and a whole range of tourism experience exists for persons with disabilities.

"We're looking at how we can help fund and retrofit some of these smaller hotels in the context of the small and micro tourism enterprises

He pointed out that under the Disabilities Act 2014, hotels are required to provide facility access to persons with disabilities. The Disabilities Act also endorses and safeguards the rights of persons with disabilities to full and equal enjoyment of privileges, interests, benefits and treatment, on an equal basis as others.

Globally, there are one billion persons living with disabilities. The United Nations World Tourism Organization states that accessibility for all to tourist facilities, products and services is a crucial part of any responsible and sustainable tourism policy. 😚



Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett speaks on special needs tourism at a recent JIS 'Think Tank'. (Credit: JIS)

IDB Recognizes Bahamian Marine Archaeology Startup as Best Blockchain Company in The Caribbean

is leveraging blockchain technology to recover and reshape ownership of sunken artifacts from the ocean floors, has won the Creative Business Cup Award at Demand Solutions 2018 in Santiago, Chile - a first for the Caribbean.

PO8 was selected from a pool of over 250 tech companies from 23 countries competing at Demand Solutions, an annual event which brings together exciting minds in the creative and cultural industries to discuss, inspire, and shape innovative solutions.

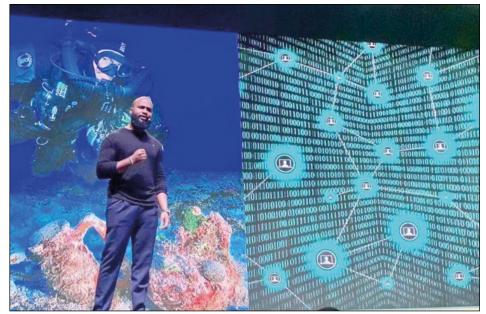
"This achievement demonstrates the significant potential of the innovation ecosystem in The Bahamas and highlights the creativity of Bahamian entrepreneurs," said Mikia Carter with the IDB Lab in The Bahamas.

Led by Bahamian tech visionary and CEO Matthew Arnett and co-founder and COO Raul Vasquez, the team has found a way to improve the lives of fellow Bahamians by using blockchain technology and cryptographic tokens known as

Bahamian tech company PO8, which Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) to recover and reshape the ownership of US\$100 billion in sunken treasures and artifacts, while driving sustained and inclusive growth to the region. NFTs convert ownership rights of recovered artifacts with economic value into a digital title, while staying in the custody of the PO8 Museum Foundation to be preserved and exhibited. With a stored value derived from its underlying asset, NFTs can be sold to anyone around the world.

> "NFTs are a new store of value and commodity class," said Arnett after leading his team to victory in Santiago. "We are shifting The Bahamas from tourism to new third pillar, which is tech, giving young people a new dream to create in new industries like blockchain, A.I. and fintech; resulting in social and economic impact to The Bahamas by simply using something rotting away in our waters."

The idea caught the attention of many, especially after world renowned oceanographer and Titanic expeditioner David Gallo joined the team last year.



▶ PO8's CEO Matthew Arnett presenting at Demands Solutions in Chile

"This is indeed a great way to inspire other entrepreneurs in the Caribbean to follow PO8. They are an amazing solution for a unique and relevant issue, and

I'm certain PO8 will have an outstanding future ahead," said the IBD's Luis Alejandro Simón, who worked with all the startup finalists at Demand Solutions. ③

down

DOWN

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2 Comic

to

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CAYMANIAN TIMES

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 37 Casino 1 Diner side figure 38 Hunting dish 5 Get naked dog

39 Stepped **10** Game with mallets

40 College 11 Kingdom heads division 41 Coloring 13 Car agents

14 Danny of

"Moonstruck" 15 Secure

firmly 17 Curvy letter

18 "The Twilight Zone" creator

19 Methane or ethane 20 Green and

Gore

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35 Give a new title to

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petitors **29** Oman neighbor 30 Devout

31 "Frasier" dog 32 Takes ten

36 One time

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803

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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 5 4 8 6 1 7 2 8 3 9 1 3 1 8 4 8 2 3 5 Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/01

Answer to previous puzzle

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Difficulty Level **

Have fun with

CAYMANIAN TIMES

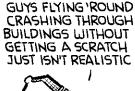


CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley











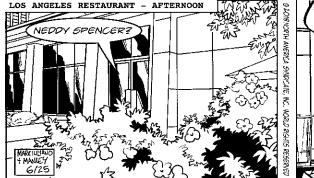
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN By Stan Lee





IUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley





Word Search

WPOACHPEOREBGEE RHCVMBNBASTEYRC EHIOUNHVROASTBR NADE v c D RΕ Ν s OBRC О KCOTSTC Т R G Ν Α URTDRE GANS LFVFPEOSZBO NGARN I S H E M

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

Al dente Baste Blanch Boil Braise Broil Confit

Crouton Daube Dressing Fillet Fondue Garnish Glaze

Gratin Julienne Marinade Poach Prove Reduce Roast

Seasoning Simmer Stock **Tartare** Truss Whip

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CAYMANIAN TIMES

bathroom with tub





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