

# T Caymanian Times

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## WEATHER FORECAST



78°/75°F

A couple of showers

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

● LOCAL NEWS ..... Page 3



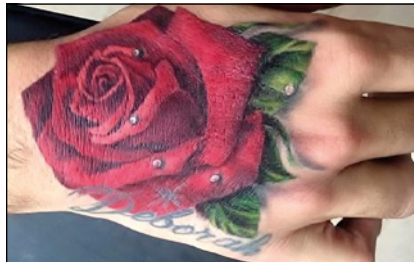
Governor Roper confirmed for 4 years

● LOCAL NEWS ..... Page 4



CBC & WORC: Commencement Orders & New Regulations

● ARTS AND CULTURE ..... Page 6



Unique art exhibition celebrates tattoo artistry

● POLICE NEWS ..... Page 8



Police request public assistance to locate missing Man

# Record-Breaking Arrivals Continue



Full story on page 2 >>

# Second Chance for Deserving Caymanians

The Portfolio of the Civil Service is putting in place a new programme that aims to assist Caymanians with a prior conviction to reintegrate into the workforce and contribute to society.

With Cabinet approving the Second Chances pilot programme, the Portfolio (PoCS) is gearing up to assist with the reintegration of eligible candidates.

"It is important to cut repeat offending by encouraging the rehabilitation of offenders and supporting them into employment on their release from prison," Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin commented.

"Government wants to help eligible Caymanians who have served their time with a second chance to enter mainstream employment and to make a positive contribution to the Cayman Islands community," the Premier added.

The pilot programme contributes toward achieving two broad strate-

... Continued story on page 4

# Ministry of Education strengthens relationship with UWI

Minister for Education, Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly and officials from the Ministry recently met with Mrs. Andrea McNish, Chief Financial Officer of the University of West Indies (UWI), to continue discussions about the funding of the Cayman Islands Open Campus site and how UWI can support the Ministry's vision for tertiary education. The Government also delivered a payment of over CI\$2.3 million to Mrs. McNish, bringing its UWI account current.

The Cayman Open Campus was established in 2006 and is one of 42 site locations in the region serving 17 countries in the English-speaking Caribbean. Minister O'Connor-Connolly is keen to strengthen the relationship to ensure that the Government is seeing increased value for money.

"The Cayman Islands Government's relationship with the Uni-

... Continued story on page 3



► Minister for Education, Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, presents to the Chief Financial Officer of the University of West Indies (UWI), Mrs. Andrea McNish, a cheque that brings the Cayman Islands' contribution to UWI up to date. Ministry of Education Chief Officer Cetonya Cacho (L) and Acting Deputy Chief Officer Philip Scott (R) were part of the Ministry team involved in discussions about the funding model of the Cayman Islands Open Campus site and how UWI can support the Ministry's vision for tertiary education

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# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## 2018: Record-Breaking Arrivals Continue for the Cayman Islands

Following a rebound year for Caribbean travel with increased competition throughout the region, the Cayman Islands has maintained its market share with another year of record-breaking statistical arrivals. At the close of 2018, total visitation surpassed all previous years of recorded visitation including 2006, which previously held the record for the highest number of total visitors in a calendar year.



Total arrivals for 2018 in both air and cruise visitation was 2,384,058, which is an 11.05 percent increase over the same period in 2017 (237,211 additional persons). 463,001 stayover visitors, an increase of 10.66 percent –an additional 44,598 visitors—over 2018, is a year of exciting ‘firsts’ for the destination:

- The Cayman Islands welcomed over 450,000 stayover visitors for the first time.
- Arrivals in 2018 represent the highest number of stayover visits for a calendar year in recorded history (surpassing Jan-Dec 2017).
- As a double accomplishment in ‘firsts’ over 50,000 stayover visitors travelled to the destination within a single month, happening twice in 2018: March and December.

This significant increase in visitation positively impacted the local economy with an uptick in visitor spend, increasing by US\$98.1m over 2017. The estimated total visitor spend in 2018 was US\$880.1m, an increase of 12.5 percent.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Moses Kirkconnell shared, “The mandate of the Ministry and Department of Tourism is to facilitate annual growth in visitation and economic contribution; my Ministry pursues this strategically each year. Through creative promotions, partnerships, and continued collaboration with our industry stakeholders, we have maintained the significant accomplishment of continuous record-breaking years. Our government has committed to investment in our points of entry at the Cruise Port and Airports. These much-needed upgrades will benefit of tourism operators, businesses, visitors and residents. My focus is to ensure that all subjects in my ministry portfolio operate efficiently and effectively to support the tourism sector. These results are an excellent indicator of the work accomplished in 2018.”

In 2018, the USA, Canada, and LATAM had the most impact on arrival numbers. Specifically, the countries with the largest impact on the overall performance in 2018 were:

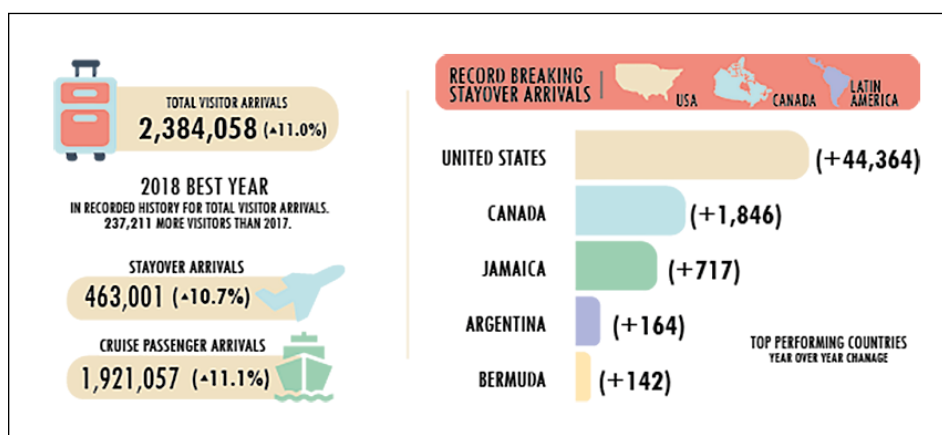
- United States: 13.01%

- Canada: 7.46%
- Jamaica: 7.63%
- Argentina: 17.54%
- Bermuda: 21.10%

The month of December is noted as the best on record, with a 6.15 percent increase of stayover arrivals with the destination receiving over 50,000 fuelled primarily by the North American markets. As with the overall statistical increase, the USA had the largest impact in the month of December having grown by over 2,600 additional visitors. This marks the 21st consecutive month of growth for this market which included an increase in capacity by national flag carrier Cayman Airways from JFK with daily flights in December 2018 compared to December 2017. Canada saw a 3.30 percent growth making it the best December in statistical history for Canadian stayover visitation. Adding to the success of December’s record-breaking numbers, Latin America also increased by 3.32 percent and is now the best month in arrivals history for that region.

“The Department of Tourism goal of source market diversification coupled with the ongoing development of new routes to the destination and innovative marketing plans has continued to drive the record-breaking successes for the Cayman Islands and will continue in 2019,” said Director of Tourism, Mrs Rosa Harris. “Noting that aviation is vital to driving visitation our global team remains committed to increasing capacity and are particularly excited to be officially opening the Denver Colorado route in March with Cayman Airways. As a gateway for the West Coast, we look forward to welcoming many new visitors from Colorado and new cities from the United States in 2019 to add to another year of success for the Cayman Islands. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all tourism partners for participating in our destination marketing campaigns, hosting of our visitors, journalists and travel agents in order to entertain, educate and transport the Cayman Islands brand worldwide.”

For more information and detailed arrival statistics, please visit the website: [www.caymanislands.ky/statistics](http://www.caymanislands.ky/statistics).



## CUC work Watercourse Road

CUC advises motorists using Watercourse Road in West Bay to exercise extreme caution between Tuesday, January 29 and Friday, February 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as CUC’s crews will be planting new poles on Watercourse Road between the junction with Hell Road and the junction with Boatswain Bay Road. Customers’ electricity service will not be affected.



CUC will have a number of vehicles and personnel in the area and will be required to temporarily block one lane

on several sections of Watercourse Road.

CUC thanks motorists and the public for their cooperation. 🌐

## DoE steps up green iguana cull

You see them at the sides of the road with long fishing rods in their hands, or on the top of their pickup trucks, and you think, “those guys must be off to catch some pretty big fish.’ Then you see them fishing in the trees and you realize they are not so much fishermen as soldiers - part of the small army of green iguana cullers that have been hard at work to rid the island of the huge green lizards that have covered Grand Cayman like a biblical plague.



▶ DoE’s Fred Burton and Tim Austin

Since October, when the cullers started, a third of a million green iguanas have been killed by 271 registered cullers (although 78 more than this signed up for the program, but never turned up) Caymanian Individuals or businesses were invited to apply, and were given training in the dos and don’ts of the deal. At 5 dollars a head, they were asked to stick to a quota of at least 400 a month; if they feel below their quota they would continue to be paid, but only at 4.50 a head.

At first it was pretty easy for the dedicated ones to find big numbers, and collectively were bringing around 5000 a day to the special station set up to receive them at George Town landfill. But then they got harder and harder to find, and the numbers dwindled to 2000 a day.

So now the Department of Environment has stepped in to boost the momentum back up again. They are inviting a new batch of cullers to register, and have cut the 400-a-month requirement in half. New registrations are being processed at the Landfill station, which is accepting green iguana carcasses, and will close on Thursday 31st January.

A group of about 60-70 individuals have already expressed interest about becoming involved in the cull following the end of the initial registration drive. The DoE kept those individuals on a “waiting list” and now invites

them to sign up. Anyone else who meets the criteria and is interested in participating may sign up as well.

“We’re serious about this project and want to recruit people who are motivated and who will produce results,” said DoE Terrestrial Resources Unit Manager Fred Burton. “As temperatures have dropped and cullers removed more than 340,000 Green Iguanas from the population, these lizards are becoming harder to find. We’ll need hard work and dedication to see this through.

“We always said this would be an adaptive management kind of situation and we are going to revisit this, revisit this basically every month,” said DOE Terrestrial Resources Unit Manager Fred Burton.

Some licenses have been revoked, due to evidence of inhumane culling, a DoE spokesperson said, explaining that this has only been a small number, and the situations were such that they believed the cullers involved had probably been mistaken when they thought that iguanas were dead, whereas the iguanas concerned were actually still alive. It is a stringent requirement that all the cullers should kill the iguanas humanely to be part of the program.

“I wish to note my appreciation for this ongoing initiative of the DoE and the efforts of the cullers to-date”, said Minister for Environment, Hon. Dwayne Seymour.

There are still more than a million green iguanas out there, and the 2018/19 Green Iguana Cull Project is expected to last through the end of this year. Updated Green Iguana cull statistics can be found on the DoE’s website, [www.doe.ky](http://www.doe.ky).



▶ One of the tiny green dinosaurs that nobody wants

# Ministry of Education Strengthening Relationship with University of West Indies

... Continued story from page 1

University of the West Indies dates back to the 1960s, and since then our country has benefitted from numerous Caymanian students who have received a world-class education from internationally respected professors and lecturers, all embedded in a Caribbean experience," said Minister O'Connor-Connolly. "It is my hope to further solidify those ties but also come to an agreement on terms that more fairly reflect Cayman's current and future participation in the open campus model."

As a Contributing Territory, Caymanian students receive a number of benefits from UWI including:

- a) guaranteed admission spaces provided they meet the admission standards;
- b) a 40 % discount on tuition fees to sponsored students attending any of the three campus sites in Jamaica, Trinidad or Barbados;
- c) access to pursue courses in medicine, which might not otherwise be available due to the competitive entry requirements at other institutions;
- d) access for medical students to get the relevant clinical internships through attachment to University

Hospital West Indies (UHWI) or to Jamaican hospitals affiliated to UHWI; and

- e) access to UHWI for post graduate studies for medical students,

Benefits of the Open Campus include access to degrees and other qualifications at reasonable tuition fees for students without having to go off-island to study (US\$300 per undergraduate course; US\$450 per postgraduate course).

Discussions are expected to continue at the UWI's Technical Advisory Committee meeting that is taking place in February 2019 in Antigua and Barbuda. 🌐

# Governor's Appointment Confirmed

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has confirmed that following a recruitment competition Martyn Roper's position as Governor of the Cayman Islands has been made substantive. Mr Roper will now serve a full four year term as Governor.

Following the confirmation Mr Roper said "Lissie and I are thrilled that my position here has now been confirmed. Over the next four years I plan to continue my work strengthening ties between the Cayman Islands and the United Kingdom and helping to ensure that the territory continues to flourish. The UK/Cayman relationship remains strong and close collaboration across a range of areas is showing real results. Local talent and knowledge combined

with areas of UK expertise is a powerful combination.

The decision by the Cayman Islands and the UK to jointly purchase and operate a new helicopter for search and rescue, disaster relief and law enforcement operations is a great example. Other areas developed recently include joint working to take forward trade opportunities overseas including the planned opening of a new Cayman Islands office in Hong Kong and my joint visit to New York this week with the Premier and Cayman Finance to support the financial services industry. My office is also coordinating new UK involvement in many policy areas including Customs and Border Control, the training of the members of the new Asylum Appeals Tribu-

nal, child safeguarding, work to combat sham marriages and support to the new Coastguard.

There is much that I hope to achieve as Governor. I have listened carefully and learnt a lot about the successes of the Islands and the many concerns people have on a range of issues. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and support during these last few months of uncertainty over my position. I am greatly looking forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead and to finally being able to unpack properly!

I will remain as accessible and open as possible to all and a big part of that is my activity on social media – Twitter, Facebook and my newly launched Instagram page. I encourage everyone to follow me to see the wide range of work that my staff and I do on behalf of the people of the Cayman Islands.

Being appointed Governor creates a unique and special bond with the people of these Islands. I will do my utmost to support our prosperity and security, defending the Cayman Islands' interests and ensuring its views are fully understood and explained to the UK Government." 🌐



► Mr. Martyn Roper, Governor of the Cayman Islands

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# Second Chance for Deserving Caymanians

... Continued story from page 1

gic policy outcomes: “Achieving full employment – jobs for all Caymanians” as well as “Reducing crime and the fear of crime”, by offering meaningful employment.

Deputy Governor Franz Manderson welcomed the programme by saying “As one of the largest employers, the civil service is committed to playing its part alongside the private sector in offering Caymanians a second chance. We hope this programme will help those who have rehabilitated put their skills to good use and enable successful reintegration into society.”

“To maximise the potential for candidates to succeed, the programme will offer meaningful, structured work, and an environment conducive to the candidates continued rehabilitation and reintegration as positively contributing members of society.”

Outlining how the programme will work, PoCS Chief Officer Gloria McField-Nixon said the Portfolio will use the funding received through 31 December 2019 to assist five Caymanians who have served out their sentence to obtain employment within the civil service.

The NWDA is conducting the screening process for eligible candidates who are registered with them to seek employment.

The Portfolio has identified requirements for ideal candidates to be included in the 2019 cohort. They should be persons:

- Who have demonstrated efforts towards their own rehabilitation by actively engaging in rehabilitation programmes and making productive use of their time while incarcerated;
- Who are able to provide character references from persons within the rehabilitation programmes or persons



they have worked with in the community who can attest to their reliability and work ethic;

- Who are identified as being at low-risk of re-offending; and
- Who have skillsets that align with the workforce needs of the civil service, with the goal of allowing them to

demonstrate those abilities and eventually lead to long-term employment prospects within either government or the private sector.

Eligible persons should register with NWDA (or WORC) to be considered for employment opportunities through the Second Chances programme. 🌐

# CBC & WORC: Commencement Orders & New Regulations



**Cayman Islands  
Customs & Border Control**

The legislative changes central to the establishment of Workforce Opportunities Residency Cayman (WORC) and Customs and Border Control (CBC), will become effective next month.

The Immigration (Transition) Law, 2018 and the Customs and Border Control Law 2018, which passed in the Legislative Assembly in November 2018, will be brought into force on 1 February 2019 by Order of Cabinet.

The legislation provides the statutory framework for regulating migration management and border control during the next transition phase.

These new laws complete the transfer of functions, authorities and responsibilities from the Department of Immigration to WORC and CBC, which both become into being on the same date.

New regulations supporting the two primary pieces of legislation will also come into effect on 1 February 2019 to further facilitate the transition.

The Immigration (Transition) (Temporary Work Permits and Business Visitors’ Permits) Regulations, 2019 and the Customs and Border Control (Visas,



Entry and Landing) Regulations, 2019 provide detail to a range of matters contained in both laws.

“Although existing immigration and customs-related regulations are saved under those laws, new regulations are required to reflect the separation of immigration management and border control and to give effect to new requirements,” Chief Officer, Wesley Howell, said.

The new immigration-related regulations contain provisions for Temporary Work Permits (TWP) and Business Visitor Permits (BVP) to be submitted to and processed by WORC during this transition phase. The application process and forms will remain largely the same, until the online systems come online later in 2019.

The Customs and Border Control (Visas, Entry and Landing) Regulations supplement the Customs and Border Control Law, 2018 in matters relating to entry and landing, asylum, visas, de-

portation and other border control matters. The regulations also provide the ability to apply to the Director of CBC for Visitor Work Visas (VWV).

The requirements and entitlements of the VWV facility will remain as they were under immigration legislation, but authority for granting and managing applications is transferred from the Chief Immigration Officer to the Director of the CBC and his officers.

The published Commencement Orders and regulations, Mr Howell says, is the start of the delivery on Government’s commitment to fulfil its policy objective to efficiently enhance and streamline the current Immigration processes, and provide intelligence-driven border control.

CBC Director (Designate), Charles Clifford, said: “Our obligation as a new border control agency is to strengthen the security and stability at the frontlines of all Islands, and to ensure we continue our legacy as a safe and prosperous country for all.”

WORC Interim Director, Sharon Roulstone, added: “WORC is committed to delivering excellence and aspiring to be a World Class service provider. It will be a year of growth for staff members and new opportunities for all customers we serve, and we are excited to get started.”



► Deputy Governor Hon. Franz Manderson

Leaders with the CBC, WORC, as well as the Ministry of Human Resources and Immigration, will extend its public information and education campaign to ensure all stakeholders impacted by the changes are fully aware of the laws and new regulations.

The Passport & Corporate Office will remain a part of the Ministry as a stand-alone department.

During the initial stages of the transition, services for the CBC and WORC will continue to be offered from the current locations.

For more information, please visit [www.immigration.gov.ky](http://www.immigration.gov.ky), [www.customs.gov.ky](http://www.customs.gov.ky), [www.nwda.gov.ky](http://www.nwda.gov.ky) or contact the CBC at (345) 949-4579 and WORC at (345) 949-8344. 🌐

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# The Cayman Islands “Dive-ulges” New Inductees for 2019 International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame

*Industry Pioneers and Lifelong Divers Recognized for their Achievements and Contributions to the Underwater Sport at Annual Ceremony in Grand Cayman*

The International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame (ISDHF) recently announced four new members that will join the prestigious ranks of the 2019 Hall of Fame. As selected by the board of directors, the latest inductees include Johnathan Bird, Lee Selisky, Dr. Adel Mohamed Taher and Hussain ‘Sendi’ Rasheed, joining fellow esteemed dive industry pioneers who are taking the plunge to help cultivate and revolutionize the sport of scuba diving. On October 4, 2019, the new ISDHF members will be officially inducted into the 2019 Hall of Fame during an awards ceremony and dinner held in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.

Each year, the Cayman Islands welcomes new inductees as part of its ongoing support of the ISDHF. Established by the Cayman Islands Ministry of Tourism in 2000, the ISDHF celebrates those who have contributed positively to the success of recreational scuba diving worldwide through innovation and advancements made in the areas of dive tourism, equipment design, dive safety, education, exploration, adventure, innovation and more.

“After another record breaking 2018 for Cayman Islands tourism overall, our dive operators and partners project 2019 to be another exceptional year for the industry, which can be credited, in part, to the scuba diving pioneers and their historic legacies that have helped maintain our destination’s reputation as the leading spot to practice the sport of recreational diving,” said Hon. Minister of Tourism, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell. “For nearly twenty years, the Cayman Islands continues to showcase some of the world’s greatest dive leaders through the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame, highlighting their achievements and innovation for the industry, while allowing visitors to create long-lasting diving memories.”

The complete list of 2019 Inductees, along with a description of their unique contributions earning them the prestigious ISDHF accolade, is included below:

## Jonathan Bird (United States of America)

An Emmy Award-winning underwater cinematographer and producer, Johnathan Bird is best known as the founder of Oceanic Research Group, a non-profit environmental organization focused on educating people on the conservation of the world’s oceans. Working from this non-profit, he created “Jonathan Bird’s Blue World,” an educational family-friendly underwater science/adventure series that first aired on PBS in 2008. Now transitioned to YouTube, the series has become the most widely-watched scuba-themed program in the world with more than 109 million views, and 320,000 subscribers.

Along with his digital series, Bird has created and produced over 30 films for broadcast and education, which appeared on networks across the world including National Geographic Channel, PBS, ABC, USA Network, Discovery and the SciFi Channel. His productions, along with numerous books, have promoted ocean conservation efforts and made ocean research accessible and interesting to people across the world.

## Lee Selisky (United States of America)

As a pioneer in manufacturing dive retail products, Selisky started his career in



▶ Jonathan Bird



▶ Dr. Adel Mohamed Taher



▶ Hussain ‘Sendi’ Rasheed



▶ Lee Selisky

his garage building six-pound lead weight molds, which successfully evolved into Sea Pearls, the first company to introduce die-cast and vinyl coated weights into the industry. As a result of his successful business, Selisky gave back to the diving community by serving on many nonprofit boards, including being President of Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA), Founding Director of the ISDHF, multi-term Chairman of the Historical Diving Society (HDS), Director of the Original Ocean Futures Society, Director of the Hans Hass Award and Chairman of Divers Alert Network (DAN).

Using his personal philanthropy to “lead by example,” Selisky donated considerable amounts of money to these organizations as well as regional dive show fundraisers, marine environmental programs, and marine medical programs. In 2017, he also established the Lee Selisky Future Leaders in the Diving Industry Mentorship Program, for which Selisky legacy of service continues to inspire and support the recreational diving industry around the world.

## Dr. Adel Mohamed Taher (Egypt)

Considered to be one of the top world experts in hyperbaric medicine, Dr. Adel Mohamed Taher is best known for establishing the most sophisticated diving medical facility in the Red Sea, which continues to provide a foundation of safety for the expanding dive tourism industry in the region and beyond. As a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor since 1982, Dr. Taher has played a vital role in promoting diver safety in the Red Sea region by managing diving emergencies, participating in medical research projects and conferences, and acting as an advisor for governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Helping to catapult dive tourism in Egypt, Dr. Taher and his team worked with fellow dive professionals and local authorities to set and enforce diving safety regulations such as having oxygen onboard diving boats and worked closely with Divers Alert Network (DAN) to unify systems and protocols and establish the organization’s Egypt branch. In addition to Dr. Taher opening the first recompression chamber at the Hyperbaric Medical Center in Sharm el-Sheikh, which to this day has never refused a patient, he also served as the chief executive officer of Sharm Medical Group at Sinai Clinic Hospital.

## Hussain ‘Sendi’ Rasheed (Republic of Maldives)

Known as “the Godfather of the Maldivian diving industry,” Hussain “Sendi”

Rasheed was the first PADI Instructor Trainer in the Republic of Maldives and has since become a key figure in the region’s developing regulations surrounding marine health and diving tourism. Along with his extensive lobbying of all marine protected species and dive sites in the Maldives, Sendi received international media attention for organizing an underwater Cabinet Meeting, chaired by the President of the Republic of Maldives, to bring attention to the threat of global warming.

Sendi’s 37-year career shows his deep love of the ocean that he actively works to protect, as well as the impact of his educational efforts that has produced a continuing stream of savvy Maldivian Ocean Ambassadors. In recognition of his ongoing dedication and many efforts on behalf of diving and the marine environment, Sendi has also received both the Maldivian Tourism Award and the Presidential Award.

To learn more about the 2019 ISDHF inductees, please visit the following link: <http://inductees.isdhf.com>

## About the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame

The International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame was founded in 2000 by the Ministry of Tourism of the Cayman Islands. Since the Cayman Islands is a leading pioneer in dive travel and is a premiere world destination for divers, it seemed only natural that the Cayman Islands should be home to a hall of fame honouring those people who have contributed the most to the sport of Scuba diving.

The mission of the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame is to honour those people who have helped to make the sport of Scuba diving possible, safer, more popular and more enjoyable. The annual induction ceremony takes place in the Cayman Islands every year during the annual induction ceremony.

## About the Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands features some of the world’s best diving excursions, with each of the three islands offering different diving adventures for all skill levels. Having received countless awards for Best Overall Dive Destination in the Caribbean and Atlantic, the Cayman Islands is also home to the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame, recognising dive industry pioneers since its inception in 2000. The destination is also renowned for its calm clear waters, which offer superb visibility for snorkelling and other underwater experiences.

Located 480 miles south of Miami in the vibrant tranquillity of western Caribbean, this trio of tiny islands is a premier destination for discriminating travellers, divers, honeymooners and families. World renowned for its idyllic beaches and recognised as a sophisticated, diverse and memorable tourist destination, the Cayman Islands offers spectacular recreational opportunities along with warm, impeccable service. To learn more about the Cayman Islands, please go to [visitcaymanislands.com](http://visitcaymanislands.com) or [www.dive-cayman.ky](http://www.dive-cayman.ky) or call your local travel agent.

*This material is distributed by Coyne PR on behalf of the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*



ART AND CULTURE

# Unique art exhibition celebrates tattoo artistry

By Lindsey Turnbull

Cayman’s art lovers have enjoyed their fair share of art exhibitions over the years, but there has never been an exhibition that is dedicated to one particular expression of art, the tattoo. All this is about to change when Avril Ward opens up her Awardart Gallery to a brand-new exhibition on 13th February called ‘No Body Involved’ which will feature designs by two of Cayman’s greatest tattoo artists – Caz Mayer and Yaya Franceschi from Blue Dragon Tattoos 345.

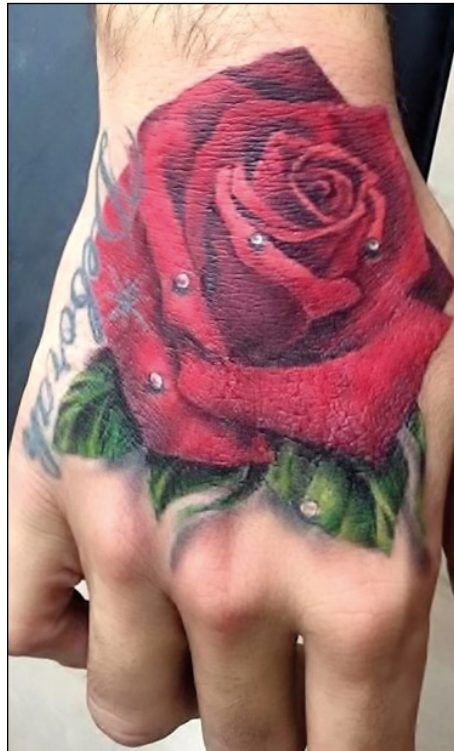
Tattoos have undergone a renaissance in recent years. Once the decoration of sailors taking place in seedy back street parlours, tattoos have come into the mainstream of the art world now with a cross section of society owning tattoos that can range from simple, small and discreet designs to elaborate pieces of artwork that cover large parts of the body.

Caz is originally from the UK and has lived in Cayman for 23 years and has been a tattoo artist for 19 years. Yaya is from Italy and has lived in Cayman for almost two years, having been a tattoo artist for seven years.

Caz said that Cayman has quite a different approach to the concept of tattoos now versus just a couple of decades ago when they were first introduced, when the concept of owning a tattoo was still considered socially rebellious.

“When the first tattoo artists wanted to set up shop in Cayman there were moves to permit only registered nurses to perform them,” she said.

But bringing in legislation to allow tattoo artists to establish in Cayman meant that the industry was properly regulated and overseen and that residents didn’t need to seek a tattoo artist



overseas when Cayman had its own professional body of artists at home.

While they may have caused something of a stir locally when their profession was first introduced to the island, artists like Caz and Yaya now have steady work from mainly local clientele.

“I think people have realised that just because you are abroad looking for a tattoo artist, good ones are actually hard to come by and so our clients often come back to have more tattoos done because they are so pleased with our work,” Caz explained.

Caz said that it is always interesting to work on a new tattoo for a client because people have such varied tastes, and she has seen all sorts of fads such as tribal tattoos and Japanese symbols be requested. She confirmed that while her clientele is generally of the 20 to 30 age group, they do not conform to a stereotype.

“I have clients who are doctors, lawyers and policemen,” she confirmed.

### Pushing boundaries

Avril said she was really excited to push the boundaries of art and showcase the artistic talent of Caz and Yaya because she felt their artistry needed to be appreciated.

“I would love people to view the exhibition and gain a real appreciation of just how talented our tat-

too artists are,” she said. “Tattoo artists are artists; they just use the medium of the body to express their art.”

Avril said she was also fascinated by the individual styles of each artist, with Caz favouring intricate depictions of birds, animals and faces and Yaya’s style more whimsical.

The exhibition will be made up of about 40 designs on paper as well as some displays of silicone ‘skin’ to give a more authentic representation of a tattoo. There will also be designs on clay to give a different perspective to the art. Individuals with impressive tattoos will also be joining visitors on the opening night so viewers can see first hand the artistry of Caz and Yaya.

The opening night takes place on 13th February from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Avril’s Awardart Gallery at Shop 13b Caymanian Village (next to Absolutely Fabulous) in George Town. Artwork will be available for sale. The exhibition runs until 13th March 2019. 🌐





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# Gas Price



Location	Gas Station	Regular	Premium	Diesel
East End	Eastern Star Rubis	4.34		4.5
NorthSide	Jack's Esso	4.71	4.98	4.61
Bodden Town	Lorna's Rubis	4.34	4.7	4.47
Bodden Town	Mostyns Esso	4.15	4.52	4.31
Savannah	Savannah Rubis	4.39	4.7	4.54
Red Bay	Barcam	4.4	4.77	4.46
Red Bay	On The Run (Red Bay)	4.4	4.77	4.46
George Town	Peanuts	4.39	4.69	4.34
George Town	Jose's Escape	4.38	4.67	4.59
George Town	Refuel	3.99	4.38	4.24
George Town	Esso Tigermart 4 Way Stop (JS)	4.15	4.52	4.48
George Town	Eastern Avenue Rubis	4.39	4.74	4.47
George Town	Walkers Rd. Rubis	4.39	4.74	4.42
George Town	On The Run (Walkers Rd.)	4.1	4.48	4.46
George Town	On The Run (Industrial Park)	4.4	4.77	4.5
George Town	On The Run (Mike's 7 Mile)	4.1	4.52	4.48
West Bay Rd.	H & B Esso	4.15	4.52	4.48
West Bay Rd.	7 Mile Rubis	4.39	4.74	4.2
West Bay	Hell Esso	4.39	4.76	4.39
West Bay	Esso 4 Way Stop	4.61	4.78	4.31
George Town	Scotts Landing		4.75	4.45
Cayman Brac	West End		5.14	4.67
Cayman Brac	Tib Mart		5.14	
Little Cayman	Village Square		6.03	5.82

<b>Lowest Prices</b>	Grand Cayman	<b>3.99</b>	<b>4.38</b>	<b>4.24</b>
<b>Highest Prices</b>	Grand Cayman	<b>4.71</b>	<b>4.98</b>	<b>4.61</b>

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**Frequent and fast acceleration** – Avoid heavy acceleration and drive low the speed limit. Frequent and swift acceleration burns fuel at a faster rate.

**POLICE NEWS**

# Police Request Public Assistance to Locate Man Reported Missing

On Tuesday, 22 January, police received a report of a man who has been missing since late December, and are requesting public assistance in locating him.

Eral Keith Whitely, age 72 of George Town, was last seen sometime on or near Christmas Day, 25 December, 2018, in the vicinity of Brushy Avenue in George Town, which is located in the area off Godfrey Nixon Way. He has not been seen since.

He is described as being of slim build, dark complexion, about 5' 10" in height and is bald. He typically wears baseball caps and glasses, with a white t-shirt, blue jeans and sneakers. A picture of him is attached. There are indications that he may have been sleeping in abandoned vehicles in the area.

The Police are concerned for Mr. Whitely's welfare and are conducting urgent enquiries in an effort to locate him.

As of Thursday morning, 24 January, Mr. Whitely's whereabouts are still unknown. Police enquiries now indicate that Mr. Whitely was last seen **about two weeks ago** in the vicinity of Dump Road in George Town.

Anyone with information on Mr. Whitely's whereabouts, or who believes they may have seen him, is asked to contact the **George Town Police Station at 949-4222**.

Anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS via our **Confidential**



► Eral Keith Whitely

**Tip Line at 949-7777**, or via our website <http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>. Tips can also be submitted anonymously via the Miami-based call centre of **Crime Stoppers at 800-8477(TIPS)**, or online <https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=681>.

# Police Investigate Construction Site Thefts in West Bay

On Tuesday, 22 January, police received two reports of thefts at two construction sites on Yacht Drive in West Bay. That morning break-ins into containers were discovered at the construction sites, from which some valuable construction tools had been taken. Police responded to the reports and processed the scenes, and the incidents are under investigation.

Police are urging owners of construction equipment to maintain a log of the serial numbers for all of their tools and equipment, with photographs. Main-

taining such information can greatly assist police with their investigation and help identify rightful owners of stolen property.

Anyone who may have seen suspicious activity along Yacht Drive on Monday evening, 21 January, or early Tuesday morning, 22 January, is asked to please contact the **West Bay Police Station at 949-3999**. Anonymous tips or can be submitted directly to police <http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip> or through **Crime Stoppers at 800-8477** or online <http://www.crimestoppers.ky/home/>.

# Two Injured in Construction Site Accident

Shortly after 1:15PM on Thursday, the 9-1-1 Communications Centre received a report of an accident that had taken place at a construction site on South Sound Road, where

two men received injuries. Emergency Services attended the location and the men were transported to the Cayman Islands Hospital for treatment.

# Acting Inspector Kevin Bogle Begins Tenure as New Police Commander for the Sister Islands

Last week Acting Police Inspector Kevin Bogle began his new duties as Area Commander for the Sister Islands. He succeeds Inspector Andre Tahal in this role, who has returned to policing duties on Grand Cayman.

A/Insp. Bogle comes from the Community Policing Department where he was the Sergeant in charge of George Town, the most populous Community Policing sector. In this role he demonstrated his ability to manage competing priorities while building strong relationships with the public that are crucial to the safety of the community as a whole. Altogether A/Insp. Bogle has twenty-two years of policing experience, and has been with the RCIPS since 2006.

The Senior Command Team felt that A/Insp. Bogle's range of experience and proven abilities suited him to the important post of Sister Islands' Area Commander, to which he has been appointed for a minimum of two years. A/Insp. Bogle is taking the first few weeks of his tenure to conduct a thorough assessment of policing coverage and performance, and will be examining the current shift schedule in order to ensure better police availability.

Preliminarily, A/Inspector Bogle has identified that an increased police presence on both islands is his first objective, with a special focus on schools. Additional priorities include addressing anti-social behaviour, including the use and sale of drugs, and speeding as well as other traffic violations in school zones and residential areas.

Among colleagues, A/Inspector Bogle is known for his 'no nonsense'



► Acting Inspector Kevin Bogle

approach to policing. "I am firm in the enforcement of the law, but at the same time, I strive to be sensitive to the traditions and customs of a small community," said A/Insp. Bogle. "Communication is the key to a successful relationship with the public, and I am eager to build partnerships with all groups on the Sister Islands. The safety of the public and the fight against crime is everybody's business, therefore it is my goal to get to know everyone on the islands as much as possible."

A/Insp. Bogle is reaching out to residents and business owners to meet them on an individual basis and understand their concerns and priorities. Anyone who would like to contact or meet A/Insp. Bogle is invited to call the Cayman Brac Police Station at 948-0331.

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# Barbados is Latest Caribbean Country to Announce Plastics Ban

From April 1, the importation, retail, sale and use of petro-based single-use plastic will no longer be allowed in Barbados.

Products such as single-use plastic cups; cutlery, including plastic knives, forks and spoons; stirrers; straws; plates; egg trays (both plastic and Styrofoam), and Styrofoam containers used in the culinary retail industry will be banned from that date.

In a joint press conference issued yesterday, Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy Kirk Humphrey, and Minister of the Environment and National Beautification Trevor Prescod, announced the ban, and its parameters.

Humphrey further explained that with effect from January 1, 2020, there will be a ban on all petro-based plastic bags, with the exemption of those used for the packaging of pharmaceuticals/medicines, hygiene and the preservation of food.

In addition, a moratorium has been extended on the use of tetra pack straws, while poultry producers have been given more time to find alternatives to the Styrofoam trays used to package chickens.

"Barbados has to be a value-driven country. We have large expectations for ourselves. We have said that we want to be fossil fuel free by 2030; we want to have a renewable platform; we want to be a country that when we speak to the world we speak as an environmentally friendly country and destination.

"[Therefore] these are the things that we must do if our words and our actions are to be aligned. And so, we have made ourselves clear as to where we stand on single-use plastic," Humphrey said.

The Minister said the decision came after months of consultation with stakeholders, including plastic bag manufacturers, persons in the poultry industry, the Barbados Manufacturers' Association, the Bar-



bados Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Customs Department, and importers.

He explained that the ban on petro-based plastic bags was extended until January 1, 2020, to allow manufacturers to come up with alternative ways of making plastic bags from a bio-based material that was environmentally healthy and friendly.

"We do not wish to come to an established industry that employs Barbadians and deprive them of opportunity, but we also know that the cost of continuing to use these things in Barbados will outweigh any potential benefits," he said.

Meanwhile, Minister Prescod stated that plastic bottles used in the production of juices will not be subjected to the ban. He added that the required legislation needed to be in place to allow consumers to take the bottles back to the suppliers to be part of a recycling process.

There are a number of alternatives to the petro-based single-use plastics available, some of which are made from paper, sugarcane and bagasse. 🌱



► The 20-foot boat which the US Coast Guard interdicted carrying six people, including four men from the Caribbean who were trying to illegally enter the United States. (Credit: Coast Guard)

## Caribbean Nationals Caught Trying to Illegally Enter US By Sea

Four Caribbean nationals were caught by the US Coast Guard trying to enter the United States illegally last weekend.

The US Coast Guard did not give the names of the men in a statement issued yesterday, but said two Jamaicans, one Dominican, and a Bahamian, were held on a boat with two American citizens, near Sunny Isles, Florida last Saturday.

None of the Caribbean nationals had US visas.

The US Coast Guard said one of them had previous convictions for kidnapping, aggravated assault, and narcotics trafficking. Another was previously convicted for the sale of narcotics.

"This illegal activity in the Florida straits, that threatens our maritime border security, remains a top priority for our service," said Rear Admiral Peter J. Brown, commander of the Coast Guard's 7th District.

All the men in the weekend interdiction were transferred to Homeland Security Investigations and US Customs and Border Protection for further investigation and possible prosecution. 🌐

# Trinidadian Boys Reunited with Mother After Being Kidnapped By Father Who Joined ISIS in Syria

Two Trinidadian minors were reunited with their mother in Syria, more than four years after their father took them to the Middle Eastern country when he joined ISIS.

And according to international media reports, which state that the boys were assisted in their plight by Pink Floyd singer Roger Waters, they are expected to return to the land of their birth after undergoing a rehabilitation programme in the United Kingdom.

Ayyub Ferreira, 8, and his brother, Mahmud Ferreira, 13, were on Monday released by Kurdish administration of northern Syria into the care of their mother, Felicia Perkins-Ferreira, who had flown from the twin-island republic to join her sons. They had been kidnapped from Trinidad by their father in June 2014 – the same year ISIS declared a "caliphate" that attracted thousands of foreign Islamists and their families – and spent several years in ISIS territory before their father sent them towards Turkey with their Belgian stepmother.

They were found by the Kurdish-Arab Syrian Democratic Forces and held at the Roj refugee camp in Syria with the families of dead or imprisoned militants. The boys' father is believed to have died in the fighting and their stepmother is being held in a different Kurdish camp.

Lawyer and rights activist Clive Stafford Smith told the AFP news agency

that he had tracked down Perkins-Ferreira and then contacted Waters, founder of famous rock and roll band Pink Floyd, who lent his private jet to fly the boys and their mother out of Syria. They were flown to Switzerland on Monday and then yesterday they travelled to London where the boys will receive counselling to help them recover from their ordeal before returning to Trinidad.

"We're going to make sure that they get on with a really productive, decent life," Stafford Smith said. "One of them said he wanted to be a professional cricketer and the other one said he wanted to be a professional footballer."

The UK Guardian quoted the mother as saying she was "really, really grateful and I wish I could meet [all the people who helped] all in one and embrace them".

Perkins-Ferreira had told the newspaper that said she had been left traumatized by her separation from her sons: "I often wouldn't eat for days, thinking: 'If they're not eating, why should I?'"

In a statement issued after the international media reports of the family being reunited, the Ministry of National Security in Trinidad and Tobago said that when the case came to the attention of the Nightingale Team — a special unit set up to deal with possible repatriation and reintegration of citizens who have been held in refugee and



► Felicia Perkins-Ferreira with her sons Mahmud Ferreira and Ayyub Ferreira. (Credit: Still from RUDAW video)

detention camps in Syria and Iraq — a "complex and detailed investigation and verification exercise to ascertain the facts" was carried out. However, it said when the mother was contacted and informed that it was possible her sons were being held at a refugee camp in Syria, "her response was not an enthusiastic one and there was no record of her reporting that the children had been abducted by their father and taken to Syria (or even out of Trinidad and Tobago)".

It noted that "upon the return of any minors or adult nationals from ISIS battlefronts, the Nightingale Team and its various elements have different roles to play, including, assessing the best environment for minors who may have experienced the trauma, and ill effects, of being in, or around, war zones and battlefronts.

"It is expected that any such returnees will be assessed by the appropriate authorities upon their return," the statement added. 🌐

**CROSSWORD**

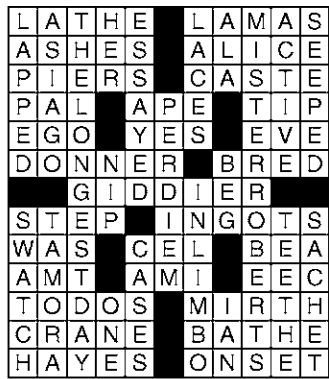
By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS** 40 Wallops

- 1 Confined
- 7 Hangs down
- 11 Incite
- 12 Exam for high school jrs.
- 13 One with pressing business?
- 14 Trick
- 15 Solitary sort
- 16 Social class
- 17 Iditarod need
- 18 Reciprocal
- 19 Composer Stravinsky
- 21 Some amount of
- 22 Vaccine pioneer
- 25 Piper of myth
- 26 Come together
- 27 Sights
- 29 Congress output
- 33 Glades critter
- 34 Malia's sister
- 35 Serengeti sight
- 36 D'Artagnan, for one
- 37 Bus. sch. course
- 38 Ancient
- 39 "See ya!"

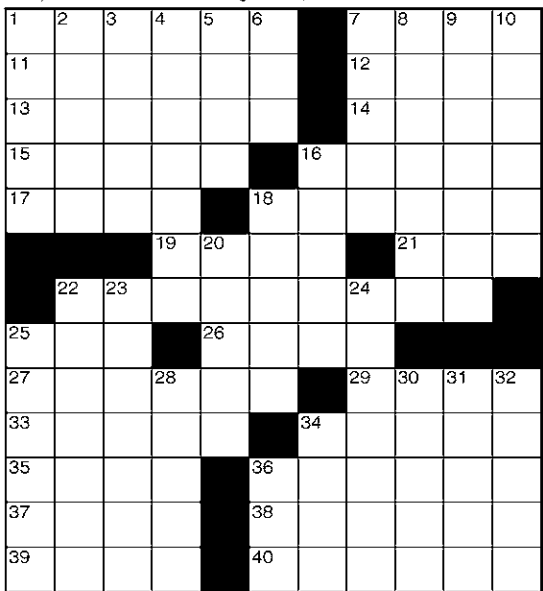
**DOWN**

- 1 Beach toys
- 2 Flynn of film
- 3 Nary a soul
- 4 Hip
- 5 Manipulative sort
- 6 For each herring
- 7 Small
- 8 Not surprisingly
- 9 Fill-up target
- 10 Unwavering
- 16 Use foul language
- 18 Exodus figure
- 20 Joystick wielder
- 22 Reggae's birth-place
- 23 Bar-hopping
- 24 Map collections
- 25 Friend of Pooh
- 28 "— Fly Now" ("Rocky" song)
- 30 Fancy tie
- 31 Entire
- 32 Beach bits
- 34 Long account
- 36 Break



Yesterday's answer

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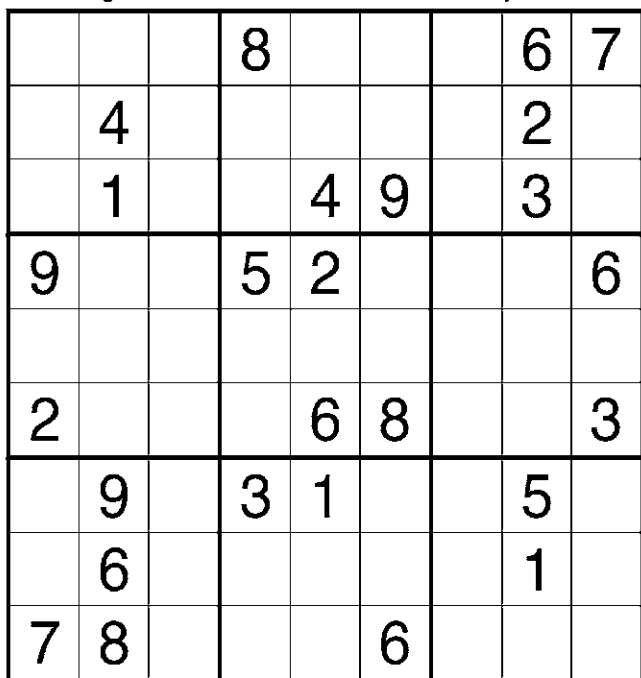
6-23

**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**

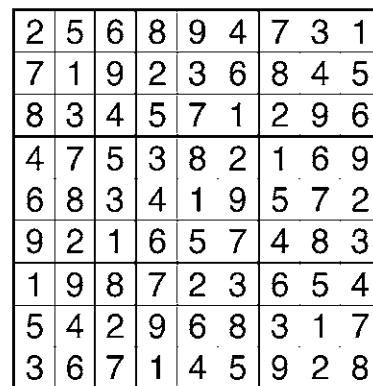
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

5/31

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★★★

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Word Search

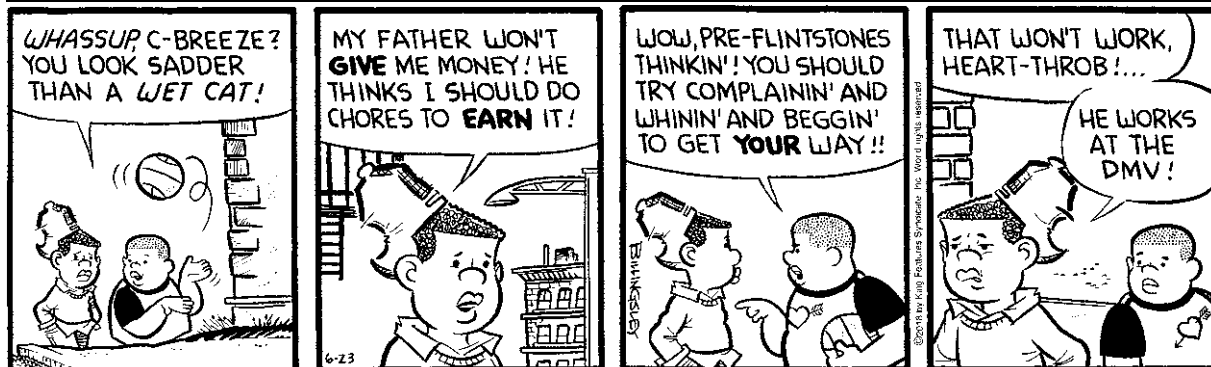


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.

- Adulate
- Articulate
- Chelate
- Chocolate
- Collate
- Conflate
- Consulate
- Deflate
- Desolate
- Emulate
- Hotplate
- Inflate
- Insulate
- Isolate
- Legislate
- Modulate
- Oxalate
- Percolate
- Prelate
- Reflate
- Regulate
- Template
- Ululate
- Violate

**CURTIS**

By Ray Billingsley



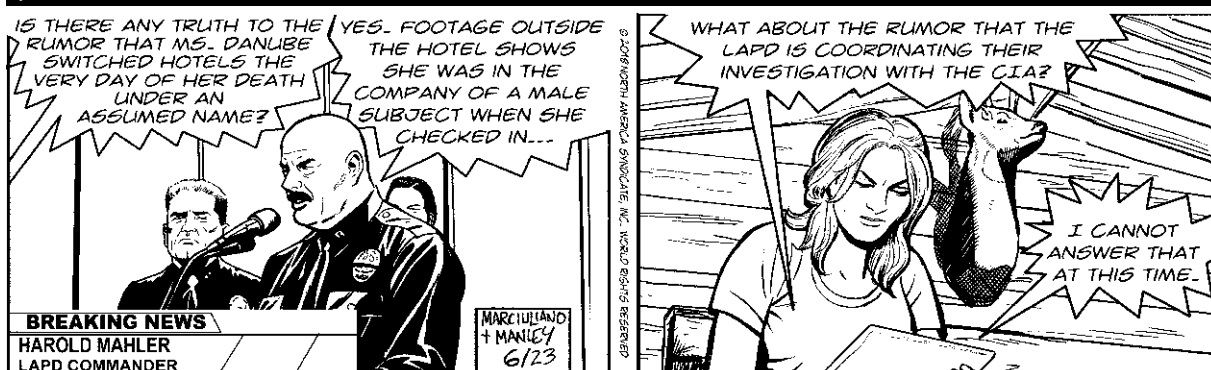
**THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN**

By Stan Lee



**JUDGE PARKER**

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