

Times Caymanian

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Issue No 327

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

● TOURISM Page 2



Caribbean tourism leaders look to future

● LOCAL NEWS Page 3



Governor travels to New York

● GLOBAL NEWS BRIEFS Page 10



Havana sees bright future

● INTERNATIONAL SPORTS Page 11



Manny Pacquiao is still potent at 40

Foodie Packed Weekend



Full story on page 4 >>

► The event's host Eric Ripert serves some of his delicious cuisine at the Barefoot BBQ

Airport redevelopment: over budget

A report issued by the Office of the Auditor General, first published in August 2018 but not made public then, has now been released and it is critical of both the rising cost and length of time taken to redevelop Grand Cayman's Owen Roberts International Airport.

... Continued story on page 2



► Owen Roberts International Airport on Grand Cayman

Local Batabano Carnival band showcases costumes

It's going to be an amazing year for street carnival in the Cayman Islands – and everything that goes with it. Just a couple of weeks ago CayMas, Cayman's newest carnival, launched its Lost Cities themed collection of costumes. Now it is the turn of Cayman's long-established and much-loved Batabano carnival – with all 10 of the Mas Bands showing off their amazing costumes at different launch events around the island.

On Friday 18 Jan "Illusions" Mas Band had a big launch event at the Pavilion on West Bay Road, and the following night, on Saturday at Pedro St. James, "Local Carnival" launched their costumes too. Local Carnival base their designs on the colors of the Cayman seascape – the rich, royal blues, and azure hues of the sea, the sandy color of the Cayman's beaches, and the bright flames of pink, scarlet, orange and gold of Cayman's famous sunsets.

It's a new band, and is making its debut launch this year. Chris Martin, one of the owners said: We are basically a new band, trying to establish ourselves here in the Cayman Islands Batabano. What we are doing tonight is we are showing off all the sections from our costumes we've got. We've got four sections: three regular sections and one "Limited Edition" section. All four of them are going to be 100% different, and in each section there is a costume for men and a costume for women. Our theme is based on the Cayman Islands sunset, and is called Sunset Boulevard.

"They are locally made and we've got that nice comfortable stretchy material that girls really love to wear, so that when you are going down the road you will feel



► "Euphoria"

... Continued story on page 3



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Caribbean tourism leaders look to future for the region

Following the hurricanes of 2017 that devastated some of Cayman's neighbours, the region's leaders in the field of tourism were optimistic about the future, though words of caution were spoken to ensure that the region actually has a tourism product to offer visitors in the years to come.

Reflecting on how certain parts of the Caribbean sprang back to life in 2018, Patricia Affonso-Dass, President, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association said that the past year reminded everyone of how resilient Caribbean people and the industry as a whole were, as a number of the region's destinations and hotels bounced back from unparalleled destruction in 2017, "rebuilding smarter, better and sometimes bigger," she confirmed.

"We got a peek into the future as over 5,000 new hotels rooms came online regionally in 2018 with over 25,000 more in the construction and planning stages," Ms Affonso-Dass stated. "Existing hotels continue to invest in refurbishments and introducing new services and amenities. We witnessed an unprecedented surge in new airlift into the region, presenting more opportunities to entice travelers to our shores. Investor

and government confidence in Caribbean tourism's future was further buoyed as hundreds of millions of dollars were spent on upgraded and expanded airport facilities."

Recently sworn in as the territory's new governor, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the US Virgin Islands, was also positive and upbeat about the territory's resurgence in recent months, saying that the years in which he would serve would be used well.

"I am hopeful that as we lead the charge in setting course for a brighter Virgin Islands these next four years, we do so united as one people, one government and one territory," he confirmed.

Following its own troubles from flooding last year, Trinidad's recovery was also being positively viewed, with Patrice Roberts, a Trinidad and Tobago soca artist quoted in Loop News as stating:

"Trinidad has so many beautiful things, beaches and even the unity displayed during the flooding last year showed our beauty as a people. We take the negative situations and turn them into positive ones. We are happy people."

Cayman's own Health City was the focus of this island's progress when it came to destination healthcare, when its founder and chairman, Dr Devi Shetty recently spoke about new developments.

"We built Health City with the idea of transforming health care in the Western Hemisphere. The core of our vision is to make high-level health care more accessible and affordable for more people, who may previously have not had this access. The expansion of our Intensive Care Unit at Health City is another step in the ongoing development of our services to benefit the people of the Cayman Islands, the surrounding region, and international patients from further afield," he said.

But with all the comments on development and progress came an important message from environmentalists.

Karolin Troubetzkoy, Envoy with Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI), said that creating a more resilient marine environment was a critical component to reduce the region's vulnerabilities to climate change.

"These regional challenges are best tackled through inter-stakeholder collaboration. I look forward to building awareness of the CCI, its goals and the



► Patricia Affonso-Dass, President, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association

opportunities presented by this initiative. Investing my time and efforts in this volunteer leadership role is built on my desire to give back to a region which I have called home for many decades," she confirmed. 🌐

Airport redevelopment: over budget and taking too long

... Continued story from page 1

Last year the AG's progress update report on the redevelopment was thought to be too commercially sensitive to be released to the general

public when it was issued to the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Assembly. But she has now decided to release the report because of its overall importance to Cayman's economy.

"The ORIA Redevelopment project is of significant importance for the Cayman Islands economy as we see both the population and the numbers of tourists grow year on year" Auditor General Sue Winspear said. "However, as with any major capital project, it is essential that it is well managed to ensure value for money."



► Grand Cayman airport revamped with large-format tile

The two most significant findings in the report highlight that, as at August 2018, the project was estimated to cost around \$64.37 million, almost 20 per cent more than contract prices. In addition, it would not be complete until February 2019, after an initial completion date of March 2018, which was then pushed back to December 2018.

The Auditor General further detailed that at the time of her report in August 2018, the project was estimated to cost over \$64 million, around \$10.5 million or 20 per cent more than contract prices.

"Almost \$5 million of these cost increases are as a result of additions in scope made to the project after contracts were signed, including hurricane rated glass and canopies. Making chang-

es to the scope of a project after a contract has been signed is not good practice," she stated.

Ms Winspear said she prepared the report in August 2018 and issued it only to key stakeholders and the Public Accounts Committee at that time because it was a "live" project and contained information that she considered to be commercially sensitive.

"I felt that by publishing it at that time, risked increasing the costs of the project to the public purse. The project is still not complete and risks from publishing the report remain but I judge that these are sufficiently diminished that the public interest is best served by publishing this now with a small number of redactions remaining in place at this point," she said. 🌐

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Caymanian Times

Issue # 327

Publisher: Ralph Lewis
 Company: Lewis Cayman Islands Ltd
 #19 Walkers Road (next to Tomlinson Furniture)
 Telephone: 345 916 2000
 Email: sales@caymaniantimes.ky,
 or info@caymaniantimes.ky
 Website: www.caymaniantimes.ky

HE The Governor Mr Martyn Roper travels to New York in support of Cayman's Financial Services Industry

HE The Governor Mr Martyn Roper will travel to New York today to attend a series of events with US Financial Services associations including Cayman Finance's breakfast briefing which is taking place in the city. The Governor will join the Premier, Minister Rivers, the Attorney General and the Managing Director of the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority, to show his and the UK's support for the Cayman Islands Financial Services Industry.

The industry plays a vital role in the Cayman Islands economy, contributing around 50-60% of GDP. This is the sixth year that Cayman Finance have hosted the event and they are expecting a high turnout of delegates made up of various industry stakeholders. The breakfast briefing will provide the audience with an overview of the industry including a review of 2018 and a look forward to 2019.

Following the breakfast briefing the Governor will attend a roundtable event on reinsurance, also hosted by Cayman Finance, on Tuesday (22 January). The delegation for this event will be made up of a small number of representatives from Cayman Finance member firms and reinsurers from the US market as well as other reinsurance stakeholders.

The Governor commented:

"I was very pleased to be invited to attend Cayman Finance's meetings in New York. In my short time in Cayman I have already heard so much about the efficiency and professionalism of the Financial Services industry and its global impact. I welcome Cayman Finance's proactive approach to collaborating with government in order to achieve lasting success for the industry. The UK continues to work closely with the Cayman Islands Government to ensure that the industries' interests are protected. I



► HE The Governor Mr Martyn Roper

hope by attending the New York meetings I can help to demonstrate my per-

sonal support for the industry and also that of the United Kingdom." 🌐

Local Batabano Carnival mas band showcases costumes

... Continued story from page 1

comfortable in it. That's the aim for our masqueraders - to feel comfortable - its classy and its sexy.

"We've also got a Limited Edition section that is going to be based on the Cayman Islands' beaches. So that section is called the Sand Angels - they are each going to be different from one another and are made from locally-collected sea shells. Limited Edition means just five costumes for the Sand Angels section," he said. As far as accessories go, we've got a big feathered head-piece on the girls' costumes, and for the guys. We've got some nice belts for the guys as well. We are all about "Local" and that is our focus, being that we are a local group."

Jenae Whittaker who designed the costumes, said: "The creative process started nearly two years ago, in Barbados, and I saw a picture of Rihanna in her (festival) costume and that inspired me to create my own costume. Growing up in Cayman we always had Batabano and my mom, she always took us out (to see it) and it was something I always admired, with all the costumes and the colours, and the feathers and the music. I've participated in Batabano twice, myself, and from that, I've just designed my own costume, and from that experience I was motivated to bring it to life, and put it out there on display.

Our first section is called "Paradise," which is the blue-turquoise waters of Seven Mile Beach, then Horizon, which



► Costume designer Jenae Whittaker

is all about the deep blue waters, and we have got some orange in it, to represent the horizon line with the sun. Then we have "Euphoria," which represents the skyline, and then we have a limited edition section called Sand Angels which is based on our pure white sands on Seven Mile Beach. 🌐



► "Local Carnival" Mas band showcases their costumes for Batabano



► "Paradise"



► "Euphoria"



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Foodie-packed weekend at Cayman Cookout

By Lindsey Turnbull

The Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman opened its doors this weekend to food-lovers from all over for their 11th annual Cayman Cookout, bringing some of America's top chefs to cook alongside Cayman's talented chefs. The result was a fast-paced offering of cooking demonstrations, wine tastings, formal dinners and casual BBQs – a proper culinary feast for anyone who loves food.

Highlights of the four-day event included an amazing lunch hosted by one of America's first 'TV' chefs, Emeril Lagasse, an award-winning chef and much-loved TV personality. He brought his signature New Orleans style of cookery to a brilliant lunch at the Resort's Andiamo restaurant.

There was a spectacular entrance via submarine along Seven Mile Beach by Chef José Andrés for his ever-popular 'Olé José' Friday morning event. Chef José always entertains the crowd with humorous stories and comments while making his famous paella dish to serve the hungry crowd. Chef José has been on a mission to feed hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged people since he started the World Central Kitchen organisation, after the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, most notably establishing a network of feeding centres in Puerto Rico following that country's devastating hurricanes of 2017.

Following on the back of this, TV presenter, chef and writer Andrew Zimmern, best known for the Travel Channel's Bizarre Foods, had the job of stepping into the big shoes of the late Anthony Bourdain, as he toured around the international and local flavours produced by Cayman's chefs. This was traditionally Bourdain's main event. His presence was undoubtedly sorely missed at the event, so immense was his personality, but Zimmern did a fantastic job of highlighting all the amazing culinary flavours of the world that we are fortunate enough to enjoy in Cayman. These included some delicious Indian-infused lamb taca taca at Blue Cilantro, some



► Chef Jose wows the crowd

gorgeous rabbit rundown produced by Kirk Market and lionfish at Kaibo.

A barefoot barbecue that evening was hosted at Royal Palms, a unique chance for event-goers to be served some fantastic barbecue delights by some of the world's top chefs, such as the host of the Cayman Cookout, Michelin-starred Eric Ripert and José Andrés, while French chef Jean-Francois Suteau created a magnificent display of mouth-watering desserts to enjoy at the end of the evening. Unfortunately, rain stopped play towards the end of the night, but that didn't stop the feasting and merriment.

After this busy Friday, the weekend stretched out long and wide with a ton more brilliant food-inspired events, such as the signature beach bash at Rum Point, Caribbean Candy class with chef Amanda Cohen who has an award-winning vegetarian restaurant Dirt Candy, a Tequila lab, craft beer master class and so much more. On Sunday the highlight was the Bon Vivant amateur chef competition brunch and of course the Great Gala, where all the top chefs join forces to present a sumptuous feast for guests. 🌐



► Chef Bernard Guillas enjoys the food



► Jose Andres made his spectacular appearance



► Chef Thushara and Manager Dunja serve Grand Old House delights



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TRAVEL

Destination: New York City

There is no more exciting a city than New York, especially for a short break. With 24-hour activity, fantastic shops, iconic attractions and world-class restaurants all vying for your attention, this city that never sleeps is a must-visit at any time of the year. Winter is a particularly fun time when Cayman residents can get the chance to experience snow, wrap up in some winter woolies and enjoy a dramatic change in weather – if for just a few days at a time!

How to get there

Running until 9th March 2019, Cayman Airways has a daily flight to JFK leaving just after 4pm, arriving at 8pm, so you will just be in time to catch a table for dinner at your favourite restaurant. Flights are pretty reasonable at around US\$350 return (depending on when you fly). Jet Blue also runs a daily service getting you into JFK at around 5.30pm, for about the same price.

What to do

New York can be a bit overwhelming for the uninitiated, so if you are a newbie to the city the **Big Bus Hop on Hop off bus tour** is the best way to get acquainted with the different boroughs. You will probably be based in Manhattan and can

board the bus anywhere in the city. Then take different coloured routes to explore places such as Uptown, Downtown, Harlem and Brooklyn. Manhattan is actually very easy to get around on foot, as the grid system of roads means you cannot easily get lost.

One of the world's most-visited tourist attractions, **Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty** in a national park in New York Harbour is always packed with tourists, whatever time of year you travel. You must book ahead and it's advisable to get a guided tour so you can easily move from place to place (such as the Castle Clinton National Monument in Battery Park where the tour starts, ferry rides to both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, etc.) and not missing a thing!

The magnificent **Central Park** extends over 843 acres right in the middle of Manhattan and was designated a National Historic Landmark in the 1960s. It's so huge it cannot be fully explored in a weekend, but you will easily get a sense of this lovely location after a stroll through its gently sloping pathways and green spaces. A great time to visit is at Christmas, when a horse drawn carriage will take you through the park as you enjoy the (usually) snowy landscape under the warmth of a blanket.

Ice skating is a popular pastime in Manhattan during the winter months. The most popular spots are at the Wollman Rink in Central Park and the Rink at the Rockefeller Centre in Midtown. A lesser known but really fun rink is the one at the Winter Village Bryant Park (located between 40th and 42nd Street), where admission is free but you need to pay to hire the skates. These rinks are only open seasonally so best to check their websites.

While there are literally hundreds of museums and art galleries to enjoy throughout New York City, an exciting and somewhat different attraction that is well worth the visit is to the **Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum** (<https://www.intrepid-museum.org>), located on the West side of Manhattan on Pier 86, 12th Ave and 46th Street. Located on the aircraft carrier The Intrepid, you can tour a re-



► Central Park is a welcome change from the high rise that surrounds it

al-life space shuttle (Enterprise), visit a real Concord aircraft and explore a submarine called Growler among many other activities and exhibits.

It is always best to book tickets online ahead of your trip to avoid disappointment.

Where to stay

There are literally a thousand places to stay in New York City at prices to suit all budgets, so it's best to think about where you want to base yourself – near to Central Park, in Midtown near to Times Square and all the hub of the theatre district, or further south near Battery Park/the Statue of Liberty, etc. If you are on a budget then check out the new Pod hotels that seem to be springing up everywhere. At the other end of the budget scale, there are plenty of hotels in which to splurge, such as The Plaza on Central Park and the Mandarin Oriental at Columbus Circle.

Weather

It can be freezing in winter with temperatures barely getting out of the

30s/40s F but spring and autumn are comfortable (60s and 70s). In summer it can get quite hot and humid (70s /80s F). 🌍



► Magical Central Park



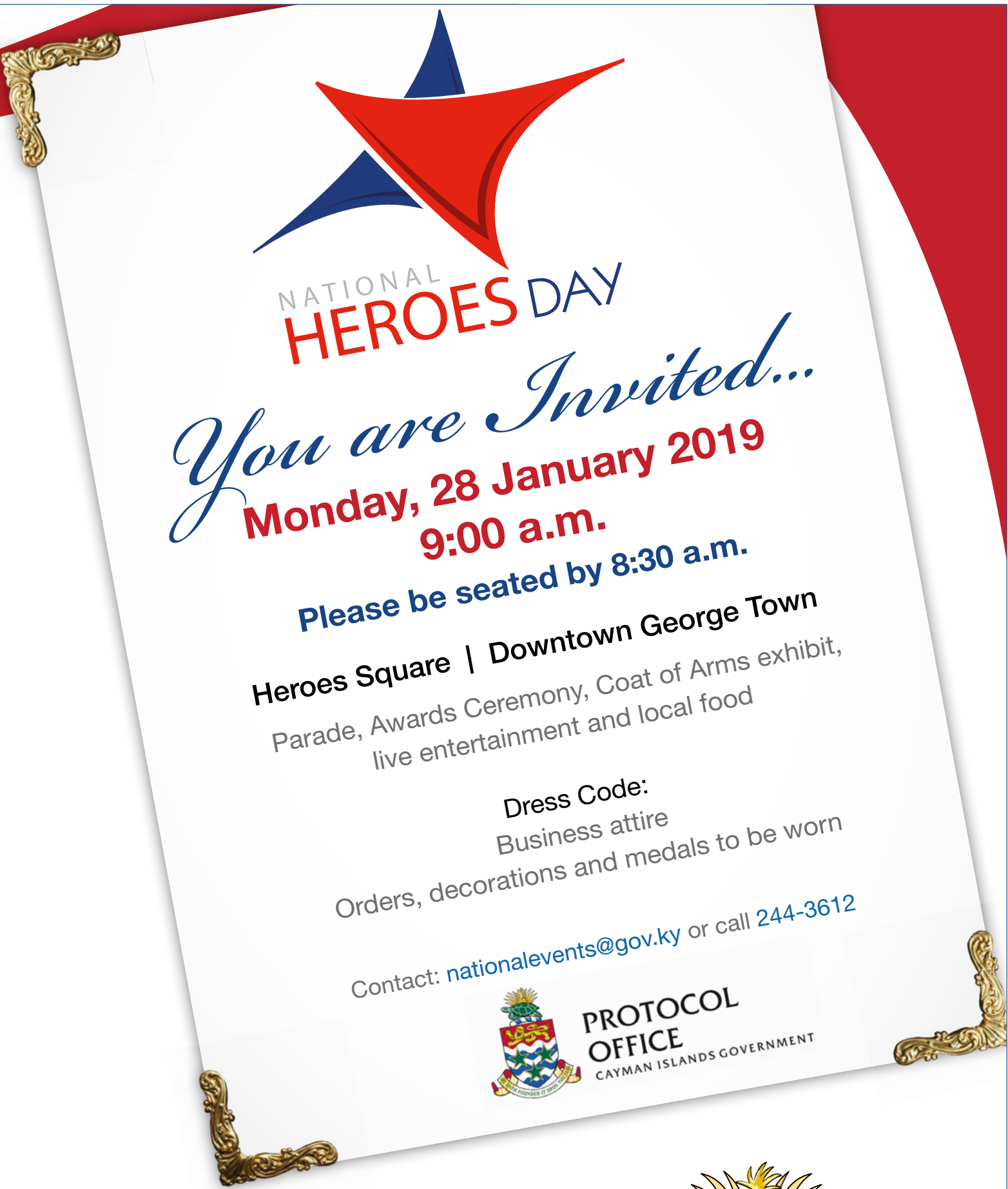
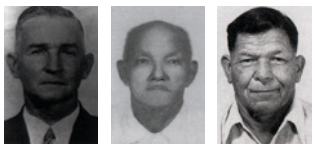
► Ice skating in Central Park



► Christmas markets in New York



► Bethesda Fountain in Central Park



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This day is also a time to recognise our National Heroes, connect with our local community, and show national pride.



CIFA Youth Leagues kick-off new season

The 2019 Cayman Islands Football Association (CIFA) youth leagues got off to an exciting start this past Saturday, January 19 with a full schedule of boys and girls games.

In the Girls Under 11 league, Academy SCs Millicent Hoffman scored the season's first hat trick as she led her team to a 6-0 win over George Town SC. Emily Hasbun, Lea Santos-Smith and Maddie Jamieson rounded off the scoring contributing a goal each.

In the 'Sunset battle', Sunset FC Blue Iguanas and Sunset FC Stingrays settled for a draw with the Blue Iguanas taking the lead through a Stingrays own goal only for Emily Woolf to grab the equalizer in the second half.

In the third Under 11 Girls game, Scholars ISC failed to show-up for their game with Sunset FC Fusion.

In the Boys Under 11 league, 345 FC II got by George Town SC I 2-1 thanks to goals from Jhaiyre Willis and Noah Mitten. Fred Boothe scored for George Town SC.

345 FC I defeated Academy SC Wanderers 3-1 with Kyan Okoli and Jamie Price getting their names on the score-sheet following an own goal by the Wanderers. Max McGeough scored a consolation goal for Academy late in the game.

A very young George Town SC II lost to Latinos FC 6-0 with Cooper Nelson and Jharez McKenzie grabbing two goals each on their way to the victory. Kyle Hudson and Mark Ebanks scored Latinos' other two goals.

In the final Under 11 Boys game of the day, Sunset FC Warriors defeated newcomers Scholars ISC 14-0. Scorers for Sunset included Jaxon Cover (4), Charlie Ibister (3), Matthew Rees (3), Thomas Rees (2), Jayden Ashdown and Harry Cowell.


In the Boys Under 15 games played on Saturday afternoon, it was Bodden Town FC 7 vs. Academy SC White 1; Cayman Athletic SC 1 vs. 345 FC I 1 and 345 FC II 0 vs. Sunset FC 6.



► Action in the Under 11 girls game between Academy SC (blue) and George Town SC. Academy SC won the game 6-0

Bodden Town FCs Breshawn Watson scored four goals and Jaqan Miller fired in the other three to secure the win against Academy SC White.

Cayman Athletic's Javon Clarke opened the scoring against 345 FC I only to see his goal cancelled out by a Cayman Athletic own goal.



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GLOBAL NEWS BRIEFS

Muslim fugitive settles in Canada

A Saudi teen who fled her "abusive" family and has been granted refugee status in Canada is enjoying her new life in Toronto.

Rahaf Mohammed, 18, has shared pictures of eating bacon and eggs, enjoying a Starbucks coffee and wearing warm winter clothes on her social media platforms.

It is a world away from her previous life in Saudi Arabia and the week she spent in limbo after fleeing to Thailand, where she barricaded herself into a hotel room and used Twitter to alert the world to her situation.

Ms Mohammed, who has given up her family name Alqunun, feared she would be killed by her relatives if she returned to Saudi Arabia after slipping away while on a family holiday in Kuwait on Jan. 7.

UN refugee authorities placed her within their care just hours before her father and brother arrived in Bangkok to attempt to meet with her. She claims her family abused her physically and mentally. There has been no public comment from her family and at the time the kingdom said it considered the situation a family matter.

On Wednesday, Rahaf made a public statement in Toronto, thanking those



► Rahaf Mohammed is settling well in Canada

who helped her and added that when she heard "Canada was selected as my new home, the stress that I felt over the last week melted away".

In her public appearance, she said through an interpreter that her priority is to learn English. Reflecting on her old life, she said: "I was not treated respectfully by my family and I was not allowed to be myself and who I want to be.

"As you know, in Saudi Arabia this is the case for all Saudi women, except for those that are fortunate enough to have understanding parents. Any woman who thinks of escaping, or escapes, will be at risk of persecution." 🌐

Ex-druggie now 'happiest busman'

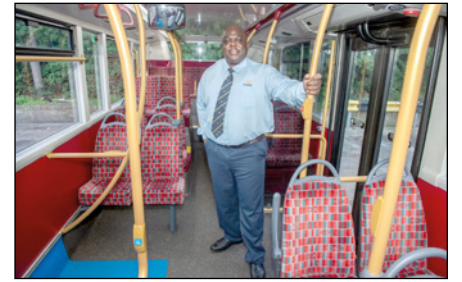
A man in the UK who was homeless and addicted to drugs for 20 years has turned his life around and is being hailed as "London's happiest bus driver".

Pat Lawson hit rock bottom when he suffered a vicious beating from drug dealers, made a daring escape by jumping through a window, before sorting his life out which culminated in awards and acclaim after being recognised for his talents by Transport for London.

As well as the happiest, Mr Lawson may even be London's most popular bus driver, having received more than 40 commendations from passengers on his route 26 between Hackney Wick and Waterloo. All of them, he says, cite his good humour as reasons for writing in.

It's a far cry from his years of living rough as a drug addict and spending time in prison for criminal acts. "I was on the street, spending the day walking around, finding places to eat, staying low, and at night finding a doorway or a bench. I had regular doorways and benches," he says.

He weaned himself off drugs completely and was eventually referred to



► Pat Lawson is London's happiest bus driver

Islington-based charity Single Homeless Project who helped him regain his confidence and begin his search for work.

At one point, when trying to turn his life around, he endured living in a one-bed apartment with his children, a boy and girl, who were teenagers at the time.

Already a qualified bus driver from years before, he retrained two years ago and has been passing on his bubbly spirit to passengers ever since.

"I do want them to be happy, I want them to see bus drivers in a different light," Mr Lawson says, adding: "I'm 50, but I feel like a teenager, just starting a new life." 🌐

Social commentary film causes stir

A hip-hop film director in the Philippines is causing a stir even before the film is released because it exposes all the negative aspects of the politics and social issues there.

For director Treb Monteras II, hip-hop has always been about politics and social issues, and no situation is more pressing today for the country than that of de facto martial law under authoritarian President Rodrigo Duterte.

"Respeto" is Mr Monteras's first feature film, after producing more than 300 music videos since 2004.

The primary role of aspiring street rapper Hendrix is played by Abra, while that of Loonie is played by Breezy G. The two are among the Philippines' top hip-hop stars.

The film is preparing for its general theatrical release in the Philippines in the spring. Before its first, earliest showing at the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival in 2017, however, the film already had its critics.

Mr Monteras claimed that it has already had bad reviews in the Philippines. "These people were paid trolls by

the government to make false synopses and reviews about the movie," he said. "That was three or four days before our movie came out, there were reviews already and the only people who had seen the movie were the editors, me and my producer."

Given his early experiences with undercover police, government trolls and the need for secrecy, he is aware of the possibility of reprisals. Fortunately, "this government doesn't really care about art," Mr Monteras said. "They think films, literature, even protests are not effective to take them down. They are



► Treb Monteras II is not scared of reprisals

just concerned about social media. They really are pouring big money in social media to create fake news, to payroll pro-government bloggers." 🌐

Hondurans killed after US trek

Hondurans who reached the United States but had to return to their homeland because they could not get asylum status, are being killed by mercileas gangs.

A typical victim was Nelson Espinal. Several days after he slipped across the US southern border, he called his family back in Honduras from inside a US detention centre.

Mr Espinal had made the 3,500 mile journey with several thousand others who joined the migrant caravan in October in the hopes of starting a new life.

Within weeks of reaching the US, however, he was deported back to his gang-infested neighbourhood in the Honduran capital Tegucigalpa – and the death threats that had prompted him to flee.

He resolved to try his luck again in the new year and head north, save his life and find a way to help his family and provide for his seven-year-old son.

But just over a week after his return, Mr Espinal was shot dead on the street outside his home on Dec. 18.



► Honduran police tackle crime as well as they can

A ruling last June by the then US attorney general Jeff Sessions made it all but impossible for victims of gang violence like Mr Espinal to obtain asylum. And as a new migrant caravan prepares to set off from Honduras this week, more will probably suffer the same fate.

Mr Espinal lived with his parents, four sisters and son in a rough shack in the José Ángel Ulloa neighbourhood. High in the mountains that cup the city centre, the area is dominated by the notorious MS-13 gang. 🌐

Havana sees bright future

Visitors to Havana, Cuba's capital, are increasingly impressed with the brightness of its lighting in popular spots thanks to the commitment of some dedicated locals.

Just as day fades to night the blazing green neon sign of La Pelota, a 24-hour cafeteria, flashes on to beckon passers-by inside for coffee. At the nearby Charles Chaplin theatre, the neon letters atop the canopy also begin to gleam.

The neon signs of the 1940s and 1950s began to flicker off after the 1959 Cuban Revolution and many Havana streets descended into decades of darkness until artist Kadir López Nieves' Habana Light Neon + Signs project began bringing a glow back to the city. In its day, Havana boasted thousands of neon signs and rivalled New York and Paris with its flashy illumination.

Working with his partner, Adolfo Nodal, a Cuban American from Los Angeles who helped lead that city's efforts to restore its old neon signs, the pair and their team have restored more than 50 vintage neon signs over the past four years. Habana Light's handiwork can



► Havana's neon lights are popping again

now be seen on the brightly hued signs that light up theatres, cabarets, bars, hotels and restaurants across the city.

Among the venues that now shine with neon restorations are the Tropicana nightclub, the Floridita bar, the Inglaterra, Plaza and Deauville hotels; the Prado 264 restaurant, the Lafayette bar and restaurant, Las Americas hardware store, and a dozen movie theatres

Neon enthusiasts from around the world also have helped with the effort.

The New York neon company Let There be Neon, for example, signed a strategic partnership with Habana Light in 2017 and has donated materials such as the tubing, wiring and transformers needed to restore the vintage signs. 🌐

Roach hates 'underdog' tag

West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach believes despite being labelled "underdogs", his side will be able to extend England in the upcoming three-Test series in the region.

Roach is the oldest and most experienced member of the 13-man squad preparing for the series — which starts at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Wednesday.

The 30-year-old Barbadian boasts an impressive record of 166 wickets in 50 Tests, putting him in the West Indies top 10 wicket-takers of all time.



► Darren Bravo is back in the Test fold

"Looking ahead to the series, I'm feeling fit and ready. I'm confident I can do well and make an impact for the team," Roach said.

"We are the underdogs, we know that. But we were underdogs back in 2017 and we played some fantastic cricket to win at Leeds and show the world we have quality. We will prepare well, we will plan well, we will look to take our chances, and look to challenge and win again."

Roach was referring to the 2017 tour of England when West Indies suffered a crushing innings and 209-run defeat in the opening Test at Birmingham but bounced back to stun the hosts by five wickets at Headingley.

"I recently reached one of my goals in the last series...obviously to be among the top ten West Indian bowlers of all time in Test cricket was something special," he noted.

"My next goal is to get 200 Test wickets and in doing so, win some more games for West Indies. I will see how far I can go from there. I think I still have another three to four years in West Indies cricket, and I want to contribute to the team."

The speedster has a very good record at Kensington Oval, managing 24 wickets in five Tests at the historic venue. His best match figures were eight for 116 against New Zealand in 2014.

Roach, who has been a key member of the Windies attack after returning to the squad in 2017 following a 19-month break due to injury and loss of form, said

he was looking forward to performing in front of home fans.

"As a Bajan, playing at Kensington Oval in front of your home people is always a good feeling to perform well... it is very important at home; you know the conditions well," he pointed out.

"Once you go there and be focused and be mentally prepared, I think it will be a very good feeling to represent the West Indies in your homeland."

"Seeing the names of past greats on the stands is an inspiration. Kensington is an historic place and a lot of great cricketers have played at the ground. It has been renovated from the old one, but it is still a good feeling to go out there and see the Sir Garfield Sobers Pavilion, Greenidge and Haynes Stand, The Three Ws, Hall and Griffith, or bowling at the Malcolm Marshall or Joel Garner ends."

Darren Bravo could play his first test for the West Indies in over two years after the experienced top-order batsman was recalled.

Bravo hasn't featured in a Test since a tour of the UAE in October 2016, but the 29-year-old Trinidadian returned to the international fold late last year as part of the one-day squad.

Fast bowler Alzarri Joseph also earned a recall ahead of the three-match series, although fellow quick Oshane Thomas was named as cover as the former continues his recovery from a stress fracture in his back.

John Campbell, a 26-year-old left-handed opener from Jamaica, re-



► Kemar Roach took England's Jonny Bairstow wicket in 2017

ceived his first call-up along with the 30-year-old Shamarh Brooks, who captained the West Indies at the Under-19 World Cup in 2008.

Squad: Jason Holder (capt), Kraigg Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Shamarh Brooks, John Campbell, Roston Chase, Shane Dowrich, Shannon Gabriel, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Alzarri Joseph, Kemar Roach, Jomel Warrican, Oshane Thomas (cover for Joseph)

Schedule

1st Test: Jan 23-27 at Bridgetown, Barbados

2nd Test: Jan 31-Feb 4 at North Sound, Antigua

3rd Test: Feb 9-13 at Gros Islet, St Lucia

Pacman wants Money rematch

Manny Pacquiao is talking up a rematch with Floyd "Money" Mayweather and after the Filipino legend's latest win, that unlikely event is a real possibility.

Pacquiao retained his WBA world welterweight title with a convincing unanimous point win over Adrian "The Problem" Broner in Las Vegas on Saturday.

In his 70th fight and his first as a 40-year-old, Pacquiao rocked the former four-weight world champion with a stunning left in the ninth round.

He dominated the American, who is 11 years younger, connecting with more than twice as many punches. Judges scored the bout 117-111, 116-112, 116-112 in Pacquiao's favour.

Afterwards, Pacquiao said he would be open to a rematch with unbeaten

Mayweather, who comfortably defeated him in 2015 in what was boxing's most lucrative yet dullest mega-fight.

"Tell him to come back to the ring and we will fight," said Pacquiao, who is a senator in his homeland and fought in the United States for the first time in two years. "I am willing to fight with Floyd Mayweather if he is willing to come back to box."

Former five-weight world champion Mayweather, who was in the crowd, gave no reaction when asked if the rematch could happen.



► Manny Pacquiao is still potent at 40

Had Pacquiao not looked impressive, calls for the Mayweather rematch would look absurd. But he secured the 61st victory of his career convincingly, almost knocking Broner down in the seventh and ninth rounds.

Nevertheless, Broner - to jeers from the MGM Grand crowd - claimed he should have won. "I beat him. Everyone out there knows I beat him. I controlled the fight, he was missing. I hit

clean more times. I beat him," he said. Broner only had 50 connecting punches to Pacquiao's 112 and three connecting body shots to the victor's 47.

Woods hopes to build on last year's success

Tiger Woods will make his 2019 debut at this week's Farmers Insurance Open, an event he's won seven times.

Woods also committed to playing in the Genesis Open at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles Feb. 14-17 where he doubles as the tournament host.

Woods' last PGA TOUR appearance was the memorable TOUR Championship in September when he walked up the 18th fairway en route to victory through a crowd of fans. That win was the 80th of his TOUR career, putting him just two shy of Sam Snead's record.

The last time Woods played competitively was the week after Thanksgiving at his Hero World Challenge, a non-TOUR event in the Bahamas. Woods did

not fare well that week, finishing 17th in the 18-man field.

Still, the thought of a healthy Woods for a full season will be a huge storyline this season. A year ago, when he played at Torrey Pines, he was still unsure how much he could play after enduring four back surgeries.

After being limited to just two tournaments in two years, Woods made his comeback last year, starting at Torrey Pines. He played 18 tournaments, did well in many including a pair of runner-up placings and his TOUR Championship win, his first victory in more than five years. He finished top six or better in The Open Championship and the PGA Championship and earned more than \$5 million.



► Tiger Woods begins his season this week

Antigua and Barbuda Hits Visitor Arrival Record

Antigua and Barbuda welcomed over one million visitors to the destination in 2018, topping 2017 figures and leading Antigua and Barbuda Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez to call 2018, “a record-setting year” for the twin-island nation.

The destination attracted a total of 1,081,365 visitors in 2018. This is an increase in arrivals from 2017, when Antigua and Barbuda hit the one million visitor mark for the first time with 1,059,924 visitors.

The most impressive growth was seen in stayover arrivals, where the destination attracted over 20,000 more stayover visitors in 2018 than in 2017. That brought the total number of stayover visitors who arrived via the V.C. Bird International Airport to 268,949. This represents an 8.75 per cent increase in stayover arrivals for 2018.

The destination also received more cruise visitors, with cruise arrivals to-

taling 792,873 while arrivals by yacht totaled 19,543.

“We have had a very strong year of growth. Very early in 2018, the teams were tasked with re-grouping and working more strategically to attract more stayover visitors to the destination,” Minister Fernandez said.

“Our teams were relentless and our tourism performance for 2018 has been exceptional. So much so, that the 2018 stayover figures surpassed not only the 2017 figures but the 2016, 2015, and 2014 arrivals.”

The destination experienced month-on-month stayover growth for the majority of the year, with a strong finish in December 2018, when demand for the destination rose by 6 per cent during that month compared to the previous December.

Overall stayover arrivals for the year, showed the strongest growth from the Canadian market with a 66 per cent in-

crease in arrivals. The US market where most of the destination’s visitors came from, saw 8 per cent growth while the UK market, the second largest source market, remained flat mainly due to the uncertainties of Brexit that have suppressed outbound travel from the UK.

The Caribbean market also recorded an increase.

“We are optimistic about another year of growth for 2019, with the destination expected to benefit further from upgrades to our tourism infrastructure, new room stock and airlift,” CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin C. James said.



► The cruise sector did well in 2018

He noted that the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority is set to launch a global summer marketing campaign that will focus on creating demand for the destination during the traditional summer off-season, with value-added offers. 🌐

Cayman Conference to Shed Light on Global and Local Property Markets

The 4th RICS Cayman Property and Construction Conference will be held in the Cayman Islands on Friday, March 15, 2019 at the Grand Marriot Hotel, under the theme, “Boom or Bust Navigating the Cayman Islands’ Real Estate and Construction Market” with discussions focusing on local, regional and global factors impacting the industry. The conference is expected to attract over 200 professionals comprising surveyors, architects, contractors, bankers, realtors and developers.

The keynote address will be delivered by RICS Past President John Hughes who will focus on factors impacting the global real estate and construction market

with particular emphasis on Brexit in the United Kingdom, the mid-term elections and the increase in interest rates in the United States and in Canada, immigration, the interest rate and changing demographics.

A panel discussion will follow the keynote address. Panelist drawn from across the real estate will examine past and present trends and discuss the future of the industry.

There will be breakout sessions after lunch covering valuations, construction, property management and insurance.

“In addition to providing an excellent network opportunity for professionals, the event will provide extremely useful

information on the future of the industry,” explains Uche Obi, RICS Cayman Chapter Chair and Senior Valuer and Business Development Manager for DDL studios in the Caribbean.

Attendees will come away from the conference with a better understanding of the current state of the market and the impact it will have on their day-to-day jobs.



Register now to secure your spot. This conference is eligible for six hours of formal CPD. 🌐

Regional Economist Says Reforms Will See Barbados Rebound

One regional economist is forecasting that the Barbados Government reform will take centre stage this year and should result in a turnaround in economic fortunes.

Marla Dukharan made the prediction in her Caribbean Economic Outlook 2019 broadcast this week as she examined the region’s economies and their exposure to international developments.

She said while some Caribbean economies would continue to struggle to regain a strong footing in their tourism growth due to lingering effects of the 2017 hurricanes, there were others that should see a turnaround in their economic fortunes.

Dukharan said growth was forecast for all regional economies except Barbados and Puerto Rico, -0.1 per cent and -1.1 per cent respectively.

“Puerto Rico and Barbados are projected to show some contraction this year. Puerto Rico, because of their structural problems but also lingering effects of the storms; Barbados, because of the massive fiscal adjustments that are taking place and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) programme really taking effect this year,” she said.

Recalling the disappointing 0.5 per cent decline in the Barbados economy for the first nine months of last year, Dukharan said there were several projects that could easily contribute to positive growth this year.

“There is a lot that is happening that can counteract the negative growth. For example, construction and investment, but we still have generally high unemployment of around 9.2 per cent and inflation that trended higher as well,” she said.

Highlighting the tax measures implemented by the Mia Mottley-led administration last year and the deal between the IMF, the regional economist singled out the tax reform, saying this especially showed just how serious government was about transforming the economy.

She said Barbados “is likely to be the next success story in the Caribbean after Jamaica should they continue along this path of adhering to the guidelines outlined by the IMF”.

“The thing to watch out for this year is basically the fact that the government is going to push through a lot of reforms. We saw the taxation reform for corporation tax being equal onshore to the offshore. That I think is one of the major things that demonstrated how serious

and committed this government is to reform and also to abiding to the demands of the international institutions,” she said.

“The government does seem committed to the IMF programme. I think that they will continue to adhere to the guidelines and we will continue to see the economy improve,” she added.

After last year’s revenue-raising measures and phases one and two of the retrenchment exercise under the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) programme, Government is expected to embark on the third phase this year, which would include more retrenchment of government workers, as well as training and retooling of staff and a digital transformation of government processes.

Dukharan warned that Barbados and other Caribbean islands remained susceptible to external shocks including BREXIT, trade tensions between the US and China, higher interest rates in the US, fluctuating oil prices and volatility in the international financial market.

She also stated that the region was vulnerable to various health scares



► Economist Marla Dukharan

from Venezuela, pointing out that the Spanish-speaking nation continued to pose “the most immediate and serious longer-term risks to this region”.

“We desperately need civility in Venezuela not just for Venezuela but for the Caribbean region as well,” she said.

Dukharan said she expected the Trinidad and Tobago economy to be further downgraded and authorities there to likely approach the IMF for help by 2021 or 2022.

“Authorities there are painting a completely different and untrue picture of the state of affairs and state of the economy there,” said the Trinidad-born. (Barbados Today) 🌐

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS

- 42 Choose
- 1 Less hack-neyed
- 6 Some agents
- 11 Wed in haste
- 12 Tennis star Rafael
- 13 Ready for bed
- 14 Tusk material
- 15 Make fun of
- 17 Decline
- 19 Count starter
- 20 All the rage
- 23 "Rebel Without —"
- 25 Get by
- 26 Rio event of 2016
- 28 Choreography bit
- 29 Burns or Browning
- 30 Toady's answer
- 31 Write hastily
- 32 Argon, for one
- 33 Moon of Jupiter
- 35 Egyptian city
- 38 Ornamental tree
- 41 "Jaws" threat

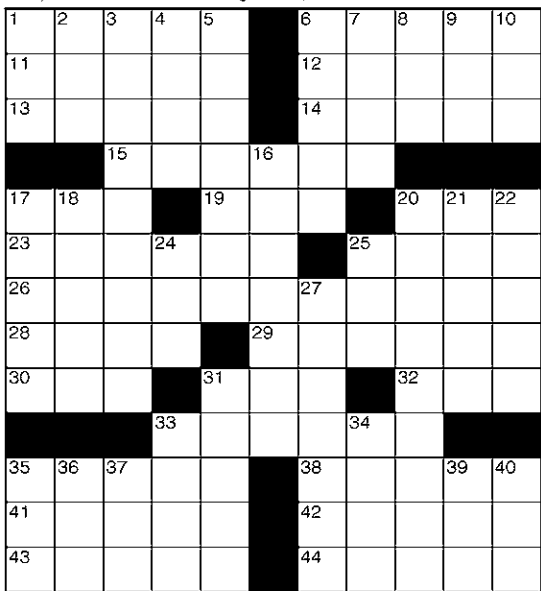
DOWN

- 1 Court divider
- 2 Bulldog backer
- 3 Jotto and Ghost
- 4 Foil's kin
- 5 Token of love
- 6 Sarcastic
- 7 Cover with asphalt
- 8 Ceremony words
- 9 Corn helping
- 10 Devious
- 16 Wrong
- 17 Fresh
- 18 Biting
- 20 Half of a team's schedule
- 21 Met work
- 22 Grade determiners
- 24 Game caller
- 25 Truck part
- 27 Set sail
- 31 Of little value
- 33 Pull in
- 34 Future paper
- 35 Nile slitherer
- 36 That lady
- 37 Pale
- 39 Great service
- 40 Cozy sts.



Yesterday's answer

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



6-21

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

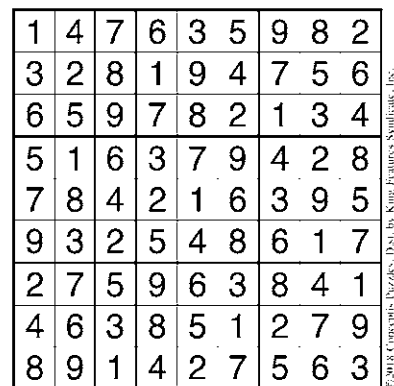
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

5/29

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★

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Word Search

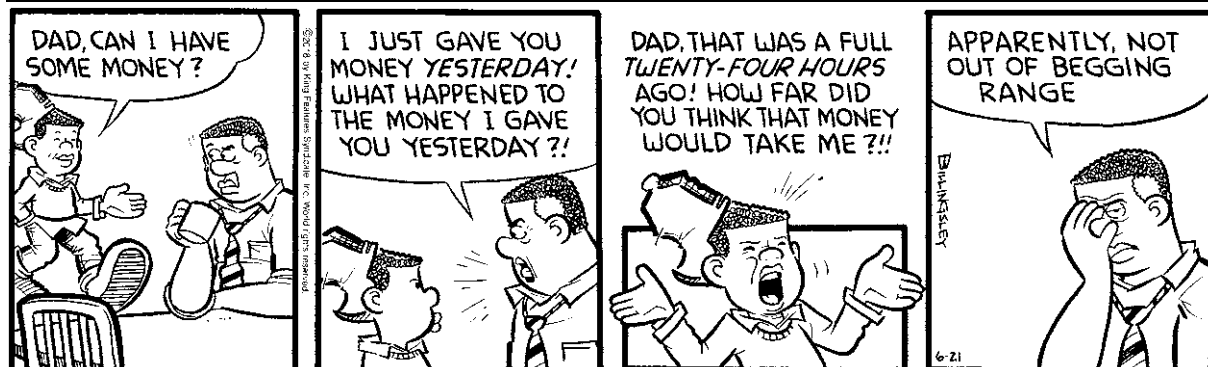


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.

- Album
- Auction
- Cachet
- Cancel
- Catalogue
- Collection
- Country
- Cover
- Date
- Definitive
- Envelope
- Exhibition
- Fiscal
- Forgery
- Gum
- Issue
- Local
- Mint
- Mount
- Overprint
- Perf
- Philately
- Postmark
- Revenue
- Stamp
- Surcharge
- Used
- Value
- Watermark

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



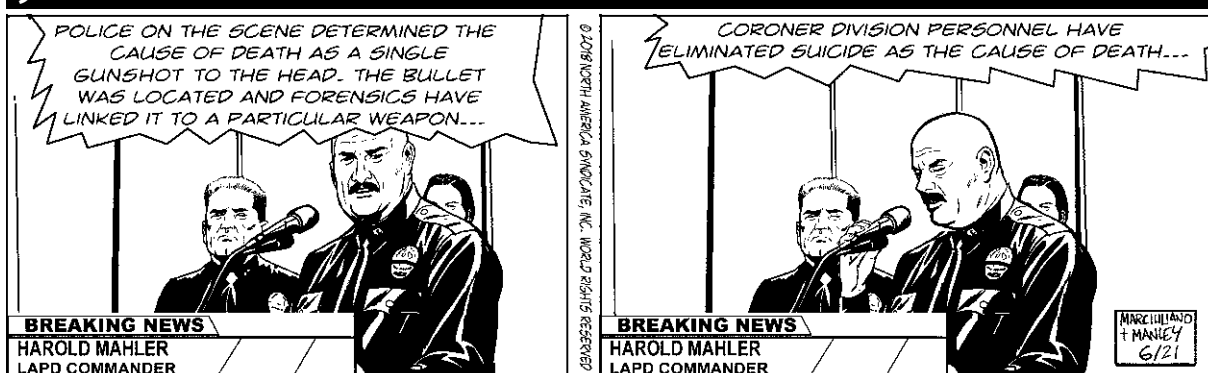
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



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THE 11TH ANNUAL MUZAICXI

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Featuring over a dozen of Caymans best dj's

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SATURDAY | 26 JANUARY | YOUNG MUSICIANS SHOWCASE | FREE

Presenting the best in Cayman's young talent.

VENUE: Harquail Theater

TIME: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

SATURDAY | 26 JANUARY | CMEA HEROES SALUTE | C\$10

CMEA salutes this years Heroes day awardees with music and dance.

VENUE: Havana Club

TIME: 7:00 PM - 12:00 AM

SUNDAY | 27 JANUARY | CMEA MUZAIC AWARDS | C\$10

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VENUE: Harquail Theater

TIME: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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