

Times Caymanian

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Complimentary

WEATHER FORECAST



82°/79°F

Partly sunny, a stray shower

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Community Police protecting Businesses



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Record Stayover Tourists for 2017

Visitors flocked to the Cayman Islands in 2018, breaking records for the total number of stayovers who made Cayman their vacation destination.

With the final numbers still to be calculated, the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism recently released visitor numbers for the first 11 months of 2018, announcing that 410,984 stayover visitors enjoyed a Cayman holiday during that timeframe. This represents an 11.26 per cent increase over the first eleven months of 2017 and is the highest number of stayover visitors in recorded history. Total visitation for the year 2017 was 418,403.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, Moses Kirkconnell, attributed the growth in arrival numbers to the resilience of the Cayman Islands through strong stakeholder partnerships, high investor confidence and a national commitment to the development of infrastructure.



"The strategic efforts of the Ministry of Tourism and Department of Tourism must be continued, to ensure our islands take a holistic approach at addressing the needs of every visitor that graces our shore. I look forward to ending the year with record-breaking arrivals and continuing this momentum through 2019," he said.

In particular, Cayman saw an upsurge of visitors from the United States towards the latter part of 2018 due to increased airlift, with November air arrivals into Cayman the best in record

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Premier's New Year's message

By Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin, MBE, JP, MLA

Fellow Caymanians and residents, Happy New Year!

2018 was a year to Celebrate Cayman as we began a two-year journey to commemorate the 60th anniversary of our Coat of Arms in 1958, and our first Constitution in 1959.

In celebrating these two important events, we are also celebrating who we are as a people and the progress we have made in the 60 years since. This is an opportunity to remind ourselves of our history and to involve our children so that they can be aware of the people, events, and times that set us on the path to becoming the successful nation and people that we are today.



► Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin, MBE, JP, MLA

We have indeed come a long way in 60 years. My aim, and the aim of my entire Government, is to continue to build on the success of the past and to present the best possible future for all of you, and for future generations of Caymanians.

This we are doing.

Over the past five and a half years the good ship Cayman has been steadied and is on a good course. Government finances are well managed, creating surpluses that have allowed us to repay debt, put aside money for rainy days, fund infrastructure projects, increase salaries for public servants, and increase assistance to those in need, as well as to retired civil servants, seafarers and veterans.

Over the past year we have redoubled our efforts to improve the education of our children, and have expanded support for policing, with a focus on community policing. The purchase of the new helicopter will further enhance our law enforcement and border protection efforts, as well as our search and rescue capabilities. Education and community safety remain top priorities in 2019.

... Continued story on page 4



Cayman National has 23 ATMs conveniently located through the Cayman Islands. The newest one is at the East End Post Office, and there are more to come.

Cayman National = Cayman's Convenient Bank.

Cayman National ATMs accept the following cards:    

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ATM BANKING

EDITORIAL

New Year's Resolutions

The arrival of the New Year is normally the trigger that causes us to reflect on our achievements for the previous year and also to make New Year's Resolutions. These resolutions are well intended but many individuals experience difficulty with fulfilling these personal promises. Here are some tips that will assist you in meeting these well intended goals.



New Year's Resolution (NYR) Tips

- Make positive New Year's Resolutions
- Categorize your resolutions a) Personal Relationships b) Financial c) Health d) Spiritual
- Make them simple and achievable
- Make them specific and measurable
- Write them down
- Monitor your resolutions
- Save a copy on your computer and in your diary

Here are a few Examples

- Save 5% of your salary each month
- Exercise 2 times weekly for 15 minutes each
- Eat a small lunch instead of a large lunch / no red meat
- Attend church at least 1 time per month

What is equally as important is the regular monitoring of your New Year's Resolutions.

Take care of yourself. You will be happy you did. 🌍

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Import Duty Concession on Building Materials Extended

The present 15% import duty concessionary rate on building materials imported to Grand Cayman has been extended by Government for a further year, to 31 December 2019.

In explaining the reason for the extension of the duty concession, the Minister for Finance and Economic Development, the Honourable Roy McTaggart, said, "The Government is committed to ensuring that the Islands' economy continues to grow, because such growth will provide employment opportunities for Caymanians and other residents. The extension of the 15% import duty concessionary rate on building materials brought to Grand Cayman will undoubtedly add incentive for the private sector's robust investments in the Cayman Islands to continue."

For the purpose of the concession, building materials are defined as: "All

physical components and substances, whether solid or liquid, used in the construction, renovation or restoration and forming a permanent part, of any building or related structure." Items such as furniture, accessories, electronics and appliances are specifically excluded from the 15% concessionary rate.

The following duty concessions are in place until 31 December 2020, with respect to Cayman Brac and Little Cayman:

- a 100% import duty waiver on building materials imported to Cayman Brac and Little Cayman;
- a 100% stamp duty waiver, in respect of land purchases on Cayman Brac; and
- an import duty concessionary rate of 12.5 cents per gallon on the importation of motor gasoline to Cayman Brac. 🌍

CERTIFICATE AND BADGE OF HONOUR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

His Excellency, the Governor Martyn Roper, invites members of the public to submit nominations for the Cayman Islands Certificate and Badge of Honour.

The Governor's Office encourages members of the public to send in nominations year-round.

Recommendations for the Certificate and Badge of Honour are considered locally and successful nominees will normally be recognised at the Queen's birthday celebrations.

Nominations must be supported by a detailed description of the nominee's achievements.

Details of how to prepare honours nominations can be found at www.gov.uk/honours and the nomination form

is available from the front page of www.gov.ky. Persons submitting nominations should fully complete all the relevant sections.

Once completed, the forms should be submitted to the Governor's Office. The Governor will review all nominations before recommending candidates to the Royal, Ceremonial and Honours Unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

While all recommendations will be acknowledged, the Governor's Office cannot enter into discussion about any action taken on them.

For any further information please contact the Governor's Office at staffoff@candw.ky 🌍



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E-mail: fitnesspluscayman@gmail.com

Spirit TCR provides the best in yoga equipment for beginners and experts alike. The 8' yoga strap brings all of this to your practice and includes a metal "D" ring for long lasting use that remains effective for years to come.



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OBITUARY

The family of the Late

Joanna Faith Clarke

regret to announce her passing on Monday, 24 December, 2018.



A funeral service will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, 5 January 2019 at Red Bay Church of God (Holiness).

Viewing will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday, 4 January 2019 at Bodden Funeral Service, 117 Walkers Rd.

Condolences can be registered at www.boddenfuneralservices.com & Bodden Funeral Service Facebook page



Community police officers help businesses and customers feel safer

In West Bay, the community officers were walking the beat to keep businesses and late-night shoppers safe. It's a high-visibility initiative, which means that the police officers will be seen walking around it is hoped that will help keep crime down. But there is more to it than that. Community policing means developing relationships with people by talking to them, and so the officers on the beat at night in West Bay were taking the time to talk to store owners and employees, too.

One of the community officers, PC Andrew Grant, was on the beat by Centennial Towers where a lot of stores are open late into the night. "We speak to employees or the manager to get some feedback from them: how are they doing? What their expectations are for the holidays?" he said.

The officers were changing their routine to accommodate local businesses, which typically stay open much longer in the run-up to Christmas. Police Media Officer, Jodi-Ann Powery explained: "They are going to be checking businesses throughout the entire night. They will continue even after the businesses are closed, to make sure no burglaries are taking place, especially in the holiday season where there is a high cash flow, and businesses are opening later than they usually do. We also have patrol officers that do regular beat patrols, and we have traffic officers that are out doing traffic operations, so this is the community policing aspect of it and what they are doing in keeping people safer for the holidays."

Dorrett Lattore, who works in the Supreme Variety Store, said: "We welcome the presence of the police; we appreciate them so much. Times are very serious now, and when we see them we feel so safe. They are always there; always smiling and always helpful." Within the store, Police Officer Christopher Donaldson, who is usually on Beat Six in Prospect, said: "One of the reasons we are out here is we are checking on



► Keeping businesses safe: RCIPS community officers Christopher Donaldson and Andrew Grant



► Keeping West Bay businesses safe

the security devices they have in place, and the security strategies they have planned." He advised the store employees to always call 911 if they see any suspicious activities.

Carl Solomon, supervisor of Flow in West Bay said: "I do appreciate that the police officers walk around in the evenings, and I always feel safe having them around. I think they get to see a lot more when you are walking around. When you are driving around you can easily miss something, but when you are walking around they can see different things. I know the officers that are coming by, and I see them daily when they are on shift. The ones on shift pass through, and always greet us.

They let us know that they are in the area.

Mario Ebanks, one of the Flow Customers who was standing at the counter, said: "I feel very safe to have the police pres-

ence in the community; working with businesses, working with customers. You feel safer; you have the extra visibility (of the police) and so you feel like you can do business without interference."



► Officer Leslie John Franklin greets gas station employee on his nightly rounds

www.caymannational.com

Customer Notice Interest Rate Increase

Cayman National Bank advises that its CI\$ and US\$ Prime Rates will increase from 5.25% to 5.50% effective 7th January 2019.

All products linked to CI\$ and US\$ Prime Rates will be adjusted on this date.



Cayman National provides a full range of financial services at competitive prices and with excellent service. For more information call us at 949 4655 or visit www.caymannational.com.

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Premier's New Year's message 2019

... Continued story from page 1

We have also increased our protected lands assets over the past year and provided funding for more public and open spaces. These efforts will continue this year, as will the work to reduce the numbers of invasive green iguanas that are a major threat to our environment.

In 2018 we saw another year of record tourism arrivals. Financial Services, despite continued external challenges, also performed well. The development sector is booming with many projects under way, including a number of new hotel projects that are needed for our growing tourism business.

And we are also continuing to diversify our economy.

We modernised our intellectual property and copyright laws and encouraged the growth of technology business, including financial technology or Fintech business. These efforts are paying off with the Cayman Islands becoming a jurisdiction of choice for fintech and similar businesses with digital assets. The private sector, including locally owned businesses such as Cayman Enterprise City and TechCayman, have embraced the opportunity and are attracting these businesses to our shores. Government continues to play a key role and in 2019 will set up a regulatory framework to assist the private sector in attracting and supporting businesses with digital assets.

With a growing economy, businesses of all sizes are benefiting; and because of this we have seen job growth and greatly reduced unemployment. Indeed, last year saw the highest number of em-

ployed Caymanians since 2007. Growth will continue this year and bring more opportunities for Caymanian businesses and the Caymanian people.

We are moving forward with the development of Workforce Opportunities & Residency Cayman, or WORC for short. The objective of WORC is to oversee the labour market, including the work permit and residency regimes, and to ensure that all Caymanians have a fair opportunity for gainful employment in our growing economy.

The creation of a Cayman Islands Coastguard Service is under way and we have appointed a capable Caymanian leadership team. We are also well on the way to implementing our new Customs and Border Control Department to provide joined-up, modern and more effective border security for our Islands.

We continue to build necessary infrastructure such as roads, improved schools, our major airport, and more with surplus funds and not by increased borrowing. And we are moving forward with plans for a modern waste to energy plant and an integrated waste management solution to solve the problem of our current overburdened landfills.

We are also moving forward with the delivery of the cruise and enhanced cargo port facilities that these Islands need to help secure our economic future.

At a time when significant economic threats are looming, we cannot and must not turn our backs on \$245 million of net economic benefit, hundreds of construction jobs, and then decades of increasing employment and business opportunities for Caymanians that the cruise berths will bring. Neither can

we turn our backs on the opportunity to modernise and enlarge our now out-dated cargo port.

It is essential that we deliver this critically important project and continue moving Cayman forward, preparing us for the future.

There are other ways that we are preparing Cayman for the future.

We recently had very positive constitutional talks with the United Kingdom and I look forward to completing these early in the New Year to put our Islands in the best possible position to govern our own affairs and continue to prosper as a modern, progressive and successful democracy.

As we enter the New Year I believe that the work that government and private sector have done, and the legislation passed in December, will help us avoid blacklisting by the European Union. But the challenges to our financial services sector will not stop here, so we are prepared to continue defending Cayman and our economic pillars wherever we need to.

The UK, too, is going through its own challenges with Brexit, and the outcome remains uncertain. In an ever-changing world it is therefore vital to seek out new opportunities to benefit our Islands and protect our future. This is why we have increased the engagement done in the UK by our Government office in London over the past two years, as well as direct engagement in Brussels and London by me, my Ministers and other officials.

And this is also why we are starting a new Ministry of International Trade, Investment, Aviation, and Maritime Affairs, and will open a Government Office

in Hong Kong this year to better facilitate business from Asia. We will not sit back and hope that business will keep coming our way. We must increasingly fight for it in those markets that are important to us, and to defend Cayman wherever we need to.

We will also continue to work hard at home to ensure that our people have the opportunities to live good, healthy, productive, and happy lives and to be able to share in this miracle that is the Cayman Islands.

I cannot leave you without reflecting that last year has been a year filled with challenges as well as blessings - much of which I highlighted earlier. It was certainly a year that saw us bid adieu to two Governors and recently welcome another. As the New Year begins I wish Governor Roper and his family well and look forward to working with him over the remainder of my term as Premier.

As I said at the start, we have certainly come far over the past 60 years. From humble beginnings we have created a modern and diverse Cayman Islands that is the envy of the region.

Our future is bright.

Despite much change over the decades, our three Islands remain a wonderful place to live and work and to celebrate family and community. At our core, Caymanians are still a hardworking, welcoming, caring and loving people.

I pray that we as a people never lose those traits.

On behalf of my Government, and from my family to yours, I again wish each of you and your families God's richest blessings and a very Happy, Healthy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. 🇰🇲

Leader of the Opposition New Year's Message

By Hon. Ezzard Miller

As we count down to the new year, we once again have an opportunity to reflect on the past year and to re-commit ourselves to goodwill, harmony and personal and shared responsibilities for the year ahead.

For us in the Opposition, 2018 has been a year of enormous pride, as we sought to strengthen the democratic process in the Cayman Islands.

We have especially striven to give voice to those who may for various reasons feel inhibited. We will continue to be your ambassadors in 2019.

This is the role of the Opposition and my colleagues and I make no apology for it.

Admittedly, sometimes the road blocks are insurmountable. Nevertheless, we will remain faithful to our responsibility to raise concerns and speak for all the people.

We continue to see the benefits of doing so.

For example, in 2018 we championed the concern about the lack of a mandate for a cruise port, and pushed for a referendum. We are still awaiting the outcome, but the initiative did compel government to debate the issues for the first time—even if only to a limited degree.

The Opposition also raised the issue of the failure of Government to implement and conform to its own good governance laws. Much of this is still outstanding, but we did succeed in prompting government to appoint its nominees to the very critical Procurement Committee. That is a start.

In the meantime, we will maintain our vigilance in promoting good governance and preventing and exposing corruption.



► Hon. Ezzard Miller, Leader of the Opposition

Also in the area of promoting good governance, we were especially pleased to be a part of the delegation that met with the UK Government in early December to discuss changes to the Islands' Constitution.

The overall aim was the safeguarding of the internal governance of the Cayman Islands by and for the people of the Cayman Islands.

We share in the Government's pride in what we have carved out so far and look forward to ratification by the UK Government and to debate in our Legislature.

We will continue to join with Government when we can, because collaboration, when appropriate, is the hallmark of effective governance.

Nevertheless, as we look ahead to 2019, the Opposition assures you that we will remain fearlessly committed to easing burdens, ensuring good governance, and increasing opportunities.

In that regard, I am pleased to announce the Opposition's plans to launch early in 2019 the Cayman Islands People's Alliance.

... Continued story on page 5

Honourable Speaker's New Year's Message

By Hon. McKeeva Bush

As we approach and count down to the New Year, we ought to take the opportunity to reflect and prepare for what is ahead. Despite a few unfortunate stories which may have impacted our collective consciousness, there are still promising and countless experiences and developments from last year that remind us we are prosperous, fortunate and blessed across these Islands.

We need to get involved and engaged and keep changing for the better in 2019 and to continue to encourage one another in a positive way. There needs to be a sense of self-reliance and we need to cultivate self-respect. Unfortunately, there are instances and a noticeably increasing tendency for influential persons conducting themselves with arrogance rather than humility.

I think that far too many of the people themselves are divided, more than ever it seems, and one challenge above all else that faces us right now is how to recapture a sense of unity and harness the forces that strengthen us rather than those that divide us.

Moreover, there is the issue of dysfunctional family units. This breakdown causes critical social deficit in our society and family structure. Regardless of our schools and churches which serve



► Hon. McKeeva Bush, Speaker

to reinforce basic values, it is within the family that these traits are formed and nurtured. It is in the family unit that behaviour is inculcated and where values of love and tolerance and respect are instilled.

Our fortunes for 2019 and beyond will undoubtedly depend to a great extent on ourselves – every single one of us – in how we conduct ourselves, how we behave towards one other, how we live as a community, how we avoid or resolve our disputes, and how we bring up our children and take care of the most vulnerable in our society. For this, let's adhere and comport with the useful saying: "Build better families, lead to better homes; Build better homes, lead to better communities; Build better communities, lead to a better Society."

... Continued story on page 8

OFREG APPROVES CHANGES TO CUC TERMS OF SERVICE

OfReg Approves Changes to Caribbean Utilities Company's Terms of Service, Giving Consumers Greater Choices and Promoting Renewable Energy

OfReg, as the regulator of the Energy & Utilities sector in the Cayman Islands, has announced that it has approved a series of revisions to the CUC Terms of Service that will result in more choices for consumers on how they acquire electricity, and ultimately what they pay for it.

Demand Rates

Customers can continue to consume and buy energy the way they have historically done or they can switch to re-

newable energy production and reduce their load on the grid, while reducing the island's dependence on fossil fuel. Consumers who are able to shift their peak demand to the new off-peak period will see decreases in their CUC bills as the new rate structure provides for better energy rates for energy consumed at 'off-peak' times. Customers interested in generating energy for self-supply can now elect to subscribe to CUC demand rates.

Information on demand rates is available on the CUC website.

Electric Vehicles (EV) Rates

Customers with electric vehicles can also now install a separate meter for charging their vehicles, and preferred rates are available for this purpose. The EV charging rates along with more information will be available starting in January 2019.

Customers who wish to install renewable energy systems in their homes and businesses will be able to participate in a new demand rates, known as the Distributed Energy Resources (DER) programme where the demand rates are market-driven. Consumers can also install batteries for energy storage. Any excess energy that customers do not use for self-supply can be sold back to the grid more competitively and without being cross-subsidised, thereby keeping electricity rates as low as reasonably possible.

OfReg's Acting CEO and Executive Director, Energy & Utilities Gregg Anderson stated: "We look at this as one of the first steps to reducing dependence on diesel-generated electricity – as more people move to renewable energy generation and practice better demand management, CUC's overall fuel consumption reduces, which helps to bring



down the price of energy for everyone". Anderson also said that: "Distributed Energy Resources (DER) will continue to play a bigger role in the Islands' resiliency, since poles and wires are the most fragile part of the transmission and distribution system. After disasters, solar and storage offers one of the best means of ensuring that consumers have power."

For more information on the sectors that OfReg regulates, please visit ofreg.ky.



Security Breach at ORIA

The Cayman Islands Airports Authority (CIAA) confirmed that a security incident occurred around 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 25 December 2018 at Owen Roberts' International Airport.

A male suspect entered the airport customs hall and evaded the officer at a security checkpoint before entering the ramp and boarding an aircraft that was parked and undergoing maintenance. The suspect subsequently escaped capture and left the area. He reappeared the following morning at



approximately 6:40 a.m. and was immediately recognised and captured by Airport Security and the RCIPS before entering the terminal.

The incident is currently under investigation.

Leader of the Opposition New Year's Message

... Continued story from page 4

The movement's aim is to sustain and promote the traditions for the harmony on which the success and prosperity of the Cayman Islands have been built, while seeking to address the needs of all sectors and increasing participatory democracy.

In particular, we are committed to facilitating opportunities for those who are being increasingly left behind or neglected.

To enable wider access to opportunities and to stem the increasing tide of economic disparity, we will continue to call for greater focus on our families.

We must invest boldly in our children's future. Our youth must be equipped to embrace opportunities and conquer the challenges ahead for them.

This is what it takes to build a strong, harmonious, vibrant and productive people, anchored in a maturing sense of national identity.

In this vein, as we celebrate in 2019 the 60th anniversary of the very first Constitution of the Cayman Islands, my hope is that all who call our beloved Cayman Islands home will join hands and hearts to make life better for all of us.

This spirit of harmony and goodwill is possible. Indeed, we have discov-

ered time and again that we have more in common than the often-highlighted differences.

My wish, therefore, is that we become aware again of that which holds us together at heart.

As we strive to renew and rekindle this spirit of unity and harmony, let us also celebrate diversity of talent, skills and abilities, across all sectors of society.

And for all of us, with the new slate that 2019 presents, my wish is for greater engagement, greater involvement, and greater participation.

For, indeed, if we are to move forward productively and meaningfully in 2019—if we are to take all concerns and needs into consideration—we must lend all our voices to the debates and conversations.

It is only through the active and constructive involvement of all residents that we can hope to achieve the best for all sectors of our population and the best for the Cayman Islands.

As we do so, I call on all of us to listen—to sincerely listen—to each other, and to thoughtfully and with open minds consider points of view that may differ to our own.

With these goals in mind, on behalf of my colleagues in the Opposition, I wish for you all a safe, happy, healthy, harmonious and prosperous New Year.

HighWater Hosts Annual Christmas Brunch, Raises USD\$18,000 to Support Victims of Domestic Violence

HighWater, a Cayman Islands providing independent directorship and ancillary services, used their annual Christmas party to give back: assisting CICC's efforts to offer safe shelter for female victims of domestic violence and their children.

HighWater, a hedge fund operating in the alternative investment funds industry, hosted its annual champagne brunch to raise money for the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre (CICC).

CICC, the shelter for female victims of domestic violence on the Cayman Islands, was given a remarkable USD\$18,000 to finance its ongoing work to protect victims of domestic violence.

The large sum was made possible through the incredibly generous donations of attendees to the annual event, hosted at Abacus on Saturday 8th December.

The attendees enjoyed a lush champagne brunch while the children got into the festive spirit by watching *The Grinch* together at the movies.

The large sum that was raised will help to support the important work that the CICC conducts over the course of the year. Last year the same event hosted by HighWater raised USD\$12,000, meaning there has been a large year-on-year increase.

Gary Linford is the Managing Director of HighWater and shared his opinion on the event:

"We are truly proud to contribute to such a special cause. Our team works hard throughout the year and we relish the opportunity to support our local



► Highwater Donations CICC 2018

community in rallying together for an important cause."

Ania Milanowska is the Executive Director of the CICC and expressed her gratitude:

"We are incredibly thankful for HighWater's assistance in tackling an issue that still, sadly, affects far too many lives. The amount of money raised goes directly to the Crisis Centre, and the positivity sends out a message that can help women to feel empowered and aware of the support network they have around them.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to every person who made this such a special day. The impact of your kind actions will be felt throughout 2019 and beyond."

POLICE NEWS

UPDATE: 21-Year-Old-Man of West Bay Charged with Murder

Following his arrest on the 25 December, a twenty-one-year-old-man of West Bay has been charged with the murder of twenty-nine-year-old year Darlington Ebanks also from West Bay.

This is in relation to a shooting incident that took place in the Boatswain Bay area of West Bay, on Tuesday 25 December when

about 1:30AM by police and other emergency services were dispatched to a report of shots fired in the vicinity of King Road and Florence Lane.

EMS and police attended the location and attended to a man who was found unresponsive at the scene. He was transported to the hospital where he was later pronounced dead. 🌐

Stolen 2015 Orange Hyundai Accent Car

Just before 3:45PM on Saturday 22 December, police received a report of a vehicle being stolen from the from the Dolphin Centre parking lot off Eastern Avenue, George Town, between Friday 21 December and Saturday 22 December.

The vehicle was described as being an orange 2015 Hyundai Accent GL, registration number 162-723. The vehicle was left in the parking lot overnight when the owner of the vehicle returned to collect the vehicle it was missing. A photograph of a similar vehicle is attached.

Year: 2015

Make: Hyundai
Model: Accent
Colour: Orange

The police have been making efforts to locate the vehicle and are now seeking the assistance of the public in locating this vehicle. Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of this vehicle is asked to contact the George Town Police Station at 949-4222.

Anonymous tips can also be provided directly to the RCIPS via our Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777, or via our website <http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>. 🌐

Thirty-Two (32) Motor Vehicle Collisions over a Three (3) Day Period

Between Monday 24 December and Thursday 27 December, there have been 32 reports of motor vehicle collisions across all three islands, with the majority of these, (approximately twenty (20)), occurring in George Town District.

Twelve (12) of these collisions were reported as serious accidents involving injury and in some cases even entrapments and



vehicles being overturned.

Over the three (3) day period there were also three (3) persons arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, all of whom were involved in motor vehicle collisions.

The RCIPS would like to remind the public to stay safe by doing the following:

1. **Do not to drink and drive;**

2. Do not to use your cell phones whilst driving. Pull off the road when it safe to do so, to make your call or texts.

3. Ensure that you are driving within the speed limits and if we are experiencing rainy weather, adjust your speed accordingly (reduce speed by 10 miles to compensate for the slick roadway), to avoid having a collision.

4. Look out for roadblocks and traffic stops and slow down as soon as they are in your sights. Come to a complete stop when you reached the officers.



5. Be vigilant and attentive whilst driving. Don't get distracted by passenger or electronic devices in the vehicle.

The RCIPS would like to wish you Safe and Prosperous New Year 🌐

STATEMENT ON FIRE SERVICE INCIDENT

Following a report by Cayman Marl Road on 27 December 2018, the Ministry of Financial Services and Home Affairs can confirm that the Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands (CAACI) was informed of the alleged incident, by Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Hails on 12th December 2018. The CFO subsequently submitted an 'occurrence report' to the CAACI on 21st December 2018.

Overseas Territories Aviation Requirements (OTAR) Part 13, 'Occurrence Reporting' states that the Aerodrome Certificate holder (CIAA), or any person required to provide an occurrence report, shall conduct an investigation through the organisation's Safety Management System (SMS). In compliance with this, the Ministry can further confirm that a joint investigation will be conducted by the CIFS and the CIAA, commencing 2 January 2019. A report on the findings will be produced, including where necessary, recommendations to ensure that similar occurrences are not repeated.

The Ministry has been advised by the CAACI that the sole objective of occurrence reporting is the prevention of accidents and incidents and not to attribute blame or liability. Upon receipt of the report following the joint investigation, the CAACI will review such recommendations and determine regulatory compliance of the outcome.

As there is a protocol in place for the handling of such matters per established best practices, the Ministry will await the completion of the joint investigation. 🌐



Ministry Update on High Schools Improvement Work

Following the initial Office of Education Standards (OES) report on its 2018 inspections of Clifton Hunter, John Gray and Layman E. Scott High Schools the Education Ministry, Education Department and staff of the Government schools immediately began work to incorporate a response to the OES findings into the continuous work of strategic school improvement.

"A successful education system requires the contribution of many stakeholders, and I am pleased that we have a diligent stakeholder such as the Office of Education Standards working with us to support the overarching goal of the Government's strategic objective, which is to create the best education opportunities for all of our children," stated Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, Minister for Education.

Earlier this week (Monday 17 December 2018) the OES released a summary of findings contained in its original reports on the inspections, published in October 2018. Those findings, says Acting Chief Officer for the Ministry of Education Cetyona Cacho, provided an important benchmark for work done to enhance teaching and learning in Government high schools since the current 2018-2019 school year began.

In particular Ms Cacho cites a number of areas mentioned by the OES in its reports, such as enhanced management of student and teacher performance and increased support for Key Stage 3 students making the transition from primary to high school.

Staff in the ministry, department and schools, have already undertaken

a considerable number of actions in these areas. Other work is scheduled to begin very shortly. A brief overview of actions that have been or are about to be implemented includes:

Managing student performance

- School leaders now regularly work to review and identify particular students who are failing to meet their potential, and implement interventions to help the students close the attainment gaps.

- As part of this process, schools are also working to use data on student performance to inform teachers but also to help inform student learning and self-evaluation.

Managing teacher performance

- Education officials are continuing to utilise targeted professional development sessions to help staff acquire and/or strengthen skills in the areas of teaching and learning.

- Teachers' performance management cycle for 2018-2019 has been aligned to the OES Framework and expectations since the start of the current school year.

- Announced and unannounced observation of lessons will soon be implemented. Walk-throughs of classrooms are already in place and will be developed further throughout the year.

Enhanced management of the Key Stage 3 transition period

- A curriculum review by the Ministry will include a review of Key Stage 3 to ensure children's smooth transition from primary into early secondary and enhance their progress. This work is expected to commence in 2019.



► Clifton Hunter School

A comprehensive outline of actions taken in response to OES recommendations is released with this statement.

School inspectors' findings have historically informed the annual plans that provide a roadmap for improving teaching and learning Department of Education Services Director Lyneth Monteith explains.

"The work of the Office of Education Standards provides an external audit of the performance of schools and their students, but also of the systemic reform efforts led by the Ministry and Department. This creates a feedback loop that the Ministry of Education, Department of Education Services and schools use to plan strategically, and which the schools tailor to their unique needs."

Chief Officer Cacho encourages parents to read the OES reports but also to reach out to schools to find out more about work being done to increase their children's chances of academic success.

"We are committed to engaging with partners like the OES, as well as all other stakeholders, to help achieve a world-class future for our children, and it is our intention to keep the public informed of our progress", Ms Cacho comments.

The summary OES report on Government high schools is now available online at <http://bit.ly/SSR-DEC2018>. 🌐

Cleveland Clinic Florida Expanding World Class Healthcare: Greater access to specialty care areas now available to more international patients

For more than 30 years, patients have come to Cleveland Clinic Florida seeking outstanding patient care. It is a premier academic medical center known for providing complex care for the sickest of patients, from across the region and around the world. To meet both the local and international demand for broader access to Cleveland Clinic's primary and specialty care services, Cleveland Clinic Florida has completed major elements of its ambitious expansion plan with the opening of its new hospital tower and expanded emergency services.



"We are excited about the greater reach of Cleveland Clinic's unique model of medicine, which combines patient-centered care with research and innovation to achieve clinical excellence," said Wael Barsoum, M.D., CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic Florida.

da. "This innovative facility is part of our commitment to continuing to deliver on our promise of bringing world-class care to more patients."

The newly-constructed \$232 million five-story, 221,000-square-foot hospital tower expands capacity by 50 percent at South Florida's top ranked hospital. The addition of 75 beds and critical care areas allows Cleveland Clinic Florida

to accommodate significantly more surgical cases, especially high acuity patients facing cancer, cardiac and neurological conditions, and those in need of organ transplant services. Cleveland Clinic Florida's Transplant Center is fully integrated with United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and is one of the leading institutes for heart, liver and kidney transplantation in South Florida, serving the southeastern United States, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Since its launch in 2013, the program has completed over 800 life-saving organ transplants.

The hospital tower includes expanded Emergency Services department, 24 surgical intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 26 medical/surgical and telemetry beds for oncology and acute care patients, and 24 medical ICU beds. Several design elements to support patient safety,

comfort and experience include access to natural light throughout the facility to support a healing environment, state-of-the-art hospital beds featuring visual management tools, and nursing stations positioned between patient rooms. Dedicated computer stations are located within patient rooms for caregivers to provide easy access to electronic health records.

In addition to serving a higher volume of patients, this expansion means that more patients will have access to faster care. It also allows Cleveland Clinic Florida to receive more international patients that are in critical condition. Overall, this expansion is the latest step in extending the reach of Cleveland Clinic's unique model of medicine, one that combines patient-centered care with research and innovation to achieve clinical excellence every day.

For more details on this expansion, visit clevelandclinicflorida.org/expansion

A Christmas visit for The Pines Retirement Home

The smell of Christmas, festive snacks on the table and Christmas Carols in the background, was the atmosphere at the Pines Retirement Home on Wednesday, 19th December 2018. The Retirement Home staff hosted a Christmas drop-in for the resident's family and friends who looked forward to the event every Christmas.

The 14th Governor of the Cayman Islands, His Excellency Martyn Roper and his wife Elisabeth made time in their busy schedule to take part in the festive occasion and he thanked The Pines Staff and Residents for the invitation.

The Governor was received enthusiastically as he made his way around the venue where he met and shook hands with each resident and their family members, and friends.

Mrs. Mitchell, The Pines Retirement Home Manager and Theo Bullmore, Vice Chairman, thanked the Governor and his wife, and the resident's family and friends, for attending the festive occasion. Everyone enjoyed a Cayman Christmas tradition of treats as well as heavy cake, sorrel and entertainment.



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Record numbers enjoyed a Cayman vacation last year

... Continued story from page 1

history for that month, with a total of 38,172 visitors, which is a 9.07 per cent increase over 2017.



Visitor numbers from the south east part of the US increased sharply, with a 19.44 per cent rise over 2017, buoyed by the addition of JetBlue's daily service from Fort Lauderdale in October. Visitors from America's north east region increased by 6.42 per cent, bolstered by an increase in flight capacity from JetBlue and Cayman's own Cayman Airways. Visitors from the south west US recorded a 16.3 per cent increase over 2017, while the west coast and midwest region recorded 15.97 and 4.55 per cent increases respectively. Air arrivals from Canada also showed strong performance, at an increase of 13.27 per cent over November 2017. The Department of Tourism said that continued efforts to grow the Latin American market were also fruitful, as visitation grew by 10.3 per cent.

Growth continuing into 2019

It is anticipated that key events taking place early in 2019



will help to sustain the growth of tourist arrivals well into 2019, according to the DOT, including the annual Cayman Cook-out which attracts foodies from all over the world to mix and mingle with some of the world's top chefs and wine experts, as well as the ever-popular Taste of Cayman.

The music, food and entertainment festival KAABOO Cayman is set for mid-February and will host top musicians and bands, including The Chainsmokers, Duran Duran, ZEDD and Jason Derulo and is expected to give a huge boost to tourism figures for 2019. [🌐](#)

Honourable Speaker's New Year's Message

... Continued story from page 4

Let's commend the volunteers in the various social clubs in the country for their good cause, who have helped, and continue to assist, with the development and building of the society. I anticipate and encourage all patriotic Caymanians and residents alike to mount a partnership with churches, schools, civic bodies and community-based organizations. Let's prepare ourselves for the changes that are inevitable, as they will require hard decisions to be made.

There are understandable cases which unfortunately require Government involvement, but I reassure you that we have the character and courage to demonstrate self-reliance and self-sufficiency despite our individual circumstances. We all as individuals can show the conviction and purpose to achieve our full potential and goals in life, once we apply ourselves.

There is a preponderance of evidence in the form of statistics and otherwise which indicate that in spite of our challenges, we are on a progressing and unified front in most instances. Our economic growth and low unemployment rate have all combined to make the past year a good one for the Cayman Islands. No one can reasonably argue or deny that the feeling of optimism and hope in our society is on the up and up. This is achieved through planning, hard work and perseverance.

Let's keep ourselves healthy with the appropriate lifestyle which includes, but not limited to, exercise. Let's embark on educational opportunities in order to upskill ourselves and make ourselves more marketable and productive. We should freely express our God-given talents and work together for the good of these Islands.

We ought not to lose sight of the vision of creating a society of opportunity where each and every one is a shareholder in our prosperous Cayman Islands.

Undoubtedly, we must press on with all the processes by which the economy can grow and our efforts must be genuine and for the concern of Caymanians and Residents alike.

The idea of sharing is nothing new to Caymanians. When people in one yard are poor, they survive by sharing. This kindness is instinctive generosity towards another human being, and is one of the greatest and most enduring and integral features of the Cayman way of life.

We must commit ourselves to continue caring for the poor, older persons, persons with disability, the children, and all the disadvantaged. For too long, far too many have been content to leave our Christian principles at the church door and have not extended those Christian principles to our basic living standard and decisions that they take, when they have the means to help.

In the advent of the New Year, I commend you to look at the past so that you may learn its lessons, but not to become overly preoccupied with it. Rather, I suggest that you consider the future and grasp the opportunities for great achievement because our future must be one of great hope - where ideals are achieved. It can be a future not only of material prosperity but above all, of spiritual fulfillment, a future in which we can all share.

Many of you have asked me why I am not talking on some of the issues. As all of you know, I am the Speaker of the House and I don't attend any party meetings or the Government Caucus and have chosen to stay away from the day-to-day Politics. I would have served over 36 years at the end of this term.

And so when I decided to help form the Coalition Government, it was a recognition that I know our vast amount of voters wanted a change from the usual political fighting. They wanted a change.

I know the coalition is working for the benefit of our people - the day I feel otherwise, I will say so. However, policies and things I have fought for over the years are being implemented. And "things already better". This is so because government is working hard and because the coalition is working as a unit. Not having to fight amongst ourselves - as unity is strength.

Education is being improved - civil servants are being cared for. Our airport is nearing completion, Tourism is booming - decisions is being made for the Dock to proceed. The plans for Waste Management are moving in the right direction. Special "Work Programmes" to give people extra - or needed money have been put in place. Infrastructure work is being done all the time. The economy is booming, so our people are benefitting.

Yet there are challenges still. Our Financial Industry is being challenged - the Finance Minister and the Premier have their hands full - they are working hard to ensure our Islands will remain relevant to those who use our services.

All this is done by the Coalition Government, not one side - it is the work of a government who understands what needs to be done. If this were not so, I would have told you.

Yes, there are challenges now and challenges will continue as we are a developing country. There are developments I believe we should move to, to ensure that our children and grandchildren's future is one where there will be a good livelihood for them.

I want to see buildings' heights move to 50 storeys - even if only for one building - for tourism, residential and commercial businesses to make a mark in the region, so that the wealthiest among the wealthy will work, shop and live there, to set us apart in the region: shopping for the wealthiest, homes and

businesses for the wealthiest who want something different. This can bring a new economy - so that the vagaries of the Metropolitan and powerful countries do not threaten our existence and the future for our children can remain sustainable.

There is the challenge that traffic, more so for the Eastern districts, is bringing. Government will have to put the East-West corridor on the front burner.

Those are matters that I have hope will start to be addressed in the New Year.

As we advance and progress, we need to be mindful of the necessity to embrace positive values and attitudes in the society. I encourage you to treat one other in a mutually respectful and gentle manner.

Let us demonstrate this quality in how we speak to each other, even during disagreements, in how we drive on our roads and in the goods and services that we provide.

A fresh new year is once again upon us; it's the time to be thankful for the blessings of the past year and to take stock of all our achievements. Live a healthy lifestyle and engage or embark on educational opportunities in order to upskill yourself academically, technically/ vocationally or otherwise. Become more marketable and qualified.

At the same time, I implore you all to act selfless and be keen and enthusiastic for what you can achieve this 2019. I am confident with God's mercies, we will continue to progress as we enhance our quality of life in the Cayman Islands.

And so I have Hope - believing in what God can do; what He has done for us. The New Year is just ahead; so, I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way.'"

Blessings to all of you for the year ahead! [🌐](#)



► Lime



► Bird of Paradise flower, growing by a wire fence



► Kenneth Bryan loves bright, beautiful lilies

Mixing fruit with flames of color

It goes without saying George Town MLA Kenneth Bryan leads a very busy life, but he still finds time for his garden. He was brought up with a love of growing plants and flowers and vegetables, and it has never left him, he says. But he loves flowers especially, and bright, beautiful flames of color light up his garden like a magical fire.

He has only lived in this house in George Town for four years, so most of the plants, and especially the fruit trees, are still very young. But Mr. Bryan is planning carefully for the future, and his garden is not too crowded with trees, so that there will need plenty of space to grow when they get bigger. As he showed me around, we started in the neat front garden, where it was good to see fruit trees and ornamental plants all mixed up together.

Mr. Bryan is especially passionate about growing Canna Lilies: "They are very beautiful flowers and they bloom all year round and have a variety of different colors and sizes and heights," he said. Right next door to one is a little pomegranate tree, with some tiny round pomegranates already on it. There is a little lime tree, too, with a few bright green limes on it, and a bougainvillea, very small, but already crimson flowers play about the leaves, like flames in a burning bush. There are some other lilies too, pink and white and yellow.

In the back garden, many of the boarders are raised up a few inches about the lawn, using long wooden strips of wood to support the sides, and demarcate them from the lawn. Mr. Bryan says he uses fertilizer, but tries to keep everything he does as natural as possible, and would like to begin composting, too, sometime in the future. Here



► Calla lilies are beautiful and blossom all year round

are more canna lilies: "Once they have bloomed, then you cut it out and another one shoots up," he says.

As we move along a border, there are some young avocado trees, and a tall slender sweetsop tree. Sweetsops possess anti-cancer properties, he said. Next in line are some Bird of Paradise flowers, which are large and spectacular. They are growing next to some lovely ferns. Mr. Bryant likes to work with nature, by planting the flowers that like water in the area of the garden that tends to get most water.

"This is a Custard Apple tree, I planted this about six months ago but it hasn't given me any blossoms yet. Sometimes I try to cross pollinate them myself, but it's not easy. That is why the bees are so important," he said.



► Basil

There is a nice, neat raised bed full of herbs – fever grass, basil, chives, mint..."Depending on the season we put tomatoes and peppers in there too," he said. When the basil goes to seed he plants it straight away. "Fever grass is also known as lemongrass, and you boil it. I add a bit of mint, and I drink it most mornings. It is what I grew up on," he said, although he said that for him it was also very useful for a herb used in cooking. Of course, good fruit trees need good soil, and Mr. Bryan explained about how he prepares the ground for his fruit trees. "Whenever people do development, they usually go in and they fill the soil with marl. Marl is not very fertile soil for plants. There a sink-hole here – I got a guy with a back-hoe to come and dig



► Beautiful flowers fill Mr. Bryan's garden

that out, and replace it with topsoil," he said.

Talking about the continuing significance of backyard gardening in today's world, Mr. Bryan said: "Production has seemingly taken away the role of self-sufficiency from the human being and now that you have generations who don't provide for themselves because of production, that puts you in a situation where if that production stops, you can't survive. There are so many concerns about the negative effects of these produced items that they sell to people, either having bad chemicals or genetically modified things in them. The only things that you can truly trust are the things that you grow yourself. It gives you good stress relieve as well, and gives you good values as a family," he said. 🌍



► Sweetsop



► Breadfruit

Guyana Government Awaits Ruling from Speaker of the House on No-confidence Motion

Government says its awaiting the ruling of Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Barton Scotland, on the consequences of the no-confidence motion against the administration earlier this month.

That ruling is expected on Thursday, and Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Basil Williams said yesterday that the Speaker finds that an error has been made, he has the power to revisit any decision he sees fit.

Opposition Leader Bharrat Jagdeo is adamant that the motion which he moved was lawfully passed and, under the Constitution, the government should resign and elections called within 90 days of the passing of the motion. On December 21, 33 MPs in the 65-seat National Assembly, including government backbencher Charandass Persaud, voted in favour of the motion.

But Williams said the government's position has always been that the motion was not validly carried since the opposition needed 34 instead of 33 votes for an absolute majority.

"Parliament is actually supreme in its own arena. So, we are responsible for our internal rules and procedures.

There are rules that can be changed by amending certain standing orders and once the vote is carried, then that is it," he said yesterday when he appeared on the National Communications Network (NCN) live televised programme "Context" where he addressed the government's current position on the issue.

According to the Attorney General, the government has also decided on presenting the House Speaker with a legal memorandum, where he will be provided with all available options regarding the no-confidence motion. He said the Speaker can also invite a similar document from the parliamentary opposition, after which he can make his ruling.

Vice President and Minister of Public Security, Khemraj Ramjattan, also speaking on the NCN programme, said there are precedents the government intends to build its argument on, in challenging the motion.

He acknowledged that immediately after the motion was passed there were statements by President David Granger and Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo accepting the outcome of the motion. However, he said that was based on

what the government felt at that time, and now that it believes a mistake was made, the situation must be remedied.

Ramjattan also sought to explain why the government believes a majority of 34 was needed to pass the motion when 33 has been accepted as a majority since 2011.

"There is a distinction because there is an article in our Constitution that says that bills and motions can be passed save and except otherwise provided, by a simple

majority of those present and voting....A confidence or no-confidence motion is a different motion above all else as the Constitution made mention," he said.

Minister Ramjattan further contended that since half of 65 is 32.5 which is then rounded to 33, then 33 and one half is a majority and that has to be rounded up to 34.

"It is important that people just do not follow through as what is regarded



► Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Barton Scotland will rule on Thursday

as simplicity. The law is the law," he said. Meantime, Williams also put to rest calls in some quarters for the administration to resign.

"Even if you say it [no-confidence motion] was validly passed under Article 106 (6) [of the Constitution], Article 106 (7) says, notwithstanding such defeat, the government shall remain in office and shall hold an election within three months," the Attorney General said. 🌐

Haitians Being Tricked into Going to Barbados for Jobs

The removal of the visa requirement for Haitians coming to Barbados has resulted in a major scam in which Haitians are being duped out of thousands of dollars with the hope of finding a job here.

However, Barbados' Ambassador to CARICOM David Comissiong has given the assurance that officials are on top of the situation, after it was found that scores of Haitians have come to Barbados since the floodgates opened.

"What we are finding is that there seem to be some unscrupulous persons in Haiti and perhaps in the Dominican Republic as well, who are misleading Haitians, and taking money from them. My understanding is that many Haitians are being asked to pay these persons somewhere between US\$2,500 and \$3,000, giving these Haitians the assurance that if they pay them this money, that they would arrange accommodation and employment in Barbados," he told online newspaper Barbados Today during an exclusive interview.

"A number of the Haitians who are coming here are poor people who have been misled, who have paid out this money and are coming to Barbados, believing that there is some job waiting for them in Barbados. This is not true."

Last week, a group of Haitians who were evicted from a four-bedroom house called on local authorities to help them find temporary accommodation and to fund return tickets to their homeland. The young men said they had travelled to Barbados in search of a better life. However, they said they found no jobs and have exhausted their limited finances.

Ambassador Comissiong shared a document with Barbados Today, which was sent to the Haitian government informing the people of that nation that they are not entitled to work in Barbados, and also outlining the terms on which they may visit the island.

The press advisory, dated August 15, written in French, Creole and English,

explained that it is important that there be a general understanding, not only in Haiti but all across the Caribbean, that while no CARICOM national needs a visa to travel to Barbados, that it is necessary when visiting Barbados that the traveller be in possession of sufficient financial resources to adequately maintain himself or herself without becoming a charge on public funds.

This is a legal stipulation of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and an integral component of Caribbean Community Law, the document also read.

"A CARICOM national that comes to Barbados as a visitor is not entitled to work, and that needs to be made clear. If a CARICOM national comes under the Skilled Nationals Programme, which has 10 skills that are currently approved



► Barbados' Ambassador to CARICOM David Comissiong says officials are on top of the situation

and they possess a CARICOM skills certificate to confirm that they possess these skills, then they can be granted permission to work without needing a work permit.

"However, this only applies to a small fraction of Haitian visitors who are coming, because as of now, Haiti really does not have the structures in place to permit its people to fully participate in the CARICOM Skills National Programme," Comissiong explained. (Barbados Today) 🌐



American Airlines Doubles Up on Weekend Flights to Grenada

People living in the United States now have more options and easier connections when travelling to Grenada.

The airline has added a flight which leaves Miami International Airport after 9 a.m. and arrives at the Maurice Bishop International Airport after 1 p.m. on Saturdays, supplementing the existing flight that leaves Miami later in the morning.

"We are happy for the double capacity from this key gateway of

Miami International Airport on Saturdays with American Airlines, as we have experienced strong growth in visitor arrivals from the United States of 12.3 per cent year to date in 2018," said Chief Executive Officer of the Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA) Patricia Maher.

The US market accounts for 47 per cent of market share for stay-over arrivals to Grenada, with the five top performing feeder markets being New York, Florida, New Jersey, California and Texas. 🌐



► Alex Matuschka von Greiffenclau died suddenly in his native Germany

Digicel Group CEO Dies Suddenly on Holiday

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of telecommunications group Digicel, Alex Matuschka von Greiffenclau, died suddenly yesterday while on holiday with his family in his native Germany.

Digicel chairman Denis O'Brien confirmed the death of the 47-year-old married father of three who took over as CEO in February to replace Colm Delves.

"No words can adequately express our sadness at Alex's passing or our gratitude for having worked with him,"

O'Brien said in a statement issued today.

"Digicel has lost a committed, hard-working and exceptional Chief Executive. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to know him on a personal level have lost a dear friend."

O'Brien has taken up the role of interim CEO at Digicel which has operations in 31 markets in the Caribbean, Central America and Asia Pacific. He will travel to Jamaica on January 2. 🌐

Another American University Could Be Coming to Barbados

As final preparations are made for the approximately 1,500 students and staff who will be at the Ross University School of Medicine when it starts operations next month, government has revealed that it is in talks to bring another American university to Barbados.

Speaking during a tour of the residential community that will accommodate the students and staff of Ross University – which moved from Dominica earlier this year –, Prime Minister Mia Mottley yesterday disclosed that government is hoping to wrap up talks with Chamberlain University, which offers degree programs for nursing and health professions.

"We want to perfect what we are doing with Ross first, while at the same time having a conversation with the Barbados Community College and Chamberlain," she said, although she gave no further details.

"As you know, the Government of Barbados is already in the provision of nursing education, but we feel through partnership we can deliver better and more, especially given that there is a global shortage of nurses that we experience in today's world."



Mottley expressed satisfaction with provisions being made for Ross' students and staff in The Villages at Coverley, while developer Mark Maloney said it was a good example of public sector, private sector and Government collaboration.

"Just three and a half months ago, we were discussing and facilitating bringing Ross here to Coverley...and to get everything done in this time is phenomenal and shows what can happen in Barbados when everybody comes together," he said.

Ross students are expected to arrive as early as tomorrow.

And the Prime Minister said having the hundreds of additional students would give the economy a boost. 🌐

New Twist in US Money Laundering Case Against Former Barbados Government Minister

Former government minister Donville Inniss' legal troubles in the United States have taken a turn in his favour.

Online newspaper Barbados Today has reported that its investigations have revealed that the United States Justice Department has withdrawn one of the charges in an upgraded indictment under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act that was brought against him earlier in this year.

According to court documents dated December 12, 2018, and obtained by the media house, United States Attorney Richard P Donoghue wrote to the Judge Kiyo Matsumoto who is presiding over Inniss' case, stating that based on the ruling in the recent case United States versus Hoskins, the government was withdrawing a superseding indictment which had been brought against the former Barbados Commerce Minister.

Last August 24, in a matter unrelated to Inniss' case, the US Court of Appeals had determined that a non-resident foreign national could not be held criminally liable for aiding or abetting or conspiring to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, unless the government could show that the accused acted as an agent of a domestic concern or while he or she was physically present in the United States. Legal arguments were that Inniss fitted into neither category.

On August 6 this year, a three-count indictment had been unsealed in a federal court in Brooklyn charging Inniss with conspiracy to launder money and two counts of money laundering in the United States. The indictment also accused Inniss of accepting bribes from the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Limited (ICBL) in 2015 and 2016 while

he was Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development.

The allegation was that ICBL paid him \$36,000 to use his authority to ensure that the firm's million-dollar contract with the state-owned company Barbados Industrial Development Corporation (BIDC) which was under his ministerial portfolio was renewed. The US Attorney's Office alleged that he conspired to hide the payment by having the money sent to a New York dental company, then into his bank account through a number of transfers.

The superseding indictment brought against Inniss has also mentioned the positions of two other defendants, namely an ICBL chief executive officer who the document referred to as a "Canadian citizen and a resident of Barbados" and an ICBL senior vice-president, who the nine-page indictment also indicated was a citizen and resident of Barbados. These two individuals have not yet been arrested in the United States and it is not known if either has travelled there since Inniss' initial detention.

Efforts to reach Inniss in the United States this afternoon were unsuccessful but reliable legal sources told Barbados Today that the former Democratic Labour Party (DLP) St James South MP had parted company with attorney Garnet Sullivan and his matters were now being handled by the Anthony Ricco Law Firm which had filed the successful motion on his behalf.

Indications are that Inniss still has charges hanging over his head in relation to Barbados' Prevention of Corruption Act 1929. However, now that the two ICBL officials have been identified in the superseding indictment, questions



► Former Minister of Commerce Donville Inniss pleaded not guilty in August when he was arraigned on money laundering charges in a US federal court

have arisen as to any deals they might be able to make if US authorities manage to apprehend them. Legal sources told Barbados Today that a question of jurisdiction could arise in any allegations of bribery brought against Inniss since there was no evidence of such an occurrence on American soil.

Sources indicated that since the Royal Barbados Police Force had not questioned nor charged Inniss with any matter related to accepting bribes from ICBL that it was highly unlikely US authorities could successfully prosecute him for a matter outside of their jurisdiction. The Grand Jury indictment filed with the US federal district court for the Eastern District of New York had referred to breaches in Barbadian law, namely the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1929.

However, last August Commissioner of Police Tyrone Griffith made it clear that no information had been shared between the Royal Barbados Police Force and US federal law enforcement regarding allegations of bribery and money laundering against Inniss. He said no complaint against Inniss had been made to the police. Stressing the point about jurisdiction, Griffith said even if Inniss was found guilty of any charges in the United States, it would still require someone to come forward and lodge a complaint in Barbados for the police to get involved.

Inniss returns to the US federal court next June, but it is understood his attorneys are now working towards expediting the matter before that time following the withdrawal of the specified charge against him. (Barbados Today) 🌐

CROSSWORD

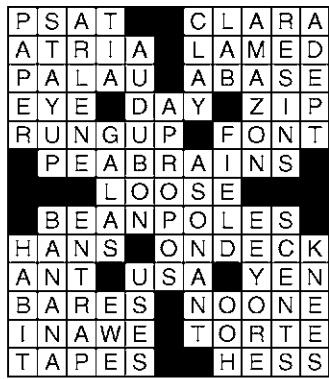
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 21 Golfer's peg
- 22 Drenched
- 23 Corduroy feature
- 24 Army exercises
- 26 Cloth scrap
- 29 Not too hard
- 30 Greek cheese
- 31 Decay
- 32 1950s singing style
- 34 Following
- 37 Unmanned flier
- 38 Oklahoma city
- 39 Fairy tale monsters
- 40 Fall mo.

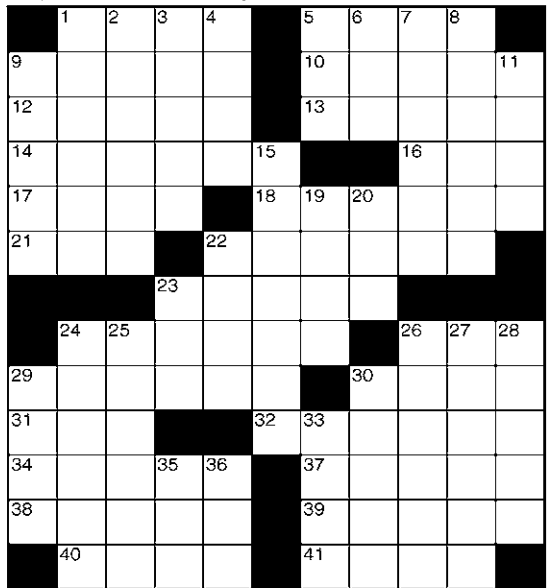
DOWN

- 1 Poe's love
- 2 1990s veep
- 3 Winter gliders
- 4 Spanish greeting
- 5 Lamb's father
- 6 Language suffix
- 7 Busy
- 8 Sure to fail
- 9 West Point student
- 11 First-rate
- 15 Drew aimlessly
- 19 Falls behind
- 20 Mamie's mate
- 22 Window part
- 23 Chest bone
- 24 Bonehead
- 25 Baby's toy
- 26 Put another way
- 27 Makes amends
- 28 Stares in shock
- 29 "Blast it!"
- 30 Do without
- 33 Freshener target
- 35 Sixth sense, briefly
- 36 Sewer rodent



Saturday's answer

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



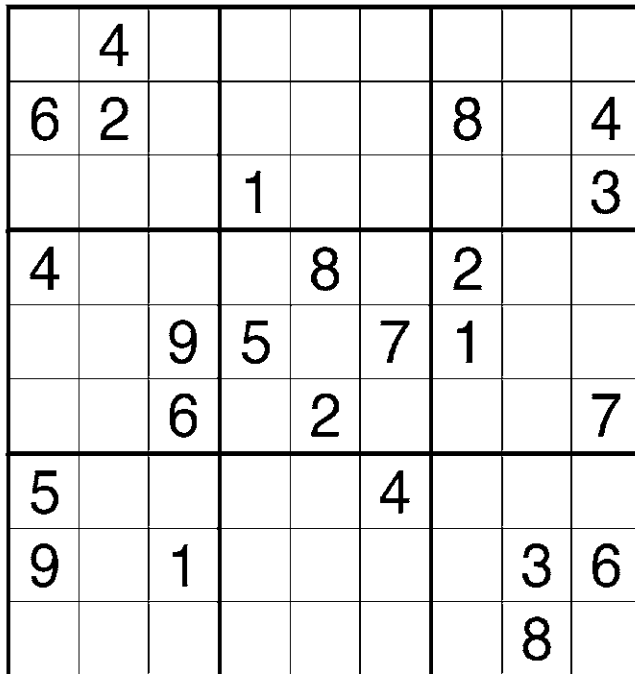
6-11

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

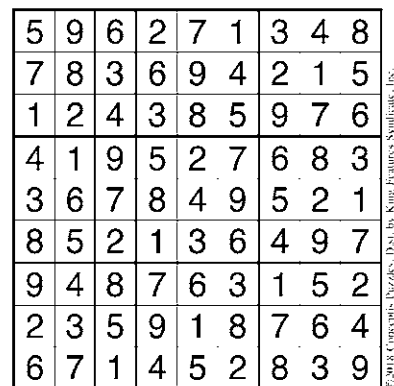


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/20

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Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Word Search

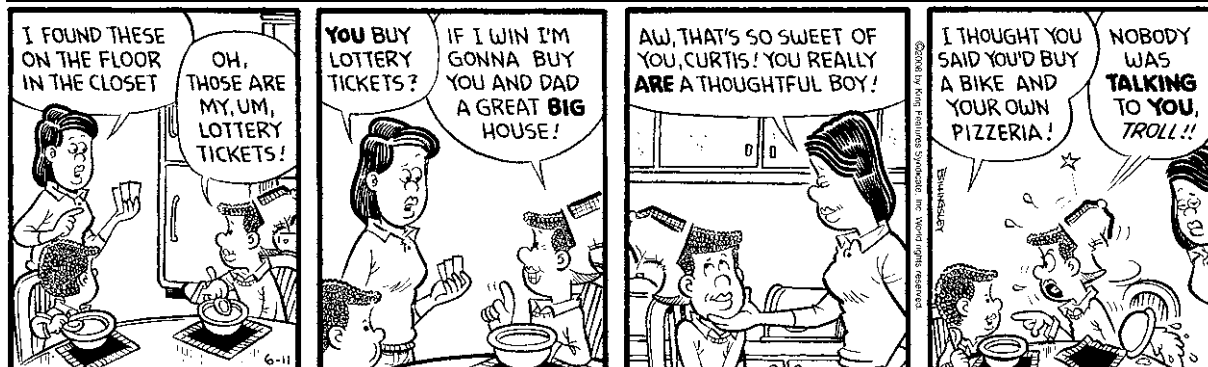


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.

- Ballad
- Ensemble
- Music
- Segue
- Band
- Fanfare
- Notes
- Solo
- Blues
- Folk
- Overture
- Sonata
- Chorus
- Gig
- Ragtime
- Tremolo
- Classical
- Group
- Rhythm
- Tune
- Concert
- Harmony
- Riff
- Variations
- Country
- Jazz
- Rock
- Duet
- Melody
- Score

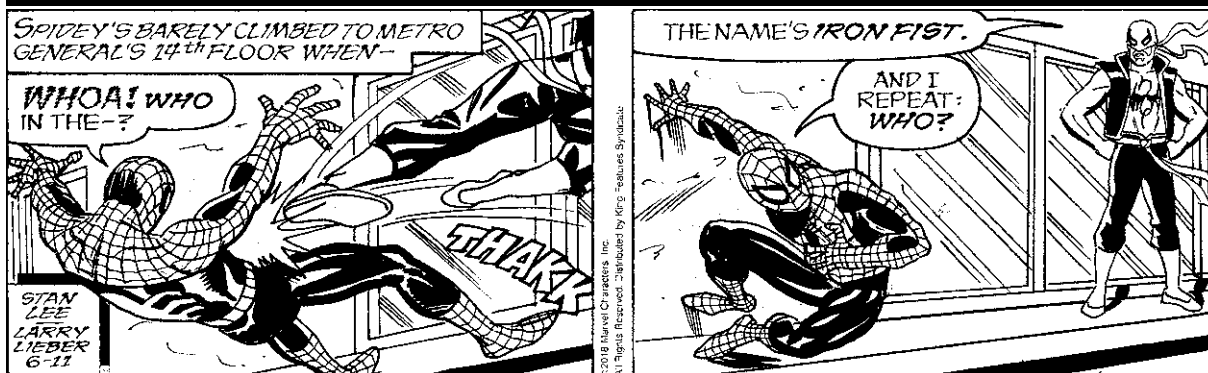
CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



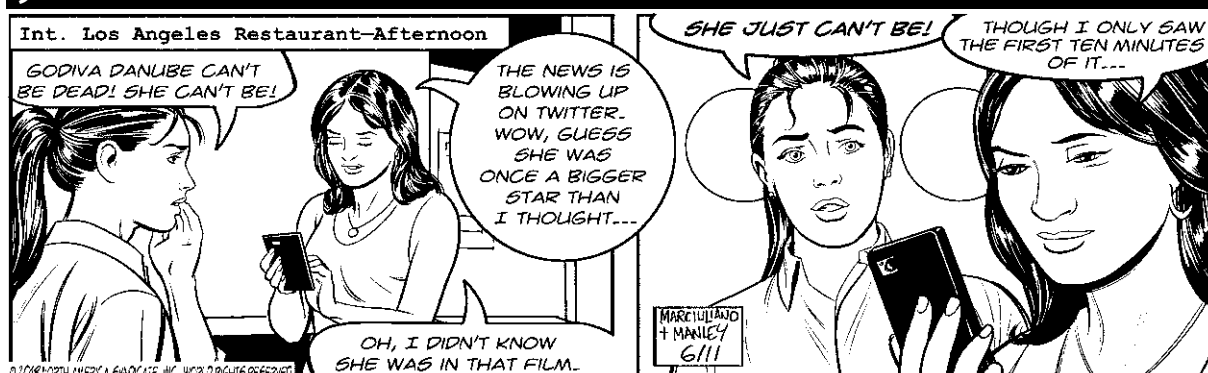
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



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A **4 x 7** (approx. 25 sq. ft) storage space can hold the contents of a small room or large closet, such as:



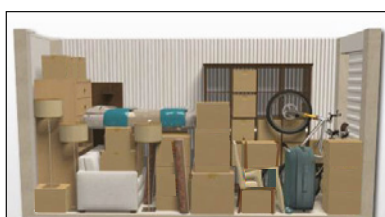
- Chairs
- Small desks
- Filing cabinets
- Files
- Bookcases
- A few boxes

A **6 x 9** (approx. 50 sq. ft) storage space can hold the contents of one room such as:



- Couches
- Chairs
- Chest of drawers
- Lamps
- A few boxes

A **6 x 13** (approx. 75 sq. ft) storage space can hold the contents of two rooms such as:



- Mattress sets
- Sofas
- Chest of drawers
- Bookcases
- Desks

A **10 x 10** (approx. 100 sq. ft) storage space can hold the contents of three rooms such as:



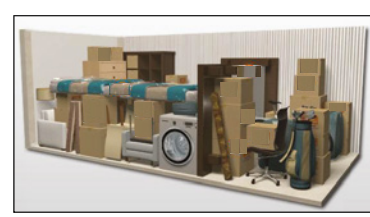
- Mattress sets
- Sofas
- Armchairs
- Dining room sets
- Multiple boxes

A **10 x 15** (approx. 150 sq. ft) storage space can hold the contents of four rooms such as:



- Mattress sets
- Sofas
- Armchairs
- Dining room sets
- Chest of drawers

A **10 x 20** (approx. 200 sq. ft) storage space can hold the contents of five rooms such as:



- Mattress sets
- Refrigerators
- Washers/dryers
- Many boxes

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