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Annual Credit Union Day: A Family Affair

By Flynn Bush

Thursday, October 17th, the building and parking lot at the Huldah Avenue facility was the site of a celebration. It was the annual Credit Union Day and the Cayman Islands Civil Servants Association Co-operative Credit Union here on Grand Cayman always chooses that day to show appreciation to its members. The tradition continued this year. With the Credit Union having closed early that day, the festivities began at 1pm; actually, it began a little before that scheduled time as people tend to be somewhat anxious to get in and see what this year's celebration holds for them.

On site, there were numerous booths of different businesses, both large and small, displaying their products or advertising their services. These included locally made jams, handbags/purses, and thatch products. Each member was given a complimentary reusable bag with a few giveaways from the Credit

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CPR cautions that Voting list may include deceased persons



► (L-R) CPR Executive Members Mario Rankin, Johan Moxam, Katrina Jurn, along with Cayman Islands Governor Martyn Roper and colleague

Scores of deceased people could end up on the voting list in a referendum to decide whether the Cayman Islands Government will be allowed to proceed with the development of a cruise berthing facility in George Town's Harbor.

The curious matter came to light recently, after initial guidelines for a Referendum Bill to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly later this month, were announced.

The referendum Bill will guide the mechanics and structure of the actual referendum voting process to take place on 19th December.

... Continued story on page A4

MORE TURNS TO THE BREXIT TWIST

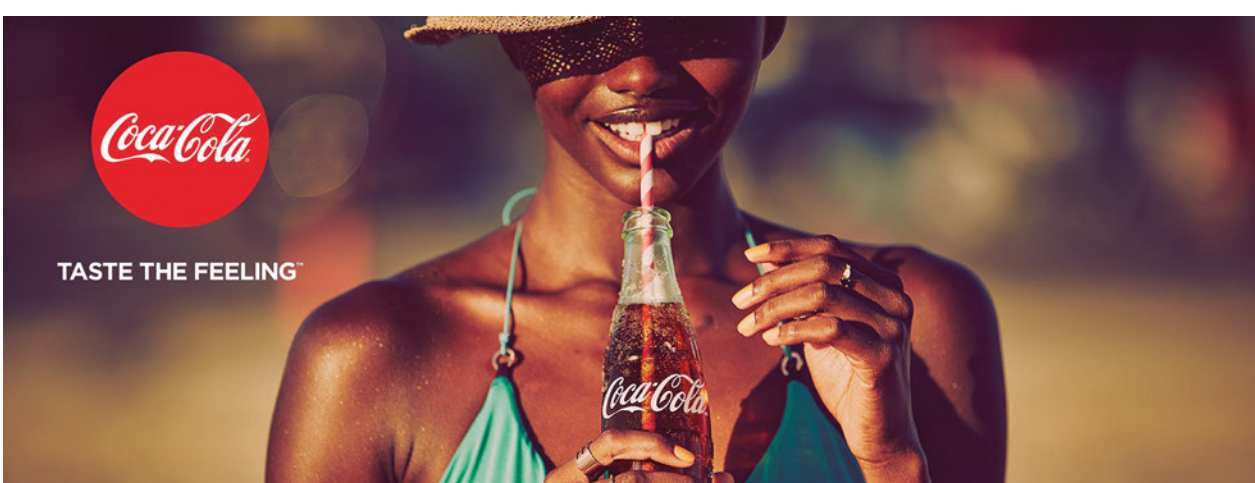
Michael L. Jarvis, London UK

It had the all the drama befitting an historic occasion on the British political stage and more so, the country's parliamentary agenda. And it didn't disappoint.

Saturday's sitting of the British House of Commons was highly anticipated, momentous even, for its significance in the long and winding road of Brexit, the process of the UK's departure from the European Union.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson had confounded his critics by securing a new Withdrawal Deal

... Continued story on page A7



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Public Warned of Whats App Hoax

The Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and Economics and the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service have become aware of a hoax circulating via WhatsApp, concerning persons committing robberies using fraudulent ID.

Local police have received no reports of such robberies, alleged to have been committed by persons carrying a letter from the non-existent Department of Home Affairs, relating to the upcoming census.

Officials further note that a virtually identical scam has been circulating internationally via mobile and social media for years, surfacing most recently in September 2019.

Members of the public are asked to remain calm and refrain from further circulating the fraudulent warning.

They are reminded that the RCIPS will promptly notify the public whenever recent crimes create the potential for concern or impact.

It should be noted that the Economics and Statistics Office (ESO) is currently



conducting a pilot census in tandem with the Fall Labour Force Survey. Field surveyors employed on this project carry multiple forms of identification from ESO and have no need to see the personal identification of persons whom they are interviewing. Persons who have questions about the surveys may contact the ESO hotline at tel. 516-3329.

Anyone with concerns about the identity of someone who has approached their door should request identification and if needed contact their local police station. As always persons should contact 911 if they feel they are in immediate danger. 📍

Updated List of Electors Available for Review

The Elections Office has released updated figures on the Revised List of Electors, which is set to take effect on 1 January 2020. Registration for the Revised List closed on 1 October 2019.

As of 18 October 2019, a total of 21,382 registered voters appear on the Revised List. This reflects an additional 220 voters who were added to the list as well as 54 ineligible voters who were removed from the previous list, including 45 registered voters who died since 2 July 2019.

The Elections Office asks individuals who registered to vote between 3 July 2019 and 1 October 2019 to review the list on the Elections Office website (www.elections.ky) or in print at post offices. Individuals who have claims in relation to applications submitted during the last registration period are asked to contact the Elections via email (office@elections.ky) or by phone (+1 (345) 949 8047).

The Elections Office also encourages the public to review the list for invalid entries or outdated information, such as cases where a voter has moved to a different electoral district or may no longer be residing in the Cayman Islands.



The deadline for submitting claims and objections is 5pm on 8 November 2019.

As per the Elections Law, once the current Revised List is finalized, on December 9th or earlier if there are no claims or objections, the revised list is reviewed and signed off by the Chief Magistrate, and will become the Official List of Electors on 1 January 2020. This list will then remain in effect and unchanged until 31 March 2020.

Therefore, in cases where an individual becomes ineligible to vote after 8 November 2019, they will, by law, remain on the Official List of Electors until the next list comes into effect on 1 April 2020.

The Elections Office reminds those wanting to register to vote, that they can register at any time. The deadline to be included in the next eligible list (which will be effective from 1 April 2020) is 2 January 2020. 📍



► CUC Power Line Technicians and Technician Helpers who travelled to the Bahamas to assist with hurricane restoration efforts are pictured with David Watler, Vice President Operations (left), and Robert Whorms, Manager T&D Operations (right). Technicians include from left, Christopher Ebanks, Patrick Myrie, Andrew Skowby, Miguel Goulbourne, Shandi Wagner, Evan Casey and Nathaniel Augustine

CUC Power Line Technicians to assist with restoration efforts in the Bahamas

Seven members of CUC's Transmission & Distribution (T&D) Operations department left Grand Cayman on Friday, October 18 to assist Bahamas Power and Light Company Ltd. with the restoration of power following the passing of Hurricane Dorian in September. The Power Line Technicians and Technician Helpers are expected to be in the Abaco Islands for approximately three weeks. The Abaco Islands were devastated following the passing of Hurricane Dorian.

Andrew Skowby, Work Methods Specialist, will head up the CUC team, which include Shandi Wagner, Evan Casey, Miguel Goulbourne, Nathaniel Augustine, Christopher Ebanks and Patrick Myrie. A number of the technicians have pole climbing training as well as pole digging and pole planting experience, which is necessary when dealing with a shortage of vehicles, equipment and materials due to the storm, which the Bahamas is currently experiencing.


Robert Whorms, Manager T&D Operations said, "We are fully aware of the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian and the urgent need for assistance to restore electricity for the health and rebuilding of the affected islands in the Bahamas. We are very pleased that we are able to provide support in the aftermath of this recent tragedy. Our dedicated team of employees are well prepared and take pride in representing CUC and the Cayman Islands alongside other utilities in the relief efforts."

CUC's assistance was offered in conjunction with the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation's (CARILEC) Disaster Assistance Programme (CDAP), which coordinates regional efforts to respond to requests for assistance from disaster stricken member utilities. The programme is facilitated by the CARILEC Disaster Fund, which is indispensable to the successful implementation of disaster restoration efforts among CARILEC Member utilities.

Founded in 1989, CARILEC is a regional association of Caribbean electric utility companies and currently boasts 106 members. This includes 35 full members (electric utilities), 66 associate members (suppliers of goods and services to the electric utility industry) and four affiliate members. CUC has been a member since 1992.

CUC has been assisting with restoration efforts in the Caribbean since 1995 and last assisted the Bahamas with restoration efforts following the passing of Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. In 2017, CUC assisted with restoration efforts in the British Virgin Islands following the passing of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The CUC crew is scheduled to return to the Cayman Islands in November. 📍



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Annual Credit Union Day: A Family Affair

... Continued story from page A1

Union, and that allowed for each them to collect items of interest from each stall; whether it be business cards, pamphlets or handouts, or other complimentary items offered by the various vendors.

Also, on the premises there were several games for the members to play. There were games geared toward chil-

dren, and there were raffles and giveaways for members of all ages. Of course, there was also food. Now, that doesn't mean a few small snacks or sweets handed out for members. It means there was provision for each member to receive a full plate of cooked food, catered by The Mango Tree and served hot.

Throughout the afternoon, each staff member of the Credit Union was pres-

ent. They were all performing various functions, in order to make the event run smoothly. Some were assisting with the raffle registration and giveaways; some with the administration of the booths and assisting vendors as needed. There were even staff members who assisted with serving the food. It was a display of true customer service.

Overall, the day was a fun, family-friendly event. The number of persons who chose to attend was a testament to the consistent quality of the annual celebration; as thousands stopped by at some time during the afternoon. The staff and management of this institution can feel proud that their member appreciation effort was successful. 🌐



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► Inside the nursery at the Creek & Spot Bay Infant School



► The new playground nursery at the Creek & Spot Bay Infant School

Department of Education Services (DES) Officially Opens Nursery at Creek & Spot Bay Infant School

Last Thursday, 10 October, the Department of Education Services (DES) officially opened the nursery located on the grounds of the Creek and Spot Bay Infant School.

The nursery which opened its doors on 1 October 2019, is a part of a Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands (MEYSAL) funded pilot project that allows children who have turned age three as at 1 September 2019 to have the opportunity to attend nursery school.

"I am pleased to officially open this extension to the Creek & Spot Bay Infant School, which will cater to three and four year old students. This nursery is not confined to catchment areas and it offers an open enrollment for students as soon as they attain three years of age," remarked the Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, Minister for Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands (MEYSAL) during her address.

"I am also delighted that the nursery will allow students an opportunity of engaging in an academic play based curriculum that will better prepare them to transition into the newly adapted English curriculum."

Specific areas to be taught as part of this curriculum will include literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, expressive arts and design, with due care and attention being paid to the students' personal, social and emotional development, communication and language and physical development.

For more information on this program, please contact Adrian Jones, Acting Senior School Improvement Officer for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman by telephone at 948-0356, or by email at Adrian.Jones@gov.ky.



► Education Minister Hon Juliana O'Connor-Connolly (front) officially opens the nursery at the Creek and Spot Bay Infant School. She is joined by Councillor Barbara Connolly (left), Councillor David Wight (2nd left) Deputy Premier & Minister Hon Moses Kirkconnell, (3rd left), and MEYSAL Chief Officer Cetonya Cacho (right)

Deceased person's may be included in voting list

... Continued story from page A1

According to the proposed rules of the Referendum Bill set out by the CI Government, those who were registered in the last three months will be unable to vote and there will be no additions or subtractions from the list, meaning deceased persons who currently appear on the list will remain.

The sale of intoxicating liquor will also be allowed on referendum day, according to the proposed Bill.

After the Cruise Port Referendum/CPR grassroots group secured the total of 5,292 signatures required to meet the target set in the constitution, of support from 25 percent of registered electors, the 200 million dollar port is now in Limbo and at the mercy of voters.

However, the new electors register, which will be in effect on the date of the referendum, has 21,216 qualified voters and will require 10,609 people to vote 'no' to stop the port project; a fete that

Cayman Islands Premier has said will take a "Miracle" to pull-off.

Adding to this difficulty is the fact that some of the inevitable 'yes' votes will literally be coming from - as the saying goes - 'out of this world'.

CPR Executive Member Mario Rankin, spoke exclusively with the Caymanian Times after the group met with Cayman Islands Governor Martyn Roper on 17th October.

"We did mention this to the governor yesterday when we met with him.

"Now that we've expressed this concern with Mr. Roper, I think he will ensure it's done. Because we told him we were very aware of this issue, which shouldn't be an issue".

Mr Rankin added that the Group hoped that the Governor would also publicly communicate to the Elections Office the concern that 207 voters who won't make the list until January 1st - because of registering in the last three months - should in-fact be allowed to participate in this historic vote.

"The Governor has expressed to us that he has made this recommendation to cabinet. However, he cannot make them do anything.

"We have now asked him to go on record publicly to state that the recommendation to make an amendment adding those 207 persons has in fact been expressed by him to the Government. This is in order to put additional public pressure on the Government to make those amendments to the Referendum Bill coming up at the end of the month," Mr. Rankin explained.

The Refendum Bill will decide the 'rules of engagement' for the public in the upcoming referendum.

Other concerns raised by the CPR Group to the Governor included the fact that liquor licensing establishments will be allowed to operate on referendum voting day, which has traditionally been disallowed during elections in the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Rankin noted that at the end of the day, "This is 6,000 registered vot-

ers who have voiced their concerns and that's not to mention all those who chose not to sign the petition simply because of the political victimization. I think, I am hoping and I am very optimistic that we will have the largest voter turnout in Cayman's history to come out and vote on this particular referendum."

The question voters will have to give a 'yes' or 'no' answer to, will read: "Should the Cayman Islands continue to move forward with building the cruise berthing and enhanced cargo port facility?"

Governor Martyn Roper - via a public statement - acknowledged the meeting with the CPR group.

"I had a wide-ranging exchange with CPR Group to discuss the upcoming referendum on the cruise terminal. I explained my constitutional role and listened carefully to their concerns. These included the timing of the referendum, the inclusion of cargo in the question, voter disenfranchisement and campaign finance."



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MLA Kenneth Bryan plans Public-Opinion Survey

By Christopher Tobutt

Representative for George Town Central, Kenneth Bryan, is planning to organise a major registered voter public-opinion survey, on the same day as Cruise port Referendum Day, 19 December.

The plan is to meet with referendum voters after they have cast their vote, and give them the opportunity to voice their opinion on three controversial areas that are often being talked about for several years, in the Cayman Islands, so that they have a chance to express where they stand. The survey will not be asking about how people cast their

votes in regard to the port referendum at all. Instead its aim will be to gather data on what registered voters think about legalizing ganga, gay marriage, and legalising gambling in the Cayman Islands. While many policymakers and lawmakers may claim to know what the public think and feel about these topics, Mr. Bryan feels that is that there is no reliable data that indicates the level of feeling about them.

Mr. Bryant made it clear that registered voters casting their vote on referendum day would not be approached before they entered the voting booth, in keeping with established election laws and protocols: "I had to do some

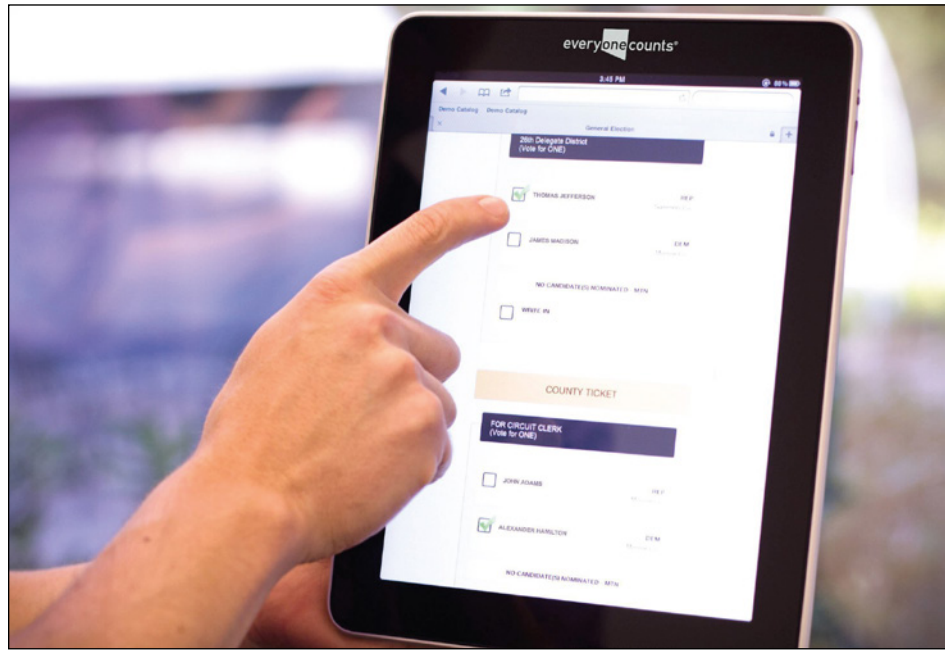
research in respect to this topic," he explained. "After examining the Elections law, I couldn't find anywhere within the law that prevents me from doing so. I did my due diligence to speak to two different attorneys I had to make sure my interpretation of the law was the same as theirs; and they came back with the same interpretation. But I did a third level of a check, to the Supervisor of Elections and asked them if they would agree with my interpretation; and it was confirmed on Tuesday morning from the Elections Office, that there is nothing in the law that prevents me from doing a survey of this nature," he said, adding that his survey stations would be set up 300 feet from the polling booth, in keeping with elections law.

The questions that participants will be asked are as follows: "Should the Cayman Islands Legalise a national lottery? (Yes or No answers for all); Should the Cayman Islands Legalise casinos? Should the Cayman Islands Legalise same-sex marriages? Should the Cayman Islands legalise same-sex unions? Should the Cayman Islands decriminalize marijuana better known as ganja? Should the Cayman Islands legalize marijuana better known as ganja?"

Mr. Bryant is appealing for volunteers to help conduct the survey. "I suspect that there are people who are prepared to give their time up, to finally get an answer to these questions...I think we need to have an answer from the people, and not assume that the politicians have all the answers. My office is 71 Crown Square, Unit Number 6. If you



► Representative for George Town Central, Kenneth Bryan



► Online Balloting System

have any interest in assisting us we ask you to reach out to us. Our number here is 9364040 as we start to compile a list of persons who may be willing to volunteer," he said.

"I want to take this opportunity to highlight that this is a very massive exercise. As you can see, the Premier himself said that the Referendum is going to cost about 1.5 Million dollars. I am trying to duplicate that process, with about 30,000 dollars. "I truly believe that this will be beneficial for the country and its results particularly for the legislators particularly as to know what to do on your behalf." 🌐

Dengue Case Update

Public Health Officials continue their close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU) to ensure appropriate measures are undertaken to mitigate the health impact in the Islands as the region grapples with more cases of dengue.

Six cases of dengue have been confirmed in the Cayman Islands, with three by local transmission and three imported as on Friday 18th October. The Public Health Department is undertaking island wide community mobilization and awareness initiatives through public education and community meetings to ensure all residents are aware of the important role of the public in preventing the spread of dengue.

The MRCU is also increasing its mosquito control programme with additional measures including thermal fogging to kill biting mosquitoes that can transmit the disease, wide-area aerial spraying, truck-based larviciding directed at containers and barrier spraying directed at sites where mosquitoes rest.

"With the current number of cases in the region, medical personnel are on continued high alert to look for any further locally transmitted and imported cases," said Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Samuel Williams. "The Ministry of Health has already issued an initial notification last Friday, 11th October as part of a measure to activate heightened surveillance for local presence of the disease", he added.

So far dengue outbreaks have occurred in many countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America, including Brazil, Columbia, Cuba, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, St. Martin, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Dengue affects the Cayman Islands from time to time. Usually there are no



more than ten confirmed cases annually, although thirty-seven was reported in the outbreak of 2012. Over the last three years, the Cayman Islands experienced a total of four cases; three imported and one locally transmitted. No cases were reported in 2017, and only two imported cases were reported in 2018.

Health Promotion Officer, Therese Prehay, notes "While there is the need to amplify surveillance for early detection, and appropriate response, there is also a great need to increase awareness among the general population on ways to prevent and protect against further spread of the mosquito-borne disease now that there has been cases of local transmission. It is important that we ensure our surroundings are clean and free of mosquito breeding sites. Everyone should take it upon themselves to empty, dispose of, or cover any receptacles or containers capable of storing even small amounts of water. This includes used tyres, water storage drums, flower pots, and tanks, as these are ideal breeding sites for the mosquitoes. Therefore, these key actions will help

prevent mosquitoes breeding, thereby keeping yourself, your families and your community safe", she added.

MRCU will also continue its control efforts, with ongoing work to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, including remote areas, around the islands. Adding to this, MRCU Director, Dr. Jim McNelly, noted the critical importance of gaining access to homeowners properties to undertake vital surveillance and treatments.

Minster of Health, Hon. Dwayne Seymour, JP encourages the community to continue to stay alert and safeguard themselves and their families against mosquito bites by maintaining a clean environment to reduce potential breeding sites, noting "It will be much, much better for us all in the long run if we stay vigilant, protect ourselves from being bitten, and put every effort into stopping this disease early."

For more advice on mosquito control, contact MRCU on 949-2557 in Grand Cayman, or 948-2223 on Cayman Brac; and DEH on 949-6696 in Grand Cayman, or 948-2321 in Cayman Brac. 🌐

More about Dengue Fever

What is Dengue?

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease transmitted primarily by the female mosquito of the species *Aedes aegypti*, although dengue has also been attributed to *Aedes albopictus*. Symptoms of the disease include the acute onset of high fever, and at least two of the following:

- Frontal headache
- Bone or joint pain
- Pain behind the eyes
- Aching muscles
- A rash may be visible two to five days after the onset of fever
- Nausea or vomiting

Signs of bleeding (such as pinpoint red or purple spots on the skin, nosebleeds, bleeding gums, blood in urine or stool, or vaginal bleeding) are seen in a severe form of dengue fever known as dengue hemorrhagic fever, severe dengue or dengue shock syndrome.

How is dengue spread?

The *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes get infected by biting a patient infected in the first week of illness. After about 8-10 days of incubation, the infected mosquito is capable of transmitting the virus for the rest of her life. For the mosquito to transmit dengue, it must first bite an infected person. The virus cannot be spread directly from one person to another.

What you can do?

Mosquitos breed in stagnant or standing water; therefore, covering drums and tanks, and cleaning the guttering will get rid of any potential breeding sites. Other stagnant water sources include old tyres, bottles and buckets. The best way to prevent this disease is to protect yourself from mosquito bites. Use physical barriers to protect yourself and your family from bites by wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, especially at dawn and dusk. Using screens on windows and doors and repair holes in screens will keep mosquitos outdoors. Infants, young children, the elderly and women who are pregnant or trying to get pregnant should take extra precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Everyone should consider using insect repellents containing 50% DEET, Picaridin, IR 3535, and Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus when going outdoors. It is important to encourage your families, neighbours and friends to empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water to destroy breeding sites in and around their homes and communities. This will ensure a collective community impact to reduce the spread of dengue in the Cayman Islands.

Source: Cayman Islands Public Health Department
The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)

SYMPTOMS

- Fever, severe headache
- Pain behind eyes
- Muscle and joint pain
- Nausea, vomiting, swollen glands
- Unusual weakness, rash
- Abdomen pain, cough, loose motion

ADVISES

- Immediate blood test on doctor's advice
- Rest and drink plenty of fluids
- Paracetamol can be taken to reduce joint pains, fever
- Aspirin or ibuprofen should not be taken



National Gallery and EY Cayman Ltd. Collaborate to Host a Seniors Tour Event for Older Persons Month

The National Gallery's mission is to make the arts accessible to all members of the community and they recently partnered with EY Cayman Ltd. (EY) to relaunch their popular Seniors Art Programme. Building on several years of events for seniors, the revitalised initiative was launched in August with a Seniors Art Tour and Tea Party, welcoming 56 attendees.

In recognition of Older Persons Month, a special tour of the National Gallery is scheduled for 25 October. It is designed to welcome the older members of the community, from all districts, to the National Gallery facility where they will be invited to take part in a morning of art and conversation. The special event will begin with a tour of the new exhibition 'Bendel Hydes - A Retrospective'. Guests will have a chance to share stories and memories inspired by the artwork before enjoying refreshments and pastries in the sculpture gardens.

"We are delighted to support Older Persons Month and to celebrate our seniors in the Cayman Islands," said Marco Calleja, Partner, EY Cayman Ltd. "In the spirit of this year's Older Persons

Month theme, Positive Aging, these gallery events are a great opportunity for seniors to join us, enjoy the exhibit and meet other seniors in the community. At EY, we believe in building a better working world, an aspirational purpose that inspires call to action in our communities. We are proud to sponsor the National Gallery Seniors Programme which invites seniors in our communities to meet and discuss arts and local culture."

The wider NGCI/EY Seniors Art programme sessions run throughout the year offering the opportunity for seniors from each district to come to the NGCI grounds and to enjoy a tour of the exhibition spaces. Attendees will be invited to bring a personal belonging of significance to share with the group, offering a chance to reminisce about their past, tell stories about the items history and why it holds such significance for them.

"We are looking forward to another very inspiring afternoon with our seniors," says NGCI Director Natalie Urquhart. "We are truly grateful to continue our partnership with EY and to support seniors in our community



through meaningful and valuable social opportunities for them, which is a vital part of NGCI's outreach capabilities."

NGCI are keen to hear from people out in our community who are interested

in participating in this programme. For more information or to register your interest, please contact education@nationalgallery.org.ky or call (345) 945 8111. 🌐

MORE TURNS TO THE BREXIT TWIST

... Continued story from page A1

from the EU on Friday, replacing his predecessor, Theresa's May's pact which had ultimately led to her political demise.

Mrs May's EU divorce deal, reached after three years of negotiations, when up in flames having being rejected three times by parliament.

After weeks of intense national debate including Mr Johnson's sidelining of 19 member of his own party (withdrawing the whip), voluntary resignations, a prorogation of parliament overturned by the courts, salvos of political barbs across the English channel, and deep political fractures throughout the UK's body politic, it appeared that the prime minister's Brexit strategy was coming off the rails.

At the root of the issue was his adamant mantra of leaving the EU without a deal if he was unable to reach his own exit agreement.

All of this was happening with the clock and calendar inexorably edging towards the current Brexit departure deadline of October 31st.

Under Mrs May's leadership the initial agreed departure date of March 29th had to be extended as the UK parliament had rejected her withdrawal deal three times.

With an air of triumphalism - some might say well-earned - Mr Johnson's was already trumpeting his success of finalising a departure deal with the EU.

He had a deal...and bragging rights it seemed.

But some British parliamentarians were not convinced that Mr Johnson's fall-back of 'no deal' was completely off the table and felt that he would resort to it if the British parliament rejected his deal.

And there are clear signs that the reservations over his deal would result in parliament either rejecting or forcing amendments to it.

Will Mr Johnson's deal suffer the same fate?

With an unshakeable commitment to deliver Brexit, Mr Johnson has quite literally placed his political career on it.

The resistance to what is regarded by his critics as his intransigence but challenged by his supporters as firm leadership has led to a new Brexit showdown.



And it led to Saturday's historic sitting of the British parliament, dubbed Super Saturday.

It was indeed quite a show as the parliamentary chamber was packed and the debate intense and passionate.

Starting off in statesmanlike mode, seen by some observers as a departure from his standard trenchant (or dismissive depending on the occasion and issue), it was not long before he reverted to the familiar.

In another phase of the twists and turns that have come to characterise Brexit, a motion was tabled in parliament on Saturday forcing Mr Johnson to seek a further extension beyond October 31st, if he fails to win parliamentary approval for his Brexit Withdrawal Bill.

That was meant to bolster previous legislation setting the foundation to prevent the UK from 'crashing out' of the EU without a deal.

But that law tabled by Labour party MP Hilary Benn, was more predicated, at least politically, on blocking Mr Johnson from exploiting the short time frame to call an election.

That prospect was already a cause of concern when Mr Johnson had unlawfully prorogued parliament as determined by the UK's Supreme Court.

A shrewd, albeit appearing sometimes clumsy - perhaps by design - political operator, Boris Johnson had repeatedly stated that he would not seek an extension, despite the stipulations of the law now in place precisely to prevent that... although he maintains that he would uphold the law.

This has fuelled speculation over what manoeuvres he had up his sleeves to circumvent the law.

It led to Conservative MP Sir Oliver Letwin crafting a loophole-blocking amendment to the law.

That principally gave additional urgency to the already historic scheduling of Saturday's unusual sitting of the UK parliament.

The session attracted a massive television, radio, online...and a live audience.

A huge rally in London demanding a final deal erupted in euphoria when the results of the vote on the Letwin amendment came through.

It was carried by 322 votes to 302 in the 650 member parliament and was Mr Johnson's seventh parliamentary defeat since he took office around three months ago (88 days on Saturday according to his own count).

That outcome forced the government into retreat as Mr Johnson's Brexit With-

drawal Deal which was scheduled to be voted on had the Letwin move failed had to be deferred.

The Johnson government is now scrambling to ensure that it can secure the backing of at least 320 members of the parliament to ratify his deal.

And the drama is not yet over.

With the ruling Conservatives a parliamentary minority, even the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Northern Ireland which has been propping it up is at odds with Mr John's deal and won't support it.

They worry that it puts Northern Ireland at a severe disadvantage.

By Sunday, the drama had moved into another chapter with Prime Minister Johnson sending the parliament's extension request letter to the EU, sans his signature.

At the same time though, he despatching his own signed document advising the EU against granting the parliament's extension recommended by the parliament.

The UK parliament was due to meet on Monday to consider Mr Johnson's Withdrawal Deal.

Several amendments are expected amid the prospect of a close and fractious vote.

Despite the claims of fatigue, the Brexit drama continues unabated. 🌐

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Mexican Firm Officially Takes Over Management of Airport in Jamaica

The management of the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) has officially been handed over by Government to PAC Kingston Airport Limited (PACKAL).

Last October, the Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ) signed a 25-year concession agreement with Mexican firm Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacifico (GAP), for operation of the facility through its local subsidiary, PACKAL. The company has the option to renew for an additional five years.

Speaking at the handover ceremony at the airport in Kingston on Wednesday, Minister of Transport and Mining Robert Montague emphasized that NMIA belongs to the Government and people of Jamaica.

"What we are divesting is the management of the airport but we will not be giving up the monitoring and regulatory roles. Those are responsibilities of the Government through the Airports Authority of Jamaica," he said.

He noted that one of the major monitoring roles that the AAJ will have is to ensure that the operators undertake the agreed infrastructure improvements.

GAP has committed to invest US\$60 million in the development of the airport during the first three years of operation, under a modernisation plan that is expected to cost more than US\$100 million.



Minister Montague noted that the Mexican company, which also manages the Sangster International Airport (SIA) in St James, has "distinguished itself" in the operation of that facility.

"GAP has an enviable record of bringing our Montego Bay airport to being the number one airport in the Caribbean,"

he said, adding that the company is expected to do the same for Kingston.

Noting that 1.7 million passengers passed through NMIA in 2018, Minister Montague said there is opportunity for growth, and once the operators can market aggressively, the Kingston airport has the potential to surpass SIA.

Meanwhile, Minister Montague said that Jamaica is committed to ensuring a favourable climate for investment.

"This Government is open for business and we are business-oriented and we want to create the space for business persons to invest and get back their money," he said.

Royal Caribbean Predicts 50 Per Cent Rise in Cruise Passenger Arrivals to Caribbean by 2030

Royal Caribbean International is predicting that its Caribbean cruise tourism business will grow by 50 per cent by 2030, with overall economic benefit of cruise reaching \$6 billion.

President and chief executive officer, Michael Bayley, told a recent Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) outlook forum that with the region continuing to grow in popularity among cruisers – eight of the top 10 cruise destinations worldwide are in the Caribbean, he said – now is the time prepare for further increases in cruise passenger numbers.

"The Caribbean was, is, will always be, the number one cruise destination in the world," Bayley told the gathering of ministers, chief executives, policymakers and other senior Caribbean tourism professionals at the gathering in Antigua and Barbuda.

"There are considerations that we need to take into account in terms of some of the destinations' ability to absorb the growth that is coming – in some places the growth is perhaps already at a critical mass – but we need to find a way to accommodate the growth that is inevitably coming to cruise tourism in the Caribbean," he stressed.

The Royal Caribbean CEO noted the success of the cruise line's recent US\$250 million private island destination experience in the Bahamas known as Perfect Day at CocoCay, saying it's a perfect example of collaboration that benefits both the destination and the cruise line.

Perfect Day at CocoCay is a unique stop on what was once called Little Stirrup Cay, but is now a privately owned island destination by Royal Caribbean, and a tropical paradise for cruisers. It offers a number of attractions, including a record-setting water slide – the tallest in the region – and a massive wave pool described by the cruise line as the largest freshwater pool in the Bahamas.

"Once we put this product into the market in the US and globally, our phones went crazy. The demand we have seen for our ships and our products that go to CocoCay has been amazing," said Bayley.



► Royal Caribbean International's President and chief executive officer, Michael Bayley

"There is a lot of demand for these products and if we can figure out how to collaborate together to create these experiences, they don't always have to have this shape and form, they can be other types of experiences."

"As we evolve in terms of our ship design and experiences and what we are creating for our customers we really believe there is a huge opportunity to take all that knowledge...and transfer it into the destinations in a very meaningful way," he added.

The Caribbean tourism outlook forum was the first organised by the CTO as a platform for discussion between member governments and leaders from the tourism industry that generate business to the region. It was attended by ministers and commissioners of tourism, directors of tourism, chief executives of destination management organisations, permanent secretaries, advisers and specialists and technical officers from 12 member countries.

Tullow Oil to Spend US\$80 Million on Drilling Wells Offshore Guyana

This year, Tullow Oil plc is expected to spend approximately GUY\$17 billion (US\$80 million) on drilling wells in Guyana's offshore basin.

This was disclosed by the oil company's Head of Communications George Cazenove yesterday, during a Skype interview with members of Guyana's media corps.

"In 2019, we are going to spend US\$80 million on the wells we are drilling this year," Cazenove said.

Tullow Oil commenced its search for oil in the Orinduik Block in June 2019 and struck liquid goal two months later. The Jethro-1 well was drilled on August 12 and one month later, the Joe well was drilled. The Communications Head stated that drilling will soon commence on the Carapa well in the Kanuku licence.

He noted that the seismic exercises which were conducted previously had a separate cost attached to it. It was dis-

closed that the company has not yet outlined a budget for operations in 2020.

Cazenove explained that "next year's programme would be materially defined by what happens and what does not happen with the Carapa well... when we think about next year, we need to think about the wells we have drilled on the Orinduik licence and also the well on the Kanuku licence".

Touching on revenue, the Communications Head stated that several areas have to be considered.

"We have to be clear that we have developed the prospects in the oil discoveries that we have made, we need to do more appraisal and work on drilling wells to test them as well," he explained.

To drive home this fact, he referred to ExxonMobil who is set to commence pumping first oil five years after their initial discovery.



All Blacks peaking at right time

The Rugby World Cup in Japan has reached the business stage with the semi-finals looming this weekend. Rugby is one of the most popular sports in the Cayman Islands so the rugby club on South Sound will be packed as the matches unfold on TV.

There has been some marvellous action and hosts Japan have been magnificent considering they are not one of the big rugby-playing nations.

In the quarter-finals, England overcame Australia in emphatic fashion to set up a World Cup semi against New Zealand on Saturday.

Japan bowed out but can hold their heads high after bringing this World Cup to life both on and off the pitch. What a host nation they have been.

For South Africa, who overcame the hosts, they have a massive semi-final clash with Wales on Sunday.

Standing in England's path is one of the toughest challenges in world sport, beating the All Blacks - and doing it on the grandest stage of all.

It's a tough ask. The narrative, perhaps wishful thinking, before the tournament was that New Zealand were beatable, not the same side that won back-to-back World Cups.

Ireland contributed to that notion by beating the All Blacks twice in the past three years, while coach Steve

Hansen's side also lost to Australia this summer and were held by Rugby Championship winners South Africa. But they appear to be peaking at the right time.

New Zealand passed their first test in their opening match of the tournament, seeing off second-favourites South Africa 23-13, and swatted away Ireland on Saturday with ruthless efficiency.

The All Blacks scored seven tries for the third time in the history of the knockout stages - they are the only side to have scored seven beyond the pool stages - and did so having shared the possession equally with Ireland.

The difference was the speed in which they recycle the ball, and the pace and skill of both the backs and forwards gives them a clinical cutting edge.

New Zealand made a massive 461 metres with the ball to Ireland's 251, 13 clean breaks to their opponent's two, beat 29 defenders compared to 11 and made more offloads than their Irish counterparts (16-2).

Hansen was impressed by his side's fitness after they scored a late try despite going down to 14 men. "We've worked really, really hard on it," he said. "Nic Gill is one of the better people in the world at strength and conditioning and we pride ourselves on working hard.

"Both the defence and the attack were good." The All Blacks top the charts across the tournament, too.

Despite seeing their final pool match against Italy cancelled because of Typhoon Hagibis, they have scored the most points (203), most tries (29) and made the most clean breaks (84) of any team in the competition. If New Zealand captain Kieran Read doesn't lead his side into the final, then it will be deemed a national disaster.

Owen Farrell insisted England's Rugby World Cup quarter-final win over Australia was 'low-key' in his post-match debrief. Farrell has been a key part of England's resurgence under coach Eddie Jones, who first appointed him as one of the vice-captains back in 2016. The fly-half took over the captaincy last year,



► Kieran Read is the All Blacks skipper

initially in Dylan Hartley's absence, then as co-captain with the hooker, but is now the fully-fledged leader of the team. And he was quick to urge his charges that they must be ready to lift their performance beyond the one that earned them a 40-16 victory over Australia on Saturday.

England's chances of beating New Zealand are slim, but that is the beauty of sport, upsets happen when you least expect it.

Fixtures

- **Saturday, 26 Oct.**
Semi-final 1: England v New Zealand (Yokohama) (3am Cayman time)
- **Sunday, 27 Oct.**
Semi-final 2: Wales v South Africa (Yokohama) (3am Cayman time)
- **Friday, 1 Nov.**
Third-place match (Tokyo)
- **Final**
Saturday, 2 Nov. (Yokohama) 🌐



► England's Owen Farrell faces a tough task

NBA still losing millions over tweet

The NBA continues to suffer "substantial" losses after an online comment from a team executive prompted a crisis in its relations with China, the NBA's head has said.

"The financial consequences have been, and may continue to be, fairly dramatic," Adam Silver said.

Earlier this month Houston Rockets' manager Daryl Morey tweeted support for pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong. As a result Chinese firms suspended sponsorship and telecast deals.

The state-run broadcaster CCTV and Tencent Holdings, which streams NBA games in China, said they would stop broadcasting Houston Rockets' matches. Popular Rockets players like James Harden and Russell Westbrook are not going to reach the Chinese audience.

The Chinese Basketball Association suspended co-operation with the Rockets, as did Chinese sportswear brand Li-Ning, and the club's sponsor in China, Shanghai Pudong Development Bank.

Mr Silver said: "The losses have already been substantial. Our games are not back on the air in China as we speak, and we'll see what happens next," he told Time magazine's Time 100 Health Summit in New York.

The NBA is hugely popular in China with around 800 million fans supporting millions of dollars of business.

Basketball is the most popular sport in China with 300m people playing the



► James Harden is not being seen on Chinese screens

game, according to the NBA. The NBA has had a presence in China since 1992 when it opened its first office in Hong Kong.

The Houston Rockets are widely followed in China after it signed Chinese player and eight-time NBA All-Star Yao Ming in 2002.

NBA China, which conducts the league's business in the country, was launched in 2008 and is now worth more than \$4bn, according to Forbes.

Mr Morey's tweet captioned "Fight For Freedom. Stand With Hong Kong", prompted a furious backlash in China and Mr Silver said the Chinese government had called for Mr Morey to be sacked. But Mr Silver has defended his right to express his opinion. 🌐

Harper: Bravo can earn recall

West Indies cricket has renewed optimism with a new president, panel of selectors and the return of Phil Simmons as head coach.

The new regime is trying to rebuild bridges with disaffected senior players who have long-term disputes with the old guard. One of them is Darren Bravo who has been left out of the West Indies squad for the one-off Test against Afghanistan, but lead selector Roger Harper backed the 30-year-old Trinidadian batsman to strike form in domestic cricket and return to the side.

Bravo scored only 47 runs in four innings at an average of 15.66 in the Test series against India. His form hardly improved in the CPL, where he managed 128 runs in seven innings.

"Firstly I don't want to term it as dropping a player like Darren Bravo," Harper said in a press conference at the Queen's Park Oval. "We all know the quality of a player like Darren Bravo, with the sort of Test and one-day record he has representing West Indies.



► Darren Bravo wants to play for West Indies again

"He can make a real positive impact for our West Indies team and be the force we know he can be in world cricket."

The new selection panel of Harper, Miles Bascombe and coach Simmons also gave maiden call-ups to leg spinner Hayden Walsh Jr and opener Brandon King for the white-ball squads. 🌐

Barcelona back on top

Barcelona sailed back to the top of the table over the weekend and trouble returned to Real Madrid after they endured their first La Liga defeat of the season at newly promoted Real Mallorca.

Zinedine Zidane, David Beckham and Robinho were in the last Madrid team to lose a league game at San Moix in 2006 and 13 years later, Mallorca repeated the trick thanks to a scintillating strike by Junior Lago in the first half.

The 1-0 defeat halts the resurgence of Zidane's side just as Barcelona's appears to be gathering pace, a 3-0 win away at Eibar giving the Catalans their



► Luis Suarez is back to his best

fifth-consecutive victory in all competitions. Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann scored the goals. All three goal scorers were injured for spells at the start of the season which contributed to their slow start. 🌐

Leonard sells house for \$52m

Legendary boxer Sugar Ray Leonard has listed his two-acre estate in California's Pacific Palisades neighbourhood for a staggering \$51.995 million.

Unlike some of his peers from the eighties who have hit on hard times, Leonard seems to still have his millions. Tommy Hearns, Evander Holyfield, Riddick Bowe and Tim Witherspoon have all struggled financially in recent years, but Leonard, 63, has invested wisely and is still rich. He is reputedly worth \$120m.

Pacific Palisades is an expensive coastal neighbourhood in Los Angeles that sits between the Santa Monica Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

The Italian-style villa was built by Leonard and his wife, Bernadette, 22 years ago. The property comes with an ivy-covered, seven-bedroom main house, a separate two-story



► Sugar Ray Leonard is still rich

guesthouse, a pool, a home theatre, putting course and a tennis court. 🌐

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Swiftness

1 Criticize harshly

5 Burning

10 Vietnam city

12 Debussy suite

13 Burger topper

14 O'Neill work

15 Fall mo.

16 Riot queller

18 Pre-show ad

20 Mamie's mate

21 Storybook monster

23 Homer's neighbor

24 Red Rose

26 Calls on

28 German article

29 Velocity

31 Series-ending abbr.

32 Join forces

36 Class leader

39 Music's Yoko

40 Dominant

41 Louvre location

43 Plain to see

44 Brighten

46 Looked over

DOWN

1 Photo session

2 Knight's weapon

3 "West Side Story" role

4 Cattle call

5 Alan of "M*A*S*H"

6 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"

7 John Lennon song

8 Many modern movies

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| H | A | G | S | | P | L | E | A | T | S | |

Yesterday's answer

9 Made blank

11 Counting number

17 Mess up

19 Lush

22 Muse of music

24 Kneecap

25 Gets away

27 Dolphin home

28 Tear off

30 Ignored a fast

33 Feared eel

34 Fuse

35 Did some modeling

37 Casual talk

38 Fast runner

42 Heady brew

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 Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/20

Answer to previous puzzle

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
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Difficulty Level ★★★

Word Search

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| N | K | V | X | V | L | W | A | M | W | T | V | R | H | E |
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| F | R | M | O | S | I | G | N | O | I | W | U | A | H | P |
| E | O | I | K | M | X | P | M | K | T | M | U | G | T | H |
| I | N | L | N | Y | B | M | C | R | N | T | N | A | H | Z |
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| N | Y | S | F | B | V | A | M | M | H | M | E | K | W | A |
| G | G | J | E | Q | J | O | N | L | I | L | Z | L | D | N |
| O | F | I | O | W | N | N | D | G | P | S | A | L | M | G |
| I | R | M | L | I | C | D | A | E | V | A | N | K | C | S |
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- Aught
- Autumn
- Bomb
- Column
- Comb
- Feign
- Gnarled
- Gnat
- Gnaw
- Gnome
- Gnu
- Indict
- Knave
- Knee
- Knife
- Knight
- Limb
- Limn
- Malign
- Mnemonic
- Numb
- Psalm
- Ptarmigan
- Sign
- Thumb
- Writ
- Wrong

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CURTIS By Ray Billingsley

ANOTHER HALLOWEEN HAS COME AND GONE

YUP

BUT AT LEAST WE'RE ALL SAFE FROM THAT HEADLESS CREATURE IN MILLER'S JUNKYARD

BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW, CURTIS? HOW CAN YOU REALLY BE SURE IT STOPS LURKING AFTER HALLO-HEY, WHAT'S THAT BEHIND YOU?!

I LIKE TO MESS WITH HIS MIND!

YAAAAA

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN By Stan Lee

KEEP YOUR MASK ON, SPIDER-MAN!

NO NEED! I'VE REALIZED YOU HAD A POINT ABOUT FACES.

YOU SHOWED ME YOURS- SO I'LL SHOW YOU MINE.

I SAID-KEEP IT ON!

WHAT IN THE-?!

JUDGE PARKER By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

TONI'S GOING TO WRITE ABOUT RANDY! ABOUT HIS CHILD, HIS EX-WIFE, ALL THE HELL HE WENT THROUGH! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WILL DO TO MY FAMILY?

WE'RE A SMALL IMPRINT, KATHERINE. AND THIS WAS A NATIONAL STORY. THIS WILL REALLY HELP US COMPETE WITH THE HOUSES IN NEW YORK.

DID YOU HONESTLY THINK ANY OF THAT WAS GOING TO ALLAY MY CONCERNS?

IT'S GOING TO BE TASTEFUL. I PROMISE. BUT IT IS ALSO GOING TO BE PUBLISHED.



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