

Complimentary

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BORIS'S GREAT BRITISH ACTION PLAN

## Cayman celebrates Christmas

Every year Cayman's very own Singing Christmas Tree lets everyone know that 'A King is Coming to Town,' which was this year's theme. It was a good theme, to, because every year at Christmas time it is as if King Jesus always comes to town; and the mystery and wonder of it all overtakes our hearts. That mystery and wonder unfolded so beautifully through singing, dancing, drama and of course, the wonderful Singing Christmas Tree itself, for two days running at the Lions Centre, and everyone left with a new glimpse of heaven.

There was a pre-show, before members from the Singing Christmas Tree Choir; all covered in thousands of lights twinkling like the stars in a clear night sky, began their lovely singing. But the "pre-show" was really special in itself, and it featured many of Cayman's most talented kids from different primary and secondary schools, as well as the Jubilate band, and the Cayman Arts Group who played Christmas carols with a selection of classical instruments such as violins and cellos. There was also the Melody Makers, a group of young children, each playing a little keyboard; and accompanied by some expert drum-



► One of the children's Christmas choirs

... Continued story on page A3

## PSPB Staff and Partners Support Pensioners this Christmas

Staff of the Public Service Pensions Board (PSPB) are working to make Christmas a lot merrier this season through generous donations to their most vulnerable pensioners in the Cayman Islands.

The PSPB staff participate in an employee payroll deduction where each month, staff take some of their salary and donate it into an account and then throughout the year, they determine how to use those funds to support charities, local causes or areas of interest. This holiday season, the PSPB staff decided to use funds from this account to provide a donation to 84 lower income pensioners in the Cayman Islands.

"For two decades, our PSPB staff charity has been in place as our team has always felt a connection to support our pensioners, all plan members and the community at large and I am proud of our team for wanting to take on such an important cause," said Mrs. Jewel Evans Lindsey, Chief Executive Officer with the PSPB.

Initially, the PSPB staff decided to donate \$50 to each of these pensioners in the form of a Fosters gift card. Once the PSPB staff decided to make a donation to its most vulnerable pensioners, they also reached out to other organizations to find partners on



... Continued story on page A4

## TRUMP - IMPEACHMENT IMPLICATIONS



By Michael Jarvis, London UK

For only the third time in American history, a sitting president will be impeached.

On Wednesday, the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives voted to impeach President Donald Trump on two counts; abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

The trial, in the US Senate, is expected to start next month (January 2020), a presidential election year.

The outcome, unless something dramatic happens, is to all intents and purposes, already pre-determined.

Mr Trump is almost guaranteed to be acquitted along the same party line ruling that impeached him.

The US Senate is controlled by the Republicans, the House of Representatives by the Democrats.

In a raucous and divisive session along party lines, President Trump has been deemed by the Democrats as being 'a clear and present danger' to America's democracy, and in flagrant violation of the country's constitution.

President Trump is alleged to have pressured the government of Ukraine to investigate his Democratic political rival and presidential challenge, former Obama vice-presi-

... Continued story on page B1

Caymanian Times

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# EDITORIAL

## We are our brothers' and Sisters' Keeper

For the Christmas holidays, let us put our differences aside and embrace comradery and support for the less fortunate. We are still our brother's keeper and should find ways to encourage growth and success amongst those who may be left behind.

As we get ready to celebrate our 7th Christmas, **Caymanian Times** formerly **Cayman Weekly**, wishes all of its sponsors and readers a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We have maintained our commitment of being impartial with the content of our articles whilst keeping the focus on local issues, employment and education. As the new year arrives we will continue to maintain a neutral approach to controversial topics that need to stay in the limelight and not be swept underground.



The Cayman Islands faces many challenges ahead and as other neighbouring territories struggle with their financial survival, we must be vigilant and monitor our economy closely in order to avoid disastrous surprises.

The Cayman Islands is still a paradise and is the envy of many. We must continue to protect this treasure for our children in order to afford them the successes and standards of living that we have enjoyed over the last four decades.

## Christmas Time in Cayman Once Again

By Flynn Bush

For several years now, I have written a piece on Christmas. Every year, I do a different piece, but each usually takes the same format. I speak of the traditions and customs of Cayman from decades ago and compare them to those of today. I usually end up pointing out that, although a lot has changed over the years, there are still much of the customs being practiced on our fair isles. Like I said, usually I take this approach. However, this year, I will vary the approach a little.

Now I still believe that it is important to talk about the longstanding traditions that have been passed down through the generations. Our forefathers instilled a gamut of very important values in their children and ensured that this country's Christian heritage would remain in focus during the Christmas season. They knew that Jesus is the reason for the season, as the saying goes, and they paid homage to that fact. Visiting neighbors, singing carols, giving to those in need and attending church services as a family are just a few examples of the Christian customs. Those things still happen nowadays.

Years ago, Caymanians started preparing for Christmas months before. Fattening up the cow, painting the house, growing the cassava and other breadkind, backing sand for the yard, sewing new outfits (dresses, pants and shirts), and making Christmas presents were all done dutifully. Today's world is a little more "ready-made" but I believe that there is still a lot of preparation ahead of time that occurs for Christmas now.

Basically, the simple fact is that our beautiful country, the Cayman Islands, evolves and will continue to do so. We as residents will find ourselves doing things differently, even if slightly, from our parents or grandparents did.



Hopefully, we will retain some of the time-honored traditions of our ancestors; and hopefully those are traditions that have to do with the true meanings of Christmas. However, it is inevitable that we will also adopt new customs for our families.

With that said, I would like to make an appeal to all of you this year. Let's all make a conscious decision to ensure that at least one new custom we adopt is in the same spirit as our traditional Caymanian customs were. Let us add a new routine or ritual to our lives at Christmas, no matter how small. Perhaps on Christmas Eve we can gather as a family and take turns thanking God for something specific; and then perhaps tell each of the other family members what we love most about them. Maybe, we can learn a new recipe and make the meal together. Another possibility is to make it a point to make at least one card or gift for a member of your family or circle of friends. These are just a few suggestions, and they are by no means an exhaustive list. I am sure that you can all think of some way that you can do to install a new custom in your family's Christmas agenda.

So, I am game to try this myself; and I will. Perhaps, in the new year I will write to give an update on how it went. I pray that you are successful in this. I also pray that the true spirit of Christmas will envelop you and your entire family this year and you will be truly blessed.

# CIGTV GUIDE

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 24 - 27



### Tuesday, 24 December

- 12:00 AM Sunrise Adult Training Centre The Lion King
- 1:10 AM Miss Lassie Painting Conservation
- 1:20 AM Miss Lassie Architectural Conservation and Restoration
- 1:30 AM Miss Lassie Vision and History
- 1:35 AM Miss Lassie CNFC Board Perspective
- 1:40 AM DEH - Antimicrobial and the Environment
- 1:50 AM Ecosystem Services with Lauren Dombowsk
- 2:00 AM News Update
- 2:20 AM Cruise Berthing and Cargo Facility Press Conference
- 3:30 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 4:00 AM Sunrise Adult Training Centre The Lion King
- 5:10 AM Miss Lassie Painting Conservation
- 5:20 AM Miss Lassie Architectural Conservation and Restoration
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- 6:00 AM News Update
- 6:20 AM Cruise Berthing and Cargo Facility Press Conference
- 7:30 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 8:00 AM Healthcare Conference September 26 2019
- 10:00 AM News Update
- 10:25 AM Healthcare Conference Dr. Lewis Warrington
- 11:20 AM Healthcare Conference Dr. Jason Markle
- 12:00 PM Healthcare Conference Dr. Erick Gryzbowski
- 12:45 PM News Update
- 1:05 PM Healthcare Conference Nasolo Thompson
- 1:45 PM NiCE Project An Overview of the Winter 2018 Initiative
- 1:55 PM Healthcare Conference Dr. Kerry A. Rood
- 2:50 PM Healthcare Conference Dr. Ravi Kishore
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- 7:30 PM Healthcare Conference Carole Appleyard
- 8:00 PM Healthcare Conference Dr. Troy A. Gatcliffe
- 8:40 PM News Update
- 9:00 PM Healthcare Conference Professor Virginia Murray
- 9:50 PM Cruise Berthing and Cargo Facility PB July 29 2019
- 11:00 PM Special Commemorative Town Hall Ceremony

### Wednesday, 25 December

- 12:00 AM Cruise Berthing & Cargo Port Dedevlopment Project Mary Miller Hall
- 2:30 AM Cayman Islands Government Christmas Messages "NEW"
- 2:50 AM Special Commemorative Town Hall Ceremony
- 4:00 AM OLDER PERSONS MONTH Talent and Fun
- 6:00 AM Cayman Islands Government Christmas Messages "NEW"
- 6:20 AM Cayman Islands Fire Service Chief Interview
- 6:25 AM Special Commemorative Town Hall Ceremony
- 7:20 AM NiCE Project An Overview of the Winter 2018 Initiative
- 7:30 AM DEH - Antimicrobial and the Environment
- 7:50 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 8:00 AM Singing Christmas Tree "NEW"
- 9:45 AM Cayman Islands Government Christmas Messages
- 10:05 AM Dr. Vivek Patel - Holy Cross Hospital
- 10:15 AM Dr. Vineetha Binoy - Health City Cayman Islands
- 10:30 AM Dr. Rupesh Kotecha - Miami Cancer Center
- 10:50 AM Dr. Perez Mitchell - Memorial Healthcare System
- 11:05 AM Dr. Cesar Perez - UHealth Univ. of Miami Health System
- 11:15 AM Dr. Arun Nagarajan - Cleveland Clinic Florida
- 11:20 AM Dr Dennis Tishko - Broward Health International
- 11:30 AM Dr Anita Johnson - Cancer Treatment Centers of America
- 11:40 AM Cayman Islands Government Christmas Messages
- 12:00 PM Cruise Berthing & Cargo Port Dedevlopment Project Mary Miller Hall
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### Thursday, 26 December

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### Friday, 27 December

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- 11:40 AM Cayman Islands Government Christmas Messages

## HSA Holiday Clinic Hours 2019

**Accident & Emergency** remains open 24 hours throughout the holiday season.

**Pharmacy** - Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day OPEN 8:00am – 6:00pm. Pharmacy will resume regular working hours (weekdays 8:00am– 9:00pm and weekends 8:00am – 7:00pm) after the holidays.

**General Practice Clinic** – Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day

**Acute Care Clinic** (located in the General Practice Building)- Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day. December 24th & 31st, remains open until 8:00pm for Walk-In clinic.

**Public Health Clinic** - Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day. December 24th & 31st, closes early 1:00pm.

**District Health Centres** - Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day. December 24th & 31st, closes early 1:00pm.

All regular clinic hours resume January 2, 2020.



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► Mary and Joseph



► Jesus carries the cross

# Cayman celebrates Christmas

... Continued story from page A1

ming for their rendition of "The Little Drummer Boy," and a medley of other Christmas favorites.

Pastor Torrence Bobb, began by welcoming everyone. Later in the show, Pastor Bobb invited everyone to give their lives to King Jesus, and led everyone in a prayer. His wife, Elsa, choir director and musical producer, started the singing Christmas tree in 2011.

Throughout the evening, the Singing Christmas Tree choir sang a wide range of Christmas carols, beginning with the breathtaking Hark The Herald Angels

medley, and many others too, including "This Child Was Born For You," "Oh Happy Day," and "He Will Reign." They were joined by Pastor Ferdinand Nicholls for "This Little Child," who also sang, "I bowed on my knees."

There were performances from the UCCI Performing Arts group, who danced beautifully beneath the tree, with long flowing crimson robes and dresses, as well as a group from the Centre Point Dance Studio, who dance a dance of praise, all dressed in blue. The Cayman Folk Singers came on to sing "This Child Is," and it warmed everyone's heart.

There was a special guest-appearance by classical singer, Gillian Seecharan Nancoo, who sang Mary Did You Know? and, Oh Holy Night. "A King is Coming to Town," was sung by Andrew Ramdom, in his wonderful jazz-soul voice.

During the second night there was a big treat in store, because His Excellency The Governor came with his wife. He not only watched the show, but he took part as well, in a duet on the Steel Pan with Cayman's very own steel pan maestro, Earl La Pierre.

There were several dramatic offerings, the first one was when Mary was told of the good news that she had been chosen to give birth to the Messiah, by an angel. Towards the end, there was a drama about going to heaven, with the Gates of Heaven, and angels, with beautiful golden wings. There was also a moving sequence where we saw Jesus, struggling to carry the cross, and stumbling, to remind us all the great price he paid to bring us peace with God, and the real reason for the season. 🌐



► A vision of heaven



► Cayman Arts Festival musicians



## Season's Greetings!

The Water Authority-Cayman Board, management and staff wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tuesday, 24 December 2019

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Cashiers will close at 11:30 a.m.  
Office will re-open Friday, 27 December 2019

Tuesday, 31 December 2019

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Cashier will close at 11:30 a.m.  
Office will re-open Friday, 2 January 2020

For emergency assistance outside of office hours, please contact 946-HELP (4357)



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# PSPB Staff and Partners Support Pensioners this Christmas

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this matter. With that, Fosters and a few anonymous donors also stepped forward in order to support the increase of the donation to each pensioner and as a result, each of the 84 pensioners

will now receive a \$100 gift card to Fosters.

"I am grateful that Fosters is able to play a supporting role in such an amazing and worthy cause," said Woody Foster, Managing Director with Fosters, "and we are proud to be able to help so

many Caymanian pensioners at Christmas."

"During the holidays, it's endearing to hear of great gestures of giving and support and the PSPB team is overjoyed to be a part of giving back this holiday season," said Evans Lindsey. "We appreciate

the partnerships and cannot wait to give these gifts to our pensioners."

Over the next week, PSPB staff will now work to personally deliver all of the gift cards to the pensioners. Information on the Public Service Pension Board is available on the PSPB website at: [www.pspb.ky](http://www.pspb.ky)

# DCFS Retirement Event Marks Over 100 years of Service

The Department of Children and Family Services acknowledged the outstanding contributions of four staff members who are retiring after a combined total of more than a century of service recently.

The Retirement Recognition Ceremony, for Althea Warner Pryce (30 years), Elsa Annie Rose Scott (32 years total tenure, 27 years with DCFS), Novelete Douglas (27 years) and Yvonne Rose (19 years), was held at South Sound Community Centre on the evening of Thursday, 12 December 2019.

The event was attended by the Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz Manderson; along with Ministry of Community Affairs Councillor Austin Harris, the Ministry's Chief Officer Teresa Echenique, its Deputy Chief Officer Joan West-Dacres, DCFS Director Paulinda Mendoza-Williams and DCFS Deputy Director Rayle Roberts. DCFS staff, friends and family of the imminent retirees were also present.

After a prayer from Mrs. Joy White, the Director read out the profiles of each of those honoured. She advised that Community Development Officer Mrs. Annie Rose Scott was a stalwart of the community both in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Mrs. Mendoza-Williams acknowledged that Mrs. Scott's retirement would be a significant loss to that community and the department, relieved only by the fact that her daughter, Julie, was now to take over her duties.

The Director said that Maple House Housekeeper II, Yvonne Rose affectionately known by residents as "Sweet Rose" will be greatly missed by colleagues and clients. Ms Rose has been a committed and superlative civil servant, who embraced her duties with pride.

The Director noted that Community Care Worker II, Althea Warner Pryce is a recipient of DCFS long-service award for 27 years of service. Very popular with colleagues and clients, the audi-



► (L-r) Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz Manderson; Ministry of Community Affairs Deputy Chief Officer Joan West-Dacres, Annie Rose Scott (retiree), Yvonne Rose (retiree), Althea Warner Pryce (retiree), Ministry of Community Affairs Chief Officer Teresa Echenique, Novelete Douglas (retiree), Community Affairs Councillor Austin Harris and DCFS Director Paulinda Mendoza-Williams at the DCFS Retirement Recognition Ceremony at South Sound Community Centre on Thursday, 12 December 2019 (Photo, by G/S)

ence heard that Ms Pryce excelled in her work during her tenure. Reading Community Care Worker II Novelete Douglas's profile, the Director said that Ms Douglas displayed outstanding qualities any employer would be proud to see in an employee. Ms Douglas was described as reliable, punctual, flexible and cooperative, and outstanding team member who went above and beyond the call of duty. It was noted that she has always strived to provide world-class service and contribute to the overall success of the Department.

The Deputy Governor praised the long-serving honourees for their exemplary dedication to the needs of the department and staff over the years.

Noting their professionalism, he said that they personified the Civil Service's mandate of making the lives of those we serve better. Mr. Manderson invited the honourees to stand and enjoy the applause of the audience.

Councillor Harris spoke of his pride in being part of such a giving Ministry. He noted that its caring spirit was very much a part of the staff and ably represented in the life's work of the honourees.

Closing remarks by Deputy Chief Officer, Mrs. West-Dacres, highlighted the outstanding work records of the soon-to-be retirees. In mentioning the warm regard and high esteem each honouree was held by their colleagues, the Depu-

ty Chief Officer closed by thanking them for being model staff members whose presence would be greatly missed by DCFS management, their colleagues and their clients.

Ms Pryce, Mrs. Scott, Ms Douglas and Ms Rose were given long-service plaques by the Deputy Governor and fruit baskets by Councillor Harris.

Invited to speak, Ms Rose and Ms Pryce gave moving and yet humorous ad libbed remarks, which were warmly received by attendees.

Honourees, dignitaries, staff along with friends and family enjoyed light refreshments and soft beverages. The evening closed with the cutting of the retirement cake.

# Ministry's Agencies Seek Suitable Accommodations for Clients

During the long-standing and planned relocation of the occupants of Lyndhurst Apartments, George Town, at no time has anyone been evicted, left homeless or without suitable accommodations.

Following ongoing discussions with its clients, in the best interest of their health and overall comfort, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) gave initial notice to authorised residents in 2016.

Since then notification was reissued to remaining occupants in November 2018 and early 2019.

DCFS, the Needs Assessment Unit (NAU) and the Ministry of Community Affairs (MoCA) continue to offer support and assistance in finding clients alternative accommodation despite re-

sistance to the relocation by several of the remaining occupants.

Throughout this necessarily sensitive and protracted process, consultation with clients has been ongoing and open, in keeping with the department's duty of care. In doing so, continuous and concerted attempts have been made to find and secure suitable accommodation for authorised occupants.

Two units have subsequently been vacated since the beginning of this process, leaving those who were reluctant to vacate in place, despite the department's best efforts to rehouse them.

The DCFS, the NAU and the Ministry remain committed to resolving the urgent housing needs of the remaining occupants, including supporting them in

the relocation by seeking accommodation and paying the rent.

Clients received a final notice for 30th November 2019. This timing was also to ensure that clients could be settled in a new and more suitable home in time for Christmas.

On Friday, 13 December, DCFS undertook to facilitate in the agreed relocation of two occupants to a residential facility more tailored to their specific needs. The aforementioned have longstanding medical issues.

Currently, one of these former occupants has successfully been placed in the chosen caring facility and is comfortably settled, while another former occupant has advised they have since secured permanent housing. The departments continue to work with individuals to support their transition into alternative accommodations.

"The lack of available properties and landlords who are willing to accept payments from the NAU is problematic," said Premier Alden McLaughlin.

"With the remaining clients, we are happily nearing completion of our shared goal to have them all comforta-

bly housed. I want to thank our teams for their hard work and in pulling out all the stops to achieve this for them. We continue to urge landlords with available rental properties to contact the NAU soon as possible."

"The departments remain committed to putting the welfare of their clients first. To this end we must respect client privacy at all times to ensure that their confidentiality, enshrined by best practice and the law, is protected," he concluded.



► Cayman Islands Premier Alden McLaughlin

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## Canadians enjoy wintry scenes

Canada at Christmas for many is about embracing the snow and enjoying outdoor adventures amid the country's sky-scraping mountains and snow-hushed forests. The eastern cities in Québec and Ontario provinces also rejoice by ice skating, hearty food, Christmas markets, ice sculptures and exuberant winter festivals.

Canadians watch the northern lights from a log cabin in the wilds of the Yukon, ride on snowmobiles or go snowshoeing in remote locations, and dog-sled with a team of Alaskan huskies. Meanwhile, up in Churchill on the edge of Hudson Bay, watching polar bears as they gather waiting for the water to freeze over so they can begin hunting is done by many.

Canadian traditions include decorating a Christmas tree and exchanging gifts. On Christmas Day a special meal



► Québec is stunning at Christmas time

is prepared often including roast turkey, seasonal vegetables, mashed potatoes, and gravy. Traditional favourite Christmas desserts reminiscent of England include Christmas plum puddings and mincemeat tarts.

Boxing Day takes place on Dec. 26 and is only celebrated in a few countries; mainly ones historically connected to the UK such as Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand and in some European countries. 🌐

## Hondurans love their tamales

For Hondurans, like the rest of the Christian world, Christmas is a time of religious significance and to celebrate with family and friends. Christmas is celebrated on Dec. 24, though the parties begin a week earlier.

Hondurans, like some other Latin American cultures, celebrate Las Posadas, Spanish for "accommodations" or lodging. It's a tradition where relatives or friends knock on each other's doors asking for a place to stay, representing Mary and Joseph searching for an inn. At first the family in the home will refuse them entry but will then let their friends in for a party and they may even spend the night. Some families do this for the nine days leading up to Christmas, representing nine months of pregnancy.

Children traditionally receive presents, but on a smaller scale than in rich countries. It is common to receive new clothes to be worn on Dec. 24. However, one new outfit is often all the family can



► Chicken tamales are popular in Honduras

afford. Dolls and toys are received by the more fortunate children.

Noche Buena or Christmas night is celebrated on Dec. 24 and the feast and fireworks often begin at midnight. Food is central to the celebration, and for many Hondurans, that means tamale, which are cornmeal dough rolled with ground meat or beans seasoned usually with chili, wrapped usually in corn husks, and steamed. The Christmas meal varies but may also include roasted pork, fried yucca, rice, turkey, sweets, plantains and eggnog. 🌐

## Filipinos feast like crazy

Filipinos really know how to feast at Christmas. From sweet traditional Filipino delicacies to tasty Italian staples, Christmas gatherings usually have an eclectic medley of luscious and hearty food. With all the mouth-watering Christmas foods, it's no wonder Filipino in their hordes enrol in gyms and fitness clubs in January.



► Filipinos enjoying their Christmas dinner

Filipinos, in general, are fond of sweet treats. That's why most of the Christmas hams distributed in the Philippines are drenched with syrupy glazes. These hams are often fried to add more flavour or paired with a slice of kesong puti, a white cheese made from carabao's milk).

Leche Flan, or better known as caramel custard in the Western world, is one of the most beloved desserts in the country, especially during festive celebrations like Christmas.

One of the healthier Christmas foods in the Philippines, lumpiang ubod is a spring roll variety that is made from ubod (coconut). Wrapped in a lumpia, this dish also has a mixture of other ingredients, including lettuce, ground pork and carrots.

Keso de bola is basically the Filipino term for Netherland's Edam cheese.

Coated in a red paraffin wax, this festive delicacy is often used as a centerpiece during Noche Buena (Christmas Eve dinner). With a perfect blend of softness, creaminess and saltiness, Keso de Bola can be paired with hams, crackers, bread, fruits and wines like Zinfandel and Pinot Noir.

Puto bumbong is the most sought-after delicacy. Church goes even line up after mass just to enjoy this sticky and luscious purple-coloured rice cake.

A predominantly Catholic country, the Simbang Gabi, aka Misa de Gallo, is a solemn Christmas practice that shows how Filipinos value their faith, which is a series of early morning masses starting from Dec. 16 until Christmas Eve. The Christmas celebrations continue to the First Sunday in January when Epiphany or the Feast of the Three Kings is celebrated. 🌐

## Cubans are more religious than many

Cubans tend to throw parties on Dec. 31, but Christmas is seen solely as a religious event that begins on Christmas Eve.

Until the 1990s, Christmas celebrations were banned. Now there is more openness but because of the poverty, few have enough money to do anything significant. Some people can put together a decent meal on Dec. 24, put up a beautiful lit-up tree in their home and yet there still isn't that festive spirit on the street. An enveloping darkness prevails, with no Christmas carols, nor Santa Claus at store entrances giving presents out to children. There may be some employees wearing bobble hats at certain state-run stores where they pretend to give good customer service.

Sales or discounts aren't given because it's the end of the year, far from it; food continues to be expensive and in shortage in a country where the average monthly wage is only US\$30.

Turrón sweets that sit all year round in shop windows aren't reduced in the



► Cubans all go to mass at Christmas

slightest, they cost nearly \$5 and a bottle of red wine costs \$7 or more. Apples are tiny and poor quality and cost too much.

Those who can afford it have turkey, cider and the traditional twelve grapes to be eaten before midnight.

Some families don't even attempt to celebrate Christmas because their family emigrated and those left behind feel desolate. Many families are so devastated that a hurricane carried away their homes and they are left stuck in temporary shelters that they can't possibly get into the Christmas spirit. 🌐

## Venezuela big on nativity scenes

Venezuela is going through an economic crisis but for those that can afford it, this is the one time of the year that can lift their spirits. The religious celebrations begin on Dec. 16 with masses said every morning until Dec. 24 when the religious service is held at midnight (Misa de Gallo). The main celebration takes place on Christmas Eve, Noche Buena.

Most Venezuelans are Catholic and celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25. The final service, Misa de Aguinaldo or Misa de Gallo, occurs at midnight on Noche Buena.

Many homes put up a Christmas tree, but the most authentic Venezuelan custom is to display a Nacimiento (nativity scene).

Traditional Venezuelan Christmas foods include hallacas, a mixture of



► Venezuelans make the most of their season

beef, pork, chicken, capers, raisins, and olives that is wrapped in maize and plantain leaves and tied up with string into a parcel and then boiled or steamed afterwards. Also, the Pan de Jamón, a type of bread that's made with puff pastry filled with ham, raisins and green olives.

Typical Venezuelan drinks are bato (thick fruit juice) and chichi, a fermented drink made with boiled rice, milk and sugar. 🌐

## Brits start their celebrations early

The UK seems to start its Christmas culture from early November. There are TV channels devoted to showing only festive theme programmes, TV adverts are constantly trying to sell Christmas things and social events are all geared around the approaching big day. It's very common for school children to write letters to Santa Claus. Christmas dinner is all about roast turkey, chicken or another poultry and trimmings. But, there are some specialty items that aren't as common such as parsnips which are a root vegetable with a distinctive taste. Hot, mulled wine is a traditional festive drink in the UK. The Queen gives a speech on Christmas Day at 3pm in England. For dessert, pumpkin or apple pie, raisin pudding, Christmas pudding, or fruitcake are the staple. After consuming all that, most people can barely walk.

Boxing Day follows Christmas Day and is a nationally recognised holiday in the



► Brits over spend in Oxford Street at Christmas

UK. Sports lovers tend to go to see their favourite team on Boxing Day which was originally the day for servants and tradesman to receive presents from their employers but is now basically a big shopping day for Brits. Oxford Street is packed on Boxing Day as thousands descend looking for bargains.

Brits take down their trees and decorations within 12 days of Christmas in fear of having bad luck for the next year if they don't. 🌐



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# Conyers hosts Truman Bodden Law School students for IBA Webinar in celebration of 100 years of women in law

In November, women across Conyers' global network of offices celebrated 100 years of women in law whilst taking the opportunity to learn about business development via an International Bar Association Webinar titled "Women Making It Rain." Watch sessions were organised by lawyers in the Bermuda; Hong Kong; and London offices. The Cayman Islands office hosted students from the Truman Bodden Law School for a viewing of the webinar followed by an inspiring roundtable discussion led by Reshma Sharma, Cayman Islands' Solicitor General.

The webinar featured a panel of female lawyers, "rainmakers", from around the world sharing their road to success and the techniques that they found most effective for cultivating their practices.

Moderated by Deborah Farone, a strategic marketing consultant and author of Best Practices in Law Firm Business Development and Marketing, the panel featured:

- Christina Blacklaws, solicitor and consultant, immediate Past President of the Law Society of England and Wales

- Lynell Tuffery Huria, Principal, AJ Park, New Zealand
- Deanna Kirkpatrick, Partner, Davis Polk, USA
- Annalisa Reale, Partner, Chiomenti, Italy
- Natalie Yeung, Partner, Slaughter and May Hong Kong.

At the roundtable discussion immediately following the webinar, Ms. Sharma shared her professional journey with the students along with tips for success which included the importance of preparation, demonstrating curiosity and finding your niche.

"At Conyers we are proud to support the next generation of lawyers, this event was a celebration of the great women who over the past 100 years have pioneered and led the way in terms of women leadership roles in law and in deed in many other disciplines," said Roisin Liddy-Murphy Attorney, in Conyers Litigation department and former Barrister and Law Lecturer at the Truman Bodden Law School. "Many thanks to Reshma Sharma for facilitating a motivational and inspirational round table discussion."



Mitchell Davies, Director of Legal Studies at the Truman Bodden Law School, remarked, "The event was very popular with the students. We'd like to thank Conyers for their support of the law school and we look forward to collaborating with them on events in the future."

# St. Ignatius Christmas Fundraiser Awards Prizes

The annual St. Ignatius Christmas Concert and Fundraiser took place on Monday, December 16th in the Loyola Hall.

After some wonderful music from the school bands, the evening finished with the grand prize drawing of CI\$25,000, won by Marcos Gaylon Jr. (#4503). The second prize of CI\$2500 was claimed by Breda Meehan (#4874), and third prize of US\$2500 went to Jerssen Fernandes (#6242).

The five Cayman Airways USD \$300 travel vouchers went to Tamara Reid Vernon (#5864), Raphael Noel (#4271), Pamfilo Escarrial (#2148), Ronaldo



Del Rosario (#6871) and Ryan Carosello (#1221).

Seventeen other winners received restaurant gift certificates from LUCA, Ragazzi, or Treats.

The prize drawing was fully audited and witnessed by

a team of five from KPMG. All winners were telephoned and full results are on the home page of st-ignatius.com and the school Facebook page.

St. Ignatius Church will invest proceeds towards facilities improvements in Grand Cay-



man and Cayman Brac. Some of the proceeds will also support local charity work undertaken by the church. The school will use the funds towards its facilities development fund. A quarter of the proceeds go to

the scholarship fund, which provides tuition assistance for those families who are unable to afford full school fees.

St. Ignatius is very grateful to all who supported this year by buying and selling tickets!



# UCCI Launches Speaker Series with Major-General David Fraser

The University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) is excited to announce a dynamic new speaker series for 2020 to be held on campus. The Speaker Series will convene local and international leaders to discuss compelling topics and distill lessons in leadership. On 17 December 2019, the new series launched with Major-General David Fraser, CMM, MSC, MSM, CD (retired), who is one of the most decorated generals in Canadian Armed Forces history.

During the inaugural session of the series, Major-General David Fraser discussed his experience in the Canadian Armed Forces and his time within NATO. He highlighted critical lessons around humanitarian aid and relief support during times of conflict, nation-building, and how to deal with complexity and failure.

"The most important thing is building relationships, people are an institution's greatest asset, and they matter first in every decision, once we understand that anything is possible. Always extend your trust and communicate your intent so that your team can achieve the greatest results in complex situations," said Major-General David Fraser.

Major-General David Fraser further explores this dialogue in his book on NATO's first combat operation in Afghanistan, Operation Medusa: The Furious Battle that Saved Afghanistan from the Taliban, co-authored by Brian Hantington. Those who attended the luncheon had the opportunity to receive a signed copy.

President & CEO, Dr. Stacy McAfee, spoke to the launch of the speaker series stating, "Beginning this series with Major-General David Fraser is a demonstration of UCCI's commitment to expanding education beyond the classroom. The Speaker Series will aim to connect our community with local and international thought leaders, trendsetters, and history-makers shaping social change."

This UCCI speaker series will continue throughout 2020 and will feature notable speakers that educate, enlighten, and entertain the community on a variety of topics. If you are interested in future speakers on campus, please visit our website at ucci.edu.ky or call 623-8224.

## About Major-General (retired) David Fraser

Major-General (retired) David Fraser is one of the most decorated generals in Canadian Armed Forces history. He led Operation MEDUSA, the largest battle in NATO's history. Fraser has also served as an executive with three different corporations and has mentored at Ivey Business School. He shares actionable insights based upon his experience leading both on the battlefield and in the boardroom.

MGen. David Fraser's story is one of courage under pressure, and of managing the complexity, contradiction, confusion, and chaos thrown at him and his coalition from every direction. He believes in making human connections based on respect and trust while showing your value to those you're trying

to help. Fraser's insights relate to understanding people, siding with them, training them, and helping them build the capacity to sustain a better life.

Fraser was the commander of Operation Medusa in Afghanistan and the largest combat engagement of Canadian Armed Forces in over 50 years. The goal of the operation was to defeat the Taliban and uphold the security of Afghanistan's second-largest city: Kandahar. While in Afghanistan, his team also built schools, district centres, and family dwellings, teacher training facilities, hospitals, and clinics.

Serving as Commander Regional Command South under the United States Coalition, he was the first Canadian general to have United States troops under his command. Fraser's experiences also include leading the transition from the US Operation Enduring Freedom to the NATO ISAF coalition.

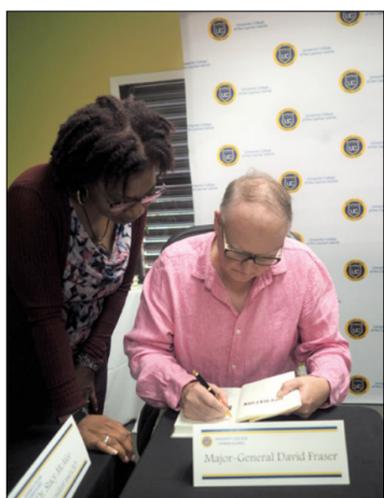
Upon leaving the Canadian Forces, Fraser joined the private sector and, along with his partners, raised funds for the creation of Blue Goose Pure Foods. Most recently, he was the COO for INKAS® Armored Vehicle Manufacturing until June 2016. Today Fraser works



► Major-General (retired) David Fraser, Commander of the Largest Battle in NATO History

with BMO on their Canadian Defence Community Banking Program.

He holds a Master of Management and Policy and is a graduate of the United States Capstone Program (Executive School for generals). Fraser was also the Commandant of the Canadian Forces College - the Canadian Forces and Government of Canada's premier masters accredited institute of higher learning.



# Sally robot aids in continuity of care for children with neurodevelopmental disorders

The Health Services Authority's (HSA's) state-of-the-art medical robot is already transforming the way the Authority's clinical experts deliver care. An HSA psychiatrist utilizes the robot to provide continuity of care for her patients while she pursues a subspecialisation in neuropsychiatry overseas.

Dr Toni-Ann Heron, who began a one-year subspecialty training programme in Clinical Neuropsychiatry (MSc) at King's College London in September, is using the next generation InTouch Health RP-Lite 4 telemedicine robot, nicknamed 'Sally', to continue providing care to some of her regular patients here in the Cayman Islands.

Dr Heron, who sees mainly children & adolescents, prepared the selected patients for the transition by discussing what the new teleconsultation format with the Sally robot would be like. "I explained that not a lot would have changed – our consultations would still be interactive and confidential, but I would be communicating with them remotely through a screen on the robot."

She added that many of her patients and their families appreciated the convenience of this option. "Continuity of care is valuable and important to doctors and patients. When you have patients with whom you have built a therapeutic relationship it can be hard for them to have to switch to another doctor.

Dr Heron started her weekly clinics through Sally robot on 1 October. She described the experience for her and her patients as a fairly seamless tran-

sition and one that fascinated many of her younger, more tech-savvy visitors. "Children are now born into a very digital world, so the transition to a telemedicine platform has largely been intuitive for them."

"Psychiatry is being able to foster that connection with the patient in which they feel they are in a private setting and are being listened to," said Dr Heron. "This was very easy to replicate over Sally robot, even for the adolescents and older patients who experience anxiety and depression. It is comparable to our in-person meetings in my office. Patients and their families have given feedback that they feel comfortable and I have observed that they disclose as much as they usually would."

Another benefit of using Sally robot is the ability to consult with physicians at the HSA, including a locum who is providing care to some of her patients, and engage in case conferences. "Multidisciplinary collaboration is at the core of paediatric psychiatry, and reflects the principle of holistic patient care through the application of biopsychosocial principles to management," Dr Heron stated. "Multidisciplinary team meetings involve consultations with other professionals involved with the child's care including other physicians, clinical/educational psychologists, therapists (eg ABA/occupational), school SENCOs (special education needs co-ordinators), teachers/other school staff and social workers."

Dr Heron is expected to complete her training in September 2020 and return



► Patients are seated facing Sally robot in a private room in the Physicians Services Department at the Cayman Islands Hospital, while a staff of the Mental Health Unit remains outside the room nearby

to the HSA as its first neuropsychiatrist.

"Neuropsychiatry is an interdisciplinary field of medicine, at the intersection of neurology and psychiatry which is critical the treatment of many persons in our modern society due to mental complications of head trauma, such as a motor vehicle accident. Neuropsychiatrists may be involved in the management of patients with a range of conditions including neurodevelopmental disorders, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, auto-

immune diseases with neuropsychiatric manifestations, functional neurological disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder and neurodegenerative disorders e.g. Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease," said Dr Arline McGill, Head of Psychiatry & Behavioural Health Services at HSA. "I am elated that Dr Heron has taken the step to further her education in an area that will widen the spectrum of patients she sees, as well as significantly enhance the quality of care she provides to her patients." 🌐

## CLEVELAND CLINIC UNVEILS TOP 10 MEDICAL INNOVATIONS FOR 2020

*A panel of top doctors and researchers presents the medical advancements with the power to transform healthcare in the next year*

A dual-acting osteoporosis drug. Minimally invasive mitral valve surgery. New treatment for peanut allergies. These are some of the innovations that will enhance healing and change healthcare in the coming year, according to a distinguished panel of doctors and researchers.

Cleveland Clinic today announced the Top 10 Medical Innovations for 2020 at a multimedia presentation that capped off the 2019 Medical Innovation Summit. Now in its 17th year, the annual Medical Innovation Summit is organized by Cleveland Clinic Innovations, the development and commercialization arm of Cleveland Clinic.

The list of up-and-coming technologies was selected by a panel of Cleveland Clinic physicians and scientists, led by Michael Roizen, M.D., Emeritus Chief Wellness Officer at Cleveland Clinic.

"Healthcare is ever-changing and we anticipate that these innovations will significantly transform the medical field and improve care for patients at Cleveland Clinic and throughout the world," said Dr. Roizen.

Here, in order of anticipated importance, are the Top 10 Medical Innovations for 2020:

1. **Dual-Acting Osteoporosis Drug.** Osteoporosis is a condition in which bones become weak and brittle, effectively increasing their risk of breaking. With osteoporosis, the loss of bone occurs silently and progressively – often without symptoms until the first fracture. Providing more bone-strengthening power, the recent FDA approval of a new dual-acting drug (romosozumab) is giving patients with osteoporosis more control in preventing additional fractures.

2. **Expanded Use of Minimally Invasive Mitral Valve Surgery.** The mitral valve allows blood flow from the heart's left atrium to the left ventricle. But in about 1 in 10 individuals over the age of 75, the mitral valve is defective causing the action of regurgitation. Expanding the approval of a minimally invasive valve repair device to a population of patients who have failed to get symptom relief from other therapies provides an important new treatment option.

3. **Inaugural Medication for Transthyretin Amyloid Cardiomyopathy.** A disheartening cardiovascular disorder, ATTR-CM is a progressive, underdiagnosed, potentially fatal disease in which amyloid protein fibrils deposit in, and stiffen, the walls of the heart's left ventricle. But a new agent to prevent misfolding of the deposited protein is show-



ing a significantly reduced risk of death. Following Fast-Track and Breakthrough designations in 2017 and 2018, 2019 marked the FDA approval of tafamidis, the first-ever medication for treatment of this increasingly recognized condition.

4. **Therapy for Mitigation of Peanut Allergies.** It's a terrifying reality for 2.5 percent of parents – the possibility that at any moment, their child might be unable to breathe due to an allergic reaction. Though emergency epinephrine has reduced the severity and risk of accidental exposure, these innovations are not enough to quell the ever-present anxiety. But development of a new oral immunotherapy medication to gradually build tolerance to peanut exposure holds the opportunity to lend protection against attack.

5. **Closed-Loop Spinal Cord Stimulation.** Chronic pain is a terribly frustrating condition, and a large reason for prescription of opioid medication. Spinal cord stimulation is a popular treatment for chronic pain through which an implantable device provides electrical stimulus to the spinal cord. But unsatisfactory outcomes due to sub-therapeutic or overstimulation events are common. Closed-loop stimulation is allowing for better communication between the device and the spinal cord providing more optimal stimulation and relief of pain.

6. **Biologics in Orthopaedic Repair.** After orthopaedic surgery, the body can take anywhere from months to years to recover. But biologics – cells, blood components, growth factors, and other natural substances – have the power to replace or harness the body's own power and promote healing. These elements are finding their way into orthopaedic

care, allowing for the possibility of expedited improved outcomes.

7. **Antibiotic Envelope for Cardiac Implantable Device Infection Prevention.** Worldwide, roughly 1.5 million patients receive an implantable cardiac electronic device every year. In these patients, infection remains a major, potentially life-threatening complication. Antibiotic-embedded envelopes are now made to encase these cardiac devices, effectively preventing infection.

8. **Bempedoic Acid for Cholesterol Lowering in Statin Intolerant Patients.** High cholesterol is a major concern for nearly 40 percent of adults in the U.S. Left untreated, the condition could lead to serious health problems like heart attack and stroke. Though typically managed with statins, some individuals experience unacceptable muscle pain with statins. Bempedoic acid provides an alternative approach to lowering of LDL-cholesterol while avoiding these side effects.

9. **PARP Inhibitors for Maintenance Therapy in Ovarian Cancer.** PARP, or poly-ADP ribose polymerase, inhibitors block repair of damaged DNA in tumor cells which increases cell death, especially in tumors with deficient repair mechanisms. One of the most recent important advances ovarian cancer treatment, PARP inhibitors have improved progression-free survival and are now being approved for first-line maintenance therapy in advanced stage disease. Several additional large-scale trials are underway with PARP inhibitors set to make great strides in improving outcomes in cancer therapy.

10. **Drugs for Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction.** Heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) – also known as diastolic heart

failure – is the condition in which the ventricular heart muscles contract normally, but do not relax as they should. With preserved ejection fraction, the heart is unable to properly fill with blood – leaving less available to be pumped out to the body. Currently, recommendations for this treatment are directed at accompanying conditions and mere symptom relief. But SGLT2 inhibitors, a class of medications used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, is now being explored in HFpEF – alluding to a potential new treatment option.

For more information on the annual Top 10 Medical Innovations including descriptions, videos, and year-by-year comparisons visit: <http://innovations.clevelandclinic.org/Summit/Top-10-Medical-Innovations.aspx>.

### About Cleveland Clinic

Cleveland Clinic is a nonprofit multispecialty academic medical center that integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education. Located in Cleveland, Ohio, it was founded in 1921 by four renowned physicians with a vision of providing outstanding patient care based upon the principles of cooperation, compassion and innovation. Cleveland Clinic has pioneered many medical breakthroughs, including coronary artery bypass surgery and the first face transplant in the United States. U.S. News & World Report consistently names Cleveland Clinic as one of the nation's best hospitals in its annual "America's Best Hospitals" survey. Among Cleveland Clinic's 66,000 employees are more than 4,200 salaried physicians and researchers and 16,600 nurses, representing 140 medical specialties and subspecialties. Cleveland Clinic's health system includes a 165-acre main campus near downtown Cleveland, 11 regional hospitals in northeast Ohio, more than 180 northern Ohio outpatient locations – including 18 full-service family health centers and three health and wellness centers – and locations in southeast Florida; Las Vegas, Nev.; Toronto, Canada; Abu Dhabi, UAE; and London, England. In 2018, there were 7.9 million total outpatient visits, 238,000 hospital admissions and observations, and 220,000 surgical cases throughout Cleveland Clinic's health system. Patients came for treatment from every state and 185 countries. Visit us at [www.clevelandclinic.org](http://www.clevelandclinic.org). Follow us at [www.twitter.com/CCforMedia](https://twitter.com/CCforMedia) and [www.twitter.com/ClevelandClinic](https://twitter.com/ClevelandClinic). News and resources available at [www.newsroom.clevelandclinic.org](http://www.newsroom.clevelandclinic.org). 🌐

# Cayman Youth Equestrians Qualify for USA Regional Dressage Championship

By Eve van den Bol

The all-Caymanian High Point Farm Middle-School IEA Dressage Team, consisting of Kayla Mannisto, Marley Trench and Rosana Stroh, was named Champion at both IEA dressage shows held this past weekend in Watkinsville, GA.

The team has been named Champion at all three shows at which they have competed this year. As a result, the team has qualified for the IEA Dressage Finals for Regions 3 & 4 which will take place on March 21st & 22nd, 2020 at Idlewild Equestrian Center in Dahlonega, GA. Kayla Mannisto and Marley Trench also qualified this weekend to compete as

individuals at Regionals, and have their sights set on making it to the IEA National Dressage Finals which will take place on May 9th and 10th, 2020 at Albion College in Albion, Michigan where they will compete against some of the best youth dressage riders in the USA.

Mannisto shined at both Saturday's and Sunday's competitions, winning all four of her classes and capped off the weekend with a phenomenal score of 75% in her Dressage Test class at Sunday's show (most competitors' scores were in the mid-60% range.) Trench almost matched this performance with three wins and a second. Stroh also performed well earning a 4th and a 5th in her two events, placing her in the top half of her classes at each show.

Claire Coman, the coach of the High Point Farm IEA Dressage Team, said that she was really happy with the growth of the Caymanian riders from the last show. She also noted, "The experience for the Cayman riders is both challenging and educational as they ride horses in IEA competition, but normally ride ponies at home."

IEA (Interscholastic Equestrian Association) competition is unique in that no rider needs to own a horse. Instead, the host team provides horses for the competition and riders are assigned to horses based on a random draw. Each rider performing a test has only three minutes to get to know their assigned horse before entering the competition arena. In dressage seat equitation, no warm up time is allowed and the riders compete without any knowledge of the horse. The format of IEA is designed to equalize competition variables and



► HPF IEA Dressage Team, Cayman riders are in front row, (l to r) Rosana Stroh, Kayla Mannisto and Marley Trench (Photos by Alex Thaxton)



► Marley Trench (left) and Kayla Mannisto (right) also qualified for Regionals as individuals

test the horsemanship of the contestants.

"We are really proud of the results our young dressage riders," explained Cayman Islands Equestrian Federation (CIEF) President, Eve van den Bol. "Since competition is limited locally, we have been promoting international opportunities for our youth, and the IEA Dressage program is just one of many that we offer. Since the beginning of the year, we have also sent teams to Jamaica twice (for both dressage and show jumping)

and will be heading to Guatemala in February with a show jumping team."

The next and final competition for the High Point Farm IEA Team this season is on January 5th, 2020, where Stroh hopes to earn an individual spot to Regionals.

For more information on the IEA program, visit their website at [www.rid-eiea.org](http://www.rid-eiea.org).

For more information on the Cayman Islands Equestrian Federation, visit their website at [www.ciefcay.com](http://www.ciefcay.com)

# Cayman Equestrians Named Champions in Jamaica

By Eve van den Bol

December has been a great month for Cayman's youth equestrians competing in Jamaica.

In early December, the Cayman team of Ava Law, Nadia Thompson and Madison Ameline were named Champions at the Dressage Invitational hosted by Caymanas Pony Club located near Kingston, Jamaica. Riders from Barbados also participated in the event.

The Cayman Team came out on top over Jamaica, with the Barbados team

coming in third. Cayman had a number of "firsts" at the competition, including a win by Law in the C-test, a 3rd place finish by Ameline, who competed in a musical freestyle for the first time and a 3rd place finish for Thompson in the A-Test, at her very first horse show.

Last week Cayman's youth equestrians traveled again to Jamaica, this time for a show jumping competition sponsored by the Jamaican Equestrian Federation at Drax Hall Country Club in St. Ann Parish, near Ocho Rios. Olivia Ziemniak, representing Cayman in the .70

meter division, came in first and second in her two classes and was named the division's Champion. Megan Swartz and Leah Alberga competed in the .90 meter division, where Swartz took home 3rd and 4th place ribbons, and Alberga a 5th place. Riders from Costa Rica were also invited to this event.

"We are really pleased to see our youth perform so well while competing overseas on borrowed horses," said Eve van den Bol, President of the Cayman Islands Equestrian Federation (CIEF).

"With limited local competition, we have been encouraging our youth members to participate in overseas events, especially those with borrowed horses." In addition to Jamaica, countries that host borrowed-horse competitions in which Caymanian riders have been invited to compete include the USA, Ecuador, Barbados, Suriname, Martinique, Costa Rica and Guatemala, among others.

For more information about the CIEF, please visit their website at [ciefcay.com](http://ciefcay.com)



► Cayman Dressage Team in Jamaica December 2019. (L to R) Ava Law, Nadia Thompson, Coach Gina Lomas and Madison Ameline



► Cayman Show Jumping Team. (L to R) Olivia Ziemniak, Megan Swartz, Coach Gina Lomas and Leah Alberga

# Inmate Passes at Northward Prison

Officials with Her Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service have confirmed the passing of an inmate on Wednesday evening (18 December 2019) at the Northward prison compound.

The prisoner, Durney Ebanks, was found laying unresponsive on his bed by two prison officers. The officers applied lifesaving measures prior to the arrival of emergency medical

technicians (EMTs) several minutes later.

An ambulance transported the inmate to the Cayman Islands Hospital where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

Per established protocol when there is a death in custody, the RCIPS has confirmed that an inquiry is ongoing, but at this time no foul play is suspected.



# BORIS'S GREAT BRITISH ACTION PLAN

By Michael Jarvis, London UK

Prime Minister Boris Johnson called it the most radical Queen's Speech of a generation.

Brimming with all the self-assurance and confidence of a leader buoyed by a decisive general election victory, the prime minister, defending his government's policy proposals outlined in the Queen's Speech on Thursday, labelled his governing programme "a blueprint for the future of Britain."

The outgoing Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn, reeling after his party's humiliating defeat at the hands of Mr Johnson's Conservative Party, felt otherwise.

"As this Queen's Speech shows, what the government is actually proposing is woefully inadequate for the scale of the problems our country faces," he stated during the following parliamentary debate.

"All we have today are empty words about bringing forward proposals," he declared.

Delivering Brexit, a huge funding injection into the UK's cherished National Health Service (NHS), as well as fighting crime, are at the heart of Mr Johnson's so-called 'one-nation Conservative' and 'people's government'.

But it's Brexit that is the dominant feature of the government's policy programme as Mr Johnson sets about to fulfil

his campaign promise to 'get Brexit done' by January 31st next year 2020 - just over a month away.

Of around 30 pieces of legislation outlined in the Queen's speech, around six are Brexit-related including controversially severely limiting the time frame within which the UK and the European Union (EU) must conclude a trade deal.

Scrapping the Fixed Term Parliament law - giving the prime minister the power to call elections without first seeking the approval of parliament (although he now has clear 80-seat majority) - and introducing Voter ID cards are among the key political changes the government will pursue this parliament.

A new points-based immigration system along with a series of other domestic policies will drive what the government calls "an ambitious programme of domestic reform that delivers on the people's priorities."

Coming towards the end of the Queen's speech was an announcement, which, while not offering much detail (the speech from the throne is not intended for that), nevertheless would resonate with many of the UK's Overseas Territories, especially those in the Caribbean.

"Review will be undertaken to reassess the nation's place in the world, covering all aspects of international policy from defence to diplomacy and development."

A critical element of that is seen as the Department for International Development (DfID), which Mr Johnson in a previous incarnation as Foreign Secretary had posited should be merged into the Foreign Office.

In the debate which followed the Queen's Speech, that was one of the issues pounced on by the outgoing Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn.

A detailed response was not immediately forthcoming.

DfID has been a vital funding and support link for the OTs, especially those in hurricane-prone areas such as the Caribbean, with Montserrat with an added volcano risk.

The details are awaited on the role and future of DfID, a cabinet-level office, and that of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) also a cabinet office (the Foreign Office) both having separate Secretaries of State.

The DfID dilemma is also addressed in the 2018/2019 UK parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) inquiry and report into the future of the relationship between the UK and the OTs: Global Britain and the Overseas Territories - Resetting the Relationship.

FAC recommendations which were accepted by the pre-Boris Johnson Conservative government under Theresa May are there to be dusted off, reviewed and incorporated into the Johnson 'people's government' policy framework.



Chief among those is the issue of Public Disclosure of Beneficial Ownership of Companies registered in the OTs.

The May government had committed "to preparing an Order in Council by the end of December 2020, with the Territories expected to have fully functioning publicly accessible registers as soon as possible, and no later than the end of 2023."

Other issues ranging from access to the NHS to post-Brexit replacement of EU aid funding and the future of DfID funding for aid-dependent territories such as Montserrat covered in the FAC report are still on the table.

With a new government in place in Whitehall and Brexit a fait accompli, it's now left to be seen where the OTs fit into the new mosaic of policy pronouncements. 🌐

## TRUMP - IMPEACHMENT IMPLICATIONS

... Continued story from page A1

dent Joe Biden over business dealings in Ukraine involving Mr Biden's son.

He is accused of using the threat of withholding American aid and promising the Ukrainian president visits to the White House.

That vote against him was carried by 230 - 197 with just two Democrats opposing it.

The second count of the impeachment, obstruction of Congress, alleges that President Trump sought to prevent the House of Representatives from carrying out its lawful duty by withholding key evidence and barring his staff from testifying.

That was carried 229 to 198, with just

one former Republican member voting against.

His legendary outbursts hit new highs (or lows) in the process of the heated impeachment hearings.

He furiously fired off a six-page letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi accusing her of president over 'a witch-hunt' against him and maintains that he has 'done nothing wrong'.

The impeachment trial may very well, and is highly likely to support him..and acquit him.

But does it end there?

President Trump's impeachment is a result of another instalment in a long line of actions by him which have drawn attention to his marmalade-like

character; you either like him or loathe him.

But will the Democrats have succeeded in once more painting, if not necessarily tainting, Mr Trump as a man of enormously flawed personality traits, not fit for high office as they claim.

And, in the end, will it matter? Is Donald Trump the ultimate political 'teflon Donald'?

Which side is winning depends on which camp you speak or listen to.

His continuing popularity amongst his base speaks to the former while the intensifying loathing by those who despise him attempts at a counterbalance.

In a charged and divisive, partisan political environment where 'winning is not everything, it's the only thing' President Trump seems destined to win the ultimate prize, a second term in the November 2020 presidential elections.

It's already speculated that some of his political accusers and will pay the ultimate price; losing their seats.

All of this begs the question; what's really on trial with the impeachment of President Trump?

Is it the president himself only, is it American political morality...or is it a new state of global strongman/woman political leadership arrogating ultimate power unto themselves?

The right to do wrong? 🌐

## BOAT FOR SALE

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(ready to go fishing with rods & reels, etc.)



Well maintained with some outstanding features:

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- Starboard engine rebuilt with about 75 hours running and port engine (left) refitted with new blowers and cooler.
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- New 8 man life raft.

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CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

# Miss World pops home to Jamaica

Newly crowned Miss World 2019, Toni-Ann Singh, returned to her Jamaican homeland for a brief visit over the weekend.

Singh was accompanied by Julia Morley, chairman and CEO of the Miss World international organisation, event director of Miss World Stephen Morley, and her father Bradshaw Singh.

Singh's remarkable victory in London last week meant she had to cram in a visit to Jamaica before embarking on a tight schedule around the world.

Singh's win means that the titles of Miss World, Miss Universe, Miss America, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA have all gone to black women this year, an historic first.

And to celebrate her win, Singh, 23, tweeted for the very first time. Sharing a photo of herself in her glittering crown, the pageant queen wrote: "To that little girl in St Thomas, Jamaica and all the girls around the world - please believe in yourself. Please know that you are worthy and capable of achieving your dreams. This crown is not mine but yours. You have a PURPOSE."

Singh joins Miss Universe Zozibini Tunzi, Miss America Nia Franklin, Miss USA Cheslie Kryst and Miss Teen USA Kaleigh Garri. Kryst also competed in the Miss Universe pageant alongside Tunzi, reaching the top 10.



► Miss World Toni-Ann Singh is from St Thomas, Jamaica

## Bermuda benefits from sports tourism

Bermuda's sports tourism policy is bringing in invaluable revenue to the island. International sporting events have put Bermuda in the spotlight, and money into island tills, the Bermuda Tourism Authority's chief executive said.

Kevin Dallas said that MS Amlin World Triathlon Bermuda may have generated less buzz on the island because of the absence of home-grown superstar Flora Duffy from the main event, but the competition was more successful than in 2018 in terms of visitor numbers.

He said early indicators suggested the first Professional Golf Association Bermuda Championship was also a success for the island.



► Bermuda's MS Amlin World Triathlon is world renowned

Mr Dallas said: "The reason why we went for this event was when we looked at what the PGA tour could bring to Bermuda, it was a function of both the direct economic impact of having the event and the media value of the viewership." He predicted the Bermuda Championship would be a bigger event in the future.

## Grenada bans sodas and sweets from schools

Grenada is banning the sale of carbonated beverages and sweet snacks in schools from the first day of 2020.

Grenada Education Minister Emmalin Pierre announced the impending ban two months ago as the Spice Island tries to reduce sugar consumption which has led to an overweight and obesity problem among the youth.

Vendors will no longer be able to sell carbonated beverages or sugary snacks at any public or private school in Grenada. Vendors will be issued a notice informing them of the new school nutrition policy to ensure that they comply. Parents will also be prohibited from including these items in students' bagged lunches.

The World Health Organisation has recommended that children reduce their consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages



► Grenada's soda ban in schools aims to tackle obesity

as a means of decreasing their risk of obesity and associated physical and mental health problems such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, sleep disorders, depression, and low self-esteem.

Jamaica has also instituted a nationwide ban on sugary drinks in schools, which was effective from January 2019.

## Barbados schools free to CARICOM kids

Barbados will soon implement free access to public schools for CARICOM students. This means that all CARICOM nationals under the age of 16, who reside in Barbados, will be afforded access to government nursery, primary and secondary schools without being charged tuition fees. CARICOM students will not be required to have student visas, but they will pay all fees that are applicable to Barbadians students.

This exemption, however, does not extend to post-secondary, vocational nor tertiary level education. In addition, CARICOM students will not qualify to be granted scholarships and exhibitions.

At least one parent or legal guardian of the relevant child must be residing in



► Barbados has high academic standards

Barbados under an approved Immigration Status in order to access the tuition free provision now afforded to CARICOM nationals, namely the Status of Citizen, Permanent Resident, Immigrant, or Reside and Work.

## LIAT chairman retires after 16 years

Regional airline LIAT will have begun looking for a new chairman. The Antigua-based company announced that after 16 years in the position Dr Jean Holder is retiring.

He informed shareholders at LIAT's Annual General Meeting held in Antigua last week that he would not be available for nomination as a Director of LIAT's Board for the next term.

Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr Ralph Gonsalves thanked Dr Holder on behalf of all shareholders, "for his outstanding contribution in the oversight of the Board of Directors in some extraordinarily difficult times".

He said working with the LIAT chairman had enriched him and he expressed immense gratitude.



► LIAT chairman Dr Jean Holder has retired after 16 years

"LIAT wishes Dr Holder the very best in his future endeavours and with the shareholders, join in thanking him for his long and dedicated service to the company," he said.

## Dominica opens latest five-star hotel

Dominica's latest five-star hotel makes it an even more attractive place to visit for ecotourists. More and more travel experts agree that Dominica, aka the 'Nature Isle of the Caribbean', is emerging as a top ecotourist destination. The five-star Cabrits Resort & Spa Kempinski Dominica won the 'New Hotel of the Year' award as part of the 2020 Caribbean Travel Awards recently.

Caribbean Journal awarded the Dominican resort for its significance as the Caribbean's first Kempinski resort that also "works seamlessly with its stunning natural environment." Cabrits is one of the few select eco-friendly hotels whose development was funded by Dominica's Citizenship by Investment Programme.

Introduced in 1993, Dominica's CBI Programme enables foreign investors and their immediate relatives to obtain second citizenship after contributing to its economy and successfully passing all due diligence checks. There are currently two channels for investment under the programme: a one-time invest-



► Dominica's Cabrits Resort & Spa Kempinski is luxurious

ment into the Economic Diversification Fund, which sponsors countless socio-economic initiatives on the island, or investing in pre-approved hotels.

Kempinski shares eligible as investments for economic citizenship were in such high demand, that they sold out entirely. However, the Dominican CBI Programme provides investment opportunities into several other eco-resorts from renowned hoteliers like Marriott and its impressive Anichi resort, or Hilton and its cliff-hanging villas at Tranquillity Beach, alongside two already open luxury boutique hotels - Jungle Bay and Secret Bay, but also the newly announced Sanctuary Rainforest Eco Resort & Spa.

## Bequia luxury properties available

Bequia in St Vincent and the Grenadines is now selling luxury villas built by a Scottish property developer.

FM Group, headquartered in Edinburgh, has launched sales for a wide range of high spec cottages and villas as part of The Liming resort. The resort was launched in December 2018 with the idea to offer the ultimate in relaxed and secluded holidaying on the Grenadine island.

As part of the exclusive luxury Liming resort, a wide range of different cottages and villas are up for sale, giving potential buyers the opportunity to live on one of the most desirable locations in the world for its seclusion and tranquility.

The cottages and villas are in three areas, the beach, the ridge and the ridge top of Adam's Bay on Bequia island.

1 and 2-bedroom cottages and 6-bed villas are located by the beachfront, whilst 4-bed villas can be found at the ridge. 5-bed villas with 360 panoramic views to both St Vincent and The Grenadines are located at the ridgetop.

All the properties have extensive plot sizes and include their own private pool,



► Bequia is selling high spec properties

and all the villas have their own garden. Additionally, buyers will also enjoy the perks of the resort such as a community infinity pool, a private beach with restaurant and lounge bar, spa and fitness facilities and a championship tennis court, opened in October 2019.

At The Liming restaurant buyers can enjoy the finest of the island's rich flavours in a unique sea-top terrace restaurant, or meals can be served privately within each cottage or villa.

The site is conveniently located close to the airport. Boats can also be anchored in the bay and the resort offers a drop-off and pick-up service from its private dock.

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 1 Porter of Silence of the Lambs" director
- 5 Ph-siques, in slang
- 9 Tiny holes
- 10 Pecks and pounds
- 12 Violinist Stern
- 13 Stopwatch button
- 14 Hidden danger
- 16 Spring month
- 17 Hydrocarbon suffix
- 18 Website's block of nonsubscribers
- 20 Gives a makeover
- 22 Other
- 23 Fruit basket items
- 25 Church area
- 28 "C'mon!"
- 32 Disapproving cry
- 34 Pull gently
- 35 Regret
- 36 Steeping gadget
- 38 Keys
- 40 Chart of numbers

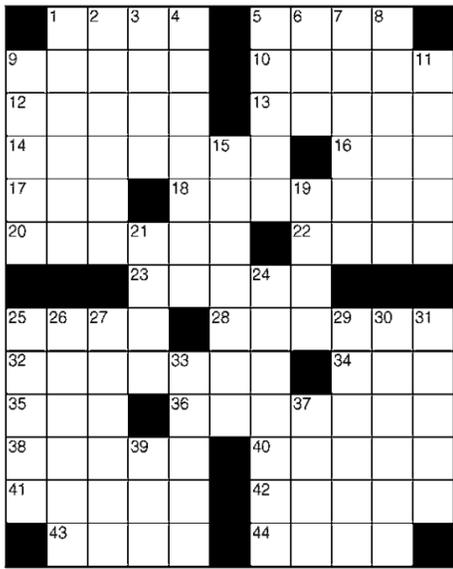
**DOWN**

- 1 Secant's reciprocal
- 2 Held forth
- 3 Book part
- 4 Fugitive
- 5 Strapping
- 6 Low bill
- 7 Bleak
- 8 Takes the wrong way?



Yesterday's answer

- 9 Pan, for one
- 11 Flair
- 15 Louisiana explorer
- 19 Compass point
- 21 Oil cartel
- 24 Akin
- 25 Bitter
- 26 Takes a breather
- 27 Sailor's patron
- 29 Horse house
- 30 Food channel
- 31 Wolfish sort
- 33 Bewildered
- 37 Indonesian island
- 39 Print units



**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**

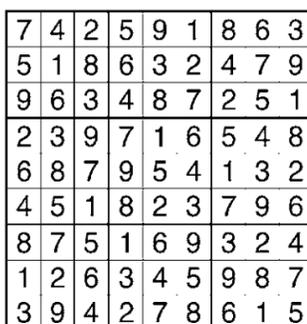
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

10/16

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★

**Word Search**

- Babe
- Bagheera
- Baloo
- Bambi
- Bashful
- Chip
- Daisy
- Dale
- Dewey
- Doc
- Donald
- Dopey
- Dumbo
- Eeyore
- Goofy
- Grumpy
- Gus
- Happy
- Huey
- Jock
- Lady
- Louie
- Mickey
- Minnie
- Mowgli
- Piglet
- Pinocchio
- Pluto
- Pongo
- Sleepy
- Sneezy
- Thumper
- Tigger
- Tramp



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



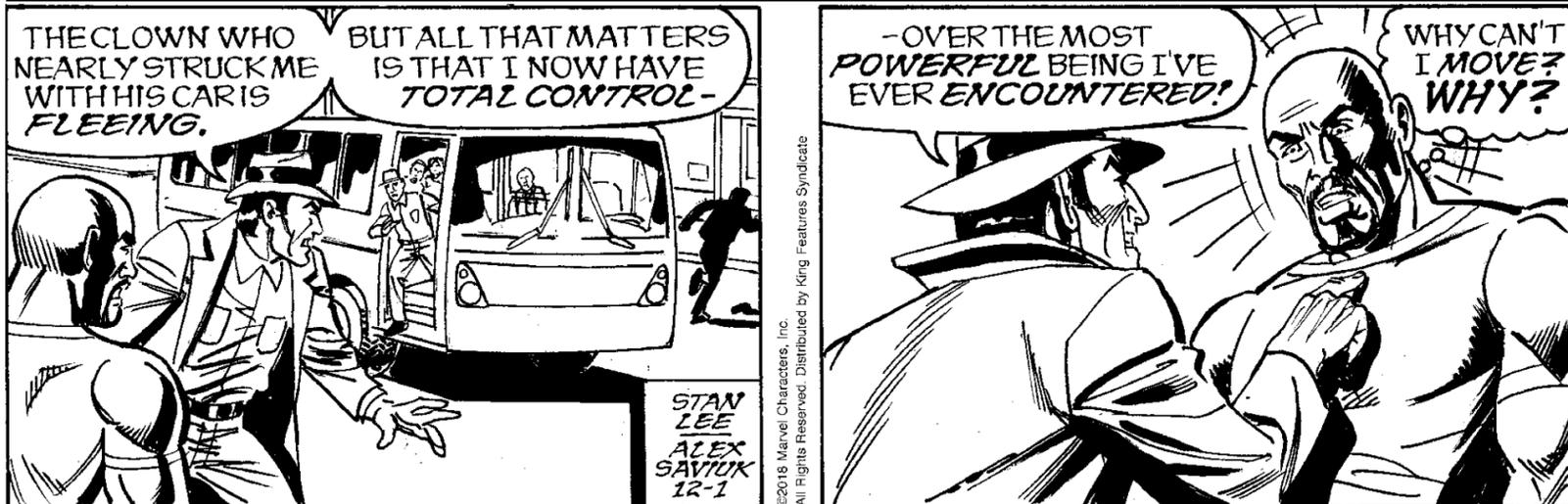
**CURTIS**

By Ray Billingsley



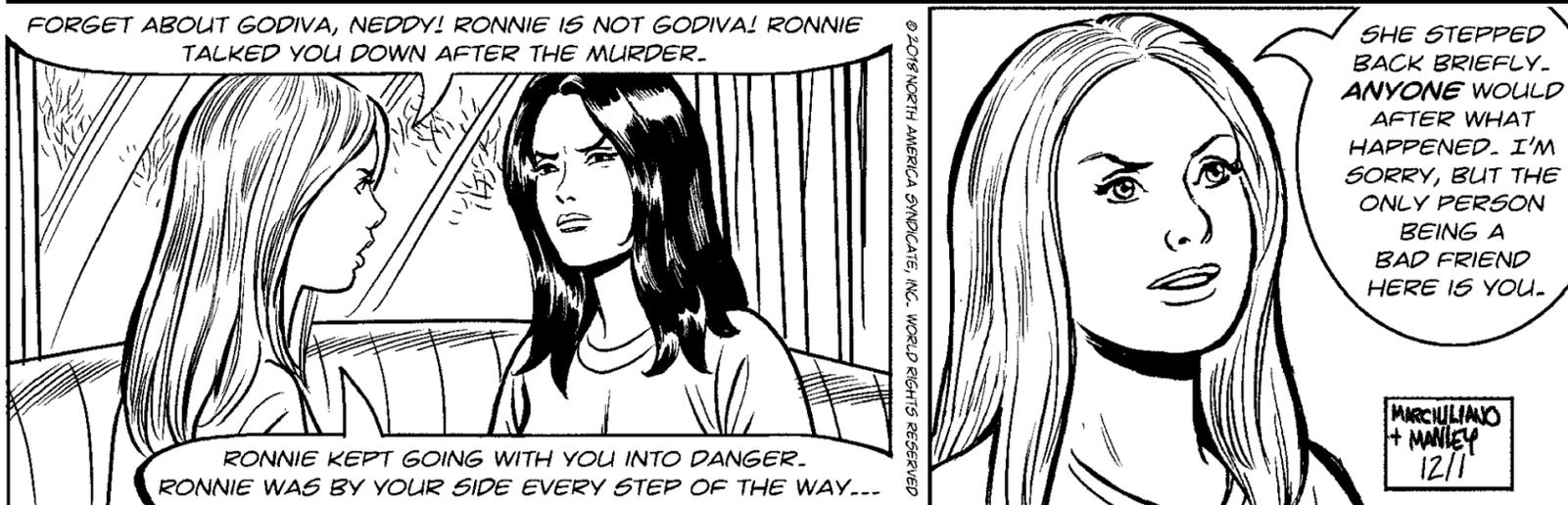
**THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN**

By Stan Lee



**JUDGE PARKER**

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



# STAND UP FOR THE FUTURE OF CAYMAN

## CPR CLAIMS:

**Loss of jobs** and small businesses offering water activities such as diving, snorkeling and submarine tours.

## FACT:

The livelihood of **4,600+ people** is dependent on Cayman's cruise industry. These workers earned **US\$92.2 million in salaries.\*** The majority of these jobs are held by Caymanians.

In 2018, the annual economic impact to the Cayman Islands from the cruise industry was **US\$240 million\*.**

**80+ independent taxi operators** - all Caymanians - earn a living providing transportation and excursions to cruise passengers.

The cruise berthing facility will not have any retail shops operated by cruise lines – these will continue to all be **Caymanian owned businesses.** All commercial space in the cruise terminal will **continue to be managed by** the Port Authority of the Cayman Islands.

Approximately **500 boats** engage in watersports activities that provide excursions to cruise ship visitors.

Taxi drivers, tour operators, water-based attractions, restaurants and bars, retail shops – all **Caymanian businesses** that service the cruise industry.

*\*Source: 2018 Business Research and Economic Advisors Report (BREA)*

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