

Complimentary

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COMMUNITY NOTICE — A2



Charles Clifford receives MBE

LOCAL NEWS — A2



Tourism Successes Continue in Nov 2019

THEN & NOW — B1



Transportation over the decades

REGIONAL — B3



St Kitts and Nevis plans to go plastic free

## West Bay celebrates with their Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

A prominent feature of the festive season in West Bay was the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party recently hosted by the Hon. McKeeva Bush, elected representative and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The 40th annual event was the largest gathering to date. Guests included His Excellency Governor Martyn Roper and his wife Elisabeth, Government dignitaries, as well as over 300 senior citizens and their family members.

The holiday festivities took place under a tent in the Christmas breeze of Northwest Point. The evening included carol-singing, Bible scripture-readings, cultural skits by Quincy Brown – as well as great food and conversations with long-time friends.

Organized by Mr. Bush and the West Bay West Enhancement Council, the attendees included over 150 elderly shut-ins, as well as handicapped persons. In his remarks, he noted that this Christmas social tradition began long before he entered the political arena 35 years ago, and that the event serves to unify the district as well as the wider island-community.

"This started as a small gathering in my home for a small group of seniors,



Participants and official guests enjoyed the evening

... Continued story on page A4

## More Toronto flights coming to Cayman

The Cayman Islands enjoyed a record-breaking year in tourism and that looks likely to be topped in 2020 after Canadian travel giant Sunwing announced it is launching a new route to Grand Cayman.

The tour operator's new seasonal flight service from Toronto to the Owen Roberts International Airport will launch from Feb. 2 through to May 3, 2020 initially.

A Sunwing spokesman said: "We are excited to be offering travellers departing from Toronto Pearson even more ways to vacation better this winter with the addition of this new destination. With its pristine beaches and picturesque landscapes, we're sure that Grand Cayman will be a

... Continued story on page A3



## 2019 Top Story: A Royal Welcome



Everyone was busy at Owen Roberts International Airport on Wednesday afternoon in preparation for the Islands' First ever royal visit from His Royal Highness Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. Red carpets were unrolled, and red, white and blue blunting as well as flags – union jacks and Cayman Islands flags side by side, fluttered in the soft afternoon breeze round the front of the smart new airport building that would be officially opened by the Prince upon his arrival.

Round that back of the airport, the press corps, both local and international, got ready with their cameras as Government officials lined up along the edge of the red carpet to greet the Royal Couple, who were all set to travel through all three Islands as the final part of their Caribbean Tour.

The moment finally came as the big, grey Royal Airforce airplane touched down, taxied around and came back for a 'water-cannon' salute, as gleaming red fire trucks, look-

... Continued story on page A5



# Caymanian Times

FRONT PAGE BANNERS NOW AVAILABLE

Contact 916 2000 for rate and to book this space

# EDITORIAL

## Balancing long-term vision with immediate needs

All signs are pointing upward for the Cayman Islands. At least, that's what the latest government statistics show. The economy is doing well, tourist arrivals are up, and government's balance sheet gives those responsible for government's finances something to smile about.

Infrastructure works continue by both the public and private sectors that show there is a boom of sorts happening, though no one in the Government Admin Building dare use the words "sweet spot" to describe the situation again.

Amidst that, unemployment numbers have trended downwards in recent years. However, although the percentage of those among us without a job has shrunk, that is not the only indicator of how comfortable those with jobs are right now, much less those without a pay cheque.

While the economy looks good, it's noteworthy that the cost of living continues to spiral. Just ask anyone tasked with filling their grocery cart each week or paying their bills. If they find it hard, consider the scores of people dependent on the Needs Assessment Unit to put food on their table.

Having restored economic growth, the focus needs to continue being on



human development. There are many good initiatives that have Cayman poised to seize more opportunities for its people in the years ahead. But our leaders should not be busy looking that far forward that immediate needs are overlooked.

There will always be need for social assistance in any society but anyone in a position of influence on government spending should put themselves in the shoes of those struggling amongst us, who while they fight to survive see considerable sums being spent on their behalf while they fail to see any immediate benefits. So, a word of advice to policy makers and decision makers "don't let the cow die while the grass is growing".

# Tourism Successes Continue for the Cayman Islands

November stayover visitation continued the upward trend with growth recorded for Canada, Europe, and Latin America.

Overall, for the month, total stayover reached 38,463 persons visiting the Cayman Islands.

For the period January through November 2019, the Cayman Islands welcomed 448,551 stayover visitors, which represents a 9.14% growth over the same period of 2018, or an increase of 37,567 stayover visitors. This figure surpasses all January through Novem-

ber arrivals statistics of previous years recorded.

"As we approach the year end, I am proud of the strategic efforts led by my Ministry and Department to continue growing visitation. My tourism team and I are committed to the future success of our industry and wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season," commented the Minister of Tourism, the Hon Moses Kirkconnell.

For more information and detailed arrival statistics, please visit [www.visitcaymanislands.com/statistics](http://www.visitcaymanislands.com/statistics).



# COMMUNITY NOTICE

## Charles Clifford receives MBE

Director of Customs and Border Control, Charles Clifford, has been appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the New Year's Honours List. The award, which was approved by Her Majesty The Queen, is "for services to customs and border control in the Cayman Islands."

Mr Clifford led the merger of elements of the former Immigration and Customs Departments to form CBC. The new organisation was officially started at the beginning of 2019 and has begun a major transformation to operate on an intelligence-led basis. This includes making use of new technology and working with the UK and international partners on training and the development of advanced passenger information.

Mr Clifford's working career began in 1980 as a 16-year-old police cadet. Subsequently, he progressed through the ranks of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS), reaching the position of Chief Inspector in charge of Police Administration. In total, Mr Clifford served 17 years as a police officer.

He went on to study law and earned a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Degree from the University of Liverpool in 1995 and a Professional Practice Certificate from the Queen's University of Belfast in 1996.

In 1997 Mr. Clifford was appointed Senior Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and was promoted to Permanent Secretary in 2001. In 2004, after 24 years of public service, Mr. Clifford resigned from the Cayman Islands Government and joined law firm, Quin & Hampson. In 2005 Mr. Clifford was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly - as the Second Elected Member for the District of Bodden Town, and was subsequently appointed as the Minister of Tourism, Environment, Investment and Commerce. He served in that post until 2009.

In 2012 Mr. Clifford was called to the bar in the Cayman Islands where he was admitted as an Attorney-at-Law. In that year he opened his own law firm, Clifford Law Associates, and partnered with two other local attorneys. In 2015 Mr. Clifford was appointed as Collector of Customs for the Cayman Islands and subsequently became the Director of CBC.

HE The Governor, Martyn Roper said: "Many congratulations to Charles



► Director of Customs and Border Control, Charles Clifford

Clifford. This award recognises a very long and distinguished career in service to the Cayman Islands. The work Charles has begun to transform CBC is of vital importance to the safety and security of the territory and we have come a long way in a short space of time."

The Premier, Honourable Alden McLaughlin said: "Charles Clifford and I have been friends since we were boys. I am proud of his achievements in service to the people of the Cayman Islands; from his time in the RCIPS, the Civil Service, as a Legislator and Cabinet Minister, as Collector of Customs and now as Director of Customs and Border Control. I am very pleased that his outstanding service to our community has been recognised with the award of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire."

On hearing that he was to be made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Charles Clifford said: "I humbly accept this honour and sincerely thank those who nominated me for it.

"My extensive public service career has been diverse and rewarding and I am very grateful for the opportunities which it provided for me.

"I also wish to thank my colleagues in the Customs and Border Control Service for their unwavering support. The successful merger of our Customs and Immigration Departments would not have been possible without their contribution and so I accept this honour recognizing the very important role which each of them played in my nomination for this award."



CELLULAR WORLD.KY  
PHONES • ACCESSORIES • REPAIRS

Monday to Friday 9 am to 6 pm  
Saturday 10 am to 5 pm

Baytown Plaza, West bay Road  
Phone Repairs 943-2355 | Phone Retail 945-2355  
Email - [info@cellularworld.ky](mailto:info@cellularworld.ky)

**DENTURE STUDIO** Tradition Of Excellence  
Vladimir Tomascik - Denturist

- Free Consultation - New Clients Welcome • Full & Partial Dentures
- Specializing in Cosmetic Dentures • Re-Lines/Soft Liners
- Dentures Over Implants • Athletic mouthguards & night guards
- Over 30 Yrs Experience • Denture Repairs while you wait!

**Call: 929-6455** Emergency Services 24Hrs  
Park Place (Coconut Plaza)  
E-Mail: [caymandentures@gmail.com](mailto:caymandentures@gmail.com) | [www.caymandentures.com](http://www.caymandentures.com)

**Sea Grape Secretarial Services**

Services: Work Permits, Trade and Business Applications & Renewal Annual Returns, General Letters  
Please call for other services

Contact: Susan  
Cellular: 345 326-9953  
Address: Unit #2, Grand Plaza (Opposite Hi-Tech Electronics)  
Email: [seagrapesecretarial1@gmail.com](mailto:seagrapesecretarial1@gmail.com)  
Business Hours: 9am - 5pm, Mon - Fri

**Caymanian Times**  
Issue # 472

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

**Caymanian Times**

**ADVERTISE WITH US**  
**3 DAYS PER WEEK**  
**Monday, Wednesday and Friday**  
Email : [Sales@caymaniantimes.ky](mailto:Sales@caymaniantimes.ky)

# More Toronto flights coming to Cayman

... Continued story from page A1

popular choice amongst Torontonians sun-seekers."

The flights will be operating once-weekly on Sundays, a big boost for

Cayman from the important Canadian market.

"We are so pleased to welcome Sunwing in offering Canadians with more opportunities to visit the Cayman Islands," said Rosa Harris, director of tourism at

the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism. "We are proud to share our exceptional attractions, from our pristine Seven Mile Beach to the Crystal Caves and, as the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean, our diverse and exceptional restaurants."

Sunwing has a broad footprint across the wider Caribbean region. The company said it would be highlighting Grand Cayman's Margaritaville Beach Resort on Seven Mile Beach for travellers from Toronto. 🌐



► Margaritaville Beach Resort will host many Toronto travellers



## NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

As we prepare to watch the sun set on another wonderful year in the Cayman Islands, it is with an ever-present gratitude that I thank all of those in the tourism community - whether directly or indirectly - for the immeasurable efforts you put in to your work and your contributions to making our country a top luxury vacation destination throughout the year.

Each and every day, we are blessed to call this beautiful country home. We share the Caymankind experience with record-breaking numbers of visitors, with those who reside here, and with our families and friends throughout our communities. From Cayman Brac to Little Cayman to Grand Cayman, each day we are surrounded by the immense wonders of island life, and the comfort of calling the Cayman Islands home. We are very fortunate to have survived another hurricane season unscathed and continue to support our regional family throughout the Caribbean, many of whom are still recovering from past devastation.

As we look forward to a bright new year, it is evident to me that the key to our tourism success in 2020 remains clear - we must work together to create the brightest future for the next generation of Caymanians. We will achieve continued success through partnerships throughout the local tourism industry, supporting entrepreneurs and stakeholders who promote our destination as we work strategically and diligently to distinguish ourselves in a very competitive marketplace.

On behalf of my colleagues in government, the tourism team and I join together to give thanks for having had the privilege to serve you, the people of the Cayman Islands for another year.

*May you all enjoy a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.*



Hon. Moses Kirkconnell, JP, MLA, Deputy Premier, Ministry of District Administration, Tourism & Transport.



► Participants and official guests enjoyed the evening

# West Bay Celebrates at Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

... Continued story from page A1

and has grown to become an anticipated community-wide event," noted Mr. Bush. Emphasizing continued unity between the people of his district, he told the gathering, "Although West Bay is now cut into four constituencies, we work together to do things like this... So as to not let the rush of the world take us to the point where we don't get along."

Governor Roper, in a brief address, emphasized the Cayman Christmas as a

time for family, and encouraged everyone to take time to "count our blessings" and to appreciate our "oasis of peace and tranquility".

He added that he and his wife are enjoying their second Christmas here, and congratulated Mr. Bush on beginning and maintaining this tradition, saying, "It's outstanding that he has hosted this event for the past 40 years." He also remarked on the excellent the local cuisine that he has enjoyed over the past year, and said that, in this regard, West Bay 'takes the prize!'.

A highlight of the evening was an awards ceremony to recognise 17 outstanding citizens. Mrs. Glennis Smith was the key awardee. She was commended both for her outstanding contributions to those in her district, and for her outstanding work as someone who helped lay the foundation of the early financial-services industry, notably as a member of the legal fraternity - one of Cayman's first professional legal secretaries.

The other awardees made similarly outstanding contributions in diverse areas - including education, sports, tourism, finance and community service.

The social was attended by members of Government, including Minister Joey Hew, Councilors Barbara Conolly and David Wight, as well as Opposition Member Kenneth Bryan. Councilor and West Bay MLA Capt. Eugene Ebanks was again actively involved in the event, as was former West Bay representative Rolston Anglin.

Minister Tara Rivers extended apologies, as she was away on official business. Mr. Bush reminded the audience, however, of her forthcoming social event - the annual New Year's celebration, to again be held at the Heritage Field, next to the Ed Bush Stadium in West Bay.

In keeping with the true meaning of Christmas, several ministers of religion also attended and participated.



► Mrs. Glennis Smith's special award was accepted from Mr Bush by her daughter Tara

Young people served and entertained their elders at the seniors' party. Participants included Miss Jada Bodden, Miss Teen 2nd Runner-Up, and former Miss Teen Liana DaCosta.

Thanking everyone who contributed to the success of the evening, Mr. Bush said, "With the cooler breezes coming from the north, and the sprucing up of our district, there is a feeling of Christmas in the air."

Thanking all who attended and contributed to the success of the evening, he says, "Special thanks to the guests, and to the volunteer committee which again did so much hard work, especially the young people. May the Good Lord continue to bless and protect you all through the season, and into 2020."



► Participants and official guests enjoyed the evening

# Prince Charles and Duchess arrive and tour all three islands

... Continued story from page A1

ing like two red sentinels either side of the plane, shot an archway of water in a huge arc over it as it taxied through.

The door opened and out stepped HRH Prince Charles, looking relaxed as he made his way down the steps with the Duchess following closely behind. At the bottom, the very first person to greet the royal couple was not any big-named politician, but a young Cayman schoolgirl, who held out a beautiful bouquet of flowers to the Duchess who stooped to gather them and smiled at the girl.

The Prince followed a long line of dignitaries, shaking hands and greeting. By his expression he seemed to know who they all were. First he greeted H.E.



The Governor, Martyn Roper, then the Premier, Hon Alden McLaughlin. Everyone smiled. Everyone seemed to shine. Perhaps nobody knew exactly what to expect, but judging from people's expressions, the Prince has a quiet way of putting people at their ease while making them feel that they, rather than he, were the VIP, and the event was really in their honor instead.

He came to the Speaker, Hon McKeeva Bush and his wife, and shook hands warmly. Later, Mr. Bush told me that the Prince knew who he was, and about his long political career, "He knew I hadn't always been the Speaker," he said.



It was time for the Royal Salute from the RCIPS, before the Royal Couple were taken around to the front entrance of the new airport building. Inside they met with many more dignitaries and a young boy too, before going up onstage to listen to speeches from Hon. Moses Kirkconnell and Hon Alden McLaughlin, about the new extension to ORIA. Then they went outside to greet more people, who waved their flags as they watched HRH unveil the plaque, as he declared the smart new terminal open.

Both of the Royals had a really packed day on Thursday, with the Prince flying first to Cayman Brac, where he opened



the new swimming pool, before flying to Little Cayman where he visit Little Cayman Marine Institute. The Duchess remained on Grand Cayman, where she officially opened the Jasmine Villa Hospice and visited the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre and George Town Primary School. In the Afternoon both of them went to the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, which the Queen opened in 1994. They were especially interested in the lovely new Children's Garden there, which they opened, before finishing their Cayman visit with a big cultural celebration at Pedro Castle. 🌐

[See more photos on page A6 >>](#)



► The choir sang the National Anthem



► Greetings from the Premier



► Flowers for the Duchess



► Prince Charles greets a young man



► Walking down the aircraft steps



► Greetings from H.E. The Governor Martyn Roper



► Prince Charles greets the Premier



► Royal Salute



► Greetings from H.E. The Governor Martyn Roper



► Flags announce the royal arrival





► Franklin Smith of East End



► Good quality pumpkins



► These young sweet potatoes are not ready for harvest yet

# East End's sweet potato king

By Christopher Tobutt

Franklin Smith farms a total of around 80 acres in East End. He has cultivated, fed, and nurtured the soil, year after year. "I am not ashamed of farming. I originally trained as a chef. But I gave up cooking for farming, because it is something I grew up with. My Grandfather and father farmed and I am walking in their footsteps," he said.

Mr. Smith is particularly proud of his massive crop of sweet potatoes: "By March 15 we'll have ten thousand holes of sweet potato planted. Yes sir, ten thousand. There is no other person who has ever planted that amount I'm expecting a return of ten pounds of sweet potato. In April, I am expecting 100,000 pounds of sweet potato," he said.

Mr. Smith sells to the local supermarkets, competing with sweet potatoes brought in from overseas, which aren't so fresh, he says. He has a pump that pumps water from an underground lens and from there over many miles of black pipes laid in long, parallel lines, bringing water right to the root of each plant. "In 1983 when I started this farm, this system was developed in Israel it's the Israeli micro-jet System," he said. "The pump is only pumping ten gallons per minute so it doesn't allow pull the well down, but you've got all the water you want, pumping 24 hours a day."

One thing Mr. Smith would love to see is more use being made of the brown Sargasso seaweed that washes ashore, sometimes making piles many feet tall, and can be used as fertilizer. He feels very strongly about the importance of using it, because he knows about the benefits first-hand: "I have put sixty loads in here over the years," he said, pointing to a field that has rich, red



► Mr. Smith shows the irrigation system

sandy soil, and was full of young healthy sweet potato plants, and cassava around the outside. "How else do you think I could get this land so level and so good? I put it below the soil, and then put the red soil here on top. The sand comes in with the seaweed, and if you notice the texture its got sand and soil mixed together, so the root system is able to travel much faster and grow larger fruit," Mr. Smith said, adding that he would very much like the government to make the

seaweed available to farmers, because it is so good for the soil.

Mr. Smith likes to do what a lot of Caymanian farmers have learnt, to use the edges of fields to grow a variety of things, some of which are just for his own use. At the side of his field of sweet potatoes and cassava, there is a tall trellis made of sturdy posts and traversed with rows of barbed wire with a number of different young plants waiting to be trained to grow up it, including some tomatoes, passion fruit, and a couple of small dragon fruit plants. There is another fruit-bearing plant in the cactus family which Mr. Smith is not sure of the exact name of, but which can often be found growing over the highlands in East End. "I call it the vine pear. It looks like dragon fruit. Birds they eat it like crazy - it's sweet like honey," he said.

Nearly four decades of commercial growing in the Cayman Islands means that Mr. Smith has learned a few tips and tricks to make the most of Cayman's climate and soil. He digs earth over the



► Cassava and sweet potato field

runners from his pumpkin: "The reason is that the roots will get down in the moisture; they grow much bigger and much better. If the quality of your pumpkin is good, then you can take a piece of this off and put it somewhere else and as long as you've got good water running to it, it will bear real fast," he said.

"Mangoes are my biggest crop. In the whole Island there has got to be, I'd say, fifty or sixty percent of the island farmers and homeowners have gotten trees from me since 1980, when I introduced top quality mangoes to this island. They are all over Grand Cayman I am happy to know that I have left my legacy in the Cayman Islands in Agriculture," Mr. Smith said. 🌱



► A Nam Doc mango, and a red and yellow passion fruit



► Franklin Smith at his farm in East End



► Mr. Smith likes to mix crops at different growth stages



► Using a trellis to train climbing plants, such as dragon-fruit



► Micro-jet irrigation system



# Christians take a stand

By Ralph Lewis

“Stand up, Stand up for Jesus”. This song by writer George Duffield was heard reverberating around the Legislative Assembly at 6pm last Saturday, April 13, by more than 1,000 Christians, family and supporters as they ended their rally which enforced their stand against same-sex marriage.

The rally, organized by a number of local churches, featured stirring speeches by, among others, Pastor Alson Ebanks, Pastor Torrance Bobb, keynote speaker Pastor Andrew Ebanks, and guest speaker Helene Cooley-Nicholson, President, LDF, JA.

Quite noticeable was the presence of many members of the Legislative Assembly in front row seats.

According to Ms. Jackie Ebanks, the local Movement was started from a WhatsApp Group which she dubbed CAYMAN CARRIBBEAN CAUSE stemming from a bigger mother group called CARRIBBEAN CAUSE which she was invited to join.

This is a group of concerned, well-read and informed doctors, lawyers and pastors from all across the Caribbean discussing this very critical issue.

Thanks to their spokesperson Katina Anglin, they have taken this to a MOVEMENT where they plan to fight to preserve Christian values in the Cayman Islands.

“A wonderful event just concluded in central George Town,” said Mario Ebanks on his Facebook page.

“A Rally to support family values, our Christian heritage, the rule of Law, the important doctrine of Separation of Powers, and the fundamentals of the Cayman Islands Constitution.

He described “a fantastic turn-out from a broad cross-section of our diverse population; those who love Cayman and embrace its culture and heritage, and who celebrate our Coat of Arms which states ‘He has Founded it Upon the Seas’...which in itself comes from the Holy Bible. Blessings and Love to All.”

Mr. Ebanks was not the only Caymanian to voice his endorsement.

Visitors’ pages on social media have been inundated with support for the sanctity of marriage as it stands today.



These recent events drew encouragement from both sides of a court decision was triggered by a landmark judgement delivered on a milestone human rights case when Chief Justice Anthony Smellie legalized same-sex marriage in the Cayman Islands.

Petitioners Chantelle Day and Vicki Bodden-Bush had said that their constitutional right to marry and found a family had been denied under existing law which prevented them from legally marrying in the Cayman Islands. In his judgement, the Chief Justice outlined the ways in which the couple’s basic human rights had been violated when they were refused a marriage license.

Day and Bodden-Bush had said that the present state of the Marriage Law violated their Constitutional rights, specifically, their rights to a private and family life, including the right to found a family; to freedom of conscience, and perhaps most profoundly, to freedom from unjustifiable discrimination on the grounds of status; namely, their sexual orientation.

On Wednesday April 10, the Cayman Islands Appeals Court delayed the implementation of same-sex marriage legalization.

The Court of Appeal accepted a government request to halt the legalization of same-sex marriage that Chief Justice Anthony Smellie of the Grand Court of

the Cayman Islands ruled with immediate effect in a historic ruling on March 29.

The Premier and Cabinet had instructed the Attorney General to pursue an appeal against the judgement and to seek a stay of execution pending the outcome of the appeal.

The couple was due to become the first married same-sex couple in the Cayman Islands last week, but will instead have to wait at least until August, when the Court of Appeal will hear the government’s argument and decide whether the March 29 ruling should stand.

The last verse of George Duffield’s song holds out a promise of peace, saying that “the strife will not be long.” From the feedback and responses, it is clear that the attendees believe that they will be victorious.

## Flashback

In August 2015, approximately 4 years ago, The Caymanian Times (formerly Cayman Weekly) published an article entitled, Destination Weddings and Same-Sex Marriages.



A review of the article which is published below highlights the visionary thinking of our publisher and also the position taken by this publication on this issue.

## Destination Weddings and Same-Sex Marriages

The Cayman Islands have established a strong reputation for Destination Weddings and over the years, locals and businesses involved in this section of the tourism industry have benefited financially.

Attendees and workers at these events may have noticed an increase in the roles that individuals of different sexual orientations play. One such event included a male maid of honour which was accepted at the wedding ceremony and celebration.

In June 2015, The Supreme Court in the United States ruled 5-4 that the Constitution requires that same-sex couples be allowed to marry no matter where they live and that states may no longer reserve the right only for heterosexual couples.

No doubt many couples, their families and friends will be planning future weddings and honeymoons that may arrive at our shores.

Local Legislation does not allow for same sex marriages and those requests from couples will be declined. However, same sex couples are allowed to live and vacation in this paradise and one can anticipate future requests to amend laws accordingly.

The world has become a global village and the Cayman Islands does not exist in isolation. Furthermore, we are a British Dependent Territory whose laws will be influenced by the Mother county.

As Human Rights progresses to the forefront of Society, we can expect our strong Christian principles to be challenged and legislators will have a fight on their hands similar to the one that was fought in the US.

We do believe we have responsibility for personal decisions and whatever choice we make will be between an individual and his creator. For those of us with strong Christian beliefs, the challenge will be to demonstrate our faith within a changing society with differing perceptions and beliefs of values and living standards. 🌍



THEN & NOW

*Our Then and Now series looks this month at how transportation has changed so dramatically in the Cayman Islands since the islands were first populated.*



► Boy on donkey with thatch baskets and a storage building in background, 1925 to 1928. (Courtesy The Cayman Islands National Archive Photographic Collections)



► Owen Roberts Airport. Lucinda Cruickshank nee hatch in foreground. Fire truck in background, 1967. (Courtesy The Cayman Islands National Archive Photographic Collections)



► Filing up with gas on Crewe Road enroute to East End, 1938 (Courtesy The Cayman Islands National Archive Photographic Collections)

# Then and Now: Transportation over the decades

Over the past couple of years, Cayman's transportation system has reached some incredible milestones, such as the 50th anniversary of the national carrier, Cayman Airways in 2018, and the opening of the newly renovated Owen Roberts International Airport by HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall in March of this year. But long before the advent of the aeroplane connecting Cayman to the outside world, it was the ship that was Cayman's main transport link.

### Internal links

Cayman's road network only began to develop properly in the 20th Century. Up until that point people were quite separated from each other, district-wise, and would often move between districts by sea. The first road on Grand Cayman ran along the coastline from West Bay to East End with a branch from Frank Sound to North Side. In Cayman Brac the first road went along the north coast from West End to Spot Bay. Early roads consisted of consolidated marl or coral sand and were maintained by rakes and shovels.

The first car in Cayman was an open top Cadillac, imported by Mr Carrol Henderson around 1912 to 1917 (there are conflicting reports as to the exact date) from Cuba. In 1923 there were about six cars and no garages or petrol stations. Owners had to import their own petrol, repair their own tyres and teach themselves basic motor mechanics. By the end of 1936 there were 47 cars, 11 lorries and five motorcycles in Cayman.

In June 1908 work began on Crewe Road, named after the Earl of Crewe, the UK's Secretary of State for the Colonies. It shortened the distance to East End by 2 ½ miles and followed an old bush track. According to the Cayman Islands National Archives, people were so eager to have roads that landowners willingly gave the land through which the road passed and one fifth of the labour and materials were donated. By 1935 there was a drivable road to each district used by several dozen cars. They were not paved and not much more than a car's width.



### Reaching the rest of the world

The 120-tonne Cimboco was the Islands' lifeline for 20 years, and was the first locally-owned motorship, named after the company that owned her - the Cayman Islands Motor Boat Company. It was built by Captain Royal Brazley Bodden and launched in 1927. The boat provided a regular link to the outside world, transporting post, people and goods.

After the Second World War ended in 1945 the first planes began touching down in the Cayman Islands, amphibious Catalinas that operated out of the North Sound conducting submarine and defence patrols and air and sea search rescues of torpedoed survivors. Two pioneers of Caymanian civilian air travel were RAF war veterans, King Parker Jr and former Wing Commander Owen Roberts.

The Owen Roberts International airport came about from pressure by Roberts, who piloted the first plane to land at the Cayman Islands new airport in 1953. He established routes from Cayman to Jamaica and Tampa flying these seaplanes. By the end of 1954 Cayman was becoming well served by flights, with Costa Rica's LACSA's national airline making regular stops, as well as BWIA which stopped in Grand Cayman weekly on its flights between Belize

and Kingston, Jamaica, and eventually connected the islands to Miami. In May 1967 Cayman had its first jet aircraft arrival, a LACSA British Aircraft Corporation 1-11. Regular jet service was then provided by BWIA.

On Cayman Brac, a group of volunteers dug out the first airstrip in 1954. Two Commissioners, Smith and Gerrard, obtained small grants from the UK to asphalt the runway and extend it further and once completed in 1955, the Gerrard-Smith Airport was duly named. Cayman Brac Airways, owned by LACSA, started in 1955 as a link between the Sister Islands. In 1962, a small grass airfield was developed and named the Edward Bodden Airfield after a Little Cayman works fireman.

Cayman Brac Airways became Cayman Airways in 1968, with government taking 51 per cent ownership of the airline and, after various ownership moves of the remaining 49 per cent, the airline made its historic inaugural flight into

the US in 1972, having flown regularly to Kingston.

In the 1970s scheduled and charter passenger and cargo flights became a regular occurrence, while private plane traffic also increased significantly, following an upgrade to ORIA in 1968. In 1979 Cayman received 8,833 flights carrying 121,562 passengers. In 1977 Cayman Airways became wholly owned by the government and by the 1980s and 1990s Cayman's tourism industry grew massively thanks to the aviation industry. By the end of the 20th Century, Cayman was served by five US airlines as well as Cayman Airways. British Airways joined the list in the late 1990s, followed by two Canadian airlines Westjet and Air Canada. Nowadays American Airlines, JetBlue, Delta, South West Airlines and United all have regular flights to Grand Cayman from a multitude of North American destinations. Cayman is now a significant player among Caribbean tourism destinations thanks to those early pioneers.



Hon. Tara Rivers' "Old Time New Year" Family Fun Day  
 Wednesday, January 1, 2020  
 Ed Bush Field, 12 - 4pm

Free Fun for Family & Friends

Hula Hoops

Horseback Riding

Hopscotch

Boxing

1 - 2 - 3

Arts & Crafts 4 SALE

3 Legged Races

Penny Throw

BOUNCE Castles

Sack Races

Lime & Spoon Races

Community Demonstrations & Performances

Fire Truck Demos

Football

Free Refreshments



► Minister of State for Grand Bahama, J. Kwasi Thompson, along with Harcourt Brown, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Grand Bahama, welcomed guests to Grand Bahama when the Bahamasair flight to Fort Lauderdale returned to the island. (Photo Credit: BIS/Patrick Hanna)



► After officially meeting the delegation that arrived on the Bahamasair flight to Fort Lauderdale, Mayor of Broward County Dale Holness discussed the restoration and rebuilding of Grand Bahama and Abaco with Minister of State in the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Restoration, Iram Lewis. (Photo Credit: BIS/Patrick Hanna)

## The Bahamas' National Airline Makes First International Commercial Flight Since Hurricane Dorian

For the first time since Hurricane Dorian struck Grand Bahama and Abaco more than three months ago, The Bahamas' national airline has taken its first international commercial flight.

Bahamasair's Flight 141 left Freeport, Grand Bahama for Fort Lauderdale on Monday morning, with 35 passengers, including Minister of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction Iram Lewis, Deputy Chairman of Bahamasair Rudy Meadows, officials from the Ministry of Tourism, and representatives from other government agencies.

It departed shortly after 9 a.m. and returned just after 1 p.m.

Daily international flights from Freeport will resume on Monday.

Minister Lewis said the flight encompassed two of the important factors his ministry, which was established in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian's devastating hit on September 1 to 3, is focused on – infrastructure and economy.

"We are killing two birds with one stone: infrastructure – the airport is up and running; and from the economy position, tourism is now up and running," he said.

"This is a very important day in our recovery effort. It is good to be a part of the rebuilding process. I'm happy to see that our own national flag carrier was the first out of the gate to bring an international flight into South Florida, our closest neighbour. It speaks to the world that we are not just lying down but trying to help ourselves and ask them [for] much-needed assistance."

Even though strides are being made in the recovery effort, and Grand Bahama and Abaco are open for business, help is still very much needed.

"It is a very big day for not only Grand Bahama, but The Bahamas because we know Grand Bahama contributes greatly to our GDP and the fact that we can now receive tourists is very significant," Lewis said.

The flight to Fort Lauderdale International Airport was just over 30 minutes.

It returned to Freeport with a few passengers and was received by Minister of State for Grand Bahama in the Office of the Prime Minister, Senator Kwasi Thompson and other government officials. 🌐

## Green Light to Light Up: Marijuana Law in T&T to Take Effect Before Christmas

President Paula Mae Weekes is set to deliver an early Christmas gift for people in Trinidad and Tobago who've been waiting to legally smoke marijuana at home, and those in jail for possession of small quantities of the herb.

Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley disclosed yesterday that on Monday, December 23, just two days before Christmas, the President will proclaim the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, passed by both houses of Parliament earlier this month, which decriminalizes possession of 30 to 60 grammes of cannabis.

And he said once that is done, "a new state would exist" in Trinidad and Tobago.

After proclamation of the Act, people would be allowed to have up to 30 grammes of marijuana without penalty and smoke in private dwellings, but not in public or commercial buildings. (There is an upper limit of 60 grammes, for which an individual would be issued a fixed penalty, and once that fine is paid

on time they would have no criminal record.)

From Monday, people would also be allowed to grow four marijuana plants.

Persons who are incarcerated for the minimum quantities of the drug will also be eligible for release, and those with convictions can get their records expunged.

Prime Minister Rowley said this will be done "in a fairly expeditious way, without obstacle, but it has to be processed in the legal way", and stressed that there would be no pardoning en masse.

The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill had been debated with the Cannabis Control Bill, which will establish a Cannabis Control Bill to administer a licensing/registration regime to legitimize, establish accountability and transparency for the use of cannabis by persons and bodies engaged in religious, sacramental, medicinal and commercial activities. However, the latter was sent to a joint select committee. 🌐



► Chair of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM), retired Justice Claudette Singh

## Guyana Elections Body on Track for Country's 2020 Polls

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) says it is well on track for the hosting of general and regional elections next March.

Preparatory works for the upcoming poll have included continuous engagements with stakeholders and the utilisation of technical advisors.

Chair of the elections body, retired Justice Claudette Singh, has assured that everything is on schedule.

"We are moving. Our work plan is on track despite what you might hear otherwise. We are on track for the conduct of elections on the 2nd of March 2020," she told a press conference.

Chief Elections Officer Keith Lowenfield said GECOM is in the preparation phase of the printing of the Revised List of Electors (RLE), which will get underway as soon as data from the new House to House verification process, and the recently concluded Claims and Objections exercises are received.

The commission gave the go-ahead for a five-day exercise to be conducted

to ascertain the whereabouts of over 16,000 new registrants.

According to Lowenfield, during the life of that RLE, the commission will also move towards the conduct of nomination day activities.

He said GECOM is still to decide on the accreditation of local observers for the elections.

"I've been advised that all civil society groups who have an interest should indicate their willingness to be local observers and submit to us in writing before December 31 so that when the commission sits to deliberate, all interested parties will be in that submission," he said.

With assistance from the United States Embassy in Guyana, GECOM will also be utilizing the services of the International Republican Institute, which will be providing technical support on voter education.

Three officials from Ghana, India and Canada will be providing technical support to the commission. 🌐



# Advertise here!

Contact a staff member to find out how you can advertise in this spot!

## CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

## Trinidadians can now consume ganja

Cannabis users in Trinidad and Tobago can breathe easier now as the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act is now in effect.

President Paula Mae-Weekes proclaimed the legislation which now allows adults to have up to 30 grammes of cannabis in their possession and households to have up to four plants without facing criminal charges.

The new law states that anyone found with 30 to 60 grammes of cannabis will now be subjected to a TT\$2,000 (KY\$250) ticketable offence.

And anyone caught with possession of 60 to 100 grammes of marijuana will now be subjected to up to 50 hours of community service and also a maximum fine of TT\$75,000 (KY\$9,500).

Senior Counsel Fyrd Hosein has begun the process of seeking freedom for some 101 persons, including 14 children in rehabilitation centres, who have been incarcerated for possession of marijuana.

But while cannabis users, Rastafarians, and other advocates are celebrating, there are several officials and organisations concerned about the passage of the law.

Non-profit organisation, RebuildTT wrote to Weekes urging her to postpone proclamation of the law.

Although the Dangerous Drugs Amendment Act was passed in both Houses of Parliament, "pro-family NGO



► Trinidad and Tobago has decriminalised cannabis

RebuildTT believes the legislation is flawed and will cause mayhem if implemented immediately, and the President should not be a rubber stamp with instructions to assent to the law by a given date".

RebuildTT accused the government of endorsing the "illegal narcotics trade, saying weed purchased today "will come from illicit weed farmers and drug pushers".

RebuildTT also questioned "whether police on patrol will be issued scales to determine the weight of small quantities of weed, since possession of over 30 grammes will require the issuance of a ticket".

Roman Catholic Archbishop Jason Gordon yesterday said while marijuana use may no longer be a criminal offence it is still a "social offence" and a "harmful drug".

## Sumfest boss pleads for support

Reggae Sumfest has become the biggest event of its kind in the Caribbean and the organiser wants support to make it an even more invaluable source of income for Jamaica.

Joe Bogdanovich said more can be done to increase the revenue flowing into the local economy of Montego Bay and Jamaica generally.

"I believe I can make a difference, you know. Reggae Sumfest generated over US\$10 million in annual revenue, benefiting the Jamaican economy and the St James parish. Do you know what that means? Over a billion Jamaican dollars infused into the local economy of Montego Bay," Bogdanovich said.

The 28th anniversary of Reggae Sumfest will be staged this summer. The event is six nights of activities which will include an All White Blitz party, A Sound System Explosion, Beach Party along with the main concert nights. The festival is held the third week of July.

Reggae Sumfest is known for electrifying performances from local and international reggae acts. The 2019 event featured Beres Hammond, Koffee, Buju Banton, Bounty Killa, Beenie



► Chronixx is a regular at Reggae Sumfest

Man, Spice, Spragga Benz, Proteje, Chronixx and many others.

"I cannot do it alone," Bogdanovich said. "We have to look at entertainment as a fully-fledged business and work together. This means the music fraternity, the sponsors, the government and the communities, all working together as one. Let's take a stand and make it right, make a commitment and honour it."

Bogdanovich acquired the Reggae Sumfest brand in 2016 for an undisclosed sum. The event has continued to grow, so much so that it appears too big for the current venue at Catherine Hall. But the Sumfest boss has no intention to move. Instead, he wants to expand Catherine Hall, and he believes that if it becomes a permanent base for Sumfest, it will contribute an additional US\$5 million annually.

## Grenada starts breathalysing

Motorists in Grenada will have to think twice before drinking and driving because just before Christmas the Royal Grenada Police Force started breathalysing and enforcing the country's driving under the influence legislation.

Grenada's government hopes this will reduce fatalities over the Christmas period and in the future. Acting Police of Chief, Edvin Martin, says the breathalyzer is finally empowering officers with the authority to carry out testing on motorists suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Martin said: "It is my hope the implementation of the breathalyzer will act as a deterrent, changes attitudes



► Grenada police hope to catch more drunken motorists

on drinking and driving and improve road safety for pedestrians and motorists alike."

The driving and drinking limit will be 70 micrograms per hundred millimeters of breath and anything over this threshold will become an offense.

## St Lucia hosts 100 investors

St Lucia hopes for some significant improvements in its infrastructure after 100 high profile investors attended an investment forum just before Christmas.

The DSH Group in collaboration with the Government of Saint Lucia hosted the Forum and Welcome Party at the Royal Saint Lucia Turf Club in Vieux Fort.

According to Prime Minister Allen Chastanet, the event saw the investors from across the Caribbean, the United States, the United Kingdom and Asia participate in and being exposed to the "visionary plans and projects which are happening across our beautiful island.

"These include the Pearl of the Caribbean, the new Hewanorra International Airport, the Cruise ship home port in Vieux Fort and the redevelopment of



► St Lucia's Hewanorra International Airport had a major upgrade

Anse de Sables among several others," Chastanet said.

He disclosed that one of the major announcements made at the event was that École hôtelière de Lausanne, which is a hospitality management school based in Switzerland, regarded as the best of its kind in the world, will be opening a satellite school in St Lucia in 2020.

This school helps prepare students for senior international positions in the field of tourism and hospitality.

## Barbados will fine dirty neighbours

Barbados residents who refuse to keep their premises clean will be fined starting in April as the prime minister makes law the need to keep the island appealing to tourists.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley said Attorney General Dale Marshall has already done the initial work to make it law, which she said Cabinet would review and approve "shortly".

"In addition to that, you can't just legislate without letting people know there is a new marshal in town. You've got to properly publicly educate people about what you expect of them," said Mottley.

As such, she said there would be three months of sensitization and letters of warning as the legislation was being put in place, before Government introduce "a series of civil penalties so that people will be ticketed" for not cleaning their properties.

Mottley could not immediately say what the penalty would be but indicated that it would cost "just a little bit more than it would cost for you to pay a man to come and clean by you.

"We want Barbadians to understand that the government have given you a 'bly' for the next three months. You have now enough time to take up responsibility," Mottley warned.

She said the penalty was necessary because this country will end up in eco-



► Barbados wants garbage-free streets

nom problems again if there is a public health crisis in the middle of a tourism season that affects productivity.

She also noted that environmental health and environmental protection agencies would be "going after" those with derelict vehicles. Initially, derelict buildings on Highway One and Highway Seven and the "town centres" will be targeted.

Mottley also pointed out that the 13 depots of the Ministry of Transport and Works had until Jan. 10 to provide an inventory of all the culverts and drains in Barbados.

Stating that the country would be embarking on a beautification programme, Mottley said as part of the national drive, the Barbados Water Authority would be putting all their pipes underground.

## St Kitts and Nevis aims to go plastic free

St Kitts and Nevis is seriously considering implementing a ban on single use plastics, according to the minister responsible for the environment, Eugene Hamilton.

In parliament, Hamilton noted that members of the international community continue to lobby for a worldwide ban on single use plastics.

He said while the federation is fully cognisant of the threat that single use plastics have on the environment, the phasing out process will be gradual and can take as long as five years.

This, Minister Hamilton believes is necessary, to give citizens enough time to adjust.

He said: "This will allow local companies to retrofit and retool their companies to adapt to the ban."

The Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Destination Council have joined forces, as they continue to advocate for the ban of single use plastics.

In 2018 they started Plastic Free July, an initiative meant to educate society on the ways plastic pollution threatens marine life, personal health and the islands tourism product.

Several islands have already banned the use of single use plastics, among them Jamaica, Dominica and Turks and Caicos.



► St Kitts and Nevis plans to go plastic free

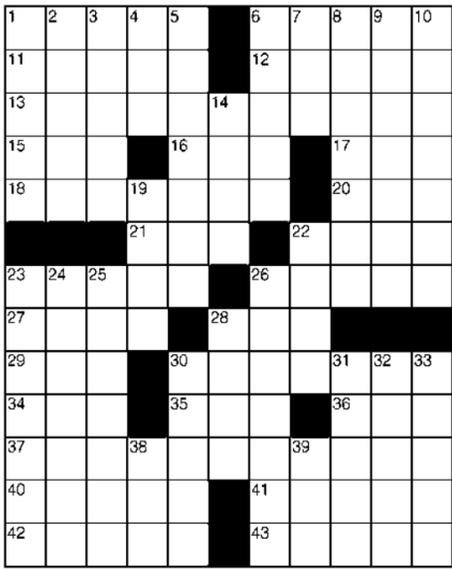
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Some messages
  - 1 Gem unit
  - 6 Israeli native
  - 11 Texas landmark
  - 12 Patriot Ethan
  - 13 Illinois capital
  - 15 Common title starter
  - 16 Look upon
  - 17 Arts-funding org.
  - 18 Some time back
  - 20 Football's Marino
  - 21 Caribou's cousin
  - 22 For fear that
  - 23 Assesses
  - 26 8-Down button
  - 27 Yale students
  - 28 Stir-fry pan
  - 29 On the — (fleeing)
  - 30 Courtroom conference
  - 34 Lincoln nickname
  - 35 List-shortening abbr.
  - 36 Wisdom bringer
  - 37 Florida capital
- DOWN**
- 1 Indian social class
  - 2 First Greek letter
  - 3 Less common
  - 4 Paris pal
  - 5 Throat masses
  - 6 Less dangerous
  - 7 Famed boxer
  - 8 Kitchen device
  - 9 Set free
  - 10 Moderate tempo
  - 14 Computer whiz
  - 19 Sediment
  - 22 Leia's brother
  - 23 Feels empathy
  - 24 Montgomery's state
  - 25 Response delay
  - 26 Audio download
  - 28 Accompanying
  - 30 Elite Navy group
  - 31 More vile
  - 32 Deal maker
  - 33 Oboe parts
  - 38 Tall tale
  - 39 Mud bath site



Yesterday's answer



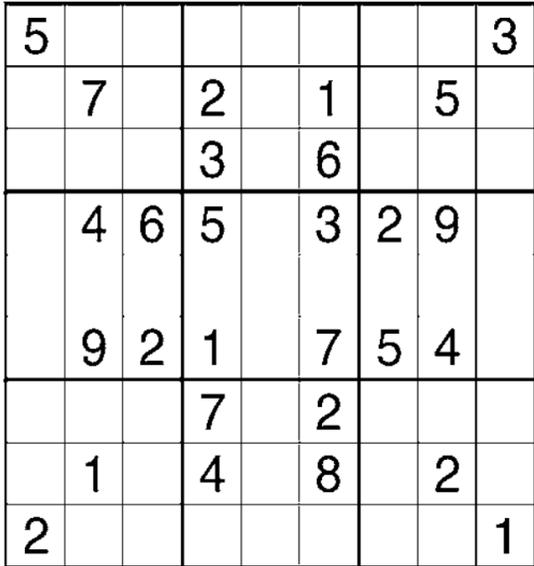
12-4

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

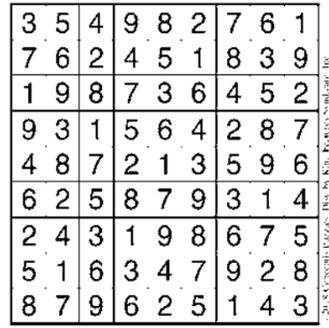
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

10/18

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★★★

Word Search

- Audience
- Baron
- Courtier
- Crown
- Duke
- Earl
- Envoy
- Equerry
- Ermine
- Flunky
- Footman
- King
- Knight
- Livery
- Lord
- Majesty
- Noble
- Orb
- Palace
- Prince
- Protocol
- Queen
- Royalty
- Throne
- Viscount



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



# Times

Caymanian



# BIGGER IS BETTER

Get your customers' attention with our **EXTENDED** full page ads

- All Sizes
- Full colour
- Great placement
- Prices starting from **CI\$35**
- Free Graphic design

For more information contact  
 Ralph at 916 2000 or email  
[sales@caymaniantimes.ky](mailto:sales@caymaniantimes.ky)  
 or Visit our new location at  
 #19 Walkers Road



Caymanian Times

H. Phillip Ebanks  
Attorney-at-Law

19 WALKERS RD

**H. Phillip Ebanks**  
Attorney-at-Law

**Services Provided:**

- General Civil Litigation
- Divorce & Family Law
- Real Estate Claims
- Personal Injury Claims
- Debt Recovery
- Property (Transfers and Disputes)
- Preparation of Wills and Probate and Administrative Applications
- Company Formations and Business Licensing
- Employment contracts and Labour/employment dispute Representation
- Personal Residency Appeals
- Dispute Mediation

PO Box 20422, Grand Cayman KY-11202  
Tel: 916 2000

**H. Phillip Ebanks**  
Attorney-at-Law

**Other Services Provided:**

- Work Permit/Immigration Applications
- Permanent Residency & Right to Be Caymanian (Cayman Status) Applications
- Company formations and structuring
- Shareholder Agreements
- Corporate Governance
- Voluntary (Company) Liquidations
- Company Re-structurings
- Business & Trade Licensing
- Notarisation of documents
- Apportioning of documents
- Bank Account establishment applications
- AML, FATCA Compliance

PO Box 743 4022  
Tel: 916 2000

### ADVERTISING

- ★ DISPLAY ADS
- ★ CLASSIFIEDS
- ★ JOBS
- ★ REAL ESTATE
- ★ WEBSITE BANNERS

**Caymanian Times**

945 8463  
[sales@caymaniantimes.ky](mailto:sales@caymaniantimes.ky)  
[www.caymaniantimes.ky](http://www.caymaniantimes.ky)  
 P.O. Box 10408  
 Grand Cayman KY1-1004

**Business Hours**  
 Monday to Friday  
 9:00am to 4:00pm

**GREENLIGHT**  
Professional Immigration Services

**OPENING HOURS**  
 MONDAY - FRIDAY  
 9:30AM TO 5PM  
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
 CLOSED

Tel: (345) 928-5424  
 Email: [gpis1@yahoo.com](mailto:gpis1@yahoo.com)

P.O. Box 778 KY1-1502  
[www.greenlightservices.com](http://www.greenlightservices.com)

### SPECIAL FEATURES

- ★ LOCAL NEWS
- ★ REGIONAL NEWS
- ★ COMMUNITY VOICE
- ★ POLICE NEWS
- ★ HEALTHY LIVING & LOTS MORE