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2019 Fishing Company of the Year

Hot Topics from New Year's Messages



► (L to R) Premier Alden McLaughlin, Opposition Leader Arden McLean

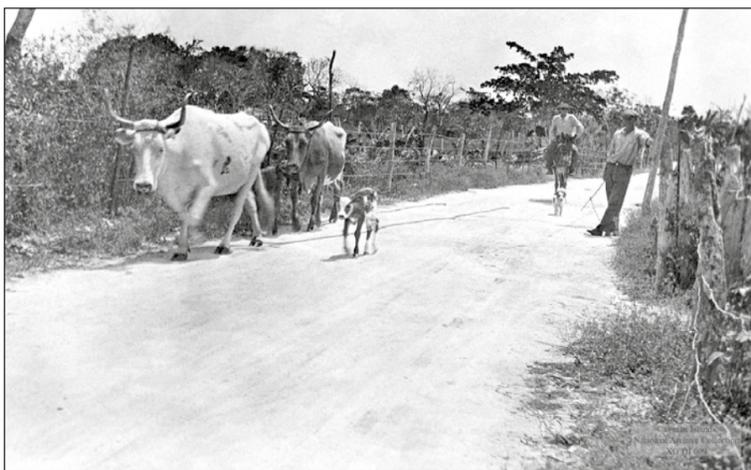
Full story on page A3 >>

Agriculture – the mainstay of Cayman

It's that time of year that we are thankful for cooler weather when fruits and vegetables can be sown in abundance for reaping in a couple of months' time. The Cayman Islands Agriculture

Show, held on Ash Wednesday (this year falling on 26th February), will be celebrating its 53rd year in 2020, a

... Continued story on page A4



► Newlands. Two cows, one calf, one dog, two men – with one on a horse, 1925 to 1028 (Photo courtesy the Cayman Islands National Archive Photographic Collections)

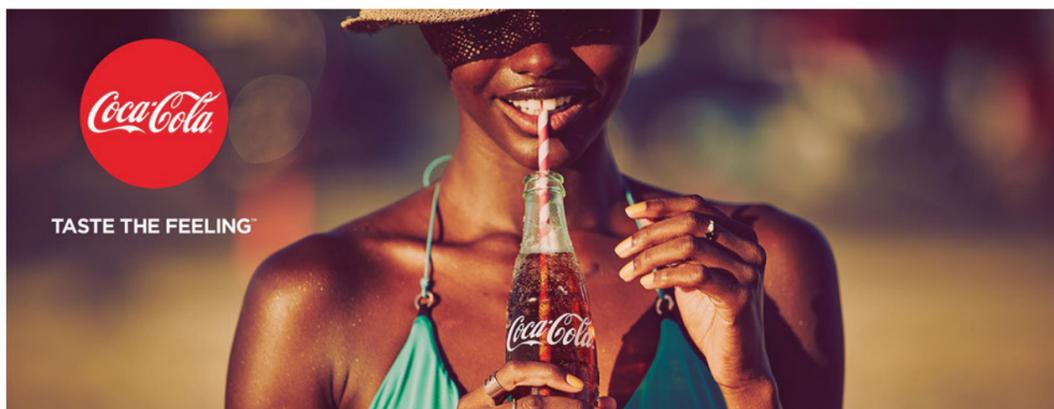
US v IRAN: The world watches, waits and debates



Prime Minister Boris Johnson returned to the UK over the weekend following a Caribbean winter vacation in Mustique, to a storm of criticism for his silence over the weekend as a military firestorm appears poised to be unleashed between UK-ally the United States, and Iran.

Mr Johnson is reported by some segments of the British press to have ex-

... Continued story on page A7



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Registration Cut-Off Time : 15 minutes from Start of 800m Race

Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd (all age-groups)
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Random Prizes : 5 Cayman Airways Gift Vouchers

Entry Fees: CIASA Members = CI\$15 (Adults) and CI\$10 (Children) | Non-Members = CI\$20 (Adults) and CI\$15 (Children)
400m Swim for Children 12 and Under = CI\$10

Celebrating 31 Years in the Water

How to Produce a Marketing Budget

If your marketing budget is just a vague figure floating around in your head, here are some ideas to help you.

Marketing is a necessary business function, akin to finance and customer service — but I'd argue it's equally important as those. Crafting a marketing budget is vital because it forces business owners to consider the cost of getting sales.

Here's some advice for creating a budget that can work for you — and lead to more sales.

Have a Plan

Creating a marketing budget requires more than just arithmetic and accounting. Outlining your business goals shapes your thinking about the marketing collaterals and activities you must focus on. Three useful tactics to guide you are:

1. Define Goals: Ask yourself and teammates questions such as: Should the company expand or retain market share? Should you seek new customers or focus on getting more revenue from existing customers? Such questions will guide how you apportion marketing dollars and focus your campaigns.

2. Evaluate Spending: A common yardstick for defining marketing spend is to use 7% to 10% gross revenues for a small business, 4% to 6% for an established business that wants to expand, and 3% to 4% for an established business that wants to preserve its position. This assumes you have the funds to cover your expenses, including marketing.

3. Brainstorm Strategies: Rank all possible means to implement your marketing plan based on available funds and human resources. Focus primarily on tasks that are easy to execute, yield results and are least expensive. Develop your marketing budget from here.

Measure Success

After implementing your marketing budget, monitor its results so you can fine-tune spending and actions appropriately. Establish a benchmark system, and use it to define the success or failure of each marketing campaign.

You could begin with low-cost strategies such as Google ads or general search engine optimization (SEO), assuming you have a website, then advance to larger-budget campaigns. This



might include more expensive activities like radio and/or print ads or trade shows, providing the initial effort is successful.

Try implementing a six-month trial for each approach, after which you should gain enough awareness to know whether to tweak, increase, or cease. Such monitoring shows the costs and outputs of each activity and eases budget impacts. If money is lost on a certain cam-

aign, the total yearly budget may not be adversely affected.

Be Pragmatic

Producing a pragmatic marketing budget enables you to monitor and compare campaign results on a per project and yearly basis. By using this data, businesses can improve performance by allocating funds to the most effective marketing channels.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Traveling Art Exhibit: Ward Scott Photography

11 January - The Brac Heritage Autumn Festival Cayman Air presents a Traveling Art Exhibit: Ward Scott Photography, opening on January 11th at 11am. The exhibit runs through January 31st. Email bracautumnfestival@gmail.com for more information.

Junior Squash Program

11 January - Get your kids moving for the year by registering them for Junior squash at the South Sound Squash Club. Registration is now open and the program continues until 4 April. Classes are on Saturdays at 7pm. Go to caymanactiv.com for more information.

CUC 400 & 800M Sea Swim

11 January - CUC's annual Sea Swim is here! The Cayman Islands Aquatic Sports Association (CIA-SA) and CUC presents the 31st Annual CUC Open Water Sea Swims. The main event is the 800m, open to everyone. This is followed by a 400m distance for swimmers age 12 and under. The race begins at SMB Governors Beach (not Public Beach!) with the 800m race starting at 4pm, followed by the 12&U 400m. Registration is at Governor's Beach from 3pm to 3:45pm with cut-off time 40 minutes from Race Start. The course is a loop one starting and finishing at Governors Beach. Entry fees are as follows:

- 800m CIA-SA Members: CI\$10 for children and CI\$15 for adults
- 800m Non-Members: CI\$15 for children and CI\$20 for adults
- 400m \$10

For registration and more information, go to caymanactiv.com.

One Dog Jog 5K Charity Fun Walk/Run

12 January - Support the "One Dog at a Time" fundraising event on Sunday 12 January at Safehaven beginning at 7am. Registration is CI\$25 and can be done on caymanactiv.com. Bring your own water bottle to limit trash and be environmentally friendly. Dogs must be leashed at all times. Owners, please use a yellow ribbon to show if your dog needs extra space. For more information, visit www.odaat.ky

Cantata "Hallelujah, Jesus is Born!"

12 January - All are invited to John Gray Memorial Church, West Bay for their cantata which begins at 6:30pm on Sunday 12 January. Call 949 - 1378 for more information.

Free HIV Screenings

14 January - Free, confidential HIV screenings sponsored by the Public Health Department are available this Tuesday and every Tuesday at the Cayman Islands Red Cross on Huldah Avenue, George Town from 10am to 2pm. Call 949-6785 for more information.

Community Chess

14 January - Thinking about learning to play chess or upping your game? Then, join the Cayman Chess Club at the West Indies Wine Company, Camana Bay on Tuesdays from 5 - 8pm for a complimentary chess class and open challenges weekly. Anyone can learn, play and enjoy chess; even complete beginners. Call 640 - 4000 for more information.

Special Lecture: Bendel Hydes-A Retrospective

15 January - Join exhibition chief curator Natalie Urquart and curator William Helfrecht as they showcase Bendel Hydes' remarkable 45 year artistic journey starting with his self-taught figurative drawings and concluding with the remarkable 'luminescent' abstractions of the last decade. Refreshments will be served. For additional details or to RSVP, please email education@nationalgallery.org.ky or call (345) 945 8111.

Cayman Cookout

16 - 19 January - Cayman Cookout is hosted by chef Eric Ripert in partnership with Cayman Islands Department of Tourism and brings together talented chefs, wine and spirit experts, and culinary influencers. It is in one of the most prestigious celebrations of food and wine in the world. Guests at this exclusive, interactive festival enjoy dynamic cooking demonstrations, exclusive tastings and dining events, exciting local tours and unique epicurean experiences. For more information, visit www.caymancookout.com.



► Cayman Cookout

Faith Hospital Diabetes Health Fair

18 January - There will be eye screening, dental screening along with Music, Food, Exhibits, Arts & Careers from 9:30am - 2:30pm on the Faith Hospital Grounds. Contact 244-7635 for more information.

BIG Little Beach Volleyball Tournament

18 January - The CI Volleyball Federation's BIG little tournament is back by popular demand! Youth players ages 10-18 are welcome to participate on Saturday, January 18th at 1pm at Public Beach. This one day tournament will be a king and queen of the court edition, so each youth player will have a chance to play one game with each adult player. The registration fee is \$10 per youth player. BIGS are adults 18 and over. For more information feel free to contact Cindy Joe at youth@civf.ky or visit <http://civf.ky/events/>.

Employment & The Labour Law - Part 1: Understanding the Basics

21 January - The Chamber of Commerce is offering a comprehensive course at 107 Governors

Square, West Bay from 9am to 1pm. This half day course will provide an in-depth overview of the major components of the Labour Law and will cover the employment contract, types of leave, hours of work, severance pay and termination. It will be conducted by Huw Moses and/or Hilary Brooks. The cost is \$250 for members and \$300 for future members. Call 949-8090 for more information.

Traditional Craft Class: DIY Art Workshop with Kara Julian

January 25 - The National Trust will be hosting a Traditional Craft Class to be conducted by Kara Julian. This will take place at The Mission House, 63 Gun Square Road, Bodden Town from 10:00am to 12:30pm. The cost is CI\$35 per person. Contact 749-1121 or info@nationaltrust.org.ky for more information.

Stride Against Cancer

26 January - The Nationwide Stride Against Cancer, a fundraising event to benefit the Cayman Islands is Sunday January 26th starting at Seven Mile Beach and Saturday 25th for the Little Cay-

man Stride. CI\$25 early bird registration until midnight on January 11th. after which the cost is CI\$30. No registration on the day of the event. Race packets (t-shirts) can be collected from the Cayman Islands Cancer Society offices from January 20th. Start time is 6:00am for the 13.1 mile half marathon timed race. It's a 6:30am start for the 6.5 mile quarter marathon walk / run. Check <https://www.cics.ky> for more information.

Heroes Day

27 January - National Heroes Day is a public holiday celebrated in the Cayman Islands on the fourth Monday in January. Awards are presented to persons who have made a significant impact to the Cayman Islands.

Hatitute: Tea by the Sea

1 February - The National Trust of the Cayman Islands is having its annual Hatitute event on Saturday 1 February at the Grand Old House from 2 - 4:30pm. Cost is CI\$75.00 for adult members, CI\$90.00 adult non-members, CI\$45.00 children members (ages 6-12) and CI\$50.00 children non-members (ages 6-12). To buy tickets, go to nationaltrust.org.ky.

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Premier's 2020 message calls for unity on divisive issues

The (now postponed) referendum to decide the progression of Cayman's port was without doubt the most controversial topic of 2019 for the Cayman Islands, and in his New Year's message to residents, Premier Alden McLaughlin urged people to come together, whatever the final outcome.

If people decided to stop the project via the referendum, Government would accept the result and the project would be stopped, he said.

"But if I am right that most people support the project, and so the 'No vote' fails to reach the required threshold, then I call on those opposing the Government's case to accept the result for the project to go ahead," he said, adding that a positive result for the port would not mean the immediate dredging of George Town's harbour.

"Instead, the work to determine how best to mitigate the environmental concerns will continue," he stated.

The Premier said he hoped those opposed would work with Government on the programme of environmental mitigation that they had from the start insisted on as part of the project.

"Cayman will get a better result if we can come together to work for the benefit of our Islands. It is only by continuing to work together that we can ensure our future success," he said.

Same sex marriage

The question of whether the Cayman Islands should accept same sex marriage has been another hot topic for 2019. The Premier said that Cayman had to deal with this issue otherwise the UK would step in and legislate for the jurisdiction.

"Regarding same sex partnerships, as I have said previously, it is important that legislators determine the best way forward for our Islands and find a solu-

tion that works for Caymanians," the Premier stated. "If we abrogate our responsibility to do so, we must accept that the UK will legislate for these islands as the Court of Appeal has suggested they do. That would be the worst possible result for these Islands, not just with regard to same-sex partnerships, but more generally."

Both the port and same sex marriage issues had proven to be divisive ones, the Premier said.

"I hope that whatever the outcome on each that we all accept the decisions and come together as Caymanians and residents and continue the work to build and grow our Islands for the benefit of all our people - not just the privileged. A more just society is, after all, a better society."

Cayman's ability to make important decisions for the jurisdiction without the UK's interference was also discussed in the Premier's New Year's address. He said he was grateful for the way his colleagues on the Government and Opposition benches united to pass these important reforms in December last year.

"These reforms will provide us with increased autonomy and underscore our right to manage our own affairs without undue interference by the UK," he said. "They also mark the continued acknowledgement by Her Majesty's Government that the Cayman Islands has developed as a mature, self-governing democracy."

Traffic woes to be eased

The Premier touched on the biggest issue facing everyone in the Islands on

a day-to-day basis, the problem of traffic congestion, which he said, came as a result of the economic prosperity that had been enjoyed in recent times.

"In 2020, the National Roads Authority will continue working to smooth traffic flows at critical junctions and to increase capacity. These improvements

once completed will help bring relief to commuters as we reduce congestion," he advised.

In the New Year work would also begin on determining the best solution for an improved, fit for purpose, public transport system that would ease the numbers of cars on the roads, he said.



► Premier Alden McLaughlin

Opposition leader wants focus on education and healthcare

The Caymanian population has been let down by the Government when it comes to education, healthcare and basic infrastructure, according to Opposition Leader Arden McLean, who said in his New Year's address that over the last ten years, successive Cabinets had proven that they could not manage the basic functions expected of a government with regards to health and education.

He pointed to the recent report by the Auditor General on the state of Cayman's education system, the findings of which he said they already knew.

"There is no grand plan to deliver this vital service to our children and our country," the Member for East End said.

Mr McLean continued: "On the subject of healthcare, the Premier has admitted the failing of his administration to adequately address this issue. While I welcome the Premier's admission of the failure of his government, it still does not address the problem that many Caymanians are still without adequate health insurance and many Caymanians are retiring with inadequate health insurance at the time in their lives when they need it the most."

The Government had also failed to deal with the collection of rubbish and the growing traffic issues that faced the jurisdiction, he said.

Looking at the economy as a whole, Mr McLean attributed the GDP increase from \$3.6 billion to \$4.6 bil-

lion over the last ten years largely to inflation. He also said that the growth that had taken place in Cayman had done so unmanaged and came at a great sacrifice to the Caymanian way and quality of life.

"Truth be told, we continue to see the reduction of what our dollars can purchase, continued erosion of our middle class, and the challenges of the working class," he stated.

Mr McLean said that the Opposition rejected the belief of trickledown economics and instead believed the success of the country was driven by expanding opportunities for working men and women. He worried about how much ordinary people were becoming indebted and wanted to look for ways to reduce the cost of borrowing and increase the disposable income of Caymanians.

"We believe that for our islands to be successful we will need a healthy and educated population - two areas that this Cabinet has failed to adequately address," he stated.

Mr Mclean said the Opposition wanted Government to prioritise the development and implementation of a National Strategic Plan to prepare the Cayman Islands for any potential changes in the global economy, the education system, the healthcare system and infrastructure. He said they were prepared to work with the Government on the development of such a plan.



► Opposition Leader Arden McLean



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THEN & NOW

Agriculture - the mainstay of Cayman

... Continued story from page A1

huge milestone for this important family event. In this latest *Then and Now* three-part article, we explore the development of agriculture over the years and learn how it has always been an integral, if somewhat overlooked, part of Cayman's infrastructure.

The 40th anniversary edition of the Agriculture Show's programme contains a fascinating article providing a glimpse into the earliest development of agriculture, detailing how the first settlers to Cayman probably brought seeds and plants with them from where they lived before. Land owners earmarked specific tracts of land on which to grow provisions and crops were often shared and used in payment for other goods and services.

In 1765 a Royal Navy officer visited Grand Cayman and noted in his log book that the islands had wood, fish, turtle, fowl, hogs, yams, plantains and limes. In 1773 Royal Navy hydrographer George Gauld reported Indian corn, yams, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, plantains, melons, limes and oranges and "most kind of the fruits and vegetables that are to be

found in Jamaica." He also noted many goats, two horses and no sheep.

In the late 1700s/early 1800s, cotton had become an important agricultural export for the Cayman Islands. The article said that between 1802 and 1804 approximately 200,000 pounds of cotton were exported from Cayman, with less than a dozen cotton plantations producing 40 - and as much as 60 - tons of cotton annually. Most of the slaves living in Grand Cayman during the late 18th and early 19th centuries worked in these cotton plantations, the articles stated.

A tough job

In 1824, Cayman's newly established legislature passed laws that underscored the high regard its people had for livestock by imposing severe penalties on anyone who killed or maimed livestock. Farming continued to play a central role in life in Cayman during the 19th Century and early part of the 20th Century, with coconut plantations flourishing, particularly on the Sister Islands. The first Commissioner, Frederick Shedden Sanguinetti estimated that a million coconuts were shipped mostly to Mobile, Alabama between October



► The animals have always been a draw at the Agriculture Show, now in its 53rd year

1901 and February 1902. In the census of 1911, 39 men were listed as coconut cultivators, all of them on the Sister islands. Unfortunately, a disease killed most of the trees in the early 1900s. Also, in that same Census, 20 men were 'farmers and planters' and 229 'provision cultivators'. Life was not easy for Cayman's early farmers. In the early 20th Century they would 'back' their produce home in thatch baskets supported by a band around their foreheads. A few owned donkeys or a pony, others a small canoe, but most went on foot.

The article goes on to detail how agriculture gained in prominence under the administration of Commissioner G.S.S. Hirst (1907 to 1912) who instigated the regulation of the fish and agriculture market on the Hogsties waterfront, effectively making George Town a trade centre for fishermen and farmers. A branch of the Jamaican Agricultural Society was also established in Cayman.

In 1936/37, Jamaica's Department of Science and

Agriculture commissioned an agricultural survey in the Cayman Islands undertaken by WH Edwards. Mr Edwards stated: "As the general standard of Agriculture is at present very low and as returns would be considerably increased without capital expenditure, if a sound agricultural policy was followed and judicious agricultural practices adopted, every effort should tend towards improving the agricultural education of the population."

He encouraged the organisation of an active Agricultural Society already begun earlier that century, the establishment of nurseries and centres of distribution for improved varieties of plants of which he said "the Islands are in great need" and suggested holding regular agricultural shows.

Mr Edwards saw the importance of a sound agricultural industry for the benefit of Cayman residents:

"A large proportion of the inhabitants will now have to depend to a great extent on Agriculture for their livelihood, and the community, therefore, should have as its first aim, the production of crops to satisfy local needs, though production for export should be kept in view."

Be sure to read the upcoming second part of this article which will trace the development of agriculture through to the 20th Century.



► The Cayman Islands Agriculture Show is a fun-filled day out for the entire family

Caymanian Times

Jan 20, 2020

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► Seiji Groome and John Marcus of National Logistics

National Logistics

National Logistics are really a “one-stop-shop” for shipping goods too or from the Cayman Islands. “We are an international shipping and logistics company based here in Grand Cayman, off the Lincoln Road,” said John Marcus. “We are a customized logistics solution; that means there is no system to fit into for us. Actually we will build a solution around your needs.”

“We handle cargo going by air or ocean to or from the Cayman Islands. So for example, if you want to bring in a car from the United Kingdom, we will pick up your car from the UK and put it into a container, and transport that container by ocean, all the way

down to the Cayman Islands, and get it customs-cleared and brought right to your door, if it is anything to do with shipping. So if its equipment for business-to-business, or heavy equipment coming in for the island to do construction, and we’ll do the customs. We do shipping anywhere from Canada to Grand Cayman or Cayman to Canada; Miami or anywhere in the United States into Grand Cayman or out. We have agents around the world so we can ship from 300 different countries around the world; there are no limitations. When you use us basically we will complete a full supply-chain solution from door-to-door.”

Mar Candles Handbags Accessories

Mar Candles Handbags Accessories, located at Unit 4 The Strand, sell very special candles, as well as a very wide range of handbags and other accessories, including items of jewelry, dresses and fine earrings. But it’s their unique scented candles, not made from wax, but from 100 percent organic soy, that customers keep coming back again and again. Store employee Maria Velaquez said: “They are not like the regular wax; they are healthier and environmentally friendly. It is organic and it is safe to use on the skin, so you just dip your finger in it, and then rub it on your skin.”

“We have very sweet scents such as coco, mango, pineapple; we have cranberry we have a minty scent, we also

have very subtle scents like white tea. We have pumpkin, we have lavender. We are retailing the big jars for ten dollars each; and the mini jars for five dollars.” There were other candles, too, in tins rather than glass jars: “These are mostly Cayman scents, so they have Cayman names like Cayman Breeze, Isle of Cayman, Caymalicious established for more than seven years,” Ms Velaquez said.

“People like our products because they are pretty unique and the candles smell really nice, so people keep coming back to get refills and get new candles. We have also got some samples that people can take home, and if they like them they can come to us and buy some more of the same kind.”



► Mar Candles Handbags Accessories

Global Medical Center & Laboratory

Dr. Joan Harriott and Dr. Alice Blavo are two doctors that can be found at the Global Medical Center & Laboratory, located by the Countryside Shopping Village in Savannah. “We just want the people of Grand Cayman to know that we are easily accessible, and we try to provide the highest quality care that we can with lots of dedication and commitment,” said Dr. Harriott. “I am an internal medicine specialist or a specialist that takes care of adults, essentially the adult equivalent of a pediatrician.”

The center offers a general practitioner service, as well as being internal medicine specialists. It is also able to treat both common, and complex medical problems as well as undertake routine examinations and tests of the kind required for work permits, for example. “We also have a very advanced

commercial laboratory which uses the latest technology and equipment to process about 250 samples per hour,” Dr. Harriott explained. “The laboratory does most of the lab tests that are done in Grand Cayman from most of the hospitals, and the good thing about it is that most of the results can be obtained in one day. We test for complete blood counts, and blood chemistry. We test for common diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and hormonal problems.”

“Patients can come to us directly for our lab services, or they can bring a request from their doctor for their lab tests to be processed. It’s convenient that they don’t have to be flown off the island because they have the lab right here and the results are accurate and affordable,” said Dr. Blavo.



► Dr. Harriott and Dr. Blavo of the Global Medical Center & Laboratory



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► (Left to right) Members of the Plan Board of Trustees Paul Schreiner, Industry & Commerce representative and Chairman; Giosino Colaiacovo, Chamber of Commerce representative; Paul McGeough, Hospitality & Tourism representative; Charles Dickinson, Hospitality & Tourism representative; Mario E. Ebanks, Chamber of Commerce representative. Members of the Plan Board of Trustees Missing: Jon Brosnihan, Financial & Professional representative; Bradley Kruger, Hospitality & Tourism representative; Grant Hiley, Industry & Commerce representative; Ivan Narandja, Financial & Professional representative

Chamber Pension Plan celebrates successful 2019

The Chamber Pension Plan celebrated a busy and successful year at its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 4 December.

Members gathered to hear updates on the plan's performance and activity from Chamber Pension Chairman Paul Schreiner, Mercer Investments LLC partner Amy Labanowski, and PricewaterhouseCoopers auditor Trevor Dunbar.

Lower expense ratio, broader diversification

The Plan enjoyed lower fees and broader diversification thanks to a move to passive management.

Data from Mercer, the plan's international pension consultant, showed passive management portfolios had outperformed active management portfolios in 6 of the last 7 quarters since the Plan moved to a passively managed equity portfolio.

Member returns this year also benefited from the plan's record-low all-in-expense ratio of 0.82%.

"The Lifecycle Funds are diversified across fixed income and equity, across countries, sectors and individual securities to help whether market volatility," assured Mrs. Labanowski.

Chairman Schreiner concluded by noting: "Through consistent reviews and evaluation of our service providers, we ensure that the maximum value for our members' money is obtained."

Community advocate

The Plan continues to advocate for members' rights concerning employer delinquencies and breaches of relevant laws.

"This year the Plan met with the Department of Commerce and Investments and the Department of Labour and Pensions regarding a large number of delinquent pension accounts and companies operating without being up-to-date with pension contributions," said Schreiner. "This is a real issue in the community, and we look forward to continuing this dialogue in 2020."



► Chamber Pension Chairman, Paul Schreiner welcomes members to the Annual General Meeting

Voted 2019 Fishing Company of the Year Cayman Islands by Travel & Hospitality Awards



Captain Derren Burlington, owner of Georgia Girl Charters, is proud to announce that the sport fishing and leisure company was nominated for and won the Travel & Hospitality Awards 2019 Charter Fishing Company of the Year.

Upon successful review from the in-house judging panel, Travel & Hospitality Awards in Birmingham, UK have awarded Burlington's charter company the winner for 2019 in this category based on the following acknowledged strengths of Georgia Girl Charters:

- Superb range of tours on offer; including the freedom to customise and personalise
- Brilliant leadership of Captain Derren Burlington, an experienced fisherman and safety driven professional
- Excellent online reviews that frequently praise the overall experience, friendly service and high-quality equipment

Captain Derren Burlington states; "I feel fortunate for being recognized for accomplishing what I set out to do just a few years ago. The company's goal was to



► (L to R) Jacob Frecko Ebanks, Captain Derren Burlington (holding the T&H trophies) and Justin Deslandes

provide a premier service to our guests based on our value of safety first above all things. Combining a professional Caymanian crew, who loves to fish more than I do, with top of the line equipment and fishing gear is the strategy that led us to receiving this prestigious award.

With safety being at the forefront of all of our excursions, we make sure our guest experiences are filled with won-

derful relaxing memories and our experienced and friendly crew serves them up a full dose of Cayman Kind which lures them back to the beautiful Cayman Islands for more.

I am extremely fortunate to have Justin and Jacob ("Frecko") who are an integral part of this awesome team, and the company's success would not have been possible without them; their profession-

al fishing and boating experience on the water spans well over 40 years and is evident within minutes of stepping on board Georgia Girl."

For more information or to book an excursion on Georgia Girl Charters you can contact us on 1-345-321-9896, visit our website www.georgiagirlcharters.com or e-mail us at info@georgiagirlcharters.com

US v IRAN: The world watches and waits

... Continued story from page A1

pressed his shock in a four-letter exclamation upon learning that the US had assassinated Iran's top general Qasem Soleimani in Iraq on Friday.

Now back in the Britain, the prime minister immediately issued a statement saying Britain "will not lament" the death the Iranian general whom he called "a threat to all our interests."

His remarks followed statements by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had appeared less than impressed with UK response and European Union (EU) response to Friday's US action against Iran.

He'd said: "The Brits, the French, the Germans all need to understand that what we did, what the Americans did, saved lives in Europe as well... This was a good thing for the entire world."

In the UK, questions had been raised by the opposition over whether the prime minister should have cut short his holiday with his girlfriend in Mustique in light of the threat of a military conflict between the US and Iran.

On Sunday Prime Minister Johnson along with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel issued a joint statement urging restraint. They specifically called on Iran to desist from actions which could further escalate tensions.

President Macron had previously discussed the situation with Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call on Friday morning.

Russia and China have criticised the action ordered by President Trump who justified the killing of General Suleimani by a precision drone strike as a preemptive action.

The US it had "intelligence" that Suleimani was "plotting imminent and sinister attacks" on US diplomats and military personnel in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The slain general was regarded as the mastermind behind Iran's involvement in several ongoing conflicts in the Middle East including Iraq, Syria, Yemen and exploiting tensions in Lebanon and elsewhere.

Mr Johnson is discussed the matter with President Trump in a telephone call on Sunday.



► Qasem Soleimani (11 March 1957 – 3 January 2020), was an Iranian major general in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and, from 1998 until his death, commander of its Quds Force, a division primarily responsible for extraterritorial military and clandestine operations

The US is reported to have taken the action against General Suleimani without prior informing the UK or its other allies.

Prime Minister Johnson was expected to discuss the issue with his ministers on Monday and make a statement to MPs when the UK House of Commons (parliament) resumes on Tuesday, its first meeting after the Christmas and New Year break.

This development has displaced others at the top of the UK political agenda since the December 12th election which returned Mr Johnson to office with a clear majority.

But his call for a de-escalation of tensions was not expected to have much effect given the ferocity of reaction by Tehran to the killing of General Suleimani.

The Iranian leadership has ramped up its threats to exact harsh retaliation against the US.

Iran was already reeling under a series of economic and diplomatic sanctions by the US, the United Nations and the EU, in part for its nuclear program but also for its activities the Middle East, particularly its interventions in Iraq, Yemen and Syria, much of it coordinated by General Suleimani.

It now says it will resume its nuclear testing.

President Trump had previously 'ripped up' an agreement reached between his predecessor Barack Obama and Iran restricting Tehran from pursuing the development of nuclear weapons.

With the belligerence is now heading towards a crescendo, President Trump has doubled down with further threats of attack on Iran including, controversially, bombing Iranian cultural sites which are world-heritage-protected by the United Nations.

"They're allowed to use roadside bombs and blow up our people. And we're not allowed to touch their cultural sites? It doesn't work that way," he said.

In a statement shortly after the killing of General Suleimani on Friday, President Trump had said the action by the US was to "stop a war, not start a war."

General Suleiman himself was reported to have said to the US president previously: "If you begin the war, we will end it."

In Iraq, where the Iranian general was killed by the US drone strike, the parliament has called for the immediate withdrawal of American troops.

But Mr Trump has hit back demanding that Iraq pays the US military investments and threatening to slap crippling sanctions on the country.

"We're not leaving until they pay us back for it," he insisted, adding that, "We will charge them sanctions like they've never seen before ever. It'll make Iranian sanctions look somewhat tame."

The US had led international forces in toppling the regime of former Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein, who himself had fought a previous drawn-out war with Iran.

Iran has been accused of fomenting a proxy war amongst rival factions in Iraq which was being manipulated by the slain General Suleimani.

A further 3,000 US troops are being despatched to the Middle East to join the 5,000 still there. President Trump had campaigned on reducing US military involvement overseas, especially in the area.

The Royal Navy has resumed patrolling and escorting British-flagged ships in the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 20% of global oil supply is shipped.

The UK Foreign Office is advising British citizens against travelling to Iraq, and to only undertake essential travel to Iran.

The world watches, waits and debates as the newly heightened tensions in the Middle East show no immediate signs of abating. 🌐

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Brady is expected to return

Although Tom Brady says it is "pretty unlikely" he will retire in the off-season after the Tennessee Titans knocked his side out of the NFL play-offs, there is every likelihood the New England Patriots quarterback will return.

After all, even a faded Brady, who will turn 43 in August, is still one of the best QBs in the league. Brady's disappointment came after the Titans beat the Patriots, the defending champions, 20-13 in the AFC wildcard game at Foxborough.

For Brady, it felt like the end of the greatest run of prosperity in NFL history. Perhaps maybe it is the end of the Pats' dynasty, but Brady insists he's leaning toward returning to the NFL in September for a 21st season.

Brady didn't want to get into his future moments after his team just suffered its first home playoff loss since 2012. "Who knows what the future holds? We'll leave it at that," he said.

It's hard to imagine Brady wearing anything but a Patriots No. 12 jersey. Still, after a disappointing year, there is a murkiness to their offseason for the first time in a generation.

The Patriots' offense was under par nearly all season. Brady had his flashes of brilliance at moments but looked like a 42-year-old at others. With an offensive line that struggled most of the year, a receiving corps that was never settled, zero tight end help with Rob Gronkowski retired, and a ground game that couldn't find consistent traction, Brady wasn't given much to work with in 2019. His struggles were amplified by constant referral to his age.

If he returns, the Patriots will need to ensure he's surrounded by a better offensive unit.

Brady is probably the greatest QB ever. He's won a record six Super Bowls, including three of the last five. With 15 seconds left and his side trailing 14-13, Brady's last pass in what could be his final game for the Patriots was intercepted for a touchdown.

When asked if Brady could return next season, head coach Bill Belichick said: "We just finished the game, so we're focused on this game right now."

There was speculation Brady would retire when the Patriots lost their final game of the regular season, forcing them to play in the wildcard round of the play-offs for the first time in 10 years.

He's had a spectacular rise to NFL legend after playing college football at Michigan. Brady was only the 199th pick in the 2000 draft but, under the tutelage of Belichick, he led the Patriots to the most successful era in the franchise's history.

The pair have won more Super Bowls, regular season and postseason games than any other quarterback-head coach combination in football history.

Brady won each of his first three Super Bowls (2002, 2004, 2005) and was the championship game's Most Valuable Player (MVP) four times, making a total of nine Super Bowl appearances - both NFL records.

He was named as the league's MVP in 2007, 2010 and 2017, and is second on the all-time list for touchdown passes and passing yards behind current New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

He holds the NFL record for the longest time playing quarterback for one franchise and has never had a losing season as the starting QB. 🌐



► Tom Brady holds all the significant QB records



► Drew Brees is the only QB who can challenge Brady's numbers

Shai is comfortable being the best Hope

Shai Hope has emerged as the most reliable batsman in the West Indies side, yet he claims he is under no pressure to replicate his heavy run-scoring of the last calendar year and will remain focused on helping make West Indies into a formidable unit again.

The elegant right-hander plundered 1,345 runs in 2019 — at an average of 61 with four hundreds — to be among the top three run-scorers in the world in One-Day Internationals.

He was in action again on Tuesday when West Indies took on Ireland in the first ODI of a three-match series at Kensington Oval, Barbados.

"Pressure is a strange word, but it's about understanding what you need to do," Hope said in training camp last week.

"And as long as you put in the preparation and believe in yourself — believe in what you've been doing — the rest takes care of itself. It's not about putting pressure on yourself, it's about understanding what you need to do.

"As an athlete and as a sportsperson you know that everyday can't be your day, but as long as you give your all then you have to be happy with that."

The 26-year-old Barbadian has been the ideal counter to the team's short-term power hitters, proving to be the anchor of the innings with an unflappable temperament and selective stroke-making.

With Hope at the forefront, West Indies pushed India in the three-match ODI series last month before going down 2-1, extending their near two-decade losing streak on the subcontinent.

It was his unbeaten hundred in the series opener in Chennai which helped take a 1-0 lead but knocks of 78 and 42 in the remaining matches failed to prevent defeats.

Hope, who averages nearly 53 from 72 ODIs with eight career hundreds, said it was important to continue the improvement against the Irish. 🌐



► Shai Hope is his side's most reliable batsman

Carter still around after playing with 'His Airness'

Vince Carter has played in the NBA so long that he was an opponent of the legendary Michael Jordan and made his debut years before the iPhone and YouTube were created.

And on Sunday, against the Indiana Pacers, Carter, 42, became the first NBA player to have a career spanning four decades.

The Atlanta Hawks star made his debut in 1999, and has starred in every decade since - the noughties, 2010s and now the 2020s.

To put it into further context, 36 current NBA players - including four of his team-mates (Bruno Fernando, Trae Young, Kevin Huerter and Cam Reddish) - were born after Carter was first drafted.

"I'm just very thankful to still be around and competing at this level," Carter said.

"I saw a picture of one of my teammates by the name of Hakeem Olajuwon (now 56) and the other was Trae (Young, 21) and it's just like, man, as much as I talk to people and handshake with former friends who are now general managers, coaches, whatever they are, I can say I played against Michael



► Vince Carter's longevity is incredible

Jordan and stuff like that and now I'm playing against the Trae Youngs and all the stars of today.

"I'm probably more competitive now because I know the end is near. I never imagined playing this long. I got to 15 years and I still felt good and here I am seven years later. It's an unbelievable feeling."

His records are racking up. In August, Carter became the first person to play 22 NBA seasons after signing a one-year contract to return to the Hawks.

The decision meant he became the longest-tenured NBA player, surpassing the members of the 21-season club - Dirk Nowitzki, Kevin Garnett, Kevin Willis and Robert Parish. 🌐

Williams aims for 24th big one

Serena Williams will once again target her 24th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in a couple of weeks knowing that this is probably the last year for her to realistically attempt the feat.

Williams says she remains confident she'll reach what has been an elusive 24th Grand Slam title after bitter disappointment in recent years. Since winning her 23rd major in 2017, Williams, 37, has suffered four defeats in finals. Age is catching up as new, younger players who can match her power with theirs as well as technique, makes it harder for her to reach the elusive mark to equal Margaret Court's record.

In her final match of 2019, Williams was beaten by Canadian teen star Bianca Andreescu at the US Open and she's arrived in Auckland, New Zealand for the ASB Classic to get her 2020 season underway.

The world No 10 has never won the tournament and faced Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova in the first round.

But with the Australian Open starting on Jan. 20, Williams has her eye on success in both events.

"Reaching 24 Slams has meant a lot to me for a while, and now it's just about getting over that one hump," she said. "I'm almost there, and I'm confident that I'll get there. It was tough for me.

"I really felt like I was close, but I didn't really 'show up' in those matches, and so I have to figure out how to compete in those.

"I haven't won [in Auckland] yet, and I don't like to go places and not have that opportunity, but I have a new opportunity to try and do that."

In a bid to get additional match practice, Williams will play in the doubles with Caroline Wozniacki.

Last month, Wozniacki stunned the tennis world when she announced her intention to retire after the Australian Open.

The Dane won her sole Grand Slam in Melbourne two years ago and it will always be a source of pride for her. 🌐



► Serena Williams craves her 24th Grand Slam

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Contact, in away
 - 1 Rough guesses
 - 6 Saucer occupant
 - 11 Caravan transport
 - 12 Juicy fruit
 - 13 Final letter
 - 14 One with a record
 - 15 Course number
 - 16 Opposite of oui
 - 18 Fiction
 - 19 Actor Wallach
 - 20 Flop
 - 21 "Was — los?"
 - 22 Classified
 - 24 Hill workers
 - 25 Broadcast time
 - 27 Slam sound
 - 29 Anxious
 - 32 Phone download
 - 33 "Tamerlane" author
 - 34 Chum
 - 35 Mousse kin
 - 36 Hurler's pride
 - 37 Dogpatch adjective
- DOWN**
- 1 Defendant of 1925
 - 2 Steamed snack
 - 3 Sycamore tree
 - 4 Implore
 - 5 Libel's kin
 - 6 Make better
 - 7 Indulgent
 - 8 Ramp, e.g.
 - 9 Braggart, often
 - 10 Tripled trios
 - 17 Alfresco
 - 23 Equip
 - 24 Had supper
 - 26 Showy flower
 - 27 Doughy rings
 - 28 Early primate
 - 30 Spat
 - 31 Queen of mysteries
 - 33 Less bright
 - 39 Injury soother
 - 41 "6 Rms — Vu"

A	D	O	P	T	S	W	A	S	H
K	A	U	A	I	P	A	T	I	O
A	S	T	I	R	A	D	E	P	T
	O	N	E	S	I	E			
A	R	F	D	E	N	O	A	T	
R	O	S	C	O	E	B	U	R	Y
O	U	T	O	F	K	I	L	T	E
A	G	E	D	I	N	T	O	N	E
R	E	P	D	N	A	F	T	S	
	H	A	G	R	I	D			
T	O	P	A	Z	A	B	A	S	E
A	D	O	R	E	G	E	T	I	N
B	E	E	T	S	E	X	E	C	S

Yesterday's answer

DOWN

- 1 Defendant of 1925
- 2 Steamed snack
- 3 Sycamore tree
- 4 Implore
- 5 Libel's kin
- 6 Make better
- 7 Indulgent
- 8 Ramp, e.g.
- 9 Braggart, often
- 10 Tripled trios
- 17 Alfresco
- 23 Equip
- 24 Had supper
- 26 Showy flower
- 27 Doughy rings
- 28 Early primate
- 30 Spat
- 31 Queen of mysteries
- 33 Less bright
- 39 Injury soother
- 41 "6 Rms — Vu"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
15			16	17			18		
19			20				21		
22			23				24		
		25				26			
27	28				29			30	31
32			33				34		
35			36				37		
38			39			40	41		
42						43			
44						45			

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/21

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Word Search

- Baht
- Balboa
- Dinar
- Dirham
- Euro
- Franc
- Gourde
- Koruna
- Krone
- Lira
- Markka
- Obol
- Peso
- Piastre
- Rand
- Rouble
- Rupee
- Ryal
- Sucre
- Yen
- Yuan
- Zloty

P	R	Y	A	L	Y	N	M	W	E	O	V	B	P	W
A	O	B	L	A	B	C	S	T	D	D	P	E	S	O
W	S	F	C	L	I	R	A	U	M	A	R	K	K	A
E	N	O	R	K	U	D	W	V	C	N	F	U	I	P
R	F	D	R	A	Y	C	R	E	O	R	U	E	O	F
B	R	O	I	V	N	S	A	O	L	O	E	T	S	G
S	R	G	P	R	H	C	N	I	R	H	U	E	V	P
B	A	A	M	I	H	M	I	O	A	B	R	Z	G	A
P	O	I	Y	N	B	A	D	I	N	T	L	R	N	P
Y	L	M	B	E	W	Y	M	W	S	O	U	U	E	F
T	G	D	A	H	L	W	B	A	T	P	R	M	F	U
S	A	I	H	A	B	B	I	Y	E	O	H	O	T	N
U	I	O	T	H	Y	P	U	E	K	R	A	N	D	A
U	M	C	F	G	E	R	L	O	B	O	T	U	I	U
P	M	T	M	E	N	G	G	P	R	P	B	G	T	Y

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

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By Ray Billingsley

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'COURSE, I'D BE SATISFIED WITH BEING A BROADWAY STAR—

HEY, THAT WAS THE KINGPIN AND THE GOLDEN CLAW, NOT SPIDER-MAN!

—IF A CERTAIN WEB-SLINGING WONDER HADN'T WRECKED THE THEATER!

JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

MARIE GOT MARRIED?!

YOU GOT MARRIED?!

IT WAS A SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT THING...

AN EIGHT-YEARS-DATING SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT THING!



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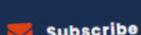


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