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## CUC Sea Swim goes with a splash

By Christopher Tobutt

The Cayman Islands Amateur Swimming Association and CUC'S 31ST 800m and 400m swim got off with a great big splash on Saturday 11 Jan. It's always a fun event, and open to everyone. There were plenty of people registering for the 4pm race.

The 800m got off the starting line first. It was a good swim out to two big yellow buoys, 400m up the beach, and then round and back to the finish line. It's fun, but also it's a serious chance for anyone who wants to take their swimming to the next level, either in local competitions or college-level, or maybe even Olympics, such as the winner, 16-year old Jake Baily, with a time of 10 minutes and 32 seconds. "I think I did pretty well. It was a great start. I held the pace for the whole time, and finished strong," said Jake, "I train every day, for at least two hours a day and I also do a lot of long distance, go up to five or 10 K," he said. Will Sellars was second with a time of 10.39, and Alana Sinclair was third, with a time of 10 minutes 44 seconds.

The 400 m children's race got going just as the last of the 800 racers were



► Start of CUC 800m

... Continued story on page A7

## Bryan calls for more time to consider same-sex laws

In order to better inform himself of the views of his constituents, George Town Central MLA Kenneth Bryan has written to the Premier and the Governor to ask for more time than is normally permitted before the Government-proposed Bill on same-sex partnerships is discussed in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Bryan wrote: "In the last sitting of the Legislative Assembly (Nov. 2019), the Honourable Premier indicated the Government's intention to bring a bill in the first quarter of 2020 to address the request by the Court of Appeal to create "legal protections" "functionally equivalent to marriage" for persons of the same sex. The normal notice period is the minimum of 21 days. However, due to the gravity of such a new law, I am hereby requesting that the notice be released at least 28 days before the debate in the Legislative Assembly."

In his New Year's address to the nation, Premier Alden McLaughlin outlined the necessity for dealing with this important human rights issue.



► George Town Central MLA Kenneth Bryan

"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 solution that works for Caymanians. If we

abrogate our responsibility to do so, we must accept that the UK will legislate for these islands as

... Continued story on page A3

## National Trust takes stance on Port



Last week members of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands voted unanimously in favour of opposing any development of a Cruise Berthing Port in George Town harbour that would jeopardise its endangered species and protected species of coral and marine life. Such an act would be inconsistent with the law, they said.

On Thursday 9th January the National Trust held an Extraordinary General Meeting of its members at the George Town Yacht Club, an historic event as it was the first time such a meeting had been convened in the Trust's 33-year history. They had been motivated to undertake such a step because of the lack of information surrounding the Cruise Berthing facility's development, the National Trust said in a statement.

"The National Trust has consistently called for full disclosure on the potential environmental impacts of the Cruise Port project as well as for meaningful consultation with the public since the new design changes, so as to allow voters to make an informed decision when voting at the People Initiated Referendum," they advised. "The National Trust had previously taken a neutral stance on the

... Continued story on page A2

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# EDITORIAL

## Caymanian Times goes daily

We are pleased to announce that, as from next Monday, the Caymanian Times will increase its publication from three days a week to five days a week. This move comes in response to what we believe is the success of our particular brand of community-based reporting that has been so well received by our brilliant readers.



getting even wider and our readership is solid. We are delighted that more and more of you are turning to us for your news and we are grateful to each and every one of our readers who trust in our professional and unbiased reporting.

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With this greater presence, we look forward to sharing even more of our news, stories and features with our readers as we expand our production. In this way, we hope to reach even more of the Cayman community. Pick up a copy of your Caymanian Times every day at gas stations and supermarkets and many other locations across the islands or pop into our offices on Walker's Road for a copy of your daily read. 🌐

# COMMUNITY NOTICE

## National Trust against port plan if marine life affected

... Continued story from page A1

project until such time as additional information was provided, but with information not forthcoming, the lack of meaningful consultation, the National Trust decided it had to call an EGM to solicit the feedback of its membership and take a position."

Members were given a presentation by wildlife and underwater photographer and Woman Divers Hall of Fame member Ellen Cuylaerts. In addition, National Trust legal counsel John Harris and Executive Director Nadia Hardie provided an update on the National Trust's legal position as Intervener in the Shirley Roulstone vs CIG judicial review on the Cruise Berthing Port set down to be heard on the 22nd January 2020.

The National Trust said their EGM was well attended and more than 65 proxies were also submitted. As a result,

a Resolution was passed unanimously enabling the National Trust to formally oppose any development of a Cruise Berthing Port in George Town Harbour which would jeopardise its endangered and protected species of coral and marine life and which would be inconsistent with the provisions of section 41 of the National Conservation Law.

The National Trust said it would press on to uphold the law as set out in the National Trust Law, protecting and preserving Cayman's historic, natural and maritime heritage. It said it also wanted to remind people of the Constitution Order 2009 which stated the Cayman Islands "will be a country that respects, protects and defends its environment and natural resources as the basis of its existence" and "a Country that manages growth and maintains prosperity while protecting its social and natural environment". 🌐

*Mellisa A.Reid*

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# Bryan calls for more time to consider same-sex laws

... Continued story from page A1

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," he said.

As a result, it is anticipated that the issue will be debated by lawmakers early this year.

Mr Bryan said that he believed his request was justified and reasonable considering the sensitivity of the topic and stated that, in the spirit of the recent

Constitutional approved amendments in the Legislative Assembly, it was his hope that this request be seen as "fitting and reasonable".

He went on to say that he believed that, as the elected representative of George Town Central, a 28 day notice

would afford him ample time to discuss, review and seek directions from the people on any legislation that relates to same-sex relationships, so that he could be in a better and more informed position to represent them. 🌐

# MLA calls for Hog Sty Bay Day

George Town Central MLA Kenneth Bryan has written to the Deputy Premier and Minister of District Administration, Tourism and Transport, Moses Kirkconnell, for permission to hold a Hog Sty Bay Day some time this year.

Seeking to recreate similar enjoyable recreation that was enjoyed by many in the years gone by, Mr Bryan has asked to use the North and South Terminal of Hog Sty Bay in George Town for this special event.

"As you and I are both aware, the Hog Sty Bay is a historical location and holds a special place in the hearts of many Caymanians, in particular, the residents of George Town. It has been used for decades and generations, as a location for the enjoyment of swimming activities," Mr Bryan wrote.

The George Town Central MLA said that he had spoken at length with people in his constituency and they had many happy memories of jumping off the rocks at Hog Sty Bay, as well as learning how to swim in that area.

"As a result of those discussions, an idea came to mind to create a 'Hog Sty Bay Day'. In doing so, many Caymanian families, residents and visitors will be afforded the opportunity to enjoy the Caymanian tradition of swimming in the Hog Sty Bay," he said.

Mr Bryan said he intended for the day to be open to all and he would ensure that all the necessary safeguards were put in place to ensure that such an event and opportunity could be safe and enjoyable. Mr Bryan wrote that he was requesting usage of the area for about six hours some time in 2020, preferably on a Sunday when no cruise ships were in port.

His request comes at a time when the Government is working to revitalise George Town, an area of Grand Cayman that has appeared to be losing out to the more popular Camana Bay when it comes to leisure and recreational activities, as well as businesses that have relocated to that location. However, unlike Camana Bay, which is owned by one



developer, George Town has multiple owners, so the plan to revitalise George Town is complex and lengthy. Happenings such as the Saturday Night Live in

George Town music and food events that took place last year have managed to entice more people back to the island's capital. 🌐

# What's App group established to aid with King Tides impact

Newlands MLA and Opposition Deputy Leader, Alva Suckoo, has established a What's App group for anyone who wants to share and get information on the impending 'king tides' that are higher than normal tidal surges due to hit Grand Cayman in the coming days. As MLA for an area of Grand Cayman that

has the potential to be impacted by these impending high tides, Mr Suckoo has taken this step to help people in his constituency get better informed as to this naturally occurring phenomenon.

Last week the Department of Environment asked for information from affected residents, stating that although these high tides were not normally a cause for worry, given Cayman's low-lying topography and rising sea levels associated with global climate change, they were keen to begin to better understand potential impacts resulting from these events. Depending on the location of the sun and moon relative to the Earth at the time, tides may rise just a few inches to a couple of feet above normal, the DoE said.

Mr Suckoo hoped that the information disseminated via the What's App group could be used by the DOE to address the growing concerns



► Newlands MLA and Opposition Deputy Leader, Alva Suckoo

related to the unusually high tides and flooding of low-lying areas.

Work has already begun to try and mitigate against the anticipated high tides, which are due mid-January and again in early to mid-February, coinciding with full moons in those months.

The Newlands MLA said he had requested the assistance of Minister of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure Joseph Hew to address sea water inundation in his constituency, and was grateful that some proactive work, such as road resurfacing and heightening, was done in 2019 which had alleviated some of the flooding concerns for the time being. But he remained concerned that while his constituents had been given temporary relief, the problem would persist or worsen as global sea levels continued to rise.

"This is not a local problem and I have no doubt that rising sea-levels has played a significant role in making this problem worse, and if the trend continues, we need to be proactive and find ways to address the problem, because it is impacting properties in the area," he stated, adding that he was grateful that the DOE was taking the problem

seriously and that they were taking proactive steps to try and find ways to deal with the issue.

Mr Suckoo said he was inviting everyone living in coastal low-lying areas, not just those in Newlands, to join the group and share whatever information they could when the tides were impacting them, so that the DOE could make proper assessments and propose solutions based on real data.

To join the group residents can visit Mr Suckoo's Facebook and Instagram Pages where a link will be provided.

Members of the DOE will also be added to the group and Mr Suckoo is suggesting that residents post pictures and videos taken in affected areas, along with the date, time and location.

Encouraging anyone affected to join, he said, "Reliable data related to this problem is very much needed and I am encouraging everyone to participate so that the DOE can progress their work armed with this information."

Interested persons can join the WhatsApp group "King Tide Information" using the following link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/L0mrbiXQ8J3EbtS-gysVQCq> 🌐





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THEN & NOW

# Agriculture takes shape

In our first article on agriculture we examined how the industry had always been an integral part of life in the Cayman Islands, from the first settlers through to the 20th Century. This second part will trace how agriculture began to become a focus for the Government in the mid to late part of the 20th Century.

While industry leaders recognised the importance of being at least partly self-sufficient when it came to growing and rearing food, it was something of an uphill battle with tourism and the financial services industry taking centre stage within Cayman's economy from the 1960s.

In 1976 Dr Joseph Jackman became the Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer for the Cayman Islands, a post he held until 1982. In an oral history interview with the Cayman Islands National Archives, Dr Jackman recalled that Cayman's farming community wasn't very well organised when he came to the island from Montserrat.

"The only real organised farm we had was John Bothwell, who had an egg farm in West Bay. I mean, really nicely set up and so on," he said.



► (L-R) Former Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer (1976 to 1982) Dr Joseph Jackman, Former Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer (1988 to 2007) Dr Alfred Benjamin

He described the Department of Agriculture's "little plot" of land by the airport where it would propagate plants and sell plants such as grafted mango trees and avocados, and explained how the Department of Agriculture forged relationships with Floridian growers.

"...we went up to Florida, went down to Homestead, got friendly with some of the growers and so on down there and they would tell me about the new varieties coming in and I would say, "Okay, we'll try and get them in Cayman". We brought them down and several varieties did and several varieties didn't do so well...everybody wanted to have a tree or two, and then we started the programme, and that's how we got the



► Dr Jackman receives commander award

Department actually doing and going out to help people."

Dr Jackman detailed how the Department expanded its services to include crop spraying and going aboard all boats to perform checks, working alongside the Mosquito Research and Control Unit. His duties also included visiting local farms to undertake regular examinations of animals and plants to prevent the spread of any disease. In his first year at the Department of Agriculture he also began writing for the Nor'wester magazine to help spread the word about the value of agriculture among the local community with information and recipes to try at home [see a recipe for mango chutney from the Nor'wester in our third and final article].



► Ensuring livestock was free from disease came under the remit of the Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer

### Vision

In 1978 Austin Bothwell was the president of the Cayman Islands Agricultural Society and in the programme for the Agriculture Show of that year he urged the promotion of agriculture and showed interesting foresight when he wrote:

"One only has to read good books and listen to the news over the radio to realise what a mess this world of ours is in as far as food is concerned. For thousands are dying daily. This is one reason why we must plant more food crops so that we can make our country more self-sufficient in food production."

Ten years later, Dr Alfred Benjamin took over the role as Cayman's Chief Agricultural and Veterinary Officer, a post he held until December 2007 when he retired.

In an oral history interview with the Cayman Islands National Archives, Dr Benjamin explained how he began to modernise Cayman's agricultural industry. He began by forging relationships with agriculture experts in Jamaica and Florida when they would come down to attend Cayman's annual agriculture shows.

"...out of those discussion, I was able to put together a team to come and do the agriculture survey... and to collect data and put together programmes for a five year development programme down the road," he said, adding that this eventual plan allowed Cayman to move

from subsistence to a more commercial product.

Dr Benjamin continued: "...we have all been very proud of that and I think the farmers ought to be congratulated for the cooperation with these efforts."

Following the survey, Dr Benjamin said the one big issue for him was that farmers refused to fertilise their land, another glimpse into the foresight of Cayman's farmers who had embraced organic farming long before it became a popular trend.

"...grass fed beef, for example, was the norm here and think about the health of the consumers who are being fed grass-fed beef as opposed to feed that has been laced with antibiotics and hormones and all that sort of thing," he said. "So while the farmers may have appeared antiquated, in those times, ... their raw intelligence put them way ahead of the crowd, and that's the kind of pride that I developed with the farming community that we had to serve here."

Farmers did eventually use fertiliser, he said, which was used in conjunction with improved technology, as Dr Benjamin recalled a hydroponic tomato farm - again ahead of its time - run by Otto Watler. Mr Watler, he said, added different nutrients to the water in which his tomatoes grew, such as sodium, potassium and nitrogen.

In the third part in this series, we examine agriculture's development from the 1990s to the present day.

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► (L-r) Pete Johnson and Sarita Singh of the Cayman Spirit Company

## Cayman Spirits Company serves up a distinctive Cayman taste

Cayman Spirits Company distills its own spirits, right here in the Cayman Islands. Its distillation with a Cayman distinctiveness, and lots of the company's drinks, which were on display at the recent CIBA Expo, were named after Cayman places or people or things. "We are the first rum distillers on the island, and we produce everything from Seven Fathoms Rum to Governor's Reserve Rum," said

Cayman Spirits' Event Manager, Sarita Singh.

"The story behind Seven Fathoms is we age them in barrels, 42 feet deep which is seven fathoms, and this makes our rum very unique. Very few people do this method of aging. Our newest product is a rum and cola in a can, which has become really popular, we launched it at Kaaboo and we sold out a hundred cases.

"Gun Bay Vodka named after Gun Bay – we do a lot of local names for all of our products," Ms. Singh continued, we also have dark rum, spiced rum, coconut rum, white rum, and gold rum," she said. "Governors Reserve is our coconut rum, and we use young local Caymanian coconuts. So everything is fresh and there is no preservatives. Oh, and we have banana rum as well," Ms. Singh explained.

The company hopes to source more produce used to add flavor to the rum from local sources: "We do distillers' specials every so often depending on what is in season. We will go to the farmers market and team up with a farmer. The last one we did was a mango brandy. So we went to farmer Clarence and we got about 500 pounds of mango to make a mango brandy," she said "It was sold out in two weeks." 🌐



## KRW Personal Services

KRW Personal services is really a one-stop-shop for all those things that many people are just too busy to do by themselves. It was established in 2011, but really has extensive experience of getting things done, both for individuals and in the corporate world, going right back to the 1990s. As Kerry Whittaker, Principal CEO, explained:

"We are a personal service, real estate and recruitment company. We are all in one, and we provide services, that include passports for CI, UK, and permit, status, naturalization, British citizenship, notary and JP services as well. We also do business licenses, local company incorporations, business coaching and QuickBooks accounting. We can also train you so that you can do that for your

own business or your own person home affairs.

"We also do housekeeping and grocery and personal shopping. We are a temporary staffing agency as well, and we do property rental sales and management. We are a One-stop shop. by catering to that on an individual basis, I tend to keep my costs very low. A lot of the services I offer you can pay a fraction of the fees, than if you went to a law firm to get it done. We see a lot of micro and small businesses that are not capitalizing on their profits, and we spend time to make sure they are profiting. We do that in our business coaching; we find ways to cut costs for them and streamline them to be more efficient and more supportive of their customers as well." 🌐

## Quintessential Life

Jaslyne Bridges runs Quintessential Life, which is all about using essential oils from plants for just about every aspect of living: "I believe that you have five areas of wellness," she said, "You have the mind, the body, the spirit, your home, and mother earth, and if any one of those are out of sync, then you can't have true wellness."

"I do essential oil education, and teach people how to incorporate natural products into their wellness routine. You can create green cleaning products with oils; you can use them for skincare; you can use them for digestion, or for good sleep. There are all these different ways of incorporating these natural products into wellness," Ms. Bridges explained.

Giving an example, she continued: "Let's take Wild Orange: This is simply the distillation of the rind of oranges. Every kind of plant

matter has different chemical constituents; and it is natural; and we are natural beings too. So we work synergistically together with plants. We ingest plants through food and that is how we get all our nutrients. So ingesting or using topically (on the skin) essential oils also brings in that value of the nutrients and those chemical constituents that those plants hold.

"Oregano which is an antiviral, and we have On Guard which is a blend of cinnamon and clove and Eucalyptus which helps your immune system. We have Frankincense which has biblical references, and it's known as the 'King of oils,' because it has lots of cellular repair properties.

Quintessential Life is an online company, and can be found on face book, with descriptions of all the products, or by email at Qlifeky@gmail.com 🌐





# YMCA hosts 5th Annual Leaders for Youth Conference

The YMCA of the Cayman Islands will be hosting their 5th Annual Leaders for Youth Conference from January 17 – 18, bringing together up to 150 YMCA staff members, volunteers, teen leaders and community partners. The conference is the YMCA's largest training and development event each year, with workshops this year including: Social Emotional Learning for Teens, Skills for Child Protection, Enhancing Mathematics, and Being Aware of Children's Needs. Workshops will be facilitated by a combination of local and international presenters, including: the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (M.A.S.H), National Drug Council, Special Needs Foundation, Toastmasters, YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg (Florida) and the Westfield Area Y (New Jersey). The Family Resource Centre, LIFE, National Trust are also participating in the conference resource fair.

As part of the Latin America and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs (LACA) After-School Enhancement Programme – sponsored regionally by CIBC First Caribbean International Bank – YMCA lead-

ers from across the Caribbean will travel to Cayman to participate. With financial support from the Y's Men International, delegates from the YMCA's of *Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago*. Each of these associations are building on the after-school programmes in their country and the conference provides a unique and significant opportunity for the region's YMCA leaders to collaborate in-person.

The theme for this year's conference is "All Aboard!" – especially fitting given the diverse Caribbean contingent. YMCA youth leaders are called to be fully equipped and prepared to navigate the unsteady waters that negatively alter the course of our youth. Critical to their success is to deeply ingrain the core values the YMCA teaches everyday – honesty, caring, respect, responsibility and faith. The ship only reaches a safe destination if leaders remain steady at the helm, and the 5th Annual Leaders for Youth Conference will provide attendees with the tools to remain the steady force our youth rely on.



The YMCA would like to thank the following supporters of this year's conference: Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture & Lands, CIBC First Caribbean International Bank, Y's Men International, YMCA of

Greater St. Petersburg and Westfield Area Y.

For more information about the YMCA Cayman Islands, log on to [www.ymca-cayman.ky](http://www.ymca-cayman.ky), email [info@ymcacayman.ky](mailto:info@ymcacayman.ky) or call 926.9622.

## LDM Global offers golfers a chance to win a new Tesla Car

LDM Global is excited to announce its gold-level sponsorship of the 6th RISA Charity Golf Tournament, in aid of the Cayman Islands Red Cross "Shelter from the Storm."

As part of its sponsorship, LDM Global is giving away a 2020 Tesla Model 3 car to any golfer who has a hole-in-one on lucky Hole No. 13.

The golf tournament is Friday, Jan. 17, at the North Sound Golf Club on Seven Mile Beach. All funds raised from the event go to support the "Shelter from the Storm" campaign of the Cayman Islands Red Cross. The Cayman Islands Red Cross has about 200 people in its volunteer core, aiming to "protect human dignity by helping vulnerable people in crisis."

The Recovery and Insolvency Specialists Association is a not for profit mem-

bership organization in the Cayman Islands aiming to promote the strengths of the sector, encourage collaboration and communication and benefit the Cayman community through charitable pursuits.

Jeremy Snead and Thomas Wright, co-organizers of the event said "We are very grateful to LDM Global and our other sponsors, who allow us to make this event a success and will enable us to smash our fund-raising pledge to the Cayman Islands Red Cross. The Tesla car and other exciting prizes provided by LDM Global make this year's tournament the most exciting yet."

"We are grateful for the opportunity to support local charities, and the RISA golf tournament offers a fun event to

get out and engage with industry peers while also supporting a great cause," said LDM Global Caribbean and Latin American Director Alex Clarke. "Giving away a Tesla would be the icing on the

cake of a great event, so I really hope someone gets a hole-in-one."

Premier Automotive Export will display a Tesla by the hole on the day of the event.

### POLICE NEWS

## RCIPS Reminds Cullers to Renew Special Licenses

The RCIPS Security & Firearms Licensing Unit is reminding the public that the **special firearms licenses** issued to cullers registered with the **2018-2019 Green Iguana Cull Project** have now expired. This means that iguana cullers who held these licenses are **no longer permitted to utilize air rifles in residential areas or within forty miles of a public road**. These **special firearms licenses**, which are issued in addition to the standard firearms license, will not be renewed until cullers have re-registered with the Department of Environment for the 2020 Cull.

Cullers interested in continuing to utilize air rifles under the terms of the

**special firearms license** will then be required to visit the Security & Firearms Licensing Unit in Windjammer Plaza in order to have the license renewed. Otherwise, owners who **only** plan to cull on their own property and **not** within 40 yards of a public road can continue to utilize air rifles under the standard conditions of their existing firearms license.

"We advise all firearms license holders to review these conditions to ensure compliance with their licenses," said Inspector Gerald Joseph, head of the Security & Firearms Licensing Unit. "Breaching these conditions will result in having your firearm seized and your license revoked."



# HARRY AND MEGHAN: THE QUEEN STEPS IN

By Michael L Jarvis,  
UK Correspondent

Queen Elizabeth the Second, issued a statement Monday, following talks held between senior members of the Royal Family on Monday to discuss a wish by Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, to scale back their royal duties and move overseas.

The 'Sandringham Summit, a reference to the Queen's country estate at Sandringham in Norfolk, was called to discuss a new role for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex following their shock request.

The full statement reads:

"Today my family had very constructive discussions on the future of my grandson and his family.

My family and I are entirely supportive of Harry and Meghan's desire to create a new life as a young family.

Although we would have preferred them to remain full-time working members of the Royal Family, we respect and understand their wish to live a more independent life as a family while remaining a valued part of my family.

Harry and Meghan have made clear that they do not want to be reliant on public funds in their new lives.

It has therefore been agreed that there will be a period of transition in which the Sussexes will spend time in Canada and the UK.

These are complex matters for my family to resolve, and there is some more work to be done, but I have asked for final decisions to be reached in the coming days."

The issue has dominated British press coverage over the past few days ever since Prince Harry and his American wife released a statement a few days ago, announcing their intention to live abroad.

It has also been the subject of media scrutiny and public debate globally, especially in the United States where Meghan,



who is of mixed race and self-identifies as 'a woman of colour', was born.

The resulting heated debate has delved into their lifestyle with a level of intrusiveness that itself has triggered a backlash about privacy issues.

From their fairytale wedding, their future, and finances, to speculation of rifts within the royal family especially between Harry and his brother William - and between their wives, to the timing of their announcement (and whether the Queen was informed), nothing seems to have been off-limits in the media and public-interest feeding frenzy.

Monday's carefully worded statement by the Queen, was expected to put a damper on the speculation, if not yet draw a line under it.

This is the statement by Harry and Meghan a few days ago announcing

their future plans, which triggered the huge wave of debate and speculation:

"After many months of reflection and internal discussions, we have chosen to make a transition this year in starting to carve out a progressive new role within this institution.

We intend to step back as 'senior' members of the Royal Family and work to become financially independent, while continuing to fully support Her Majesty The Queen.

It is with your encouragement, particularly over the last few years, that we feel prepared to make this adjustment.

We now plan to balance our time between the United Kingdom and North America, continuing to honour our duty to the Queen, the Commonwealth and our patronages.

This geographic balance will enable us to raise our son with an appreciation for the royal tradition into which he was born, while also providing our family with the space to focus on the next chapter, including the launch of our new charitable entity.

We look forward to sharing the full details of this exciting next step in due course, as we continue to collaborate with Her Majesty The Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge and all relevant parties.

Until then, please accept our deepest thanks for your continued support."

In related news, it's being reported that the Canadian government has agreed taxpayers in his country should pick up the huge bill for the couple's round-the-clock protection while they are in the country. 🌐

## CUC Sea Swim goes with a splash!

... Continued story from page A1

onto the home stretch. One proud mom had two of her kids, Amelia Whyte, 10, and Solomon Whyte 12, finish first and third respectively. "They did a great job," she said, "They train twice a week with Seven Mile Swimmers."

Richard Hew, CUC's President and CEO said: "It's a good clean healthy competition for all ages, but in particular for the kids and our youth so we see all

our top swimmers starting at a young age with the 400m and 800m competitions. Swimming is a great sport for us here, as we all know we are surrounded by beautiful waters and we've had very good success swimming at a competitive level and also recreationally with a number of young, and old swimmers, coming out each year."

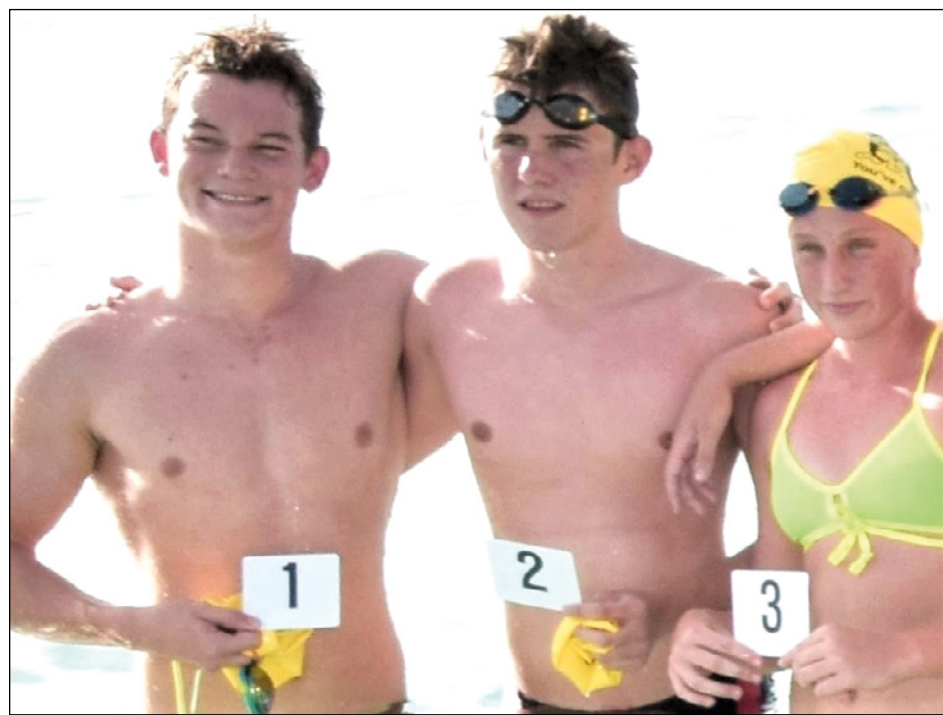
The volunteers are so dedicated and it is good to remember they are giving up their Saturday afternoons for something

they believe in. As always with these events, safety comes first and there were several safety officials in kayaks and on paddle-boards all along the course. There was also a pre-race safety briefing from the swimming coach, who told all the competitors that if they, for any reason, felt they needed help they should get the attention of one of the officials in the water, and that the same was true for anyone they felt might be in difficulties.

Ed Weber, a volunteer and former CIASA board-member, said: "I've had two children who grew up on the island swimming competitively and representing Cayman internationally. The Swim Association is important to us so we want to continue coming out and supporting events like CUC sea swim, Fosters sea swim and the whole series they have ending up with the Flowers one mile sea swim in June." 🌐



► Winner! Jake Bailey



► (L-r) Jake Bailey, Will Sellars, and Alana Sinclair



► Amelia and Solomon Whyte



► Derrick Henry racked up most of the Titans' points



► Ryan Tannehill has gone from rags to riches this season

## Tannehill goes from tiny to titan

The Tennessee Titans shocking the Baltimore Ravens to advance to the NFL divisional play-offs was one of the NFL season's biggest upsets.

Ryan Tannehill passing for two touchdowns and running for another as the Titans beat the AFC top seeds 28-12 was one of the biggest talking points over the weekend.

The San Francisco 49ers beating the Minnesota Vikings 27-10 with Tevin Coleman rushing for 105 yards and two touchdowns was less of a surprise.

The winners of the AFC and NFC Championship games will advance to Super Bowl 54 in Miami on Feb. 2.

Running back Derrick Henry rushed for a franchise post-season-record 195 yards on 30 carries and passed for a touchdown as the Titans brushed aside their hosts.

"We're just going to work and believe in each other. That's our mentality, to come out here and work. That's our mindset, focus on business," said Henry.

Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson, tipped to be the league's Most Valuable Player, was intercepted twice and lost a fumble.

Tannehill, who had 22 touchdowns and just six interceptions during the regular season, played well enough this season to convince the Titans to either sign him to a long-term contract or franchise-tag him for the 2020 season.

All he did was save the Titans' season after first choice QB Marcus Mariota started 2-4.

Tannehill, who threw just 15 times for 72 yards against the Patriots in their previous game, was economical again, needing just 14 passes and finding Henry in fine form.

"It's definitely unusual. ... That's kind of the way the games have played out," Tannehill said. "At this point in the season it's about doing whatever it takes to win, whether it's throwing 30 or throwing 10."

Tannehill was a virtual afterthought during an off-season when teams were signing quarterbacks for huge sums.

The Titans surrendered a seventh-round pick in 2019 and a fourth-rounder in 2020 and received a 2019 sixth-rounder in return.

Tannehill provided the spark that became a playoff flame, and lo and behold, suddenly it is a raging fire now.

When the Titans traded for the former Miami QB, few people noticed or cared. Now Tennessee is one step from the Super Bowl, and that move helped topple one of the greatest regular-season teams ever.

When Tennessee traded for Tannehill in March, the transaction didn't make waves. With a new regime taking over in Miami, the writing was on the wall for Tannehill's future. He had his share of promising moments with the Dolphins, but injuries and inconsistency defined his tenure. The Titans prided the quarterback away for the bargain price of a fourth-round pick. Not only that: they convinced Miami to pay \$5.25 million of his \$7 million base salary in 2019.

In a world in which Jared Goff will make \$36 million next season and the Colts handed Jacoby Brissett a two-year, \$30 million contract extension, the Titans got Tannehill for essentially nothing. The move somehow saved their season, and now has flipped the script on what was supposed to be Baltimore's coronation. It's a trade that shines a light on just how slim the margins are between a forgotten season and a deep playoff run. 🌟

## Williams ends drought at right time

Serena Williams won her first title in three years and first since becoming a mother with victory over Jessica Pegula at the Auckland Classic.

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion beat her fellow American 6-3 6-4.

It is the 38-year-old American's first singles title since she won the Australian Open in 2017 and her 73rd WTA title overall.

Williams, in her fourth decade on the WTA Tour, lost the Wimbledon and US Open finals in 2018 and 2019 and retired from the 2019 Rogers Cup final.

She said after her victory that she would donate her prize money in Auckland and a dress she had worn to the Australian bushfire appeal.

"It feels good. It's been a long time, I think you could see the relief on my face," said Williams. "I have been playing for so long and been through so much and I'm happy to be doing something I love."

The Australian Open begins on Jan. 20, with Williams bidding to equal Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles.



► Serena Williams got a confidence boosting win

Williams won her first WTA title in February 1999, when she beat France's Amelie Mauresmo on carpet at the Open Gaz de France.

She made a slow start in Auckland, with Pegula taking a 3-1 lead in the first set, before recovering to win the next five games and close out the opening set.

She celebrated on court with her daughter, Olympia, with whom she was eight weeks pregnant when she won her last Grand Slam title in Melbourne.

Williams was also in the doubles final with Caroline Wozniacki, but the two were beaten 6-4 6-4 by Asia Muhammad and Taylor Townsend. 🌟

## Zlatan's still scoring at 38

Veteran striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic said he "felt alive" as he marked his first start back at AC Milan by scoring in a 2-0 win over Cagliari yesterday, as Ciro Immobile struck for Lazio against Napoli to stretch his title-chasing team's winning streak to 10 games.

The 38-year-old Swede came on as a substitute in the goalless draw against Sampdoria last weekend, days after his return to Italy.

But he played the entire match in Sardinia, scoring after 64 minutes for his first Milan goal since leaving the club for Paris Saint-Germain eight years ago.

"I'll celebrate like a god at San Siro, not here," he said. "I celebrate God every time I score; that way I feel alive!"

Milan move up to eighth in the table, 10 points off the Champions League berths.

"The important thing is that I feel good," continued Ibrahimovic, who left MLS side Los Angeles Galaxy in October.

"I missed a few balls at the beginning of the game, but I need to play games to get back in shape."

"I feel good. The coach just wanted to think about my age and see if I needed



► Zlatan Ibrahimovic is defying ageing at 38

a rest, but there's no problem," continued Ibrahimovic, who did not want to be substituted and played the entire game. "My brain is always the same and the body has to follow."

It was his 57th goal for the club and 123rd in Serie A, having also played for Inter Milan and Juventus. Ibrahimovic sealed victory with his first goal in the Milan jersey since May 2012.

He was denied a second with eight minutes to go by the linesman's flag. Ibrahimovic has a six-month contract with an option for another season. He helped the club win their 18th and most recent Serie A title in 2011. 🌟

## Gayle: I'll still be a force at 45

West Indies batsman Chris Gayle says he wants to carry on playing until he is 45 and he is available for selection for this year's Twenty20 World Cup.

The 40-year-old Jamaican announced his retirement from one-day internationals in February but reversed his decision after the World Cup.

Gayle has not played an ODI since his 301st game for West Indies against India in August 2019.

"I am sure I am getting younger as the days go on," said Gayle who took a break at the end of 2019 and was not involved in West Indies' recent ODI series win over Ireland.

He is currently in Bangladesh playing in their domestic Twenty20 league. "Forty-five is a good number. Let's target 45. I think that's a good number," he said. "A lot of people still want to see Chris Gayle out in the middle. I still have



► Chris Gayle is adamant he is still good enough at 40

that love for the game and that passion for the game."

West Indies won the last edition of the Twenty World Cup in 2016, beating England in a thrilling final in Kolkata. They defend their title in Australia in November.

"The door is open for a chance. Let's see what happens," Gayle said when asked about selection for the event. "I have left the option open to hear back from them as well and see if they want the Universe Boss." 🌟

## Harden hits 20,000 points

Rockets guard James Harden added another entry to his Hall-of-Fame resume on Saturday, reaching 20,000 career points as Houston hosted the Timberwolves at the Toyota Center.

Harden, a two-time scoring champion, is the fifth active player to have 20,000 points, joining LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Carmelo Anthony and Vince Carter. James is the current active scoring leader with 33,482 points.

Harden is seeking his third straight scoring title this season. Durant is the last player to win three consecutive scoring titles, from 2009-12. "It's a great accomplishment obviously," the 30-year-old Californian said. "I have a bigger picture and bigger goals but it's pretty cool."

Teammate and long-time friend Russell Westbrook, who also played in the



► James Harden is already an NBA legend at 30

game when Harden got the first points of his NBA career, was much more effusive in his comments about the milestone.

"To be able to do that on a very, very high level is something we don't take for granted," Westbrook said. "Growing up in LA and being able to see him progress over the years to me is just a blessing to see as his friend and I'm truly happy for him." 🌟



# LIAT Announces New Board; New Chairman to Discuss Airline's Sustainability

Former Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur has been confirmed as head of the Board of Directors of regional airline LIAT, and he has already been given the task of examining the sustainability of the financially-troubled carrier.

In a statement issued yesterday, days after Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne disclosed that Arthur would be the new Chairman, replacing Dr Jean Holder who has retired after 16 years, LIAT confirmed the former Prime Minister was nominated and elected to the position.

Arthur is currently a Professor of Practice at the University of The West Indies. He has served the Caribbean in various capacities, including his work presiding over the regional process to revise the Treaty of Chaguaramas to establish the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

"The new Chairman has been tasked by the new Board to undertake a special assignment to meet with regional Prime Ministers to discuss sustainability of the Airline. This assignment will be supported by other directors and the Management Team of the airline," LIAT said in its statement.

The other Directors, who LIAT said bring to the airline and regional trans-



portation sector over 100 years of combined aviation experience, are: Michael Holder, Mark Maloney, Robert Riley, and Juanita Thorington-Powlett of Barbados which is the largest shareholder government; Carolyn Tonge, Lennox Weston and Sir Robin Yearwood from Antigua

and Barbuda; and St Vincent and the Grenadines' Isaac Solomon. The nominations came from LIAT's shareholder governments. The other shareholder is Dominica.

"The Directors have demonstrated exceptional records of performance and

service to the industry and to the region," LIAT said.

"LIAT's Shareholders, Management and Staff welcome our Directors to the LIAT and look forward to working together with the new Board to foster and strengthen regional transportation and integration." 🌐

## Another Big Oil Find in CARICOM – This Time It's Offshore Suriname

On the heels of major oil discoveries in Guyana, another big find has been made by French and US companies drilling offshore Suriname.

The US-based Apache Corporation and French multinational Total S.A, which are 50/50 partners in the Block 58 acreage off the coast of the Caribbe-

an Community (CARICOM) nation, say they've made a significant oil discovery at the Maka Central-1 well in the block.

They said the well, drilled by the drillship Noble Sam Croft, encountered more than 123 metres net pay of high-quality light oil and gas rich condensate net pay. Further drilling and testing are to

be carried out to appraise the resources and productivity of the reservoir.

"We are very pleased with this first significant oil discovery, made just after our entry into Block 58. The result is very encouraging and proves the extension of the prolific world-class Guyana Cretaceous oil play into Suriname

waters," said Kevin McLachlan, Senior Vice President Exploration at Total which is also exploring in neighbouring Guyana.

"We are optimistic about the large remaining potential of the area still to be discovered and will test several other prospects on the same block."

John J. Christmann, CEO and President of oil and gas exploration and production company Apache, was also pleased with the results from Maka Central-1.

"The well proves a working hydrocarbon system in the first two play types within Block 58 and confirms our geologic model with oil and condensate in shallower zones and oil in deeper zones," he said.

"Preliminary formation evaluation data indicates the potential for prolific oil wells. Additionally, the size of the stratigraphic feature, as defined by 3-D seismic imaging, suggests a substantial resource."

Christmann added that Block 58, which comprises 1.4 million acres, offers significant potential beyond the discovery at Maka Central.

"We have identified at least seven distinct play types and more than 50 prospects within the thermally mature play fairway. In partnership with Total, we look forward to advancing both exploration and development of discoveries on the block," he said.

The Noble Sam Croft will drill the next well, Sapakara West-1, approximately 20 kilometres southeast of Maka Central-1. 🌐



▶ The discovery was made by the drillship Noble Sam Croft

## UN Concerned As Venezuela Now Has Two Men Claiming to Be President of National Assembly – in Addition to Two Rival Presidents

The latest twist in Venezuela's ongoing political crisis "make urgently needed dialogue even more difficult to achieve", United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres says.

In addition to rival Presidents – Nicolas Maduro and Juan Guaidó –, the oil-rich South American country now has two men claiming to be Speaker of the National Assembly.

The latest turn of events occurred on Sunday when opposition leader Guaidó was blocked from entering the National Assembly building in the capital, Caracas, during voting for a new Speaker. The National Assembly leader who declared himself interim President last January, was hoping to be re-elected to the post, which is appointed annually.

While former ally Luis Parra declared himself Speaker, opposition members re-elected Guaidó in a separate session held that day at a newspaper office.

UN chief Guterres has been following the developments "with concern",

according to a statement issued by his spokesperson.

The events "make urgently needed dialogue even more difficult to achieve," it said.

The Secretary-General called on all sides to take immediate steps to lower tensions and to work towards a peaceful and sustainable solution to the political crisis.

The political situation coupled with economic meltdown has forced more than 4.6 million Venezuelans to leave the country.

Numbers could reach 6.5 million this year, according to data from the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The two agencies launched a US\$1.35 billion appeal in November to meet the increasing humanitarian needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to support the communities hosting them. 🌐



▶ Juan Guaidó (left) and former ally Luis Parra have both declared themselves Speaker of the National Assembly

CROSSWORD

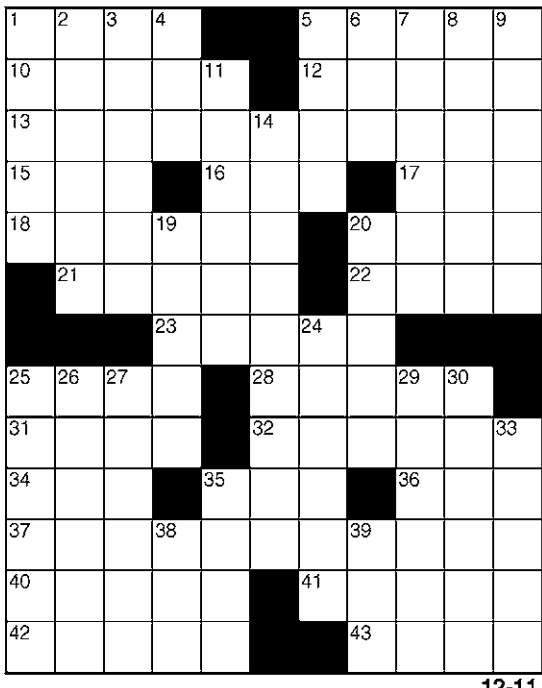
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**  
 40 Steamed  
 1 Sighing cry  
 5 Macho fellow  
 10 Cavalry sword  
 12 Select group  
 13 Makes more efficient  
 15 — glance (quickly)  
 16 Easy victim  
 17 D.C. baseballer  
 18 Florence family  
 20 Tenor Carreras  
 21 Car type  
 22 Blown away  
 23 TV's DeGeneres  
 25 Seoul setting  
 28 Clarifying words  
 31 Skillets  
 32 Talk casually  
 34 Play division  
 35 Architect I.M.  
 36 Have debts  
 37 Broadway groups

- DOWN**  
 1 Tea-growing region  
 2 Coffee bar orders  
 3 Wear roughly  
 4 Take in  
 5 Lend a hand  
 6 Quarter-back Manning  
 7 Creek fish  
 8 Relaxed  
 9 Like Russian dolls  
 11 Knave  
 14 Railroads' primary routes  
 19 Notions  
 20 Singer Jackson  
 24 Contacts, in a way  
 25 Cochise's people  
 26 Fragrant packet  
 27 All told  
 29 Immediately  
 30 Dawning period  
 33 Stopwatch button  
 35 Young dogs  
 38 Sprint  
 39 Writer Fleming



Yesterday's answer



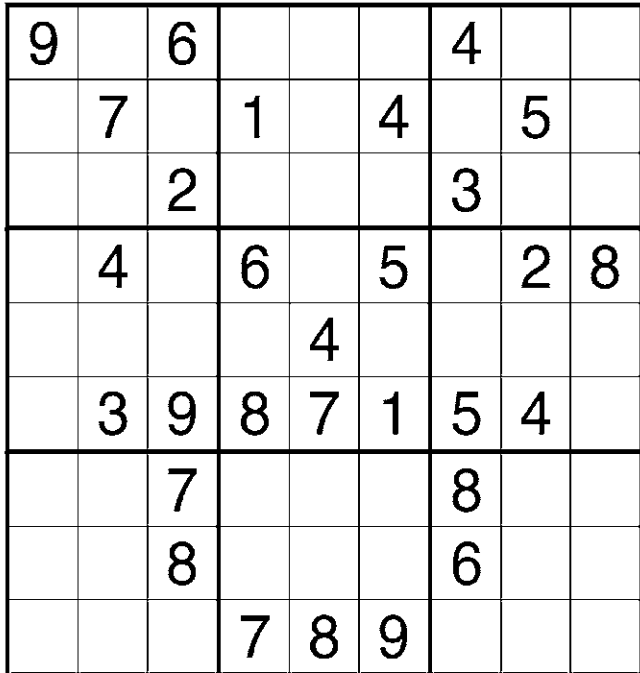
12-11

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

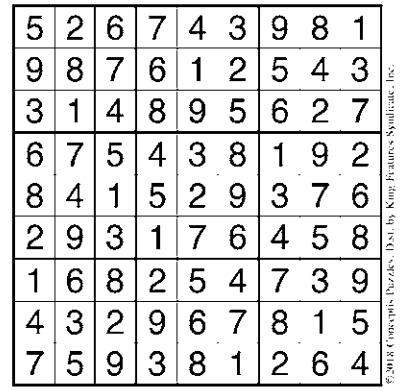
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

10/24

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★★

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Word Search

- Accord
- Adhere
- Agree
- Bind
- Blend
- Cement
- Cleave
- Coalesce
- Cohere
- Coincide
- Concur
- Conform
- Convent
- Dovetail
- Fuse
- Harmonize
- Join
- Marry
- Splice
- Stick
- Twine
- Unite
- Wed

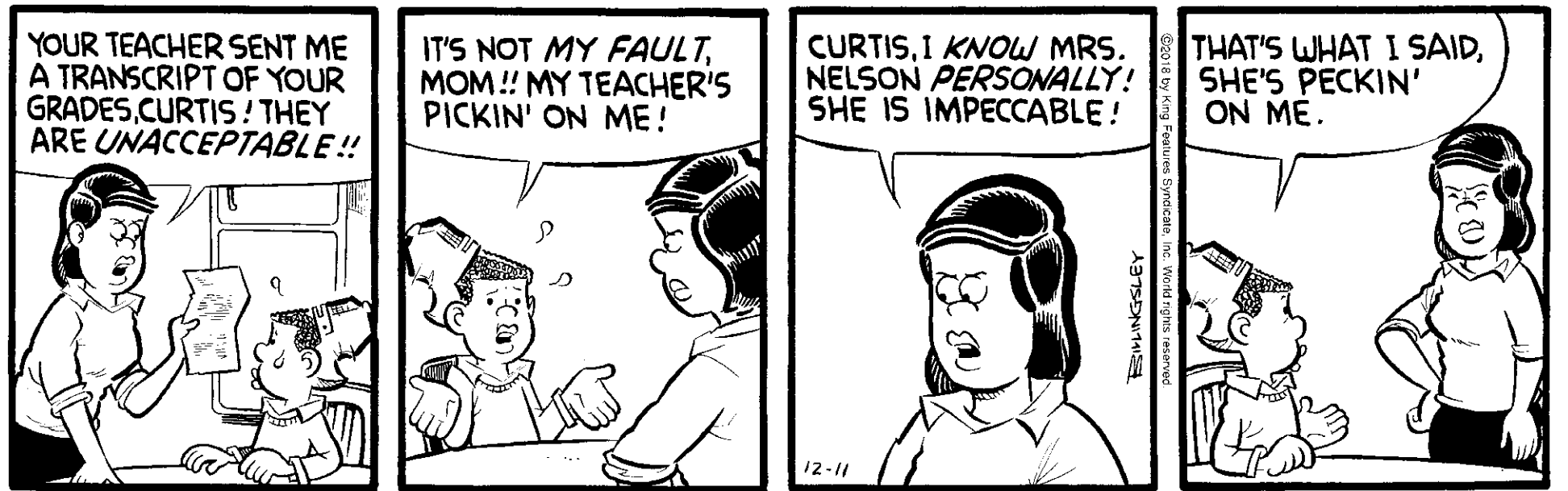


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, back, up, down and diagonally.



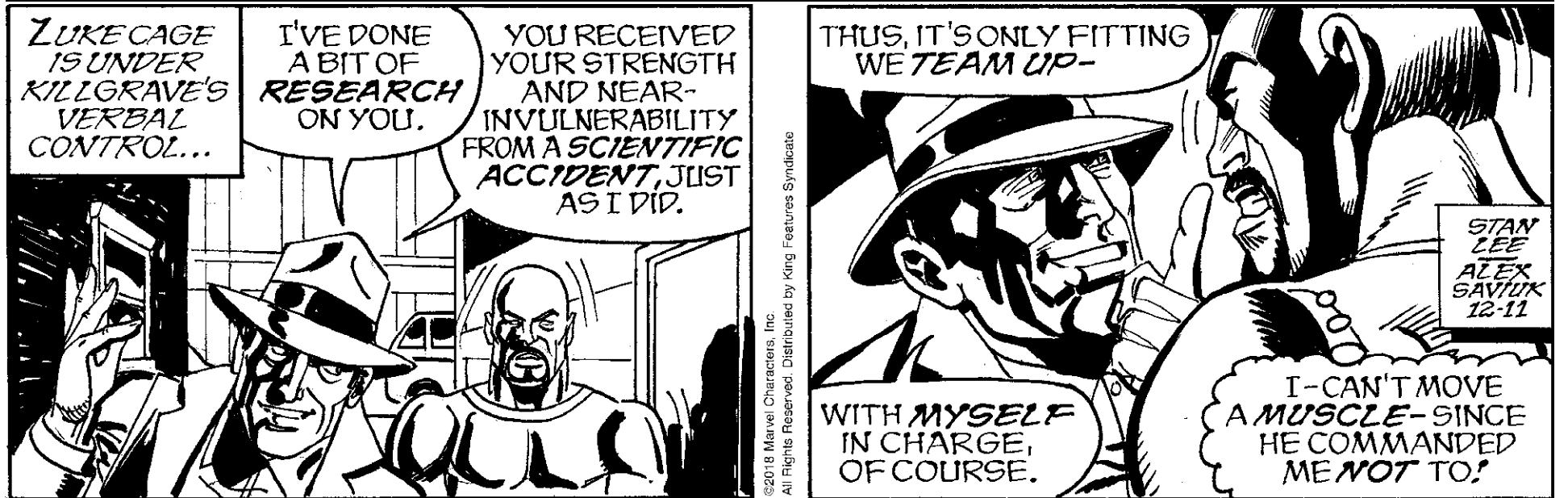
CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



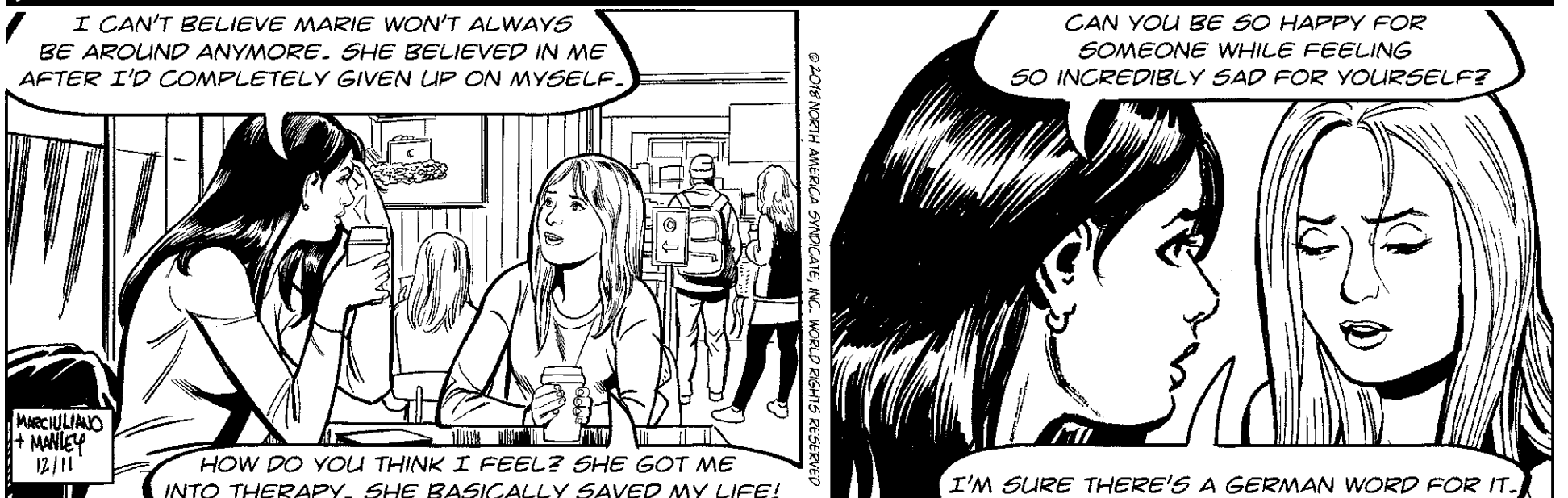
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



# Caymanian Times



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