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DEH and CIFS Monitor Vehicle Recycling Plant Site

CUBA UNDER FURTHER PRESSURE



CAYMANS SCORE BIG IN GLOBAL GOLF RANKING

National Heroes Celebrated

Pomp and ceremony filled Hero's Square in George Town on 27th January, Grand Cayman for the 2020 Hero's Day Honors.

Held since 2003, Hero's Day is an opportunity for the community to honor those whom have contributed to the development of the Cayman Islands and its people through song, dance, artifacts and public life.

This year's honors included the pioneers of the Cayman Islands' first written constitution, the first four women to ever run for an election (known as the phenomenal 4), as well as over three hundred signatories of the first petition for women to vote.

Women fought for over 11 years to have the right to vote in the Cayman Islands, beginning in 1948, leading to the "Sex Disqualification Removal Bill", which paved the way for women's rights in the arena of politics.

Those being honored, as the first four women to stand in a general election include Mrs. Ethel Rose Kensington Cook-Bodden Cert. Hon.; Mrs. Lilly Burdel Jackson; Mrs. Francine Jackson; Mrs. Laurel Watler.

... Continued story on page A4



► Vestryman Arley James Miller

Cruise Port in Limbo

erendum on the controversial Cayman Islands massive cruise port project should be known in the next two weeks.

The historic referendum, which had been scheduled for 19th December, 2019 was postponed after the National Trust and the Cruise Port Referendum groups(CPR), sought a judicial review.

They are challenging the government's decision to proceed with a referendum on the \$200 million port project before an updated environmental impact assessment is completed.

Opponents of the port project say there is too much at stake environmentally and that the gov-

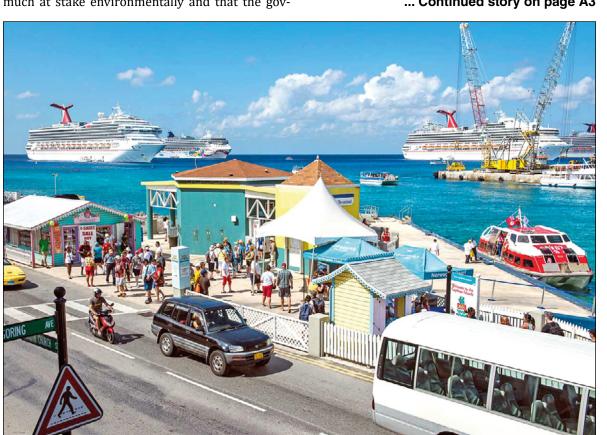
The outcome of a court case challenging a refthe mega-vessels.

> On the other hand, pro-port campaigners have said the increase in cruise passengers aboard these bigger ships would benefit the local econ-

Ms. Shirley Roulstone and the CPR group, who oppose the project, have taken the Government to court to determine the constitutionality of the Government's referendum process.

Their challenge is based on whether there needs to be a guiding framework in place to have a ref-

... Continued story on page A3



Billions mourn Kobe's untimely death



► Kobe's daughter Gianna perished too

It's not just the basketball world that is mourning the death of NBA legend Kobe Bryant, who was tragically killed in a helicopter crash on Sunday in California - literally billions of people with a smattering of sporting knowledge knew who he was too.

The 41-year-old superstar died in Calabasas, north of Los Angeles on Sunday morning. Bryant was travelling with four other people when his private helicopter went down. One of them was his 13-year-old daughter Gianna.

... Continued story on page A6



EDITORIAL

The role of Newspapers in society

By Er. Akanksha Pandey

Newspapers have been the most conventional and popular medium of conveying local, regional, national and international news to the readers. Newspaper serve us the latest happenings in different parts of the world through a network of correspondents and news agencies. The national dailies employ their correspondents and reporters in all the major cities of the world. The major newspapers like the New York Times. The Prayda. The Sunday Mail, The Times of India & The Hindustan Times would, shape and influence the views, opinions and attitudes of millions of readers throughout the world. They are the guardians of liberty, civic and human rights in the civilized world.

In this modern age newspapers play a very important role in promoting commerce, trade and business. Big corporates and industrial houses promote their products by giving spacious advertisements in newspapers. Classi-



fied advertisements, important public announcements and public notices also constitute the important content and material of newspapers. Sports, educational and campus news, dance drama, cultural activities and fine arts are some of the necessary features of all leading newspapers.

The common masses can express their resentment, appreciations and criticism of the policies of state governments and the center. The radio and the TV may have many other attractions but the inquisitive nature of man remains unsatisfied till he goes through the columns of newspapers.



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COMMUNITY NOTICES



▶ Video taken on the morning of Sunday, 26 January 2020 from the vehicle recycling plant showing progress made since Saturday

DEH and **CIFS** Monitor Vehicle Recycling Plant Site

Crews from the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) and Cayman Islands Fire Service (CIFS) continued to monitor the site of a fire at the vehicle recycling plant, which is now fully contained.

Excavation and damping down efforts continued until 2am on Sunday morning and a watching brief was maintained until 8am.

DEH and CIFS remained at the site to thoroughly search the debris and locate potential hot spots, dousing the area as required.

A handover of control of the site to the operator, Island Recycling, was expected later on that day with strict instructions to call 911 in the event of any re-ignition, however small.

Hose lines and trailer pumps will remain on site to enable quick deployment if required. CIFS crews will also make regular site visits to assess the scene using thermal imaging

Minimal smoke is expected from the scene throughout the day. Residents from the scene tomorrow morning.

and businesses in the vicinity are advised to observe and react accordingly by closing doors and windows if they are affected.

Chief Fire Officer, Paul Walker QFSM stated: "CIFS crews have worked tirelessly to fully extinguish this large fire and will remain on site to see this incident to a safe conclusion and minimise the chance of re-ignition. Given the scale and volume of mixed waste involved in this fire and the significant operational challenges we faced, I am very pleased and proud of our response and continued professional commitment."

In the coming days, CIFS will conduct a thorough investigation and full operational debrief. Lessons learned will focus on minimising the risk of a future incident, improving CIFS tactics and response where possible and reducing the potential operational challenges faced by responding fire and rescue crews.

A further update will be provided

China Coronavirus Alert

CHINA CORONAVIRUS The symptoms of 2019-nCoV and how it spreads HEADACHE **CHEST PAIN SORE THROAT** CHILLS-RAPID COUGH HEARTBEAT **SHORTNESS** BREATHING 3/15241/0 **OF BREATH** DIFFICULTIES **PNEUMONIA** KIDNEY FAILURE





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Cruise Port in Limbo

... Continued story from page A1

erendum or if one could simply be designed by Government for this purpose.

They also contend that the government had 11 years to implement the necessary measures but failed or chose not to do so.

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is also an interested party in the

They are seeking an injunction, arguing that the government is in breach of its own National Conservation Law which governs environmental protection.

Proceedings in the Cayman Islands Courts wrapped up on 23rd January and a ruling is expected in two weeks.

The cruise port project is based on projections to increase cruise passenger visits to the islands and to accommodate mega cruise ships.

Cruise ship passenger numbers were down by roughly 6 per cent from January to November of 2019.

According to the Cayman Islands Economic and Statistics Office, between January and November 2019 there were 1,618,950 cruise passengers recorded.

That is a reduction of 106,771 from the 2018 arrivals which totalled 1,725,721.

There were also fewer cruise ship calls with 530 visits between January and November last year compared to 570 the previous year, a reduction of 7.2 per cent.

All of the vessels visiting Grand Cayman have a capacity of over 4 thousand guests onboard.

Although cruise numbers have been down, arrivals by air continue to soar, seeing an increase of 8.2 per cent in 2019 over 2018.



Happy Birthday in Heaven Dad, Opa, Claus







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Roy, Anne Marie, Ryan, Megan, Sarah and Clark

Your Love carries me through the sadness of every day,
I see you in my dreams,
I feel you on every road I walk...
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► Heroes day at Heroes Square

National Heroes Celebrated



The Honorable Premier Alden McLaughlin (L) unveils the Bust of Caymanian National Hero



Francine Jackson, one of the "Phenomenal Four" - the first four women to run for election in the Cavman Islands

... Continued story from page A1

It has now been 60 years since Cayman's first written constitution and this year's Hero's Day Honors' mission was to," ...raise awareness of this guiding document", noted Cayman Islands Premier Alden McLaughlin.

Mr. McLaughlin, whose grandfather was one of the first members of Executive Counsel, noted that the Cayman Islands' first constitution came at at time when there was much change happening in the region, with Jamaica deciding on independence and the CI government opting to remain under British rule, instead of being directly under Jamaica.

The arrangement struck by leaders of the small Island nation at the time gave the Cayman Islands more autonomy and stipulated that the Islands to control entry to its border, matters on tax and control over standard channels of trade and employment.

"Some wanted to break away with Jamaica and some wanted to stay with the United Kingdom and we agreed that we needed our own constitution at this time of great change," noted the Premier.

He added that the Vestry Men at the time then took the necessary steps to see this through to completion, leading the way for the Legislative Assembly and the formation of the Executive Council, paving the way for other major developments that would shape the Cayman of today.

It was not until 1959 that the first written constitution became the seminal event that birthed the Cayman Islands into the financial and tourism mecca that it is today.

"The 1960s Companies Law that followed Cayman's first written constitution, built the financial industry," he remarked, adding that money which came in from the registration of companies allowed the Islands to begin to tack its mosquito problem in earnest.

During Monday's proceedings, Speak er of the House the Honorable McKeeva Bush read the Proclamation to officially open the 2020 Hero's Day celebrations, before the symbolic 'pink queen' conch shell was blown, harkening back to a time when our fishermen would return home with their bounty.

... Continued story on page A5



▶ Unveiling of the bust of Hon. Desmond Vere Watler, CBE



► Contingent from the RCIPS



▶ Some of the crowd who came to celebrate

National Heroes Celebrated

... Continued story from page A4

This was followed by the pageantry of marchers representing the Royal Cayman Islands Police, The Boys and Girls Brigade, the Fire Department and the Scouts regiments.

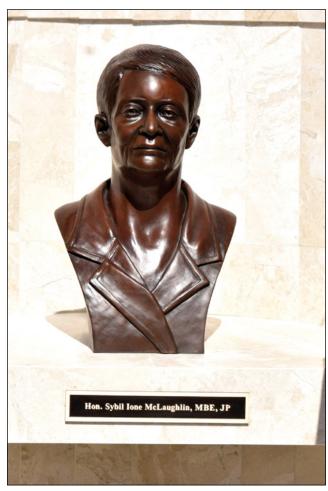
A special One Dollar Note/denomination was also issued for the occasion, with everyone in attendance receiving their very own to take home. The Bill will go into circulation later this week.

National Heros for the Cayman Islands include James (Jim) Bodden; William Warren Connolly; Thomas William Farrington; Sybil Joyce Hylton MBE; Sybil Ione McLaughlin; Dr. Roy McTaggart; Ormone L. Panton OBE; Desmond V. Watler CBE, JP; Mary Evelyn Wood, Cert. Hon.

Several busts were also unveiled in Hero's Square on Monday, 27th January, including one for the first woman ever elected in the Cayman Islands, Mrs Sybil Ione McLaughlin.



▶ Smart uniformed contingents gathered in Heroes Square



► One of five new busts which were unveiled: Hon Sybil Ione McLaughlin MBE



▶ Premier, Hon Alden McLaughlin giving the keynote speech



▶ Hero's Day Brochure and new commemorative Dollar Bill

PAGE A6

CUBA UNDER FURTHER PRESSURE

Cuba is bracing for further economically stifling measures by the Trump administration which is threatening "maximum pressure" against Havana.

The communist-ruled island, just 90 miles off the coast of the US, had just started adjusting to new economic possibilities after former president Barack Obama relaxed some of the stringent sanctions which have in place for over six decades.

But in an abrupt reversal, President Trump reinstated them, setting Cuba back and a triggering a new series of steps designed to strangulate the country into submission to US demands.

President Trump has accused Cuba of human rights violations and for supporting the government of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, against whose government - and country - the US has slapped a full economic embargo.

And the US squeeze on Cuba is now set to tighten even further.

Despite calls in the UN General Assembly for it to end or at least relax the embargo on humanitarian grounds, the Trump administration is now threatening to intensify the pressure.

Still, it appears that Cuba is hardly likely to yield.

It hasn't since the US imposed an arms embargo against the Fulgencio Batista regime in 1958. That was extended to a full trade embargo in 1962 by President

John F Kennedy at the height of the Cuban missile crisis with late leader Fidel Castro and the-then Soviet Union.

Six decades, eleven American presidents and three Cuban leaders later, the country might be facing its most difficult challenge under the US-imposed economic challenge.

From its first tentative steps towards market reform, an avenue opened by 'the Obama detente' in 2015, investors who were then considering investment possibilities especially in the tourism and industrial sector, are now putting Cuba off-limits, at least for the time be-

Their major worry is the risk of penalties from the US for violating the US embargo whose tentacles extend beyond American companies to placing restrictions on foreign corporations doing business with the US.

Now, the Trump administration is now talking of exerting "maximum pressure" on Cuba this year.

The details have not been disclosed but judging from recent actions against it by President Trump any further clampdown could be even more severe than previous measures.

The US is now talking of specifically targeting, even more than before, those sources of revenue which bring foreign exchange into the Cuban economy and government treasury.



International Airlines arrive at Havana Airport

Already the economic effects are being felt on the ground with many shortages being reported.

Cuba's main benefactor Venezuela is hardly in a position to maintain its concessionary energy supplies to the island under an arrangement in which Cuba reciprocates with healthcare and other humanitarian support.

Venezuela itself is struggling to cope under the weight of US-sanctions - and its own self-inflicted economic woes.

Another festering issue surrounds the Organisation of American States(OAS) of which both Cuba and Venezuela are members.

The upcoming election this year of the organisation's Secretary-General is proving to be another flashpoint, and Cuba is in the crosshairs of how the US on this as well.

There are already splits between the US on the one hand, and Cuba, Venezuela and several Caribbean countries on the other, over the two main candi-

The US favours retaining the current post-holder, Uruguayan Luis Almagro, while Cuba, Venezuela and some Caribbean states are pushing for Ecuadorean Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, a former president of the United Nations General Assembly.

In fact, Ms Espinosa Garces was nominated by Antigua and Barbuda and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

One point of friction revolves around a suggestion that her nomination came via the "influence of Cuba and Venezuela", an assertion rejected by her Caribbean proposers.

This further puts Cuba in the firing line US foreign policy as the issue has led to charges by some Caribbean governments that the US was involved in divide and rule tactics judging from heads of state not invited to meet US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo when he visited Jamaican a few days ago.

Mr Pompeo was concluding a swing through a selection of Latin America and the Caribbean countries promoted as building relations.

However, that was interpreted in some circles as promoting their preferred OAS candidate and ostensibly isolating those countries not towing America's regional and global foreign policy agenda.

With the US now becoming more strident in setting out its foreign policy priorities and preferences in the Latin American and Caribbean region - more stick than carrot according to some observers - how Cuba copes from this point onwards in the shadows of a Trump White House is left to be seen.



▶ The Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski is on the list of 84 Cuban hotels deemed off limits to

Billions mourn Kobe's untimely death

... Continued story from page A1

pouring in. Usain Bolt was one of the first to respond to the news. He tweeted a picture of himself with Kobe saying: "I just can't believe it." Megan Rapinoe, the American soccer star, said: "My heart is going out to the Bryant family right now. Rest in peace Kobe."

Justin Bieber, David Beckham, Jack Nicholson, Drake, the Kardashians, Dennis Rodman, Raheem Sterling, Andy Murray, Barack Obama, Jay-Z, Floyd Mayweather Jr and many others immediately gave heartfelt tributes.

LeBron James said that Kobe had helped him in his youth before he had even joined the NBA and was a great source of inspiration, particularly for his unstinting work ethic. Bryant used to turn up for training two hours before it even started when he was still in high school and despite earning millions as soon as he joined the NBA, he still trained like a rookie trying to establish himself right up until he retired four years ago.

Just Saturday night Bryant congratulated current Lakers star LeBron James for becoming the NBA's third-highest scorer of all-time. He tweeted: "Continuing to move the game forward. Much respect my brother."

greatest basketball players to ever play, one of the all-time greatest Lakers. The man's got two jerseys hanging up in Staples Center. It's just crazy."

Dwyane Wade, who played alongside Bryant on Team USA's gold medal winning squad at the 2008 Olympics, was one of the first basketball stars to react to the news. "Nooooooooo God please No!" he wrote on Twitter.

Tributes are pouring in from millions of other people, not just because of his basketball prowess but because he touched people's lives hugely with his philanthropic work.

He may have been worth over \$550 million but he worked tirelessly to help underprivileged kids to succeed in life through various projects, particularly from the tough Philadelphia neighbourhood he came from. Anyone who met him said that he was completely devoid of ego and was a genuine man of the people who willingly gave autographs, selfies and fist bumps. Bryant is solely credited with growing basketball in Asia where it was virtually ignored 20 years ago to becoming one of the most popular sports today.

Emergency personnel responded but were unable to save anyone that was on board with five people confirmed dead.

And LeBron responded by saying "I'm
The cause of the helicopter crash is unhappy just to be in any conversation der investigation. Bryant famously used The tributes immediately started with Kobe Bryant. One of the all-time a private helicopter for years, going back

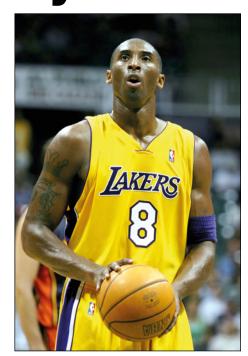
to when he was playing at the LA Lakers. The NBA legend is survived by his wife Vanessa, and their three other daughters - Natalia and Bianca and new-born Capri.

Bryant was one of basketball's greatest players, having spent his entire career with the Lakers. He was an 18-time All-Star and was named in the All-NBA Team on 15 occasions.

Bryant was the NBA's Most Valuable Player in 2005 and racked up 1,346 regular season career appearances between 1996 and 2016.

The Lakers legend helped his side to three consecutive NBA championships from 2000 to 2002 and continued to rank among the top players across the league until knee and shoulder injuries forced his retirement at the end of the 2015/16 season.

He was the youngest player in NBA history to reach 30,000 career points, hitting the milestone aged 34 years and 104 days. Bryant also won Olympic gold medals as a member of the US National team at Beijing 2008 and London 2012.



► Kobe Bryant's death is a shocking tragedy

He also achieved success off the court with his film 'Dear Basketball' winning the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film.



▶ LeBron James was inspired by Bryant



▶ Barack Obama was a huge Bryant fan









► Snack time for three little lovely ladies Vivianna, Gabriella

A fun-filled day for all

Kids, mums and dads, grannies and grandads all headed out to the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park last Sunday for a great day filled with activities, music, food and fun. Put on by the Garden Club of Grand Cayman, the annual Family Fun Day is a fundraising event organised by the Garden Club to help raise money to finish the Children's Garden, which is currently under development at the Botanic Park.

The Visitor's Centre was alive with fun facts about bugs and other creatures to educate young minds, and in the Children's Education Centre Building all the family were able to enjoy art work creating paintings of trees, design beautiful flower displays, and get creative with shells, all the while enjoying the cool breeze and shade of this lovely location. Experts were also on hand to show how to plait silver thatch, keeping the old traditions alive for youngsters to enjoy and master. Much fun was also had outdoors, where little ones could play for hours in a "sand" pit that was actually filled with multi-coloured rice, stack giant Jenga bricks, whack the rat as it popped out



▶ Budding florists

► The Botanic Park's family day was a big

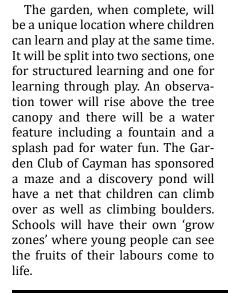


► Marion created a floral display

of a hole and take part in more creative and fun activities. Live music, a magic show, delicious food, drinks, treats and selected plants for sale all added to the enjoyment of the day.



► Hours of fun for little ones





► Sofie and Elodie enjoyed learning about bugs

▶ Jeromiah and Arianna learnt sliver thatch plaiting.jpg



▶ William was an artist for the day.jpg



▶ The Chin family had a lovely day out



▶ The Bavalia family enjoyed the crafts

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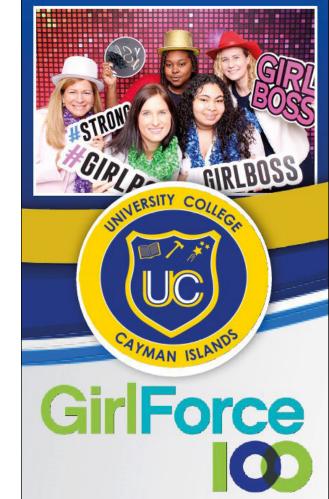


Contact Paulette Chotan Tel. No.: 345-946-8322 Email: cayman@open.uwi.edu

Registration Ongoing

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UCCI hosts GirlForce 100

On 17 January 2020, the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) hosted local representatives from 100 Women in Finance's (100WF) flagship youth mentoring programme Girl Force 100.

GirlForce 100's team met with 17 of UCCI's female students to introduce the programme and its vision. They outlined the many benefits of GirlForce 100 mentoring sessions, career clinics, workshops and group events.

"UCCI's goal is to provide our students with holistic development including career support and relationship building outside of the classroom. One of the most important things that we can do for our students is to help them create a network of relationships with those that have their best interests in mind. We hope that every single UCCI student has not just one but multiple mentors," said UCCI's President & CEO, Dr. Stacy McAfee.

Laurie Mernett, senior member of 100 Women in Finance and Co-Chair of the 100WF Cayman Impact Committee, and Lara Deysel, also a senior member of 100 Women in Finance and Chair of the 100WF Cayman GirlForce Committee, talked to the group about their personal career journeys. "We currently mentor approximately 50 mentees across two local high schools. We inspire each of our young women to reach their fullest potential through events, one on one mentoring sessions and working in conjunction with our community partners, one of whom we are proud to say is UCCI. We feel that the collective vision of both

GirlForce 100 and UCCI are aligned in education and propelling our youth forward towards their goals. 100WF will be launching GirlForce 100 in UCCI for the 2020/2021 school year," said Laurie Marnett.

"Forming relationships is the backbone of Girl-Force 100 and we are strengthening our connectivity this year to provide all the support our mentees need whenever they need it. Life is a journey and the career choices you take come through that journey. In the earlier stages of your career journey, you are faced with tough decisions, but you can refer to the conversations taken in our programme that will guide your path in your decisions," said Lara Deysel.

UCCI offers dual diplomas to students who wish to obtain the local degree in addition to US and UK accredited degrees, respectively. If you are interested in starting your success story at UCCI, visit our website at ucci.edu.ky or set up an appointment with our admissions team by calling 623-0567.

GirlForce 100, a female youth mentoring initiative for 100 Women in Finance, a global finance industry organization, pairs local 100 Women in Finance members with young women who have indicated an interest in a career in finance and have demonstrated notable potential meriting their placement. The programme was developed to guide the career paths of young women from school, through tertiary education and into the finance industry. If you will like to be part of GirlForce 100 please contact GirlForce@100women. org.



► Girl Force Event

CAYMANS SCORE BIG IN GLOBAL GOLF RANKING

The Cayman Islands is confirmed as having one of the best golf courses in the world.

The news comes in the 2020 publication of the prestigious listing of Golfscape's World Top 100 Golf Courses.

It ranks The Ritz-Carlton's nine-hole course at 97 among the leading 100 championship courses worldwide.

According to Golfscape, "this ninehole course is a challenging layout with beautiful vistas.

"Designed by Greg Norman, the journey through the holes is engaging – with green variations, doglegs and cleverly placed hazards.

Surrounded by palm trees, this is a golfing paradise for many."

The Ritz-Carlton itself describes the course as offering "challenging play amid breathtaking natural beauty."

It says, the course was designed in a way to make its 470-yard-hole play feel like 600, and is perfect for those who want to play one or multiple rounds in a day.

The resort's Golf Club also offers a pro shop, tournament conditioning, customized instruction and equipment rental.

Golfscape, is a globally-recognised London-based an independent, online golf reservation service and an industry leader for its highly anticipated annual rankings.

It brought together an extensive panel of golfing experts to rate the World's Top 100 Golf Courses for its 2020 edition.



"The golf courses featured in this official ranking offer experiences to remember for a lifetime, from lush woodland to coastal gems. Join us as we travel through forests, over clifftops, and across the desert to uncover the top golf courses in the world."

It's rating criteria looks at course condition, memorability, aesthetics, playa-

bility, course facilities and overall experience.

It's not the first time that the Cayman Islands and Ritz-Carlton Cayman has been featured among the top-ranked in the golfing world.

The resort has been previously ranked by Golfscape as being one of the top golf

resorts in the world for its high levels of service.

This year's ranking focuses on the high quality of the actual golf course.

In the 2020 Golfscape listing of the

In the 2020 Golfscape listing of the World's Top 100 Golf Courses, Scotland's Royal Dornoch Golf Club was ranked number one.









► (Photos credit: Stingray Swim Club)

Pete Ribbins Memorial Consolidated Water Meet

Cayman Islands swimmers battled it out in the pool last weekend during the first competitive swim meet of the year. Hosted by Stingray Swim Club, the 2020 Pete Ribbins Memorial Consolidated Water Meet featured competition from swimmers of all ages, including athletes attempting to achieve qualifying times for April's Carifta Swimming Championships in Barbados.

The Pete Ribbins Memorial meet took place from 17-19 January at the Lions Aquatic Centre, with swimmers from Stingray (SSC), Camana Bay Aquatic Club (CBAC), Seven Mile Swimmers (SMS) and other groups.

Stingray Head Coach David Pursley said, "The Pete Ribbins Memorial meet is always a great meet for the senior swimmers coming off of very heavy training through the holiday break. The time away from school allows us to put more time in at the pool, and this past weekend's racing is a real test on some tired bodies.

"The Friday night session featured a jam-packed pool of 10-and-under swimmers. The energy from Friday night was incredible. SSC had its largest turnout in years for the younger ones which featured four different relays for the girls for the first time. We are very grateful

for the sponsorship of Consolidated Waters and are honored to carry on the legacy of Pete Ribbins in the spirit of competition," Pursley said.

High Points Awards were won by:

- Girls, 11-12: Lila Higgo (CBAC)
- Girls, 13-14: Jillian Crooks (CBAC)
- Girls, 15 & Over: Alison Jackson (SSC)
- Boys, 11-12: Anthony A. Chin (SSC)
- Boys, 13-14: Will Sellars (SMS)
- Boys, 15 & Over: Nicholas Corin (CBAC).

In terms of team totals, CBAC won the most points on the girls' side, and Stingray won the most points on the boys' side. Altogether, CBAC just edged out Stingray for the most overall points (820 to 811), with SMS finishing third (458 points).

Coach Pursley said, "Looking forward, we will send a few swimmers to Jamaica at the end of the month to try and achieve a few more Carifta qualifying times, and then it's back to sharpening race skills in anticipation for the CIA-SA National Championships at the end of February. The team is on track and we are prepped for some extraordinary swimming come April."

For more information on Stingray Swim Club, visit www.caymanswimming.com.









Gauff looks set to replace Serena

Teenage phenomenon Coco Gauff missed out on her first Grand Slam quarter-final but at 15 looks certain to succeed Serena Williams as the greatest woman player of her generation.

Gauff lost to fellow American Sofia Kenin in the Australian Open fourth round at the Melbourne Arena. She showed all her undoubted quality in the first set, but tired in the third as Kenin wore her down to win in three sets.

After a warm embrace at the net, Kenin and Gauff broke out in tears following an intense battle. An emotional Gauff received a standing ovation as she walked off the court, understandably disappointed at the manner of her defeat but with the likelihood of much better moments ahead of her.

"I'm doing well right now at 15. I still have so much I feel like I can get better on," said Gauff, who will rose into the world's top 50 for the first time this week. "I don't even think this is close to a peak for me, even though I'm doing well right now."

She has become a global star in six months announcing her arrival with a

victory over seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Venus Williams at Wimbledon before 'Cocomania' surrounded her run to the last 16.

The hype returned at Melbourne Park after the Florida teenager, who turns 16 in March, produced an assured performance to knock out defending champion Naomi Osaka in the third round.

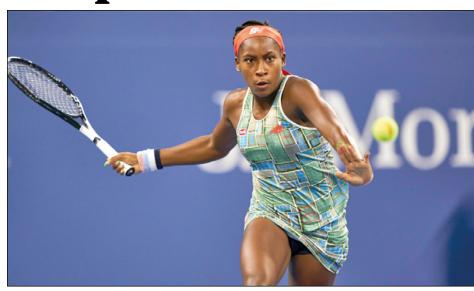
That was as much down to Osaka's implosion as it was Gauff's brilliance, however.

Against the streetwise Kenin, the question was always going to be whether she could soak up her opponent's relentless returning and then play aggressively to ask questions of her own.

Gauff has admitted she struggled to cope with the intense scrutiny at the US Open a few months ago, culminating in an error-strewn performance against Japan's two-time Grand Slam champion Osaka.

When the pair met again on Friday, Gauff responded with an assured performance.

Asked what she has learned from her first experience in the senior competi-



► Coco Gauff has the potential to be great

tion at Melbourne Park, she said: "I'm most proud of how I handled it on the court. I guess what surprised me is how calm I was going into all these matches. I wasn't really nervous.

"I'm happy that I'm not letting the moment seem too big than what it is."

Meanwhile, it seemed reasonable to think that Serena Williams had put herself in better position to change her Grand Slam fortunes. She even did some boxing training with Mike Tyson to get into top shape.

The greatest player of her era had trained with enthusiasm in the preseason and warmed up for the Australian Open by winning her first tour title in nearly three years. She looked healthy and convincing in her opening two rounds in Melbourne.

Though she had not won a Grand Slam title since 2017, she was the betting favourite to win the singles championship and claim her 24th Grand Slam victory, even at 38.

Yet her quest to secure that record-tying singles title remains just that. On Friday, she met a surprising obstacle in Wang Qiang, a 28-year-old Chinese competitor whom she easily had beaten at the US Open. For Williams, all the anticipation only led to more disappointment. There were shouts of frustration and anguished looks from awkward positions as she missed her targets, banged serves into the middle of the net and fell short even after storming back to force a third set which she lost 7-5.

"Honestly, if we were just honest with ourselves, it's all on my shoulders," Williams said, acknowledging that this time there was no one else to blame. "I lost that match."

And so now the inevitable questions come about her next chapter, at a time when several tennis titans are aging and quitting. Williams said after the loss that she has no intention of stopping. Nevertheless, Williams must admit that with the likes of Gauff coming through and the next generation coming through, she may need a sporting miracle like Tiger Woods's victory at the Masters last year.



▶ Serena Williams is determined to carry on

Windies Women set for T20 World Cup

The West Indies Women's squad for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup has been announced and sees the return of captain Stafanie Taylor and all-rounder Deandra Dottin who were out of the squad due to injuries.

The tournament runs in Australia from Feb. 21 to March 8. Lee-Ann Kirby returns to the West Indies squad after more than 12 years. The 32-year-old

all-rounder from Trinidad and Tobago played the last of her two T20Is in July 2008.

West Indies, who last played international cricket in November, will compete with Pakistan in three warm-



▶ Deandra Dottin returns from injury

► Stafanie Taylor is the West Indies Women's skipper

o up matches in Brisbane ahead of the y T20 World Cup.

They begin their campaign on Feb. 22 against first-timers Thailand in Perth ahead of matches against Pakistan (Canberra) and England (Sydney)

on Feb. 26 and March 1, respectively. Their final group fixture will be on March 3 against South Africa in Sydney.

Squad:

Stafanie Taylor (c), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shemaine Campbelle, Shamilia Connell, Britney Cooper, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Cherry-Ann Fraser, Sheneta Grimmond, Chinelle Henry, Lee-Ann Kirby, Hayley Matthews, Anisa Mohammed, Chedean Nation, Shakera Selman.

Mahomes will cash in on brilliance

Win or lose in the Super Bowl this Sunday, Patrick Mahomes could cash in this off season when his Kansas City Chiefs take on the San Francisco 49ers.

Though Mahomes has two years remaining on his rookie deal, he is eligible for an extension this offseason and looks set to get a massive new contract. That extension is set to break NFL records and reshape the quarterback market.

Mahomes is expected to become the first player to sign a \$200 million deal. "We were already doing the deal assuming Pat would be an elite-level quarterback. We were already doing our contracts to fit a potentially big contract," Chiefs general manager Brett Veach said. "When he was a rookie, as a backup, we were already doing our structures to fit.

That's how much we believed in Patrick. I think Pat will get what he deserves because guys like that do."

That was in August. Mahomes didn't top his 2018 season — when he threw for over 5,000 yards, 50 touchdowns, and won MVP — in the 2019 regular season, but he did lead the Chiefs to the Super Bowl with elite play. Over two playoff games, Mahomes accounted for 721 total yards and nine touchdowns, with no interceptions, leading the Chiefs back from double-digit deficits in both games.

After the AFC championship, Veach called Mahomes the best player in the NFL. "He's the best player in the game," Veach said. "It's not just me saying that; it's the whole league. He's the best player in the game."



▶ Patrick Mahomes will soon sign a mega-deal

Deontay Wilder: Tyson Fury has pillows as fists

Deontay Wilder mocked Tyson Fury's power ahead of their rematch next month, taunting him by saying the Gypsy King has "pillow hands as fists."

The two met on Saturday for their latest press event to build hype for the Feb. 22 fight, and the Bronze Bomber teased Fury's lack of spectacular finishes on his record. Fury was unfazed and praised Wilder's mindset in his latest fight, a knockout win over Luis Ortiz.

They first fought in December 2018, battling to a controversial draw. Fury controlled most of the fight but was knocked down in the final round, which all three judges scored 10-8. That led to a split-decision draw and talk of an immediate rematch. Fury believed he deserved the verdict.

They took their time booking the rematch, with both fighting twice in 2019. Fury breezed past Tom Schwarz, but Otto Wallin gave him a surprising challenge. Wilder, 34, knocked out Dominic Breazeale and Ortiz.

The WBC heavyweight champion was down on all three scorecards in his rematch with Ortiz but unleashed a monstrous right hand that ended the fight in the seventh round.

American Wilder has a 42-0-1 record, with 41 of his wins coming via stoppage. The only two men ever to see the final bell with Wilder are Fury and Bermane Stiverne, who got knocked out in the first round of their rematch.

Despite his massive size, Fury has never been known for his power. Just 20 of his 29 wins have come through stoppage, and plenty of those stoppages have come by retirement rather than knockout.

The 31-year-old Brit doesn't win fights with power but rather his incredible blend of footwork, mobility and reach. Few heavyweights move as well as the 6ft 9in lineal champion.

Wilder's chin has held up well over the years, even against big punchers like Or-



▶ Deontay Wilder and Tyson Fury swap insults

tiz and Chris Arreola. An early stoppage in favour of Fury would be a surprise in February, although Wilder is expected to be more aggressive early than he was in their first meeting, opening him up to counter shots.

DACE B3

US Secretary of State and Jamaica PM Insist There's No Plot to Divide CARICOM

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has reaffirmed the Government's commitment to a unified Caribbean Community (CARICOM), amid concerns about efforts to divide the grouping.

And the United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, whose invitation to meet with representatives of only some countries in the 15-member grouping sparked the concerns, has insisted that the US is not attempting to drive any wedge between regional nations.

Concerns were first raised publicly by Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley, who is also CARICOM's chairman, ahead of Pompeo's visit to Jamaica this week, during which he was scheduled to meet with foreign ministers from The Bahamas, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia.

"I don't look to pick fights, but I am conscious that if this country does not stand for something, then it will fall for anything. As chairman of CARICOM, it is impossible for me to agree that my Foreign Minister should attend a meeting with anyone to which members of CARICOM are not invited. If some are invited and not all, then it is an attempt to divide this region," Mottley had said.

But following bilateral discussions with Pompeo during his two-day working visit this week, Holness sought to make it clear that his country "does not want to see, and does not engage in any policy that would divide CARI-

COM, which is an important fraternity of countries".

"We want to keep it that way. Jamaica's interest is to unite the region for prosperity, freedom and peace," he asserted.

Holness emphasized that the focus has to be that every member of CARI-COM and every Jamaican ensure that there is engagement within the region.

"So, the conversation should be how do we get greater engagement, how are we talking more. My interest is to get Jamaica talking with everyone and to strengthen our relationship, particularly with our largest trading partner, particularly with our largest security partner, because we have over one million US visitors coming to our shores yearly. We have significant economic, social and cultural interests, so we should never seek to create an artificial divide," the Prime Minister said.

For his part, Secretary Pompeo concurred that "there is no intent from the United States to divide CARICOM".

"We want all the countries of this region to prosper and be successful. We know that countries in this region will agree with the US on certain positions from time to time and disagree with us from time to time. That's true for Jamaica, as well as true for many of the folks that I'll visit with this afternoon. We want to invite them all to be part of the economic prosperity security zone that is this region, and we welcome the lead-



▶ Prime Minister Andrew Holness (right), shares a laugh with United States (US) Secretary of State, Michael Pompeo, after bilateral discussions (Photo: JIS)

ership that Jamaica has demonstrated in the CARICOM region," he said.

Secretary Pompeo said the US welcomes dialogue with every country in the region, noting that "we'd want to meet with them all, we'd welcome them all to participate in all of the conversations that we are having about important issues".

"Things that matter to the United States of America we think matter to each and every country in CARICOM and we want to work with them closely to develop a security prosperity dialogue with them, so that we can all be successful, not divided, but together," he added.

During his visit, the US Secretary of State engaged in round-table discussions with Caribbean officials. He delivered a policy speech on the Caribbean's critical importance to the US, and the country's renewed commitment to closer ties, based on shared values, interests and economic prosperity.

Presidential Candidates Out of Election Race in Guyana Because of Dual Citizenship



▶ (left to right) United Republic Party candidate Dr Vishnu Bhandu; the People's Republic Party candidate, Dr Valerie Leung; and Lenox Shuman, the candidate for the Liberty and Justice Party will not be able to contest the March 2 general and regional elections

Presidential candidates for three of the 13 political parties contesting upcoming elections in Guyana have been barred from throwing their hats into the ring.

Lenox Shuman, the candidate for the Liberty and Justice Party; United Republic Party candidate Dr Vishnu Bhandu; and the People's Republic Party candidate, Dr Valerie Leung will not be able to contest the March 2 general and regional elections because they had dual citizenship at the time of their declaration on Nomination Day, January 10, says the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM). The latter two have US citizenship while Shuman is a Canadian citizen.

Although Dr Bhandu is now no longer a US citizen, his certificate of relinquish-

ment of that citizenship was dated January 16 – six days after Nomination Day – while Shuman has not yet received approval to give up his citizenship.

As reinforced by a court ruling last year, the Guyana Constitution prevents anyone who has sworn allegiance to another country from sitting in the 65-member National Assembly. The ruling had forced resignations from both the government and opposition benchas

GECOM Commissioner Robeson Benn said that as a result of the discovery that the three had made "false declarations in respect of their dual citizen status", they could face legal action as it is considered a misdemeanour punishable by up to a year in prison.

US Wants to Work More Closely With Caribbean to Combat Threats, Says Senior Official

United States (US) Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo says his country is looking to work more closely with the countries of the Caribbean in combatting new challenges that threaten the sovereignty and security of the entire region.

These threats, he noted, include arms and human trafficking and cybercrime.

"The challenges and the threats today, that we face together, are very different. The bad guys are more sophisticated and more ruthless and our nations have an obligation, therefore... to work in the interest of our shared security much more closely," he said during a policy discussion session on US-Caribbean relations at The Jamaica Pegasus on Wednesday.

He said America stands ready to build on the success of the 10-year-old Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI).

The CBSI is a shared security partnership started in 2010 and includes programmes to reduce illicit trafficking, increase citizen security, and promote crime prevention, among other things.

"We are having incredible success seizing drug shipments, helping kids stay away from crime, and America stands ready to do those things in partnership with countries in the region. Let's keep moving forward on those closer ties," he said.

Pompeo said the US also wants to help create sound policies in the region that respect the rule of law, property rights and enable a friendly business environ-

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, in her remarks, said the relationship between the US and the Caribbean spans more than 200 years, driven in large part by people-to-people contacts.

"That relationship, which also drives investment and spending, has developed its own seamless rhythm, not di-



▶ US Mike Pompeo (right), greets Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Fayval Williams (second left), at a policy discussion session on US-Caribbean relations. Looking on (from left) are Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr Nigel Clarke; Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator Pearnel Charles Jr. Also pictured in the background are Speaker of the House of Representatives, Pearnel Charles; and Minister of National Security, Dr Horace Chang (Photo: JIS)

rected or influenced by the State, per se, but at the same time, our governments have been strengthening our collaboration on a range of critical issues, from trade and security to energy and education," she noted.

Senator Johnson Smith said the US-Caribbean 2020 strategy will set the stage for even deeper engagement.

"Moving forward, we will intensify our efforts to address our shared priorities to combat transnational organised crime, to promote energy security, ensure healthy and educated societies and to grow our economies," she noted.

"We are indeed committed to achieving economic prosperity and a stable and peaceful region. We look forward to

the further strengthening of collaborations in these commitments and in particular those that are aimed at strengthening private-sector investment in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean," she added.

Pompeo arrived in Jamaica on Tuesday for a two-day working visit, departing the island on Wednesday.

40 Stowe

visitor

43 1492 ship

button

bargain

crowd

1 River of

2 Lake of

yellow

flowers

4 Stroller

user

6 Kane's

last word

5 Start

7 Suit

13

15

18

28

New York

41 Racket

44 ATM

45 Real

46 Prom

DOWN

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 1 Instructional

6 Marry anew 11 Strike

group 12 Corundum, for one

13 Cars' scars

14 Good judgment 15 Remain

unused **16** Not appointed 18 Poem of

praise 19 Bar bill 20 Golfer Ernie

21 Drug agent 23 Contented

sounds 25 Copier problem **27** Some

crime evidence 28 Vaticanbased

30 Striker's foe 33 Methane, for one

34 By now 36 Coronado's

gold 37 Radius, e.g. 39 Veto

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Yesterday's answer

8 Herb with yellow flowers

9 Old autos New York 10 Title

3 Shrub with documents

22 Pinnacle **24** Hosp. workers 26 Like some

local elections

16

12

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46

28 "Stop standing!" 29 Cariou of

Broadway

31 Up 32 Alternative to briefs 17 Pet perch 33 Shocked sounds

> 35 Principle 38 Second letter

42 Count start

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.

Shuffle

Skiffle

Suffix

Waffle

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Answer to previous puzzle

Word Search

Baffle Muffle **Boffin** Piffle Effort Puffin Raffia Fluffy Guffaw Raffle Ruffle

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Have fun with **CAYMANIAN**

TIMES

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Υ	U	F	F	Α	0	Α	Α	0	Т	Α	F	F	U	Υ

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

CURTIS By Ray Billingsley

43





12-21



IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT!



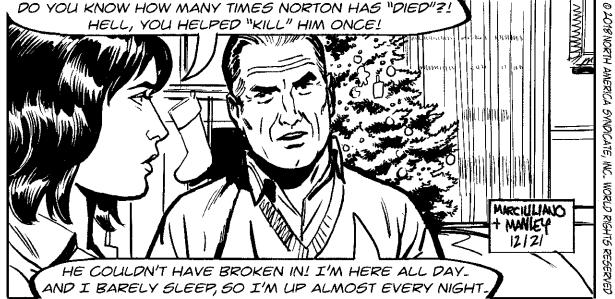
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN By Stan Lee







JUDGE PARKER By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley





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