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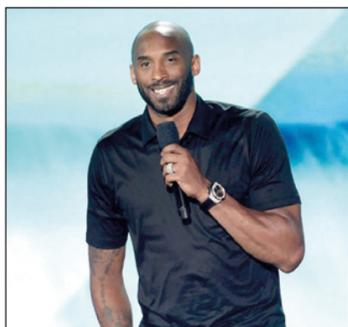
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Kobe Bryant was a brilliant entrepreneur too

Quake Shakes Paradise



► Cars covered in dust in George Town after Tuesday's 7.7 magnitude earthquake in Grand Cayman

Business came to a screeching halt and schools dismissed, as the Cayman Islands experienced a magnitude 7.7 earthquake on 28th January, 2020.

Starting from small tremors, the vertigo-inducing, earth-shaking quake swelled over several minutes, which many people said seemed like an eternity.

The International Tsunami Information Center issued a tsunami warning

for Belize, Honduras, Mexico, Jamaica, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands following the massive earthquake.

Whilst Cayman Airways issued a statement canceling non-essential operations for the day.

"Following confirmation of a strong earthquake felt in the Cayman Islands today, Cayman Airways is advising the public that all non-essential services has been suspended for the day.

"Ticket offices on Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, as well as the Cayman Airways Reservation Center, will be closed until Wednesday, 29th, 2020 when regular operating hours are expected to resume. All flight operations will continue today and tomorrow as scheduled," noted a press release from the National Carrier.

... Continued story on page A5

Cayman Leadership Praises Earthquake Response

On Tuesday, 28 January 2020 at 2.10 p.m. (local time), a 7.7 magnitude earthquake occurred south of Cuba and northwest of Jamaica at a depth of 10km. Strong shocks were felt across the Cayman Islands.

Despite initial concerns, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center confirmed

there was no tsunami threat to islands in the region at 3.49 p.m. based on data available.

Following the earthquake, and as an immediate precaution, the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS)

... Continued story on page A4



► His Excellency, the Governor, Mr Martyn Roper

Britain Brexits - Finally



By Michael Jarvis, London UK

Britain outside the European Union; sunny uplands or a dark dungeon of despair?

On even this outlook, the country is divided.

Ever since the United Kingdom voted almost 50/50 on whether to remain or leave the EU (52% Leave to 48% Remain), the UK has been split down the middle on its post-EU prospects.

... Continued story on page A5

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EDITORIAL

Earthquake tests Cayman's emergency response

The 7.7 magnitude earthquake that rocked the Cayman Islands on Tuesday afternoon tested Cayman's Hazard Management and emergency teams unlike ever before. Despite a lengthy journey home from George Town and some misinformation spread on social media with regard to tsunami warnings and water supplies cutting off, Cayman residents were kept well informed by Government's Hazard Management team and public safety was maintained by all emergency responders, a response that was praised by Cayman's leaders in the aftermath.

The earthquake, which hit at 2.10 p.m. occurred south of Jamaica at a depth of 10km and strong shocks were felt across the Cayman Islands. The quick and robust response by the team of individuals tasked with managing such threats to the island was praised by the Governor and the Premier.

Governor Martyn Roper called Hazard Management, first responders and law enforcement's response "outstanding" and detailed that the RCIPS helicopter was deployed immediately and quickly in the air, providing an invaluable assessment of the developing situation, he said.

Premier Alden McLaughlin said he felt Cayman had come through this significant earthquake "fairly well" and that there were no injuries and no serious structural damage reported.

"I'd like to thank the Hazard Management Cayman Islands team and government communication team for their swift response in getting the message out to everyone. I wish to also thank those Caribbean leaders who called me to check that all was well," the Premier said.

While many businesses shut immediately after the earthquake on Tuesday, including banks and supermarkets, by Wednesday, although schools were

closed, Government reported that businesses, hotels, cruise operations and airports were operating as normal.

Police response

In a press briefing on Wednesday, Deputy Commissioner of Police Kurt Walton described the traffic situation in George Town after the earthquake, which was effectively at gridlock from around 4pm on Tuesday, as "challenging". Mr Walton said the police had placed traffic as a priority and had tried to clear the roads as best they could.

"It was a challenging period," he confirmed. "I went into town afterwards and pretty much every intersection was congested. The main difficulty was getting people out of George Town," he advised, commending his "really good team of traffic officers" who, he said, were working as best to manage the situation using other staff to support traffic management.

"We brought in a fairly sizeable team in at 7am this morning [Wednesday] and had our command meeting at 8am. I am fairly confident we can manage the situation based on resources," he confirmed Wednesday.

The RCIPS's other priority was to ensure that children, as the most vulnerable members of society, were safe and secure and they spent time checking with schools in that regard. They also checked with the prisons to ensure safety and security of prisoners. Mr Walton said he was thankful that the RCIPS were able to make use of the police helicopter which they deployed some five miles offshore to monitor for any potential threat of a tsunami and who were able to give a live commentary.

"The earthquake certainly tested our resources," he said, thanking off duty police officers who volunteered to work and to those officers whose shifts were extended well into the night.



Mr Walton said there was quite a robust presence of officers on the ground to ensure that law and order was maintained and to assist the National Roads Authority in their quest to deal with sinkholes in the roads.

"Our officers worked throughout the night and despite some aftershocks, we had a fairly quiet night in terms of maintaining law and order," he confirmed.

HMCI kept communications open

The public had been well kept abreast of developments immediately after the event, Danielle Coleman, Director of Hazard Management Cayman, explained, via Hazard Management's social media bulletins and website, CIGTV interviews and with the new radio interrupt system which advised radio listeners very quickly after the event of a subsequent tsunami advisory. This was followed by the all clear later on. Mrs Coleman spoke about the next phase of this advisory service that is due to be rolled out in April which will be an App that the public can install on their phones to keep them constantly advised of the situation. Mrs Coleman said she would strongly advise everyone to download it, once it becomes available. She also recommended not spreading unverified information on social media, to prevent widespread panic.

"Our website is a very good resource because we have a great deal of earthquake information on there. If you feel a very strong earthquake you need to evacuate vertically and have a family plan in place," she advised, adding that

businesses also needed solid continuity plans in place as well. Mrs Coleman also advised against any parent's natural reaction to immediately go and collect their children from school, following an earthquake, because this just added to the congestion on roads. Instead, she said they had been working with schools across the islands to ensure that they had an emergency plan in place. They would be continuing to work with schools to ensure drills were practiced in anticipation of such events.

Mrs Coleman warned that the Cayman Islands had experienced 14 aftershocks (as at Wednesday morning) and there was the potential for more over the next few weeks, so the public needed to be vigilant.

As far as physical damage was concerned, Mrs Coleman said that assessment teams were out looking at issues such as sinkholes. This information was feeding directly into Hazard Management which would then be digested before any assessment on the financial impact of the earthquake could be made. The NRA was busy filling in sinkholes in road and Public Works Department were also doing the same on properties. Historical data and geo maps were being employed to highlight areas vulnerable to sinkholes, moving forward.

Mrs Coleman said that Hazard Management also worked very closely with the Sister Islands and their response was fantastic, she said, with teams out doing damage assessments early on. A debriefing would be taking place Friday to see how improvements could be made to the emergency response.



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

DVDL Breakers Office Closure

The Department of Vehicle and Drivers' Licensing (DVDL) wishes to notify the public that its Breakers office location will not be operational until further notice.



Customers can visit the Crewe Road location in the interim.

Customers are reminded that they can renew their vehicle licence online via DVDL's website at www.dvdl.gov.ky or through the e-services portal www.eservices.gov.ky.

Water Authority Open

The Water Authority-Cayman will be open for regular business hours today (Wednesday 29 January) starting at 8:30 a.m. We are still working to restore service to areas that are experiencing outages. We encourage customers to continue to check our website www.waterauthority.ky and our social media pages for regular updates on the restoration progress.



PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the public that I, **Fabian Orlando O'Connor** am no longer responsible for any debts that my now estranged wife, Shosanna O'Connor may incur after October 14, 2019.



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CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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Government's 2020 Budget Priorities

The Cayman Islands takes pride that we are currently enjoying a robust period of economic activity with solid, sustained growth across all sectors; relatively low unemployment; moderate inflation; and strong and stable Government finances.

As a Government and as a country, we need to keep focused and ensure that we maintain long-term stability and sustainability that will bring maximum prosperity and opportunities for our people as we encourage investment and innovation.

TRAINING

- Development of new Sunrise Adult Training Centre
- John Gray High School and other school upgrades
- Funding for skills development
- Protecting land for public use

- Increased support for older persons and the most vulnerable
- Construction of long term Mental Health Facility
- Support for new housing initiatives
- Implementation of the Integrated Solid Waste Management System
- Capping and remediation of the George Town landfill

- Road network upgrades to ease congestion
- Improvements to prison facilities
- Keeping our Financial Services competitive
- Expansion of space for the courts

- Various Sister Islands' infrastructure and tourism projects
- Funding for Cayman Airways to boost tourism
- IT upgrades to enhance cybersecurity
- Support for Cayman Turtle Centre
- Upgraded DVES facilities
- Improving e-Government services

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► The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin

Cayman Leadership Praises Earthquake Response All Three Islands Operating Normally

... Continued story from page A1

helicopter was deployed to survey the coastal areas Grand Cayman for signs of damage and potential tsunami waves. No such evidence was observed during these trips.

A series of aftershocks were felt in the three hours that followed the initial earthquake. Hazard Management Cayman Islands coordinated public warnings, including the activation of a radio interrupt system and made prepara-

tions for opening public shelters, should the need arise.

A preliminary damage assessment is currently underway and no confirmed reports of any injuries have been received. Several sinkholes have appeared on all three islands.

Utility services were temporarily interrupted in some residential areas. All services are expected to be fully operational shortly. Airports, hotels, cruise operations and businesses are operating without interruption as normal.

His Excellency, the Governor, Mr Martyn Roper said: "I would like to thank Hazard Management, our first responders and all our law enforcement agencies for their outstanding response to this serious earthquake. The RCIPS helicopter was deployed immediately and quickly in the air and was invaluable as we assessed the developing situation. I praise the people of the Islands for their resilience and support to each other. We are fortunate there was no loss of life or injury. Our airport and port are operating normally and we look forward to welcoming the large number of tourists who will visit in the next few days."

The Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin said: "I'm extremely grateful that after such a significant earthquake we have come through fairly well. There were no injuries and no serious structural damage has been reported. We will though remain vigilant over the next 24 hours. I'd like to thank the Hazard Management Cayman Islands team and government communication team for their swift response in getting the message out to everyone. I wish to also thank those Caribbean leaders who called me to check that all was well."

The Minister for Financial Services and Home Affairs, Hon. Tara Rivers said: "Hazard Management Cayman Islands confirmed the Cayman Islands were cleared of any tsunami warning at 3.54 p.m. and will continue to monitor for aftershocks. The Department of Public Safety and Communications (911) are providing ongoing support to our communities across the three islands. Thankfully, no injuries have been reported and only limited reports of any significant damage to our infrastructure have been received. We continue to monitor the situation and will remain vigilant."

Deputy Premier and Minister for District Administration Tourism and Transport, Hon. Moses Kirkconnell said: "We are grateful that the Cayman Islands did not sustain any major damage across our three islands and that no injuries to residents or visitors were reported after today's earthquake. We are thankful for everyone's concern and good wishes. Airports, hotels, cruise ships and attractions are operating as usual with no interruption and we look forward to continuing to welcome our many visitors from across the globe who are looking forward to a memorable vacation and enjoying our beautiful beaches." 🌐



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► Two residents in Grand Cayman survey a sinkhole left by a 7.7 magnitude earthquake



► A boat is capsized due to wave action from an earthquake in Grand Cayman



► A sinkhole on Seven Mile Beach in Grand Cayman is a stark reminder of nature's power after a massive earthquake

Quake Shakes Paradise

... Continued story from page A1

The communiqué went on to state that Cayman Airways is continuing to monitor the situation and will provide further details for the public if it becomes necessary.

The Caymanian Times spoke with members of the public about their experience and what they felt as the Island shook beneath them.

"I was at Cost-U-Less doing some shopping and I thought I was going to faint. I did not realize what was happening. I looked up and saw the lights up

high in the store and they were all moving and it was almost like slow-motion. When I looked down someone shouted, 'Get underneath something,' before we all ended up running outside," noted shopper Cindy Oostvogels.

A member of the public who said she was driving during the quake noted that she pulled to the side of the road and jumped out of the car.

"We weren't quite sure what to do it just seemed to go on forever. We kept jumping in the air to get rid of the sensation of the ground shaking," noted Canadian Visitor Rose Simpson.

Across Grand Cayman there were reports of pools overflowing and sinkholes, as well as videos circulating on social media depicting goods falling from the shelves in grocery stores. However, there have been no serious injuries or deaths reported thus far.

Experts said the fact that no one was seriously harmed and that the damage was minimal after the quake, was testament to the high standards and stringent building codes in the Cayman Islands.

With reports of water not being available in some areas, a statement was issued by the Water Authority - Cayman

stating, "...Messages circulating that the Authority is shutting off the water are not true. If customers are experiencing issues with their service, we encourage them to check their pipes for any leaks and report them by calling..."

Tuesday's quake hit between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cuba at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles), the US Geological Survey (USGS) said on Tuesday.

Buildings shook and tremors were felt across the Caribbean and offices were also temporarily evacuated in Miami and parts of Jamaica. 🌐

BRITAIN BREXITS... finally

... Continued story from page A1

The curtain comes down on their 47-year union this Friday January 31st, although it still doesn't quite end there.

There's an eleven-month transition period during which things will generally remain the same except for those areas where protocol requires that certain doors are closed.

On the other hand, practicality demands that other areas of cooperation remain open in the interim.

Who is closing what door on whom is an interesting aside to the ongoing debate over winners and losers from the split?

Is the UK closing the door on the EU on its way out or is the EU closing the door as the UK departs?

There are hardly any spoils to be divided. In fact, the split itself could be the cause of much spoilage.

The 'divorce papers' have been signed, in sombre settings, it might be said especially on the part of the EU, although on the UK side of the split there's been an attempt to 'talk it up' as Britain getting its 'independence' or getting its independence back.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson declared it "a fantastic moment" when he signed the Withdrawal Agreement last week.

'Fantastic moment' might be debatable as it signals victory where there really isn't any - except for Mr Johnson himself affixing his signature to what could be seen as a personal victory for him where especially his predecessor Theresa May failed.

Mrs May herself was a casualty of the divisions which have riven the country over Brexit spanning four years, one referendum, two general elections, three British prime ministers, numerous ministerial resignations, sackings, political defections, parliamentary factionalism...and that's only in the UK.

Politically, the EU has been relatively stable during the same period.

Prime Minister Johnson has spoken of his hope that this date of the historic split would bring an end to "far too many years of argument and division" as he put it.

But, will it end the histrionics over Brexit and all that's been associated with it and all that it's been blamed for.

And although he did not quite articulate it that way it might have very well been a fantastic moment if the arguments and divisions were actually at an end.

It doesn't appear that way either on the home front or in the immediate future for UK-EU relations.

Even the scaled-down 'celebrations' on the part of the UK might be premature.

Plans for Britain's iconic Big Ben chiming to mark the moment of departure were unceremoniously dropped over both cost considerations, refusal by the Bell-ringers Council to actually ring the bell, and wide condemnation that it was just a very bad idea - and in very poor taste.

A push by Brexiteers and their financial backers to raise the half a million pounds that was calculated to arrange the Big Ben chime (or toll?) had to be abandoned despite the most ardent backed raising around half the money under what Prime Minister Johnson had promoted as 'Bung A Pound For Big Ben's Brexit Bung. (Yes, it was that bad).

That money will go towards a possibly better cause; the Help for Heroes, UK war veterans charity.

But the transition will nevertheless be marked in the UK with some ceremony is not the level of flair that was planned.

A countdown clock will be projected onto the Prime Minister's official residence and offices at Number 10 Downing Street, a street party is planned in London, and Parliament Square in the capital will be decked out in red, white and blue.

Street parties and other events were also planned for other cities across the country.

Prime Johnson will deliver a national address in which he was expected to convey that despite how people voted in the 2016 referendum, it was time to unite the nation, heal divisions and set Britain on a path to renewed greatness as a global trailblazing country.

Quite notably, the occasion will be marked by the issuing of a commemorative 50p coin commissioned by the UK Treasury bearing the inscription "peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations."

Interestingly, it's the third time that the coin has been scheduled to go into circula-

tion. It was withdrawn previously and redesigned as the Brexit date had to be changed.

The tone in the Brussels is notably less festive and decidedly more formal and sombre.

The British flag will be taken down without fanfare, furred and archived amongst other EU memorabilia.

But after this first phase comes the real challenge - albeit with opportunities as the government and Brexiteers are quick to remind.

Ahead lie tough trade negotiations mainly with the EU and the US.

The UK will also have to test its own systems of 'taking back control' - gradually in some instances - of systems and procedures handled by or coordinated with the EU, and just

generally settling into its new reality.

Will it be easy? Probably easier said than done.

Is the country prepared, or more accurately, just how prepared is the country, especially the public?

According to the UK's National Audit Office, £46m was spent on the "Get ready for Brexit" campaign - a little under a pound for each year of the UK's membership of the EU (just an interesting statistic for those who like that sort of breakdown).

In its just-released final report on the review of that campaign, the NAO says "it is not clear that the campaign resulted in the public being significantly better prepared."

As Britain looks to the future, the extent to which Brexit has

divided the country and the colossal effort it will take to heal those rifts is evident in the country's music charts of all places.

The UK has always been a world leader in music from pop to protest, but this one 'takes the biscuit' as one British saying goes, or perhaps 'just taking the Mick', to quote another one.

Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, Ode to Joy which is the EU anthem and a theme of the Remain campaign, is in running competition with the uniquely irreverent British song 17 Million F***-Offs, a favourite of some Leavers, for the top spot on the UK pop charts this weekend.

Credit to the Brits for an amazing sense of self-deprecating humour.

'Having a larf' is therapeutic. 🌐

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New PSPB Appointments Solidify Leadership Strength

The Public Service Pensions Board (PSPB) is starting the new year with a new chairperson. Mrs. Sheree Ebanks' appointment became official in November 2019 and she is now leading the Board of Directors for the PSPB during a critical time as the Public Service Pensions Plan has just surpassed \$1 Billion USD in assets.

"To take on the role of Chairperson now is exciting as the PSPB is going to be making many advancements in the next couple of years that will benefit all plan members," said Mrs. Ebanks, "and I look forward to working with the Board, the Chief Executive Officer and her administration team during this time."

Mrs. Ebanks is a Caymanian who was appointed to the Public Service Pensions Board of Directors on 6 March 2018 and since her appointment, she has served in the capacity as Chairperson of the PSPB Investment Committee. Mrs. Ebanks is currently the Chief Executive Officer for the Cayman Islands Institute of Professional Accountants (CIIPA).

"With the Fund now over \$1 Billion USD and continuing to grow, the PSPB needs a very dynamic and capable leader for the Board and Mrs. Ebanks is a demonstrated professional with expertise in many critical areas," says Mrs. Jewel Evans Lindsey, Chief Executive Officer with the PSPB, "and we are going to appreciate having her leadership and governance oversight as we move forward with new initiatives to better serve our plan members."

Prior to her current role, Mrs. Ebanks has held various senior management positions at a major bank in the Cayman Islands, is a Board member of the Caribbean Utilities Company and the RBC Royal Bank of Canada (Cayman) Ltd. and has decades long experience in Cayman in the areas of investment management, fiduciary services, operations, marketing and business development.

Mrs. Ebanks worked closely with the Cayman Islands Government in the passing of the Accountants Law and

accompanying regulations to ensure compliance with IFAC, the global accountancy body of which CIIPA is a member. This includes ensuring the Cayman Islands is a respected and preferred financial centre through compliance with global standards in areas such as professional development, ethics, quality assurance, auditing and accounting standards as well as anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT). Mrs. Ebanks was also previously Chairperson of the Board of the University College of the Cayman Islands from 2003 to 2005 and Deputy Chair of the National Roads Authority.

Mrs. Ebanks replaces Mr. Kenneth Jefferson, who had served as Board Chairperson since 2004. Mr. Jefferson will remain on the Board as a Director and continue to provide guidance to the PSPB, especially in the areas of audit, governance and budgeting.

Deputy Governor and Head of the Civil Service, Franz Manderson, in offering congratulations to both Mrs. Ebanks and Mr. Cawdery stated, "I am delighted by these appointments which will further strengthen the PSPB's ability to oversee our World Class Pension Plan. I thank Mr. Jefferson for his leadership of the Board over the many years. I know his continued presence will be invaluable to the Board".

The PSPB is also welcoming Mr. Simon Cawdery, a Caymanian with extensive experience in the financial services and banking industry, to the Board of Directors. Mr. Cawdery is a Certified Financial Analyst with extensive investment experience and based on that, he is taking on the role of Chairperson of the PSPB Investment Committee, a sub-committee of the Board of Directors. Mr. Cawdery is known to most in the Cayman Islands as the host of Radio Cayman's "Money Sense" Thursday morning show and he currently holds leadership roles with both HLX Management and Helix Group in the Cayman Islands. In addition, Mr. Cawdery is also the Past President of the CFA Society Cayman



► Mrs. Sheree Ebanks, Public Service Pensions Board new chairperson

Islands and the Past President's Council Representative for the CFA Institute's Atlantic Islands and Latin American Region.

Information on the Public Service Pension Board is available online at: www.pspb.ky

POLICE NEWS

RCIPS still investigating the Murder of Mr. Courtney Spence

28th January marked the 10-year-anniversary of the Murder of 32-year-old Courtney Spence, who was shot and killed in the Progressive Distributors parking lot, located on Sparky Drive, George Town, where he was working at the time. Police continue to actively investigate the fatal shooting of Mr. Spence, and are still appealing to witnesses who may have information regarding what took place.



► Mr. Courtney Spence

"Our detectives remain optimistic about this investigation and are still exploring lines of enquiries," says Kurt Walton, Deputy Commissioner of Police. "Some investigations take longer than others to get results, as is the case with this matter. However, our Serious Crimes Review Team brings a fresh set of eyes to the investigation. All we are asking now is that the people who have information on this matter come forward and speak with us."

Cayman Crime Stoppers continue to partner with the RCIPS on this investigation and are offering up to \$50K reward to anyone who is able to provide information leading to an arrest, charge and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the fatal shooting of Mr. Courtney Spence.

Anonymous tips can be sent to Crime Stoppers one of two ways: either online or by contacting the Miami-based call centre at 800-8477(TIPS) (Note: do not dial "+1" or "1" before this number.) Only tips submitted through Crime Stoppers are eligible for the reward.

Anyone who would like to speak with officers directly about this case should call 649-3008 during the hours of 8AM-4PM weekdays. Tips can also be submitted confidentially directly to police via the RCIPS website.

Obey Traffic Instructions

The RCIPS is reminding the public that traffic instructions given by a police officer supersede traffic signals and signs. Officers are currently assisting to direct traffic in several locations and members of the public are advised to heed all instructions given.

Several sink holes have occurred in the roadways across the islands, officers will be out marking these areas to notify motorists of their lo-

cations. Members of the public are being asked to refrain from using the roadways unless absolutely necessary.

Download the RCIPS Mobile App for instant notifications on traffic advisories, road closures and disruptions in the of traffic in the Cayman Islands.

The RCIPS would like to thank the public in advance for your co-operation and understanding.



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NATIONAL L-STAR FOOTBALL MATCH

60 YEARS. 60 PLAYERS. ONE CELEBRATION FOR THE

CELEBRATE CAYMAN 60 YEARS

FREE ADMIS SATURDAY, GATES OF KICK TRUMAN BODDEN SPORTS

Ensuring that our students succeed at Higher Education

World Bank Reports on Higher education consistently points to evidence that it fosters growth, reduces poverty and boosts prosperity with benefits for the individual and the educational system generally.

One of its main role is being a route to social mobility for Caymanians and residents on these islands. Our university must prepare students to succeed and prosper in the broader knowledge-based global economy and a Caymanian society which has evolved from being historically homogenous, steeped in agriculture, turtling, fishing, rope making and ship-building among others, to a modern, plural, multicultural society that survives on sophisticated forms of economic interactions.

To accomplish this requires that we must take them from the academic and intellectual points at which they enter University and welcome them into a caring environment in which each student feels a sense of belonging and connectedness to the professionals in the classroom and those in administration offices. They must know that all that is done is geared towards their success.

An advantage of a small campus is that it allows every student to be known and this is bolstered when there is engagement in pro-active, intensive advising

and systems put in place, which identify problems as they surface- such as registering for a wrong course, missing classes, low scores in early exams, failing exams, losing scholarships and even dropping out. Students must know about the campus, its 'wrap-around services', tutoring centres such as Math, Writing, Science and other Labs intended to reinforce learning and break down knotty concepts and ideas while working in small group and one-to-one settings.

To accomplish this task will also mean getting better at accumulating relevant statistics that cover teaching effectiveness, retention and persistence levels, among others so the University is competent at providing more personalized assistance to students.

Students are more likely to succeed when they have relevant, correct and up-to-date information on careers and job sectors, which are in demand and, the kinds of opportunities their chosen majors are likely to provide. Deciding on a career is a most consequential decision. Steve Mintz points out in his article 'The Eight Pillars of Student Success' published in Higher Education, November 2019, 'There is no doubt that the best way to build students' credentials or to help them make an informed choice about a future career is to increase their

opportunities to take part in experiential learning opportunities. Internships, mentored research, practicums and field-based learning experiences, service learning, and study abroad all help students clarify their educational and career goals and build their skills.'

On any university campus, the most consequential activity that takes place in deciding student success is what goes on in the classroom. The professor in the classroom must show genuine care for the students to whose minds they minister. Students want to know that there is genuine interest in their success.

The effective professor knows the names of his students and inquires when they miss a class. She uses a variety of teaching strategies to meet the learning styles of students and is constantly updating information and ideas to ensure relevance. While education involves the transmission of knowledge including basic facts, job skills, cultural norms and values, teaching, to be most effective and lasting, must be viewed as a ministry of caring and nurturing.

The broader society has a role- there are many students who need financial support and contributions of the private sector to complement what government provides, is crucial. Support for tertiary education must be a priority for all of



► Dr. Livingston Smith is a Professor at the University College of the Cayman Islands. He is also Director of the CXC Education Volunteer programme

us as we ensure the success of our students.

The local university is making strides in all of these areas, as it remains committed to the academic enterprise and student success. 🌐

Caribbean Hotel Performance Breaks Records, but Occupancy growth stalled in 2019

For full-year 2019, The Caribbean hotel industry reported lower occupancy but record-breaking average daily rate (ADR) and revenue per available room (RevPAR) during 2019, according to data from STR.

Compared with 2018, ADR increased 6.5% increase to \$219.53, which overcame a (2.7%) dip in occupancy to 63.7% to lift the overall revenue per available room 3.7% to \$139.90.

The absolute occupancy level was the lowest in the Caribbean since 2011, but the ADR and RevPAR values were the highest for any year on record in the region.

"Despite six straight months of RevPAR declines between June and November, Caribbean hotels were able to reach a slight increase in December to end the year on a positive note," said Rico Louw, STR's client account manager. "The decline in performance during those earlier months was likely due to the effects of Hurricane Dorian and the negative perception impact that followed, as well as continued supply growth in the region. Hoteliers have



been able to maintain rates despite an abundance of new supply and muted demand."

In absolute values, March was the Caribbean's top-performing month for each of the three key performance metrics: occupancy (75.0%), ADR (US\$276.08) and RevPAR (US\$207.13). February and January were the highest RevPAR growth months at +10.6% and +10.4%, respectively.

September was the lowest month of the year for occupancy (47.1%), ADR (US\$148.53) and RevPAR (US\$70.01)

as well as the worst month for RevPAR comparisons (-6.2%).

When looking at individual islands, Turks & Caicos Islands experienced the highest rise in occupancy (+4.3% to 62.7%) and RevPAR (+12.8% to US\$653.75).

The Cayman Islands posted the largest lift in ADR (+8.3% to US\$466.06).

Dominican Republic saw the steepest declines in each of the three key performance metrics: occupancy (-8.0% to 67.7%), ADR (-3.5% to US\$136.10) and RevPAR (-11.2% to US\$92.12). Performance levels were pressured by supply growth (+2.6%) in addition to lost demand (-5.6%), and the island continues to lead the region in construction activity with 5,403 rooms being built.



► Brooke Meyer is the managing partner of Caymera International

Overall, there are 13,033 rooms in construction in the region.

Brooke Meyer is the managing partner of Caymera International, a Caymanian-owned hospitality and tourism consulting and advisory firm. Visit Caymera at www.caymeragroup.com or email info@caymeragroup.com for more information. 🌐



Public asked to report sinkholes

GEORGE TOWN

- Hospital staff parking (multiple)
- Windsor Park
- Cricket Square

NORTH SIDE

- Rum Point Drive

If you come across a sinkhole outside these locations please do not approach it. Contact officials immediately by calling 911 or sending a report to HMCI at [facebook.com/caymanhazard](https://www.facebook.com/caymanhazard)



WEST BAY

- Public Beach (multiple)
- Harbour Heights apartments
- Invicta Drive

CAYMAN BRAC

- Major Donald Rd.



Above are preliminary reports of current sinkhole locations

Cayman CAUSE

in collaboration with the
Cayman Ministers' Association,
CI Conference of Seventh Day Adventists and
Christian Association for Civics,
invites you to:

'Stand for Christian Family Values'

COME HEAR THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MARRIAGE LAW
AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

**Sunday,
2 February 2020
5:00pm to 6:30pm**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BUILDING, GEORGE TOWN

Local and Regional Speakers!!

For Transportation, please call **917 2985.**
For more information, please call **916-6182.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Free Small Biz Bootcamp

30 January - The CI Chamber of Commerce is offering a free small business Bootcamp Workshop will take you through the basics of managing small business finances and give you the information needed to make good business decisions. To register, visit their website caymanchamber.ky or call 949 - 8090.

Data Protection Law Awareness Session

31 January - The Ombudsman Office is hosting an awareness session on the Data Protection Law on January 31st at the George Town Public Library from 2 to 4pm. Anyone may attend and may register at info@ombudsman.ky or call 946 - 6283 for more information. There will be two more sessions in February and March.

Traveling Art Exhibit: Horacio Esteban Connecting Our Past to Our Future

1 February - The Brac Heritage Autumn Festival Cayman Air presents a Traveling Art Exhibit: Horacio Esteban Connecting Our Past to Our Future, opening on February 1st at 11am. Email bracau

tumnfestival@gmail.com for more information.

Robotics Competition

1 February - Are you into robotics? Skystone - the 2020 first Tech Challenge Interscholar Robotics Competition is on February 1st at the Camana Bay Arts and Recreation Center starting at 1pm. Ten teams will compete in this year's challenge. Admission is free.

Hatitute: Tea by the Sea

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

The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands' exhibition - Island of Women

7 February - The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands' exhibition - Island of Women, seeks to examine and bring to the fore, the vital role that women of diverse racial and

economical backgrounds played in Caymanian society from the 1800's through to the mid-20th century. A group of contemporary artists has been selected and commissioned to respond to this theme in a diverse range of mediums, styles and genres, inspired by oral histories, archival material and historical objects relevant to the subject. This exhibition runs until 21 May. For more information, visit <https://www.nationalgallery.org.ky/whats-on/exhibitions/island-of-women/>.

Valentine's 5K Fun Walk/Run

8 February - The Mothers' Union of the St. George's Anglican Church presents the 4th annual Valentine's 5k Fun Walk/Run beginning at 6am at Smith's Cove Barcadere. The theme of this year's event is "Keeping Families Healthy". Tickets are \$10 for adults and FREE for children under 12. There will be prizes and surprises. Proceeds are in aid of Maple House and other outreach projects. Register online at www.caymanactive.com/registrations or arrive at 5:30am for late on-the-day registration. The route starts at Smith Cove Barcadere, down to "The Avenue" and back to Smith Cove Barcadere. Participants will be timed and water will be available at the finish. Well behaved and on-leash dogs are allowed.

Coco Fest

8 February - Coco Fest is back on Saturday 8 Feb. at Pedro St. James from 12pm to 6pm. You can find coconut inspired food, treats, fresh coconut water, crafts, games, music, and more! Enter coconut cake competition and watch many demonstrations! Admission is only \$5 and FREE for kids under 6. Proceeds from each entry fee benefit Meals On Wheels.

Heart Warriors & Angels Beach Walk 2020

9 February - All are invited to the 2nd. annual Heart Warriors & Angels Beach Walk which commemorates Congenital Heart Defects Awareness Week and in memory of baby Nolan Evans. The walk begins at the Public Beach starting at 7am. Registration fee is CI\$25 and includes an event t-shirt. Warriors and Angels costumes for all ages are welcomed. There will be complimentary refreshments and face painting as well as great prizes and much more. Your contribution will be long lasting in the efforts to fund the support of local families with CHD babies. Your support would truly be an investment in our community! For registration, please email teammolanevans@outlook.com or aillianeavans@hotmail.co.uk

Annual KiwanisBike Cycle Event

9 February - The Kiwanis Club of Grand Cayman is having their 38th. annual cycling event beginning at 7am. This annual fundraiser is very popular amongst the riding community! The riders bring their bikes to Smith Cove and are then transported with their bikes to the Blow Holes. From there, everyone cycles 20 miles back to the finish at Smith Cove. All proceeds support the Kiwanis Youth Service Clubs. For more information, go to www.kiwanis.ky or email info@kiwanis.ky.

Cayman Arts Festival 2020

13 - 22 February - Cayman Arts Festival brings world-class performing arts to Cayman to inspire, entertain and educate. This year's festival brings a variety of artists and performances from Philadelphia to Latvia. From the classical music from Latvian natives Kristine and Margarita Balanas, many genres of music including jazz, soul and R&B from the Lana Janjanin Trio to the internationally acclaimed brass ensemble, The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass, composed of some of America's top brass musicians, there is something for every musical taste. Visit <http://caymanartsfestival.com/> for all information on Cayman Arts Festival 2020.

Red Sky at Night

29 February - Red Sky at Night is the anchor event for Cayfest and is a favourite of participants and attendees alike. Each year patrons are treated to live performances from musicians, dancers, actors and storytellers, as well as displays of creative work by visual artists and artisans, all on the grounds of the F.J. Harquail Cultural Centre. Visitors revel in a sensory filled experience at this multi-disciplined arts fair, as the sounds of steel pan, fiddle and drums, and the aroma of mouthwatering local culinary delicacies waft on the night air. For more information, or to buy tickets visit <https://www.artscayman.org/red-sky-at-night/>



► Tech Challenge Interscholar Robotics Competition

Fitness Predictions

January is an exciting time - you have a clean slate to become who you want and accomplish what you want in the year ahead.

In the world of fitness, this time of year means tons of new faces and lives being changed. New Year's magically pulls people to exercise - maybe you're feeling the pull yourself.

Here are 5 predictions for the year ahead:

1. 2020 is the year that many will lose weight and regain their health. Times are changing. People are realizing that obesity has gotten out of hand, and exercise is back in the spotlight.

The real food movement is taking the globe by storm as people turn away from fast and processed foods and return to wholesome, nutritious meals.

2020 will be the year that many people adopt a healthier lifestyle and drop the extra weight. Maybe even you.

2. 92% of all New Year's Resolutions will end in failure. While millions will start gung ho in January with lofty goals for massive weight loss, the reality is that most will fail. Here's why:

They bite off more than they can chew.

In all the excitement of becoming a better person and transforming their life in the New Year, they make the crucial mistake of committing too much. But reality soon sets in and they give up.

Want to be apart of the 8% who will achieve their resolutions?

Then set realistic goals.

- Instead of resolving to lose 50 pounds by June, commit to exercise 3-4 times each week.

- Instead of resolving to give up all carbs, commit to bring healthy snacks to work.

- Instead of resolving to drop 3 sizes in 3 months, commit to losing 1 pound each week until you reach your desired size.

- Instead of resolving to never eat out again, commit to eating healthy all week and reward yourself with one meal out on the weekends.

Remember that the whole point of making a New Year's Resolution is to become a healthier, happier and more successful person. Small changes done consistently will make a big difference.



► Ernest Ebanks

3. I will help boatloads of new clients drop hundreds of unwanted pounds in 2020. At this time every year I am flooded with new, motivated clients who are ready to change their lives. Starting in January and right through December, I will see these amazing people face their fears, dig in with determination and accomplish great things.

That's why I love what I do so much.

Hundreds upon hundreds of pounds will be lost under my watch this year.

4. Every single new client that sticks with my program in 2020 will lose the weight. There are no maybes when it comes to me and weight loss. It's what I do, and I do it well.

When a new client comes in to share their goals, I put together a plan to make those goals a reality. Sure, you have to follow the plan, show up for workouts and change how you eat.

And the results are all yours.

5. When you join my program your success is guaranteed. You will no longer be among the 92% who will let go of their fitness goal around February 1st. You'll be in an elite group who put their money where their mouth is.

My clients meet their goals - the only question for you is what are you waiting for?

I predict that 2020 will be an amazing year. Come prove me right :)

Call Ernest at Body Shapers Fitness 325-8696 or email me today at bodysaperscayman@gmail.com to get a jumpstart on your best year yet.

PLANT BASED PROTEINS - GREAT ALTERNATIVE

Plant based protein has been given an unfairly bad rap. The major complaint is that it's not sufficient in protein content. Not only is this misconception totally untrue, plant protein provides amazing health benefits. No matter the type of diet that you follow, **PROTEIN IS ESSENTIAL TO YOUR HEALTH.** Protein is a constituent of every cell in your body. Your body uses protein to build muscles, repair tissues, and produce enzymes and hormones. So, what are the benefits of PLANT PROTEIN?

Proteins are made up of amino acids and there are 20 of them. The body is able to create 11 of them, and the other 9 known as, "essential amino acids," come from your diet. A complete protein must contain all of these 9.

SPROUT BASED - According to Maggie Berghoff, MAN, NFP, "when you do so prior to eating whether it's nuts, grains, seeds or beans, the process makes it easier for your to digest and absorb. We want to make the foo as easy as possible for the body to identify, break down and use as fuel. Plant based protein is excellent for these purposes."

PEA PROTEIN IS A GREAT SOURCE OF IRON - Red meat is currently the top source of protein in the American

diet. One serving of pea protein powder provided 35% of your daily DV. In comparison animal based protein provides 0% iron for you.

NUT PROTEIN LOADED WITH HEALTHY FATS - There's no better source of your daily intake of healthy fats than nut butters. "They are not only a super healthy way to add healthy fats to your diet - which balance hormones, control sugar levels, and maintain proper appetite, they are also easily digested by the body," says Maggie Berghoff.

KEEPS YOU FULLER LONGER - This is ideal for today's busy routine - Have you ever noticed how relatively quickly you feel hungry after consuming animal protein? I have had those experiences because I never gave this type of protein any credence. A Food and Nutrition study found that when young men consumed plant-based protein from legumes, they consumed 12% less calories in their next meal. Amazing! Experts believe that the high fiber content of the plant protein is responsible for this.

Dr. Steven Gundry, renowned Cardiologist says, "It's wise to substitute animal protein with plant based at least 3 times a week."



WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
81° / 78°	81° / 77°	79° / 75°	79° / 77°	80° / 79°	79° / 78°	79° / 77°
Partly sunny and delightful	Mostly sunny and delightful	Partly sunny and breezy	Breezy in the a.m.; some sun	Sunshine and beautiful	Mostly sunny	Windy; a shower in the a.m.

MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION



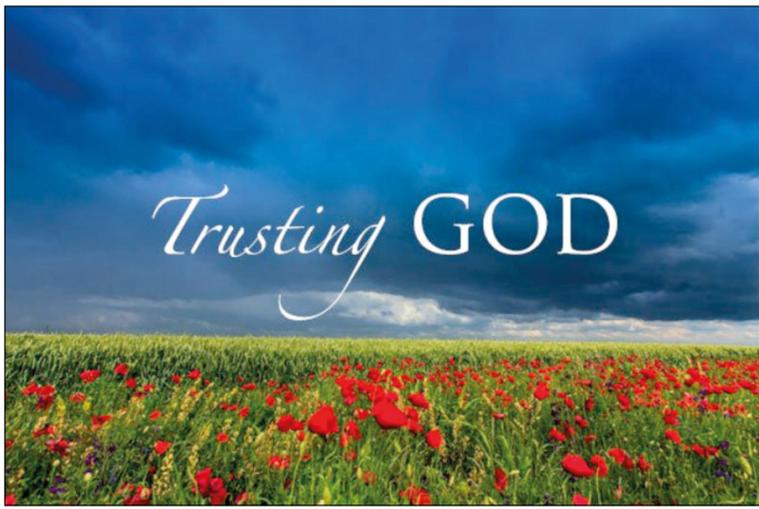
LETTING GO IN THE NEW YEAR- Hebrews 11:17

What greater example of faith can we find in scripture than Abraham being called upon to offer up his Isaac? Just imagine you are asked to sacrifice your only son. It's hard to fathom because we hold our children dear to ourselves. Yet, when Abe was tested he willingly obeyed.

Remember he and Sarah prayed for this child. God sent them Isaac in their old age. Hmm! So, being the man of obedience he was, Abe was

willing to let Isaac go. In contrast how many times have God asked us to let go of and sacrifice our wants and desires for Him, and we just won't let go.

God Himself showed His great willingness to sacrifice His only begotten Son for our redemption. So, God calls us to be willing to make sacrifices when He desires. In this New Year, whatever God wants you to sacrifice to get closer to Him, **JUST LET GO!**



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OBITUARIES

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Juan Antonio Casero, who passed away on Sunday, January 12, 2020. Details of a Thanksgiving Service will be announced at a later date.

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Michael Ambrose Hyde, who passed away on Sunday, January 19, 2020. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Kings Seventh Day Adventist Church, 209 Walkers Road, George Town, Grand Cayman on Sunday, February 02, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Viewing: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Kings Seventh Day Adventist Church. Interment at: Prospect Cemetery

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

The Family of the Late **Frank Alexander Gendron** regret to announce his passing on Monday, 27 January, 2020.

A viewing will held from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Friday, 31 January, 2020 at Bodden Funeral Service, 117 Walkers Rd.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Cayman Heart Fund.

Bodden Funeral
"A source of comfort in a troubled time"

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Uriah George Munroe, who passed away on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Savannah SDA Church, Savannah, Grand Cayman on Sunday, February 2, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Viewing: 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Interment at: Prospect Cemetery

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mrs. Jewel Verbena Forbes, who passed away on Monday, January 20, 2020. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at North Side Civic Center, North Side, Grand Cayman on Sunday February 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Viewing: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Interment: North Side Cemetery

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mrs. Barbara Reid-Seymour, who passed away on Thursday, January 16, 2020. Details of a Thanksgiving Service will be announced at a later date.

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mrs. Cecille Robinson, who passed away on Saturday, January 25, 2020. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at New Testament Church of God, North Sound Road, George Town, Grand Cayman on Saturday, February 01, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Viewing: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Interment at: Prospect Cemetery

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Ms. Susan Smith- Stoenica who passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2019. A Service to Celebrate the life of Ms. Susan Smith-Stoenica will be held at South Sound Community Center, George Town, Grand Cayman on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Saryah Natalia Jelysa Stafford (Infant), who passed away on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. The late Saryah Natalia Jelysa Stafford will be repatriated to Trinidad & Tobago.

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service for the Late Woodrow Pressler Whittaker 12 November 1944 - 16 January 2020

Invaside Service: Prospect Cemetery George Town, Grand Cayman February 2, 2020

Officiant: Dr. Wilton S. Macdonald

Full Burials:
Rodney Whittaker Rohan Mattocks
Mike Chapman Dave Connolly
Michael Crooks Lennox Seymour

Survivor: Nancy Watler

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE — WEEK — FEBRUARY 2 - 8



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Disney Magic	Rhapsody of the Seas	Independence of the Seas	Carnival Freedom	Celebrity Edge	Norwegian Bliss
	Sky Princess	Norwegian Dawn	Carnival Horizon	MSC Armonia	Carnival Legend	Veendam
	Aurora	MSC Seaside	Norwegian Breakaway	Carnival Sunrise		
	Carnival Paradise	Disney Fantasy	Zuiderdam			
	Berlin		Marella Discovery 2			
Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers
0	10,332	13,075	17,269	8,497	5,042	5,623

LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

Feeling afraid, trapped or silenced through physical, financial or emotional abuse is control...**not love.**

The Cayman Islands Crisis Centre offers services to help victims of domestic violence.

24 Hour Crisis Line - 943-2422

24/7 Safe Shelter - safe house for women and their children

Estella's Place - walk-in centre for all victims of domestic abuse

Aftercare Programme - for victims after leaving the shelter

If you are a victim of domestic violence, contact us now and find out how we can help.



CICC.ky
949 0366
info@cicc.ky



GLOBAL NEWS BRIEFS

Chinese in Canada racially abused

Chinese people in Canada are experiencing racism over fears that they are carrying the deadly coronavirus.

When Toronto resident Terri Chu tweeted that she and other Chinese mothers feared the "inevitable wave of racism" that would accompany the spread of coronavirus around the world, she didn't realize how visceral the reactions would be.

"My Twitter has just exploded with vitriol since this morning," she said. "But it's just par for the course, growing up as a minority when you're not part of a dominant class."

Canada has so far seen three confirmed cases of the virus, which originated in China, but members of the country's Chinese community have already become the target of racism.

The country saw a similar wave of xenophobia during 2003 Sars outbreak, which also started in China.

During that panic, many Chinese-run businesses in Canada took steep losses as fear overrode public health advice. Toronto lost hundreds of millions of dollars as residents and tourists avoided the city, especially areas with



► Chinese residents in Canada are being racially targeted

a high concentration of Chinese businesses.

The irrational public worry that paralyzed much of the city seems to be returning, said Amy Go, the interim president of the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice.

"I was hopeful it wasn't going to be like 2003. But it's is. It's happening now and it's just going to be amplified by social media."

When a popular Toronto blog, reviewed a new Chinese restaurant on Instagram on Monday, the post quickly received a torrent of racist comments.

And nearly 9,000 parents in the York school district - an area north of Toronto - signed a petition demanding students who had travelled to China in the last 17 days be prevented from attending school. 🌐

Filipinos no longer fear volcano

The Philippines has lowered the alert level at Taal Volcano, two weeks after it began spewing ash, steam and rocks, in a move that could allow many of the 376,000 villagers displaced by its activity to return home.

A popular tourist destination just south of Manila because of its picturesque setting in the middle of a lake, Taal erupted on Jan. 12. It caused no known deaths but delivered a crisis for one of the world's most disaster-prone nations.

"Taal volcano's condition in the two weeks has generally declined into less frequent volcanic earthquake activity, decelerated ground deformation and weak steam and gas emissions at the main crater," the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

The government's agency lowered the alert level from 4 to 3, which means there is a "decreased tendency toward a hazardous eruption." The highest, level-5, alert indicates a major, much more dangerous, eruption.



► Taal Volcano is quiet, for now

The agency also reduced to half the danger zone where residents must be evacuated, from the 14-kilometre (8.7-mile) radius around the volcano. Taal last erupted 43 years ago.

Mayor Daniel Reyes of Agoncillo, a town along the western shores of Taal Lake overlooking the island where the volcano lies, said he was relieved but remained concerned. Residents of Agoncillo and nearby Lemery could still not return home because of the towns' proximity to the volcano.

"It's somehow a relief but we're still under a total lockdown," Reyes said, adding all the 44,000 villagers of his town will remain in evacuation centres. 🌐

Honduran migrants returned from Mexico

The number of migrants returned to Honduras by various means from Mexico and Guatemala this year already exceeds 5,000, the National Institute of Migration reported. Countries where the Honduran migrants are passing through are no longer tolerating the people caravans.

The coordinator of the delegations, Victor Vega, explained that every day up to four airplanes of the Federal Police of that country arrive from Mexico with more than 200 Hondurans each.

By land, almost eight buses arrive daily through the customs office in Corinto, from Mexico and Guatemala, added the official.

The institution has been working on the return of Hondurans since January 15, when the first migrant caravan left this year, and the returns "have been permanent", he added.



► Honduran migrants are finding it harder to reach the US

Thousands of Hondurans see migration as an escape from the situation in the country, but face enormous dangers on their long journey to the United States and the risk of being deported before they achieve the so-called 'American dream.'

Poverty, violence generated by gangs and criminal groups, unemployment and difficult access to basic services are the main factors that drive thousands of Hondurans to leave their country in search of new opportunities for survival. 🌐

Cuba is most sustainably developed country in the world

Cuba was recently found to be the most sustainably developed country in the world, according to the Sustainable Development Index.

The index gives countries a human development score by looking at statistics on life expectancy, health and education, by its "ecological overshoot," the extent to which the per capita carbon footprint exceeds Earth's natural limits.

Cuba has warned that some of the effects of climate change are irreversible,

calling for further global action to prevent an environmental catastrophe.

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla said that 2019 was the second warmest year on record according to World Meteorological Organisation data.

This followed 2016 being ranked as the warmest year showing a rising trend which he explained was due to "record levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, endangering life on the planet." 🌐



► Cuba is addressing eco issues

Venezuela tries to sell its oil shares

Facing economic collapse and painful sanctions, the socialist government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has proposed giving majority shares and control of its oil industry to big international corporations, a move that would forsake decades of state monopoly.

Maduro's representatives have held talks with Russia's Rosneft PJSC, Repsol SA of Spain and Italy's Eni SpA. The idea is to allow them to take over government-controlled oil properties and restructure some debt of state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA in exchange for assets.

The proposal, which could offer a boost to the country's disintegrating oil industry, is in early stages and faces major obstacles. Venezuelan laws would have to be changed, there is disagreement over how to finance the operations, and Washington's sanctions bar any US companies from doing business with the Maduro regime without a waiver. The sanctions have also discouraged non-US firms from investing in Venezuela.



► Venezuela is prepared to sell shares of its oil industry

Once an admired state-dominated company producing 3.5 million barrels per day, PDVSA is pumping at a record-low of 700,000, despite sitting on the world's largest known reserves. Its finances are in tatters: The central bank's hard-currency reserves have plunged to the lowest in three decades while the government's cash holdings total less than \$1 billion.

For the US Treasury to change its policy would almost certainly require sign-off from opposition leader Juan Guaido, who is backed by Washington over Maduro and is the leader of the National Assembly, where laws are passed. 🌐

No one accepts blame for UK's deadliest fire

The Grenfell Tower fire disaster in 2017 killed 72 mostly black and Muslim people in the UK yet none of the companies involved in the refurbishment of the block of apartments has accepted responsibility.

Richard Millett QC, the inquiry's chief lawyer, said each claimed what happened was "someone else's fault". Experts have previously said the work failed to meet building regulations.

The second phase of the investigation into the disaster at the London high-rise block started last week.

It is going to look at how the building came to be covered in flammable cladding during its refurbishment.

Millett said that, with the "sole exception" of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea - which accepted that the refurbishment work should



► Grenfell Tower saw 72 killed in a huge fire

not have been signed off - all organisations had denied responsibility in "carefully crafted statements".

The tower, built in 1974, was extensively refurbished between 2012 and 2016. Perception is that the deadly cladding was only put there for cosmetic reasons to appease rich residents opposite. 🌐

Sack kings 49ers target Mahomes

The San Francisco 49ers take on the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl 54, the biggest event in American sports, on Sunday in Miami. The Chiefs are the betting favourites, but this game has often produced upsets.

This is familiar territory for the once-dominant 49ers, but it is the first time the Chiefs have reached the NFL's championship game since 1970.

The 49ers won each of their first five Super Bowls between 1981 and 1994 but they have reached the big game just once since, quarterback Colin Kaepernick leading them to Super Bowl 47, where losing 34-31 to the Baltimore Ravens.

Now San Francisco have finally found a successor to Kaepernick at QB, with Jimmy Garoppolo leading the Niners to their seventh Super Bowl in his first full season as a starter.

They booked their trip to Florida by beating the Green Bay Packers 37-20 in the NFC Championship game, while the

Chiefs claimed the AFC title with a 35-24 win over the Tennessee Titans.

Kansas City went one step further than last year, when despite being led by the season's MVP Patrick Mahomes, they were denied a long-awaited return to the Super Bowl by Tom Brady's New England Patriots who beat the LA Rams in the big game.

The Patriots suffered a surprise exit in the play-offs, possibly heralding Brady's demise.

Garoppolo was being groomed to succeed Brady, now 42, before being traded to the 49ers in 2017 and the 28-year-old could be on the cusp of bringing the glory days back to the Bay City.

But if the Chiefs lift the Lombardi Trophy in Miami then Mahomes will become the first quarterback to win the Super Bowl and the MVP award before turning 25.

Pop stars Shakira and Jennifer Lopez are headlining this year's half-time show, which is the first to be produced



► Jimmy Garoppolo has proven himself for the 49ers

by Roc Nation, an entertainment company founded by Jay-Z.

The NFL is seeking to rebuild its image after a public backlash over the treatment of Kaepernick, who started kneeling during pre-game renditions of the US national anthem, as a sign of protest against racial injustice.

He opted out of his 49ers contract in March 2017 and has not played in the NFL since. Last February the 32-year-old reached a settlement with the NFL over a 'collusion' case against team owners.

The 49ers haven't faced a quarterback like Mahomes yet this season. He can launch the ball nearly the length of the field with ease, and his eyes can be deceiving as he throws befuddling no-look passes.

But the Chiefs also haven't faced a defence like the relentless 49ers. Defensive coordinator Robert Saleh and his

crew are capable of wreaking havoc on Mahomes.

Led by Nick Bosa, Arik Armstead, DeForest Buckner, Dee Ford and even more, the 49ers finished the regular season tied for fifth in the NFL with 48 sacks. In just two postseason games, they lead all playoff teams with nine more sacks. And that historically bodes well for their hopes of hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

San Francisco sacked Minnesota Vikings QB Kirk Cousins six times in the divisional round, and then took down Aaron Rodgers three more times against the Packers. But getting slippery Mahomes to the ground is difficult. He was sacked only 17 times in 14 regular-season games. The Chiefs have only given up two sacks to their star in two playoff games.

Sunday won't be easy for the 49ers' defence, but history is on their side. 🌐



► Kansas City Chiefs are still the betting favourites

Sunshine Girls rise again

Jamaica's Sunshine Girls missed out on the Vitality Nations Cup title, suffering a 67-56 defeat to world champions New Zealand in Sunday's final at Copper Box Arena in London but at least they redeemed themselves at world level.

Jamaica pressed the Silver Ferns early on but could not sustain the intensity and saw their challenge fizzle out.

Head coach Connie Francis said Jamaica "raised the bar" with their performance. "I have heaps of positives from this game. It was important for

our girls to leave everything on the court," she said.

"There were some questionable calls — I would have loved to see some more consistency — but that's behind us now.

"We did make some unforced errors which were really costly but I'm really proud of the effort of all our girls. I thought they really raised the bar in our netball."

Jamaica had suffered a 26-point thrashing to New Zealand in their preliminary round meeting, but they ensured there was no such dominance this time. 🌐



► Jamaica's Sunshine Girls regained their pride

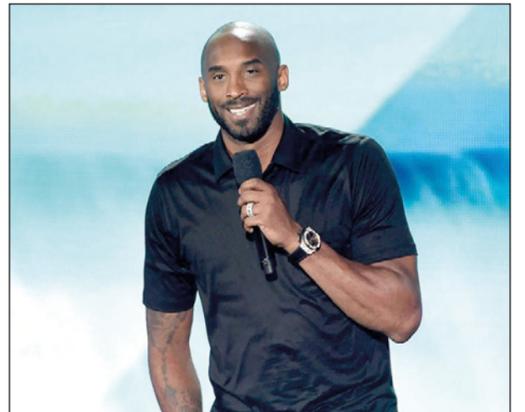
Kobe was heading for billionaire status

As Kobe Bryant's untimely death in a helicopter crash on Sunday along with his daughter Gianna and seven others continues to be mourned, his legacy for the LA Lakers including five NBA titles, will remain in perpetuity.

The widespread grief is now coupled with intrigue on the fabulous business acumen the 41-year-old icon had, leaving a fortune of over \$600 million.

Bryant's wide-ranging business success made him one of the wealthiest athletes on the planet. His career on-court earnings rank second-most all-time, and he had endorsed more than 20 brands since he entered the NBA, including Nike, McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Mercedes-Benz and Hublot.

He ploughed his earnings into many business ventures, including the emerging sports drink BodyArmor and small start-ups like Art of Sport and House-Canary. Months after his retirement in 2016, Bryant unveiled his \$100 million



► Kobe Bryant was a brilliant entrepreneur too

venture-capital fund, in a partnership with entrepreneur Jeff Stibel, to invest in media, technology and data businesses. Stibel told CNBC in September that their firm had 18 current investments. Fellow superstar athletes Peyton Manning and Steph Curry were also investors.

Bryant also published his own young adult books and became the first pro athlete to win an Academy Award, in 2018 for his animated short film 'Dear Basketball'. 🌐

Biles: I'm quitting gymnastics – possibly

Simone Biles, the greatest female gymnast ever is only 23 but she envisions this being her final calendar year as a competitive gymnast. Probably.

Biles is in Indiana this week from her Montgomery County home for a USA Gymnastics monthly training camp along with a dozen other members of the women's national team aiming on the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Team members will gather a month from now for a more critical camp to determine international assignments for the run-up to the national championships in Fort Worth in early June and the Olympic Trials on June 25-28 in St Louis.

Biles is likely to draw at least one international assignment, the April 4-5 International Gymnastics Federation World Cup at the Olympic venue in Tokyo.

But after that stretch, culminating in barring a huge upset will be a clutch of medals at the Olympics, Biles who has spent her life in the gym will contemplate the rest of her life doing something else.

"I'm not going to count anything out, but as of now, I feel like it is (her final year in competitive gymnastics)," Biles said.

"I've always been happy and pleased with all my performances and all my meets, and I feel now if that continues

I can walk out of the sport and say I did the best I could and I'm happy where I'm at and I'm in a good place to stop because so far, I've done everything I've wanted to do."

Nothing, of course, is certain, despite Biles' unprecedented run of success that includes six national all-around championships, five all-around world titles and four gold medals from the 2016 Olympics.

In that vein, she arrived in Indianapolis still recovering from an injury to her left ankle, suffered Nov. 1, that required her to take eight weeks off from some portions of her 32-hour weekly training regimen.

"It was on floor," Biles said, laughing at the fact that she had a bad landing on the event that has been her primary showcase, including a landmark triple-twisting double somersault that is now named for her in gymnastics' scoring system for women.

"It was a little mishap, but it's doing pretty good. It's almost back to 100 percent," she said. Outside the gym, Biles has cut back on sponsor-related activities to focus on training.

Biles has been among the most noteworthy critics of USA Gymnastics' past failures stemming from the Larry Nas-



► Simone Biles in contemplating retiring at 23

sar sexual abuse scandal, which forced the federation into Chapter 11 bankruptcy as it works to settle millions of dollars in lawsuits by former athletes abused by Nassar.

She is more conciliatory, however, toward the group's efforts under its current CEO, Li Li Leung.

"It's definitely going in the right direction," she said. "There's always more you

can do as a company and as an organisation. So far, they're taking all the right steps. I can't say they're not trying.

"When it comes to athletes' safety, they've taken all the better precautions, and they're doing a better job."

Biles' calendar is full through the end of the year with the Olympics and a 35-city post-Olympic tour. The future, however, is misty. 🌐

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 29 Yuletide seasoning
 30 Letter after theta
 31 Make a choice
 32 Yuletide drink
 34 Long stories
 37 Graff of "Mr. Belvedere"

DOWN

- 1 Talk incessantly about
 2 Mean
 3 Adhere
 4 "Citizen —"
 5 Christmas mo.
 6 Building wing
 7 Change over time
 8 Views anew
 9 Malia's sister
 11 Hardens
 15 Dickens miser
 19 Defeat
 20 Wallet bill
 22 Medicine amount
 23 Workout site
 24 Late meal
 25 Apparel
 26 Feeling friendless
 27 Makes amends
 28 Wise men
 29 Yuletide
 30 Snow house
 33 Main idea
 35 Swindle
 36 Take a load off



Saturday's answer

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

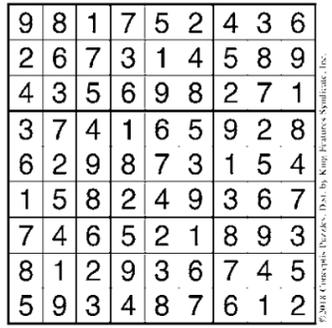
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/04

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Word Search

- Ballista
- Battleaxe
- Blowpipe
- Catapult
- Claymore
- Cudgel
- Cutlass
- Dirk
- Fusil
- Javelin
- Lance
- Longbow
- Mace
- Musket
- Partisan
- Pike
- Poniard
- Rapier
- Scimitar
- Sling
- Spear

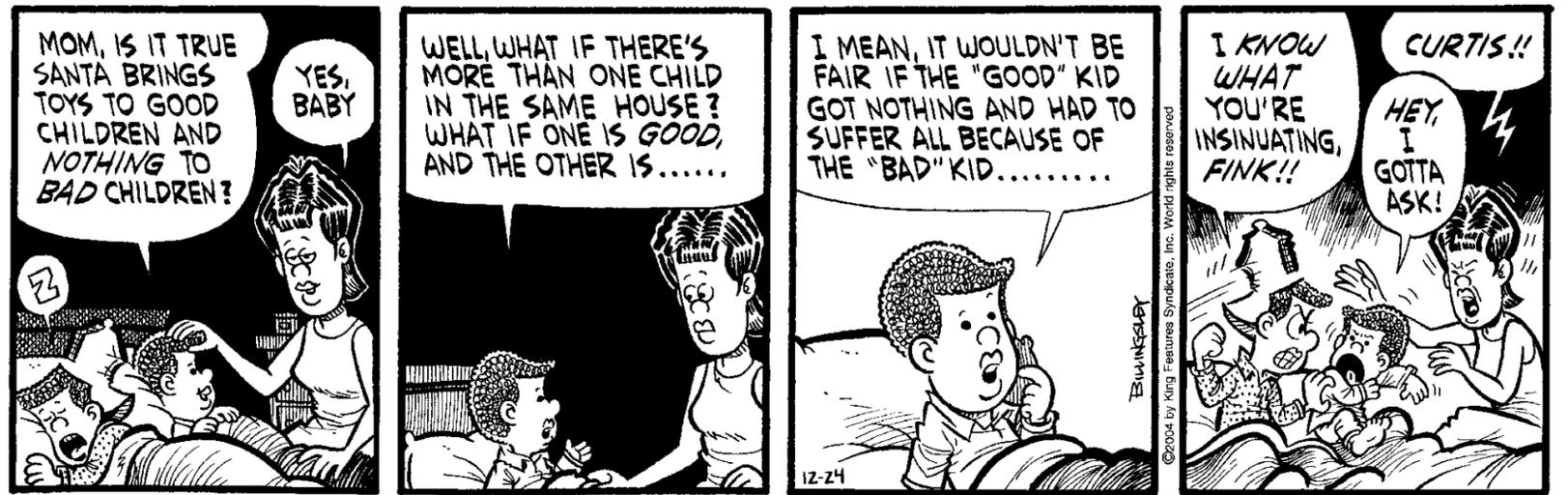


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.



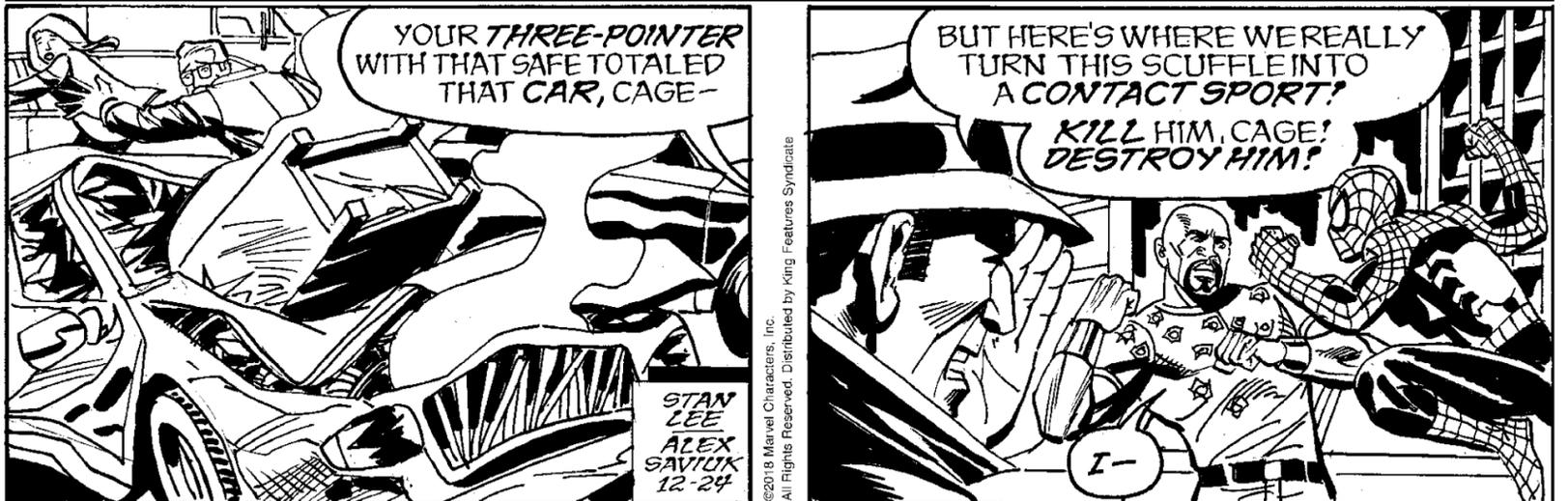
CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



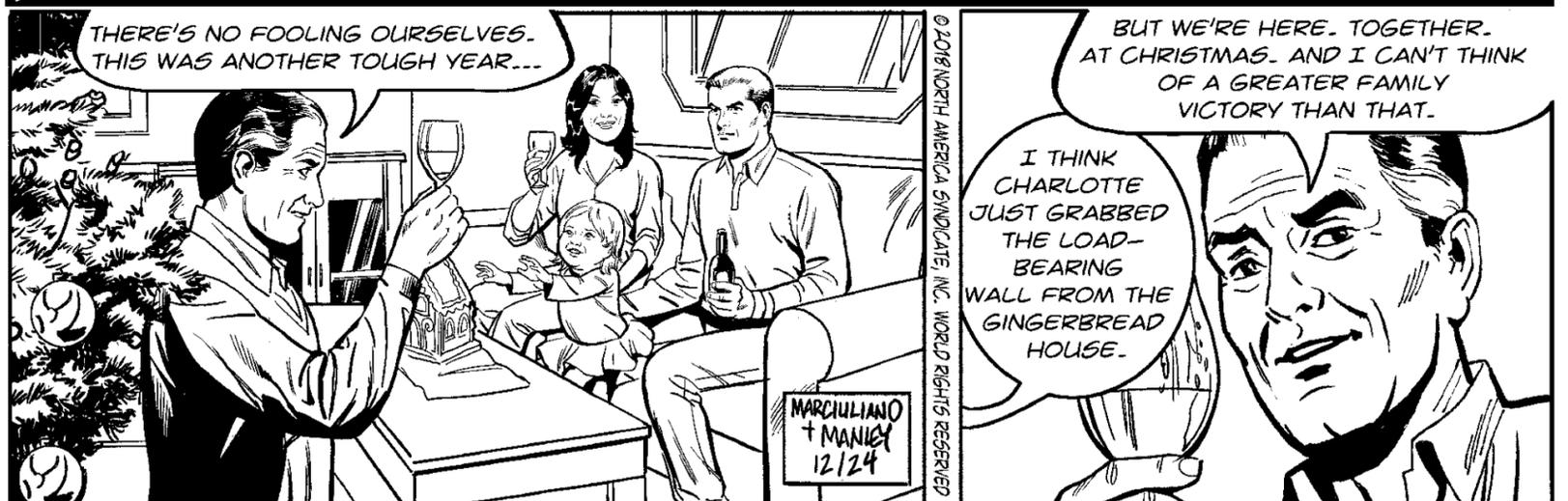
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



JUDGE PARKER

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