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Caribbean Airport of the Year



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Hazard Management in Control

By Christopher Tobutt



► (L-r) Hazard Management's Danielle Coleman, Teresita Ebanks, and Simon Boxall show where it all happens

On Wednesday 29 January, after an official announcement regarding Tuesday's 7.7 magnitude earthquake, media representatives were invited on a tour of the heart of operations: the Hazard Management Centre, on the 4th Floor of the Government Administration Building.

Hazard Management Director Danielle Coleman said that the teams were divided up into 'Teams' and 'Clusters.' "We activated about five or six Emergency Support Teams," she said. All relevant government agencies are continuing to monitor the situation, and provide feedback to the Centre.

Next, Ms Coleman gave out some useful tips what to do in an earthquake: "If you feel a very strong earthquake make

... Continued story on page A4

CORONAVIRUS A GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

By Michael Jarvis, London UK

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Thursday upgraded the coronavirus outbreak to a global public health emergency.

To date, the flu-like virus has infected more than 7,000 people across the world.

The disease had claimed 170 lives up to Thursday with all of the fatalities reported in China.

The WHO was quick to praise China for its ongoing efforts to combat the virus including an unprecedented quarantine program in which several cities have been placed on lockdown.

... Continued story on page A7



Caymanian Times

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EDITORIAL



Shaken but not stirred

Tuesday's 7.7 magnitude shook all of us, an earthquake of such strength that we hope we will never experience again. The success of how a country deals with the aftermath of a terrible event of such magnitude depends largely on the swift and robust response of the people entrusted in the management of such a hazard in the immediate hours afterwards. These are the people who risk their own safety to ensure the safety and security of others. So, it is with deep gratitude that we must thank our first responders, our law and order enforcement and our Hazard Management teams, all of whom jumped into action once the first tremors had subsided, providing communications, managing our roads, monitoring any tsunami threat and keeping the public safe.

Hazard Management has put in solid systems of communication to reach out to the public via social media and their website, to inform of what has take place and to give advisories with regard to further threats such as a tsunami. For those who prefer a more

old-fashioned means of communication, the radio stations also provide a steady stream of updates and Hazard Management also used that medium to send out notifications via its new radio interruption service. We urge readers to download the new Hazard Management App that is soon to be available, giving constant up-to-date information on the situation. We also urge the public not to spread information via social media that has not been properly verified and that which has not been issued by Hazard Management. It is unhelpful to spread gossip and rumour in a volatile and frightening situation, especially when our most vulnerable members of society can be impacted. Instead, please do all you can to avail yourself of the facts from official sources and have a plan in place so you know exactly where to evacuate, should a tsunami warning be issued or should your home be impacted. Aftershocks are inevitable after an earthquake of such magnitude, so we hope that all residents will remain vigilant and safe in the coming weeks. 🌐

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Statement from National Roads Authority

The National Roads Authority is currently working with the Royal Cayman Police Service and the various utility providers to assess and remediate damages caused by the earthquake on Tuesday, January 28.

Initial assessments indicate the appearance of sinkholes in a number of areas. NRA is currently conducting repairs at the following locations:

- South Sound Road, near the jetty;
- Oakmill Street;
- Norbrook Street;
- Northside along Rum Point Drive;
- West Bay Cemetery Beach; and
- Invicta Drive.

Members of the public are urged to contact NRA's hotline at **525-1251**; other numbers at 623-7800; 946-7780 or email nra@nra.ky to report sinkholes in public roads. 🌐



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CIGTV GUIDE



FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 28 - 31

Tuesday, 4 February

- 12:00 AM Sunrise Adult Training Centre The Lion King
- 1:10 AM Miss Lassie Painting Conservation
- 1:20 AM Miss Lassie Architectural Conservation and Restoration
- 1:30 AM Miss Lassie Vision and History
- 1:35 AM Miss Lassie CNFC Board Perspective
- 1:40 AM DEH - Antimicrobial and the Environment
- 1:50 AM Ecosystem Services with Lauren Dombrowsk
- 2:00 AM News Update
- 2:20 AM Cruise Berthing and Cargo Facility Press Conference
- 3:30 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 4:00 AM Sunrise Adult Training Centre The Lion King
- 5:10 AM Miss Lassie Painting Conservation
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- 6:20 AM Cruise Berthing and Cargo Facility Press Conference
- 7:30 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 8:00 AM Healthcare Conference September 26 2019
- 10:00 AM News Update
- 10:25 AM Healthcare Conference Dr. Lewis Warrington
- 11:20 AM Healthcare Conference Dr. Jason Markle
- 12:00 PM Healthcare Conference Dr. Erick Gryzbowski
- 12:45 PM News Update
- 1:05 PM Healthcare Conference Nasolo Thompson
- 1:45 PM NICE Project An Overview of the Winter 2018 Initiative
- 1:55 PM Healthcare Conference Dr. Kerry A. Rood
- 2:50 PM Healthcare Conference Dr. Ravi Kishore
- 3:35 PM News Update
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- 6:20 PM Cruise Berthing and Cargo Facility Press Conference
- 7:30 PM Healthcare Conference Carole Appleyard
- 8:00 PM Healthcare Conference Dr. Troy A. Gatzcliffe
- 8:40 PM News Update
- 9:00 PM Healthcare Conference Professor Virginia Murray
- 9:50 PM Cruise Berthing and Cargo Facility PB July 29 2019
- 11:00 PM Special Commemorative Town Hall Ceremony

Wednesday, 5 February

- 12:00 AM National Heroes Day Celebration
- 3:40 AM News Update
- 4:00 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 4:20 AM Rosa Harris In Davos
- 4:30 AM Her Story is Our History for Cinegy
- 5:00 AM Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease talk 27 May 201
- 6:00 AM News Update
- 6:20 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 6:40 AM Rosa Harris In Davos
- 6:50 AM Her Story is Our History for Cinegy
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- 8:00 PM National Heroes Day Celebration
- 11:40 PM News Update

Thursday, 6 February

- 12:00 AM Sunrise Adult Training Centre The Lion King
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- 8:40 PM News Update
- 9:00 PM Healthcare Conference Professor Virginia Murray
- 9:50 PM Cruise Berthing and Cargo Facility PB July 29 2019
- 11:00 PM Special Commemorative Town Hall Ceremony

Friday, 7 February

- 12:00 AM National Heroes Day Celebration
- 3:40 AM News Update
- 4:00 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 4:20 AM Rosa Harris In Davos
- 4:30 AM Her Story is Our History for Cinegy
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Cayman Airport Voted Caribbean Airport of the Year

The Cayman Islands Airports Authority (CIAA), which owns and operates the Owen Roberts International Airport (ORIA) and the Charles Kirkconnell International Airport (CKIA), announced on Thursday that Owen Roberts International Airport has been awarded 'Caribbean Airport of the Year 2020' by Caribbean Journal.

Caribbean Journal is a global online leader in covering Caribbean travel and trade news with original content and video focusing on travel and tourism across the entire Caribbean Basin.

The 2020 Caribbean Travel Awards included winners across 21 categories and were selected by Caribbean Journal's editorial staff and its network of contributors. The editors at Caribbean Journal expressed, "It's been a spectacular year for Cayman Islands tourism so far this year, and that means thousands

of tourists who have been lucky enough to arrive in the brand-new terminal at Owen Roberts International Airport in Grand Cayman, which was officially opened by Princes Charles earlier this year. It's a major addition for the destination, with a clean, sleek interior, a stunning turtle-shell exterior and a terrifically run airport operation (and a terrific duty-free experience, too)."

"We are very honoured to have been recognized for the tremendous efforts put forth on bringing big improvements to our terminal, the service, operations and safety standards at our airports," said CIAA CEO Albert Anderson. "Owen Roberts International Airport now has the capacity to handle



2.5 million passengers per year in a new world-class facility – a huge undertaking that would not have been made possible

without the support and dedication of our employees and so many valuable airport partners." 

Caymanian Times

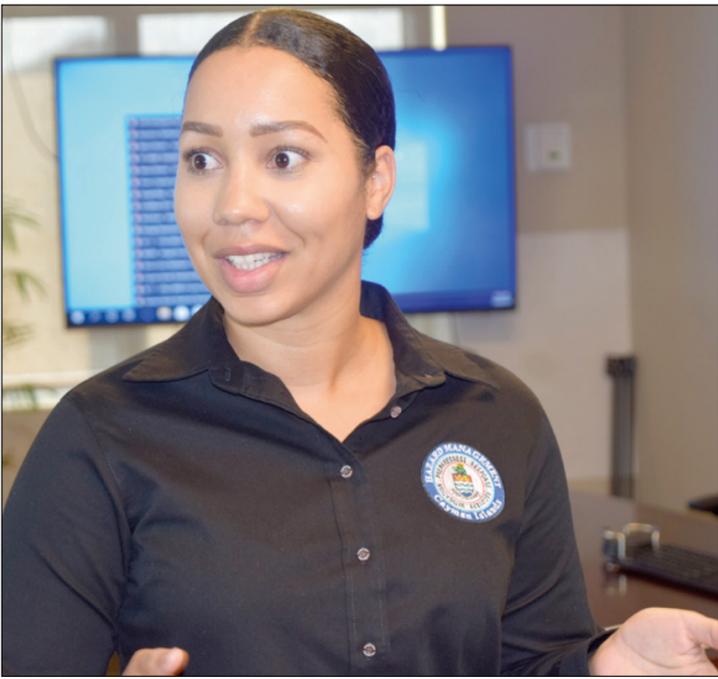
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► Teresita Ebanks



► Simon Boxall

Hazard Management in Control

... Continued story from page A1

sure you know as a family what to do about it. Duck, down, cover, and hold onto furniture. Sturdy benches and tables are good to go underneath for protection. If you are in your bed, stay in your bed, put your pillow over your head. If you are in a car, keep your seatbelt on because potentially you could be shaking around and knock your head, so keep your seatbelt on and park the car." It was also a good idea, if driving, to park your car at the side of the road, and then afterwards, drive with caution because there might be damage to the roads.

Ms Coleman reminded the public that Hazard Management is not a 24-hour service, although it would be called upon by 911, so it is always a good idea for people to be informed, and have a plan. "If it is at night then you can log on to verified Hazard Management Information so you can keep updated and don't share information that is not verified," she said.

It isn't always such a good idea to leave your building following an earthquake, because in the Cayman Islands that might make you more vulnerable to the effects of a Tsunami. Whether you left or not depended very much on whether or not you were in an area likely to be affected. Hazard Management's

Simon Boxall said: "We are very low lying and very coastal, so often when you feel a violent earthquake there is not always time for a warning to be issued by government. The response is according to your own location."

Preparedness and Planning Officer Teresita Ebanks described exactly what happened immediately after the earthquake was felt on Tuesday: "At 2:19 We issued a notice... of what precautions persons should take to preempt a Tsunami because at that point we could not confirm that a Tsunami was going to occur; but we wanted each person to be aware that there was a potential for one, given the magnitude of the earth-

quake. Then we gave regular updates every 20 or 30 minutes, letting persons know what was taking place. We also notified our shelter operations in the event that we did need shelters and we notified the Red Cross and they opened their shelters. Ms Ebanks praised all the agencies who had responded so well: "The RCIPS cordoned off the sea coast that was identified (as a Tsunami-danger area) So the police were doing an amazing job in making sure that human life was a priority as well as by securing property...we are still telling people to be mindful especially in regard to sink-holes on the road, so it is good to be vigilant," she said.

Art Classes at Historic Site

An arts and craft workshop was hosted by Local Artist Kara Julian at the Na-

tional Trust's Mission House in Bodden Town on Saturday, 25th January.

The class focused on interpretive art pieces which can be incorporated into everyday life.

Using spiraled notebooks, Ms Julian taught the guests about how to mix the right colors and apply them to the canvas; in this case the front cover of the notebooks.

"We are working with acrylics and so the pieces are really practical art. You get to use them," she told the participants.

Art classes are usually held at the Mission House on the last Saturday of the month and have even included a special 'Tiny Desk' performance by the Swanky Kitchen Band; known for their unique style of traditional Caymanian Music.

More information on craft classes at the Mission House can be found on the Mission House's Facebook page, where persons can also book their spot/session.



► A mother and daughter team learn about interpretive acrylic art from Local Artist Kara Julian



► Arts and Craft Classes are taught on the last Saturday of the month at the Mission House Historic Site in Bodden Town



► Kara Julian teaches a class on interpretive art at the Mission House in Bodden Town

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Calling All Contestants! Are you an Ambassador?

The Miss Cayman Islands Universe committee is now inviting applications for the annual pageant. Ladies between the ages of 18-27 are eligible to enter the competition.

Committee Chairperson, Derri Dacres-Lee, said, "We are excited to start the recruitment drive and look forward to meeting talented, in-



telligent young ladies during this process. There are so many benefits in this journey, such as building self confidence, becoming a better public speaker, learning more about yourself and much more."

"Being part of this experience is also unique opportunity where you can be an ambassador for

our beautiful islands and let your voice be heard," added Ms. Dacres Lee. The committee thanks its corporate sponsors who continue to offer tremendous support - the Ministry & Department of Tourism, Cayman Airways, Hurley's Media, Radio Cayman and Surfer's Paradise.

Visit <http://www.missuniversecayman.com/> to download the application. Follow us Facebook @Miss Cayman Islands Universe and Instagram @officialmissuniversecayman.

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Ladies between the ages of 18-27 are eligible to enter.

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POLICE NEWS

Sinkhole in the Roadway of Watercourse Road in West Bay

Just before 2:30PM on Thursday, 30 January, police responded to a report of a sinkhole that appeared on Watercourse Road, between Eureka Drive and Hamlet Lane in West Bay. The sinkhole is along the roadway and officers on scene have marked out the area for motorists to be aware of it.

Motorists travelling along Watercourse road are being asked to proceed with

caution and to avoid the area if possible. The National Roads Authority have been informed and will be addressing the sinkhole in a timely manner.

The RCIPS would like to thank the public for their co-operation and would encourage anyone who comes across any other sinkholes or other disruption to the flow of traffic, to please inform 9-1-1.

CIFS Respond to a Vehicle Fire in Rum Point

The Cayman Islands Fire Service (CIFS) was in attendance at a vehicle fire in Sandpoint Road Rum Point. The vehicle was in a detached garage 12 metres away from any domestic dwelling. Crews were faced with a well-developed car fire as the garage door was opened prior to their arrival.

The fire was extinguished and fire investigations are underway, which confirmed the cap to the vehicle fuel tank was blown off during the fire. This incident is being treated as a routine fire and rescue 911 call.

CIFS have confirmed that no explosions occurred during the course of the fire despite initial public concerns.

HSA to host World Cancer Day public forum

On World Cancer Day, 4 February 2020, the Health Services Authority (HSA) will host a public forum exploring the current status of cancer in Cayman, more specifically at the HSA, and sharing actionable advice on how each person can play their part in the fight against cancer.

Taking place under the theme of 'Cancer in Cayman: Together we will fight', the event aims to inspire and encourage action from individuals, the health community, businesses and governments to improve public awareness and access to early detection, screening, diagnosis, treatment and promote research through the Cayman Islands Cancer Registry (CICR). It will be held at the Cayman Islands Hospital Hibiscus Conference Room at 5:30pm - 7pm. The HSA will also light up the Cayman Islands Hospital in lavender, the awareness colour for all cancers, to commemorate the annual observance.

HSA Oncologist-Haematologist Dr Lundie Richards said, "This World Cancer Day, we want people to know that many cancers can be managed effectively, especially if they're detected and treated as early as possible. But we all have a responsibility and need to play our part in order to reduce the burden that this disease has inflicted on our families, our country and our world."

"We also want cancer patients and survivors to be assured that their care is of priority to the healthcare organisations in the Cayman Islands by highlighting the collaborative and interdisciplinary approach we all take and identifying all the support options available on and off island," Dr Richards added. "At the HSA we strive to improve access to care and treatment locally. By building diagnostic capacity and maintaining a robust referral system we can overcome barriers to timely diagnosis and management."

The forum will feature presentations by cancer care experts of the Authority and a panel discussion and display booths of cancer support groups in the Cayman Islands including the Breast Cancer Foundation, Cayman Islands Cancer Society, Jasmine and Cancer Registry. It will also be a platform for patients, survivors and attendees to share

experience, concerns and ask questions. One CME credit will also be awarded to healthcare workers who attend.

Started by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), World Cancer Day's primary goal is to reduce significantly illness and death caused by cancer. It is also about reducing stigma, targeting misinformation and raising awareness about cancer. The local theme 'Cancer in Cayman: Together we will fight' stresses the importance of taking action at every level to reduce the impact of cancer.

"While the government and healthcare organisations take the necessary steps to increase cancer prevention efforts within our country, each individual and business should take preventative and supportive action as well," said Cancer Registrar Amanda Nicholson. "Businesses, for instance can reduce the exposure of their staff to occupational carcinogens in their working environment and individuals can adopt healthier lifestyle practices."

"Cancer survivors in Cayman also have the unique opportunity to make a difference by joining our national cancer registry," Ms Nicholson stated. "The Cayman Islands Cancer Registry (CICR) supports cancer prevention within the community by helping us understand how the disease impacts our population. When medical professionals and health officials understand basic cancer trends within Cayman, they can do much more in terms of cancer management and prevention. The registry is voluntary and completely confidential and all cancer survivors within the community are welcome to join. By sharing just a little bit of information about their diagnosis, they bring us closer to understanding what cancer trends look like in our country."

The latest data from the CICR shows nearly 500 people registered. The most commonly reported cancers are breast (37% of reported cases), colon (9% of reported cases), and cancers of the blood (7% of reported cases).

Anyone wishing to register may contact the Cancer Registrar, Amanda Nicholson, at (345) 244-2560 or at amanda.nicholson@hsa.ky. Registering is quick and confidential.



► HSA Oncologist-Haematologist Dr Lundie Richards will be the cancer event's main speaker

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I AM AND I WILL

World Cancer Day

Join us on 4 February

Cancer in Cayman: Together We Will Fight
 A World Cancer Day event

Presentation by Dr. Lundie Richards, HSA Oncologist & Haematologist

Panel discussion featuring partners from:
 Cayman Islands Cancer Registry
 Cayman Islands Cancer Society
 The Breast Cancer Foundation
 Jasmine

Tuesday 4 February
 Cayman Islands Hospital
 Hibiscus Conference Room
 5:30 - 7pm
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DCFS Relocates to New Central Location

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has relocated to new premises, at the heart of what is fast becoming a new civil service nexus in central George Town.

The 45 social workers, community development officers and support personnel, completed the move earlier this month to the 2nd floor of Apollo House East, on 87, Mary Street from their former offices.

"The move to another centrally-located premises is a success with zero-downtime," said DCFS Director Paulinda Mendoza-Williams.

"Not only is our new space recently refurbished, with staff all on one floor; it is better proportioned, giving us more meeting rooms, which allows for greater privacy when undertaking client conferences," she added.

According to Ministry of Community Affairs' Chief Officer, Ms Teresa Ech-

enique, the relocation allows the public enhanced access to a number of inter-related services in the adjacent building.

"DCFS and its partner agencies often share mutual clients, so having those entities in the adjacent building allows for referrals and holding case conferences much easier for all concerned," she explained. "The department is now part of a new human services hub, which will reduce the amount of downtime spent travelling between agencies to access services, thereby simplifying and enhancing the client experience," she concluded.

Other government agencies which have recently moved to neighbouring Apollo House West are the Department of Counselling Services (DCS), Family Resource Centre (FRC), Work Opportunities and Residency Cayman (WORC) and the Passport Office.



► The Department of Children and Family Services has relocated to the 2nd Floor, Apollo House East, 87, Mary Street in George Town (Photo by GIS)

CAYMANS REGIMENT TAKING SHAPE

The Cayman Islands continues to take important steps towards eventually having its own military regiment.

Reporting on the progress to date of the Cayman Islands Regiment, Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin says work to establish the new Cayman Islands Regiment is moving at a good pace.

Addressing the Legislative Assembly, he disclosed that "three part-time senior officers have been recruited who between them have over thirty-eight years of officer experience in the British Army and the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force."

The Regiment will be commanded by Simon Watson who was formerly a Dragoons Guard in the British Army.

He will be supported by Simon Spiers, who has served in a range of senior military roles, which included tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Andre Mon Desir, former Chairman of the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps Committee has been assigned as Legal Advisor to the new Regiment.

Mr Mon Desir came through the ranks of the Cadets' programme. He has experience as an officer with the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force as a Senior Legal Advisor and Staff Judge Advocate.

The new team will be assisted by a Regimental Sergeant Major, who has thirteen years' experience as a non-commissioned officer in the British Army including operational deployments, training and recruitment roles.

Premier McLaughlin also announced that the first six junior officers have also been recruited and are due to leave for Bermuda in mid-February to attend three weeks of initial training with the Royal Bermuda Regiment.

They will also attend officer training at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in the United Kingdom later this year.

Five of the six recruits are former members of the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps and the sixth recruit has former training experience with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service.

They will serve as full-time officers for a year before becoming reservists and returning to their regular careers.

The Junior Officers will be equipped and provided with uniforms by the United Kingdom Government during their basic training in Bermuda and upon their return to our islands they will assist the Senior Officers in the recruit-



► His Excellency The Governor Martyn Roper and the Honourable Premier Alden McLaughlin with Cayman Islands Regiment Officers

ment of fifty reservists who will all receive basic training in Bermuda in July.

"The development of this new regiment in the Cayman Islands is an important moment for us," the Premier told the Assembly.

"We are all very fortunate to live in a country that is safe and has excellent infrastructure but Mr Speaker as we have seen only this week with the earthquake and back in 2017 and 2019 the devastating hurricanes that hit our neighbours and friends so hard, not to mention Hurricane Ivan in 2004, we need to evolve and adapt to ensure we are ready to face any threat."

Premier McLaughlin emphasised that "having a trained and disciplined force in Cayman will have a positive impact on youth development and leadership in our Islands. It will also boost security and increase our resilience on disaster management and the support that we can offer across the wider Caribbean."

He went on to say: "This new Regiment along with the recently increased resilience of our air operations, the great work that our Hazard Management team does to prepare and coordinate disasters will help us to meet the needs of our Islands today and into the future."

The Premier was also keen to stress the nature and purpose of the new regiment.

"Mr Speaker, this is a Cayman Islands regiment. It is not some outpost of the British Army. It is locally based and overwhelmingly it will be made up of Caymanian recruits."

He also said that there's tremendous interest amongst young people who wish to join the regiment.

"Seventy people applied for those six posts," Mr Mcaughlin stated, adding that, "The interest has been incredible. We need experienced officers, so initially it is inevitable that they will be from overseas. However, the Regiment will provide a pathway to the best and brightest Caymanian recruits to become the officers of the future."

Premier McLaughlin noted that: "The Cayman Islands Regiment is another important symbol that we are maturing as a nation, ready to take responsibility for our own affairs and able to take our place in the world. It will be a symbol of pride for all Caymanians and it will be an organization that our young people can aspire to be a part of."

"I look forward to keeping this House and the country updated as we take the future steps to create the Cayman Islands Regiment."

Both Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin and His Excellency The Governor Martyn Roper and the Honourable Premier Alden McLaughlin have met the lead team who will spearhead the new regiment.

Governor Martyn Roper said: "I am delighted that we have moved quickly to establish the Regiment. Its primary focus will be disaster preparedness and it will be up and running by August this year."

"The events of this week underline the importance of developing a Regiment in the Cayman Islands which will provide

resilience against disasters, not only at home, but also to help our fellow Overseas Territories when in need."

The Governor said, "I am very grateful to Simon Watson and the other officers for stepping forward and volunteering to serve the Cayman Islands in this way."

"The junior officers will in turn receive some of the best military training available which will help to develop their leadership potential. We will watch their progress with keen interest."

Premier Alden McLaughlin commented: "The development of a regiment in the Cayman Islands is an important moment. We are blessed to live in a country which is safe and has excellent infrastructure but recent history, including this week's earthquake and the devastating hurricanes that impacted the region in 2017 and 2019, highlight the need to adapt and ensure that we are prepared and resilient to face any threat."

He said, "Having a trained and disciplined force which can be mobilised quickly is vital and will enhance the other initiatives which we have recently introduced including the increased resilience of our air operations unit and the excellent work that HMCI does to prepare and coordinate our response to disasters."

According to Mr McLaughlin, "It is great to see talent from the Cayman Islands Cadet Corp being developed with the excellent training they will receive, including at Sandhurst. I am grateful to Simon Watson and his team for volunteering and wish them every success."

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UK REASSURES OTs OVER BREXIT

By Michael Jarvis, London UK

With the United Kingdom now formally no longer a member of the European Union, the two top UK officials with portfolio responsibility for the Overseas Territories have set out to reassure and allay concerns about what this means for UK's far-flung global outposts.

The UK had previously committed in the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) to fill funding gaps where the OTs are no longer eligible to participate and benefit from EU-funded projects.

Now, a joint statement by the two top officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) responsible for the territories have set out to quell any anxieties which might arise, especially now that Brexit has moved from contentious concept to undeniable reality.

Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon (Minister for the Commonwealth, the UN and South Asia) and Christopher Pincher (Minister for Europe and the Americas) address issues of the OTs relationship with the UK.

These range from citizenship status to funding, trade, and travel, as they relate to individuals and businesses.

"As the United Kingdom Government's Ministers of State responsible for our Overseas Territories (OTs), a priority for us, and for the entire Government, has been to work closely with Territory leaders to identify the opportunities

and concerns in each OT associated with Brexit," the ministers stated.

"You will be aware of the recent General Election in the United Kingdom, the resulting new dynamics in the United Kingdom's Parliament and the decisive action of the Prime Minister to press ahead with Brexit.

"United Kingdom is set to leave the EU on 31 January with a deal – the Prime Minister's newly negotiated Withdrawal Agreement. The Withdrawal Agreement provides for an implementation period lasting until 31 December 2020, a time-limited period of transition before Brexit-related changes take place," Lord Ahmad and Mr Pincher explained.

RELATIONSHIP

To summarise – during the implementation period, your rights and those of your family members will not change, and neither will the relationship OT companies and NGOs have with the EU.

TRAVEL

Many of you may be thinking about how Brexit could affect your ability to travel or live abroad. Firstly, we would like to make clear that eligibility criteria for British passports of all types will not be affected by our departure from the EU.

Secondly, the rules on travelling to the EU will remain the same throughout the implementation period. This means British Citizen passport holders will be



► Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK Minister for the Commonwealth, the UN and South Asia

able to continue to live, work and study in the EU as they do now.

BOTC

The rights of British Overseas Territory Citizen (BOTC) passport holders – including 90-day visa-free access to the Schengen area in any 180 days – will also not change, either during the implementation period or afterwards.

FUNDING

We fully understand the importance of EU funding for a number of organisations in the Territories.

That is why the United Kingdom Government had agreed to cover EU-funded projects in the OTs under EDF, BEST, Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ if the EU were to cease payments. As part of the Prime Minister's deal, there is no longer any risk of this: projects in the OTs under these funding streams will continue to be covered by the EU for their duration.

BUSINESS

Businesses in the OTs exporting goods to the EU27 will continue to be able to export tariff and quota-free for the duration of the implementation period.

Tariff and quota-free access to the United Kingdom market for OT goods will continue indefinitely.

While post-2020 access to the EU27 market is a matter for the upcoming negotiations on the Future Partnership, the United Kingdom Government is ab-

solutely committed to seeking the best possible access for OT goods as part of our future relationship with the EU.

During these negotiations the United Kingdom Government will also work to ensure that any post-2020 mobility arrangements agreed with the EU consider the specific needs and requirements of the OTs.

In their joint statement addressing concerns which might arise in the OTs regarding Brexit, Lord Ahmad as Minister for the Commonwealth including the OTs, and Minister for the Americas, Christopher Pincher, declare that they "...want to both assure you and to leave you in no doubt that the United Kingdom is absolutely committed to the safety and prosperity of each of our British OTs."

"Brexit is no exception to this," they point out.

With the UK now entering into the critical trade negotiation stage with the EU, Ministers Ahmad and Pincher affirm: "As we head into the next phase of the negotiations and take up the opportunities afforded by our departure from the EU, including the ability to negotiate our own trade agreements around the world, the continuing priority for the United Kingdom Government is to ensure that the voices of our OTs are heard."

"And that your priorities inform our approach to the negotiations every step of the way," they conclude. 🌐

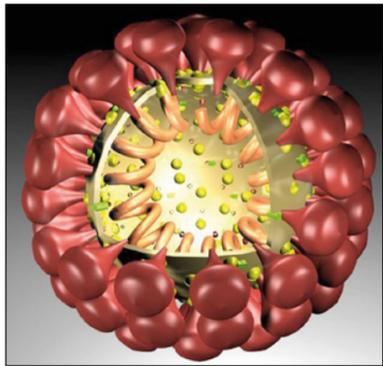


► Christopher Pincher, UK Minister for Europe and the Americas

WHO: CORONAVIRUS A GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

... Continued story from page A1

The United States recorded its first person-to-person transmission of the disease today.



While describing the outbreak as unprecedented, the WHO said it did not anticipate disruption to global trade and travel.

However, several countries have already intensified border controls with travellers from China subjected to health screenings upon arrival.

The UK and the US are among countries putting travellers from China into

a 14-day quarantine for observation - the period it takes for the virus to incubate.

Meanwhile, Russia has closed a 2,700-mile far-east border with China.

And, in a widely reported comment which has been roundly criticised, the US Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross, has been quoted as saying that the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus in China could "accelerate the return of jobs to North America."

CAYMAN ISLANDS

The government of the Cayman Islands has stepped up its coronavirus alert.

A travel advisory was issued on Thursday morning in which the Public Health Department announced that it was putting special screening procedures in place for persons coming from countries where the disease has been identified.

A statement from the department reads: "The potential for international dissemination of the virus via air travel is clear from the rise in cases reported in multiple countries.

"Public Health officials and the management of the Health Services Authority

wish to assure the public on their capability to manage any imported cases of the novel coronavirus and continue to activate national contingency plans as needed."

Members of the public are advised to take the necessary precautions to safeguard themselves and others.

Persons arriving should immediately seek medical attention and if they have

any symptoms of respiratory illness as well as informing of where they have travelled to recently.

There are no reported cases of coronavirus in the Cayman Islands.

The Health Services Authority is reassuring the public that it has the necessary procedures in place to cope with the disease and already putting precautionary measures in place. 🌐



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► Lawn games at Family Fun Day



► Cool Breeze boys and Dexter Bodden

BOTANIC PARK FUN DAY A DELIGHT FOR FAMILIES

Funds raised benefit completion of new Children's Garden

The Garden Club of Grand Cayman and the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park hosted more than eleven hundred visitors at the annual Family Fun Day on Sunday 26th January.

"Seeing new and familiar faces of all ages enjoying the Botanic Park was truly rewarding for all participants, volunteers and staff," said the park's General Manager John Lawrus.

Jae's Kitchen, Sam's Quality Jerk and Mise En Place provided food and drink throughout the day; a mini festival atmosphere was enjoyed by all," he added.

With 1,110 adults and children visiting the Family Fun Day on Sunday, Mr. Lawrus said it has once again demonstrated the event's popularity.

"This annual event could not have happened without the ongoing dedication and support of the Garden Club. We are truly grateful for their continued commitment, as well as the funds they donate from this fundraising event," commented Mr. Lawrus.

Garden Club member Jill Wood is the Club's Botanic Park Representative, she said the organization is pleased with the turnout. "I think it went really well, there were more people at this year's Fun Day, and we're pleased to note [that] just over CI\$2100 was raised from this year's Tombola alone," she said.

Over the past five years of hosting this event the Garden Club has raised close to \$30k, all of which Mrs. Wood says, will go toward the completion of the new Children's Garden. "We are tasked with funding the maze and the sensory garden that will be featured in the new space. We really want to thank everyone who has supported the Family Fun Day over the years," she added.

Attendees enjoyed activities including face painting and lawn games; the always popular arts and crafts station; a plant sale and displays by the Mosquito Research & Control Unit and The Department of Environment.

Inside the Rotary Schoolhouse, Garden Club members busied themselves teaching children the art of floral décor, how to plant seedlings and Silver Thatch plaiting. While at the Visitor's Centre, the Tombola prize drawing was a big hit.

A relaxing atmosphere was provided by local musicians, The Cool Breeze Boys, Dexter Bodden and Miss Izzy, but the highlight of the morning was the balloon twisting clown that brought magic and laughter to children, parents and grandparents alike.

"In addition to all the fun nature activities, staff from the MRCU and DOE allowed for our children to learn about the environment that surrounds them. As the Botanic Park continues to grow, we are hopeful that next year's event takes place within the entire Children's



► Magic tricks and clowning around on the lawn



► 2 arts and crafts table



► Scott Family enjoys the Tombola draw

Garden which is on target for completion within one year," said Mr. Lawrus.

Please email info@botanic-park.ky to learn how you, your company or organization can donate toward.

More about the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park

The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, an attraction managed by the Tourism Attraction Board, is open Monday to Sunday from 9:00AM to 4:30PM. Boasting over 62 acres of lush landscape, the Park is home to an abundance of wildlife including many of the islands' 56 species of butterfly, native birds, the Cayman Parrot and the endangered Cayman Blue Iguana. With multiple floral gardens, woodland trails, wetlands, a lake and over 60 species of palm trees, there is so much to do and see at the Botanic Park.

The Park which was originally designed to show and preserve the Cayman Islands' native flora and fauna - as well as to promote education, conservation and recreation - now has over 30,000 visitors each year, many of whom come to enjoy the tranquility, culture and natural beauty that abounds in this hidden treasure. The Heritage Garden is a beautiful celebration of the islands and the traditional Caymanian way of life.

The Botanic Park offers resident rates of CI\$5 for adults, and free admission for children under 12, and seniors over 60.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Mr. John Lawrus on 947-9462, email manager@botanic-park.ky or check out the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park Facebook Page.

More about The Garden Club of Grand Cayman

The members of the Garden Club regularly meet on the first Thursday of each month, at different venues. Light refreshments are provided following a short tour of the garden or facility at which they are meeting.

New members are always welcomed, and one does not need to have a garden to join! There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and assist with a wide variety of national projects the club undertakes.

Previous projects have included landscaping of the gardens at The Pines Retirement Home, Cayman Islands Museum, National Gallery, UCCI, Francis Bodden Girls Home, The Boy Scout Headquarters, Bonaventure Boys Home. The club most recently provided four private room gardens at Jasmine -the new hospice facility.

For more information contact Jill Wood at vjwood@icloud.com



► Art on display at Family Fun Day

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CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Dominica sets date for Creole festival

Dominica's World Creole Music Festival, the region's biggest indigenous music festival, will this year run from Oct. 23-25 at its usual venue at the Windsor Park Sports Stadium, Roseau.

The 22nd edition of the Festival will be held one week earlier, to accommodate preparations for celebrating the country's 42nd anniversary of Independence on Nov. 3.

The festival is preceded by a variety of cultural events, competition and

fringe musical events. It has become well known for attracting some of the region's major acts in the creole musical genres like Cadence-lypso and Bouyon from Dominica, Zouk from the French Antilles, Compas from Haiti, as well as other genres with Caribbean and African roots, like reggae and dancehall from Jamaica, soca and calypso from Trinidad and other Caribbean islands and afrobeats from Africa. Buju Banton was the biggest name to perform last October. 🌐



► The World Creole Festival is internationally renowned

St Lucia gets tough on motorists

St Lucia's government has warned motorists who park illegally or drive without the required documents that their vehicles will be towed away to a new vehicle pound.

The new facility is expected to be in operation by the end of February. It will be located at Union. Transport Minister Guy Joseph has lamented that motorists do not seem to have any regard for traffic laws.

Joseph, a former president of the National Council on Public Transportation is alarmed by the number of traffic accidents in St Lucia.

While also expressing concern about stray animals on the road, Joseph noted that the Ministry of Transport could not erect a pound for animals.

"We are putting the pound for the vehicles - that's our responsibility," he



► St Lucia's worst motorists will be towed away soon

said. "The fencing is going up for the vehicle pound. I expect some time in February - by the time we implement our parking metres in Castries, the vehicle pound will be ready."

He said with the vehicle pound in place, the police will have a secure place to which to tow away vehicles that are found in violation of the laws. 🌐

Jamaica's cannabis growers get help

Jamaica wants to eliminate illicit cannabis growing by helping growers into the legal industry through its new Alternative Development Programme.

Jamaica's Cannabis Licensing Authority has set up the new Alternative Development Programme, approved by the government. The programme is a one-year pilot project geared towards transitioning current illicit cannabis farmers into the legal regulated cannabis industry.

It hopes to increase the legitimate earning potential of small, marginalised communities that have been disproportionately impacted by drug policy and regulation and that currently operate within the cannabis black market.



► Jamaica will help cannabis growers

They are looking for more community groups of traditional growers and provide the technical support for them to transition into the medicinal marijuana industry.

Jamaica is world-renowned for its ganja culture and ganja product, with many residents practising Rastafarianism. 🌐

Barbados invites diaspora to year-long party

Barbados is set for the greatest homecoming celebration in the history of the Caribbean this year.

All Barbadians by birth, descent and choice are invited to a year-long get-together, so they can rediscover their roots, enjoy the best of what the island has to offer and build a deeper connection with Barbados.

The ground-breaking initiative, 'We Gatherin'', started early January and throughout the year will feature a host of events to mark this momentous homecoming festival for the Barbadian diaspora across the world.

Prime Minister Mia Motley has issued a personal invitation to people across the world with Bajan roots, to their families, friends, and to regular visitors who simply love the Bajan spirit, asking them to return, reconnect and reaffirm their affinity with the island's people and values as part of her government's Vision 2020 initiative.

Barbados shares a particular and historic relationship with the UK, which is evident in its Anglophone place names, its red post boxes in Bridgetown, and the portrait of The



► Bridgetown will see an influx of Barbadians from abroad

Queen which greets visitors at Grantley-Adams airport. In the Caribbean diaspora of the twentieth century, hundreds of thousands of emigrants left Barbados to help rebuild post-war Britain and their families have played an important role in the fabric of modern British life since.

Famous Brits of Bajan descent include former England international footballer Ashley Cole; veteran newsreader Moira Stuart; poet Benjamin Zephaniah; boxer Nigel Benn; and singers Des'ree and Shaznay Lewis of pop band All Saints. 🌐

Grenada tourism growth encouraging

Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique welcomed more than half a million visitors to its shores in 2019, with a further increase in visitor arrivals expected for 2020.

According to the Grenada Tourism Authority, figures show that last year, the destination recorded 525,453 visitors.

The Authority says stayover visitor arrivals, which are considered the most valuable visitor in terms of on-island spend, accounted for 162,902, a one percent increase over 2018's bumper growth.

It said that considering that one of the largest hotels on the island, the Rex Grenadian, has been closed for refurbishment since May 2019, this is a good indication of the destination's growth and high demand.

Grenada's accommodations portfolio is also expected to increase its market share with the addition of The Royalton Grenada hotel, scheduled to open on March 1 as the largest hotel on the island with 269 rooms. Sandals Grenada has 257 rooms and Radisson Grenada Beach Hotel has 227 rooms.

The Spice Island will also have the Kimpton Kawana Bay hotel with 220



► Grenada's yachting industry is flourishing

rooms with construction well underway on the world-famous Grand Anse Beach and 100 rooms will be available by December 2020.

Grenada's yachting industry also continues to show strength with preliminary visitor arrivals currently at 24,611.

In the cruise ship sector, the Grenada Tourism Authority said visitor arrivals accounted for 337,940 maintaining solid numbers after 2018's record growth of 15 percent.

Plans are in place for Royal Caribbean Cruise Line to increase visits from 19 cruise calls in 2019 to 29 this year with Celebrity Cruises and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Carnival Fascination is planning 12 new calls to Grenada throughout the year 2021. 🌐

Teenage pregnancies too high in Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago have a problem with underage pregnancies caused predominantly by older men, claims a top doctor.

Psychiatrist Dr Varma Deyalsingh said teenage pregnancies in Trinidad and Tobago average around 62 a month in a population of 1.4 million.

And although adult sexual contact with a minor is a crime, not many of the men who father these children are being arrested and charged for the offence.

Deyalsingh said failure to implement laws has contributed to the current level of crime and lawlessness in Trinidad and Tobago.

"The majority of those fathers are not brought before the courts. We need to make examples of these men so others would know we are serious and our laws are indeed alive and not just a showpiece bit of nice legislation. If we had examples made of perpetrators it would remind men of the dire consequences they could face by inappropriate acts against a child," he said.

Deyalsingh said citizens should be reminded that the Children's Act 2012 stated that sexual intercourse or even sexual contact is a criminal offence with anyone under 18.



► Dr Varma Deyalsingh spoke out about underage pregnancies

"We need to remind persons about the age of consent. The goal is to protect children from harm," he said. 🌐

St Vincent starts massive new resort

A striking new resort project has officially broken ground in St Vincent and the Grenadines in a major step forward for the future of tourism in the country.

The new 10-storey hotel will be the first hotel project on the island since St Vincent and the Grenadines opened its new Argyle international airport in 2017.

The \$60 million project at Ratho Mill, St Vincent is called Royal Mill, the brainchild of a firm called A&A Capital and will be the tallest building in the country.

The first project of its kind in St Vincent, it's a significant step for the destination, the sort of hotel that could not have existed without regular international flights.

There are now regular nonstop flights from Miami and Toronto and many others. Prior to the airport's



► Royal Mill will be a luxurious complex in St Vincent

launch, travellers to the island typically had to get to St Vincent via Barbados.

The 80-room hotel will also include a beach club and a residential complex, with a total of 15 private residences, along with 18 apartment units and two rooftop penthouse units.

Other amenities will include eateries, luxury shopping, a conference centre, a spa, a large pool area and bar and a rooftop bar and restaurant. 🌐

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Sleigh driver
- 6 Christmas song
- 11 Seething
- 12 "What's in —?"
- 13 Christmas treat
- 15 Thesaurus wd.
- 16 Rage
- 17 Slight, in slang
- 18 Bring together
- 20 Make amends
- 23 Wintry weather
- 27 Leaper in a Christmas song
- 28 White House power
- 29 Christmas tree topper
- 31 Track event
- 32 Harold of "Ghostbusters"
- 34 Dr.'s grp.
- 37 Bar bill
- 38 Links org.
- 41 Christmas treat
- 44 Rocker John
- 45 Lubricated
- 46 Winter gliders
- 47 Christmas songs

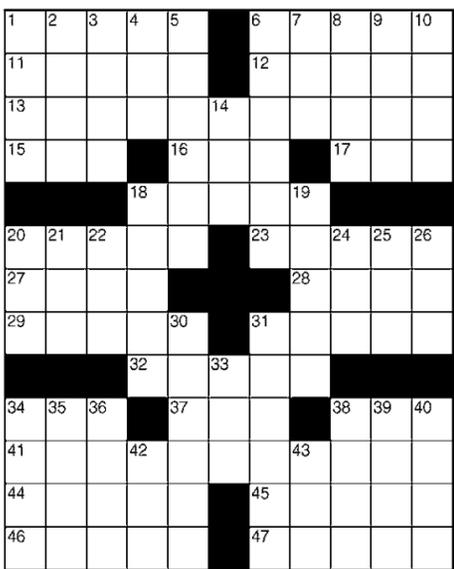
DOWN

- 1 Easy targets



Yesterday's answer

- 22 Assn.'s kin
- 24 Slippery fish
- 25 Greek vowel
- 26 Many a Christmas present
- 18 Beneath
- 19 North Pole crew
- 20 In the style of
- 21 Great weight
- 33 Ruin
- 34 Historic times
- 35 Factory
- 36 Poker payment
- 38 Soccer legend
- 39 Highlander
- 40 Throws in
- 42 "— rest ye merry, gentlemen"
- 43 Carnival city



12-25

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

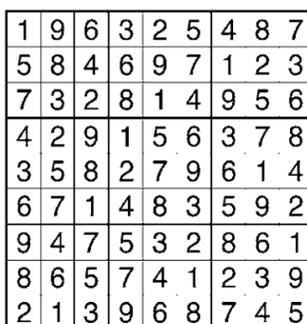
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★

11/05

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Word Search

- Bellow
- Below
- Blow
- Callow
- Clown
- Fallow
- Fellow
- Flower
- Hollow
- Lowdown
- Mellow
- Overflow
- Pillow
- Sallow
- Shallow
- Swallow
- Tallow
- Willow
- Yellow

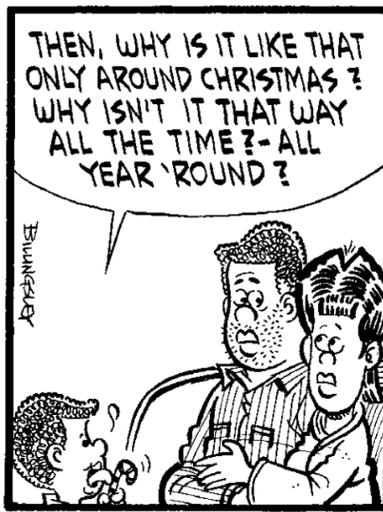


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.



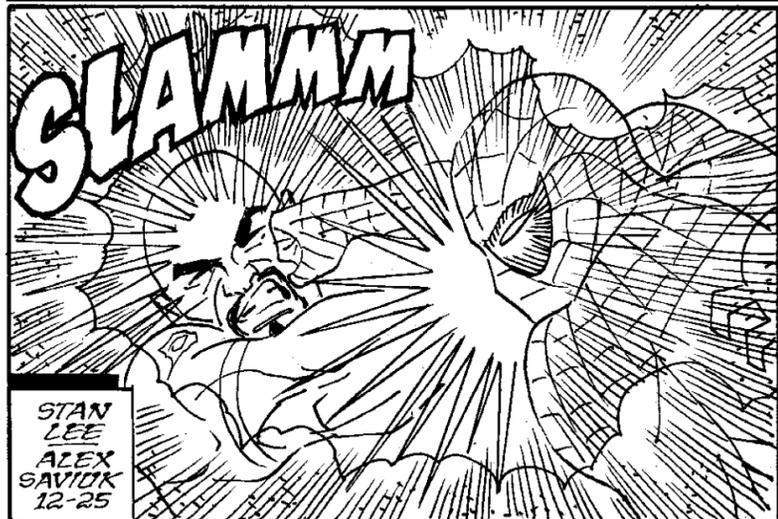
CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



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Wednesday
Thursday
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Newspaper Advertisement 1/8 page	150	4.9 x 4.85	250
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Front Page Banner B Section	200	10 x 2.5	
Other Banner	100	10 x 2.5	
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Back Page B Section	500	10 x 20	
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