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Homes for sale

Bed & Breakfast dream comes true in East End



► The Cottages, at East End

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Cost cuts for the elderly

By Lindsey Turnbull

In line with an ever-growing general population, some of the most vulnerable members of society are also increasing in numbers, specifically, the elderly. In 1999 the population was 39,020 with 2,194 or 5.62 per cent of the population over 65. The percentage of the population who are elderly has barely changed in the last few decades, with just small changes up and down. There was an estimated population of 65,813 as at the end of 2018, with 4,946 people over 65 (7.5 per cent); but while the numbers of elderly per population might not have changed a great deal, the fact that the population has grown



... Continued story on page A3

Miss Teen Cayman Receives a Scholarship



► Councillor Barbara Conolly hands over the scholarship contract to Miss Teen Cayman Ashley Gooden

Last Wednesday (29 January), Miss Teen Cayman, 17-year old, Ashley Gooden received a four-year scholarship from the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands (MEYSL).

The scholarship which is valued at \$54,000 will cover two years of local study and two years of study at an overseas university of Ashley's choice.

"The Ministry of EYSAL provides this scholarship to Miss Teen Cayman annually with hopes of providing pageant winners with the opportunity to excel academically," noted Scholarship Administrator Dr Nicole Thompson.

Ashley expressed her appreciation to the Ministry for the scholarship. "I am truly grateful to the Ministry of Education for providing me with this opportunity to continue to further my studies without the added financial burden," Ashley noted.

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Cost cuts for the elderly

... Continued story from page A1

so quickly means that a large number of people, most of whom are Caymanians (4,435 as at 2018), may now be in need of extra care, medical assistance and financial help.

To help ease the financial struggle many elderly people face once they can no longer work, Government announced a raft of measures to reduce costs for Cayman's elderly population, with the Premier Alden McLaughlin advising that government was introducing a package of concessions designed to reduce the costs falling on older persons late last year.

"Across government, some 14 fees or duties will be significantly reduced or waived for persons over 65," he advised in his Budget address to the House.

This package included reductions in vehicle licensing fees, duty reductions for mobility scooters and wheelchairs and reduced post office box rental fees. The Premier also announced that work permit fees for caregivers of older persons would be reduced and they would also reduce import duties for older persons coming through the airport.

"The impact of the changes will obviously vary from individual to individual but the concessions generally focus on those in greatest need," he said. "We calculate that the revenue foregone by government will total approximately \$830,000."

The Premier also said that income payments for seafarers, veterans, those in need of social assistance and long serving civil service pensioners would also be increased, further to an increase



► Premier Alden McLaughlin

for this demographic in the previous Budget.

"...this budget has again provided for more support for these groups of people and that from the 1st of January, 2020, they will see their monthly income rise by another \$100 per month to \$850," he advised, adding that the Government intended to go further and introduce an extra \$100 per month from January 2021, lifting the monthly payment to \$950.

"This means that under this Government, there will have been an increase of at least 73 per cent in the income of over 2,000 of Cayman's most vulnerable and hard-pressed households," he advised.

Over the past few years, Cayman appears to be gearing up to take more care and make more focus on its elderly population. October has been assigned as Older Persons Month, bringing the elderly into the forefront, with events taking place during that month integrating young people with the elderly, in particular.

The private sector, however, seems to be relatively slow in specifically working towards aiding Cayman's elderly population. One supermarket, Hurley's, stepped up to the mark, with their 10 per cent discount on Thursdays for all shoppers over 65.

"It started a few years ago when we offered the discount just throughout the



month of October, when that month was designated Older Persons Month," Scott Kristal, Hurley's Marketing Manager advised. "I started talking with my bosses to see if we could introduce this one day a week year-round, to help out elderly people, particularly those on a fixed income, as every little helps."

One business woman in her late sixties commended some initiatives but felt more could be done.

"There are some measures which are really working, parking at the hospital designated for seniors is a good one, but they need senior parking at the Government Admin Building, as well as behind the Public Library and at the Courthouse would be good," she said.

She went on to say she felt that programmes which get seniors involved in going out and doing things are what was really needed.

"One of the biggest problems seniors face is loneliness. The John Gray Memorial Church in West Bay has an exemplary programme for seniors, enhanced by the fact they have a bus. My 92-year old mother has an active social life thanks to this," she advised, adding that she felt what was really needed by Government was for them to get out and talk to the elderly about practical things which could be done to ease their lives. ☎



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► L-r Paula McCartney, Kaylyn Bodden, Lynn Bodden, Norman Bodden, Bettina Baldwin and David Moffitt



► Celebrating a dream come true, (L-r) Nicoela McCoy Lynn Bodden, Natalie Ugland in one of the nice rooms

Cayman-style bed & breakfast dream comes true in East End

By Christopher Tobutt

We know that dreams don't always come true, but when they do, we can all share in the joy of whoever's dream it is. On Saturday 1 February, after many years and many struggles, Lynn M. Bodden's dream of owning a very special and unique Cayman-style bed and breakfast finally came true, and many friends came to share in her joy.

"This is me; this is my dream and my vision," Ms Bodden said, as she pointed to The Cottages, a ten-room boutique bed and breakfast which opens right onto the natural unspoiled beauty of an East End beach. "When tourists come to the island they don't always get the opportunity to experience something very local; something Caymanian, and it's always been my vision and my dream, because I feel that we've lost our Caribbean and Caymanian culture, and that's something I've wanted to bring back."

"Danny Owens is my architect. He designed it. We sat down and I told him my vision I wanted the old Caymanian architecture with the gingerbread look; the colonial house style back from when we were first settled," she explained. "My parents have been involved in tourism in the Cayman Islands as far back as I remember. I remember being a little girl, diving for conchs in Stingray City. I think tourism is in my blood."

The Cottages feel old-world, but fresh and vibrant too. Outside the colours and look are traditional. Inside there are cozy, Cayman cottage-style rooms, with charming paintings on the walls. There's a feeling of being more a home than a room, just as if you were to go back in time and someone from the old days had invited you to spend some time with them in their beach home. But they



► The Cottages, at East End

are modern, too, and each is equipped with a nice kitchenette, so that old and new blend together: they best of both worlds.

Ms Bodden believes that when her guests stay at The Cottages, they should be experiencing real old-fashioned Caymanian hospitality, courtesy and warmth. "I hope that when people come here they get a true Caymanian experience. We provide a very personal service from the minute they arrive they are going to get a guest book, and get a

Caymanian fruit punch, and come back and get a gift, too," she said.

MLA David White said that he was

there on behalf of Minister of Tourism,

Hon. Moses Kirkconnell: "At a time when

tourism for the Cayman Islands is excelling

and reaching new heights for visitor

arrivals, it is refreshing to see the addition

of The Cottages to the inventory that

we can offer our guests," he said. "The ad-

dition of the Cottages broadens the base

of the accommodation types that the

Cayman Islands offers returning guests,

who seek a superior-quality experience in travel. Built with the Caymanian culture as a foundation I am sure that the experience will deliver excellence."

One of Ms. Bodden's many friends and well-wishers, Natalie Ugland was thrilled with the feeling she had from being inside the rooms: "When you walk into this room, right now, it feels amazing and I have goose bumps. This is Cayman and it's gorgeous. There's no words to describe it. It's perfect, and it reflects Lynn," she said.

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POLICE NEWS

Stabbing in Bodden Town

Shortly after 1:30AM on Sunday, 2 February, officers responded to a report of a stabbing at an address on Abbotsford Drive in Bodden Town. It was reported that a man had arrived at the location when he was approached by three other men and an altercation ensued, during which the man was injured with a knife. The other men then fled the scene.

Emergency services attended the location and the man was transported to hospital for treatment. He was subsequently discharged.

The suspects are all described as being about 5'9" in height and of fair

complexion. They are believed to be in their late twenties.

The matter is under investigation and anyone with any information is asked to contact **Bodden Town CID at 947-2220**.

Anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS via our **Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777**, or via our website <http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>. Tips can also be submitted anonymously via the Miami-based call centre of **Crime Stoppers at 800-8477(TIPS)**, or online <https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=681>.

Man Charged for George Town Burglary

A man, age 44 of Bodden Town, has been arrested and charged with Burglary in relation to an incident on 23 December, 2019, where a business on North Church

Street, George Town, was broken into and several items stolen.

He was scheduled to appear in court on Monday. [\(E\)](#)

Wounding in West Bay

Shortly before 4:20PM on Sunday, 2 February, officers responded to a report of an assault at an address on Schooner Lane in west Bay. An altercation had occurred between two males, during which one of the men wounded the other before fleeing the location. Emergency Services attended the location and treated the man

on the scene, he was then transported to hospital for further treatment and later discharged.

Officers located the suspect, a man age 25 of West Bay, shortly afterwards, and he was arrested on suspicion of wounding with intent. He remains in custody as investigations continue. [\(E\)](#)

First 2020 Micro & Small Business Workshop A Resounding Success

The first in a series of 12 free workshops targeting micro and small businesses, individuals and aspiring entrepreneurs was held on Thursday, January 30, at the Chamber of Commerce Training Centre in Governors Square. Approximately 40 persons, representing a wide cross section of small-sized businesses and start-up entrepreneurs, were in attendance, and the participants described the event as a resounding success.

The workshop focused on Financial Planning and was facilitated jointly by Tracey Ebanks, General Manager and CEO of the Cayman Islands Development Bank (CIDC), and Paula Smith, Financial Controller of the CIDC. Both women boast significant skills and experience in financial management, as well as in establishing, running and advising small businesses.

Thursday's workshop provided participants with practical advice on strategies for sourcing cash to start a business, preparing realistic budgets and key indicators to watch in monitoring a budget. The participants also benefited from valuable guidance on how to manage various business-related risks. The workshop facilitators adopted a relaxed and interactive approach which encouraged attendees to ask questions and gain helpful answers, based on their specific industry or individual needs.

Workshop participants had high praises for the facilitators and expressed enthusiasm about attending follow-up sessions. The next workshop will be held on Thursday, February 20, and based on popular demand, will focus on preparing financial business plans and completing and submitting business loan applications.



► Tracey Ebanks, General Manager and CEO of the Cayman Islands Development Bank, facilitating the financial planning session

The free workshop series are being put on by the Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure, and are designed to provide micro and small businesses, individuals and aspiring entrepreneurs with training and guidance on starting, running and successfully growing a business. One workshop will be held

each month between January and December 2020. To date, over 1,200 micro and small business owners and other entrepreneurs have benefitted from 46 workshops.

Persons who own micro or small enterprises and other entrepreneurs or business-minded individuals in need of training or guidance are invited to view upcoming workshop and register for the

February 20 workshop by clicking on the link below.

<https://web.caymanchamber.ky/events/eventresults.aspx?Category=&Keyword=Small%20biz&Month-Number=0&FromSearch=True>.

Interested persons may also call the Chamber of Commerce at 949-8090, or email programmes@caymanchamber.ky for more information. [\(E\)](#)



► Paula Smith, Financial Controller of the Cayman Islands Development Bank, facilitating the financial planning session

"SKYSTONE" BUILDS LOCAL EXCELLENCE IN ROBOTICS

Nine teams from seven of Grand Cayman's local high schools gathered at the Camana Bay Arts & Recreation Centre on 1 February for 'SKYSTONE', the 2020 Minds Inspired Robotics' FIRST Technical Challenge. The students were asked to imagine the cities of the future and design a robot capable of overcoming obstacles that stand in the path to build a superstructure.

Dart CEO Mark VanDevelde: "The mission of Minds Inspired is to provide our young people with unique STEM learning experiences that prepare them for the careers of the future and teach valuable life skills, such as how to overcome challenges through teamwork, innovative thinking, and a strong, personal work ethic. We are proud of the success of this second annual national robotics competition and look forward to our continued partnership with like-minded local organisations to power STEM learning in the Cayman Islands."

Informed by the Dart family's multi-generational commitment to education, the mission of Minds Inspired is

to provide young people in the Cayman Islands with unique learning experiences, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, collectively known as STEM. Sponsored by Aureum Re, Caribbean Utilities Co., Digicel and Health City Cayman Islands in partnership with Dart Minds Inspired, this year's competition was powered by Star Wars 'A Force For Change'.

During SKYSTONE, student teams are paired into alliances to compete against each other in the playing field. Over the course of the evening, students from Cayman International School (CIS), Cayman Prep and High School, Clifton Hunter High School, Grace Christian Academy, John Gray High School, St. Ignatius Catholic School, and Triple C School all had the opportunity to work together. Both CIS and St. Ignatius contributed two teams each to the competition.

In the final round, the competition came down to teams from CIS and St. Ignatius. In a narrow victory, CIS claimed the Winning Alliance award.



► Student teams from seven local high schools competed in the space-themed Minds Inspired Robotics' FIRST Technical Challenge held at the Camana Bay Arts & Recreation Centre on 1 February



► Student teams from seven local high schools competed in the space-themed Minds Inspired Robotics' FIRST Technical Challenge held at the Camana Bay Arts & Recreation Centre on 1 February

St. Ignatius Catholic School walked away with the Finalist Alliance Award, the Team Spirit Award and the Inspire Award for their technical excellence and embodiment of the "Gracious Professionalism" that characterises the spirit of competition throughout all FIRST programmes.

The Innovation and Engineering Design Award went to CIS for their innovative and creative robot design, and the judging panel awarded John Gray High School the Judges' Award for their unique efforts throughout the competition.

In keeping with the collaborative spirit of FIRST, nomination to the Cayman Islands National Robotics Team that will travel to the FIRST Global Challenge later this year is open to all participants of "SKYSTONE", not just the winning alliance. Teachers and teammates are encouraged to nominate students who best exemplify excellence in technical

ability, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and task organisation for consideration.

Last year, a team of 11 students representing eight local high schools travelled to Dubai, UAE, to compete in the 2019 FIRST Global Challenge.

Dart Senior Manager Education Programmes

Glenda McTaggart: "The FIRST Technical Challenge is becoming a highlight on the calendar of local education events, bringing together students from a variety of local high schools to partner and compete. Students who participated in SKYSTONE distinguished themselves as graceful competitors and team players, embodying the FIRST philosophy of 'Gracious Professionalism' throughout. Our next step will be the exciting but difficult task of selecting the 2020 National Team from such a talented pool of students. We are grateful for the continued support of our partner sponsors, the volunteers, judges, event partners, students, teachers and local community to build excellence in robotics locally."

The location and theme for the 2020 FIRST Global Challenge will be announced later this month.

For more information, visit mindsinspired.ky.

Miss Teen Cayman Receives Scholarship from Ministry of Education, Youth, Agriculture and Lands (MEYSAL)

... Continued story from page A1

Ashley is currently pursuing an Associate's degree in Primary Education at the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) and hopes to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Primary Education and Child Psychology in the UK upon completion of her studies at UCCI.



► Councillor Barbara Connelly watches while Miss Teen Cayman Ashley Gooden signs her scholarship contract



► (Left to Right) Scholarship Administrator Dr Nicole Thompson, Councillor Barbara Connelly, Miss Teen Cayman Ashley Gooden and Chairperson of Miss Teen Cayman Islands Elesha Graham, take a photograph together at the end of the handover ceremony

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 137 OF THE REGISTERED LAND LAW (2018 REVISION)

An application has been received from Collin Nicholas Anglin of P.O Box 104, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands KY1-1401, under Section 136 of the Registered Land Law, to be registered as proprietor of part of the land approximately 7 feet wide by 42 feet long, along the southern boundary of 4D 66 where it intersects with 4D 67 as indicated in yellow, as a person who has acquired title by virtue of the Limitation Law (1996) Revision, having been in open undisputed possession of the part of lands in Registration Section West Bay North West Block 4D Parcel 66 for over twelve years.

Anyone who objects to this claim must state their reasons to:

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All such correspondence should arrive on or before 28 February 2020



Squash a great all-round sport for youth

The Cayman Islands Junior Squash Programme kicked off a couple of weeks ago at the South Sound Squash Club and those who run the programme are keen that any youngster interested in trying out the sport come on over and give it a go.

Overseen by Marlene West, Manager of the South Sound Squash Club, along with squash professional Cameron Stafford who are assisted by top junior player Nathan MacLean and senior

player Hugo Janse van Rensburg, the programme is a great way to get fit, make friends, and develop a competitive streak.

The Junior programme, which runs from 11th January until 4th April, is taught to each individual's ability within three categories - bronze, silver and gold - with consideration for age in the bronze category. Bronze meet on Wednesday after school and on Saturday



► Cover Photo Emma with a Guyanese player at CASA 2018



► The Junior Squash team representing Cayman in Guyana 2018

day morning, silver meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school and Saturday morning and gold meet Monday, Tuesday and Thursday after school and later Saturday morning. In addition, there is open play on Friday after school.

Marlene advised that, depending on group level, the young players are taught the all the basics, "from catching a ball or bouncing a ball on the racket all the way through to technique work and tactical match play," she said.

While there are not any specific tournaments on the agenda right now specifically within the junior squash programme, Marlene advised that they would like to get different match play via traveling to training tournaments or have other Juniors attend the Island to play, but this, she advised, is a "work in progress".

The more advanced Junior players will be gearing up towards Junior Caribbean Championships in Bermuda July 2020," she said.

Marlene said that squash is a great sport with which to become involved, ideally starting at the age of 6 or 7. The advantages to one's overall health (physical and mental) are numerous, she said.

"It boosts confidence while improving fitness and coordination and there's the

opportunity to socialise with other players as well," she stated.

Emma Turnbull, 20, joined the junior programme when she was 11 years old, all the way through to 17. She now is the team captain of her university squash team, the University of Newcastle, in England.

During her time on the Junior programme, Emma competed in the Caribbean Area Squash Association's (CASA) junior championships, representing the Cayman Islands in countries such as Bermuda, Barbados and Guyana.

"Being part of the junior programme helped me on many different levels," she advised. "It helped turn me into an athlete, ingrained in me a strong determination to keep fit and strong and also helped tremendously to develop my social and communication skills. It also gave me the opportunity to travel across the Caribbean and make friends all over the region. It has also helped shape my approach to the sport now that I'm at university because the completion of the intense CASA events prepared me for level of competition involved with matches at university, playing in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) league."

If you have a young person interested in joining the programme, call South Sound Squash Club on 949-9469 or 526-5052. ☎

CIASA Golf Tournament: "Hitting the greens and raising funds for Cayman's National Swimming Teams"

Every four years the Summer Olympics makes swimming one of the most viewed sports in the world. Here in Cayman, the Cayman Islands Aquatic Sports Association (CIASA) is also looking to the excitement of the Summer Olympics – and hoping to have Cayman swimmers on deck in Tokyo too!

"Exposing our swimmers to international competition is key to the development of their mental and physical capacity to race," said Andrew MacKay – CIASA Treasurer, and a former Cayman Islands Olympian himself, who knows the truth of this statement first hand. "And as with all things, the ability to develop our swimmers requires a financial investment. We are truly grateful to everyone

who turned out to support CIASA's 2020 CUC-GCM Golf Tournament – donating some funds and having a great afternoon on the golf course at the same time."

Winners were the Queensgate Team of Dennis Hunter, Braden Howe, Andrew Jarvis and Orapin Howe, who each won a \$150 Clubhouse gift Certificate, and a bottle of Prosecco. Other prizes awarded were for second place team KPMG – Joel Dodson, Greg Bennett and John Ferrari; third place team, Hit n Hope – Denis Corin, Tim Adair, Ed Weber and Rich Ellison and last place team, PwC – Rebecca Mileham, Jordan Cornacohio and Rachel Funk; as well as the Longest Drive female and male, and Closest to the Pin female and male.

In addition to the golf tournament – which raised approximately \$5,500.00 – CIASA holds a number of fundraising initiatives year round. CARIFTA Swimming is on the horizon and CIASA members are now selling tickets for a raffle with a first prize of \$1000.00, second prize of \$500 and three third prizes, each of \$100.00.

Sandy Hew, CIASA Director and organiser of these fund raising initiatives, knows first-hand how important it is that swimmers be able to travel and compete – her daughter Lauren Hew is a well-known Cayman National Team member, who is currently a student athlete at Florida State University, and an overseas member of Camana Bay Aquat-

ic Club. "We are so grateful to CUC and Global Captive Management for coming on as title sponsors of the golf tournament, along with our other sponsors who donated prizes... so if you see a swimmer coming your way with a book of raffle tickets – please support Cayman Swimming and buy a ticket – or two."

Next on the calendar for CIASA is the Cayman Islands National Swimming Championships, held at the Camana Bay Sports Complex pool in Camana Bay, Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 February with preliminary swims taking place in the morning and finals in the afternoon.

For more information on CIASA visit www.ciasa.ky or contact Kathy Jackson at skyjackswim@gmail.com ☎



► On the greens at the North Sound Golf Club



► Winning Queensgate Team

Trinidad-Venezuela Gas Deal on Back Burner Because of US Sanctions

The Trinidad and Tobago Government today disclosed that a 2013 agreement with Venezuela for the joint development of a natural gas field straddling their maritime border has been on hold.

And Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley has blamed the decision on the United States' imposition of sanctions on Venezuela's state-owned oil and natural gas company, Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA) last year.

As a result, he said, Venezuela and Trinidad would independently develop the shallow-water field which is estimated to contain 10.25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Rowley made the disclosure about the latest development in the Dragon Deal – considered a landmark cross-border agreement between the two Caribbean neighbours – at the Trinidad and Tobago Energy Conference and Trade Show at Hyatt Regency in the capital, Port of Spain this morning.

"Progress in the development of the unitized Loran-Manatee field has been impeded by the sanctions imposed by the US government, which inhibit US companies from doing business with Venezuelan oil company PDVSA," he said.

"This impacts on the ability of US company Chevron, which has a 60 per cent interest in the Loran field, to participate in the development of the Loran-Manatee Field. As a consequence, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela have agreed to the independent development by each Government of the field within the Loran-Manatee cross-border that falls within its marine area."

Shell Trinidad and Tobago has full stake in the Manatee field and it is projected that gas production there could start by 2024 or 2025, at rates ranging from 270 to 400 million standard cubic feet per day.

"Shell is in conversation with the government and is working on various development scenarios to determine the best option," Prime Minister Rowley told those gathered at the energy conference which was organized by the Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago and is being held under the theme, 'Shaping the Caribbean's Energy Future'.

He added that should the US sanctions be lifted, both parties would be in a position to move ahead with their cooperation as "virtually all the preparatory work has been done". Under the gas deal



► The sanctions imposed by the US government inhibit US companies from doing business with Venezuelan oil company PDVSA

signed in 2013, 73.75 per cent of the joint field belongs to Venezuela and the rest to Trinidad and Tobago.

In imposing the sanctions in January last year, the US government alleged that PDVSA has been a vehicle for corruption, and that a variety of schemes have been designed to embezzle billions

of dollars from the state-owned company for the personal gain of corrupt Venezuelan officials and businessmen. As a result of the action, all property and interests in property of PDVSA subject to US jurisdiction were blocked, and Americans were generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with them. 🌎

Jamaica Bans Travel to and From China Over Coronavirus Fears

The Jamaica Government has imposed a travel ban on all flights to and from China, and citizens have also been strongly advised not to travel to that country.

The ban comes in the wake of the World Health Organization's declaration of the new Coronavirus, which originated in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, in the Hubei Province, as a global health emergency. As of today, more than 17,400 people – mostly in China – have been infected by the virus which has also killed at least 362 people.

Minister of Health and Wellness Dr Christopher Tufton, in announcing the travel ban, said people entering the island from China will be subject to immediate quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

"Quarantine facilities for these persons will be provided by the Govern-

ment of Jamaica and they will be required to adhere to all restrictions, in line with the provisions under the Quarantine Act. Individuals returning from China who have been granted landing privileges and who show any symptom of Coronavirus will be put into immediate isolation," he disclosed, adding that quarantine facilities at all public hospitals are operational, with a specialist facility at the National Chest Hospital, in Kingston.

Dr Tufton said he recognized the inconveniences the ban posed, but appealed to Jamaicans in China who may be affected for understanding.

"Our first and foremost objective is to secure the safety of the Jamaican people," the Health Minister said.

"We certainly hope that those who have been affected will appreciate why



this decision had to be taken. The Government of Jamaica, through my own Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Ministry of National Security and other Ministries have been monitoring the situation as it relates to the Coronavirus."

Dr Tufton said the virus poses a clear and present danger, and is spreading rapidly in terms of countries that are being affected.

Meanwhile, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, said the Government continues to be in dialogue with Jamaicans residing in China.

"We are doing our very best to support them as best as possible. Every Jamaican overseas, their welfare and wellbeing is of importance and interest to the Jamaican government. Our students, our teachers and other persons living and working in China are at the forefront of our thoughts now, recog-

nising the great concern that is being experienced because of this outbreak," she said, adding that her Ministry has also moved to further verify the number of Jamaicans living and working in China.

"We have created an online Jamaican form, which is now on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade's website. We have shared it through the embassy in Beijing and through the community there. We have, since this week, over 400 registrations by Jamaicans who are across China. We know that the number of persons in Wuhan is about 29 and these are students, teachers and family members of those students and teachers."

The Foreign Affairs Minister said she is aware of requests from Jamaicans to return home from China, but the Government is faced with several challenges, including logistics and restrictions of movement in that country. 🌎



► Minister of Health and Wellness Dr Christopher Tufton tours the isolation room at the National Chest Hospital in St Andrew. (Photo: JIS)

Risk of Coronavirus Remains Low For Caribbean But CARPHA Urges Vigilance At Ports of Entry

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is urging Member States to continue to be vigilant and to step up surveillance at their ports of entry, although the risk of the novel Coronavirus is still low.

The advice comes on the heels of the World Health Organization declaring the outbreak in Wuhan, China, as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

A PHEIC is defined in the International Health Regulations (2005) as "an extraordinary event which is determined, as provided in these Regulations to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease; and to potentially require a coordinated international response".

This definition implies a situation that is serious, unusual or unexpected; carries implications for public health beyond the affected State's national border; and may require immediate international action.

CARPHA's Executive Director, Dr Joy St John maintains that the risk of the virus remains low for the Caribbean region, explaining that it is deemed low because there are no direct flights from China to the Caribbean and travellers will receive multiple screenings before arrival to Member States.

Dr St John explained that health agencies and Caribbean officials at a meeting of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security (RCMHS) last week agreed with this risk assessment, having confirmed that there are no reported cases of the 2019-nCoV in the region.

The International Health Regulations' Emergency Committee is not recommending trade or travel restrictions at this time.

CARPHA urges regional national authorities to work with airlines, passenger ships and other transport and tourism industries to ensure that Caribbean residents and visitors alike remain



free of 2019-nCoV," the agency said in a statement, adding that it will continue to monitor these developments and provide Member States with guidance

to support national response efforts, while strengthening regional health security in collaboration with regional partners. 🌎

CROSSWORD

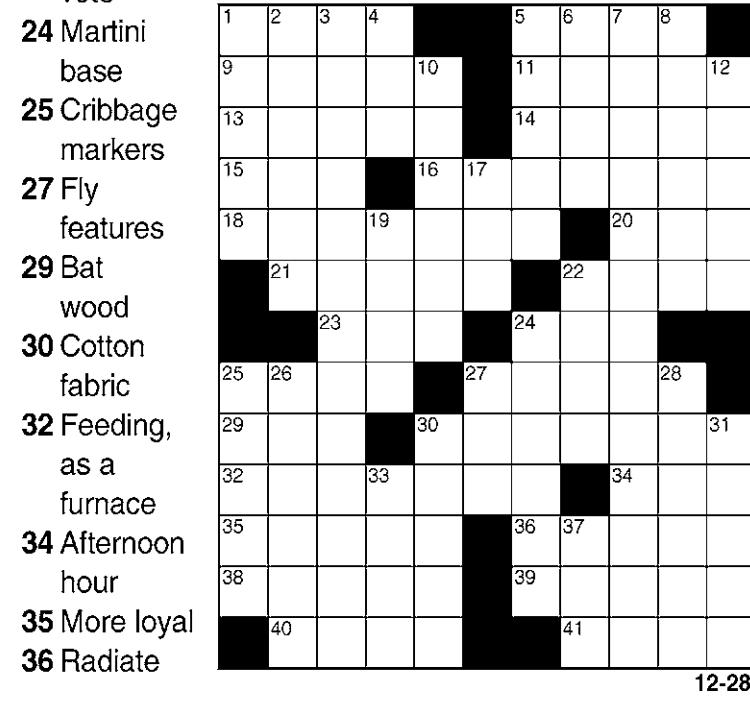
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Almanac 38 Canvas holder
 5 Makes fun of 39 Stopwatch button
 9 Bay 40 Urges 41 Ohio team
 11 Love affair
 13 Ranch animal
 14 Plain silly
 15 Caffeine source
 16 Sign, perhaps
 18 Outdo
 20 Excellent, in slang
 21 Sculpture in St. Peter's
 22 Teen outbreak
 23 Opposition vote
 24 Martini base
 25 Cribbage markers
 27 Fly features
 29 Bat wood
 30 Cotton fabric
 32 Feeding, as a furnace
 34 Afternoon hour
 35 More loyal
 36 Radiate
- DOWN**
- 1 Dukes
 2 Prepare to play
 3 Information agency
 4 Ball point?
 5 Invasions
 6 Mae West's "Angel"
 7 Temporary lodgings
 8 Western sight
 10 War
 12 Sailing hazards
 17 Top-secret
 18 Invasions
 19 Casserole bits
 22 Piquant quality
 24 Sushi accompa-
 33 Acute
 37 Gen —
- Yesterday's answer**



12-28



12-28

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley

**THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN**

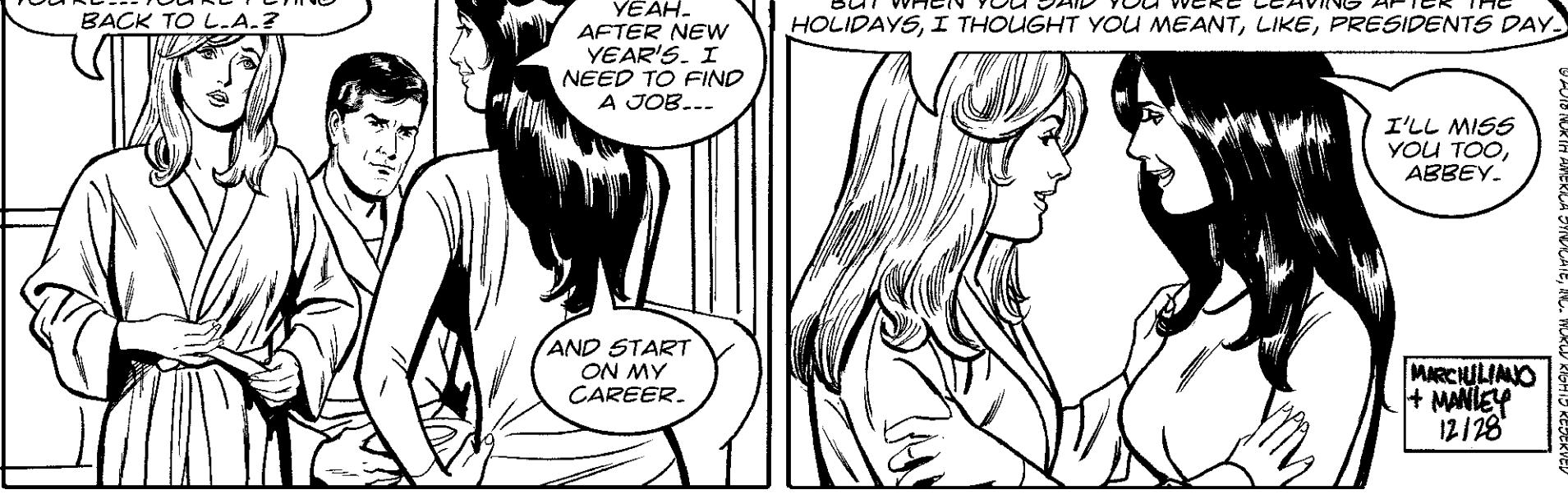
By Stan Lee



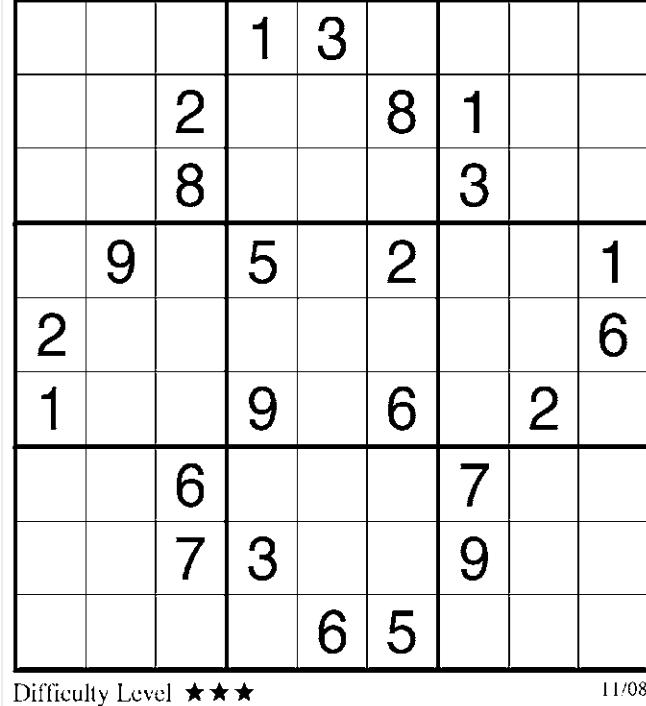
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JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

MARCHLIA + MANLEY
12/28**SUDOKU****Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

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Difficulty Level ★★★

11/08

Word Search

Antonio	Horatio	Perdita
Ariel	Hotspur	Portia
Banquo	Iago	Prospero
Bardolph	Juliet	Romeo
Beatrice	Leontes	Rosalind
Brutus	Macbeth	Theseus
Caesar	Malvolio	Titania
Caliban	Miranda	Troilus
Cordelia	Oberon	Valentine
Desdemona	Olivia	Ophelia
Hamlet		

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CAYMANIAN
TIMES



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

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