

Caymanian Times

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Issue No 496

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Smith Barcadere Enhancements Explained



▶ Artist rendering of project

The Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure commissioned the enhancements of government land at Smith Barcadere. The Public Works Department which is carrying out the

project management and consultancy services for the Smith Barcadere project has underscored that the area being enhanced is primarily the parcel of land on the northern end of the property that

was purchased by the government in 2016.

It has further emphasised that there will be no interference with the existing beach.

The project is being managed by the Smith Barcadere Committee that was formed specifically to administer the af-

... Continued story on page A4

Another Landmark Birthday Celebration

Former East End resident Ms Ina Connor celebrated her 101st birthday surrounded by family and friends on Saturday (1 February 2020).

Born 1 February 1919 (nearly three months after the end of World War 1), the Golden Age Home resident was feted at the Department of Children

and Family Services (DCFS)-run home, on her special day.

Marked by several speeches, the West Bay celebration began with an opening prayer and blessing

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▶ Ms Ina Connor blew the candles on her cake, assisted by granddaughter Kerry Watts, youngest son Lowell and DCFS social worker Jasmine Powell. The centenarian was celebrating her 101st birthday at the Golden Age Home in West Bay on Saturday, 1st February 2020. (Photo by Elphina Jones, GIS)

Cayman's future: high digital, low carbon



▶ Joseph Hew, Minister for Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure (Photo credit: CAIS20)

By Lindsey Turnbull

The Cayman Alternative Investment Summit took place last week at the Kimpton Seafire with two themes running throughout presentations: 'Global. Digital. Responsible' and 'Preparing for Geopolitical Challenges'. Joseph Hew, Minister for Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure, told the assembled delegates that the two themes were inextricably linked and impacted Cayman is a very real way.

Cayman's very future, he said, was high digital, low carbon.

"It cannot be any other way for us," Minister Hew confirmed.

... Continued story on page A3



Caymanian Times

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Flashback: 48th Agricultural Show

By Christopher Tobutt

Thousands of people came to the 48th Annual Agriculture Show. Early risers beat the long lines of traffic by getting there early – and picking up the cream of the crop too! But, like most years, there was plenty for everyone, even the latecomers, and something interesting for all ages.

Of course, young children always like to see the animals, and there were cows, goats, pigs, and wonderful, fancy chickens with feathery feet. Some of the bigger animals were a bit scary for the very little children, but the goats are always a child-friendly attraction, of course, because little kids always love little kids.

Those who were looking for produce weren't disappointed either: there were plenty of healthy, good, low-tech locally grown tomatoes, lettuces, cassava, red hot, bright yellow scotch bonnet pep-



▶ Little kids always love little kids!



▶ Cayman Treats – guava jam, sea grape jam, and passion jam, by "Shirley's"

pers, and don't forget those luscious papayas.

The Agriculture show always shows us what an important place agriculture still has in our economy. And why not? It wasn't so long ago that people here depended on produce from what they called their 'grounds' to help them stay healthy, when there was so little employment and times were tough. And although times are not as bad as they were then, sometimes we feel might feel we need all the help we can get. So if you have a little land, no matter how small, you can make a big difference by growing some of what you need. Raised beds, made with strips of wood forming a rectangle and filled with good soil are great for growing all kinds of produce that are expensive in the stores: tomatoes and peppers for instance; and what about some lovely garden fresh herbs, such as basil or oregano or mint?

Pumpkins often grow very well in the rocky soil we have on Grand Cayman but often need 'babying' in the early growth stages. And is your soil poor? Don't be too quick to apply expensive artificial fertilizers: A compost bin can easily be made by screwing four old wooden pallets together, and then you've got somewhere to put all your grass-cuttings and fallen leaves. Just wait a few months, and you'll have lovely compost for free.

Eating locally means eating healthy produce. You know it hasn't spent weeks on a big ship, or hasn't been picked long before it was ripe and then force-ripened with chemicals or sprayed, over and over again with toxic pesticides. Another difference you'll enjoy – really enjoy – is the flavor. If all you're used to is produce from the supermarket, just taste the difference when you pop a home-grown slice of tomato into your mouth. If you can't grow at home, don't worry – all the supermarkets in Cayman

support local farmers by having locally grown produce sections. Soon, too, there will be a new farmers market next to the cricket pitch in George Town, to compliment the regular Saturday morning Market at the Grounds (in the Stacey Watler Pavilion) or Camama Bay's Wednesday afternoon traditional town market.

As always, there were plenty of crafts to be seen. Rose May Ebanks had a stall of the most exceptional and exquisite Silver Thatch bags, hats and baskets – made well enough to last a lifetime. And Cayman Brac's Coleen Gibson was displaying all the wonderful things her talented hands have made – from beautiful Caymanite jewelry to bright, cheerful knitted bags and purses. But perhaps the real star of the show was musician Allan ("Bunny") Myles' electric guitar – with a body made from local hardwood, and carved into the shape of Grand Cayman.



▶ Two amazing ladies from Sparkies' Amazing Farm



▶ Joel Walton's stand is full of organically-good goodness. He should know – all the produce is grown in his beautiful garden, in Lower Valley

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Caymanian Times

Issue # 496

Publisher: Ralph Lewis
Company: Lewis Cayman Islands Ltd
#19 Walkers Road (next to Tomlinson Furniture)
Telephone: 345 916 2000
Email: sales@caymaniantimes.ky, or info@caymaniantimes.ky
Website: www.caymaniantimes.ky

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Cayman Islands School of Hospitality Studies students visit Brasserie Restaurant

Students from the Cayman Islands School of Hospitality Studies (SHS) enjoyed a visit to the Brasserie Restaurant, George Town. Featuring celebrity chef Spike Mendelsohn, first chairman of Washington DC's Food Policy Council and probably best known as the

fifth place finisher in season four of the hit TV series Top Chef.

SHS students were given career advice from Spike on the exciting world of international cuisine and how to maintain the Cayman Islands as the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean.



▶ Front left: Dean Max, Consulting Chef - Brasserie, Aide Lopez, Head Gardener, Artemio Lopez, Chef de Cuisine, standing behind, Louise FitzRoy, Marketing & PR - Brasserie, Efrain Alarcon Head Bee Keeper, Tanique Dunbar, (Light blue shirt) Senior Lecturer, SHS. On the right: Chef Mike, Sous Chef & Spike Mendelsohn with the SHS students.

Cayman's future: high digital, low carbon

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High tech

He outlined how the Government recognised that, alongside maintaining Cayman's strength in the financial services industry and its position as one of the world's premium tourism destinations, it had to diversify its economy. It was for that reason that the government put in legislation to protect intellectual property, he said.

"We already have some of the best professional service firms in the world able to support the development of business in Cayman. With the legislative framework and support ecosystem in place, we have begun successfully to attract new digital business to Cayman; however, we recognise we cannot just sit back and wait for business to come to us," he confirmed.

It was anticipated that the new government Ministry, the Ministry of International Trade, Investment, Aviation and Maritime Affairs headed by Chief Officer Eric Bush, would help to advance

Cayman's international reputation and attract more inward investment, he said.

Low carbon

The issue of becoming a low carbon jurisdiction was equally important, Minister Hew said. He advised that he had recently attended a conference alongside the Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness presenting on strategies for advancing infrastructure sustainability and resilience in the respective islands. Throughout the conference there was a recurring emphasis on low carbon solutions to infrastructure needs for the islands in this region, he advised.

Probably Cayman's most pressing infrastructure problem right now is how to deal with the traffic problems we are currently facing. While government has prioritised a network of improvements that would increase road capacity and reduce congestion, the long-term solution needed a different answer, Minister Hew said, employing a new and innovative approach to public transportation.

"We intend to use the time that our road improvements will give us to identify and deliver the best option for public transportation in Cayman," he advised.

Central also to Cayman's efforts towards a low carbon future was to more towards a more sustainable energy production and usage, the Minister advised.

The National Energy Policy represented an ambitious approach with a target of 70 per cent of renewable energy by 2037. This would be achieved through enhancing and embracing a sustainable lifestyle through responsible and innovative energy supply and consumption. The Minister said that this policy gave them a 20-year road map for change and that Government was now turning that into a clear set of tangible initiatives that would deliver the transformation they were seeking.

They would do this by encouraging the use of green energy such as solar power and other forms of renewable energy across all three islands including government facilities. The renewable mix would also include power from the new waste to energy plant, he said.

This approach made sense for the environment but it also delivered on two other crucial objectives: the need to create technical and vocational jobs for the next generation as well as opportunities for small business owners and, in addition, it would help to improve Cayman's energy security, which was currently at the mercy of energy markets, he said.

"Renewables gives us a path to self-sufficiency in energy generation," he advised. "Sustainability is not just about the environment' it's about a future economy that delivers sensible growth and employment. It is about social progress and a resilience of people and communities."

Geopolitical threats

Minister Hew said that some might think it was unnecessary for the people of these three small islands in the Caribbean to be concerned with geopolitical challenges; however, they had compelling reasons to do so, he stated.



► Joseph Hew, Minister for Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure (Photo credit: CAIS20)

"If one of the most significant challenges facing all of us is climate change then islands like ours are in the front line," Minister Hew said. "Sea level rise poses a very obvious threat; at the same time, we are exposed to increasingly severe hurricane risk as weather patterns grow extreme."

As a result, Cayman needed to think differently about development if the Islands were to meet these challenges successfully.

"It is the Caribbean, so everyone wants to build as close to our beautiful sea as possible, and in order to keep the feel of the islands we wanted the development heights to be restricted. The result has been sprawling development along our coastlines," Minister Hew outlined.

In the future, we needed to think in terms of greater setbacks and higher building heights to give room for the sea, he said.

"We must also use the spaces created for more natural and green space for both humans and our diverse flora and fauna. All these issues are being addressed in the comprehensive Plan Cayman process that my Ministry is leading on behalf of the government," he said.



► Governor Martyn Roper and Minister Joseph Hew at the CAIS 20 conference (Photo credit: CAIS20)



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Smith Barcadere Enhancements Primarily on Gov't Land

... Continued story from page A1

fairs of the project. The group is made up of representatives from the George Town Revitalisation Initiative, public and private sector and residents of the area.

George Town South Member of the Legislative Assembly, Barbara Conolly has stated that the Smith Barcadere Committee is working with the Public Works Department to ensure that the concerns that were expressed at the public consultation meeting are taken into consideration.

"Smith Barcadere will be a park and beach where all Caymanians can come and enjoy. It is a treasured beach spot for families to swim and spend time together and our vision for it is to do what we can to enhance what we already know and love. We will be adding additional restrooms that will offer the disabled full accessibility, an improved parking lot and environmental friendly lighting," Councillor Conolly noted.

Ms Conolly continued, "It is important to take account of the public feedback at the consultation meeting held in July 2018. The proposed parking lot will be located to the northern end of the purchased parcel so as to minimize loss of vegetation and not block the view of the sea. In addition, local material will be used for the parking lot instead of asphalt to support natural drainage".

Deputy Chief Officer in the Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure Tristan Hydes has stated that as the tender process is ongoing, some information cannot be disclosed. "The tender closed in January so we are in a position to share more information at this time, but we still cannot jeopardise the process. We want to be as transparent as possible as this project is for the people, and so we will ensure that information is available to the public through several channels as we proceed with various stages of the plan," he said.

Mr. Hydes noted that the proposed enhancements of the improved Barcadere public beach and park will be for the enjoyment of all Caymanians, increased accessibility for older persons and those with disabilities, reduced congestion and improved safety.

The Public Works Department has said that safety and accessibility are critical elements in the proposed plan with sidewalks and traffic calming measures included to increase safety of pedestrians in the area and users of the existing parking lot across the road.



On the proposed project, restrooms will be located closer to the new parking lot for easier access for older persons and those with disabilities. The location of the restrooms is also to minimise any loss of indigenous trees. There are some non-native vegetation such as invasive "pop-nut" trees that will be removed to allow for the construction of the park-

ing lot. In addition, local vegetation such as coco-plum and grape trees will be added to improve shading and beautification.

Members of the public had also expressed concerns about the aesthetics and number of cabanas that were initially proposed for the project. As a result, the number of cabanas in the new plan

have been reduced from 8 to 1, with the structures to have a local 'feel'.

Concerning commercial activities taking place on the enhanced park and beach, Smith Barcadere Committee has said that there are covenants in place to restrict such activities.

The project is expected to commence in March 2020. 🌐





► Ms Ina Connor was surrounded by family at her 101st birthday on Saturday, 1st February 2020. (Photos by Elphina Jones, GIS)

Golden Age Home Resident Celebrates Another Landmark Birthday

... Continued story from page A1

by Pastor Nariah LeBlanc of West Bay Church of Christ. He was followed by Reverend Alice Blair from East End United Church, who considers Ms Ina a role model who has touched many lives.

Among the family members who formally congratulated the centenarian were her youngest child Lowell Connor, her stepdaughter Doralee McLaughlin and nephew Kenross Conolly. All commended her for being a nurturing, hardworking and matriarch.

While her son paid homage to his mother in a short and emotional address, Ms McLaughlin also fondly recounted the long hours Ms Ina worked providing for them while her husband spent months working at sea. In addition, she described a kind and resourceful woman who brought up her blended family without favouritism and knowing the Lord in a Cayman very different from today.

These memories were amplified when her nephew Isaac Rankine read: "Lord I Did Not Know," by Caymanian artist, poet and educator Nasaria Suckoo-Chollette. Depicting the strength and industriousness of local women in those tough earlier times, the poem pays homage to the strong and righteous women that this nation has sprung from.

Chairman of the Cayman Islands Seafarers Association, Mr.

Denniston Tibbetts spoke on behalf of his members. Congratulating Ms Ina on her landmark birthday and wishing her many more years, he told guests that she was the oldest member on their books.

In his remarks, Councillor for Community Affairs Austin Harris said that Ms Ina was: "not only welcoming a new decade but was ushering a new century."

DCFS Director Paulinda Mendoza-Williams' suggested that the outpouring of affection and care shown for Ms Ina was something quintessentially Caymanian that her department and the Ministry would like to see more of.

DCFS's Elderly Services Manager, Cassandra Fearon, agreed. "DCFS is extremely pleased to have Ms Ina as a resident of the Golden Age Home," she said. "We take pride in providing quality care for all residents, not only to live longer but to help them live quality lives."

The mother, grandmother and great-grandmother blew out the candles and thanked guests. Her party, the celebration of a life well lived, ended with everyone enjoying food and beverages to live music performed by members of the Cayman Islands Music Association.

Apologies were given for Speaker of the House, Hon. McKeeva Bush; Leader of the Opposition/East End MLA Arden McLean; and Ministry of Community Affairs' Chief Officer Ms Teresa Echenique, who sent birthday greetings.



► Ms Ina Connor listened to her son Lowell's remarks at her 101st birthday at the Golden Age Home in West Bay on Saturday, 1st February 2020.

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ICONZ HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL BE JUMPING WITH BATABANO

ICONZ has announced it will be participating in Batabano Carnival on Saturday 9 May, 2020 after being informed CayMas Carnival road parade will take place on Discovery Day public holiday, Monday 18 May.



to see the value in holding it on the Saturday," said Ms Phillips.

Organizers of ICONZ are relieved to finally have a decision on the date, even though it wasn't the result they were hoping for, they can now address fans speculation about when the road parade will take place

"Our ICONZ following is strong and we are confident our revelers will be joining us on the road this coming May," said Ms Phillips.

"ICONZ will continue to offer the same premium experience including, quality costumes, seamless distribution, internationally renowned DJs, premium drink specials on the road including our exclusive margarita truck, and our epic Cool Down Boat Party which will now take place Sunday 10 May."



ICONZ has participated in CayMas since 2017, mainly due to the carnival taking place over a long weekend.

However, with recent speculation CayMas Carnival road parade would take place on a Monday, ICONZ made the decision to move to the Batabano weekend to ensure patrons enjoy an entire weekend of carnival related events.

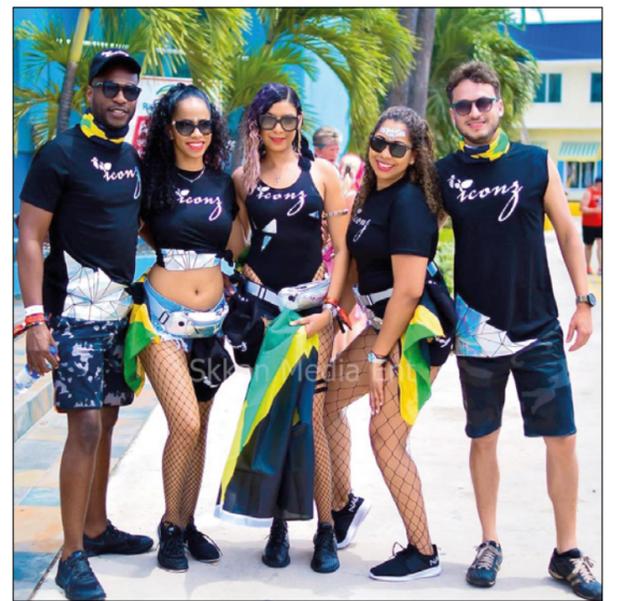
"This decision was not made lightly, but we made it for the benefit of our loyal ICONZ revelers," said Brydie Phillips, Marketing Manager at Hurley's Media.

"Having the road parade on Monday will have a huge impact on attendee numbers and their experience for this year's carnival," said Ms Phillips.

Meetings with government officials and the CayMas Board have been ongoing since it was announced in 2019 the two carnivals, CayMas and Batabano, would merge into one.

Additionally, the proposed dates for CayMas Carnival conflict with a major event Hurley's Media organizes, the Cayman Billfish Rundown, an international fishing tournament commencing Monday 18 May.

"We have been working to ensure CayMas road parade remains on the Saturday of the Discovery Day long weekend and we are incredibly disappointed with the decision that the road parade for CayMas would move to a Monday and that Government officials were not able



GUYANA: A SLICK OIL DEAL?



By Michael Jarvis, London UK

Guyana has celebrated its first oil shipment. It has now joined the fast-lane of the hugely lucrative global oil industry.

It was to be expected that the huge global attention now being focused on Guyana as the next world oil mecca would have come at a price, albeit not in the manner now taking shape.

It's early days yet as the Caribbean country embarks on a new course that from all indications is an unfolding economic miracle.

The immense transformation of its economy is poised to make Guyana one of the richest countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

At some point it too will have to participate in and navigate the fossil-fuels/climate change debate.

But for now however, the focus is on economics and business.

According to one recent report, the magnitude of Guyana's new oil sector is beyond the comprehension of many at home and in the diaspora.

THE ECONOMICS OF IT

The International Monetary Fund(IMF) is already forecasting that

Guyana's growth will explode by a rate of over 85% this year alone, compared to an average of 4.2% per year over the past ten years dating back to 2010.

The country's per capita income (the average earning per year of citizens based on the size of the economy) was US\$5,250 by December last year.

That's projected to skyrocket to around US\$19,400 by the end of 2024 - in just four years.

If the trend continues, Guyana will have surpassed Barbados (US\$17,800), Trinidad and Tobago(\$US 17, 100), Antigua and Barbuda (US\$16,700) and Jamaica(US\$ 5,350) in its per capita income in a few short years of a massive growth spurt.

At the other end of the spectrum are the Cayman Islands and Bermuda at \$US 67,000 and \$US 95,000 respectively.

Considering that Guyana's per capita income for the period 2014 to 2018 averaged around US\$4,500, it's a remarkable prospect for the South American Caribbean state by any account.

But could it have been even more spectacular?

THE DEAL OF IT

One major global watchdog thinks so, and that has now played into the campaigning for Guyana's upcoming elections in March.

According to a report by the Global Witness/OpenOil Guyana might have



been sold short in its deal with its major oil industry partner, the American conglomerate, ExxonMobil.

It claims that the powerful, more business-experienced and oil industry-savvy oil giant "aggressively negotiated a deal with inexperienced officials that left Guyana short of up to US\$55 billion."

Under the deal, Guyana gets a 50% profit share but Global Witness/OpenOil feels this should have been up to 69%.

Guyana is set to reap US\$5billion in oil profits in 2025 from ExxonMobil alone in just one of the several new oil fields discovered in its waters. It has other suitors.

Global Witness argues that the additional revenue from the ExxonMobil deal could have been used "to build much-needed roads, hospitals, schools, and sea defences to protect the 90 per cent of the population at risk from rising sea levels" and calls on the government of President David Granger of Guyana to renegotiate the deal.

THE POLITICS OF IT

But in a statement, the government has rejected the assertions of Global Witness/Open Oil, accusing it of meddling in the countries politics.

Guyana's delayed and controversial elections are scheduled for March 2nd this year.

The current parliamentary term expired since September last year but political wrangling compounded by doubts about the validity of the voters' register and the readiness of the election machinery, led to a postponement.

The government had also previously lost no-confidence vote in December 2018.

In a statement responding to Global Witness/OpenOil, the Guyana government led by President David Granger said it "views the report as a cunning and calculated attack on a sovereign state with a duly elected Government mere weeks before an election.

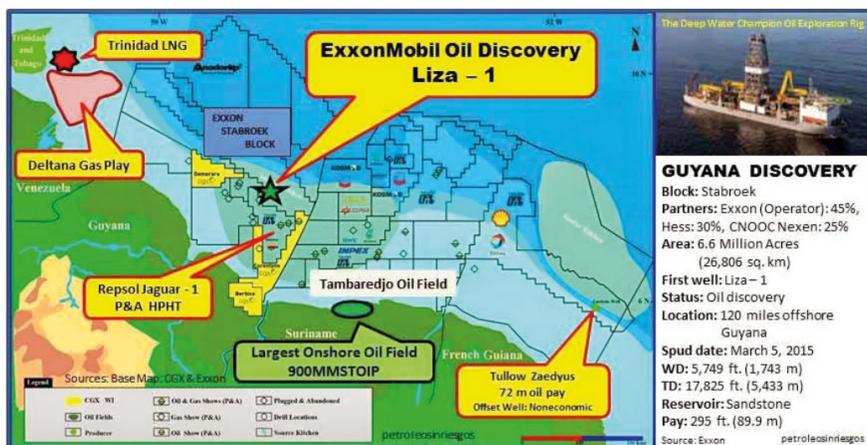
"This timing cannot be seen as a co-incidence and it appears as though it is seeking to influence the electoral outcome," it alleged.

The Government defends its agreement with ExxonMobil on the basis that the deal has the blessings of credible international agencies and that it will reap enormous benefits for the people of Guyana.

It points to a contract signing bonus of US\$18 million for Guyana, an additional \$US300 million in foreign direct investment(FDI) plus over 1900 new jobs created in the sector.

Other indirect business and employment opportunities supporting the sector as additional bonuses.

It's not just the economics but the politics of Guyana which pivot on its newly-found oil wealth.



Frisbee Lovers Make Ultimate Plans for 2020

The governing body for the sport of ultimate frisbee in the Cayman Islands held its 2020 AGM and laid out its plans for the year.

Cayman Islands Ultimate (CIU) addressed its members after a game-day on Thursday, 6 February, at the Annex (formally known as the T.E. McField Sports Centre) in George Town. The 2020-2021 executive board was ratified with the following names and positions:

- Michael Kader - President

- Adam McSharry-Downie - Vice President

- Jared Awe - Secretary
- Joshua Browne - Treasurer
- Matthew Yates - Public Relations
- Flip Du Plessis - Executive member
- Allan Evans - Executive member

Mr. Awe and Mr. Evans are newcomers to the CIU board, with the others having served in leadership positions since 2018.

The plans for the 2020 campaign include a 6-week league, local hat (i.e. pick-up) competitions, and incorporating more beach game-days.

"CIU had a great year in 2019 as we successfully managed a number of tournaments and our national select team competed admirably in Kingston against our Jamaican counterparts," CIU President Michael Kader said. "With the new administration now formally in place, we've put ourselves in a great position to continue the positive momentum this year".

CIU is a registered non-profit association with the Cayman Islands Gov-



▶ Games take place twice a week in George Town (Photo credit: Cayman Islands Ultimate)

ernment, having received its official Non-Profit Organisation status in July 2018. CIU stages casual, coed pick-up games on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Annex from roughly 6pm to 7:30pm.

All fitness and ability levels are welcome.

For more information, visit the CIU Facebook page or check it out on Cayman Active. [🌐](#)

Ultimate frisbee is a team sport played with a large plastic disc. The object of the game is to score points by passing the disc to a player in the opposing end zone, similar to an end zone in American football. The beginning of organized games in the Cayman Islands dates back to 2009, thanks to the four original organizers - Badir Awe, Josh Lavelle, Scott Murray and Steve Weitzman.

CBAC swimmers break 15 meet records at international swim meet



Seventeen amateur swimmers representing the Camana Bay Aquatic Club (CBAC) dominated against a strong re-

gional presence at the recent Karl Dalhouse Memorial Invitational Swim Meet 2020 held at the National Aquatic Cen-

tre in Kingston, Jamaica, January 31 - February 2.

CBAC swimmers set a total of 15 meet records, with siblings 13-year old Jillian Crooks and 17-year old Jordan Crooks each setting five meet records, and 12-year old Lila Higgo setting four meet records. Ten-year old Luke Higgo broke a meet record in the 50 backstroke.

Overall, against the 18 participating clubs, CBAC placed third in the meet behind swim meet hosts and winners 'y' Speedos Swim Club, and second place Tornadeos Swim Club of Jamaica.

"Having our athletes race at a large meet like the Karl Dalhouse and against swimmers of such a high calibre is great race experience which will set them up for the upcoming CARIFTA Swimming Championship and the CCCAN Championship," Hayley Palmer, CBAC Head Coach said.

"We not only produced amazing results in the pool, but the experience, having fun as a team, participating in relays, and supporting each other in the highs and lows of a meet is an important driver in travelling for international competition."

Cayman Islands Aquatic Sports Association (CIASA) records were broken in the 50 freestyle (26.83), and 100 backstroke (1:05.74) for Girls 13-14 by Jillian Crooks, in the 200 individual medley (2:33.25) for Girls 11-12 by Lila Higgo, and in the 50 backstroke (37.25) for Boys 9-10 by Luke Higgo.

Jillian Crooks was first place in the High Point Awards for Girls 13-14, participating in 8 events, and taking the podium for 7 of them.

Phin Ellison, Sofia Bonati, Tate Marr and Gabriella Royston also produced strong performances, and will be looking to improve on those at the upcoming CIASA National Championships February 27th-March 1st.

The meet, in its 25th edition, hosted international teams from the Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, Florida USA and Bolivia.

"The meet was run efficiently and was really enjoyable. Our thanks to the meet hosts 'y' Speedos Swim Club as well as all the officials, volunteers and sponsors," Coach Palmer said. [🌐](#)

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FRONT PAGE

Annual Turtle Release a Success

Continuing a tradition that started decades ago, the Cayman Turtle Centre, held its annual turtle release on Sunday, November 10th. It was a fun, family-friendly event with meaning. Everyone there seemed to have great time and there were moments of inspirati...

13 Nov, 2019

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"Be Informed" theme for series of port meetings

With the port referendum drawing closer, the government has organised a series of eight big public meetings for disseminating information and answering voters' questions about the proposed new cruise berthing facility, the first of which took place at Mary Miller Hall

READ MORE

Government

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Government to Hold Public Meetings on Cruise Berthing

The Government will be holding a series of public meetings in its ongoing effort to inform the public about the proposed cruise berthing facility and enhanced cargo port project (CBF).

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Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories Lay

Government commits to beneficial ownership register

In a statement issued this week, ... has announced that it will

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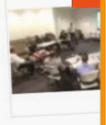
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► A neat little lawn, and plenty of different, shade-loving plants

Ideas for small spaces

Lots of people, especially if they live in one of Cayman's Condominiums, have very small gardens. But that is no reason why they shouldn't be just as lovely, in their way, as a big garden. A row of joined up homes in George Town, which backs onto an old strip of mature and overgrown woodland is a good example. Here you perhaps wouldn't have thought that anyone could do much with the narrow, communal strip of land at the back of the homes. But in reality, each homeowner or tenant has made it pretty, unique and wonderful. The dense shade from the big trees beyond helps make it lovely and cool, even in the hottest weather, and when one of the residents, Wendy George, showed me around, back of her home it was like stepping into another, secret world.

When you have a small space, you need to make the most of everything. Hanging baskets and of course plenty of pots – not just on the patio, but on tables as well, are ways of keeping things pretty, and in order. Wendy had got a number of plants arranged in pots around a lovely tall silver thatch tree.

"This is my little herb and vegetable garden here. I've got mint; I've got a tomato plant coming up, too," Ms George said. "That's one kind of thyme (small leaved) and this is another kind (big leaved) of thyme as well," she said, "and this is basil, which is an old plant, but its done me pretty well," she said. It's certainly nice having fresh herbs growing just a few steps away from your kitchen, and of course, some kinds of plant, like basil, or hot scotch bonnet peppers can be pruned and then they come back again.

"That's Cilantro they use it for cooking fish and I like its lovely aroma," she said, rubbing a leaf between her thumb and forefinger. "Here is parsley and this is called chives or scallions...and this is my struggling kale plant. It's is an ex-

periment; I want to see if I can use it in salads."

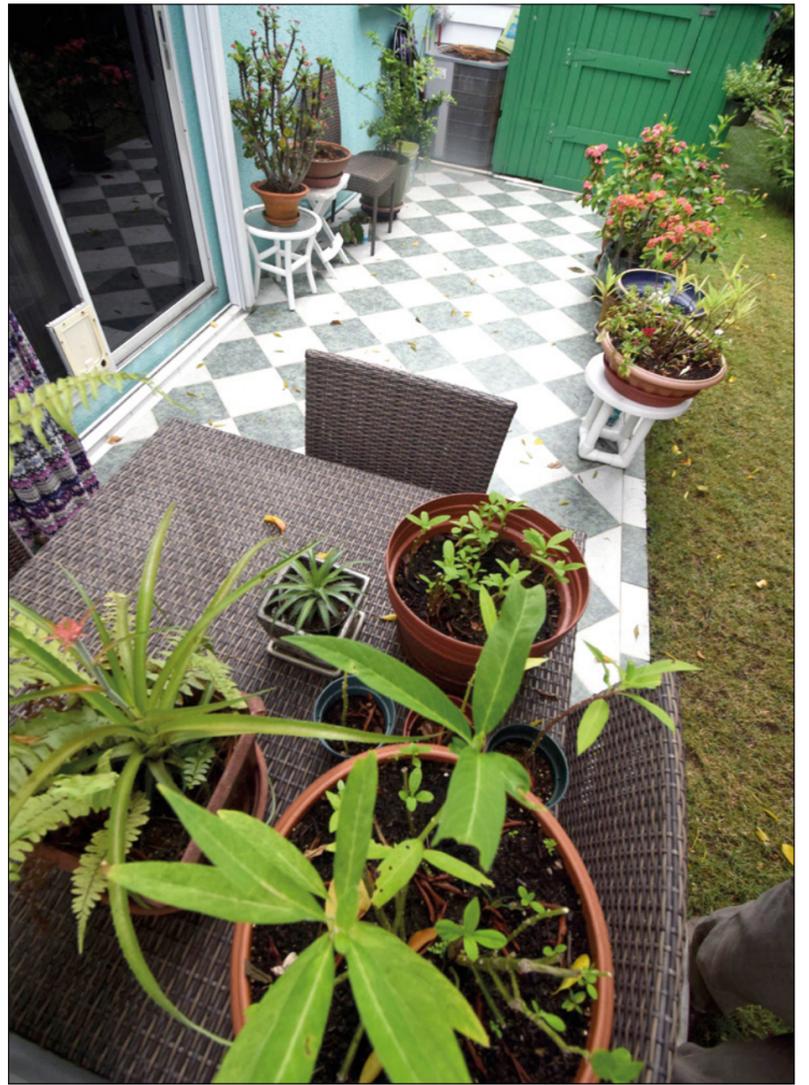
Ms George even has a little lime tree, and next to it, a little lemon tree, each growing in a pot. At the back of her garden are the lovely, feathery fronds of the Areca palm, which forms a kind of visual screen. "This is my cherry tree, and the cherries are best when they are nice and dark," Ms George said.

Ms George likes to start plants growing from cuttings, and there is quite a lot of 'sharing' of cuttings going on between friends in the development. A few doors down, one of Ms George's neighbors also had some amazing ideas for small spaces. There were a total of four bird-baths there and the friend said she very much likes to see all the birds coming there for a drink and the bright yellow bananaquits add a splash of color, while they are having a drink and a splash in the bird baths. Gardens aren't just about flowers, but animals like birds or even frogs and insects can add interest, too.

"It's a very shady area with the woods behind, so there's not a lot of sunlight, so one of the things I've focused on is getting variegated leaves," the neighbor explained. Variegated leaves are a way of introducing some color where flowering plants would find it difficult to grow, because there is not enough light for them. Ferns of course do well in the shade too, and look so lovely.

On the patio are plenty of plants growing in pots: "These are called the Crown of Thorns – they are pretty hardy, and do well here," the neighbor said. "Unfortunately we do suffer from some of the sooty mold from the trees which is all over the island. There is a nice little well-kept lawn, too.

Dwarf pineapples were growing in some borers and on a pot on the patio table, too. The neighbor is also growing Milkweed, which is the favorite food for monarch butterflies – so called be-



► Tables can hold pots, too

cause their chrysalis is distinguished by a wonderful golden 'crown' which surrounds them. Tadpoles too, were 'growing' in a plastic container full of rainwa-

ter: "I came out one morning and the bird baths were all full of tadpoles, so I just put them into a big tub to see what happens," she said. 🌍



► Plenty of pots and planters



► Pots help organize space



► Shade-loving flower

Guyana Rejects International Group's Claim that Country Could Lose Billions of Dollars in "Exceptionally Bad" Oil Deal with ExxonMobil

The Guyana Government has defended its oil licence agreement with US oil company ExxonMobil in the face of what it called a "random, arbitrary and highly speculative" charge by international and anti-corruption group Global Witness that it made bad deal that will cost it US\$55 billion.

And it has alleged that the report by Global Witness is an apparent attempt to seek to influence the outcome of the March 2nd general and regional elections.

In its report, published on Monday and entitled 'Signed away: How Exxon's exploitative deal deprived Guyana of up to US\$55 billion' Global Witness said the oil company's aggressive tactics with "inexperienced" Guyanese officials resulted in an agreement that will cause the country to lose out on billions that "could be used to build much-needed roads, hospitals, schools, and sea defences to protect the 90 per cent of the population at risk from rising sea levels".

Global Witness insisted that the Government should have got more from the deal, and recommended that the David Granger-led administration renegotiate the agreement to get more money from Exxon, while at the same time advocating that it should halt drilling in the offshore Stabroek block where Exxon operates.

Exxon had a licence for the Stabroek oil reserve off the Guyanese coast in 1999. And Global Witness claimed that after finding oil off the coast in 2016 – one of a series of finds that would make Guyana the world's newest oil hotspot – it rushed to get renew its licence that was "old, shrinking, and would soon expire".

It said Exxon violated its own policies when it paid for Guyana's Natural Resources Minister Raphael Trotman to take a lavish trip to the company's

Texas headquarters, complete with a first-class flight, a stay at an expensive hotel, and meals at an exclusive restaurant. However, it did stress that it was not suggesting that the Minister's trip violated US or Guyanese anti-corruption laws, neither was it alleging that Trotman, who was part of a Cabinet-approved Government delegation, deliberately negotiated a bad agreement or deliberately ignored information that would have got Guyana a better deal.

But in a statement issued yesterday, the Guyana government called the report "sensationalist, agenda-driven and extraordinarily speculative".

"The Government of Guyana views the report as a cunning and calculated attack on a sovereign state with a duly elected Government mere weeks before an election. This timing cannot be seen as a coincidence and it appears as though it is seeking to influence the electoral outcome," it said.

Reacting to the Global Witness recommendation that it should allow no additional drilling in the Stabroek block and also cancel its nine other allocated licences and not award any new licences, the Government said: "This is arbitrary and utterly absurd. On what basis does Global Witness seek to impose its proposition that the people of Guyana must not benefit from our natural resources as the peoples of other countries have done freely for millennia?"

The Government insisted that it entered a fair agreement for the people of Guyana and that has been supported by other credible international agencies. It said the benefits of the deal include: 50 per cent profit oil; two per cent royalty; withholding taxes; a US\$18,000,000



► ExxonMobil has made 15 discoveries since May 2015 and began production in December 2019 from the Liza Phase 1 development

To further support its position, the Government noted that in response to the Global Witness report, leading financial publication Forbes Magazine stated that "just a few hours of analysis reveals the Global Witness report for what it is: An ideologically-motivated attack piece aimed at some of the biggest players in the oil and gas industry".

The Government also stressed that the Global Witness was unable to establish any corruption or malpractice whatsoever on the part of Government, and that at all material times, Government officials acted with the knowledge and authority of the Cabinet and on the basis of credible advice.

"Not having been able to establish any corruption, Global Witness then pivots and engaged in a flight of fancy. The figure of \$55 billion is random, arbitrary and highly speculative. In fact, the people of Guyana are assured of earning tens of billions of US dollars in the years ahead and would have unprecedented and bountiful amounts for investment in their wages and salaries, pensions, education, health care, security, infrastructure, sea defence, agriculture, hinterland development and for future generations through Guyana's already established Natural Resource Fund," it said.

The Government insisted that it had acted decisively in allowing for first oil to have been celebrated in less than five years, which it said was an unprecedented and historic achievement.

"All Guyanese are imbued with a deep sense of pride and patriotism that they are now citizens of an oil producing nation and are urged not to allow anyone to steal their joy and good fortune," it added. 🌐

signing bonus; over 1900 persons directly employed in oil and gas sector to date; over US\$300 million in foreign direct investment to date; and over 700 service providers to date.

"The Government maintains its position that there were geo-political and national security imperatives which could not be ignored. The report deliberately seeks to trivialize the national security and sovereignty of Guyana. Further, Global Witness completely ignores the analyses and reviews done by credible companies such as the Norway-based Rystad Energy and experts including Sir Paul Collier of the prestigious Oxford University," it added.

Rystad Energy, a widely respected oil and gas analytical firm, has estimated that the two per cent royalty and 50 per cent profit oil levy will give the government 60 per cent of the profit from the various projects, and that is favourable given that for countries that only recently opened up for exploration and production activities – such as the Falkland Islands, Israel, Mozambique and Mauritania – the Government take is in the range of 50 to 65 per cent.

By-Election Announced as Jamaica Government MP Resigns with Immediate Effect

Residents of Clarendon South East will vote for a new Member of Parliament in another four weeks, following the resignation of Rudyard Spencer last night.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness today announced March 2 as the date for the by-election in the southern constituency, less than 24 hours after it was announced in Parliament that Spencer, who served as MP for 18 years and was State Minister in the Ministry of National Security, was stepping down from representational politics with immediate effect.

Nomination Day is February 12.

"As Prime Minister, it is my duty to ensure the proper functioning of the people's government, which includes keeping the Parliamentary majority intact," Holness said in a statement issued in which he announced the by-election.

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation Parnell Charles Jnr will be the standard bearer for the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) in the Clarendon South East constituency.

The opposition People's National Party (PNP) said it will not contest a by-election so soon before the next general election which is constitutionally due by February 25 next year.

Spencer, a former trade unionist, first entered Parliament as an Opposition JLP Senator in 1993 and served as Leader of the Opposition Business in the Upper House from 1995 to 1997. He was the Minister of Health from 2007 to 2012 under the Bruce Golding administration.

He is a specialist in financial-sector worker representation and negotiations and held the positions of President, Senior Vice President and Senior Negotiating Officer at the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU).

Spencer also served as Director of the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU) and has represented the trade union movement internationally as a Member of the Caribbean Congress of Labour. He was also Chairman of the Joint BITU/JLP Committee.



► Rudyard Spencer has resigned with immediate effect

He was awarded the Order of Distinction (Commander Class) in 1995.

Local media reports say Spencer is expected to take up an ambassadorial post in Germany soon. 🌐

Region Developing Strategy to Combat Misinformation about Coronavirus as WHO Also Battles Rumours

Regional Health Ministers and other officials have agreed to draft an aggressive communications strategy to combat misinformation on the novel Coronavirus.

The Council for Human and Social Development held an emergency meeting via video conference on Monday, and it was agreed that the comprehensive communications strategy would provide citizens with accurate information on how the situation is being addressed. It will target various audiences and include information about the ways in which the virus can be prevented, transmitted and controlled.

It was also recommended at the meeting that the region agree to a coordinated, standard approach for handling of entry to air and sea ports. Issues such as the roles and functions of personnel at the ports; transporting of samples for testing; dialogue with airlines and cruise lines; and action to be taken before, during and after an outbreak, were all discussed.

The Member States have agreed that they will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves internationally, and are on standby to meet again as required.

Meantime, the World Health Organization (WHO) said it has taken steps to ensure that the epidemic that has claimed

hundreds of lives in central China does not spark a dangerous social media "infodemic" fuelled by false information.

And in the face of concerns that people of Chinese descent are being discriminated against as fears grow over the spread of the disease, United Nations (UN) chief António Guterres called for international solidarity and an end to any ill-founded discrimination of the outbreak's victims.

WHO Director of Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness, Dr Sylvie Briand, told journalists in Geneva yesterday that the agency has already moved fast to dispel an online rumour that the virus can be caught from an infectious "cloud":

"People had suddenly the impression that the virus was in the air...there is this cloud of virus" that can cause infection, she said. "This is not the situation. Currently the virus is transmitted through droplets and you need a close contact to be infected...So we try to clarify what we know about the science – what is still unknown – and provide recommendations that can help people to protect themselves and their families."

Dr Briand's comments echo those of WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who on Monday said that the agency was working with



major internet platforms to ensure that WHO's information about the coronavirus appears first in online searches.

The respiratory illness has claimed almost 500 lives and there are more than 24,000 reported cases in China and 158 cases outside the country.

In an appeal for global cooperation, Dr Briand said it was important not to censor information, but rather communicate what is known about the virus, and what is not known. She said that those most at risk were those with reduced immunity because of underlying illness-

es such as cancer and other chronic illnesses, in addition to senior citizens.

In the two weeks since the virus was declared a global health emergency by the WHO's Emergency Committee, Dr Briand said there is no evidence that the virus has mutated significantly.

She added that it was also too soon to assess how dangerous the virus is, she added, reiterating the WHO's advice that handwashing and wearing facemasks when coming into contact with infected individuals, remain the recommended practice. 🌐

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Plummets

1 Figure out 43 Suit

6 Leopard material

11 Assertion

12 Secret supply

13 Steely Dan hit

15 — de mer

16 Sprinted

17 Cry of insight

18 Out, socially

20 Fruitcake bit

21 Ear: Prefix

22 Annoy

23 — worse than death

26 Port sights

27 Sacks

28 Old auto

29 Make mistakes

30 Good fortune

34 Golf peg

35 Boxing great

36 Victory

37 1931 Kentucky Derby champion

40 Worry

41 Stable animal

T	I	A	R	A	S	E	C	S	
A	R	G	O	N		U	R	A	L
P	A	N	I	C		P	A	N	E
I	T	E		I	C	E		T	E
N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	S	E	V
				E	N	D		W	E
F	I	R	S	T		P	A	N	S
E	D	E	N		S	A	M		
R	E	S	O	L					
V	A	T		O	P	T		L	O
O	M	A	H	A		E	V	I	T
R	A	T	E	D		R	I	V	E
N	E	W	S			N	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer

DOWN

1 Doofus

2 City of southwest New York

3 Eric Clapton song

4 Coq au — one

5 Dubai, for one

6 Play part

7 Light touch

8 Marine

9 Bruce Banner's alter ego

10 Lawmak-

11 Assertion

12 Secret supply

13 Steely Dan hit

15 — de mer

16 Sprinted

17 Cry of insight

18 Out, socially

20 Fruitcake bit

21 Ear: Prefix

22 Annoy

23 — worse than death

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27 Sacks

28 Old auto

29 Make mistakes

30 Good fortune

34 Golf peg

35 Boxing great

36 Victory

37 1931 Kentucky Derby champion

40 Worry

41 Stable animal

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
					14				
15				16				17	
									20
				19					
					21				22
23	24	25							26
27						28			
29									31
									32
									33
34						35			36
37									39
40									41
42									43

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/11

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Word Search

- Beginning Birth
- Cradle
- Creation
- Dawn
- Debut
- Entrance
- Entry
- Genesis Germ
- Intro
- Launch
- Onset
- Origin
- Outset
- Overture
- Preamble
- Preface
- Premiere
- Prologue
- Start
- Womb

E	G	C	T	E	R	E	I	M	E	R	P	O	M	B
U	O	A	D	U	N	B	M	L	T	U	R	N	S	I
C	D	T	R	T	D	W	L	A	R	H	E	S	L	R
R	L	H	R	W	C	N	N	U	F	T	F	E	O	T
A	I	Y	E	P	E	W	T	N	O	O	A	T	V	H
D	I	D	A	N	W	I	A	C	R	M	C	G	E	Y
L	E	P	T	E	T	N	P	H	P	G	E	C	R	O
E	I	B	N	T	O	R	E	I	N	R	R	A	T	R
U	G	W	U	P	E	L	A	I	I	E	F	S	U	I
G	N	W	S	T	B	S	N	N	A	N	S	T	R	G
O	N	D	P	M	L	N	T	T	C	D	T	A	E	I
L	F	O	A	S	I	C	I	U	E	P	R	H	N	
O	V	E	B	G	L	O	B	M	O	W	C	T	O	A
R	R	A	E	R	N	M	R	E	G	T	N	W	A	D
P	V	B	T	R	E	Y	G	E	N	E	S	I	S	E

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

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES. HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

HI, DAD! IT'S ME, CURTIS!

DAD, IS A SHEET OF GLASS EXPENSIVE?

WELL, I GUESS IT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW LARGE THE GLASS!

UM, LESSEE... LET'S SAY, UH - HYPOTHETICALLY - LARGE ENOUGH TO FIT A DEPARTMENT STORE DISPLAY WINDOW...

WHY DO I HEAR THE DOORBELL RINGING SO MUCH ???

UHH, ENCYCLOPEDIA SALESMAN, DAD! YOU KNOW HOW PUSHY THEY ARE! CLICK

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee

HNNHH! SORRY, CAGE! HIS VOICE-MADE ME DO IT!

SPIDER-MAN - STAND DOWN!

THIS WEBBING - TOO STRONG TO BUST OUT OF -!

PROVING I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE!

STAN LEE
ALEX SAVILIK
1-1

MY MID-SEASON TRADE OF LUKE CAGE FOR SPIDER-MAN IS DEFINITELY PROVING A GAME CHANGER!

JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ROY IS "GONE"?

WHAT?

HE'S JUST GONE!

MARCIULLIANO + MANLEY
1/1

HE WOKE UP EARLY AND SAID HE HAD A "SURPRISE" FOR ME.

BUT HE NEVER RETURNED! ALL THEY FOUND WERE HIS CLOTHES!

Caymanian Times



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