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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COMMUNITY — A2



Advice for Caymanians in the UK

LOCAL NEWS — P14



Chamber encourages the public to remain calm

• LOCAL NEWS — A5



Cayman Airways monitoring Coronavirus (COVID-19)

• OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE — A7



TIA PARROTT IS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

• REGIONAL — A8



Jamaica's Carnival will go ahead despite the coronavirus scare

Closing schools "under consideration"



Health City suspends services for new patients



► Health City Cayman Islands Main Entrance

HMCI (Hazard Management Cayman Islands) advised on Friday morning that some staff members have fallen sick at Health City with what is presumed to be COVID-19.

HCCI has decided that for the next two weeks they are quarantining all medical and hospital staff that came into contact with the COVID-19 patient. In accordance with best international practice regarding the containment of COVID-19.

Dr. Chattuparambil continued, "We would like to assure the public that all necessary precautions to contain the virus have been put in place within our fa-

... Continued story on page A4

Taiwan shows world how to deal with virus

With the world in panic over the coronavirus pandemic and every strata of each affected country's society disrupted by it; the most amazing stat is that Taiwan has negligible levels of infection despite being only 81 miles from mainland China.

When the outbreak first reached alarming levels in China in December, predictions were that Taiwan's 24 million residents faced an intense outbreak with the likelihood of many deaths. Yet Taiwan has completely dispelled that warning. But because Taiwan initially took swift and effective measures, they have less than 50 infections of Covid-19. This was through a strict travel ban on China, Hong Kong and Macau although extensive travel and commerce with China could not be totally halted.

The virus has infected more than 105,000 people worldwide and impact-

... Continued story on page A7



► Testing every child daily is routine



COVID19: Advice for Caymanians in the UK from CIGOUK



Cayman Islands nationals in the United Kingdom have been assured that arrangements have been put in place for them to access the services of the UK's National Health Services(NHS) should they have concerns about their health-related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

A release from the Cayman Islands UK Office in London (CIGOUK) advises:

"Caymanians will be treated as British Nationals through the NHS system of testing and assistance where necessary. Any Caymanians with positive COV-ID-19 results should remain in the UK and follow the guidance and assistance of the NHS."

This is one of a series of updated measures arranged by CIGOUK in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak in the UK.

The office advises that should any Cayman national in the UK who is experiencing symptoms of the virus that they should self-isolate for up to seven days.

However, if the symptoms persist or worsen within that time, such persons are advised to then phone the NHS hotline 111.

Caymanians overseas wishing to travel home should review the current trav-

el advice and ensure they are not exhibiting symptoms of the virus.

Direct email messages will be sent to all overseas Caymanians who are subscribed to CIGOUK and to the Cayman Connection UK(CCUK) network, and further messaging distributed through social media channels and networks.

Caymanian students who are boarding in schools in the UK, if subject to future closures, should follow the advice of the schools regarding overseas students.

CIGOUK and CCUK are also reaching out to university students in their network.

André Ebanks, Cayman Islands Representative to the UK and Europe, commented "The CIGOUK will continue to keep Caymanians in the UK and Europe informed.

"Our guidance to Caymanians overseas is on our website and we will continue share updates through social media channel," Mr Ebanks said in the release.

He also said that Caymanians in the UK should contact the CIGOUK offices on info@cigouk.ky or 020 7491 7772 if they have any concerns.

Thursday's advisory for CIGOUK follows an announcement earlier in the day by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson ramping up his government's response in tackling the spreading outbreak of COVID19 in the UK.

The UK has moved from a "contain phase" to the "delay phase" to slow down the spread of the virus.

This will also alleviate pressure on the National Health Service (NHS) and protect at-risk members of society.

It was reiterated that the vast majority of people who get the virus should suffer only mild symptoms followed by a fairly quick recovery.

Schools will not be closed in the UK at this time, but this will remain under review.



► Andre Ebanks, Cayman Islands Representative to the UK and Europe



Labour Force Survey 2019 Starting Sunday, 10th March 2019

The 2019 Spring Labour Force Survey (LFS) will be conducted by the Economics and Statistics Office (ESO) starting Sunday, 10th March 2019.

The LFS collects data on the employed and unemployed persons, as well as those who are not in the labour force.

Trained interviewers, with identification cards from the ESO will visit 1,500 randomly selected households in all districts.

The interviews are confidential in accordance with the Statistics Law (2016 Revision). No individual data will be published or disclosed. Survey data are exempt from Freedom of Information requests.



For further information on any aspect of the survey, please contact the **ESO hotline 516-3329**.

CIGTV GUIDE CIGTV FOR WEEK OF MARCH 16 - 19

Tuesday, 16 March 12:00 AM Youth Parlaiment March 9 2020 p1

| 1.55 AIVI | News Opuale |
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| 2:15 AM | Youth Parlaiment March 9 2020 p2 |
| 3:25 AM | CNCF National Arts & Culture Awards Press Conference 2020 |
| 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 2019 |
| 6:00 AM | News Update |
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| 6:45 AM | Wreck of the Ten Sail CINM 18 Feb 2020 |
| 7:20 AM | COVID-19 Q&A Session March 4 2020 |
| 8:00 AM | 24th Annual Parliamentary |
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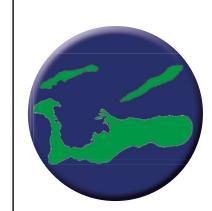
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Rosa Harris In Davos

12:00 AM Youth Parlaiment March 9 2020 p1



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Caymanian Times

Issue # 519

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

Monday, March 16, 2020 | Issue No 519

Closing schools "under consideration," after first coronavirus case confirmed

The Public Health Department confirmed the first case of a person in the Cayman Islands with the novel coronavirus, after one of the five people who were tested for the virus earlier in the week, tested positive. The announcement was followed by a press briefing attended by the Premier, Hon Alden McLaughlin, Minister for Health Hon. Dwayne Seymour, as well as senior health professionals Medical Health Officer, Dr. Samuel Williams-Rodriguez, Chief Medical Officer Dr. John Lee, and Dr. Binoy Chattuparambil, of Health City, where the patient is being treated and kept in isolation.

"The patient is a visitor who was transferred from a cruise ship for a critical cardiac issue," said Dr. Samuel Williams-Rodriguez. "The patient was doing well but subsequently developed breathing difficulties, was isolated and a test taken has confirmed is suffering with the novel coronavirus."

The patient is a 68-year-old man from Italy, who was allowed to disembark from a Caribbean Princess cruise ship on Monday 9 March and taken immediately to Health City by helicopter. There was also another sick passenger allowed to disembark from the ship, but nobody else from the ship came ashore.

During the press briefing, the public was reminded to take all necessary precautions against contracting the coronavirus. The risk can be reduced by imple-



▶ (L-r) Dr. Samuel Williams-Rodriguez, Hon. Dwayne Seymour, Hon Alden McLaughlin, Dr. Binoy Chattuparambil, and Dr. John Lee

menting personal protective measures, such as frequent hand washing, covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory illnesses.

Premier Alden McLaughlin spoke of the likelihood of extending the travel ban to more than the single country, following a special Cabinet meeting, "There will be a fairly extensive list before Cabinet tomorrow, and assuming approval, we will then be able to make an announcement as to which countries travel will be banned from. It will be a complete ban, except for returning resi-

dents who would then be placed in isolation." he said.

Closing schools was also, "certainly under consideration," he said, adding that the big inter-primary sports day was being cancelled. 'We are certainly discouraging public gatherings of significant numbers," he added.

"These things have broader social and economic considerations and also logistical implications. So we are taking our time and being very careful. But we do believe that Cayman is going to have to impose some fairly drastic and radical measures in regards to containing this virus and preventing it moving to the stage it has in other places, where they are chasing the virus rather than being able to point to its source.

Dr. Lee said: "We are in contact right across the medical community so I have had a lot of discussions with The Doctors Hospital who have pledged their utmost support. We know that Health City have as well. If the virus takes a hold then the stress is going to be put on all the different parts of the health system. So it won't just be hospital or H.S.A but it would be private doctors as well. We would anticipate that everybody would use their normal channels of care."



Dr. John Lee



► Premier Hon Alden McLaughlin



► Dr. Binoy Chattuparambil

COMMUNITY NOTICE

HSA Physiotherapy Department relocating to Smith Road Centre

The otherapy Department at the Cayman Islands Hospital will be relocating to the first floor of

HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY CAYMAN ISLANDS Caring People. Quality Service.

service to which patients are accustomed. Operating hours and contact informa-

Smith Road Centre, 150 Smith Road, effective Monday March 16 2020. There will be no interruption in patients' ap-

tion for the unit will remain the same. Contact 244-2730 or email info@ hsa.ky for more information. 🏵

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The Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce encourages the public to remain calm



The Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce encourages the public to remain calm within the context of COVID-19 and stresses that panic buying is unnecessary.

Hazard Management Cayman Islands has confirmed that cargo ships carrying food supplies and household products continue to arrive on island as normal. Port Authority Director Joseph Woods has confirmed that four cargo ships are due to arrive as scheduled in the Cayman Islands in the next few days.

All Cayman supermarkets and their suppliers have confirmed that goods are continuing to be delivered to them as usual.

Consumers have been bulk buying certain household products, including cleaning and disinfectant items, toilet paper, and canned foods, leading to a temporary shortage of these items. In these cases some supermarkets are limiting the number of certain products each customer can buy, such as disinfecting products and bleach.

Chamber President and Managing Director of Fosters, Woody Foster, said its stores were "fully stocked on food items and [they] have been assured that our suppliers, both locally and overseas, have



► Chamber President and Managing Director of Fosters, Woody Foster

product on hand to ship". These sentiments have been echoed by the other major supermarkets.



... Continued story from page A1

cility. It is with this in mind that Health City Cayman Islands is taking the extremely cautious measure of temporarily closing services and not accepting any new patients for approximately two weeks. This decision was taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our patients, the community and our staff."

Dr. Chattuparambil further outlined the hospital's stringent quarantine and infection control procedures.

"We are working closely with the Ministry of Health and Public Health officials in the containment of the COVID-19 virus in the Cayman Islands. As a result, Health City has decided that for the next two weeks we are quarantining all medical and hospital staff that came

into contact with this patient. In accordance with best international practice regarding the containment of COVID-19, we believe this is vital in order to absolutely ensure there is no local community spread of the virus from this patient," he said.

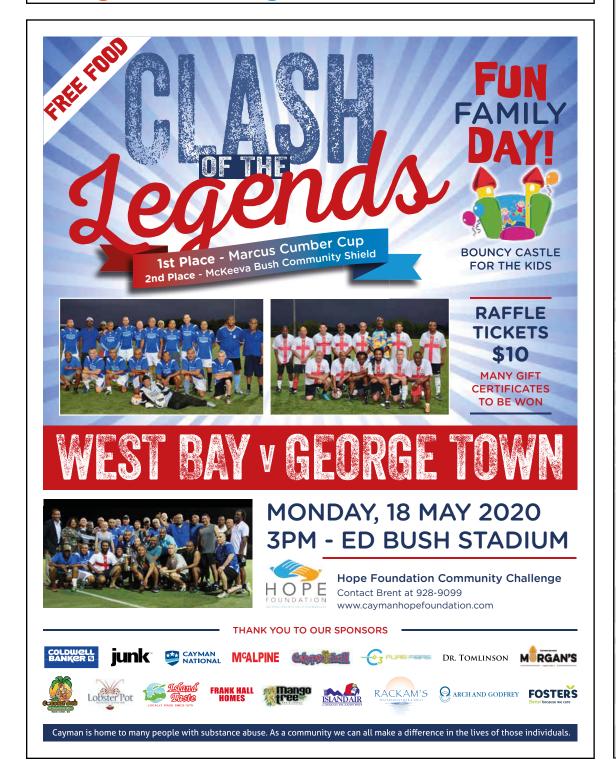
He continued, "We have made these difficult decisions to ensure that we stay true to our promise of health and safety to our patients and staff, as well as the surrounding community. Our team will be contacting patients with scheduled treatment and procedures to organize and ensure continuity of care."

For more information on Health City's update visit www. healthcitycaymanislands.com. For the latest information and government updates visit www.gov.ky/coronavirus.





6:30AM WORKOUTS STARTRegister: www.guardiansalive345.com





CAL closely monitoring Coronavirus Implements new measures for healthy travel

As Cayman Airways Limited (CAL) has been closely monitoring the situation regarding the Coronavirus (COV-ID-19), several proactive and voluntary measures have been implemented to help ensure the continued safety and well-being of CAL passengers and employees.

The three main areas of focus have been: the cleaning of aircraft; the sanitization of catering items and equipment; and clean environments for employees and customers.

"Our regular cleaning practices for aircraft have always met or exceeded all regulatory guidelines, both locally and in the markets we serve, and now we've introduced enhanced and specialized cleaning measures between flights daily," said Cayman Airways President and CEO, Fabian Whorms. "For every flight you take with Cayman Airways, you can rest assured that your safety and well-being, as well as that of our employees, are our top priority at every step of your journey with us."

Mr. Whorms said that, in accordance with required procedures, all catering equipment on board CAL's aircraft already undergo a thorough sanitization

regimen, but that the company's catering providers locally and overseas have also now introduced their own enhanced sanitization measures and procedures at their facilities, as well as for the transportation of scheduled catering to and from CAL's aircraft.

CAL's VP Airport Operations, Ivan Forbes, said: "We work closely with all airport authorities in the markets we serve to ensure a clean and safe environment for our employees and customers. Our airport partners are ensuring that check-in areas and departure gates are maintained in a suitable sanitary condition, while all Cayman Airways employees, especially those on the frontline, are being briefed on the best practices and health advisories issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and local health officials with regards to how to stay germ free and healthy in the fight against COVID-19."

Cayman Airways is advising customers to stay updated on the latest developments related to COVID-19 from trusted sources, and to implement their own strategies for a healthy travel experience based on the guidance of the WHO and the health authorities in their



area. Customers are also urged not to travel when sick, and are encouraged to travel with their own hand sanitizer.

Cayman Airways has also extended its change-fee waiver deadlines to further accommodate passengers wishing to change their travel plans during this time. Passengers wishing to make changes to an existing ticket for travel to or from international destinations may do so without being subject to the change fee, providing: travel is on Cayman Airways; the ticket was purchased prior to March 3, 2020; and travel is scheduled between March 2, 2020 through April 30, 2020. Travel can be

rebooked within the validity of the original ticket, but changes must be made on or before April 30, 2020, and any fare difference will apply at the time of rebooking. Any new tickets bought on or before March 31, 2020 will not be subject to change fees, but the ticket will be non-refundable, and this applies for travel up to October 31, 2020. Customers wishing to change their bookings should contact their travel professional or call Cayman Airways Reservations on: 345-949-2311; 1-800-422-9626 (toll free in the USA); 866-759-1372 (toll free in Jamaica); or 800-2791-9422 (toll free in Honduras). ③

Foster's reassures customers that panic-buying is not necessary

Since the rapid spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the classification of the virus as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, panic-buying has ensued, globally. While no cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the Cayman Islands to date, people have been stocking up on disinfectant items in an effort to keep their families safe

Recently, photos and video have been spread on social media of empty shelves at our Foster's Supermarket and Priced Right locations. While we may be temporarily out of stock on certain high-demand items, we are working with our suppliers to bump-up orders and purchase what is available while searching for new sources and product alternatives where needed. "Our purchasing team is working to increase orders on high-demand products and get them on island as quickly as possible" says Marketing Senior Manager Julian Foster. "We are, however, experiencing some temporary shortages on health and sanitation products like face masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and sprays, and isopropyl alcohol, among other products, which are in high demand around the world. During these unprecedented times, manufacturers and suppliers are working to ramp up production and ordering to ensure product is available."

Because of this, product limits have been placed on disinfecting products, bleach and vinegar. The limits, ranging from 1-4 products per person, per SKU, are clearly marked on store shelves. The full list of products can be found on our website - https://fosters.ky/ cov-product-limit/. Updates to the product list will be made on this site should changes occur and the information will be shared on social media.

Customers are encouraged to take steps to practice infection control measures by:

- Frequently washing hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap
- Covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections
- well-hydrated Staying throughout the day (as a reminder, Cayman's tap water is 100% safe to drink)

"We are fully stocked on food items and have been assured that our suppliers, both locally and overseas, have product on hand to ship" says Managing Director, Woody Foster. "Our warehouse is fully stocked, and while we may still see temporary out of stocks on products, we've increased orders where we need to on critical, shelf stable products". While the uncertainty around COVID-19 remains, customers can rest as-



► Christine welcomes shoppers

sured that both Foster's Supermarkets and Priced Right locations are taking action to keep shelves stocked and stores clean for customers

Foster's is committed to providing the best service possible, and is in regular contact with local police, port and government authorities as we all work through this dynamic and unique period. We ask that the

community remain calm, think rationally and use proper hygiene practices throughout the day.

Customers with questions on product availability can speak to team members in store, email info@fosters.ky, or contact us on Foster's' and Priced Right's social media channels (@fosterscayman & @pricedrightcayman). 😚

CAL extends change-fee waiver for international travel

As Cayman Airways continues to closely monitor developments related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the change-fee waiver currently in effect has been extended.

Cayman Airways will be waiving applicable change fees for passengers travelling to or from international gateways,

- Travel is on Cayman Airways (waiver applies only to Cayman Airways flights)
- The ticket was purchased prior to March 3, 2020
- Travel is scheduled between March 2, 2020 through April 30, 2020

Travel can be rebooked within the validity of the original ticket, but changes must be made on or before April 30,

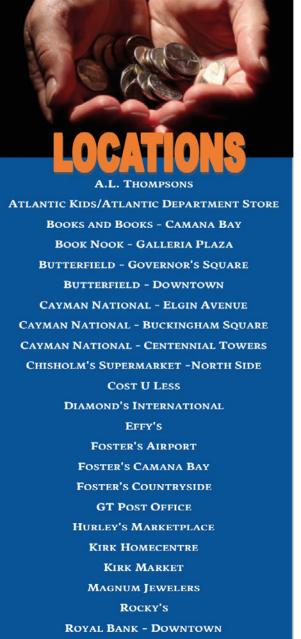
2020. Effective March 3, 2020, any new tickets purchased on or before March 31, 2020 will not be subject to a change fee. However, the ticket will be non-refundable. This waiver of change fees will apply for tickets purchased during this timeframe for travel up to October 31, 2020. It is important to note that, while change fees will be waived, fare differences may still apply.

For more information and to request itinerary changes, customers can call Cayman Airways Reservations on 345-949-2311 or 1-800-422-9626 (toll free within the USA).



CAYMAN ISLANDS MEALS ON WHEELS

CHANGE



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HSA INTRODUCES IN-LAB SLEEP STUDY AND SLEEP MEDICINE PHYSICIAN

Persons suffering with sleep disorders now have treatment options available at the Health Services Authority (HSA) with the opening of a new dedicated sleep laboratory and the recruitment of a sleep medicine physician at the Cayman Islands Hospital.

"For years the HSA has been remotely managing and treating patients with sleep disorders through at-home sleep studies," said the Authority's Medical Director, Dr. Jefferson. "Although convenient and comfortable, there are some limitations to testing in the absence of a technician and certain equipment."

According to Dr Preeti Devnani, HSA's first sleep medicine physician, the sleep lab testing provides a more detailed, ac-

curate and comprehensive analysis of sleep disorders by monitoring a variety of functions including monitoring the patient's brainwaves, oxygen saturation, leg motion, heart rate, and other critical benchmarks for diagnosing many sleep disorders.

"The thoroughness of the sensors that are used during an overnight test can detect or rule out a variety of sleep disorders, including obstructive sleep apnea, central sleep apnea, narcolepsy and periodic limb movement disorder," stated Dr Devnani. "The presence of a credentialed and experienced technician and the sophisticated equipment used to ensure that the test goes according to plan and that the respiratory therapists and I get the data we need to interpret and conclude the diagnosis and treatment. The whole process is more comprehensive when done in-lab."

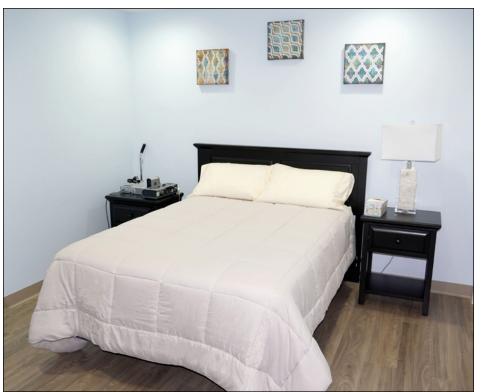
Dr. Devnani is a neurologist and sleep medicine specialist certified with the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. She has 18 years of experience in the field of sleep disorders.

"Healthy sleep is increasingly seen as vital to almost every other aspect of good health, and sleep disorders often have a serious, pervasive impact on health, productivity and quality of life," said Dr. Jefferson. "We are happy to be able to provide the highest quality of care for persons experiencing sleep problems through a sleep medicine phy-



► HSA Neurologist and Sleep Medicine

sician who has all the skills necessary to diagnose and treat sleep disorders, thus helping to prevent serious life-threatening diseases and improve patients' quality of life. With her level of dedication and understanding of the field of sleep medicine, Dr. Devnani is an excellent addition to the team."



► HSA sleep lab

STEPPINGSTONES WELCOMES PAM ABBOTT TO THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

SteppingStones Recruitment, award-winning professional services organization, recently announced the promotion of Pam Abbott to General Manager.

"We are delighted to announce Pam's new appointment. Her hard work, dedication and loyalty throughout her tenure have been an invaluable asset. Pam sits at the heart of the business and has been instrumental in the growth and development of SteppingStones. Her strong sense of exceptional customer service, incredible work ethic, and leadership skills mean that Pam has been a huge part of SteppingStones' achievements including the recent Investors in People World's Employer of the year: Platinum. I am thrilled to welcome Pam to the Management Team and look forward to

or call 916 2000

many more achievements." said Milly Serpell, SteppingStones Founder and Managing Director.

Pam joined the SteppingStones team in 2008 as Staffing Coordinator of Immigrations & Benefits and was promoted to Client Outsourced Services and Administration Manager in 2012 and Operations Manager in January 2017. Pam started her career in recruitment while she was living in Zimbabwe, her home country, followed by London in the UK where she developed a passion for the wider aspects of Human Resources. She moved to the Cayman Islands in 2004 and loves the outdoor lifestyle that Cayman has to offer and thrives on being active and spending time outside of the office with her family.



► Pam Abbot



Bankers Association ADVISORY

Potential Debt Servicing Challenges in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak

Rest assured that your Cayman Islands Bankers' Association member lending institutions are committed to working with you to find a realistic solution in servicing your debt obligations in the advent of an emergency impacting your income.

It is important to engage as early as possible with your financial services professional at your bank who will advise and try to assist in developing a strategy to manage your financial commitments.

This message is supported by our member lending institutions;



Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Ltd, Cayman National Bank Ltd, CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank (Cayman) Limited, Fidelity Bank (Cayman) Ltd, RBC Royal Bank Cayman Limited and Scotiabank & Trust (Cayman) Limited.

Cayman Airways Announcement

Cayman Airways Limited (CAL) confirms that a passenger on board flight KX103 from Miami this morning presented with a cough during the flight. In an abundance of caution, particularly given the heightened awareness during this time, CAL worked with local health authorities

with local health authorities to implement the necessary protocols upon the flight's arrival at



Owen Roberts International Airport (ORIA) on Grand Cayman.

TIA PARROTT RECEIVES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM CPI

Service Desk and Procurement Manager in the Computer Services Department (CSD), Tia Parrott, has received the 2019 Employee of the Year Award from the Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure.

The award was presented to her by Deputy Chief Officer in the Ministry, Ms. Tamara Ebanks at a CSD event recently.

Ms. Parrott has been recognised for consistently exceeding the expectations of her position by finding new, innovative and efficient ways to manage the operations of CSD's service desk and information technology procurement process.

She has been with the department for over twelve years and her primary responsibilities are to manage the Service Desk team. Ms. Parrott is responsible for overseeing the timely delivery of quality technical support service to clients and she focuses on resolving technical issues related to applications, hardware, software, and data communications as well as ensuring support requests are logged to resolve any technological issues. Ms. Parrott is responsible for accelerating complex incidents, performing dynamic project management tasks, and communicating with users to keep them informed of progress. She overseas impending changes, agreed-on outages, and other notifications as well as ensuring procurement requests are actioned.

Deputy Director, Service Delivery in the Computer Services Department Darvy Whittaker who supervises Ms. Parrott said her leadership qualities have positively influenced her team to make a difference and enables her to successfully manage the service desk, which a crucial point of contact for the **Customer Services Department.**

Mr. Darvy continued, "Her customer centric approach to leadership has



▶ (Left to right) Deputy Chief Officer in the Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure, Ms. Tamara Ebanks presents the Ministry's 2019 Employee of the Year to Ms. Tia Parrott



► (Left to right) Deputy Chief Officer in the Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure, Ms. Tamara Ebanks with Computer Services Department Director Mr. Simon Spiers and the Ministry's 2019 Employee of the Year, Ms. Tia Parrott

also influenced her team to provide better customer service to meet or exceed CSD's targets. She demonstrates a visionary approach to improving the services provided to core government. Through her guidance, staff are routinely reminded that they must provide excellent service as the service desk is the single point of contact between the provider and customers".

CSD Director Simon Spiers has also praised Ms. Parrott for her initiative. resourcefulness and contribution to the Department. "She dedicates a lot of her free time to keep up with CSD's procurement demands. She uses her negotiation skills to meet with vendors, and work out beneficial contracts terms for the government," he said.

Mr. Spiers further noted, "Ms. Parrott saw that some government departments were having difficulties keeping track of their Microsoft licences and took the initiative to manage this process. She has also played a key role in the Department's purchase of some 1200 computers for the various ministries, departments and agencies to comply with Microsoft Windows 7 software going end of life earlier this year".

Deputy Chief Officer, Ms. Tamara Ebanks congratulated Ms. Parrot on the award and thanked her for her contribution to the civil service. "The Computer Services Department is very enthusiastic about Ms. Parrott's professionalism and her contribution to the Cayman Islands government over the years. She demonstrates an extraordinary commitment through the multiple hats that she wears at work. Her continued dedication and hard work has allowed her to acquire a specialised set of competencies, which makes her an asset to CSD and the government on a whole," she stated.

Ms. Parrott emphasised that she is grateful that she can add value to the Department and the Ministry. "I am also thankful for the support of my colleagues and my senior management team. CSD has given me the opportunity through-

out the years to work in multiple areas of the department. Learning what other sections do and working with them on collaborative projects are ways to avoid losing sight of the organisation's vision and goal. Working with another team can give you new skills and a fresh perspective. You can simultaneously help serve your organisation's mission along with improving your professional development. They have accorded me a supportive working environment, and while this award is addressed to me, their efforts in making this possible should not go unrecognised," she said.

In addition to the award, Ms. Parrott received a gift certificate from Cayman Airways Limited.

Stores Manager in the Public Works Department, Crosby Solomon and Trade Officer at the Department of Commerce and Investment, Charmane Dalhouse also received honourable mentions for their exemplary performance in the Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure in 2019. ③

Taiwan shows world how to deal with virus

... Continued story from page A1

ed 93 countries. At press time, there were no reported cases of Covid-19 in the Cayman Islands although at least five people have been tested for it.

Many factors placed Taiwan at high risk, including dense urban populations, a high number of travellers from China, the coronavirus outbreak erupting during the Lunar New Year holiday, and a large population of Taiwanese citizens living or working in China. Yet defied the classic factors they have.

Taiwan's success in stemming the numbers is amazing. Unlike China, Taiwan learned from previous outbreaks and prepared adequately for this one. It has a super-efficient National Health Command Centre (NHCC), an agency established after the 2002-03 SARS epidemic which was explicitly created to help contain future disease outbreaks.

The NHCC helped Taiwan quickly determine the dangers posed by the coronavirus, ensured various government agencies were fully informed, and implemented effective counter measures.

Taiwan's Vice President Chen Chien-jen, an epidemiologist by training and health



► Schoolkids are used to wearing face

minister during the SARS crisis, identified key elements of the program. It included transparency, information sharing, staffing agencies with relevant experts and coordinating the efforts of government labs with hospitals and other medical facilities across the island. Basically, every department was mobilised from the getgo. And it's working perfectly.

Communication and swift action are the key. Information management is an invaluable component of Taiwan's response. Data from Taiwan's health insurance and immigration agencies are integrated so doctors have immediate access to the travel histories of their patients, helping them decide who needs coronavirus testing the most.

Infrastructure developed by the NHCC enabled a remarkably quick response to initial reports from Wuhan where it originated, with Taiwanese health officials boarding flights from the region as early as Dec. 31 to check passengers for symptoms.

On Jan. 20, President Tsai Ing-wen announced that current Health Minister Chen Shih-chung would personally su-



▶ This map puts in context the size of Taiwan compared to China



► Face masks are compulsory in Taiwan

pervise operations and host daily press conferences to keep the public informed.

And as the seriousness of the outbreak became clear, the legislature passed a special bill allocating NT\$60 billion (US\$2 billion) to fund containment and control efforts, including border control, paid leave for caregivers and the sick, the manufacture of essential equipment like face masks, forming protocols for tracing sources of infection and reducing the risk of transmission in settings such as schools, hospitals and transportation systems.

It has worked beautifully. In the Caribbean, at press time, Jamaica with a population of 2.8 million had at least two cases and Guyana (780,000) has at least one. There are five cases in French Guiana (290,000) and five in the Dominican Republic (10.77m). These figures put in perspective how well Taiwan is coping.

Crucially, the government does not forget about people who tested negative for the virus — it retests them to keep track of new cases. Additionally, Taiwan's health-insurance system covers 99 percent of the population, adding that affordable coverage virtually guarantees that people don't need to choose between their personal and financial health.



► Airport checks are thorough

To stem the crisis, Taipei required television and radio stations to broadcast hourly public-service announcements about the coronavirus, including how it spreads and how people should prevent infection.

Anyone trying to conceal having it faces excruciating fines. One patient who tried to hide the fact that he had the disease was fined \$10,000, a fortune where the average monthly wage is only CI\$1,500.

Even more impressive is how responsible Taiwan citizens are. They have intensified their safety practices. More than 95 percent of parents take their child's temperature at home and report it to the school before the children arrive. Regardless of what the government does, people are taking responsibility for their own health.

Public and private buildings have screened entrants for signs of fever, and apartment buildings have put hand sanitizer inside or outside elevators. All told, Taiwan has set the template for every country to follow. Years of preparation made it possible. Everybody else ignored the warning signs with other outbreaks. Taiwan simply made sure they were ahead of the curve. ③

CARIBBEAN AIRLINES STATEMENT

Caribbean Airlines has been advised that a passenger who traveled on March 07, 2020 on BW 521 from John F. Kennedy, International Airport, New York to Piarco International Airport, Trinidad in transit (on the same day) to BW 526 from Piarco International to Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Guyana subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 at a public health facility in Guyana.

Caribbean Airlines assures all stakeholders that the safety, security and good health of its customers and employees is its highest priority and when the information on the passenger was received, immediate action was taken.

In accordance with established protocols the Public Health Authorities have advised that as a precaution, the thirteen (13) crew members associated with the flights be placed on self-quarantine for a period of fourteen (14) days. This was done, and the employees will be assessed and monitored by the Public Health Authorities in keeping with the directives from the Ministry of

The Public Health Authorities are also contacting all persons who may possibly have been affected.

The company's aircraft are cleaned daily at all ports in keeping with industry standards. Further, in this instance additional sanitization processes were used as outlined by the regulatory authorities.

The airline remains in close contact with the Public Health Authorities and



its operations team has activated contingencies for any impact on its flights. Caribbean Airlines assures all stake-

monitor and respond to the evolving COVID 19 issue to ensure the safety and good health of its customers and emholders that it continues to actively ployees. 😚

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Caribbean not yet badly hit by virus

While Asia and Europe continue to see significant drops in tourist arrivals due to the ongoing coronavirus scare, many travel experts are reporting that the Caribbean is relatively unscathed.

Tourists are still generally travelling to the Caribbean and Mexico as there are only a few cases reported in the region. Turks and Caicos, Anguilla and St Barths are particularly popular with Ameri-

cans as well as many of the hot spots in the region including Jamaica, Barbados and Antigua.

Joev Levy, an advisor with EMBARK Beyond, in New York City, said: "We have seen a bit of a spike in Caribbean bookings from clients who are concerned about traveling to Asia and Europe. Hotels are taking proper precautions and have an abundance of hand sanitizer on

"I am pleased to see this as many Caribbean properties have been struggling over the last few seasons due to a combination of Zika fears and natural disasters such as hurricanes. The good news is that people are still traveling."

For those worried about being quarantined at a foreign hotel, Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica's tourism minister, told Travel Market Report there are policies set in place that call for any sick guest



Jamaica's Carnival will go ahead despite the corona

to be immediately removed and isolated from the property without the rest of the guests being quarantined.

"When someone wants to understand the situation, they need to understand the science and the facts," said Bartlett. "We are pursuing knowledge from all over the world. We are understanding more and more about the phenomenon and how it needs to be treated. We developed a strategy and a protocol on how to engage our own population as well as visitors coming to our shores."

Jamaica reported its first confirmed case of COVID-19 on Tuesday. The Jamaican Carnival is approaching over the Easter period but there are no plans to cancel it. Bacchanal Jamaica, Xaymaca International and Xodus Carnival, organisers assured masqueraders that Mas will still go on despite the COV-ID-19 threat.

Dominica lines up new political party

Dominica will soon have another political party, run by mostly young women and based in the island's second town. Portsmouth.

The Alternative Peoples' Party, which describes itself as a centrist, law-abiding political organisation, was formed in December 2019 and in an article on its Facebook page, states "it is a political movement which is founded on the principle of coexistence, democracy and justice.

We seek greater involvement of youth and women in electoral politics on the island of Dominica, and among Dominicans in the diaspora. APP aims to unite Dominicans under one common goal - prosperity for all irrespective of party affiliations, spiritual beliefs and financial circumstances."

Dominica held its last general election three months ago. The result was a landslide victory for the ruling Dominica Labour Party, which won 18 of the 21 elected seats, gaining three seats. With the DLP winning a fifth consecutive election, DLP leader Roosevelt Skerrit remained Prime Minister.



▶ Dominica's APP will be based in Portsmouth

The new party has attracted several young professionals, many of whom had no serious prior involvement in partisan politics on the island. A young woman now serves as interim president.

The official launch of the party is carded for May in Portsmouth which is earmarked to be the party's base of operations. The party's focus is on youth and women and there are plans to stage the APP's first Summer Youth Engagement and National Convention. The party is processing registration with the Electoral Commission of Dominica.



▶ Real estate in St Kitts and Nevis is rapidly being built

St Kitts offers citizenship to Nigerians

St Kitts and Nevis is offering citizenship to Nigerians who are interested in investing in the country's economy.

The offer was revealed during a seminar held in Victoria Island, Lagos state on how to legally invest in a 60 shares condominium complex in St Kitts and Nevis created by Fairway Group.

According to a member of Fairway Group, Anthony Idigbe, it comes with many benefits such as business opportunities, security, access to travel and lifetime citizenship including their generation.

Idigbe explained that there are two ways of acquiring the country's citizenship. One is by investing in the sovereign growth fund, which is giving the money to the government and they don't pay you back, or you do the investment program where you invest in a project and get returns. You can even sell the investment after some years and get your money back. ③

Trinidad oil prices drop dramatically

Trinidad and Tobago's economy has been hit by the oil price crash.

University of the West Indies economist Dr Roger Hosein said the Government must immediately implement a contingency meeting and develop a "plan B" to deal with the financial crisis.

It also must bring forward the midterm review of the economy.

"I think they will have to do an entire re-look of transfers and subsidies to see if they can shave a further \$7 billion from it. I think they will have to look at the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund if the crisis continues for some fiscal support for the fiscal gap that will emerge,"

Hosein said Trinidad and Tobago should be worried because this plunge in prices will be a blow to revenue streams. The coronavirus outbreak plus the Saudi Arabia/Russia oil price war could take prices as low as US\$20 a barrel, he predicted. 🏈



▶ Trinidad relies heavily on its oil income

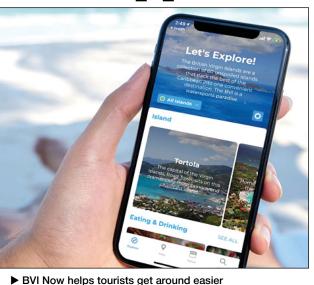
BVI creates unique tourist app

The British Virgin Islands Tourist Board & Film Commission has launched a new travel app, BVI Now, which provides cruise guests and other visitors with an updated listing of businesses across the British Overseas Territory.

Following the damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the British Virgin Islands has faced several challenges. These include a lack of accurate maps and no comprehensive directory of the territory's tourist

businesses, as well as the fact that most tourists do not have mobile service data plans.

The BVI Now app addresses these issues by providing an updated listing of business across the territory, with verified locations and current contact information. The app also includes local tips and helpful information, with guests automatically notified when they are near a place of interest with information about that place. BVI Now is also able to operate even if the user hasn't purchased a data plan or has lost their mobile signal.



▶ BVI Now helps tourists get around easier

"We invite our guests to use the BVI Now app as their gateway to discover new experiences during their stay," said Andrew Fahie, Premier of the British Virgin Islands. "Through this app, which utilises the latest technologies, I am happy that our guests now have an avenue through which they can browse and learn about land and water-based activities, attractions, and access an array of businesses that provide the best the BVI has to offer. We believe BVI Now will enhance our guests' experience, whether they are visiting for a day, a week, or longer." 😚

Guyana media complain over unfair treatment

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Guyana's media workers feel so intimidated, unappreciated and marginalised by politicians that its association has made a formal complaint.

The Guyana Press Association has called on political leaders to "cease and desist from creating conditions for the perpetuation of media harassment and the dampening of press freedom".

The GPA said that it has noted with "deep concern, the degree to which media operatives are increasingly becoming

the targets of attacks related to the ongoing post-elections situation." The media association stated that

it has already informed its Caribbean and international counterparts about the situation in the country.

We have received several reports of threats of violence against journalists on social media and attempts to interfere with the work of media operatives covering events that have followed the March 2 General and Regional Elections", the GPA said.



► Guyana media workers feel maltreated

It added that there is a stringent process of media accreditation to determine the bona fides of local journalists and other media workers, and they would expect that all due regard be paid, and courtesies extended to these professionals in the execution of their duties.

The GPA said the leadership of all political parties, state authorities and interest groups should publicly discourage actions that can undermine the work of journalists and their media enterprises. (?)

PAGE B1

Monday, March 16, 2020 | Issue No 519

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

40 "I do"

42 Jeans material

43 Seeped

44 Painter Magritte

45 Targets

1 Spill over

2 Lightning

players

4 Jazz job

paints

6 Runway

prefix

8 Threat-

ened

9 Had a

bite

12 Formal

worker

5 Some

home

3 Top

DOWN

utterer

ACROSS 1 Theater fixture 6 Showy

flowers, for short

10 Caesar's language 11 Without

break

13 Last Greek letter 14 Kuwaiti

coin 15 Relaxing resort **16** "The

Simpsons" bartender 18 Top card 19 Wrestling

holds 22 Pub pint 23 Last letters

24 Takes steps 27 Rice field **28** Out of the

wind 29 For each 30 Sunshine State vacation

area 35 Great weight

36 Lynx or panther **37** "Very funny!" in a text

38 Musical set in Argentina

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Saturday's answer

17 Metal source 20 Productive

sort 31 Start 21 Plateau of Arkansas

24 Floated on the breeze **32** "My Fair

7 Numerical 25 Everywhere **26** Like

> 27 Sphagnum source

29 Smartphone forerunner

of a Caesar quote

Lady" role 33 Swiss trill 34 Luges

Simba **39** Light metal 41 Aussie hopper

| 10 | | | | | | 11 | | | | 12 |
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| 30 | | | | 31 | | | | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| 35 | | | | 36 | | | | 37 | | |

43

45

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.

| Gonceptis SudoKu By Dave Green | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | | | | 6 | 5 | | 9 | |
| Difficulty Level ** | | | | | | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★

Answer to previous puzzle 5 2 3 1 7 9 8 6 1

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| 3 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | \$1075 |

Difficulty Level #

Word Search

Apple Grape Orange Apricot Guava Papaya Banana Kumquat Peach Cherry Lemon Pear Currant Lime Plum Quince Damson Loquat Date Mango Sloe Melon Ugli

> Have fun with **CAYMANIAN** TIMES

QNOMELUST UBBLLYAYOOO ERUF E C M ВВ ODNORRWOUQ D W C В EHVUHV E H С T W G OLMRCTARYF $\mathsf{G} \mathsf{M} \mathsf{G}$ ROACG A N OTNUD IGLDAM SYLQALIF MAOTNMPHISGVHA EVETNARRUCB

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

CURTIS By Ray Billingsley



UDGE PARKER

MANLE



1-28







THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN By Stan Lee







By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



YOU MAY TELL MRS. RODGERS SHE'S FREE TO GO.

Caymanian 1110 CS

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

DAILY PAPER

Monday Security Secur

| | BUSH | TENT NEWS | |
|---|------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Description | CI\$ | Size (inches) W x H | Maximum # of words |
| Newspaper Advertisement Full page | 900 | 10 x 20 | 1 800 |
| Newspaper Advertisement 2/3 page | 600 | Customized | 1 200 |
| Newspaper Advertisement 1/2 page (horizontal) | 500 | 10 x 9.9 | 900 |
| Newspaper Advertisement 1/2 page (Vertical) | 500 | 4.9 x 20 | 900 |
| Newspaper Advertisement 1/3 page | 400 | Customized | 700 |
| Newspaper Advertisement 1/4 page | 300 | 4.9 x 9.9 | 450 |
| Newspaper Advertisement 1/5 page | 225 | 4.8 x 7.4 | 350 |
| Newspaper Advertisement 1/8 page | 150 | 4.9 x 4.85 | 250 |
| Newspaper Advertisement 1/12 page | 105 | 4.9 x 2.35 | 200 |
| Newspaper Advertisement 1/32 page | 75 | Customized | 150 |
| Newspaper Advertisement Mini | 25 | Customized | 75 |
| Graphic Design | 50 | n/a | |
| Front Page Banner A Section | 300 | 10 x 2.5 | |
| Front Page Banner B Section | 200 | 10 x 2.5 | |
| Other Banner | 100 | 10 x 2.5 | |
| Back Page A Section | 700 | 10 x 20 | |
| Back Page B Section | 500 | 10 x 20 | |
| Insert (4 pages) | 750 | n/a | |
| Advertorial 1/2 page | 500 | n/a | |
| Website Advertising per month | 600 | | |
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