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Cayman's swimmers take to the sea for training

Church Services Coming Soon

Church goers still have to wait some time before they can worship together again in the Cayman Islands, despite Bars in the jurisdiction being back in action on Sunday 7th June, after the Islands' Government gave the green light for the sector to open after 2 months of lockdown.

In a press briefing on Tuesday, 9th June, officials acknowledged and addressed the public's concerns around any social and spiritual conflict between opening the bars before the churches.

Officials explained that the churches present different risks than bars, with regard to more elderly persons being in attendance. However, they noted that it would not be very long before church and sports activities could restart.

"Bars, restaurants and outdoor dining will test the prevalence of the virus and whether there will be a spike," they remarked.

"Social distancing requirements applied are general causing proprietors and patrons some discomfort," noted Cayman Islands



▶ Elmslie Memorial United Church

... Continued story on page A4

Get some R & R at Surfer's Paradise

There is a sweet spot just as South Church Street in South Sound turns the corner from George Town to head East, where the swell in the ocean can sometimes give rise to impressive waves, so a beautiful home turned guest house can only be called one thing in this unique location: Surfer's Paradise.

This splendid beachfront home offers up to 12 guests a relaxing 'home-away-from-home' vibe with rooms upstairs available for rent. On the elevated first floor, staycationers can enjoy their very own kitchen, living room and dining area in one open space. One bedroom has an en-suite bathroom and balcony with garden views, while the

other has two single beds and an en-suite bathroom. There's also a laundry room and a balcony that overlooks the coastline, a covered deck with kitchen facilities, dining area and a spacious casual seating area. For an added bit of luxury there's a four-person hot tub on the deck and a private pool. Stairs lead to a wide sandy beach, complete with picnic tables, a volleyball court and a walled-in sandy children's play area.

The second floor has three bedrooms and a second laundry room. The master bedroom has a king

... Continued story on page A8



PREMIER PROMISES SIGNIFICANT FUNDS FOR BUSINESSES



▶ Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin

Businesses in the Cayman Islands can look forward to "significant funds" from the government to alleviate the pressures confronting them as they reopen into an uncertain economic environment.

Acknowledging that many businesses are faced with serious cashflow challenges, Hon. Premier Alden McLaugh-

... Continued story on page A3

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EDITORIAL

Of bars and churches, and the comfort that lies within

It's been more than two months since many Caymanians have been unable to gather at places of worship. As with other social gatherings, churches have had to close their doors as part of efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the local community.

As it appears that Cayman has, at least for now, escaped the worst of the global pandemic, there is disquiet from those who feel as though they are being denied an opportunity to fellowship together. This as bars have been granted permission to open.

Although the Cayman society proudly celebrates its Christian heritage, many are wondering if a signal is being given that it is time to no longer hold these ideals as the standard? Or is it that those who gather in faith cannot



be trusted to act as though faith will get them through any troubles and not adhere to social distancing protocols?

It begs the question that if bars can open outdoor areas, churches could be afforded the same. People seek comfort in both places, but the message that was sent tends to take the side of imbibing over the Holy Spirit.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Deadline for Work Permit Applications Extended

Employers whose work permits expired since the shelter in place orders came into force (27 March) are required to apply for a renewal by 30 June 2020 to be in compliance with the law.

The original deadline for employers of 31 May 2020 has been extended following consultation with private sector stakeholders including the Chamber of Commerce.

Employers must first advertise the position on JobsCayman <https://jobs-cayman.worc.gov.ky> for at least 14 days before any work permit renewal applications can be made. Where Caymanians have applied for the position and are not successful candidates, employers are required to supply names of all applicants, qualifications, working experience and background, inclusive of detailed reasoning for not employing the Caymanian. Guidance on how to use this site has been provided to businesses via How To guides available on www.worc.ky and a registered webinar recently hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

No action will be taken against an employer or worker who has continued working with an expired work permit provided that the employer applied



for a work permit renewal (or grant in the case of temporary work permits) before the deadline of 30 June.

The Workforce Opportunities and Residency Cayman (WORC) offices have been closed to the public since 27 March as part of the government's COVID-19 suppression strategy. As such, employers have only recently been able to apply for work permit renewals under newly established arrangements.

Employers wanting to apply for work permit renewals or grants should visit www.worc.ky for application forms and guidance on how to submit including how to pay.

WORC continues to offer services and for questions or assistance persons can contact Customer Care by texting 925-7199, calling the call centre at 945-9672 or emailing WORC@gov.ky.

Voter Registration Deadline Reminder

The Elections Office reminds the public that the next deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, 1 July 2020. Those who register by this date will be included in the Register of Electors and be able to vote from 1 October 2020 onwards.

The current Register of Electors stands at 21,800.

Individuals wanting to vote in the next General Election (scheduled to take place on 26 May 2021), have until 4 January 2021 to register to vote if they haven't already done so.

As of Wednesday 10 June, the Elections Office will be open from 9am to 1pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays to facilitate voter registration, change of name/address forms and for the printing of voter ID cards for those persons who are already registered.

To register to vote, the following requirements must be met:

- Must be a Caymanian
- Must be aged 18 years or older
- Must be a resident in the Cayman Islands
- Must have resided in the Cayman Islands for no less than a total of 24 months in the last four years

Those wishing to register to vote are reminded of the following registration process:

- Complete an application form (Form 4) available from the Elections Office website (<https://portal.elections.ky/index.php/home/registration-process>)
- Submit the application form along with the required supporting documents either in person to the Election Office or via email to the registering officer for the district or to office@elections.ky

The list of supporting documents required is provided below.



▶ Old Walkers building



- Caymanian Status Holders:
 - * Birth certificate
 - * Caymanian Status Certificate or letter
 - * Photo ID (either passport or driver's licence)
- Caymanian born and have Caymanian parent/s or grandparents:
 - * Birth certificate of applicant, if born on the Islands
 - * Birth certificate of one of his/her parents or grandparents that were born on the Islands
 - * Photo ID (either passport or driver's licence)

Persons who have recently concluded prison sentences of more than 12 months are reminded that they need to re-register to vote using the same process described above.

Individuals who are unsure if they are currently registered are able to check their details on the Elections Office website.

The registration deadline is also an opportunity for existing voters to do their part in maintaining the accuracy of the list of electors.

The following individuals are strongly encouraged to contact the Elections Office in order to make the necessary updates.

- Existing voters who have recently moved residence or changed their name or occupation
- Friends or family of a registered voter who has passed away over the last six months, particularly if the individual passed away overseas
- Family members who believe their relative is no longer medically or mentally able to vote (this should be confirmed in writing by a medical doctor)
- Individuals who wish to object to a voter being included in the list on the grounds that they have been living outside the Cayman Islands for more than two years for reasons other than medical, education, work for the government or work on an aircraft or ship.

For more information please visit www.elections.ky.

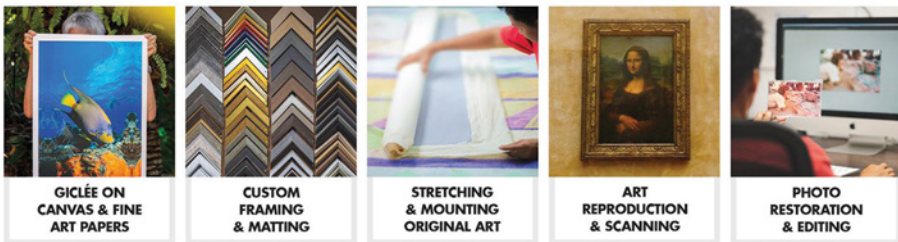
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Caymanian Times

Issue # 558



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PREMIER PROMISES SIGNIFICANT FUNDS FOR BUSINESSES

... Continued story from page A1

lin said on Tuesday that the government has been looking into further ways of supporting them through this period.

No firm details were provided although the Premier hinted at "significant" financial support in the making while the package is being put together.

In the interim he said, instructions have been given to the various government departments to speed up the paying of invoices to ease the cash flow challenges that has several businesses squeezed at present.

"The government is continuing to work diligently to find means of improving the lives of the people who live here and trying to give as many businesses as we can a fighting chance to survive until the tourism industry returns," Mr McLaughlin said.

Several businesses are known to be facing the real prospect of collapse as the outlook for the tourist industry in particular remains bleak at best.

Earlier in the COVID-19 crisis the small and medium sized enterprises in the tourism sector were the beneficiaries of a government relief and stimulus package.

REFUNDS AND REPRIEVES

"One of the big policy points that we have is to try and leave as much as we can in people's pockets and in business bank accounts," he said.

Stating that "cash flow is a huge issue for many businesses", Premier McLaughlin announced that the instruction has gone out to "every government entity to process all invoices and refunds from business with absolute haste."

"If the government owes businesses and individuals money, refund as quickly as we possibly can."

Much of this relates to refunding work permit fees.

He said that the Workforce Opportunities and Residency Cayman (WORC) which falls within his portfolio, has been directed to process their backlog of refunds within 14 days.

That work is already ongoing with over 1183 refunds due to refused or cancelled work permits with a further 924 to be paid back.

This will put a further dent into the government coffers which it hopes will be temporary with work permit fees being a significant source of revenue.

At the same time, companies with foreign staff have been given a reprieve with the extension of the deadline for work permit renewals by a month to the end of this month.

Mr McLaughlin said the original deadline was extended following consultation with private sector stakeholders including the Chamber of Commerce.

He also announced that the validity of temporary work permits held by construction companies and by small and micro businesses, domestic helpers and caregivers has been extended for ten weeks.

This covers the time lost during the shelter-in-place order for work permits that were valid as of the March 27th.

"We hope these measures will assist businesses as we all collectively try to work through the challenges that the current pandemic has placed the country in," the Premier stated.



SIGNIFICANT FUNDS FOR BUSINESSES

Regarding the new scheme to further assist businesses through the current economic downturn, he ventured that the government was working on a programme that "would assist many small businesses and some not so small" which are struggling with cash flow.

He said the scheme being planned would assist many businesses in a significant way by allowing them access to significant funds during what he described as "this very difficult period."

"I just want everyone to be assured that now that the public health threat appears to be receding, to firmly focus on what we can do to improve the economic health of businesses, individuals and the country as a whole," he said.

The government has faced criticism for being overly cautious in responding to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for a lack of certainty over reopening the borders for tourism.

Premier McLaughlin has repeatedly pushed back on that saying the priority was to suppress the coronavirus out of a fear that hastening to open could trigger a spike with even more dire public health and economic consequences.

CURRENT PHASE CRITICAL

Speaking on Tuesday he said the current two week period of the Level 3 Moderate Suppression system in which bars and restaurants have been allowed to reopen for outdoor service is crucial in determining what happens after.

"By this time next week, I think we will have a pretty good idea whether that reopening has in any way impacted the effect and rate of the virus. So, assuming that all goes well, we should be able to lift virtually all of the current restrictions," he said.

He was specifically referring to public gatherings and 'touch services' such as medical clinics for standard services, hair salons and similar establishments.

"We should also be able to allow domestic help and caregivers back into the home and to allow children to have access to playgrounds."

However, Premier McLaughlin pointed out that some semblance of shelter-in-place arrangements will need to remain in place "for a little while" with residents still required to wear face masks, observe social distancing and practice hand hygiene.

Decisions on inter-island travel are also pending, but in the meantime external borders will remain closed.

Mr McLaughlin said "incredibly good progress" has been made and claims that "Cayman continues to be a success story in the way we have managed the public health challenges involved in this epidemic."



LIQUOR LICENSING QUARTERLY SESSION

Tuesday, 30 June 2020, at 1:00pm,
Government Administration Building, Room 1038,
Elgin Avenue,
George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

- Confirmation of minutes:** - Minutes of the Meeting for the March 9th, 2020.
- Grant applications:** Applicants shall attend before the Board at the time of the opening of the session and may, in addition, be represented by a person qualified to practise law in the Islands.

A) ALBA, KAZ & SASHA TATUM-GALLEGOS T/A CREWE ROAD MINI MART
BUSINESS: PACKAGE
LOCATION: BLOCK 20E, PARCEL 328, 459 CREWE ROAD, GEORGE TOWN

E) MBW LTD. T/A JOE ENA'S LIQUOR STORE
BUSINESS: PACKAGE
LOCATION: BLOCK 4D, PARCEL 83, 192 WEST CHURCH STREET, WEST BAY

B) HANSEL RANKIN T/A PIRATES GRILL CAYMAN ISLANDS
BUSINESS: RETAIL
LOCATION: BLOCK 27C, PARCEL 335, 229 LEEWARD DRIVE, BODDEN TOWN

F) CHRISTOPHER BROWN T/A THE LOCATION EVENT PLANNER
BUSINESS: RETAIL AND MUSIC AND DANCE
LOCATION: BLOCK 13D, PARCEL 355, 47 ASHGO STREET, GEORGE TOWN

C) PAUL DRAKE - LICENSEE FOR DOOR NO. 4
BUSINESS: MUSIC AND DANCE
LOCATION: BLOCK 11D, PARCEL 105, UNIT 4, BUILDING A, THE GROVE, WEST BAY ROAD, GEORGE TOWN

G) KRJ GROUP LTD T/A SHOPRIGHT
BUSINESS: PACKAGE
LOCATION: BLOCK 11D, PARCEL 105, UNIT C20 AND C21, THE GROVE, WEST BAY ROAD, WEST BAY

D) WOLF'S DEN LTD. T/A WOLF'S DEN RESTAURANT
BUSINESS: RESTAURANT AND MUSIC AND DANCE
LOCATION: BLOCK 14BG, PARCEL 102, 72 NORTH CHURCH STREET, GEORGE TOWN

H) CULTURE RUM CO. LTD. T/A KON TIKI
BUSINESS: PACKAGE
LOCATION: BLOCK 13E, PARCEL 164, BAYTOWN PLAZA, UNIT 4, 36 WEST BAY ROAD, GEORGE TOWN

3. DEFERRED APPLICATIONS

A) ALEXANDER BARLOW T/A BARLOW BEVERAGE COORDINATION
BUSINESS: MOBILE RETAIL
LOCATION: BLOCK 21C, PARCEL 103H16, 16 CAYMAN CROSSING, GEORGE TOWN

C) PAOLO POLLONI - LICENSEE FOR RISTORANTE PIZZERIA RAGAZZI
BUSINESS: MOBILE RETAIL
LOCATION: BLOCK 12E, PARCEL 5, BUCKINGHAM SQUARE, 720 SEVEN MILE BEACH, GEORGE TOWN

B) CELIA N. PORTER T/A NICKY'S ISLAND STYLES GIFTS N SOUVENIR
BUSINESS: PACKAGE
LOCATION: BLOCK 1C, PARCEL 78, 9 VIXVILLE DRIVE, NORTH WEST POINT ROAD, WEST BAY

D) PAUL DRAKE - LICENSEE FOR DOOR NO. 4
BUSINESS: RESTAURANT
LOCATION: BLOCK 11D, PARCEL 105, UNIT 4, BUILDING A, THE GROVE, WEST BAY ROAD, GEORGE TOWN

4. VARIATIONS

A) BANDIDOS CANTINA LTD.
BUSINESS: VARIATION OF LICENCE TO HANDEL WHITTAKER T/A THE BIRD
LOCATION: BLOCK 13B, PARCEL 154, #30 & 31 SEVEN MILE SHOPS, WEST BAY ROAD, GEORGE TOWN

D) TORTUGA RUM COMPANY LIMITED T/A TORTUGA FINE WINE AND SPIRITS
BUSINESS: VARIATION TO PLACE LICENCE IN ABEYANCE
LOCATION: BLOCK: OPY, PARCEL: 33, JACK AND JILL BUILDING, FORT STREET, GEORGE TOWN

B) KRI PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL LTD T/A KRI ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
BUSINESS: VARIATION TO PREMISES TO INCLUDE OUTSIDE PATIO
LOCATION: BLOCK 14CJ, PARCEL 2, ENVERTO PLACE, 98 SHEDDEN ROAD, GEORGE TOWN

E) JRC INVESTMENTS LTD. T/A EVENT-PRO BARTENDING SERVICES
BUSINESS: VARYING LICENCE TO PACKAGE AND CHANGE OF NAME TO: JRC INVESTMENTS LTD T/A JRC WINE AND SPIRITS
LOCATION: BLOCK 5B, PARCEL 284, 2454 WEST BAY ROAD, WEST BAY

C) JOHN BRADLEY ALEXANDER T/A LEGENDZ
BUSINESS: VARYING OF LICENCE TO RESTAURANT
LOCATION: BLOCK 11D, PARCEL 36, 114 CAYMAN FALLS SHOPPING CENTRE, WEST BAY ROAD, WEST BAY

5. RATIFICATION OF SECTION 13 DECISIONS

A) BLACKBEARD'S TRADING COMPANY LIMITED T/A BLACKBEARD'S (CAMANA BAY)
BUSINESS: VARIATION OF PREMISES TO INCLUDE VEHICLE
LOCATION: APPROVED

C) ROBERT & SYLVIA HAMATY LICENSEES FOR TORTUGA RUM COMPANY LIMITED T/A TORTUGA FINE WINE & SPIRITS
BUSINESS: VARIATION OF PREMISES TO INCLUDE VEHICLE
LOCATION: APPROVED

B) BLACKBEARD'S TRADING COMPANY LIMITED. T/A BIG DADDY'S LIQUORS & SNACKS WEST BAY ROAD
BUSINESS: VARIATION OF PREMISES TO INCLUDE VEHICLE
LOCATION: APPROVED

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. CLOSED DELIBERATIONS

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Michelle Minzett - Business Licensing Officer II
Liquor Licensing Board of Grand Cayman

Any member of the public who wishes to object to the aforementioned must do so in writing addressed to: *The Chairman of the Liquor Licensing Board, Department of Commerce & Investment, 133 Elgin Avenue, Government Administration Building, Suite 126, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands* at least seven days prior to the date of the meeting.

Anyone who has given to the Chairman seven days' notice of objection may also appear and ask for the revocation or discontinuance of any existing license.

Anyone attending the meeting in person are asked to follow the social distancing guidance as well as wear a mask. Persons not wearing mask will not be allowed into the building.

The public will be limited to the meeting room on a first come basis. Once the room is filled as per safety guidance all other persons will be asked to wait outside the room or if deemed necessary outside the building.

To avoid such discomforts the meeting will also be live on YouTube and Zoom. Members of the public as well as members appearing before the Board can do so via Zoom meeting below:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://gov-ky.zoom.us/j/3693165308>
Meeting ID: 369 316 5308



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Church Services Coming Soon

... Continued story from page A1

Premier Alden McLaughlin, who added that the jury is still out on many of the issues such as asymptomatic persons passing on the virus.

With only a 1.15 percent rate of infection showing from testing in the Cayman Islands and virtually no actual sick persons, all restrictions could be lifted, "in a couple of weeks", said the Premier.

"Bars and restaurants open and not churches is a valid concern. There are reasons behind what we did. We are asking you to just trust us. You have been

very patient and we thank you for your patience, remarked Minister of Health the Honorable Dwayne Seymour who said, Decisions come from "a place of love".

"I definitely want to get back to church I feel it in my bones. We need to have a safe way and an inside plan, as well as an outside plan," he added.

Churchgoers have been holding services online in the meantime, with many saying they are eager to have fellowship in the house of service once again.

"I think they should have opened the churches this past Sunday. We can certainly be responsible, which is

never a guarantee when alcohol is involved. If there is anywhere that social distancing will be more difficult, it is where people are having drinks," noted an attendee of the Church of God.

However, he said he understood the need to protect older persons.

There is not just the aspect of worship to consider in relation to Churches but also the fact that many Pastors and youth workers depend on the business of Church to pay their bills; adding another facet of concern to an already 'uncertain and challenging situation'.

HSA leads national response to COVID-19 with further expansion of testing capabilities

The Health Services Authority continues to lead the COVID-19 response as part of the Government's national recovery plan with the further expansion of testing capabilities to include antibody testing and enhanced PCR capabilities with the new GeneXpert machine.

The GeneXpert machine will allow a faster turnaround time for the PCR testing of clinically urgent cases with results being available in just 45 minutes. This quicker turnaround time will be crucial for patients requiring urgent medical treatment for non COVID related illnesses.

"The introduction of the new GeneXpert machine will allow us to keep medically urgent tests separate from routine screening samples. The quick turnaround time is also vital for patients needing emergency treatment or emergency transfer abroad." Dr Delroy Jefferson, Medical Director, Health Services Authority.

In addition to this, the HSA lab will now also be adding IgG antibody testing

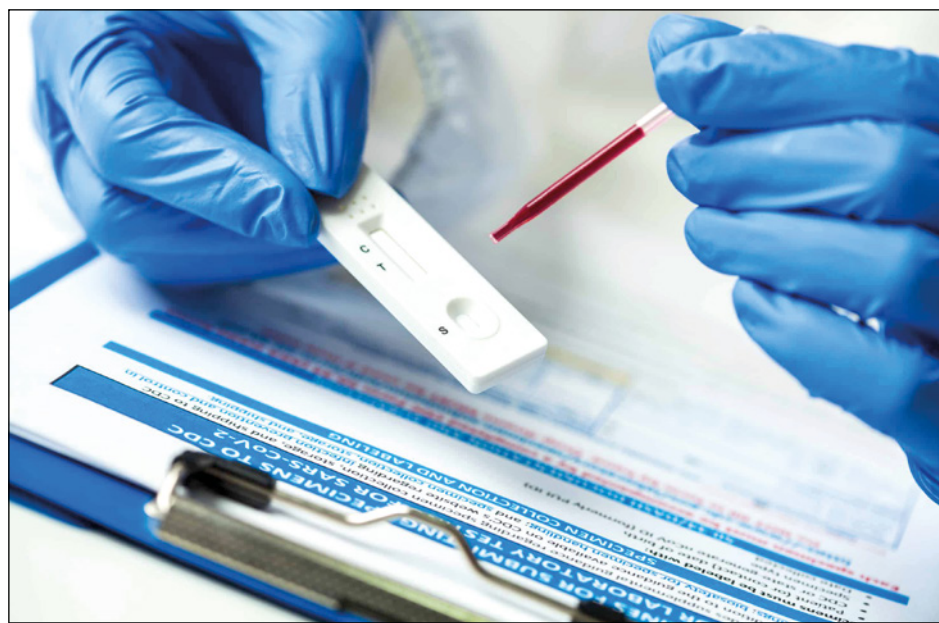
to its testing portfolio to better understand the effects of COVID-19 in the Cayman Islands.

"While the PCR method is currently the most accurate test available for active COVID-19 disease, the test does not identify whether someone has previously been infected with the virus. To answer this, the HSA will begin rolling out antibody testing this week as part of Public Health monitoring". Dr Delroy Jefferson, Medical Director, Health Services Authority.

The antibody test can detect IgG responses in the blood indicating that the body has mounted an immune attack against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The presence of these antibodies can also indicate if a person has previously been infected with COVID-19.

HSA will be performing the antibody testing using the SARS-CoV-2 assay, developed by Abbott Laboratories and approved by Public Health England.

"The availability of antibody testing allows us to double our efforts for COVID-19 screening and give us a holistic



view of the impact of COVID-19 in our community. Both PCR and antibody testing provide different functions in relation to COVID-19 so being able to use both tests simultaneously greatly enhances our efforts. However, it is important to note that the presence of SARS-CoV-2 antibody does not necessarily mean that you are immune to COVID-19 and normal precautions to protect yourself from the virus should remain in place." Dr Samuel Williams-Rodriguez, Medical Officer for Health.

Antibody testing will commence this week and will prioritise healthcare workers and individuals who previously tested positive for COVID-19 before being subject to a screening program being planned by Public Health.

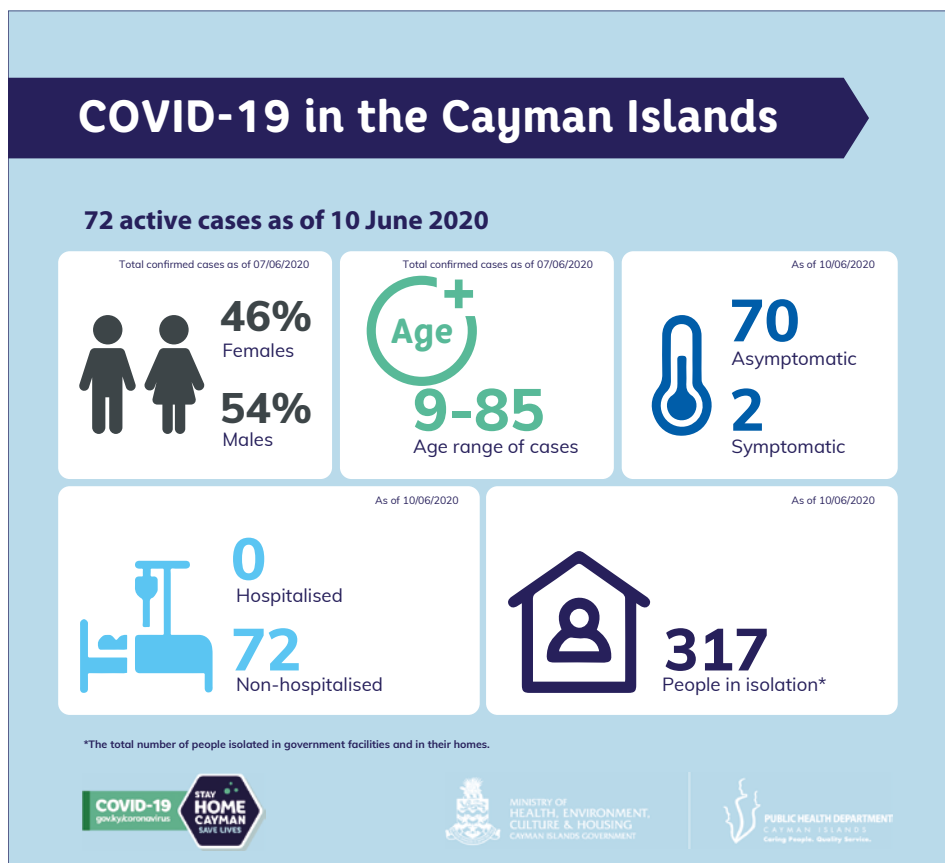
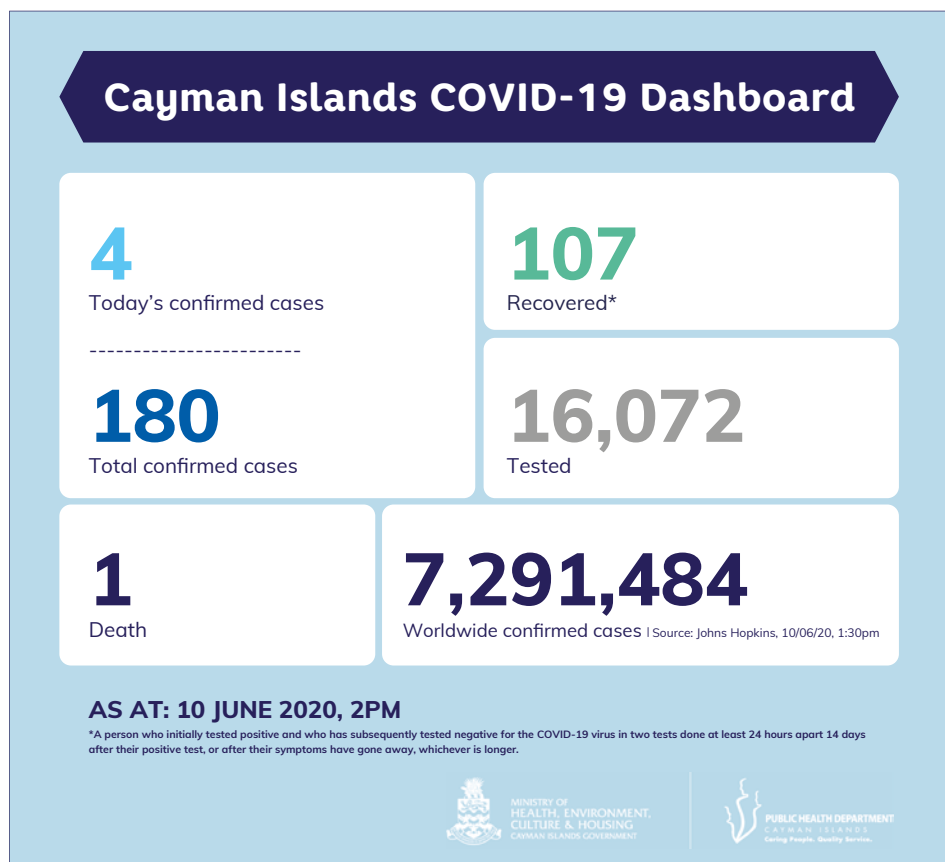
"Antibody testing for the public will be rolled out to the wider public in a similar manner to the PCR screening program. Testing will be conducted across sample sized groups that will be nationally representative and give us a good indication on the level of infection in our community. The HSA will contact these

sample groups for testing over the coming weeks". Dr Samuel Williams-Rodriguez, Medical Officer for Health.

The Health Services Authority forensic lab was the first to introduce PCR testing in March 2020 to detect the presence of COVID-19. The lab currently averages 2000 tests per week and to date has tested 13,011 contributing to 84% of the national recovery plan in the Cayman Islands.

"Our laboratory and forensic teams have played an extraordinary role in the response to COVID-19. The expansion of our testing capabilities is a result of their hard work, dedication, and ability to continually improve our processes and knowledge of COVID-19. The GeneXpert machine and associated PCR cartridges were donated by the UK Government through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, following organisation by Public Health England. As always, we are grateful for their continued support and generosity". Lizzette Yearwood, CEO, Health Services Authority.

COVID-19 DASHBOARD



► Dr Delroy Jefferson, Medical Director of the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority

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3,000th Wedding in Cayman

By Flynn Bush

Twelve years ago, Mrs. Joy Basdeo got her first license to perform weddings. She had been involved in doing weddings with her parents for some time before that and had seen the demand for these same services by cruise ship visitors. With her mother's blessing, she began to offer weddings for this demographic. At that time, however, it could not have been foreseen the number of weddings that she was going to be able to officiate over the coming years. A thousand ceremonies would have seemed like a distant, but possible, goal to reach in the future. Indeed, Mrs. Basdeo did reach that milestone a few years ago. However, today we are highlighting a much more laudable achievement as on Saturday, June 6, Mrs. Basdeo officiated her 3,000th wedding at Consuelo's Beach.

For the past few months, Mrs. Basdeo had been aware that she was very close to this milestone. "I had been noticing my numbers and was predicting that my 3,000th wedding would come sometime in April," she stated. "Of course, then the shutdown happened and took away the possibility of doing weddings for cruise and stayover visitors," she added. With locals still wishing to get married, her business, Simply Weddings, has still been very active.

For this milestone, Mrs. Basdeo decided to do something special. So, she spoke

with the vendors that she works with on a regular basis, most of whom had been with her for the past twelve years and, with their complete agreement, offered this ceremony free of charge to the couple. In addition to the wedding, the couple received 2 Registered Marriage certificates, a bridal bouquet and boutonniere from Trisha's Roses, a wedding arch and decorated chairs from Azuquitar Wedding & Party Memories, a three-tiered wedding cake from Carousel Bakery, a bottle of Moët Chandon champagne from Blackbeard's and the Liquor Outlet, one hour of professional photography from Deja Vu Photography with a wedding gallery and USB, and two decorated champagne flutes from Island Girl Crafts. This whole package is worth more than CI\$1200.

This gesture by Mrs. Basdeo, Simply Weddings, and all of the other vendors, was received appreciatively by the couple. The bride and groom were here working in retail and their employment was terminated in March, due to the current pandemic. Like so many couples in this situation, they are making plans to leave the Cayman Is. however travel restrictions have impeded them, and they could not leave as a couple until they were married.

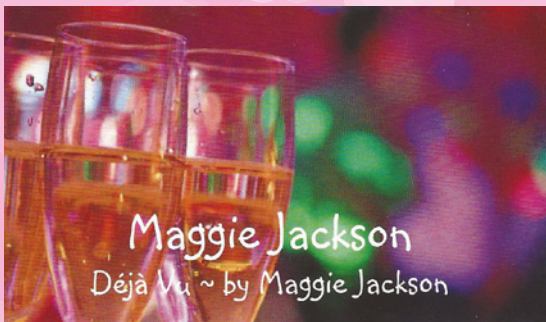
As we move forward in this country, and as we slowly emerge from this lockdown, it is important to remember the local businesses and business-persons who have been serving us diligently. Mrs.



► Mrs. Joy Basdeo

Joy Basdeo, is one who has done much for our community and who should be supported fervently. She is there, and will continue to be there, at the new office for Simply Weddings in the Chestnut Centre on Smith Road (second floor), and she is looking forward to serving for

the foreseeable future. This milestone of 3,000 weddings officiated is quite a feat and we applaud Mrs. Basdeo for this. We also thank her for her hard work as a marriage officer, and notary public. May God bless you with much success in the future. 🌍



"Simply Weddings congratulates Joy Basdeo MBE, JP Civil Registrar of Marriages on officiating 3,000 weddings. We also look forward to partnering with our loyal group of vendors to serve the community from our new home in the Chestnut Centre for the years to come."



POLICE NEWS

Operation Results in Three Arrests

On Friday, 5 June, officers had cause to execute a search warrant at an address at Fairlawn Drive in George Town in search of wanted man Simon Newball. During the search, officers found parcels of ganja and drug paraphernalia and three persons were arrested on suspicion of possession of ganja with intent to supply, possession of drug utensils and other offenses related to this incident.



The three arrested persons, a 32-year-old man of

George Town, a 21-year-old-man from George Town and a 22-year-old-woman of George Town, have since been bailed pending further investigations. Newball was not found at the address and is still sought by RCIPS. 🌐

Auditor General Reinforces the need for sound financial management and strong governance in relation to COVID-19 decisions and spend

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) on Tuesday issued the paper "COVID-19: What it means for public audit in the Cayman Islands".

The paper sets out the basic principles guiding the OAG and its work and how the OAG has responded to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its work.

"As auditors we have a fundamental role to play in providing assurance on the use of public funds and supporting scrutiny and accountability," says Ms. Winspear. "Despite the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in all non-essential public sector offices and facilities closing their doors on 24th March this does not mean that our work has stopped at all and from day one, the staff in my office have been working from home to ensure that we continue to fulfil this vital role. It has been pleasing to see the speed of the civil and public service response to the COVID-19 pandemic too and the adaption of many of their services."

The paper reiterates that the audits of 28 financial statements were completed by the statutory deadline of 30 April 2020 and confirms that another two audits were completed in May.

The Auditor General adds "As I have previously said, I am immensely pleased that we were able to sign off on 28 sets of 2019 financial statements by the statutory deadline of 30 April. We are continuing to work with the public sector and the private firms to complete the rest of the 2019 audits and the audits of a few public bodies that remain outstanding from prior years."



► The Auditor General Ms. Sue Winspear

The paper also provides an update on OAG's Performance Audit programme.

"The pandemic has forced us to look at the performance audits that we had intended to start from May onwards." Ms. Winspear added. "As a result, we will put some audits on hold and add in some new audits, including a report on Government's spend and commitments arising from COVID-19 and another on the transition to online services by Government."

The paper reinforces the principles of sound financial management, proper procurement and effective governance.

The Auditor General says, "The Government and wider public sector have had to respond quickly to manage the

pandemic, including sourcing and buying emergency supplies, and limit the economic impact by providing those in need with financial support. At times like this it is even more important that the principles of sound financial management and strong, effective governance are followed. Policies and procedures provide essential checks and balances. It is therefore important that public servants find a way of following policies and procedures while also allowing efficient and timely decision making."

More information can be obtained by contacting Sue Winspear at (345) 244-3201 or Angela Cullen, Deputy Auditor General (Performance Audit) at (345) 244-3220. 🌐

For more information or a copy of our rates
Email sales@caymaniantimes.ky
or call Ralph at 916-2000

Don't let Covid 19 get you down. Pick yourself up for 2020

BANK ASSURES SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC AFTER ONE EMPLOYEE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

CIBC FirstCaribbean has assured its clients that its office building has undergone a thorough cleaning over the weekend, after one of its employees at its Main Street building tested positive for COVID-19. All of the bank's offices were therefore able to open safely to the public in Monday morning.

The bank is an active participant in the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority (HSA) employee-screening programme for COVID-19, which is done in compliance with directions from the Cayman Islands Government and participating testing partners. A total of 82 employees were screened.

The Bank has advised that they are in contact with their affected team member, who is asymptomatic. The affected staff member will remain home in isolation for the next 14 days, and is receiving all the necessary support.



As part of our COVID Emergency Response Plan, the Health Services Authority was notified and they took their advice and made all necessary arrangements to deep clean and sanitize the premises over the weekend.

CIBC FirstCaribbean's Managing Director for Cayman Operating Company, Mark

McIntyre, noted: 'the testing programme is an on-going process, particularly for front-line staff. We assure both our staff and our clients that the safety of staff, clients and the community will continue to be paramount in our minds and we will remain in full compliance with any HSA directives.'

Mr. McIntyre added that the bank continues to implement and enforce a number of safety measures and protocols daily to keep everyone on-site safe.

About CIBC FirstCaribbean

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate and Investment Banking, Retail and Business Banking and Wealth Management segments. We are located in sixteen (16) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services that fit our customers' lives through approximately 3,000 employees in 68 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with over US\$11 billion in assets and market capitalization of US \$2 billion. We also have an office

in Hong Kong. The face of banking is changing throughout the world and CIBC FirstCaribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a member of the CIBC Group. CIBC is a leading Canadian-based global financial institution with 11 million personal banking and business clients. Through our three major business units - Retail and Business Banking, Wealth Management and Capital Markets - CIBC offers a full range of products and services through its comprehensive electronic banking network, branches and offices across Canada with offices in the United States and around the world.

For more information about CIBC FirstCaribbean, visit www.cibcfib.com, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram or YouTube.

Water Authority Office Reopens

Water Authority offices reopened on Monday, 8 June 2020, offering full services. Offices will open Monday - Friday, between the hours of 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. The first hour of business, 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM will be dedicated to the elderly and essential workers.

The government-mandated surname restrictions will apply; customers will be required to wear a mask and use the provided hand sanitiser before entering the building. Additionally, customers must adhere to social distancing, following the floor marking guidance. There will be two lines, one for Cashiering and another for Customer Service, to expedite services.

Protective bio-shields have been installed, and all employees will wear masks to protect the health of customers. The offices have also been deep cleaned and sanitised.

Customers who can conduct business with the Authority electronically are encouraged to continue to do so. These services include contacting the Authority's Customer Service Team via email at info@waterauthority.ky, calling during opening hours 94WATER and making a payment online by visiting www.waterauthority.ky or via the bank.

For more updates, visit the Authority's website www.waterauthority.ky and social media pages.



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STAYCATION SPECIAL

This week we continue our series bringing you some great properties right here at home where you can enjoy a well-earned break from the stresses and strains of lockdown.

Get some R & R at Surfer's Paradise

... Continued story from page A1

bed and en-suite bathroom with sauna tub and the second bedroom a queen bed and en-suite bathroom. Both have balconies overlooking the coastline. The third bedroom has a queen bed and en-suite bathroom and a partial ocean view.

For those of you looking for a romantic get-away, the house also offers a private one-bedroom suite that is often used as a honeymoon suite. Geared specifically to couples, renters have to be 21 years or older to book this unique retreat for two, which offers a whole host of facilities that are completely separate to the main part of the house. A truly secluded spot in which to enjoy some time alone again.

All guests have access to beach chairs, umbrellas, bicycles, kayaks, masks and snorkels, a volleyball court and of course, surf boards, and much more besides. The cost of a room is US\$400



per night and includes a cleaning fee. All amenities are included, and renting the entire house will cost you US\$2,100 per night that includes the cleaning fee. Guests can save 13 per cent when they provide evidence that they are a resident. A CI\$15 voucher to Treats is also included, so you can have breakfast at

your leisure. There is no minimum number of nights required and viewing of the property is possible and available upon request before committing. Just call Jeremy at 924-8191 or Sharon at 916-9108. Feel free to join them for their fish and fritters and ChiChaRon sale on Saturdays from 3pm to sunset.

Seating is available on the beach, bring your cooler and stay for the bonfire until 8pm. Remember to mask-up!

Anyone interested in booking rooms at this lovely location can visit <https://surfersparadisecayman.com> with bookings made via HomeAway, airbnb, VRBO or TripAdvisor.

George Floyd and the Persistent Challenge of Racism

George Floyd, a black American, was murdered by Minneapolis police on May 25. The independent autopsy says that Mr. Floyd died of "asphyxiation from sustained pressure" when his neck and back were compressed by Minneapolis police officers during his arrest. The pressure, applied for nearly nine minutes, cut off blood flow to his brain. It was one of the most brutal examples of the continued problem of racism in the United States. In response to this agonizing death, protests have erupted in over forty cities across the United States and several countries across the world.



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

Modern racism has its genesis in a conjunction of circumstances in global history which led to European imperialism. A devastating outcome of the Colum-

bian enterprise was the genocide of native Indians in the 16th and 17th centuries, and, later, the enslavement of between 11- 12 million Africans who arrived in the Americas as part an expanding slave trade which developed to meet the European and North American demand for sugar. The Portuguese, English, Dutch and French acquired slaving bases in West Africa and engaged actively in the trade.

What began as essentially an economic activity, became the 'social death of slaves', to quote Professor Orlando Patterson, preeminent scholar of slavery and the black experience. Racist ideas were nurtured and developed to justify black subjugation. The core of these ideas was the belief that black persons, and non-white persons generally, were inferior in multiple ways. African speech, religion, mannerisms, and institutional forms were systematically denigrated as constituting marks of savagery and cultural inferiority. The colour of the African as well as characteristics of his mouth, nose and hair texture were held to be a lasting badge of his inferiority, says philosopher, Charles Mills in his book, *The Racial Contract*.

'From that moment, when the British government in 1636, took the first step to legally classify all blacks in their colonies as non-human, chattel, property, and real estate and proceeded with their European partners to build and manage with it a global business model for 400 years, the greatest 'financial juggernaut'



of world history, humanity was poisoned with the toxic pandemic of race hatred.

'And from that date in 1783, when Chief Justice Mansfield of England, in the Zong Trial, boldly proclaimed that the blacks in the case before him are no different from so many horses, sheep, and goats, the poison had permeated every community in the western world.' Extract from statement issued by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, President of Universities Caribbean, and Chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission, June 2.

Even with significant and meaningful change for the better, the globe is still tainted with the negative impacts of the historical enslavement of African people. In the American context, Huffington Reporter, Janell Ross, writing about the experience of Black Americans, summarizes the situation well, 'They must constantly make a case for their citizenship, their humanity, their survival.'

The expulsion of racist ideas and behaviors from human societies has been difficult to achieve. In the American context, the persistence of racism is especially seen in how it cements itself in the various institutions as black Americans are 'reduced to the colour of their skin and found wanting' to quote Kenyan journalist Larry Madowa, who himself experienced racial prejudice in the US. Even though the Kerner Commission Report was written in response to the riots of the 1960's when President Lyndon asked this committee to do an investigation, its findings as to the root causes of these unrest could be copied and pasted as the causes of the current crisis. The Commission found that the roots of the unrest were present in every American institution and in the choices of individuals- Books, the News Media, city, state and federal governments, schools, grocery stores and other retail operations- and that individual Americans routinely excluded black Americans from the best jobs and neighborhoods etcetera.

The statement issued by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, makes other salient points.

'This Minneapolis fight was Marcus Garvey's fight; it was Martin's fight; it was Malcolm's fight; it was Marley's fight. It's a Caribbean fight and it's a global fight.'

'This is our cause. Every university that stands for freedom, justice, and the celebration of human dignity must stand up like a gorilla for justice for George. Minneapolis is just another place where our eyes have detected evil, beyond hate, that has erupted from the depth of hell.' Extract from statement issued by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, President of Universities Caribbean, and Chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission, June 2.

To achieve a global space where 'the colour of a man's skin is of now more significance, than the colour of his eyes' will take the courage and concerted effort of all of us who believe in the inherent dignity of all of all of God's children.

The world, in short time, must be able to answer in the affirmative to the question posed by Prof. Rex Nettleford in his address to the United Nations, March 26, 2007, on the 200th anniversary of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

'Can the world without anguish accept itself as part this, part that, part the other but totally human without one part of it trying to dominate the other? Prof. Rex Nettleford- Speech to the United Nations, March 26, 2007- on the 200th Anniversary of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.



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KIWI - A POWERFUL SLEEP TREAT

This fruit is a standard presence in any fruit salad. It is loaded with powerful and abundant antioxidants so that the immune system is boosted while cell protection and repair are enhanced. Studies point to the high fiber content and rich potassium levels make the fruit a possible aid to heart and respiratory health.

Researchers at Taiwan Taipei Medical University found in a study of 22 women and 2 men that consuming 2 kiwis an hour before bedtime greatly affected sleep patterns. 35.4% fell asleep faster, 28.9% slept more soundly, 42.4% had improved sleep quality, 5.41% had improved sleep efficiency and 13.4% had better overall sleep.

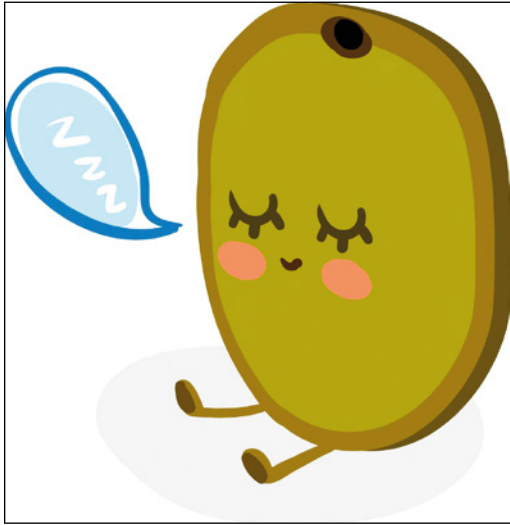
Research shows that the high antioxidant levels and high sero-

tonin levels were responsible for these amazing results.

Serotonin is a hormone that also functions as a neurotransmitter, and is also involved in a broad range of physiologic processes. It also has digestive and cardiovascular functions, assists in learning and memory, and helps to regulate appetite and mood. Serotonin deficiency is also associated with depression and mood disorders.

Serotonin is also critical in sleep. Its presence helps initiate sleep onset and maintain sleep during the night. It also helps to stimulate wakefulness in the morning. Research indicates that manipulation of serotonin up or down can promote or inhibit sleep. Serotonin appears to interact with melatonin, another essential sleep hormone in helping to regulate the body's 24 hour circadian cycle as well as other physiologic functions. Studies have also shown that increase in the levels of serotonin any in turn increase the melatonin levels, thereby making for a better night's sleep.

So, reach for two kiwis before reaching for the pills. 🌱



What's Scariest than Ghosts & Goblins? How about Type 2 Diabetes!

It's Halloween, and you know what that means: sugar, sugar, sugar! Beginning in late summer, stores begin taunting and tantalizing us with prominently displayed festive treats conveniently packaged in small, easy to eat servings. By the time the actual holiday rolls around, we've been wading through candy corn and "fun sized" candy bars for months.

All holidays have their peculiar food traditions, but Halloween perhaps wins the prize for being the most focused on candy and other sweet treats as the center of attraction. And no matter how hard you try to avoid it, you will undoubtedly find yourself staring down a confection before all is said and done.

Will you give in?

While one piece of candy won't make or break your health, few of us stop at just one. In fact, most of us see Halloween as we see every other festive occasion from Thanksgiving to our neighbor's cookout: as a perfectly good time to indulge in whichever kind of sweet temptations are presented to us.

But that indulgence takes its toll and is manifesting itself more and more in the current epidemic of Type 2 Diabetes. It is called an epidemic because of the shocking increase in new cases of diabetes. Less than 5% of the population had diabetes in 1990. That figure is now up to 7%: **a 40% increase.**

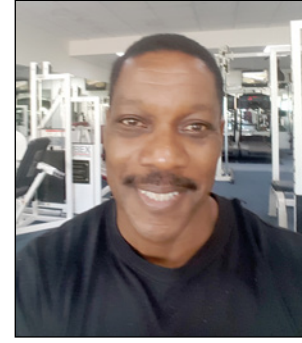
Every 21 seconds someone is diagnosed with diabetes.

What is diabetes?

Much of the food that you eat is turned into glucose for your body to use as energy. After a meal, your pancreas produces the hormone insulin which helps the glucose, or sugar, move from your bloodstream into the cells in your body where it can be used for energy.

When you have diabetes, your body either does not make enough insulin or it cannot use the insulin that it produces. The result is a buildup of glucose or sugar in the bloodstream.

High levels of blood sugar cause extensive damage in the body such as heart disease,



► Ernest Ebanks

kidney failure, blindness and even amputations. Adults with diabetes are twice as likely to die early as those without diabetes.

What's the connection?

The connection between Halloween and Type 2 diabetes is simple: the more sugar you eat, the harder your pancreas has to work to produce insulin and

keep your blood sugar within a safe range.

But the cells in your pancreas that produce insulin are the only cells in your body that actually wear out from use. If you overwork them, they will eventually cease to perform in a way that can keep up with the demand.

Your body can also become resistant to the insulin that your pancreas produces. The more resistant your cells become to insulin, the more your pancreas has to make in order to have an effect.

When these situations develop, you have Type 2 diabetes.

Prevention

The good news is that Type 2 diabetes is completely preventable. By adopting a healthy lifestyle, you will never have to experience this disease. And if you already have Type 2 diabetes, you can do much to control it naturally.

The best strategy is to keep your weight within normal range, eat a healthy diet full of whole foods and very little sugar, and exercise at least 30 minutes, 5 days per week.

These simple lifestyle changes are the enemies of Type 2 diabetes.

This Halloween, choose future health over present pleasure. Enjoy one or two treats, and then stop. It's not worth the price you will pay later.

Call Ernest Ebanks at Body Shapers Fitness 325-8696 or email bodyshaperscayman@gmail.com today, and get started on your healthier lifestyle. Now located in Caymanian Village, two doors down from Island Taste Patties.

Don't forget to sign up for our 2 for 1 special. Only eight spots left. 🌱

LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

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

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

24 Hour Crisis Line - 943-2422

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

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

Aftercare Programme - for victims after leaving the shelter

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



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info@cicc.ky



WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
85° / 81°	84° / 79°	84° / 80°	84° / 82°	86° / 82°	83° / 83°	84° / 83°
A shower in the morning	A p.m. t-storm in spots	A shower in the a.m.; cloudy	Some Brightening	Pleasant with clouds and sun	Spotty shower	A blend of sun and clouds

Governor's Updates

- **Encouraging results from testing** - HSA, Doctors Hospital and Health City are doing a great job. That means over 15,000 people have been tested – almost a quarter of our population which places us 4th in the world for testing per capita. That is something we can all be proud of. I share the sense of optimism from Dr Lee and the Premier about where we are in handling this pandemic. The small number of positive cases are not causing much concern. A key aspect of this pandemic has been the uncertainty of the science. That underlines why we have taken a cautious and measured approach.



► His Excellency, the Governor, Martyn Roper

- **Recruitment of reservists for Regiment** - I was delighted to announce that the recruitment campaign for 50 part-time Reservists for the Cayman Islands Regiment has started. The Regiment's main purpose will be to provide additional resilience for disaster preparedness. Our 5 Junior Officers are currently receiving training at Sandhurst. We have appointed the Commander, Lt Col Simon Watson, 2 senior Deputies and a Sergeant-Major. To have almost 60 trained personnel by the end of August is our ambition. UK is supporting on training and equipment. The UK Security Team currently in Cayman has also provided additional support and advice. For more information and the application and medical forms visit www.gov.ky/ciregiment. This is an exciting development and great opportunity for our youth to develop new skills that will be valuable to employers! Please apply.

in need. They provide \$10,000 worth of food vouchers per week and over 1,800 meals per day. Deckers is a highly committed ARK supporter and is one of a number of organisations who provide their premises to produce the food and a vast number of volunteer drivers give up their time to make the deliveries. ARK is doing a wonderful job and my thanks to Tara Nielson, Neil Rooney, Deckers and all the volunteers who do so much to help the most vulnerable in our community. CaymanKind at its very best.

- **HMS Medway & RFA Argus** - Starting this week, the HMS Medway and RFA Argus will be here for two weeks. They will be exercising their plans to support Cayman should a hurricane or similar natural disaster occur and they are also providing helicopter cover whilst the RCIPS helicopters are off island for their routine maintenance. The exercise will include bringing troops and equipment ashore to test logistics and then checking to ensure they have appropriate communications and can carry out medical evacuations. Out of an abundance of caution and also to prevent possible infection being transmitted to the ships there will be no close contact with any people on our islands.

- **Flight to Jamaica** - Cayman Airways ran two more flights to Jamaica on Wednesday and today Friday. Please contact the Jamaican Honorary consulate for future flight information.

- **Flights to Ecuador and Mexico** - Two private individuals organised flights, to Ecuador/Mexico (Cancun) on Monday 8th June. This was for Mexican and Ecuadorian nationals only. Please contact Daniel Rodriguez darodriguez2289@gmail.com for further information.

- **Thank you to civil servants** - As restrictions are easing across the islands the Deputy Governor is starting to look at how parts of the civil service suspended due to the pandemic can reopen. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the civil servants who adapted their way of working to ensure essential services continued to operate. The plan now is to get the civil service back up to full strength as long as it is safe to do so with a vision that wherever possible services continue to be delivered remotely where a physical presence is not required. A meeting between the DG and Chief Officers to work out the way forward is scheduled for Friday and civil servants will be contacted by their respective departments in due course.

- **Flight to Canada** - There will be a flight to Toronto, Canada on Monday 13th July. Contact nikolepoirier@yahoo.com if you would like to join the flight. It is outbound only.

- **Queen's Birthday** - Next Monday is a bank holiday in honour of the Queen's Birthday. Sadly for the first time in a long while there will be no parade or reception to mark the occasion. But as Her Majesty said recently we will meet again... just not this year.

- **Shout out to Acts of Random Kindness (ARK) and Deckers** - On Monday, I visited Acts of Random Kindness (ARK) which is providing food and vouchers for members of our community who are

- **Easing up of restrictions** - We are very close to easing almost all the restrictions in just under 2 weeks. But as we do so we must still be really disciplined in terms of our interactions with others, social distancing, basic hygiene and wearing masks. That becomes even more important that we get into good habits as we await development of a vaccine. 🌐

MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION



FAITHFULNESS

Daniel 6:3

By now Daniel is and old man. He had lived in Babylon from a youth and served in various positions for a succession of Kings. Darius the Mead had recently ascended the throne. He appointed 3 presidents and 120 princes to oversee his affairs. Apparently suspecting dishonesty amongst his officials and seeing Daniel's trustworthiness, he thought to place, "him over the whole realm".



To have an old Hebrew over then was just plain intolerable. Therefore, the presidents and princes conspired against him, but Daniel's record proved unblemished. He hadn't embezzled money nor took bribes. Finding no fault there, they now conspired to attack his faith. "We will never find

any charge against him unless we find something against him as it relates to the law of his God".

Scientists revile our belief that God created all things. Some so-called Bible scholars scoff at our believing that Jesus Christ is our only hope of salvation. Let us remain ever faithful to God because He is faithful to us. 🌐

OBITUARIES

The Family of the Late **Bonnie Bodden**

regrets to announce her passing on Tuesday, 26 May 2020.



A funeral service will be held 11:00 a.m. Sunday, 14 June 2020 at Crossroads United Baptist Church, Cayman Brac.

Interment will follow in Spot Bay Cemetery.

Condolences can be registered at boddenfuneralservice.com & Bodden Funeral Service Facebook page



The Family of the Late **Eloise Jackson**

regrets to announce her passing on Monday, 1 June 2020.



A private service will be live streamed on Bodden Funeral Service FaceBook Page on Saturday, June 13, 2020 from the Savannah Church of God ~ Full Gospel at 4:00 p.m.

Interment will follow at Tall Tree Cemetery.

Condolences can be registered at boddenfuneralservice.com & Bodden Funeral Service Facebook page



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Cayman's swimmers take to the sea for training...

Government's recent announcement that the beaches are once again open for exercise saw Cayman's competitive swimmers grabbing their goggles and caps and heading straight to our famous Seven Mile Beach.

Swimming is a sport which requires an incredible commitment with many swimmers training year round, taking only a couple of weeks off at the end of each summer, so being "grounded" for almost a month was a real challenge. On top of that our swimmers had to shake off the disappointments of a lost competitive season which counted the 2020 CARIFTA Swimming Championships (cancelled), 2020 Central American and Caribbean Amateur Swimming Confederation (CCCAN) swimming and artistic swimming (cancelled), and the Summer Olympics (postponed) amongst its casualties; Cayman's swimmers and coaches are looking forward and preparing as best they can for their next season.

Selection to a national team is always an honour, and all those selected for the Junior National CARIFTA Team - first-time swimmers and veteran alike - were disappointed at the cancellation; but for three of Cayman's Junior National Team swimmers, the cancelled CARIFTA is all the more disappointing as the 2020 edition of what is the most vibrant celebrations of swimming in the Caribbean, would have been their last. CARIFTA is for age group swimmers up to the age of 17 years old, and Cayman standouts, and multiple CARIFTA medal winners Jordan Crooks, Alison Jackson and Zachary Moore all turn 18 this year.

Asked how they feel about missing their last CARIFTA, the trio had this to say:



► Alison Jackson



► Jordan Crooks

"I was a little disappointed that CARIFTA was cancelled, but I am looking forward to what the future holds. Over the past six years, I have made many fun memories and friends, and I am thankful for all the opportunities that CARIFTA has given me." Jordan Crooks.

"Not being able to have one last CARIFTA to represent Cayman is disappointing but I know it's for the best. I hope I set an example for future Cayman swimmers to follow as they represent their country at CARIFTA and hopefully they have as much fun racing and making new friends as I did. I'm glad the health and safety of myself, my teammates, my friends and all athletes across the Caribbean is being put first during this time." Alison Jackson

"I was at home during spring break when the heart-breaking news was announced. The whole of my semester was focused on training for the event, with the hopes of giving my country my best at my last CARIFTA. I will say it really hurt not being part of the Cayman CARIFTA team one last time, and competing with

the friends I have made over the last seven years. Although it was disappointing, I understand that the decision was made with the athletes' health in mind and overall safety of the Caribbean. The last thing I would want was for our athletes in the Caribbean to fall ill with this treacherous disease. These time have shown me how swimming is more than competition, it is the relationships that come along with the journey." Zachary Moore.

The 2020 Junior National Swim Team selected to travel to Barbados, had not been announced previously, but in recognition of the athletes' hard work CIASA President Michael Lockwood announced them today. An asterisk next to a name indicates that this team member is a first time qualifier.

Pool and Open Water Team: Alison Jackson, Allyson Belfonte, Brianna Fischetti, Corey Frederick-Westerberg, Dominic Hilton*, Harper Barrowman, Jake Bailey, James Allison*, Jasmine Lambert-Wragg*, Jillian Crooks, Jordan Crooks, Kyra Rabess, Lila Higgs, Phin Ellison*, Raya Embury-Brown, Sabine Ellison, Sierrah Broadbelt*, Sofia Bonati, Stefano Bonati, Tate Marr*, Teagan Nash*, Will Sellars and Zachary Moore.

Artistic Swimming: Abbie Carnahan, Alex Owen*, Alexandra Philp*, Allie Capasso*, Amber Barnes, Amelia Thomas*, Anna Owen*, Azania Osborne*, Elena Poppy Read, Iona Nicol*, Kaila Whitney*, Katie Ruddick*, Lila Higgs, Made-

leine Arbo*, Madison Van Duynhoven, Maeve Anderson*, Maeve Finnegan*, Maureen Kohler*, Nicolas Isabel, Scarlett Nadeau*.

Michael Lockwood, CIASA President commented: "We are incredibly proud of all these young athletes who trained hard and sacrificed a great deal to earn their places on the 2020 CARIFTA Junior National Team. One of the lessons athletes learn early on is how to manage disappointments; and how to take them, learn from them and turn them in to something positive - and I am confident our swimmers are doing just that. While we wish our team had been able to compete, we join sporting organisations and countries around the world in putting the health and safety of our athletes first - and now we turn our attention to 2021 which will surely be a busy year for our swimmers."

For swimmers who can train as much as 18 hours a day in the pool, with additional hours spent in dryland conditioning, the continued easing of restrictions around beach exercise will help Cayman's national swimmers, as well as all the age-group and masters swimmers, in their journey back to fitness. What's the next thing they are looking forward to? Training in the pool again when they are safely opened with social distancing protocols and guide lines in place. For more information on CIASA visit www.ciasa.ky or contact Kathy Jackson at skyjackswim@gmail.com



► Zachary Moore

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GLOBAL NEWS BRIEFS

Filipino children delay on school return

Filipino children will not attend school until a vaccine to protect against COVID-19 becomes available, officials confirmed, prompting fears millions of students could be left without access to education.

Scientists around the world are racing to develop a vaccine, but most experts caution that it will take at least a year or two for one to become available.

Philippines education secretary Leonor Briones said online, or TV classes would resume at the end of August, but there were concerns that children from the poorest or most remote communities, who do not have internet access, will miss out.

The country recently eased a strictly enforced quarantine that had been in place for more than two months, despite hundreds of new cases continuing to emerge daily. The lockdown has succeeded in slowing transmission, but it has also devastated the economy, and left millions of people out of work and in need of urgent social assistance.



► Filipino kids will have a long wait to return to school

Restrictions on movement remain in place, including for children, who are generally not allowed outside their homes unless they are going to get essentials or going to work.

On Monday, 579 new infections were announced in the Philippines, bringing total cases to 22,474 cases. So far, 1,011 fatalities have been recorded.

The total number of known global cases of coronavirus is over seven million with 410,000 deaths worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the pandemic is worsening. 🌐

Canada will equip cops with cameras

Canada intends to equip police officer with body-worn cameras to increase trust, accountability and transparency.

The head of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police made the announcement after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he wanted police to wear body cameras to help overcome what he said was public distrust in law and order.

Protesters in Montreal and other Canadian cities took to the streets last Sunday in the latest international demonstrations against police brutality, sparked by the death of George Floyd in Minnesota as policeman Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commissioner Brenda Lucki has agreed to "engage in work and discussion... on a broader rollout of body-worn cameras" with the National Police Federation union.



► Canadian police may soon get body cameras

Trudeau said he had spoken to Lucki. "One of the things we discussed was the adoption of body cameras. I'm committing to raising this with the provinces this week so we can move forward as quickly as possible," Trudeau said. "Body cameras are a significant step towards transparency."

The RCMP, which is a federal police force, also services eight of the 10 provinces. Ontario and Quebec, the two most populous provinces, have their own police. "Many people in this country simply do not feel protected by the police. In fact, they're afraid of them," Trudeau said. 🌐

Honduras gang problem worsens

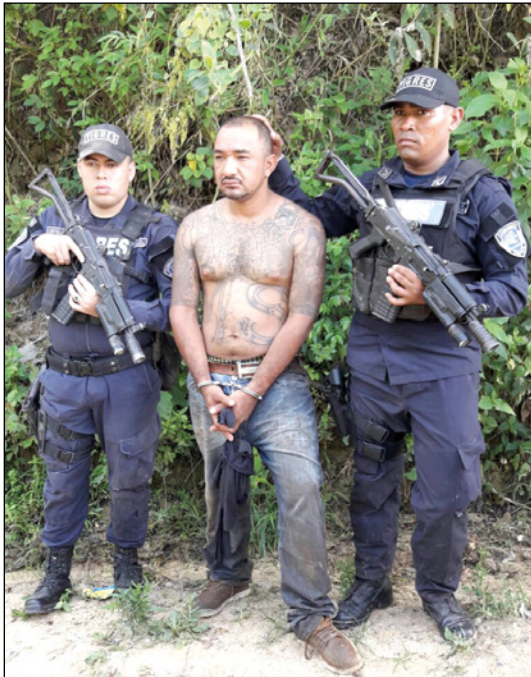
Honduran troops are stationed at villages on the borders of El Salvador because members of the ruthless MS13 gang are killing and extorting residents.

The entrance to the Honduran border town of Camasca is well-guarded. A column of the army's special forces stops vehicles along the paved road that winds through the mountains to La Esperanza, the capital of the department of Intibucá.

The soldiers are there solely to halt the intrusion of the MS13 gang from neighbouring El Salvador into Honduras' borderlands.

This terror arrived in Camasca, a de facto regional capital, and its surrounding areas toward the end of 2016. As Mara Salvatrucha graffiti began to multiply, houses began to empty.

Disturbing stories are coming from Colomcagua and Magdalena, villages closest to the Salvadoran border. Murders that began with bullets and ended with bodies chopped up with machetes. Payments of \$100 are demanded every two weeks from those known



► Honduran police capture a gang member

to be receiving remittances from the United States. A Salvadoran gang leader, José Isaías Barahona, is responsible for this who recruited Honduran youth under the banner of the MS.

Isaías is a member of the Sailors Locos Salvatruchos (SLS), one of MS13's oldest cliques. The cell dates to the 1990s in San Miguel. 🌐

Cuba tackles COVID well

Cuba's handling of the coronavirus pandemic has become an envy of many countries in the region.

New cases have dropped to less than 10 per day on average from a peak of around 50, and two thirds of the island is virus-free, according to official data.

For example, Reina Paula, a saleswoman at Havana's La Epoca supermarket, said the same day that a worker tested positive for the coronavirus, local authorities sent the rest of the staff in a fleet of state vehicles to isolation facilities for testing. Healthcare providers traced their relatives and sent them into quarantine, while state news outlets publicly appealed to anyone who had had close contact with them to come forward to prevent the virus from spreading.

"They followed the clinical steps like a Swiss clock," said Paula, at home after recovering from the worst of COVID-19.

Those who tested positive were transferred to hospital, where they were given antivirals and immune system boosters, while the others were sent home to quarantine for two weeks.

Paula's story illustrates the rigorous approach Cuba has taken to curb the



► Cuban medics have kept the virus figures down

coronavirus outbreak - helped by the island's preventive, universal and well-staffed healthcare system, centralisation and use of coercion.

Doing so was politically vital for Cuba's ruling Communist Party, which claims the country's strong healthcare system as a key achievement, even as it has failed to deliver on the economy, partly due to a US trade embargo.

Last Monday was the ninth consecutive day with no deaths from COVID-19, while the highly infectious disease continues to rage throughout the Americas.

"We could be shortly closing in on the tail end of the pandemic and entering the phase of recovery from COVID," President Miguel Diaz-Canel said. 🌐

Venezuela gas crisis worsens

Venezuelans in their thousands have been queuing up in miles-long lines to try to fill their cars with subsidised gasoline over the weekend, a week after President Nicolas Maduro launched a new dual-price system aimed at easing an acute fuel shortage.

Maduro on May 30 announced the new system in which motorists could purchase up to 120 litres (31.7 gallons) of gasoline at a heavily subsidised price of 5,000 bolivars (US2.5 cents) per litre, and 50 cents per litre thereafter. Some 200 gas stations were designated to charge solely at the higher price.

That change effectively ended decades of heavy subsidies in Venezuela, an OPEC nation with the world's largest crude reserves and where cheap fuel has long been considered a birth right of sorts. The new plan caused chaos and confusion at service stations across the country when it began on June 1.

While Venezuelans with resources can now wait in shorter lines at the stations tapped to charge higher prices, those seeking subsidised fuel, such as 42-year-old car mechanic Pedro Mujica, had no choice but to wait in seemingly endless lines.

"With what little I earn, I can't afford to pay the higher price in dollars," Mu-



► Venezuela's long gas prices have got much longer

jica said early in the morning, some 13 hours after he arrived at a Caracas gas station in his 1991 two-door BMW car.

"It is unnecessary that we Venezuelans are living through such problems," he said, with his four-year-old daughter Aranza on his lap.

Fuel shortages have plagued Venezuela for years as its economy deteriorated due to a plunge in the price of crude, its main export, as well as socialist policies that many economists criticize as misguided.

But the shortages grew more acute this year due to a near-complete collapse in the South American country's 1.3 million barrel-per-day refining network, as well as US sanctions designed to force Maduro, a socialist, from power. 🌐

UK unis hit by fall in foreign pupils

UK universities have been told to expect a sharp fall in the number of new international students coming next year, including a loss of up to \$460m in income from students from east Asia.

A new survey of international students by the British Council has found that nearly 14,000 fewer students from eight countries - including China, Singapore and Malaysia - are likely to come to the UK in 2020/21 in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

The decline of 20 percent in students from east Asia would amount to a 12 percent fall in overall international student numbers, causing the huge loss of income from tuition and living expenses such as accommodation.

While the fall in student numbers appears smaller than those institutions are anticipating, one worrying sign from the survey is that nearly 40 percent of those coming from China - the UK's biggest source of overseas students - have yet to decide.

"Prospective international students are facing a lot of uncertainty, but many are clearly trying to find a way to keep their overseas study plans," said



► UK universities rely heavily on overseas students

Matt Durnin, the author of a report for the British Council.

The survey of prospective students found that 29 percent said they were likely to delay or cancel their plans to study. Many prefer face-to-face tuition rather than online lessons. Most post-graduate applicants said they would rather postpone the start of their studies until January 2021 than begin with online learning in autumn, while 46 percent of undergraduate applicants agreed.

The British Council said its findings suggested the sector may take three or four years to recover from the shock of COVID-19. Some British universities are forecasting falls in international students of 50 percent compared with last year. 🌐

Premier League is primed for restart

The Premier League makes a welcome return next week but with a lot of changes because of COVID-19.

Playing in empty stadiums is going to become the new norm for footballers which is why they have been training at their home grounds.

The Premier League resumes behind closed doors from 17 June after being suspended since 13 March because of the coronavirus pandemic.

At Old Trafford, Harry Maguire captained a 'home' Manchester United team against an 'away' side led by Bruno Fernandes.

It marked the first time Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men had played on home soil since their 2-0 win over derby rivals Manchester City on 8 March - their final match before lockdown.

It had been even longer since Marcus Rashford and Paul Pogba had done so, last featuring for United on 26 December and 15 January respectively before long injury lay-offs.

They both donned the red home kit as Juan Mata, Anthony Martial and Aaron Wan-Bissaka joined Fernandes in the away team for the match refereed by fitness coach Charlie Owen.

United - currently fifth in the Premier League - will restart their season away at Tottenham on 19 June before welcoming Sheffield United to Old Trafford on 24 June.

Rather than an inter-squad match, Arsenal went one step further and wel-



► Manchester United play Spurs on June 19



► Liverpool have a Merseyside derby with Everton on June 21

comed Championship strugglers Charlton to Emirates Stadium.

Mikel Arteta's Gunners ran out 6-0 winners over the Addicks, with Eddie Nketiah scoring a second-half hat-trick in addition to strikes from Alexandre Lacazette, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Joe Willock.

Ninth-place Arsenal travel to Manchester City on 17 June to kick off their return to action.

Frank Lampard took his Chelsea players to Stamford Bridge for a change from their Cobham training base, holding an in-house game on Saturday.

Lampard and his coaching staff officiated the match, with Ruben Loftus-Cheek scoring for the Blues.

Chelsea are three points above United in fourth and resume their campaign at Aston Villa.

Villa reportedly held a behind-closed-doors friendly against West Brom, who are second in the Championship, at Villa Park.

Jack Grealish and Keinan Davis scored for the hosts as they twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with the Baggies, for whom Kamil Grosicki and Filip Krovinovic found the back of the net.

Newcastle also took a trip home to St James' Park for an inter-squad friendly which finished in a 1-1 draw.

Joelinton gave his side - wearing the Magpies' orange strip - the lead before Nabil Bentaleb equalised for those wearing the black and white kit with a stunning strike from outside the box.

Premier League leaders Liverpool held a series of short matches at Anfield, while Norwich and West Ham also re-

turned to Carrow Road and London Stadium respectively.

Schedules

Wed 17 June

- Aston Villa vs Sheffield United
- Manchester City vs Arsenal

Friday 19 June

- Norwich City vs Southampton
- Tottenham Hotspur vs Manchester United

Saturday 20 June

- Brighton & Hove Albion vs Arsenal
- West Ham United vs Wolverhampton Wanderers

- AFC Bournemouth vs Crystal Palace

Sunday 21 June

- Newcastle United vs Sheffield United

- Aston Villa vs Chelsea
- Everton vs Liverpool

Durant will miss another season

The NBA has approved a 22-team format for restarting the league season next month at the Disney campus near Orlando, Florida.

The vote was 29-1, with Portland casting the dissenting vote. The National Basketball Players Association has scheduled a meeting for Friday to vote on the plan.

Teams will arrive at Disney around July 7 and play an eight-game slate of games starting July 31 at the ESPN Wide World Of Sports complex. All teams will stay, practice and play at Disney and the NBA Finals — which would have started Thursday if not for the coronavirus pandemic that caused the NBA to suspend its season on March 11 — will likely stretch into October.

While working to finish this season, the league also has made decisions on next season — with the draft lottery rescheduled for Aug. 25, the draft on Oct. 15 and opening night for the 2020-21 campaign is tentatively set for Dec. 1. The G League also announced Thursday that it cancelled the remainder of this season.

The 22 Disney-bound clubs will play somewhere between 71 and 75 games before the playoffs begin, down from the customary 82-game slate. The teams who didn't qualify for the restart will see their seasons end after having played somewhere between 64 and 67 games.

Roughly 15 percent of what would have been the full NBA regular season won't be played, which means players stand to lose around \$600 million in salary. How that process will work is among the issues that the league and union are still working to solve.



► Kevin Durant is still a year away from a return

But one of the biggest hurdles is now cleared, in an NBA season like none other. The league is planning for the same playoff rules as usual, that being every round utilizing a best-of-seven format.

The 22-team plan includes all teams that were holding playoff spots when the season was stopped, plus all other clubs within six games of a berth.

NBA superstar Kevin Durant, who has not played since he tore his Achilles tendon a year ago, said he would not make his debut with the Brooklyn Nets when the season resumes late July in Orlando.

"My season is over. I don't plan on playing at all," in the 2019-2020 season, Durant said.

"We decided last summer when it first happened that I was just going to wait until the following season. I had no plans of playing at all this season."

Durant, who was the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player for the Golden State Warriors in their 2017 and 2018 championship runs, ruptured his right Achilles tendon in last June's NBA Finals.

Nunes retains her UFC title

Amanda Nunes cemented her status as an all-time UFC great by completely dominating in her unanimous decision win over Canadian contender Felicia Spencer at UFC 250 in Las Vegas.

Nunes' victory at the behind-closed-doors event at the UFC Apex made history as she became the first simultaneous two-weight champion to register successful defences of both titles.

The Florida-based Brazilian was in total control as she connected with her punches almost at will, while dominating the grappling exchanges on the mat, en route to a landslide victory on the scorecards after five one-sided rounds. The judges scored the contest 50-44, 50-44, 50-45.

"When she connected the first punch on me, I knew she would never knock me out," said Nunes after her victory.

"This fight, I wanted to go five rounds. I know if I had time, I would finish her, but it's important for me to go five rounds. I'm tired of hearing, 'Amanda cannot go five rounds'. Stop that, everybody. I went five rounds with the toughest girl in the division and I'm not tired."



► Amanda Nunes is a UFC legend now

Nunes, 32, captured the UFC's women's 145-pound featherweight title in December 2018 with a one-round demolition of compatriot Cristiane 'Cyborg' Justino at UFC 238. After capturing her second UFC title, Nunes then returned to bantamweight and registered her fourth and fifth defences of her 135-pound title.

At UFC 250, Nunes' title defence at featherweight set a new benchmark for UFC champions as she became the first simultaneous two-weight champion to defend both belts as a double champion. Former simultaneous two-weight champions Daniel Cormier and Henry Cejudo both successfully defended their two titles but had relinquished one before defending the other.

Nunes' victory further cemented her reputation as the greatest female fighter in UFC history.

West Indies fly in minus three players

West Indies flew into England this week without three players who opted out of the trip because of concerns about the COVID 19 pandemic.

Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer and Keemo Paul all featured in the 2-1 victory against England at home last year and were invited to join the three-Test tour that is being staged behind closed doors from 8 July by the selector Roger Harper.

Their names were absent from the 25-member touring party - a Test squad of 14, plus 11 reserve players who will act as net bowlers and warm-up opposition - with a statement from Cricket West Indies saying the board "fully respects their decision".

Johnny Grave, the chief executive, had stressed recently that the death toll from coronavirus in the UK - now officially past 50,000 - needed to be viewed from a Caribbean perspective, a sentiment echoed by Joe Root, the England Test captain, who said this week that "it must be extremely scary".

All three players have been told there will be no re-appointments as regards future selection. With West Indies cricketers starting a 50 percent pay cut from July - but the tour offering full match fees worth around \$15,000 in total for those among the official 14 - it is clear their decisions were not taken lightly.

Bravo, the Trinidadian left-hander with 54 caps and eight centuries, is a loss by way of experience even

though he had been dropped for their most recent Test against Afghanistan, while the Guyanese pair of Hetmyer, an explosive middle-order player, and Paul, a bowling all-rounder, are considered emerging talents.

The trio could not be persuaded by a final medical briefing from Nick Peirce, the England and Wales Cricket Board's chief medical officer, but there will be few grumbles from the home side about the standard of opposition overall given the desperation to stage international cricket this summer.

Jason Holder's touring side headed to Old Trafford to spend three weeks living at the Hilton hotel on site and training among themselves - the first 14 days of which are considered a quarantine period - before the squad then decamp to the Ageas Bowl before the first Test.

The series opener and the two remaining Tests back in Manchester, from 16 and 24 July respectively, will be staged without crowds and only around 200 people in the grounds.

The two squads, their coaching staff and the match officials will be subject to a rigorous testing regime, as well as daily temperature checks and thermal screening.

England look certain to regain the Wisden Trophy but West Indies, although without a series victory in the UK since 1988, have a much respected captain in Holder and depth in the bowling department giv-



► Darren Bravo opted out of the England tour

en Shannon Gabriel and Oshane Thomas, two hostile quicks, are listed among the reserves.

Gabriel's relegation to the bench is in part because of uncertainty over his fitness following ankle surgery last November. But Chemar Holder, an uncapped 22-year-old Barbadian who has taken his place in the main squad, is considered a rising star in the Caribbean and is expected to enjoy English conditions.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Nix
- 5 "Hush!"
- 10 The Emerald Isle
- 11 Solar halo
- 12 Red, perhaps
- 13 Bob, for one
- 14 Ideal, as a scenario
- 16 Lincoln Center site
- 20 Royal roost
- 23 Easy victim
- 24 Sunday entree
- 25 Plow pioneer
- 27 Make a choice
- 28 Take out
- 29 Lab vessel
- 32 Road trip stop
- 36 State as true
- 39 Auction bids
- 40 Official documents
- 41 Overlook
- 42 Yes-man
- 43 Pro —

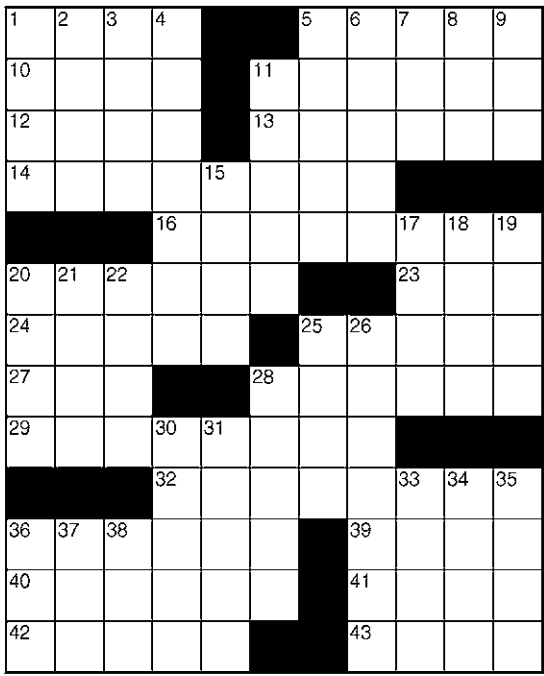
DOWN

- 1 Word of action
- 2 Huron neighbor
- 3 Waiting rewards
- 4 Boxing combos
- 5 Port setting
- 6 Spring sign
- 7 Negative link
- 8 Neither Dem. nor Rep.
- 9 Eastern "way"
- 11 Run down
- 15 Minimal change



Yesterday's answer

- 17 "Got it"
- 18 Blowgun ammo
- 19 Foil's kin
- 20 Easy run
- 21 Aspiration
- 22 "Darn it!"
- 25 Owed amount
- 26 Franklin's wife
- 28 Does some cleaning
- 30 Cornered
- 31 Towel material
- 33 Capital of Italia
- 34 Fix text
- 35 Nick and Nora's dog
- 36 Gifted
- 37 — Paulo
- 38 Hotel amenity



3-14

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

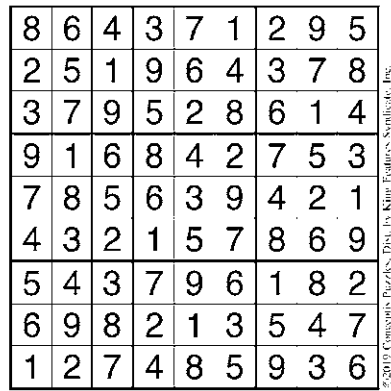
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ ★ ★

1/12

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★★ ★ ★

Word Search

- Apple
- Castle
- Cottage
- Dwarf
- Elves
- Fairy
- Forest
- Giant
- Gnome
- King
- Mirror
- Ogre
- Pixie
- Prince
- Queen
- Ring
- Rose
- Slipper
- Troll
- Witch
- Wolf
- Wood

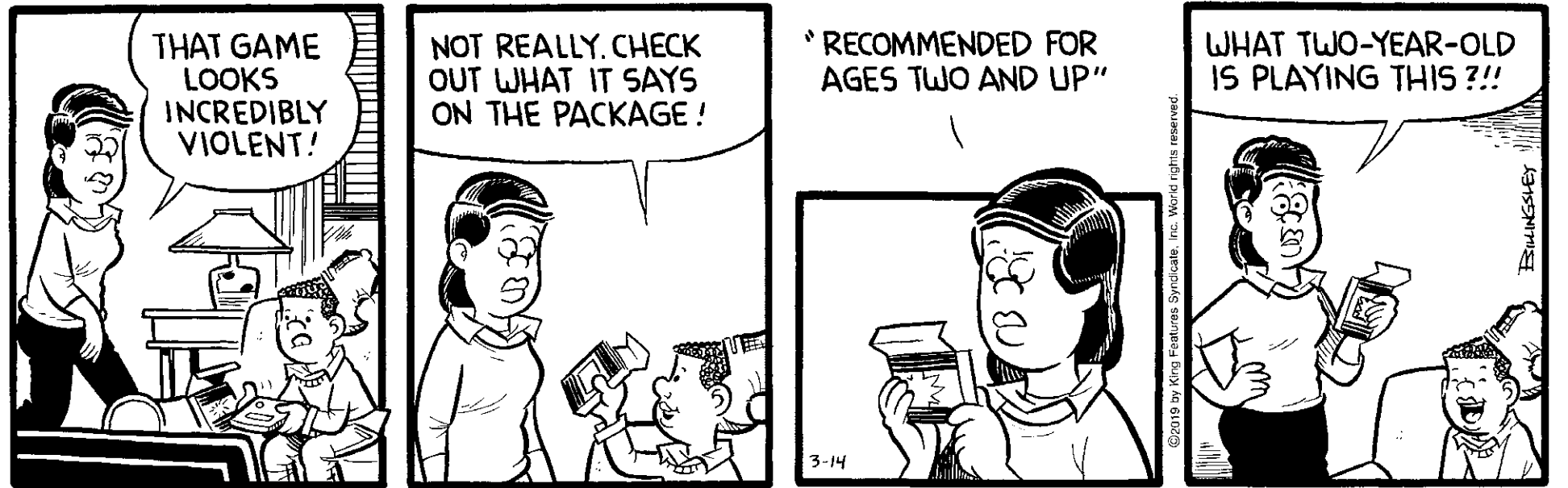


Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.



CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



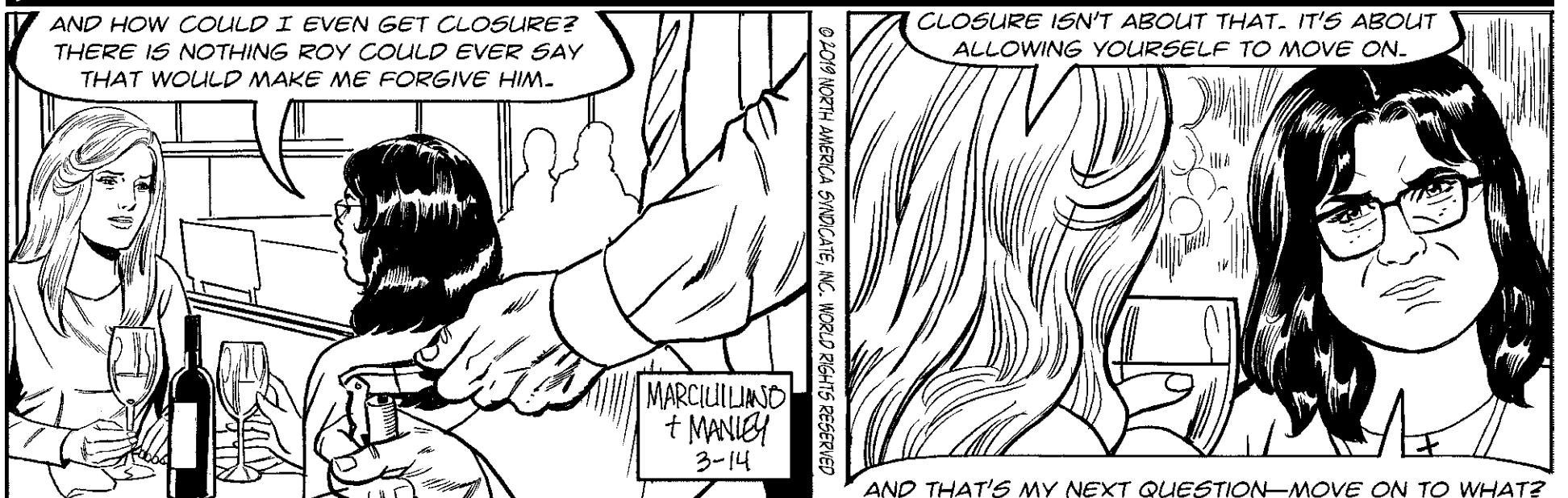
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