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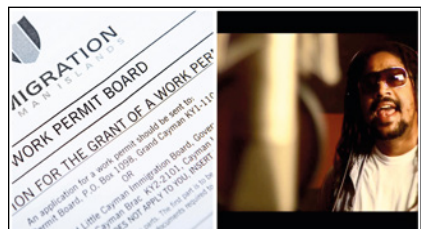
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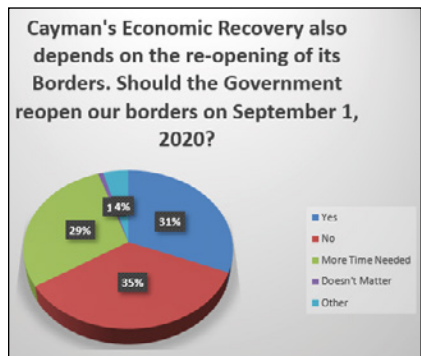
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Fidelity Pension Services Update

NEOC chronicles 'Operation Bring em home'



▶ Airport Public Health

The Cayman Islands National Emergency Operations Centre has been charting the success of its 'Operation Bring Em Home', a repatriation and evacuation logistics undertaking in which it

has arranged travel for over 3,400 persons to date into and out of Cayman due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Organised and conducted with military-precision, the NEOC has to date

arranged 183 passenger flights into the Cayman Islands between March and June 2020.

... Continued story on page A3

Mango harvest has people selling from their yards

What is gold and grows on trees? Yes that's right mangoes! This year it's been a real bumper crop, too, with everyone's favorite fruit virtually dripping off the trees. It's a hard time for many farmers, or those who supplement their income from backyard produce sales. Because of Covid-19, there are less customers and that has coincided with a bumper harvest, driving the prices down, but hopefully the numbers being harvested will more than make up for it.

Mangoes are everywhere, and people can be seen selling them from the front of their yard, if they have a few trees, to make a few extra dollars. Ryan McGhee has been selling them from his driveway in Hirst road, Savannah. The going rate is around two dollars a pound, and sometime Mr. McGhee has been making as much as 250 dollars an evening. "My grandparents they have about 15 to 20 trees and then down here at my house we have probably



▶ Ryan McGhee selling mangoes from his driveway

about ten or twelve trees here. This year has been a very fruitful harvest," he said. "We have Carrie, Nam Doc, Ja-

... Continued story on page A5

CAYMAN FIGHTING BACK FOR ITS FINANCIAL SECTOR



▶ Hon. Minister of Financial Services Tara Rivers

The Cayman Islands continue to work through a series of legislative changes as efforts continue to remove the territory from a European Union tax 'blacklist'.

In the latest move, a series of amendments to existing laws were piloted by Hon. Minister of Financial Services Min-

... Continued story on page A4

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EDITORIAL

A New Strategy

‘When one door is closed, another will open. The Gift of Vision guarantees Success’

In May, the Government passed a law mandating employers to post their jobs that required work permits on the new WORC JobsCayman site. They hoped that this change will attract job seekers to their site instead of heading to the newspapers to find jobs. This significantly impacted the viability for local newspapers to operate under their existing model.

At a recent Press Briefing, in response to a question of concern about the real challenges facing the business base of the media in Cayman, the Premier ventured into a long-settled debate about the future of, especially the printed media, in the face of digital on-line technology.

The matter being discussed was the impact on local media revenues of job advertising, which has been massively scaled back.

Premier McLaughlin was partly right when he said: “I think more innovative means will have to be found to ensure that it (media) can be funded by consumers.”

Our publisher Ralph Lewis was on point with this observation regarding the WORC job advertising issue:

“The timing of the changes has put a damper on the effort of the private sector, in this case our business, to operate. However, I do believe that there is a way of getting things done and we are already looking into strategies of how we could diversify our revenue sources to make sure that there is free media in Cayman whether in print or online.”



The time has come to reveal our new strategy to our local readers and the World.

In a few days, The Caymanian Times will be relaunching its job site called ‘Job Market’

This site was created in 2013 and ironically sought to achieve the same goals as the Government, but from a user’s perspective. With this site we plan to offer clients three services for one low price, namely, Registration and Job Posting on WORC, Job Posting Management, and Newspaper Advertising.

We will provide more details prior to our launch next week.

Limited Cayman Airways flights has also impacted our operation as our papers are printed in Miami. With the suspension of the weekend flights, and the delivery of our Monday paper on Saturday, Caymanian Times will now publish its printed paper on Wednesday and Friday (2 days per week).

We thank our readers for their support and will continue to be that paper that stays in everyone’s hands.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CAYMAN MAKES ITS 200TH COVID-19 CONFIRMATION

The Cayman Islands on Tuesday recorded the 200th positive case of COVID-19 to have been found in the territory.

Updated statistics from the Chief Medical Officer Dr John Lee also show that 191 persons have fully recovered.

Of the 470 COVID-19 tests carried out in the last 24 hours, one was positive.

The individual was identified through the screening programme and is asymptomatic.

An ongoing intensified testing programme has to date resulted in 23,750 persons being screened.

There has only been one death in Cayman associated with the pandemic. That fatality in March, a visiting cruise ship passenger, was also the first confirmed case of the disease here.



Cayman is credited with having the third highest rate of testing globally based on population size.

However, the 200 cases which have been confirmed here put the territory among the highest in the Caribbean, ahead of larger countries such as the Bahamas, Barbados, Trinidad and Curacao, as well the other British Overseas Territories.

Treasury Cashier Open Hours

This is a reminder that as of **Tuesday, 23 June 2020**, the Treasury Cashier is reopened for business on the ground floor of the Government Administration Building from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday to Friday**.

For the safety of everyone concerned, Treasury requires that strict adherence to the safety protocols of wearing a mask at all times and the required six feet distance be maintained while visiting the building.

Opposition expresses condolences on the passing of Mrs. Mary Miller

The members of the Official Opposition wish to extend their sincere condolences to Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, MLA and his siblings Jerris, Marylou and Susan on the passing of their mother Mrs. Mary Miller.

Mrs. Mary was known to the Members of The Opposition and all are deeply saddened by the announcement of her passing.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Mr Arden McLean, JP MLA and long-

time colleague of Mr. Miller also expressed his sad condolences:

“Mrs Mary was one of those strong Caymanian women who were involved in all matters concerning the country when we needed it most and who built this country when the men were away at sea, raising children and managing her family’s affairs. Her husband himself was a Captain. I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere condolences. I know she will be sadly missed.”

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COVID-19 DASHBOARD

Cayman Islands COVID-19 Dashboard

1 Today's confirmed cases	191 Recovered*
200 Total confirmed cases	23,750 Tested
1 Death	10,365,963 Worldwide confirmed cases Source: Johns Hopkins, 30/06/20, 1:30pm

AS AT: 30 JUNE 2020, 2PM

*A person who initially tested positive and who has subsequently tested negative for the COVID-19 virus in two tests done at least 24 hours apart 14 days after their positive test, or after their symptoms have gone away, whichever is longer.

Caymanian Times

Issue # 564

Publisher: Ralph Lewis
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NEOC chronicles 'Operation Bring 'Em Home'

... Continued story from page A1

They have brought almost 800 people home to the Cayman Islands and arranged departure for 2,600 persons back to their home countries.

This is the NEOC's special report

The initial demand was from students who were studying overseas and had been forced to return because their college or university had been closed at short notice. For others, they were escaping the chaos and confusion of countries whose health care systems were under strain from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Some were returning from COVID-19 hotspots and had taken lengthy routes to connect with the air bridge from London. Many had a fear of bringing the virus back with them and infecting the community, family and relatives. A plan was needed to complete this undertaking, safely and efficiently, at pace.

This was in the fledgling days of Government's COVID-19 planning and preparation, and the "Bring 'Em Home" operation was hatched from what was supposed to be a half-day planning exercise for the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC).

A facilitated brainstorming session involving the combined expertise of around 50 people from across the civil service and partner organisations led to the drawing up of a workable plan, with both safety and efficiency in mind.

Within hours, operation "Bring 'Em Home" was approved by Cabinet and mere days later, the first Caymanians were being safely repatriated into the Cayman Islands, with the first isolation facility up and running.

The logistics involved were complex, given the civil service does not ordinarily run isolation facilities or hotels.

Furthermore, there were challenges such as the need to match room availability to the number of people approved to travel together and complex arrangements to get them safely from their flight to their designated isolation facility where they would be looked after for a minimum of 14 days and then be tested.

Lois Kellyman, part of the Human Concerns cluster within the NEOC, was

the first isolation facility manager and said she found the greatest challenge to be keeping the residents motivated throughout the isolation period.

"We all know that students studying overseas look forward to returning home, sleeping in their own beds, visiting and catching up with family and friends and going to the beach. However, here they were, close to the beach but confined to their rooms and unable to have social interaction with friends and families for what seemed to be forever.

"As a result, we maintained constant communication with the residents, through WhatsApp and daily telephone 'care' calls. We decided to offer a 'Taste of Cayman' as a treat for the students and provided mini Cassava cakes for each, sponsored by the Lions Club of Tropical Gardens."

By the end of 6 June, different hotel sites had been operationalised as isolation facilities and each has had its own challenges. One of the biggest tasks was to ensure the risk of exposure to staff was managed and that there was no possibility of the public accidentally coming into contact with those in isolation.

Clear protocols around security and infection control required bespoke arrangements being put in place at each location, in line with advice from Health Services Authority, Public Health, the Department of Environmental Health and the newly formed Cayman Islands Regiment.

Every flight was met by the NEOC ops team who co-ordinated with partner agencies and colleagues to ensure everything was in place to help both those leaving the country and facilitate those arriving and heading to isolation facilities.

Every inbound passenger had their temperature and travel history screened on arrival, by teams observing social distancing and wearing PPE. New arrivals were warmly welcomed home and on to awaiting buses for transportation to their hotel.

Some of the outbound flights came with an added requirement to screen passengers, as each country and airline had created their own set of procedures and protocols that had to be followed to ensure plans were executed without a hitch.



► DG Airport Visit 26 June

Graeme Jackson who was seconded from the Civil Service to NEOC Operations said:

"I remember some of the early flights, especially the returning students. We had parents who were upset about their children on one side of the airport and students who were exhausted and worried about their parents on the other. On one occasion we even found ourselves singing happy birthday to a student on behalf of the parents. Everyone has gone the extra mile to support this operation and the teamwork across all departments and agencies has been incredible."

Laura Watler, who had only been recruited into the Civil Service in February, and was immediately seconded to the NEOC team, co-ordinated the logistics.

She reflected: "When you see the recruitment literature about making lives better I didn't appreciate that within days I would be helping so many people and having such an impact. At times it has been stressful and tiring but the long hours have been worth it. We have all come together to Bring 'Em Home."

Mark Ray, seconded from the Department of Education Services, was responsible for the co-ordination of ground transportation. Using a combination of commercial transport and school buses, each journey was carefully planned to ensure sufficient social distancing was observed, drivers were briefed on PPE use and the routes to be followed. Each

vehicle was professionally sanitised after every trip.

Mark noted, "The drivers have been awesome. They have turned up every day without fail and in challenging circumstances. The health protocols require the vehicles to be driven without air conditioning so it is not the most comfortable situation for the driver or passenger. We aim to minimise the time people are on the vehicle which means we have to be very efficient in loading and unloading. We are grateful to the RCIPS who have supported us with route planning and minimising the journey times."

Chris Smith, who was formerly Operations Director at Intertrust, volunteered to support the NEOC operations team. He had recently returned from a planned world adventure which was cut short by the coronavirus pandemic.

"I am not the sort of person who can sit at home when I can make a difference and being part of this team has been a fantastic experience. Previously I have only looked at the civil service from the perspective of being in the private sector and a member of the public. The commitment and dedication of the whole team has been impressive - nothing gets in their way to deliver a positive outcome, even with the most challenging of customers and circumstances."

Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz Manderson visited the airport team on Friday, 26 June to thank everyone who has made the operation a success.

"It's great to see so many departments and organisations come together to deliver a single outcome - making lives better. On this occasion it was about keeping people safe and reducing the spread of a disease. The team delivered professionally, with passion and at pace.

"I have been overwhelmed by the number of people who emailed me complimenting the Civil Service for everything that has been done to bring them home, including individual travellers and a senior airline pilot."

The NEOC has been operational for over 100 days and is now winding down as the civil service resumes business as usual.

But Mr Manderson said he recognises that there is still much to be done and more flights are in the pipeline.

"With our CurfewTime service no longer needed, it is being re-rolled to take over as TravelTime and will provide ongoing support to emergency travellers from next week and until our borders are reopened."

"This will allow the NEOC operations team, who have been working relentlessly for three months, to get some rest and prepare for the next challenge," he said.



► Airport bus operations



► Lois Kellyman manages isolation facility

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CAYMAN FIGHTING BACK FOR ITS FINANCIAL SECTOR

... Continued story from page A1

ister Tara Rivers during Monday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

In February this year, the EU included Cayman in a list of countries it said didn't have "appropriate measures" in place to prevent tax abuse.

The government has insisted that it continues to comply with agreed EU regulations and is working towards an October deadline to be removed from the EU's blacklist.

In the most recent package of legislation, Financial Services Minister Rivers pushed through a number of changes to tighten up governance and compliance.

One of five laws dealt with how the Tax Information Authority (TIA) ensures compliance with local and global processes.

Min. Rivers said it was "to ensure that the functions and powers of the TIA are adequate, fit for purpose and will stand up to scrutiny in the OECD peer reviews and assessments against international standards."

She further stated that "the TIA was also developing a one-stop integrated IT system to be launched this year to streamline data sharing between relevant government divisions concerned with the monitoring and compliance."

According to Min. Rivers, while the "does not create or impose any new or modified obligations on individuals or

entities...it creates the scope for penalising companies and individuals providing false or misleading information to the authorities."

Making an intervention as the Official Opposition's spokesmen on the financial sector, Hon. MLA Chris Saunders (Bodden Town West) sought clarity on the functions of the TIA.

"I would just like some comfort level with this agency and who they are that's handling this information. I would really like to understand the oversight and the process. What is being done with some of this information, who is collecting it, where is it going and more importantly who's checking to make sure that information that shouldn't be leaving this jurisdiction isn't leaving this jurisdiction?" he queried.

Mr Saunders said he accepted that as a global financial centre there are international obligations. to be followed.

But he was keen to point out: "At a minimum people do expect a certain amount of privacy and I just need to make sure that the powers that be are actually reviewing the operations of this entity."

On its website, the Tax Information Authority (TIA) is described as the sole dedicated channel in the Cayman Islands for international cooperation on matters involving the provision of tax-related information. The TIA is a function of the Department for Tax International Tax Cooperation.

Responding, Financial Services Minister Rivers reassured that "the law itself contains the confidentiality provisions and agreements...and so there would be mechanisms in place to ensure that if, in a worse case scenario, there were breaches it would be dealt with pursuant to the law itself."

Min. Rivers said the objective was also "to demonstrate the robustness of the jurisdiction as it relates to carrying out the various international treaty obligations."

Also, during Monday's sitting existing legislation on The Reporting of Savings Income Information (European Union) was repealed.

That law which dates back to 2005 deals with interest payments on savings.

Min. Rivers reported that since that law came into force, "international agreements with the EU and the need for domestic legislation have been superseded due to establishment of new global standards by the OECD for the automatic accounting and exchange of information for all EU member states."

She said such exchanges however no longer take place under the former agreement making the law redundant.

Opposition MLA Chris Saunders commented that the Cayman Islands was spending "way too much time not innovating new products...but rather innovating new regulatory regimes."

He asked who is growing the brand of the Cayman Islands "ensuring that the

business (Cayman) maintain its competitive advantage?"

Other amendments dealing with mutual funds, private funds and exempted limited partnerships were also passed.

Hon. MLA for George Town Central, Kenneth Bryan, commended the government, on what he called "their continued effort to stay ahead of the game."

He noted that Cayman depended heavily on the financial services sector, the second economic pillar, especially more so since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Referring to the number of bills related to financial services coming to the Legislative Assembly in comparison to other matters, he observed:

"It just struck me how important that is because although we have our differences in policy direction I don't think there's any question that financial services is a very fluid industry and ever-changing.

"Just the mere action of constantly changing and amending to make sure that we stay on top in the industry shows there's a commitment, no matter what side you are on."

Mr Bryan further stated that he wanted to show the government that it has his full support on the changes as they are intended to ensure that Cayman keeps one step ahead of other jurisdictions.

Monday's sitting was the second dealing with financial sector issues since the EU blacklisted Cayman in February.

FURTHER INITIATIVES TO DEAL WITH COVID-19

CALL TO SCREEN

With over 22,000 persons screened Cayman is recognised as a world leader in testing for COVID-19.

Recent government reports suggest that the territory is ranked third in the world for screening factored to per 100,000 population with the possibility of placing second globally for its efforts.

However, with the gradual reopening of the economy and people getting back into the workforce, the government says the number of persons requesting screening has declined.

As a result, the Public Health Department is currently offering COVID-19 screening to persons employed in administrative and office roles, as well as those working in childcare and teaching.

To ensure they have an opportunity to be tested, individuals who work in smaller organisations or as self-employed traders, can now self-register online for COVID-19 screening.

Anyone can register for screening by going to the website www.explore.gov.ky Click on the button on the left-hand side "REGISTER FOR SCREENING". A Screening application form will come up and it takes a few minutes to complete.

CALL FOR ISOLATION ACCOMMODATION

Meanwhile, as steps continue to repatriate Caymanians from overseas, and

the need to quarantine upon returning, the government is seeking additional accommodation facilities.

One of the challenges it now faces is the availability of rooms especially now that consideration is being given to reopening up the borders and as inward tourism (staycation) is seen as a potential primary recovery sector.

"Many of you will be aware that Government's ability to bring home Caymanians, Permanent Residents, and others who have been making their homes in the Cayman Islands relies on the availability of local room stock in Government approved quarantine facilities," Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin said on Friday.

He said: "While we are extremely grateful to those organisations that have helped us to provide the mandatory isolation service for the last three months, we know that many are working to free up room stock ahead of what is expected to be a high demand for 'staycations' this summer."

To help address this issue, the government has issued a Request For Informa-



Premier McLaughlin stated that "as we get ready for the new school year starting at the end of the summer, there are also teachers and their families who need to arrive and get settled in before school can open. To make this work we need available room stock."

TRAVEL TIME

At the same time, the government has set up another entity called Travel Time to coordinate the huge travel

logistical demands for health, education and other purposes under its remit.

It will come into operation on July 1st. According to the Premier, in addition to the logistics that Government is navigating with these emergency flights, the needs of Caymanians who have to routinely travel away from and back to these Islands for health-related reasons is another.

He said it's for that reason "to help deal effectively with all of these issues that we have created the new entity to be known as Travel Time, the operations of which will commence on 1st July, 2020."

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CMEA Pres. Recommends Hold on Live Music Work Permits

The President of the Cayman Music and Entertainment Association is recommending the CI Government cancel all permits for persons on Island to play Music and put a moratorium on hiring in the sector.

Mr. Jean-Eric Smith said he feels that at this time with so many people out of work, it is unfathomable that persons should still be in the Cayman Islands on permit as Musicians and DJs.

"We have to ensure that we get our people back to work and this is one of the areas where we need to ensure the work is going to Caymanians", noted Mr. Smith.

Currently the tourism industry in the Cayman Islands is still non-existent. However, most bars and restaurants are nearly back to running up to full speed and live performances are now taking place once again.

The Government has said that it is seeking to bolster radio airplay for artists in the Islands and is liaising with



Mr. Smith said this was something that should be revised because those persons already have one source of income in their primary vocation/job.

Since the lockdown was imposed in late March, there have been over 3,500 work permits processed according to agency responsible for work permits and labour in the Cayman Islands.

Just over 1,300 Caymanians have registered with the Work Opportunities and Residency Cayman (WORC) so far with over 1,000 employers also registering.

It is now compulsory for Employers seeking to process permits to post jobs on the government's WORC portal.

With some of the top live venues in the Cayman Islands such as Havana Club still closed and the permanent closure of Royal Plams Beach Bar, Mr. Smith said now is the time to re-haul the Cayman music scene and make sure that opportunities to work/perform are going to Caymanian Musicians.

local radio stations in that regard but with no established royalty regime in the Territory, the increase in airplay for local musicians will not have a great deal of impact on their finances.

A Government stipend of CI\$1,000, which was spearheaded by the CMEA President, along with the Minister of Culture was recently given to musicians

affected by the COVID-19 lockdown and subsequent loss of employment.

Many musicians in the Cayman Islands whom are working within the live music industry are also involved in other professions and usually have to arrange an amendment to their permits to allow them to legally perform for formal compensation.

Mango mania harvest has people selling from their yards

... Continued story from page A1

karta Julie, Erwins, and Valencia Pride. His trade is as a heavy equipment man, but like many industrious Caymanians, he has to do whatever he can these days, and he also catches fish, and sometimes sells those too."

The mangoes on his little table look mouth-wateringly good, and it isn't long before one of his regular customers, a real mango lover, stopped by, "I like Carries, and Nam Doc, too, I just learned about those. I love them because they have no string, and are sweet; really a lot of food. I have them for breakfast and for dinner I put them in the fridge I peel them and it's really a natural desert," he said.

At the Farmers Market, COVID-19 restrictions have led to a temporary wire fence restricting access, so that customers have to enter by one entrance, overseen by a security person who makes sure everyone is wearing their face mask. But everyone is talking about mangoes, and the prices have gone right



► One satisfied customer

down to two dollars a pound or less. One customer has a plastic bag full of them, "I love them," she said as she got into her car. "I eat them as they are, or make them into juice, or ice-cream."

Jasmine from Willies farm in North Side was there selling mangoes, along with the other juices that Willies farm is famous for, and there's nothing better than a bottle of 100% pure juice to quench your thirst on a hot day. "I have tamarin, fruit punch, passion fruit, cherry melon and we sell coconut water too," she said.

About the mango situation Jasmine said: "I have a lot to sell, but they are not moving fast enough. That is why I have the 99-cent-a-pound weekend sale - we are trying to push them. The crop for mangos is really big I think our farm harvests around 3,000 pounds a day, and we supply the supermarkets. Last week we've been giving some away to Meals on Wheels and seniors' homes."



► Lots of signs on garden fences and walls for mangoes



► Jasmine, from Willie's Farm in North Side at the Farmer's Market



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THE PHOTO EXPERTS IN CAYMAN SINCE 1972

National Attractions set to Reopen on Constitution Day

All Cayman Islands Tourism Attraction Board (TAB) entities are reopening to the public on Constitution Day (Monday 6th

July) with new social distancing protocols.

As the National Attractions belong to the people of these islands, we encourage the community to revisit the Pedro St. James Historic Site and the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park.

Spend time relaxing with family with a picnic on the lawn, enjoy birdwatching along the Woodland Trail or catch a glimpse of a Blue Iguana and learn about other indigenous plants and animals which reside in the natural habitat at the Botanic Park. Learn about the park's conservation efforts and take a walk through a 100-year-old traditional Caymanian home inside the Heritage Garden.

Take in the views of the Caribbean Sea and the history of the "Birthplace of Democracy in the Cayman Islands" at Pedro St James and step back in



► Pedro St James is the birthplace of democracy

time at the place where the Abolition of Slavery Act was read in 1835, ending slavery in the Cayman Islands.

This is your Cayman Islands and this summer take time to **Revisit Your History, Revisit Your Culture, Revisit Your Cayman!**

Admission to each attraction is only \$5.00 for residents and \$10.00 for a guided tour.

Children 5 and under as well as seniors 65 and older are FREE!

To learn more kindly email Mona at marketing@tab.ky or call 925-5852. 🌐

QEII Botanic Park

The Botanic Park will reopen to the public from 9:00 a.m. on Monday 6th July 2020 with the last admission at 4:30pm.

The Botanic Park's Visitor Centre will be fully operational, all transactions will take place in these areas and patrons are required to wear masks and physically distance themselves (6 ft. apart) upon entry.

National Trust of the Cayman Islands Blue Iguana Tours will be offered at the Park beginning on Monday 6th July 2020 and thereafter on Tuesdays through Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and on weekdays an additional (afternoon) tour will be offered at 2:00 p.m.

Pedro St James

Pedro St James will reopen to the public from 8:30 a.m. on Monday 6th July 2020 with the last 3D movie showing at 4:00pm.

The Pedro St James Gift Shop will be fully operational, all transactions will take place in these areas and patrons are required to wear masks and physically distance themselves (6 ft. apart) upon entry and in any publicly shared spaces.

Food and drink will be available at the Outpost Bar and Grill located on site at Pedro St James from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

STAYCATION SPECIAL

A unique experience at the Caribbean Club

While many residents might have enjoyed the legendary brunches at Luca restaurant over the years, not so many people will have had the chance to actually stay at the Caribbean Club in which the restaurant is located, a one-of-a-kind boutique hotel that has made a name for itself internationally as one of the best places (if not the best) place to stay in Grand Cayman, featuring consistently at the top part of TripAdvisor's list of best places to stay in the Cayman Islands.

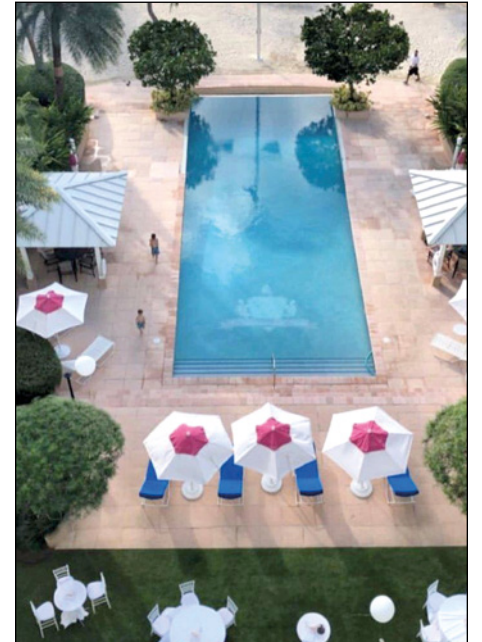
In order to give local residents the chance to sample what visitors have been enjoying for years, rates have been cut in half to accommodate local residents looking for a staycation at one of the best spots along Seven Mile Beach. Starting at CI\$110 per person (four people minimum) or CI\$75 per person (six people minimum), depending on what type of accommodation guests choose, rooms are actually complete residences, the two-bedroom offering 2,000 square



► Relaxation awaits staycationers at the Caribbean Club



► Decor with an ocean vibe



► The Caribbean Club's infinity pool and deck

feet of living space while the three-bedroom residence offers over 2,700 square

feet. When you compare the size of the accommodation with a typical hotel room of 300 square feet, you can appreciate the value-for-money at the Caribbean Club.

The Caribbean Club is the only full-service boutique residence hotel in Grand Cayman, located right in the heart of Cayman's award-winning beach. With daily housekeeping service, pool, and beachside food service, this could note be a more relaxing staycation if it tried. Suites also come with a fully equipped kitchen, washer, dryer and high speed WIFI (WIFI is also available by the pool and beach area.)

The property is low density which means each guest has the privacy and

space to spread out on the beach or by the infinity pool deck. Guests can also expect an oversized, fully furnished balcony that offers amazing ocean views. Ground floor villas have a walk-out patio that opens right onto the sand and ocean beyond.

Luca is set to reopen on 3rd July and will be offering room service, pool and beachside service and sit-down lunch and dinner on Luca's patio, so guests will be well-looked after on the gastronomy front. As a special treat during this time, they are also offering beach-side dining.

Contact the Caribbean Club at 623-4500 or reservations@caribclub.com 🌐



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It's time to go to the Polls

Caymanian Times have decided to reactivate its weekly poll which only allows 1 vote per person within the Cayman Islands.

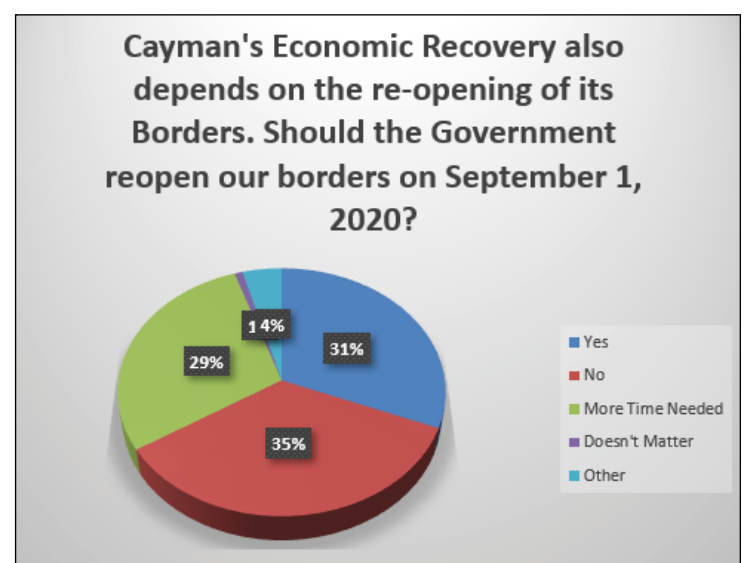
This prevents multiple votes and the results are tabulated electronically on an overseas server which also prevents tampering.

We have chosen not to display the results on a continuous basis on the website as we have found that this affects voters thought process and does not provide accurate results.

Our latest poll which was open during the last four days asked the question "Cayman's Economic Recovery also depends on the re-opening of its Borders. Should the Government reopen our borders on September 1, 2020?"

Voters were also allowed to make comments in anonymity.

588 voters participated in the Poll and the results show that the majority of the voters preferred the borders to be closed past September 1, 2020.



COMMENTS - ONLINE POLL

"YES" responses with comments

- Open to safe countries. Not the USA.
- I believe that Cayman is a place where there's a lot civilized humans and that a following the protocols. I believe by following all the safety protocols, we will be safe and healthy. My perspective in re-opening back the borders and other companies would be great for those whom are in need of jobs and responsible for paying bills.
- If the necessary testing and protocols are in place at our airport
- ONLY if visitors to the Islands agree to follow the requirements such a wearing of masks when required and any other measures deemed necessary to help prevent the spread of this virus I would be in agreement. A signed document would be given to Immigration upon entry indicating their agreement. Failure to comply would result in a fine and they would be put off the Island.
- I think we need to open as soon as possible and find a safe way to do so. Maybe start with allowing people from certain countries only to come.
- Put the necessary plan in place and open the airport
- Should have been opened up long ago...
- Subject to testing and quarantining restrictions being implemented for all travelers.
- I would LOVE if we were following Iceland's model of handling the virus and for opening up to tourism. They have done an incredible job with fantastic results!! I think we could be very successful as well if we were braver and didn't make decisions out of fear and ego.
- But not to people coming from the US until their numbers come down.
- They should be opened with mandatory testing.
- Should never have been shut down!!!
- Cig has had lots of time to put a plan together and should be able to start putting measures in place to open up in Sept. If not then, WHEN?
- Yes but with imposing travel bans to countries with high COVID cases - same as the EU has done with banning travelers from the U.S.
- We need our freedom to move around.
- The Cayman Islands does not have any other sustainable income then tourism. In the time we have been quarantined, the government could have very easily joined the multi-billion dollar industry in Cannabis Tourism. This could have easily replaced the cruise ship industry and created a more then sustainable jobs for Caymanians, and a 50% tax for the government, but unfortunately Cayman likes to take a reactive approach rather then being proactive, and rely on its deep rooted religious beliefs by sacrificing their own people's livelihood.
- Covid-19 will be around for a while, and life needs to go on. It is not as deadly as first anticipated.
- With restrictions similar to Jamaica
- To countries like Canada who have the virus well under control.
- Yes definitely. There are plans which can be implemented to test ppl before boarding. Other islands are doing it. Why aren't we? The ppl who spend money on island are the airport tourists. I volunteer with ARK and I have seen and heard the stories of ppl having no rent, no food, no money for child care. The economical casualties are going to be far greater than Covid. Will the gvt give money to those housekeeping, bar staff, etc to help them (yes! Caymanian!), I doubt it. Most have applied for NAU in March & have still not had a response.
- But be selective with where people are coming from
- With restriction. Only from places that are not picking in cases and subject to testing before traveling and test on arrival.
- It is very likely that your survey will get a lot of no votes because of what is

happening in the US right now. However 1st September is still 9 weeks away. Let's remember where Europe was 9 weeks ago in mid April. A lot will change between now and 1st September and we need a real plan to open our borders for residents and tourists alike. Every other regional country has a plan to open their borders, why doesn't Cayman?

- Must be in phases, first phase should be to allow in condo OWNERS. Then high end tourists private jets min 6 week stay. Staying at isolated quarantine resorts or condos on 7MB area only. All with appropriate pre-testing and local movement restrictions. Reason: cannot fully open borders and send kids back to school same time and risk a large outbreak. So isolate tourists to the tourist strip.
- Yes but limited to just a few (test)
- 30th July
- But with a country bubble.
- Only to certain countries with low case numbers and persons with a negative Covid-19 test <48hrs old
- Fly the gate! The business & livelihood of the country must continue.
- People are starving and homeless because of no work.
- By Sep Covid19 cases would be more manageable.
- But only if strong screening measures in place. Yes to airport, no to cruises
- Opening the borders is substantial to the economy but strict measures should be undertaken to ensure that no transmission of the virus from incoming tourist or returning residents.
- It's been a hoax from day one. Statistics don't lie! Open the world up.
- But only for people who have been tested and are Covid free
- I say yes, but only to Countries that have proven to have a handle on their internal Covid situation. So definitely not opening back to the US, Brazil, etc.

"NO" responses with comments

- Still too dangerous for our health
- The government should continue to closely monitor the "outside world" and ensure that this virus is under

control. It would be a shame for Cayman to open it's borders and undo all the great efforts that have been taken by the HSA, government and the people to keep our islands safe. Plus the fact that September is always the slowest month of the year in Cayman... the month where most places close for renovations.

- A mistake with the spiking. The first outbreak on Cayman was from a tourist.
- We have done so well to keep it out! Can not let the gates open
- We have worked hard to get to this point. Re opening in September would be catastrophic.
- No. Not until the infection rate in the U.S. and U.K. is under control. We don't want another wave of infection.
- Not until US get the virus under control
- The Government has done a fantastic job in controlling the virus, if we open the border to tourists eg american, British or cruise ships etc we will most definitely bring the virus back to the island and will be right back to square one. A disaster to our islands. Please keep our borders closed to tourists and keep the air bridge flights as they are with people having to quarantine on return.
- Absolutely not. There are too many places with no controls in place. We've done well thus far, let's not set ourselves up for failure.
- Wait till USA have less numbers of sick people at the moment there numbers are rising
- Not with the current state of the USA
- It depends on the virus and whether our partners have it under control. Currently EU counties are mulling over the idea of banning Americans, due e uncontrolled rate of infection. However, those countries that have managed to virus well are able to travel back and forth. We could take a similar approach
- With current situation in the USA I would think not. Not until next year.
- I think we should wait, some people don't respect the fact that it's dangerous.

- Way too early for a small island

"MORE TIME NEEDED" responses with comments

- Concerned about letting in people from countries with significant number of cases such as the US
 - The US is not taking this virus seriously and they should not be allowed to infect our island. Until the numbers start to decline, I think it is more important to protect everything we have done thus far than to open the borders for the economy. This is my thought even with both my husband and I working in the tourism industry and currently out of work.
 - We have worked so hard. Let's keep borders closed for a few more months to let out kids get back to school!
 - Don't Hurry, we just got 2 weeks without positive, wait until a little bit, give the constituent the breathing space after 3 months of lockdown, knowing no cases around, let us rejuvenate and let the government assess how the world outside can affect and how safe it is to re-open our borders, noting the outside world still in heights of its contagion. Rethink rethink and re-assess, it takes only one to knocked us down.
 - And select which countries/citizens can come in from and go to. The US is in a severe health risk and totally uncontrolled so needs to be isolated.
 - We should not open until current residents can make a round trip without having to quarantine.
 - We need to see how things go in other countries, especially USA, Canada and UK.
- We also need to see if there are improvements in the quality and reliability of the rapid tests. If testing improves, that would help us open sooner, rather than later.
- As hard as it will be the USA is the main part of tourism and they need to sort their behaviors and level of the virus before coming here and infecting us.

... Continued story on page A8

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.



CICC.ky
949 0366
info@cicc.ky



WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
						
86° / 83°	86° / 82°	87° / 83°	86° / 83°	87° / 83°	85° / 83°	86° / 84°
A thunderstorm in spots	Partly sunny and pleasant	Partly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Partly sunny	A blend of sun and clouds	Morning showers; cloudy

Governor's Updates

• BA flight - The flight for Indian nationals is in hand. The inbound BA flight on 2 July from London Heathrow will bring back a small number of passengers to Cayman. We will also be helping out some fellow Overseas Territory citizens by bringing in some passengers who are returning home to BVI. The BVI authorities have arranged a connecting flight and those passengers will transit airside, which will take them straight out of the airport and on to BVI. I think it's important that we help our regional neighbours where we can with these flights.

• Defence Regiment - I am delighted that we received over 350 applications for the 50 part time reservists roles, of which a large number of the applicants were Caymanians which is welcome news. In mid-July we will bring out a training team of 14 from the UK who will go into two weeks quarantine on arrival and then will train the reservists throughout August. Following the training we hope to form the Regiment at end of August. The UK is also assisting us by shipping over uniforms and equipment for the Regiment. The five Junior Officers continue their training at Sandhurst, which is the best military training establishment in the world. My thanks to everyone from Premier down for all the work that has taken place to get us into this position with the Regiment.

• Meals on Wheels - Last week, I visited the East End, supporting Meals on Wheels who are doing fantastic work. I was accompanied by Jennifer West and Rob Imperato and also met all the people working in the kitchen and the drivers who deliver the meals. They are all doing incredible work for our community. I also met some East End citizens including Ms Melrose and her son, Ms Treva, Ms Janilee, Mr Evert Jackson, Ms Pamela and David, Mr Rankine and his extended family. Thank you all for making me so welcome.

• Watching the turtles - I was pleased to be invited to observe Cayman Turtle Centre's egg translocation and nest implantation on Governor's Beach. About 30 captive-bred green turtle eggs, almost ready to hatch, are safely placed in the sand and experts from the Turtle Centre carefully watch over them. I watched a nest of baby turtles emerge last year and make their way to the sea. A spectacular sight! Turtle Centre is a major tourist attraction (and will be again soon!) but also has important conservation role. I was also presented with a certificate for helping the setting free of a 3 year old turtle called 'Martyn' in West Bay last week.

• Statement on Domestic Partnership Bill - I know just how sensitive and emotive the question of same sex relationships is for many people on our Islands. Here is my full statement to the media.

"The publishing of the Domestic Partnership Bill today is a welcome step on the path to ensuring that the rights of everyone in the territory are upheld and that Cayman law is compliant with the recent ruling of the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal.

During the COVID crisis I have been struck by how the community has pulled together to look after each other. There have been so many acts of kindness and tolerance shown to everyone across our communities - Caymanians and residents, but also foreign visitors and workers. The Premier set



► His Excellency, the Governor, Martyn Roper

the tone early on with his clear statement that the government would look after everyone on the Islands. Whether it be providing food, shelter or medical assistance, including to ships in distress or helping foreign workers, stranded in Cayman or other neighbouring states to return home, we can be proud of how our community has acted in Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. I have received many expressions of thanks from foreign governments for our actions.

Our Constitution recognises our Christian values, the importance of rule of law, and our respect for human dignity, equality and freedom. These values apply to all and I hope that we all continue to show a spirit of tolerance and compassion to all members of our society.

In the Covid crisis, we have learnt more about what really matters. The wonderful value of human interactions that we lost during the lockdown. At a time when the Black Lives Matters campaign is rightly forcing all of us to look carefully at our own behaviours, I urge everyone to treat each other with renewed courtesy, dignity and respect at all times."

• Catching up with the Auditor General - Good to catch up in the office with Sue Winspear, our Auditor-General, with appropriate social distancing of course. We discussed Covid expenditure, OF-REG report, next PAC session, media and upcoming elections. Sue and her hard-working team have essential role supporting our good governance and strong international reputation.

• Be disciplined and continue to practice social distancing - Results continue to be extremely encouraging, but to stay safe we need to be disciplined and continue to practice social distancing, basic hygiene and wearing masks in public places.

I welcome all the work that is going on to safely open our borders. However, we shouldn't lull ourselves into a false sense of security, we have done well and we should be thankful for the position that we're in, but as we look to open the borders there will be some element of risk and adopting those social distancing etc measures will hold us in good stead. 🙏

COMMENTS - ONLINE POLL

... Continued story from page A7

• We need to make sure that rapid testing is available at departing airport so no one positive can come into the country

"OTHER" responses with comments

- We need to see what is happening in the US.
- How about direct flights to Toronto and other places not USA?
- Only if people can get a near instant covid test before boarding the plane.
- Watch Jamaica's reopening strategy closely. If it works copy and build on it. They have implemented so innovative tracking measures for tourists as well as testing those who arrive.
- Not to the United States. I am fine with opening our borders to other countries but not the USA. Besides the fact that their cases keep going up, they also have too much people that doesn't want to wear masks or social distance. They think that Corona isn't real.
- Yes, with precautions like Iceland is doing.
- Only if residents can leave and return with no quarantine.
- The idea with the most traction atm are the 'international travel bubbles' whereby certain

clusters of nearby countries begin to set up (what would be in our case) inter-island travel. I think the next step after the Cayman Islands open up to each other again would be to proceed with expanding that to the rest of the Caribbean & then with a view to linking up with other bubbles deemed successful on a case by case basis.

- Need to wait and see what happens in the States as it's too early to call
- The decision needs to be based on whether they are able to put sufficient policies and procedures in place to allow the borders to open with a sufficient degree of safety. It's not a simple or straightforward decision to make.
- We must be certain we have proper protocols in place to protect everyone before opening our borders.
- Depends on how incoming countries are doing and how we can test for the virus prior to allowing entry - rapid testing, antibody testing etc. Temps are useless as people are largely asymptomatic
- It would be good to see what happens in other jurisdictions over the next couple months to determine what policies/practices make sense and are effective so they can be implemented here as well. 🙏

MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION

POWER OF GOD'S MUSIC Colossians 3: 12-17

One of the most successful and beloved movies of all times is, "The Sound Of Music." It won many accolades, including five academy awards. It captured the hearts of every person, young and old. Even to this day this movie is still on the lips of many around the world. Music is deeply rooted in our souls. For followers of Jesus, it is a powerful means of encouraging each other along life's journey. Paul urged the believers in Colosse, "Let Christ's teachings live in your hearts, making you rich in true wisdom. Teach and help one another along the right path with palms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing His praises with JOYFUL HEARTS."

Praise The Lord



Sing A Joyful Song

Singing together with the Lord embeds the message of His love in our minds and souls. Music is a powerful tool in teaching and encouraging one another in the Lord. SING!!!!!! 🙏

OBITUARIES

Churchill's

Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Lincoln Manderson, who passed away on Thursday, June 25, 2020.

A Thanksgiving Service will be held Privately for family in accordance with Government regulations. This Service will be livestreamed on Wednesday July 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. on the Churchills Funeral Home Facebook page.



Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

Churchill's

Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Ms. Yvonne Walters who passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2020.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held privately for family in accordance with Government regulations. This service will be livestreamed on the Churchill's Funeral Home Facebook page on Saturday July 4, 2020 at 9:50 a.m.



Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

Churchill's

Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mrs. Dorothy May Reid, who passed away on Saturday, May 23, 2020.

A Thanksgiving Service will be held privately in accordance with Government regulations.



Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

The Family of the Late **Valerie Conolly** regrets to announce her passing on Monday, 22 June 2020.

A graveside service will be held 4:00 p.m. Sunday, 5 July, 2020 at Gun Bay Cemetery, East End



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



4 Body Changes From Eating low Carb

Have you ever stopped to wonder what would happen to your body if you stopped eating refined carbs?

It's no secret that refined and processed carbs contribute to weight gain, and so reducing the amount of these in your diet would logically lead to a leaner, fitter you.

But is it true, or is it hype? And is it really worth giving up your carbolic ways?

Here's what really goes down when you give up refined carbs...



► Ernest Ebanks

Low Carb Body Change #3: You HAVE MORE ENERGY

Living on a diet of simple sugars and refined carbohydrates puts your body in a continual energy roller coaster. Right after you eat your energy is high and then, whoosh, an hour later your energy levels crash. All of that changes once you cut out those simple carbs.

The low carb meals that you switch to are filled with nutrient dense foods that sustain your energy levels for hours at a time, saving you from that frustrating roller coaster.

Low Carb Body Change #4: Your STOMACH GETS FLATTER

Probably the most coveted of the low carb body changes...once you've been off of simple carbs for a few weeks your stomach will visibly become flatter. It's a well-deserved reward and one that will keep you motivated to continue your healthier eating habits.

While eating healthy, nutritious meals is awesome, don't forget that exercise is half of the battle when it comes to getting and staying fit.

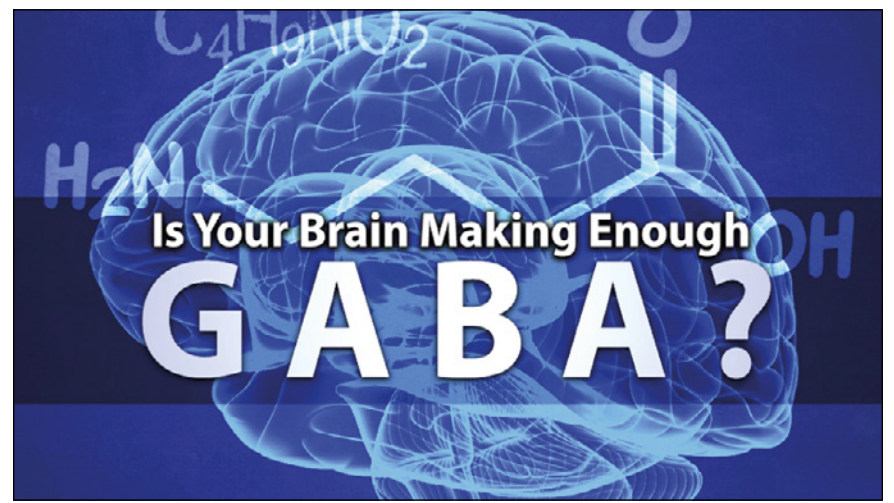
Call Ernest at 325-8696 or email bodyshaperscayman@gmail.com today and we will get you started on the exercise program that will reshape your body once and for all!

Body Change #1: You BURN FAT

When you stop eating simple carbs your body no longer has readily available calories to burn, and so it clicks over into burning stored fat as energy. This means that your pants will start feeling looser around your waist and thighs.

Body Change #2: You FEEL LESS HUNGRY

Fat burns longer and slower than simple carbs and so your energy stores will take longer to deplete. This means that you'll find yourself skipping that afternoon pick-me-up snack and powering through until mealtime without hunger pains. You'll also notice that it takes longer to feel hunger in the mornings after waking up, once you've cut the simple carbohydrates and refined sugars out of your diet.



YOU MAY BE SHORT ON GABA

Do you feel anxious, overwhelmed and overstimulated? Chances are that you are low on GABA. This is a potent brain chemical produced in the body. It is called the neurotransmitter of calm and relaxation. Bringing it into proper balance can go a long way in reducing your stress and risk of physical and mental disorders. GABA is involved in vision, sleep, muscle tone and motor control. It is a naturally occurring by product of energy produced in the brain. GABA is found in your intestines, stomach, bladder, lungs, liver, skin, spleen, muscles, kidneys, pancreas and the reproductive organs.

Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, fibromyalgia, diabetes, Crohn's, to name a few are linked to GABA dysfunction. Some evidence suggests it regulates the synthesis of melatonin, your body's natural sleep hormone. GABA

has been called, "nature's Valium," due to its ability to minimize stress and anxiety. One of the most intriguing discoveries of GABA is that it can specifically diminish the unwanted thoughts that fuel stress, anxiety, depression, and other psychiatric disorders.

GABA slows brain activity while glutamate accelerates it. These two work harmoniously and can be converted into one another. Too much stress, poor diet, lack of sleep, too much caffeine and gluten intolerance cause GABA imbalance.

Brown rice germ, spinach and sprouted grains are 3 best sources of GABA, along with Greek yogurt, kefir, kimchi, and sauerkraut. Herbs such as Bacopa, DHA Omega-3 fatty acid, German chamomile, L-Theanine, magnesium and valerian are powerhouses for GABA. Supplementing with GABA is also helpful.

Guyanese Politics, Oil and Sovereignty – Part One

The countries of the English-Speaking Caribbean, sometimes described as dots of sand in the Caribbean Sea, have been punching above their weight in the world. For example, these islands have so far produced three noble Laurates – Sir Arthur Lewis in Economics, the first and so far the only black person to win a Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences and Sir Derek Walcott and Sir V.S. Naipaul, in literature. Reggae and Calypso are two of the regions prized cultural exports.

Geographically speaking, Guyana is in South America, but culturally, it is part of the Anglophone Caribbean. In addition to producing sugar, bauxite, rice, gold, timber, diamonds, garments, rum and pharmaceuticals, Guyana has given to the world some of the greatest sportsmen, scholars, and diplomats.

In cricket, Clive Lloyd epitomizes the classic leader, and antiapartheid champion who led the West Indies Team when it was the very best in the world. Carl Hooper, played his cricket more delicately and with more finesse than Shakespeare wrote his plays and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, could dominate a game of cricket at will.

In scholarship, Walter Rodney stands out as one of the greatest thinkers of all times; his book - **How Europe Underdeveloped Africa**, one of the most acclaimed of the 20th century that focuses on African development and post-colonial theory. But one should not underestimate the place of other Guyanese intellectuals such as C. Y. Thomas, David Dabydeen, Russel Rickford and so on.

Sir Shridath Ramphal is the revered statesman and diplomat and the Guyanese poet Martin Carter is celebrated as one of the most important poets of the Caribbean region. Carter's poem, 'This is the Dark Time My Love' is one of the most known and celebrated. It was written when the British sent troops into the then British Guiana as it disapproved of the results of the April 27, 1953 elections, when the Peoples Progressive Party (PPP), then a coalition of the country's two main ethnic groups, won the election. The democratically elected government was removed, the constitution of Guyana suspended, and a government more to the liking of the

British was installed. Verse two of Carter's poem reads:

*'This is the dark time, my love,
It is the season of oppression, dark metal, and tears.*

It is the festival of guns, the carnival of misery.

Everywhere the faces of men are strained and anxious.'

But as wonderful as these are, they have not been the subject that has Guyana in the news recently. It is the election that was held on March 02 and oil that began to be produced on December 20, 2019 five years after discovery in May 2015. Exxon Mobil estimates that Guyana has around eight billion barrels and expects about 750,000 daily barrels of production. As has been pointed out, this means that by 2025, should all go well, Guyana's GDP could go be so transformed as to make it potentially the richest country in the world.

Undoubtedly, this fact had bestowed added urgency and importance to this election.

The Snap general elections were held on 2 March 2020 occasioned by the one-seat majority of the government and a loss of a vote of no confidence.

The reports are that although election day and the initial count were deemed to be free, fair and credible, the process of tabulating the votes was widely seen to have been fraudulent. The final region to declare gave a significant boost to the ruling APNU-AFC alliance, allowing it to overtake the main opposition party, the People's Progressive Party (PPP/C).

Attempts to swear David A. Granger back in as president were thwarted when an injunction was granted on March 6 by the High Court to block the declaration of the overall results of the elections until the matter could be heard and determined. Granger recommended a recount, which was completed on 8 June. The recount showed that the PPP/C party won the most votes.

Since then the Partnership for National Unity (APNU) says there were too many anomalies and irregularities and wanted the quality of the votes to be a factor in the final report. An injunction handed down by the Court of Appeal held that only valid votes could be considered leading Keith Lowenfield,

the Chief Election Officer, to Invalidate some 115 000 votes making for a victory for the government. The matter has now been referred to the CCJ, Guyana's highest court. The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) had already issued a restraining order against the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) prohibiting it from declaring the results.

The CCJ will shortly begin hearing arguments about whether it has jurisdiction to hear the appeal filed by Opposition Leader Bharrat Jagdeo and the party's presidential candidate, Irfaan Ali in relation to a Court of Appeal ruling.

The Economist of March 19 gives an apt summary of the nature of Guyanese politics.

'In Guyana, party divisions follow ethnic ones. Mr Granger's A Partnership for National Unity represents mainly Afro-Guyanese, who are 30% of the population. The opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) defends principally the interests of the Indo-Guyanese, 40% of the total. The rift is made worse by an electoral system that makes members of parliament directly accountable to party leaders rather than to constituents. This poisons political debate, thwarts compromise, and undermines any sense of unified national purpose.'

Outside reactions to this unfortunate situation have been swift, many and various. CARICOM, through its current Chairperson, Mia Motley, PM of Barbados, has been vociferous in calling for the vote count preceding the invalidation to be seen as credible, giving victory to the party in opposition, the PPP. The recount, which was supervised by a high-level three-member CARICOM team, proved that the PPP won the elections by more than 15,000 votes.

Local and international observers, including the Private Sector Commission (PSC), the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Commonwealth, and others have urged acceptance of the recount results. 'This is definitely not our finest hour' Motley is reported as saying.

The US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has called on the Guyanese government to concede defeat and to declare the winner of the elections based on the national vote recount scrutinized by CARICOM. The view of the US is sim-



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

ilar to those of the EU, Canada, and the Organization of American States (OAS).

There is even not so veiled talk of sectoral sanctions, the use of Guyanese gas as leverage, and the revocation of visas, as possible sanctions.

Guyana Must get it Right

Guyana, a sovereign nation since 1966, must get it right, for its people and the region.

As Sir Shridath Ramphal said recently, "The outcome of the Guyana General Election 2020 must be an example — not only in Guyana but regionally and worldwide — of the strength of law and democracy."

"As Guyanese, we owe it to ourselves, to the Caribbean Community, which we have helped to bring to life, and to the wider global community whose respect we have earned as an enlightened democratic State, not to debase ourselves by descent into the pit of lawlessness."

The current Guyanese situation is an excellent point for examining notions of sovereignty, development, ethnic politics, and the nature of the Westminster system. We pick up on these in a further article on the subject.

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Walkers Admits Caymanian Attorneys Lloyd Barker and Alexandra Franklin

Walkers is pleased to announce the admissions of Lloyd Barker and Alexandra Franklin, both of whom were called to the Cayman Islands Bar on Friday 26 June after completing their legal training with the firm. The admissions were the first to be heard in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands since the Government enforced social distancing protocols in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lloyd was a recipient of the 2016 Walkers Legal Scholarship. The following year, he undertook the Graduate Diploma in Law at the University of Law, Manchester and was awarded a Commendation. By 2018, Lloyd had completed the joint LPC/LLM in Professional Legal Practice course with Distinction, also at the University of Law. Lloyd is a 2011 graduate of Wesleyan Christian Academy and was class valedictorian. He pursued a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree with High Distinction in Law from Carleton University in Canada, with a concentration in Business Law and a minor in Communication Studies. In 2012, he founded the Pursuit of Excellence – the Lloyd Barker Foundation, which aims to empower young people from an academic, social and developmental perspective. Lloyd was articulated to Shel-

ley White, a partner in the Insolvency & Dispute Resolution and Trust Disputes groups.

"The Walkers team has displayed continued interest, enthusiasm and support in my development, and has played an incredible role in ensuring I received quality academic and professional legal training," Lloyd expressed.

Alexandra was a 2013 Walkers Legal Scholarship recipient. She completed the Legal Practitioners Course with Distinction in 2018 at the University of Law in Leeds. Born and raised in the Cayman Islands, she was a graduate of John Gray High School before sitting her A Levels at St Ignatius Catholic School. She then undertook her LLB degree at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom, graduating in 2017 with Upper Second Class Honours. As part of her LLB Alexandra also spent one year in Spain as an exchange student, studying at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. She is currently a member of 100 Women in Finance and the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association. Alexandra was articulated to Tim Ludford-Thomas, a partner in Walkers' Global Investment Funds Group.

"I am so grateful for the top-tier training I've received from Walkers," shared



► Alexandra Franklin



► Lloyd Barker

Alexandra. *"It will stand me in good stead for the rest of my career."*

Walkers' Partner and Chair of the Trainee Committee, Caroline Heal commented: *"Throughout their training, Lloyd and Alexandra have continuously demonstrated their competency and eagerness to learn. They are high achievers and a great asset to the firm. We are delighted to have them on board."*

Lloyd and Alexandra will both join the firm's Finance & Corporate Group and are the 55th and 56th Articled Clerks to have trained in Walkers' Cayman Islands office. The individual applications were moved by Walkers Partner Colette Wilkins; Lloyd's before the Hon. Justice Williams and Alexandra's before the Hon. Justice Ramsay-Hale. 🌐

Eddinton Powell to Retire From FortisTCI

Caymanian Eddinton Powell, who has served for the past 13 years as President and CEO of FortisTCI, the electric utility company in the Turks and Caicos Islands, will retire from the role effective August 1, 2020.

The announcement was made on Friday, June 26, by Gary Smith, Chair of the Board of Directors of FortisTCI. Mr. Powell will continue to serve the company as Strategic Advisor through the end of this year, reporting to the Board of Directors, and will also remain a Director on the Board until that time.

Mr. Powell is a former Caribbean Utilities Company Ltd (CUC) Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Both CUC and FortisTCI are sister utilities of Fortis Inc., a leader in the North American regulated electric and gas utility industry.

He will be succeeded by Ruth Forbes as President and CEO of FortisTCI, effective August 2, 2020. Mrs. Forbes is a native of the Turks and Caicos Islands, who currently serves as the company's Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer.

"On behalf of all employees and the Board of Directors, I want to congratulate Ruth Forbes on her appointment. Ruth brings tremendous experience and personal acumen to this important position, as well as strong connections to the communities on the islands," said Gary Smith, Chair, FortisTCI Board of Directors. *"I also wish to thank Eddinton Powell for his contribution to the electricity sector in the Turks and Caicos Islands and wish him well in his retirement."*

In response to her appointment, Mrs. Forbes said, *"I am pleased to have been*

selected as Mr. Powell's successor. I am also thankful to the Board of Directors and Fortis Inc. for their confidence in my ability, and to Mr. Powell for his leadership. Our company is respected as a trailblazing utility both regionally and internationally. In my new role, I will continue our drive toward excellence with the FortisTCI team, while bringing value to our stakeholders. I must also acknowledge and thank my family for their unwavering support."

Speaking about the announcement, Mr. Powell said, *"It has been an honor to serve as the CEO of FortisTCI for the past 13 years. My love and respect for the Turks and Caicos Islands are deep and abiding. As I move into a new phase of my life, I leave behind a strong company and a talented team that will achieve great things. I know that Ruth will do well in her new role, and I wish her all the very best on her journey."*

Mr. Powell joined FortisTCI in 2007 as President and CEO. He began his career in the utility sector at CUC in 1982, and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Caribbean Electric Utilities Corporation (CARILEC), and will continue in that role until December 2020.

He is credited with leading the transformation of the electricity sector in the Turk and Caicos Islands (TCI). His accomplishments include investing in the professional development of employees to create a well-trained and diverse workforce, leading to the company achieving 'Investors in People' accreditation in 2016. In 2018, FortisTCI was again accredited with Investors in People (Silver) certification.



► Eddinton Powell, FortisTCI President and CEO



► Ruth Forbes, FortisTCI Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and CFO

Under his leadership, FortisTCI earned its first investor grade credit rating with Standard & Poor's, providing the company the opportunity to access affordable financing in the United States capital debt market. Other FortisTCI achievements under Mr. Powell's leadership include, earning ISO 22301:2012 certification for business continuity management from three leading global standards organizations, and ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 certification for Occupational Health and Safety, and Environmental Management Systems.

Mr. Powell also created an environment where modernizing utility infrastructure for resiliency and reliability was a priority. This approach led to a utility with one of the highest reliability stats in the region, adding to the continued economic development of the TCI.

In 2019 he was named as the recipient of the 3rd Annual Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF) Energy Leadership MVP Award. The honor is given to a nominee who has made a significant contribution to energy development in the region. 🌐

NEW MANAGEMENT OF FIDELITY PENSION PLAN APOLOGISES FOR PAYOUT DELAY

Management of Fidelity Pension Plan has apologised to their clients for delays in processing payouts under the government's emergency COVID-19 pensions withdrawal scheme.

In a statement on Wednesday, President and CEO of RF Group, Michael Anderson, announced that "virtually all persons who successfully applied for Emergency Pension Withdrawals from the Fidelity Pensions Plan on or before May 29th, 2020 had been processed for payment."

Fidelity has faced criticism for what was perceived by many of its pension plan holders as a slow response to their applications to access their pension funds as mandated by the government.

The company had previously cited internal administrative arrangements as part of the reasons for the delay.

While thanking their pension plan holders for their "patience over the last two months", Mr Anderson said that "the various processes required to facilitate the withdrawals created significant challenges for pension participants, pension regulators and pension service providers".

The statement says Fidelity new parent company, RF Group, had officially

taken over the management of the Fidelity Pension Plan on May 1st 2020, the same day the changes to the Cayman Islands Pension Law came into effect.

It says The Plan then commenced payments during the week of June 15th but acknowledged delays in responding to and processing client queries and withdrawal applications.

"On behalf of the management and staff of the RF Group," Mr Anderson said, *"I would like to apologize to all Fidelity Pension Plan participants for any delays experienced."*

"While both the Cayman and Bahamas based teams have worked tirelessly to deal with the massive volumes of emails, calls and applications received, they were often overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of persons requiring assistance"

He also gave an assurance that "persons who have successfully applied for withdrawals after May 29th will begin to receive payments beginning the week of July 13th, 2020. Email confirmations of payments can be expected by clients."

Fidelity is now advising its clients who have submitted applications during May and have not yet received an email out-



lining necessary changes to the application or confirming payment, that they should contact the company - by email.

It gives an email contact as pension@fidelitycayman.com.

However, it was not clear what the situation was if persons wanted to call directly to make inquiries.

RF company boss Anderson said that despite what he described as "the initial

challenges", RF Group remains committed to the development and progress of the Cayman Islands.

"We look forward to the opportunity to bring new and innovative products to the market. We also look forward to resuming the professional and customer-friendly service that our clients have become accustomed to over the years," he stated. 🌐

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

LIAT may never fly again

Caribbean airline LIAT is on the brink of liquidation, according to Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne. Flights are suspended until at least 15 July and that could be enough to end the carrier.

LIAT has been struggling for years, often operating at a loss and significant losses in recent months are unsustainable for the consortium of governments that own the operation. Browne expects that this time LIAT will completely cease operations, hoping a replacement airline supported similarly by the local governments can quickly replace it.

Browne said a 2019 annual loss for LIAT of roughly EC\$12 million (US\$4.5mm) was in an era when flights were operating and generally full. Now the planes are grounded and there is no revenue, while fixed costs continue to mount. The airline does not have the resources to cover those losses and, from

Browne's comments, it also does not appear that the island governments will bail it out again. As a result, debts and staff must be cut.

Hundreds of staff are expected to lose their jobs as a result of what Browne calls "right-sizing" the airline. Browne appealed to LIAT's current staff to not defy the process. He alluded to the potential for legal action by employee groups that could hinder the restructuring. He also pointed out that the Caribbean islands do not have a bankruptcy restructuring process like Chapter 11 filings in the United States, a situation that limits options and flexibility for LIAT.

Of LIAT's 10-strong ATR fleet only a couple are owned directly. The rest are leased. Caribbean Airlines is now a major player in the region, providing inter-island connectivity and service to North America. Caribbean even delivered a profit in 2019, though that remains unlikely in 2020. 🌐



▶ LIAT has been struggling financially for years

Bermuda will tee off big event again

Bermuda generated US\$22.6 million from the inaugural PGA Tour Bermuda Championship last year and expects to do even better at the 2020 event.

That is based on a direct economic impact of \$7.8 million, which generated an additional \$10.6 million impact on the economy, while the value of international media exposure was \$4.2 million.

The overall estimated value of the event to Bermuda represents a 320 per cent investment return on the \$7 million cost of staging the event, according to a KPMG economic impact report.

The event last October and November brought more than 2,000 visitors to the island, and attracted almost three million TV viewers.

It was the first of five annual Professional Golf Association Tour events secured by the Bermuda Tourism Authority as title sponsor through 2023.

American Brendon Todd was the winner of the event at Port Royal Golf Course, from a field of 120 professionals, which included five Bermudians. The event was broadcast by Golf Channel and Sky TV.



▶ Bermuda's main golf event generated invaluable revenue

According to reports, 8,528 of the 10,660 attendees were Bermuda residents, with the rest overseas fans, players and their families, corporate guests, officials, staff, TV crews and vendors.

The Bermuda Tourist Association said the event also contributed legacy benefits for the island, including popularisation of golf and youth sports, deployment of hundreds of volunteers, and promotion of Bermuda as a year-round golf destination.

This year's PGA Tour Bermuda Championship is scheduled from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1. 🌐

Bahamas tries to entice tourists

Kamalame Cay Private Island Resort, an absolutely drop-dead gorgeous property in the Bahamas, is ready to welcome guests again and to do so it is offering great discounts for long stayers.

Though Kamalame Cay remained operational throughout the pandemic, it mainly served residents and a few guests who chose to shelter there as the Bahamian borders closed. This has inspired the resort to offer up some seriously sweet long-term deals for guests looking to visit again and stay for a while.

It was able to sustain its guests over the quarantine thanks to a constant supply of fresh vegetables and organic eggs right from its farm. It also sourced fish from local fisherman and continued to bake goods in the kitchen.

Now, the resort is open to receiving local and international guests via private boat or seaplane, international guests are able to also enter via commercial airlines as well. To entice guests to visit the resort is offering lots of long-term stay deals.



▶ Kamalame Cay Private Island Resort is a lovely place to visit

The property's Escape to Paradise deal includes a fifth-night free deal, with five nights starting from \$1,900 (to rent its bungalow in the low season) to \$13,340 (for the four-bedroom Villa in the high season), plus applicable taxes and fees. It includes a 20-minute wellness treatment, a sunset cruise, and movie night tickets (Tuesdays and Thursdays) at the outdoor cinema.

The Home Away From Home deal invites guests to stay for 14 nights has even better discounts and offers. There is also a package for a three-week or longer stay. 🌐

Jamaica's GG offended by British badge

Jamaica's governor-general will no longer wear a royal insignia for personal use that depicts the archangel St Michael trampling Satan, who is drawn with dark skin.

Governor-General Patrick Allen, the British monarchy's representative in Jamaica, made the announcement on Friday. Allen said he is suspending the personal use of the insignia of the Order of St Michael and St George because of its offensive implications.

The insignia has the illustration of St Michael and Satan on one of its sides, according to the British royal family's website. The image posted to the governor-general's website and high-



▶ Governor-General Patrick Allen refuses to wear the insignia

lighted by Allen shows Satan as a dark-skinned man under the foot of a white archangel and has recently caused anger in Jamaica.

In his statement, Allen said the suspension follows his acknowledgment of concerns raised by "citizens over the image on the medal, and the growing global rejection of the use of objects that normalize the continued degradation of people of colour."

Allen sent a letter to the Chancellor of the Order of St Michael and St George requesting a revision of the image, recommending that it be "changed to reflect an inclusive image of the shared humanity of all peoples". 🌐

Dominica's new hurricane homes ready

Dominica has almost completed its latest round of new, hurricane-proof homes, health centres and community facilities across the island. This constitutes the government's Housing Revolution, sponsored by the Citizenship by Investment Programme. Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit made the announcement with Dr Irving McIntyre, the Minister for Health, Wellness and New Health Investment. Representing the Roseau Valley constituency in Parliament, Dr McIntyre announced that a new multifunctional community centre in Trafalgar will open by August.

The Trafalgar Community Centre will serve as a research, resource and community centre and is one of the two facilities under the Housing Revolution. Each will feature a multifunctional events space, a sick bay, a clinic, and a dining and activity hall.

The government website describes it as "a place where at-risk youths can



▶ Dominica's housing projects are being celebrated on island

receive help, neighbours can socialise with each other and anyone can receive educational classes and participate in recreational activities."

Dr McIntyre also announced that the government has built a new multi-million-dollar road that connects the remote village of Cochrane to the national network. Skerrit confirmed that the government is planning another 150 units in the Roseau Valley alone, part of the CBI-funded Housing Revolution. 🌐

St Kitts monkey problem worsens

St Kitts and Nevis continues to be plagued by its huge population of over 60,000 green monkeys who are spoiling much of its agriculture by eating it.

Brought to the islands from West Africa as exotic pets by European settlers in the 17th century, today the monkeys are putting pressure on native species, decimating crops and consistently evading efforts to scare them off.

"Feral animals, particularly monkeys and wild pigs, cause considerable yield loss to food production each year," said Melvin James, St. Kitts and Nevis' Director of Agriculture. "In 2018, crude estimates indicated that a total of 90 metric tons of food—one month's production—was rendered unmarketable due to feral animal invasion of farms on St Kitts alone."

St Kitts and Nevis are rich in biodiversity. But many species are fragile and susceptible to outside threats, including invasive animals, particularly the green monkeys.



▶ Green monkeys have been a menace in the Caribbean

The United Nations Environment Programme and partners are working with the St Kitts and Nevis government to research the impact of the green monkeys on biodiversity, agriculture, tourism, and households.

The sustainable management plan that will be developed in St. Kitts and Nevis will also be replicated in Barbados and other islands. 🌐

Tobago builds new airport terminal

Tobago has started building its new airport terminal and associated works at the ANR Robinson international airport in Crown Point.

Chief Secretary Ancil Dennis said that the project commenced officially last week and should be completed by 2022. He said: "Within the next two years, the people of Tobago can look forward to a new airport terminal and,

of course, upgrades to the existing airport terminal."

Dennis said the multi-million-dollar project will be a significant boost to the island.

"I believe that the people of Tobago deserve a new airport. It would assist us tremendously in our development thrust and I look forward to that project being completed," he said. 🌐



▶ Tobago's airport is modernising and expanding

Irish gangster on fringe of big fight

The fight to be undisputed heavy-weight champ should happen next summer.

Negotiations to pit Anthony Joshua against Tyson Fury are under way with both sides aiming for a 2021 summer showdown, says promoter Eddie Hearn, although the fact that an Irish gangster was involved had put the fight in jeopardy.

The two Brits, who hold every heavy-weight championship between them, have agreed the finances to stage two undisputed title fights next year and their representatives are now discussing finer details.

"The bulk is done, the financial elements of the deal," Hearn said.

"There is always stuff that is out of our control, i.e. the fighters winning their next fights.

"[Fury's US promoter Bob Arum and I] had a good chat. We're getting along alright. We have our words backwards and forwards but we both want to make the biggest fight of all time. He's made many of them in the past and I want to make one that goes down in history as well.

"We're all moving forwards. We talked about the site, the other elements of the deal and we agreed to move forwards by papering this. Dotting the i's and crossing the t's. Get this boxed in for 2021."

Fury's UK promoter Frank Warren said: "All that's agreed is a 50-50 split. There is a mountain of stuff, and I'm not wanting it not to happen. The way forward is to get everybody to get together, get everyone around the table and sort it out, and that's how it will be done.

"Who walks first? What side of the poster? Just toss a coin. Let's make a list, here's the 10 points. Spin a coin, whoever wins, you've got the first one, he's got the second one. Get it on. Stop putting obstacles in the way. There are no obstacles in the way of this fight."

Joshua will next defend his IBF, WBA and WBO titles against Kubrat Pulev while Fury will meet Deontay Wilder in a third WBC title fight.

Hearn said he had no problem working with controversial figure Daniel Kinahan until public uproar forced him out of the spotlight.

When Fury revealed the Irish gangster was who Hearn had brokered financial terms with for the



► Anthony Joshua must win his next fight before facing Fury



► Tyson Fury is lined up to fight Wilder a third time

match-up with Joshua, Ireland's politicians were disgusted.

The Prime Minister demanded a boycott, while potential broadcasters BT Sport and Sky Sports were urged to investigate Kinahan's background.

Despite the Dubai-based businessman having no criminal record, allegations in the high court that he ran a billion-dollar drug empire were enough to scare BT and Sky into distancing themselves from the situation.

A bizarre statement from 88-year-old US promoter Arum — in which he told of his and Fury's love and respect for Kinahan — claimed the Irishman was axed from the mega-money deal, appeasing a few important people.

But the WBC king then took to Instagram to back the boxing advisor to be-

come Irish Prime Minister, leaving fans doubting their bond has genuinely been broken.

Joshua's Hearn insists the job of boxing matchmaker can sometimes mean dealing with unsavoury characters.

He said: "Whoever I'm told to negotiate with to make a fight, I will negotiate with. He was the guy put in charge of that process so that's what we did.

"Now they have made it very clear Bob Arum is the man in charge of Tyson Fury and we will negotiate exclusively with Bob Arum now.

"I've had my ups and downs with Bob, I don't really care, we just have to make the fight.

"Whoever is put in front of me to negotiate with to get this over the line, I will make sure we get it done."

West Indies will wear Black Lives Matter logos

West Indies players will wear the Black Lives Matter logo on their shirts during the three-Test series against England.

Cricket West Indies received permission to use the logo from Watford captain Troy Deeney, whose partner Alisha Hosannah created the design which includes a clenched fist of solidarity within a circle.

The ICC-approved logo has appeared on the shirts of all 20 Premier League clubs since the competition resumed earlier this month.

West Indies captain Jason Holder, who has voiced his support for the Black Lives Matter cause which has come to the forefront after the death of American George Floyd, said: "This is a pivotal moment in history for sports, for the game of cricket and for the West Indies cricket team.

"We have come to England to retain the Wisden Trophy but we are very conscious of happenings around the world

and the fight for justice and equality. We believe we have a duty to show solidarity and also to help raise awareness.

"As a group of young men, we know of the rich and diverse history of West Indies cricket and we know we are guardians of the great game for generations to come."

Holder, who has called for racism to be treated like doping and corruption, said the players decided to wear the logo after great consideration.

"We did not take our decision lightly," he added. "We know what it is for people to make judgements because of the colour of our skin, so we know what it feels like, this goes beyond the boundary.

"There must be equality and there must be unity. Until we get that as people, we cannot stop. We have to find some way to have equal rights and people must not be viewed differently because of the colour of their skin or ethnic background."



► Jason Holder backs the wearing of the BLM logo

JR Smith will be key to Lakers success

The Lakers are expected to sign veteran guard JR Smith this week for the rest of the season which would reunite LeBron James with his former Cleveland teammate as the Lakers head to Florida for the resumption of the NBA season.

Smith, 34, will be added to replace Avery Bradley, who decided to not join the team in Florida because of family reasons. Once Bradley is officially listed as a player who opted out of the league's resumption, the team can add Smith as a replacement player.

In order to be able to join the team, replacement players must follow a protocol to ensure their ability to safely join a team at the secluded ESPN Wide World of Sports campus.

Teams had until July 1 to finalize their rosters and travel party, which can include 35 people, for the league's return to play. The Lakers first of eight games before the playoffs will take place on July 30 against the Clippers and will be televised on TNT at 6pm.

The first round of the playoffs will begin Aug. 17. Teams will be seques-



► JR Smith could make a big impact at the Lakers

tered in their hotels and on the ESPN Wide World of Sports campus for as long as they play. The last possible day of the NBA Finals is Oct. 13.

When the season halted on March 11, because of concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lakers were leading the Western Conference, having recently defeated the Clippers and league-leading Milwaukee Bucks. The Lakers led the Western Conference with a record of 49-14, and had secured the organisation's first playoff berth since 2013. They have hopes of winning their first championship since 2010.

Mercedes changes to black over diversity

Mercedes will run a new black livery in Formula 1 in 2020 as a signal of their commitment to greater diversity and inclusion in motorsport.

Silver had been the company's colour scheme in racing since the 1930s. Mercedes said the Black Lives Matter movement had "shone a searching light on how much we need new measures and actions in the fight against racism".

World champion Lewis Hamilton called it an "important statement we are willing to change and improve as a business".

Mercedes F1 team said in a statement that "just 3 percent of our workforce identifies as belonging to minority ethnic groups and only 12 percent of our employees are women.

"This lack of diversity shows that we need to find new approaches to attract talent from many areas of society we do not currently reach."

The team will also launch a diversity and inclusion programme that will include raising awareness, analysis of their recruitment programme, collaboration with F1 stakeholders on accessibility and education initiatives.

Mercedes F1 team principal Toto Wolff said: "Racism and discrimination have no place in our society, our sport or our team: this is a core belief at Mercedes. But having the right beliefs and the right mindset isn't enough if we remain silent.

Six-time world champion Hamilton has announced he is setting up a commission in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering to promote black participation in motorsport.

He added: "It's so important that we seize this moment and use it to educate ourselves, whether you are an individual, brand or company to make real meaningful changes when it comes to ensuring equality and inclusivity.



► Mercedes have changed from silver to black after nine decades

"I have personally experienced racism in my life and seen my family and friends experience racism, and I am speaking from the heart when I appeal for change.

"When I spoke to Toto about my hopes for what we could achieve as a team, I said it was so important that we stand united."

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 46 Capone's

1 Gung-ho foe

5 Jazz dance

10 Muscularly fit

12 River vessel

13 Spree

14 More than sufficient

15 Pub staple

16 Commuter group

18 La Brea sight

20 Mineral suffix

21 TV award

23 Sign of approval

24 Granny

26 Airing

28 Sandwich choice

29 Company symbol

31 Ear: Prefix

32 "Wild, man!"

36 Lawyer's hurdle

39 Old hand

40 Full of energy

41 Baja buddy

43 Out of bed

44 Principle

45 Colorful fish

DOWN

1 Ready to hit

2 Magician's cry

3 Central

4 M.B.A. or Ph.D.

5 Wound remnant

6 Pack down

7 Germane

8 Bolshevik revolution-ary

9 Disrobed

11 Based on ten

17 Bill dispenser



Yesterday's answer

19 Writing tool

22 Something to meditate on

24 Merchant of music

25 Love lover

27 Negating link

28 City of Australia

30 One — kind

33 Speculate

34 Longings

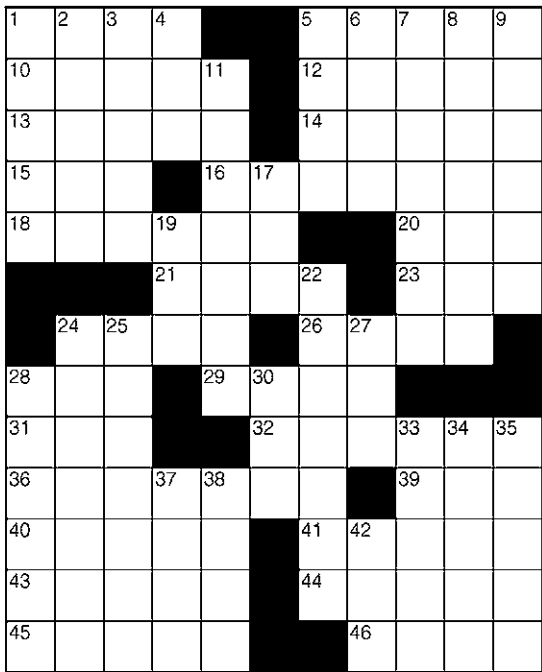
35 Horn sounds

37 At any time

38 TV's

warrior princess

42 Chess pieces



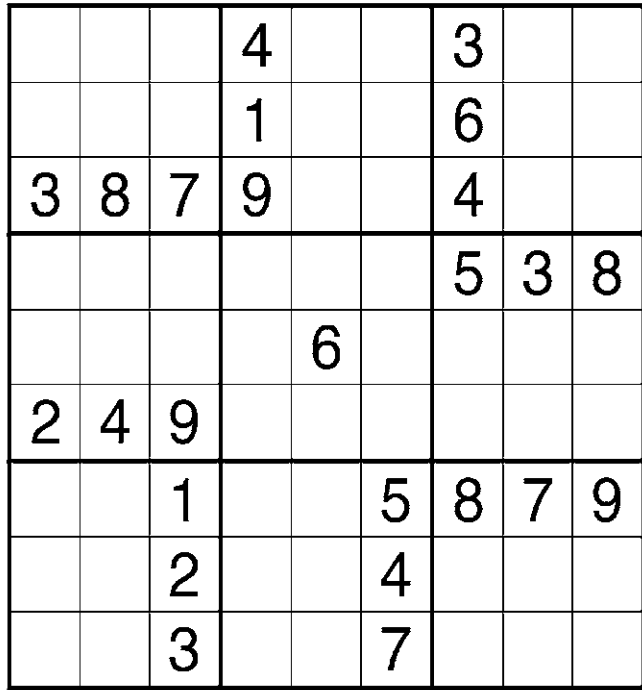
3-21

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

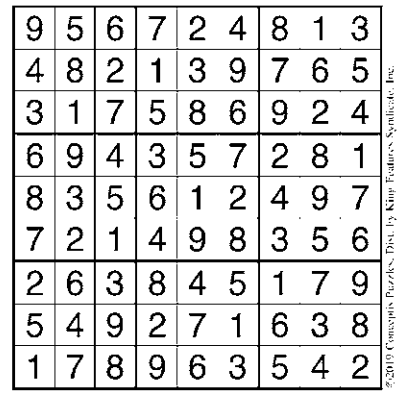
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/18

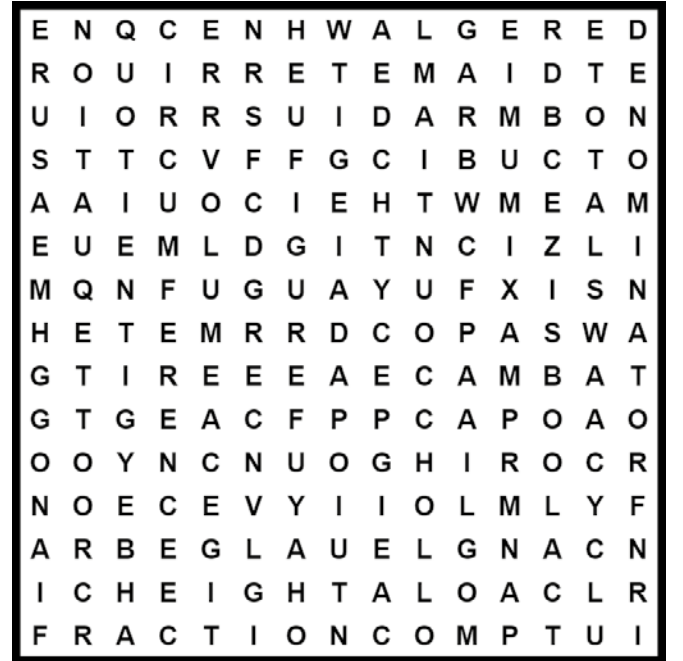
Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★★★

Word Search

- Algebra
- Angle
- Area
- Circumference
- Compute
- Count
- Cubic
- Decimal
- Denominator
- Diameter
- Equation
- Figure
- Fraction
- Graph
- Height
- Length
- Maximum Measure
- Quotient
- Radius
- Root
- Size
- Total
- Volume
- Width



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

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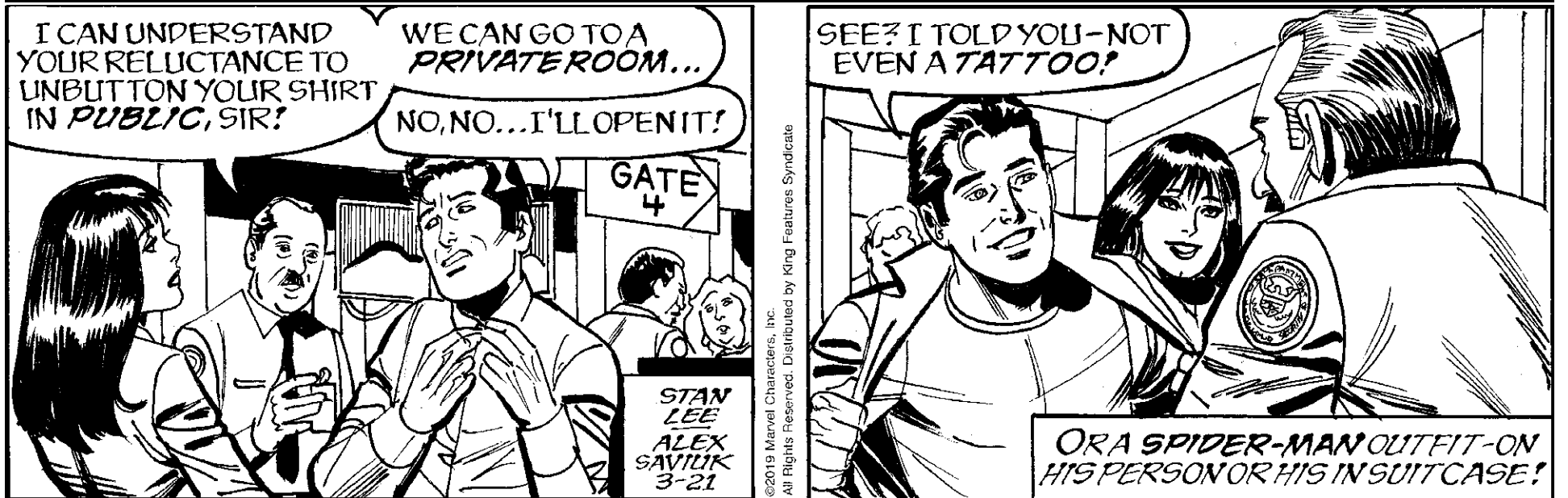
CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



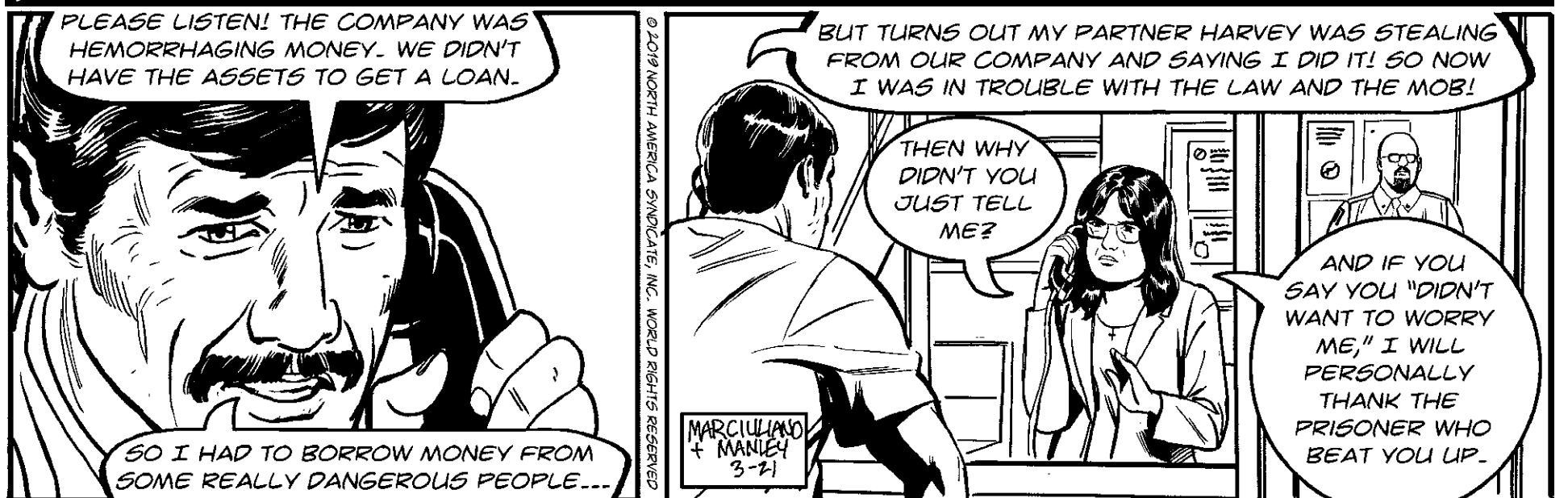
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JUDGE PARKER

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