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DATE: 16 DECEMBER 2020

CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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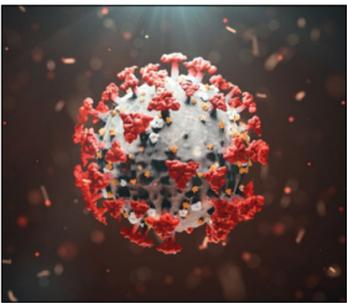
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Mobi-Mat Roll Out

IMPORTING SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER

By Staff Writer

Despite declining for the third quarter of this year, a surge in imports is already being noticed for the latter part of the year.

The latest report by the Economic and Statistics Office(ESO) shows that the total value of the merchandise imports declined between July and September, reflecting decreased economic activity due to the global Covid-19 pandemic.

However, the Customs and Border Control(CBC) department is already noting a significant increase in imports for the fourth quarter and the Christmas season prompting it to extend its opening hours and remind importers of the various procedures they need to adhere to.

There were over 23,000 individual imports recorded for the month of November alone.

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Aster Cayman Medcity

By Christopher Tobutt



► Minister Dwayne Seymour and Premier Alden Mclaughlin witness as Cayman Medcity Project Director Gene Thompson signs the contract for the new facility with government officials Nellie Pouchie, Acting Chief Officer, and Cabinet Secretary Samuel Rose

The Cayman Islands Government announced a second (after Health City) significant medical tourism project to be known as Aster Cayman Medcity at a press briefing on Monday 21 December. The major new development is a partnership between Aster DM, a global healthcare provider with headquarters based in Dubai, and the Cayman Islands Government. It will provide Cayman with a large hospital-type catering for multi-specialist needs, a medical education centre for Caymanian students wishing to study medicine, as well as an assisted-living facility. The investment, in the region of 350 million US dollars, will proceed in stages, with ground-breaking for the first 3 year stage envisioned for the middle of 2021.

... Continued story on page 2

MEDIA ATTENTION for QUARANTINE BREACH CASE

There's another twist in the Skylar Mack and Vanjae Ramgeet quarantine breach case.

The two who were sentenced this week to four months in jail in connection with Mack violating her quarantine conditions are now appealing.

The case is now attracting considerable international media interest.

At the same time, the Governor and Deputy Governor have issued statements reminding persons arriving in the Cayman Islands of the quarantine regulations in keeping the population safe from COVID-19.

It's the second appeal in the case in which the two were initially found guilty in the Summary Court and ordered to do 40 hours community service each plus a fine of C\$2,600.

That sentence was subsequently successfully appealed by the Director of Public Prosecution before Judge Justice Roger Chapple who sent them both to jail for four months each on the grounds that the original sentence was too lenient.

Mack was found guilty of tampering with the monitoring bracelet she was



► Skylar Mack

... Continued story on page 3

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EDITORIAL

“GLAD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY.”

Luke chapter 2: 8-10

Today's society are searching frantically for joy in their lives. Some are searching for some joy for their lives but they are searching in the wrong places, the wrong things and the wrong people. They are searching for joy through drugs, alcohol, wealth, fancy cars, fame and fortune. And yet at the end of the day it fades into nothingness. So, the ultimate question is, "HOW CAN I FIND REAL JOY?"

First let us distinguish between joy and happiness. Happiness is a temporary feeling dependent upon external things. Joy is dependent on Jesus Christ. The prophet Nehemiah writes in chapter 8:10, "THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH." Why is the birth of Jesus Christ declared as great joy?

FIRST - IT WAS HIS BIRTH THAT USHERED IT IN. Notice the angels said, "Glad tidings of great joy." Not temporary but fulfilling and everlasting joy. It was not for a certain group of earthlings but to all mankind no matter your race, creed or nationality. The angels said it most profoundly, "it would be to all people." Do you have this unmatched joy?

SECOND - HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY BROUGHT GREAT JOY. When Jesus walked upon this planet of His, everywhere He went and everyone He touched received great joy in their lives. Joy came to blind who could not see, the deaf who could not hear, the dumb who could not talk, the lame who could not walk, the de-



mon possessed who was in the enemy's clutches. Great joy came to all who witnessed Him raise the dead to life and deliver people from Satan's power. Notice in the Holy Bible in the gospels it records, "they went away walking and leaping and praising God." Do you have this Great Joy?

THIRD - HIS DEATH WOULD BRING GREAT JOY. This is the ultimate purpose for which He came to the earth. There is no greater joyful and exultant moment than when a person comes to know Jesus as their Saviour. Jesus Himself declare, "I am the resurrection and the life." Scripture also tells us that, "there is rejoicing the Heavens with the angels over one soul that comes to repentance." Imagine if at this very moment you pause and ask Jesus to come into your life, forgive you of your sins and make you a brand new creature, the angels in Heaven will burst out into unspeakable joy. I recall clearly that momentous night when Jesus came into my life.

The joy was indescribable. Do you have this unspeakable joy?

FINALLY - THE JOY THAT HE IS COMING SOON. Make no mistake dear reader - HE IS COMING SOON. Look around the world and witness the mind boggling things occurring. Look around here in Cayman. The soul of the nation it seems is up for grabs. Signs of the times as prophesied in scripture are being fulfilled rapidly. Wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, delinquent children, idolatry, fornication, and adultery have gripped this planet that no one cares any more. Jesus promised that He will come again even as He said, "I go prepare a place for you, and if I go I will come gain and receive you unto myself? What assurance. When He returns it will be a time of GREAT JOY. Are you ready for this Glorious, joyful return?"

On behalf of the team at the Caymanian Times, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas! 🌟

Major new medical tourism project announced

... Continued story from page 1

Caymanians or to established medical facilities.

No site has been decided upon for the facility yet, but five different sites are being considered, according to Project Director Mr. Gene Thompson, who was present at the briefing beside the Premier, Hon. Alden McLaughlin, and Minister for Health, Hon. Dwayne Seymour. Also, present by Zoom! were Chairman & Managing Director of Aster DM Healthcare, Dr Azad Moopen, and Deputy Managing Director, Ms Alisha Moopen.

Mr. McLaughlin said that he was very pleased to be announcing partnership with Aster, which he said would result in a "New world-class," facility in Cayman. The new facility would be in a position to offer, "Healthcare services to medical tourists, but also resident," Mr. McLaughlin said. It would take three years to complete the first phase, a multi-bed facility that could offer not only tertiary, but highly specialist quaternary care which Cayman residents have previously had to leave the island for, at great expense. There would also be a clinic built at Cayman Brac, he said. Phase three of the project would include a medical university-type facility, and would be scheduled to begin about seven years after the hospital had been operational. "Local contractors will be employed," Mr. McLaughlin said, "and those who come to work there will need homes and shops."

The agreement includes a programme for local students interested in pursuing healthcare, as well as a substantial fund for scholarships, which was all part of the contract. The government has agreed a duty waiver on medical equipment and supplies, for a period after the facility is operational, Mr. McLaughlin said, as well as a 5-year no-competition clause, which would prevent similar operations from setting up here, but would not apply to

Health Minister Dwayne Seymour said, "I could not be more delighted to see this venture come to the Cayman Islands. Thank you very much for choosing the Cayman Islands over other destinations in the region."

Alisha Moopen said, "When we came to visit earlier in the year we fell in love with the beautiful islands. I want to share my own excitement and how keen we are to get started. Once we become a part of something it gets our full commitment."

Gene Thompson Project Director said, "I gave long been an advocate or diversification of our economy." Health care and medical tourism in particular is something which resists economic swings, he said, and is currently projected for a seven percent increase each year, Mr. Thompson said. "It is also unique in bringing people who stay in our hotels use our restaurants and use our taxi service," he added.

Ralph Lewis of the Caymanian Times asked the Premier "Do you see Cayman Brac being developed more for medical tourism?" to which the Premier replied that much would depend on what the people of the Brac themselves wanted, as new facilities can put a strain on the infrastructure. Next Mr. Lewis asked Mr. Seymour about future developments. "We've always been looking for a third pillar of our economy and medical tourism seems to be the way to go it is proven it can work," Mr. Seymour replied. Finally, Mr. Lewis addressed Dr. Moopen asking if they visited other places in the region before deciding on Cayman. "We did a lot of research before coming to Cayman," Dr. Moopen replied, adding that Cayman had been decided upon for a number of reasons, not least of which was its proximity to the biggest market, the United States. 🌟



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Caymanian Times

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INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION AS QUARANTINE BREACH CASE HEADS FOR NEW APPEAL

... Continued story from page 1

required to wear while in quarantine, removing it and going to a public event to watch Ramjeet compete in a jet ski race.

He was also charged and found guilty as an accomplice.

The latest twist in the high-profile case of the young American female and her Caymanian co-defendant for breaching the jurisdictions strict Covid-19 protocols now sees them appealing this week's custodial sentence arguing that it's too harsh.

The Cayman Islands recently toughened up the quarantine laws with the maximum sentence now at C\$10,000 and two years in jail.

Mack and Vanjeet, who have both issued public apologies, are the first persons to be penalised under the more stringent laws.

There have been several breaches of quarantine since the government started a phased reopening of the borders in October.

Meanwhile, in separate statements on Thursday, HE Governor Martyn Roper and Hon. Deputy Governor Franz Manderson reminded of the need for persons arriving in Cayman to adhere to the quarantine protocols.

Governor Roper said, "All of us have to show individual and collective responsibility if we are going to effectively deal with this pandemic."

Particularly appealing to travellers arriving in the jurisdiction he urged them to "please comply with the guidance and the advice that you are getting because it is really through your actions complying with all of that that we protect everybody in our community, particularly the elderly and vulnerable."

Hon. Deputy Governor Franz Manderson stated: "What we are doing with Travel Cayman and the entire

reopening of our borders, the major focus is to keep our people safe."

"The main thing for us we expect of people who are coming here to isolate is to be responsible, to be really part of the solution," the Deputy Governor stated.

The case of Skylar Mack and Vanjae Ramjeet breaking Cayman's quarantine regulations and now sent to prison has attracted international media attention.

It's being reported by a growing number of media outlets in the US, the UK, the Caribbean and elsewhere including The Sun and Daily Mail newspapers of the UK, along with ABC News, Inside Edition, People magazine and others in the US as the case continues to attract international attention.

It is understood that efforts are being made to have the second appeal heard possibly as early as next week. 🌐

CAACI employees donate to local charity in response to COVID-19 pandemic

On Wednesday 15th December, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands (CAACI) presented a donation to Acts of Random Kindness (ARK). ARK is focused on improving the standard of living in the homes of the underprivileged, ensuring that no one goes hungry or homeless, encouraging and providing education, aiding children and adults in life-threatening medical situations, and ensuring any matter of crisis or suffering are eased by collective community support.

This donation, the fifth of its kind was funded by the CAACI staff members as a part of the monthly charitable initiative to support those in need in the community as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CAACI's Deputy Director-General, Mrs. Nicoela McCoy remarked, "The CAACI is delighted to continue its sup-

port to those who have been impacted by the pandemic throughout our community and in particular at this time of year as we are in the Christmas Season. We are so thankful for organisations such as ARK which are committed to helping those in need. We hope that our donation will aid in the provision of goods and supplies to help lift the spirits of the recipients." 🌐



▶ (L-R) Representative of ARK accepts a donation from CAACI representatives

DIRECT FLIGHT TO BARBADOS FOR CHRISTMAS

Cayman Airways will be taking off from Owen Roberts International airport on Sunday 20th December, 2020 on a direct flight to Barbados

This flight was arranged by the Honorary Consul to Barbados as Barbadian nationals and others from Eastern Caribbean Islands wanted to go home especially at Christmas. Some have lost parents and siblings during the year but were not able to travel to attend funerals or other family events.

This is a chartered flight and although organized by the Honorary Consul to Barbados to assist Barbadian nationals, the flight will have on board, persons from



Trinidad, St Lucia and Guyana, most of whom are heading home on a one-way ticket due to the current difficulty with employment. The Covid-19 pandemic has seen many persons losing their employment or having their salaries cut and although the travelers have expressed their regret at leaving the Cayman Islands, they feel it is better for them to be at home with family at this time.

Cayman Airways will deliver passengers to Barbados on 20th December and bring others back to Cayman that same



... Continued story on page 4

We thank you our *Patients*, your families, and the entire Cayman community for the *Love & Support* you have shown to our healthcare heroes throughout this year.

The HSA Board, Management & Staff sends our warmest thoughts and sincere wishes for a *Healthy, Happy & Safe* 2021.



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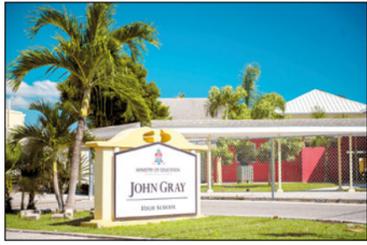
MEYSAL Reminds Parents to Sign up Government School Students for Extended Holiday Programmes

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands (MEYSAL) reminds parents of government school children that they can register their children for extended holiday programmes and activities further to the MEYSAL's December 11 announcement of available programmes.

Registration for the programmes and activities which range from one-day events to two-week camps and cater to children from age four upwards, began on Friday, December 11.

Activities are being offered by the Department of Sports (DOS), Youth Services Unit (YSU), Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), other organisations and government departments, and will be available from January 4-15, 2021.

Approximately 300 students have already been registered for the programmes offered, with the highest number of students registered for the YMCA activities scheduled at various locations across the islands.



Parents may register their children for these and other programmes and request transportation using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSJ38HM>.

Parents may also visit the YMCA website at <http://www.ymcacayman.ky/programmes/y-day-camps/> to register children for its activities.

MEYSAL will continue to provide any additional updates through the official channels for the latest government news and updates.

For a complete list of organisations and government departments that may offer programmes and activities, visit www.gov.ky/all-news.

Cayman Academy does well in OES inspection

The Office of Education Standards recently released their inspection report for Cayman Academy School, deeming it "good" in most areas.

The inspection, which took place in November of this year, is undertaken at least once every four years and usually involves a team of inspectors visiting each school for between two and five days. Inspectors use an agreed framework to reach their judgements. Relatively small by most school's standards in Cayman, Cayman Academy has just 324 students aged between three and 17 years (16 with special needs), with 30 teaching staff and 11 support staff.

The demographics of the make-up of students are more than 70 per cent Caymanian, with students also hailing from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, Ireland, Dominica, Honduras, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and the United States.

Teachers at Cayman Academy follow the new Cayman Islands National Primary Curriculum in the primary phase of the school and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum in the Kindergarten. The curriculum in the secondary phase is organised around the requirements of the Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC) and the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) exams.

The report noted that students' attainment and progress in English and mathematics were good in all phases,

while science was good in the primary and secondary phases. The school's strong, positive culture and Christian ethos across all phases led to positive attitudes to learning, good behaviour and students' good citizenship skills, it noted, while also pointing out the quality of teaching, especially in the secondary phase. Inspectors found the use of information technology was integrated effectively across the curriculum and that they accurately self-evaluated the school's strengths and weaknesses. Room for improvement could be found with the inspectors recommending that CSEC examinations should be undertaken in Year 11 forthwith. More opportunities for students in the Kindergarten were needed to experience investigative work, especially in science, to better promote their progress, while the school needed to also ensure that all teachers planned their lessons effectively to meet the needs of different groups of students.

Inspectors also recommended that the school improve the leadership of special educational needs by writing clear individual educational plans with personalised targets that are reviewed regularly and shared with parents and teachers.

Its overall evaluation was "good" and the inspectors noted in particular that it performed well in all major aspects of its work and the capacity of the school to improve further continued to be good.



DIRECT FLIGHT TO BARBADOS FOR CHRISTMAS

... Continued story from page 3

day. Similarly, on 3rd January 2021 when the final legs of the flight take place, passengers who would have spent the Christmas holidays in Barbados will return on the flight and go into their mandatory two week quarantine period.

Ms Gooding-Michelin, Consul to Barbados said that even at this late stage there is still an interest in getting on board! Everyone is conscious that cov-

id-19 is still very real and she is sure that they will take all precautions to keep themselves and others around them safe. She wishes everyone a wonderful Christmas with their families and hopes that 2021 will be a much better year for all. She adds that she hopes Cayman Airways will consider a direct flight to Barbados as part of its normal schedule in future.

To receive further information, email the Barbados Consulate Office at Barbcon2@gmail.com

NEW COVID STRAIN FORCES URGENT DRASTIC MEASURES IN UK

The rapid spread of a mutated strain of the COVID-19 virus prompted an immediate decision on Saturday after by the UK government to put London and South East England into new Tier 4 restrictions...technically a lockdown.

This means that persons in those areas are barred from mixing households and are restricted to leaving their homes for only essential reasons.

The decision announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson came just days after he spoke of "having a small Christmas" and suggesting that it would be "inhuman to cancel Christmas".

But on a cold and dreary Saturday afternoon in the UK that

was the tiding of not great joy that the Prime Minister brought in the wake of evidence that a new strain of the virus was spreading rapidly.

"It is with a heavy heart that I must tell you we cannot continue with Christmas as planned," Mr Johnson intoned at a news conference on Saturday.

Wales and Scotland, which have their own governments, also announced tighter restrictions on Saturday with Wales going into a full lockdown from Saturday night.

Earlier in the week, Mr Johnson resisted calls to tighten the measures in place then, in which some parts of London and elsewhere in England were under Tier 3 allowing some



minimal mixing of households for the Christmas period.

With areas in Tier 4 now required to stay at home, the previous five-day easing of restric-

tions over the festive has now been limited to one day for the rest of England.

He said then that people should exercise personal re-

sponsibility, minimise social contacts, and delaying visiting elderly relatives until after they have been vaccinated.

However, with concern over the new strain of the COVID-19 virus said to be responsible for a spike in cases the abrupt announcement came late on Saturday afternoon (UK time) to impose the harsher measures.

It is also presently uncertain how effective the new vaccines now being rolled out against the original strain of COVID-19 will be against the new mutation.

Mr Johnson has been criticised for not acting sooner and there are calls for the UK Parliament to be recalled from its Christmas vacation to debate the current crisis.

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Voter Registration Deadline Extended

His Excellency the Governor, Martyn Roper has given his approval to extend the next voter registration deadline to Wednesday, 20 January 2021.

This deadline is the last opportunity for the members of the public to register to vote before the 2021 General Election on Wednesday, 26 May 2021.

"For some, 2021 will be their first opportunity to have their say in Cayman's democracy including many who turned 18 after 2017. By extending the deadline, we hope to encourage more Caymanians to come forward to register and exercise their right to vote in the



next General Election," commented Mr. Roper.

Individuals wanting to register to vote can contact their Registering Officer, visit www.elections.ky, call 949-8047 or visit the Elections Office at Bay Town Suites, George Town.

National Attractions Holiday Closures Announced

The Tourism Attraction Board would like to notify the public of the upcoming holiday closures for the national attractions Pedro St. James and the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park.

Holiday hours are as follows:

- Thursday 24th December: **Closed at 12 Noon**

- Friday 25th December: **Closed**
- Saturday 26th though Monday 28th December: **Normal business hours**
- Thursday 31st December: **Closed at 12 Noon**

Both attractions will again reopen for normal business hours on Friday, 1st January 2021.

DVDL Opening Hours to 2021

The Department of Vehicle and Drivers' Licensing (DVDL) would like to notify the public of the upcoming opening hours:

All DVDL locations

- **Friday, 18 December** - All offices closed for staff function
- **Thursday, 24 December** - All offices open at 8:30 a.m. close at **12:00 noon**
- **Monday, 28 December** - All offices closed
- **Thursday, 31 December** - All offices open at 8:30 a.m. close at **12:00 noon**
- All offices will be closed for **Christmas, Boxing (observed) and New Year's Day.**



Crewe Road location

- **Monday, January 4** - Offices open for business as usual.

West Bay and Breakers locations

- West Bay and Breakers locations - will adjust hours of operation on **Thursday, 17 December** - opens at 8:30 a.m. and closes at 4:00 p.m.

- Will be closed on **Saturday, December 26.**
- **Saturday, January 2** - Offices will re-open for business as usual.

Customers are reminded that they can renew their vehicle licence online via DVDL's website at www.dvdl.gov.ky or through the e-services portal www.eservices.gov.ky.

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Acting Director Announced for Facilities Management Department

The Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure has announced that Mr. Craig Maitland will be Acting Director, Facilities Management Department, effective January 2021.

In his new role, he will be responsible for the leadership, strategic development and management of the Cayman Islands Government facilities with focus on facilities master planning, budget management, general maintenance repairs and services, as well as telecommunications network maintenance.

Mr. Maitland is currently the Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing (MEP) and Operations Manager in the Department since 2017 with responsibility for the daily operations for the Government Administration Building, Cayman Islands Environmental Centre and the community centres across the Grand Cayman.

He began his employment with the Cayman Islands Government in 2006 as an Air-Condition Technician at the Public Works Department and later with the Health Services Authority, where he served as a Senior HVAC Engineer for over nine years.

Mr. Maitland holds an Associate Degree in Physical Science from the University College of the Cayman Islands as well as certifications in electrical, refrigeration and safety from the George Mason University, Virginia in the United States. He is enrolled with the Association for Project Management where he is currently pursuing a facilities management qualification.

Mr. Maitland is a member of a number of professional organisations including the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, American Society for Industrial Security and the International Facility Management Association.

Director of Facilities Management Mr. Troy Whorms stated that he is confident that Mr. Maitland will deliver on the objectives of the Department. "Craig is motivated by saving money for government. He is humble, intelligent and positively impacts government expenditure and working environment daily. He has high ethical values and is one of the greatest civil servants I have had the privilege of working with. Craig has a wealth of experience that will serve the Government well as he oversees FM and service delivery," he said.

On his upcoming position, Mr. Maitland said, I am very excited to have this opportunity to continue with the excellent work of this Department to deliver high quality services and support our many stakeholders. I look forward to working with, and leading the team to



► Craig Maitland

contribute to the development of the Cayman Islands Government and help its continued success".

Mr. Troy Whorms, leaves his post at the end of this year to take up an appointment in January as Acting Director at the Public Works Department. 🌐

Troy Whorms to Assume Top Post at Public Works Department

The Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure has announced that Mr. Troy Whorms will assume the top position as Director, (Acting), at the Public Works Department (PWD), effective January 2021.

Mr. Whorms will be responsible for planning, controlling and directing the operations of PWD's divisions, sections and units to ensure the provision of comprehensive, high quality services in a cost effective and timely manner.

As Director, he will also be responsible for continuing the Department's strong focus on the training and development of Caymanian employees by implementing robust succession planning and other opportunities for them to progress.

Mr. Whorms is currently Director of the Facilities Management Department which administers and oversees the operations of the Government Administration Building. He was appointed to the position in 2015, and has led his office in firmly establishing a reputation for providing excellent service and achieving Cayman Islands Government's highest annual engagement survey index of 90% in 2019.

During his early career, Mr. Whorms worked with the Public Works Department where he gained extensive experience managing the administrative as well as technical aspects of projects, including dealing with contractors, budgets and staff. He has held several positions in the civil service including Assistant Engineer, Technical Assistant, Assistant Construction Manager, Deputy Facilities Manager, Facilities Manager and Head of Department.

Mr. Whorms holds a post graduate certificate in public administration from the University of Liverpool, a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management and an Associate of Science degree in Architectural Building Engineering Technology from the New England Institute of Technology.

He has also completed studies in electrical and technology at the University College of the Cayman Islands and has a range of professional development qualifications including ILM level 3 certificate in leadership and management, facilities management professional from the International Facilities Management Association as well as certification as procurement fraud control specialist.

Mr. Whorms is a member of the Cayman Islands Public Procurement Committee, International Facilities Management Association and the Cayman Islands Facilities Management Association.

Chief Officer in the Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure,



► Troy Whorms

Mr. Alan Jones has expressed immense satisfaction with the acting appointment of Mr. Whorms to the position noting, "With his experience and education, Troy is well grounded in the breadth of Public Works Department operations, and has very strong working relationships with the staff and stakeholders. Troy is a bright and outstanding Caymanian who values collaboration and is solutions oriented".

"His appointment will serve the Government well both now and into the future, as we move forward several major capital investments to support the needs of these Islands. I have full confidence that he will be an outstanding leader at the Public Works Department, and the entire Ministry staff look forward to working with him in this important post," Mr. Jones said.

In commenting on his new role, Mr. Whorms stated, "I started my career in the civil service at the Public Works Department as a summer intern and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity within the Cayman Islands Government. I look forward to building upon already strong relationships to support the Public Works Department, furthering staff training, professional development, providing the best outcomes, customer experience and simply to make the lives of those we serve better".

There are some 131 employees at the Public Works Department, which comprises of operations, finance and administration, human resources, organisational development and operational support and major projects.

The Operations Division includes the Facilities Management Section which carries out maintenance on over 100 government buildings; the Consultancy Services and Project Management Sections which provide services for 30 to 50 capital projects a year ranging in value from \$25,000 to \$15 million; and the Recreation Parks and Cemeteries Section that maintains in excess of 100 government outdoor sites and public facilities.

The major projects section of PWD managed a capital project budget of over \$750 million dollars in 2019. 🌐

CIG FINANCIAL REPORTING IMPROVING SAYS OAG

Government's financial reporting continues to improve and the focus now needs to switch to better budget preparation.

That's the conclusion reached by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) in two reports reviewing the government's financial management across 2019.

The government concurs. The reports are titled "Financial Reporting of the Cayman Islands Government: General Report 31 December 2019" and "Improving Financial Accountability and Transparency: Budgeting".

The first credits the government for "sustained improvement in financial reporting".

The second report focuses on improving financial accountability and transparency in the budget and makes 17 recommendations.

Auditor General, Sue Winspear says "As the public sector is not profit-driven, the budgeting process is arguably more important than the year-end financial reporting".

She said, "While it is pleasing that the timeliness and quality of financial reporting continues to improve, focus now needs to be paid to bringing about improvements to the budgeting process."

The current budgeting process was deemed to be "overly complex and time-consuming and does not focus on matching resources to the outcomes Government wants to achieve."

"I believe that 'less is more', and producing 2,700 pages of budget documents actually reduces transparency and understanding," the Auditor General concludes.

While the recommendations are aimed at Finance officials, Auditor General Winspear notes that two of the recommendations will need political buy-in, noting that "historically, supplementary budget approvals running to millions of dollars have often been approved by the Legislative Assembly after the budget year in question has ended."

"I strongly urge officials and MPs to do this in a more timely way and improve accountability to the people as a consequence."

The Auditor General said that "this will be helped if the Parliament shifted to more frequent and regular meetings as it establishes itself as a new, independent entity."

For its part, the government said it welcomes the recommendations in both reports by the OAG.

In response to the conclusions reached by the Auditor General, Hon. Deputy Governor, Franz Manderson pledges to "continue to make improvements with regards to transparency and accountability in our use of public funds and, particularly, to make this information more accessible to the public while



► Auditor General, Sue Winspear

we continue to strive to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our overall processes."

"In Government," he said, "we take our responsibilities as custodians of the public purse very seriously; where we have been tasked with making improvements in recent years, we have strived to deliver those efficiently and strategically."

Mr Manderson said he was "pleased to see that the results of our efforts to improve our financial reporting have been recognized by the OAG."

The government said it stands committed to working with the OAG on all matters, including improving its financial reporting, to promote accountability and transparency in its stewardship of public funds.

It points to a section of the OAG's report which says the quality of financial reporting has improved significantly over recent years, culminating in all public bodies being issued with clean audit opinions so far.

Additionally, it also refers to another observation by the OAG noting "a marked increase in the number of entities preparing and tabling annual reports (as opposed to financial statements), which improves the standard of financial accountability and satisfies a key condition of the Public Management and Finance Law."

The government says it "stands committed to continuing to make such improvements, including the recommendation to enhance the timely submission of these reports."

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development laid out in its Strategic Plan for 2021 to 2025 the aim of strengthening Government's "managing for results environment and culture," including modernising the budget system for future budgets.

According to the government statement, "this demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to tackle the further necessary modernisations outlined by the OAG and is already set out as specific actions in the Ministry's Strategic Plan."

It says these plans include the launching of the Budget and Reporting Working Group in January 2021. That was initially established in early 2018 but placed on hold awaiting the completion of OAG report "to allow for any recommendations to be incorporated." 🌐



A Christmas Tribute in Loving & Blessed Memory of Our Dear Precious Beloved Ones in Heaven – Chadwick Presley Wood, Edgar S. M. Merren, & Valerie Deanna Merren – Precious Memories linger on. Our Redeemer Lives!

Chad, Edgar, & Deanna, have fought the good fight, they have finished their course, and they have kept the faith.



CHAD WOOD

Who's beautiful innocent life was sadly taken away 15 years & 9 mths. ago on 5th March, 2005



EDGAR MERREN

5th May, 2005; 15 years & 7 mths. ago



DEANNA MERREN

24th Feb. 2019; 1 year & 10 mths. ago. Her 2nd Christmas in Heaven

Our Precious Angel Son, Brother & Uncle Chad, and Our Dear Precious Brother, & Uncle Edgar; and Our Precious Beautiful Sister, Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother; Special Cousin, & Wonderful friend – Deanna, Dee, Aunt Deanna, & Our Sweet Smiling Nana, who all lived their lives to the fullest.

We feel 'Blessed and Richer' now that they are all together in a much better place with their Lord and Saviour.

Their hearts were BIG, and their LOVE was true.

Each one of them wanted the 'Very Best' for all of us and cared about everything we were going through. CHAD, EDGAR, and DEANNA/Dee/Nana, all LOVED us without condition, and WE all LOVED each one of them the same.

May each moment of time you're spending in Heaven this Christmas have a beauty of its own and May the New Year that lies ahead become the happiest you've ever known.

Missing each one of you terribly at Christmas and always.

May God bless you and give you a Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year in Heaven. Rest in Heavenly Peace Our Guardian Angels.

Always lovingly remembered, sadly missed; forever in our hearts and always on our minds.

Hugs & kisses XOXOXOXO and Lots and Lots of LOVE FOREVER and EVER – CHAD's Loving & Devoted Mommy & Daddy – Aline & Cebert, Sr.; Brother – Cebert, Jr., Sister – Gina; Special Nephews – Jace, Chris, & Jaithan; & Sweet Niece – Skai; Special Cousins – Jeremy, Jesse, Carlos, Orrie, Kadie-Joy, Kadie Byrd, Marilyn, Travis, Nikita & Leon; many close & special friends, especially Reagan McLean & Ford Pierson, & his Co-workers.

Edgar's & Deanna's Loving & Devoted Sisters – Aline & Chasteen; Loving Brother – James & all our families; also, Deanna's children, grandchildren & great-granddaughter;

Special Cousins in Grand Cayman & the USA; Nieces & Nephews; Special friend – Mrs. Gloria Bodden in Fla.; many other close friends, & their Church Family at the Church of God (Universal).

Sent in by your loving Mommy, & Sister, Mrs. Aline Wood & family. Christmas will never be the same without our dear precious beloved ones, but God is everywhere.



A Tribute in Loving and Blessed Memory of Our Wonderful, Loving and Devoted Grandparents – Mrs. Hettie Bodden, and Capt. Royal B. Bodden, Sr., who left us for their Heavenly Home 47 & 44 years ago, respectively, on 8th Aug. 1973, & 17th Dec. 1976.



Capt. Royal B. Bodden, Sr., MBE, JP



Mrs. Hettie Bodden & Capt. Royal

Our Grandparents were part of who we are and all the things we know, Their principles and values continue to guide us wherever we go.

Grandparents teach, guard, and love, and help us to see. They both lifted us up and cheered us on to be all that we could be, and 'words could never quite express the love and praise they've earned'.

It took 'Special parents and grandparents' like both of you to be the Very Best in every single way, and that's why after all these many years since you were both called to your glory; and, now at Christmas-time

This comes to both of you with all our love and a 'World of Thanks'

For all the many things you each did for all of your grandchildren, Great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and other family Members who all continue to love and remember and miss you both.

MERRY CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN, Grandmother-Hettie & Papa.

FOREVER in our hearts and greatly missed always.

Rest in Peace Our Guardian Angels.

From all your loving Grandchildren, Great-grandchildren, Great-great-grandchildren and other family members in Grand Cayman, the USA, & UK. Sent in by your loving granddaughter, Mrs. Aline Wood.



GRAND CAYMAN LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD NOTICE

This notice is in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Liquor Licensing Law (2019 Revision) and Section 6 of the Music And Dancing (Control) Law 2019 Revision which gives the Board authority to grant temporary licences subject to ratification by the Board at its next regular session.

LIQUOR LICENSING SESSION

Friday, January 15th at 10:00AM
Conference Room 2024, Government Administration Building, 133 Elgin Avenue, George Town, Grand Cayman

The following applications will be heard:

THE LODGE LTD.

Business: TEMPORARY RETAIL and MUSIC AND DANCING
Location: Block 12C, Parcel 350H18, H19A & B, The Strand, 46 Canal Point Drive, George Town, Grand Cayman

PHILLIP WILSON T/A ALFRESCO.

Business: TEMPORARY RETAIL and MUSIC AND DANCING
Location: Block 5B, Parcel 172, 53 Town Hall Road, West Bay, Grand Cayman

KRI PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL LTD T/A KRI ENTERTAINMENT

Business: TEMPORARY RETAIL and MUSIC AND DANCING
Location: Block 14CJ, Parcel 2, Enverto Place, 98 Shedden Road, George Town, Grand Cayman

SPIRIT OF CAIMANOS LTD T/A CAYMANOS DISTILLERIES

Business: TEMPORARY RETAIL and MUSIC AND DANCING
Location: Block 20B, Parcel 317H3, North Sound Rd, Conch Shell House (Unit #3), George Town, Grand Cayman

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

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

A Tribute in Loving and Blessed Memory of Our Dear Precious Beloved Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother – Mrs. Valerie Merren, who Left us for her Heavenly Home on 4th December, 1997, 23 sad years ago.



Mama/Grandma Valerie

Until memory fades and life departs, Our Precious Mother & Grandmother, You will live forever in our hearts.

We have had many a lonely heartache and We shed many silent tears, but always so many 'Beautiful Memories' of the One we LOVED so dear.

For each one of us you did your best, Your LOVE was so great, and your heart was so kind, A BETTER MOTHER and Grandmother, no one could ever find!

This time of year as the lights go up, and the Christmas Carols start playing, Many precious memories continue to flow, and so many warm feelings from good times spent with you and other dear beloved family members who we shared so much joy and laughter with, and we were so blessed to be together.

Mama, you always loved Christmas; writing up Christmas cards and wrapping Special gifts for each one of us – which always brought you so much joy, and which we still miss!!!! We miss you greatly at Christmas and always.

Have a Merry Christmas in Heaven and a Happy New Year too, together with Our Blessed Saviour, God's Angels, and other dear beloved family members.

Fondly and lovingly remembered and greatly missed each and every day. We will forever hold you in our hearts and continue to have you on our minds.

LOVE FOREVER & always. Your loving and devoted children – Chasteen Bodden, Aline Wood, James Merren & all our families; Special Granddaughter – Marilyn Phillips & children – Travis & Nikita.

REST IN HEAVENLY PEACE, Mama. Sent in by your Loving and devoted daughter, Mrs. Aline Wood, & Son-in-Law, Cebert Wood, Sr., & our children – Cebert, Jr., & Gina, & Our Precious Angel son and brother, "Chad" – in Heaven with you and other dear beloved ones.

X O X O X O X
Rest in Peace until we meet again.





Fire service beefs up fleet

Providing Cayman's firefighters with "a new way of firefighting", four new rapid intervention vehicles have arrived on island recently, along with three new tankers. Chief Fire Officer Paul Walker said the delivery of the rapid response vehicles meant Cayman's fire officers now had a "first attack" appliance, complete with high pressure hose reels, that would mean fires could be reached more easily and would be put out quicker and more effectively. Three of the rapid response vehicles are to be based on Grand Cayman and the fourth will be shipped to Cayman Brac, while the three tankers are to remain on Grand Cayman with a fourth on order for Cayman Brac.

Last week Home Affairs Minister Tara Rivers, Chief Officer Dax Basdeo and other senior leaders from the Ministry and Fire Service joined Chief Walker in taking part in the convoy that transported the seven vehicles from the Cayman Islands Port Authority to the Central Fire Station.

Minister Rivers said that the arrival of the new fleet, in addition to the aviation fleet that recently arrived to support the aerodrome side of the service, marked

a complete change out of the domestic fire service fleet of vehicles.

"Government has always recognised the value of ensuring that our Fire Service has state-of-the-art equipment that it can use to make the necessary interventions that help to save lives," she said. "Throughout the course of our term a number of significant capital investments have reflected the belief that the safety of our fire officers is essential to the well-being of the Cayman Islands."

The three tankers cost USD632,734.00 each, while the four rapid intervention vehicles each cost USD271,711.

Chief Walker said the larger tankers would be a boost for the fire service, particularly with the protracted incidences that Cayman has experienced of late. The age of the original appliances had been a cause for concern as they had been breaking down frequently and causing high maintenance bills. The Chief therefore called the delivery "a fantastic day" and went on to say that he was even more excited about the delivery of the rapid intervention vehicles, which would really transform the way in which his officers could respond to fires.



He said the rapid intervention vehicles would prove quicker and more versatile on local roads which are often busy and sometimes narrow. As a result, vehicles and crews would be able to arrive at incidents more quickly with sufficient fire and rescue equipment to deploy safely.

Other rapid intervention vehicle features include rapid cooling of fires with high pressure hose reels producing very fine droplets of water, as well as quick

deployment of hydraulic rescue equipment for rescues at motor vehicle accidents.

Chief Walker confirmed that he and his CIFS colleagues were very grateful for this significant investment Government in these new fire and rescue vehicles.

"This will help us to improve our service and maintain the safety of residents, businesses and visitors to these beautiful Islands," he said.

CIFS Facilitates Regiment Training

Members of the Cayman Islands Regiment (CIR) received a full day of fire-fighting training from the Cayman Islands Fire Service (CIFS) on Saturday, 5 December.

Over 50 CIR officers were trained on the use of fire extinguishers and breathing apparatus, search and rescue capabilities, hose running and motor vehicle accident extrication.

"When working together as part of a major incident response it is essential to have a shared understanding of each other's capabilities and competencies as well as operating practices. This ensures an effective and efficient coordinated response with safe systems of work to



prevent duplication of tasks and to support shared situational awareness," said Chief Fire Officer, Paul Walker QFSM.

He continued, "I am very pleased with this opportunity to share our expertise and to provide CIR colleagues with practical fire and rescue experience within controlled and safe training conditions."

"It was extremely useful for the men and women of the Regiment to have this opportunity to better understand the skills, systems and equipment used by the Fire Service. We look forward to working in support of CIFS in a number of areas, in particular Search and Rescue. I'd like to thank all the members of the Fire Service who were involved with the excellent training on Saturday," said Lt Col Simon Watson, Commanding Officer of the CIR.



IMPORTING SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER

... Continued story from page 1

The CBC advised that “the expected trend for the season is that imports will continue to rise as the airport remains under limited departures and persons are not able to leave the island to complete their usual holiday shopping.”

Meanwhile, tracking the pattern of imports to Cayman or a year adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ESO notes a 10% decrease in the value of goods imported in the last quarter.

“Goods Import for the third quarter stood at \$296.85 million, a decrease of 10.2 per cent, as non-petroleum and petroleum-related imports declined.

The ESO third-quarter report also pointed to reductions in imports of food items such as fruits and vegetables, meat, and fish, and cereal by 6.6 per cent as well as beverages and tobacco by 0.2 per cent.

However it said, machinery and transport equipment, such as road vehicles, industrial machinery, and telecoms equipment was marginally higher by 1.7 per cent for the quarter.

Additionally, manufactured goods such as building materials like cement, cork and wood and textiles actually grew by 12.3 per cent for the September quarter.

In a related report, the ESO records that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell by 1.6 per cent in the third quarter of 2020 when compared to the same period in 2019.

Of the twelve CPI divisions, five recorded decreases, it stated.

“In the third quarter of 2020, the division transport recorded the largest average price decline in the CPI basket (6.9%). This was due mainly to the fall in the average cost of passenger transport by air, which fell by 25.4 per cent while fuels decreased by 14.1 per cent.

The index for recreation and culture fell by 5.6 per cent in the third quarter of 2020, the ESO reported, attributing this to a 43.2 per cent fall in the price for package holidays (abroad).

The electricity index declined by 24.6 per cent while water supply dropped by 15.3 per cent. The overall housing and utilities index decreased by 2.8 per cent as a result, the ESO noted.

A comparison of the import patterns and overall economic activity for Cayman in the first and last quarters of this year paints an interesting picture with the year being book-ended by particularly strong imports.

A considerable uptick in imports in the latter part of the year reflects the strong performance of the economy before the crippling effects of the pandemic hit in March.

According to the ESO, the Cayman Islands economy is estimated to have increased by 1.9 per cent in the first three months of 2020 before being negatively impacted by the closure of the borders in the latter half of March.

Meanwhile, the last quarter of the year is being driven largely by imports



reflecting the projection by the CBC that imports will continue to rise as the airport remains under limited departures and persons are not able to leave the island to complete their usual holiday shopping.

It has also been suggested that the rise in imports over the Christmas season could be linked to the emergency pensions payout to offset the impact of the pandemic on personal and household finances of those eligible.

With import duties being a key component of government revenues, especially with the decline in tourism, the fiscal deficit projected at the height of the

pandemic around May this year might now be offset to some extent by year-end and seasonal imports as a result.

Appearing on the Radio Cayman programme Talk Today, Hon. Finance Minister, Roy McTaggart offered a note of relief when he said: “The dire situation we were anticipating at the beginning of this year does not seem to be materialising.”

“A lot will depend in these last few weeks on how good the Christmas season is in terms of imports...all the things that Caymanians would normally buy during the Christmas season,” the Finance Minister stated. 🌐

POLICE NEWS

11 traffic Collisions reported last Wednesday

1 Collision Involving Pedestrian

Shortly after 6:00PM on Wednesday, 16 December, officers responded to a report of a collision involving a white Toyota HiAce and a pedestrian on West Bay Road, in the vicinity of Ernest Jackson Drive.

Emergency Services attended the scene and the pedestrian was transported to the Cayman Islands Hospital for treatment for serious injuries. He remains in hospital in critical but stable condition. A dog that the pedestrian had been walking also sustained injuries during the collision, resulting in its death. The driver of the Toyota was

uninjured, and the matter is currently under investigation.

Anyone who witnessed this incident or who may have any information is encouraged to contact the Traffic & Roads Policing Unit at 649-6254.

Yesterday, RCIPS officers responded to 11 traffic collisions. The RCIPS is taking this opportunity to remind the public to exercise caution when using the roadways. Motorists must follow the speed limits and avoid distractions while driving, or driving while under the influence. Pedestrians are reminded to walk facing the flow of traffic, and cyclists are reminded to ride with the flow of traffic, and follow the rules of the road.

“We are asking motorists to be extra vigilant when travelling on roads, especially at night,” says Acting Superintendent Brad Ebanks. “Make sure your full attention is on driving at all times. For pedestrians and cyclists, it is important to wear light-coloured clothes, and cyclists should have reflectors and lights affixed to their bicycles. These pieces of equipment can be found at most hardware stores, and taking these small steps will help make our roads that much safer for everyone using them.”

tors and lights affixed to their bicycles. These pieces of equipment can be found at most hardware stores, and taking these small steps will help make our roads that much safer for everyone using them.”

Firearms Incident in George Town

At about 2:10AM on Saturday morning, 19 December, the 9-1-1 Communications Centre dispatched officers to a report of shots fired in the vicinity of a bar on Seymour Road, George Town. Officers attended the location and recovered a number of spent shell casings in the vicinity. No persons appear to have been injured in the incident.

The matter is currently under investigation and anyone who witnessed the incident or has any information is asked to contact George Town CID at 949-4222.

Assault in George Town

Shortly after 12:00AM on Saturday morning, 19 December, officers responded to a report of a serious assault

at a bar on Martin Drive in George Town. It was reported that several men were involved in an altercation.

A male received injuries to his head, arm and back, and was transported by ambulance to the Cayman Islands Hospital for treatment. He has subsequently been discharged.

The matter is currently under investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact the George Town Police Station at 949-4222.

Anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS via our Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777, or via our website <http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>. 🌐



COVID-19 2021 - WE CAN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN

As 2020 draws to a close the recent welcome news of vaccines being rolled out as the much-anticipated weapon against the COVID-19 pandemic is being challenged for headline billing with a series of related issues.

The discovery in the UK of a new strain of the virus, with several cases now being reported in continental Europe, is now commanding the attention of the political and health authorities and the public.

Already rattled by a second wave of the current strain of the virus, the British government and governments in Europe are rushing to put measures in place to prevent an explosive spread of this mutation.

The variant of the virus is likely to be a key feature of the lexicon of the pandemic - and our lives - in 2021 as much as coronavirus/COVID-19 came to dominate 2020.

Said to be 70 per cent more infectious than the current strain of the virus, it is not yet known how this variant will respond to the current vaccines now being rapidly rolled out in a massive global inoculation programme.

The good news is that early indications are that variant might not be as lethal as the current strain of the COVID-19 virus.

In Cayman, as it is elsewhere, COVID-19 has been a permanent fixture in the news, political and conversation agenda.

And will be for some time to come as the jurisdiction gets ready to embark on its own large scale national inoculation programme.

Shipments of the vaccine from the British government are expected to start arriving here next month.

There has also been a noticeable uptick in the number of persons testing positive in the ongoing screening and quarantining regime since the borders were gradually opened in October for non-commercial flights.

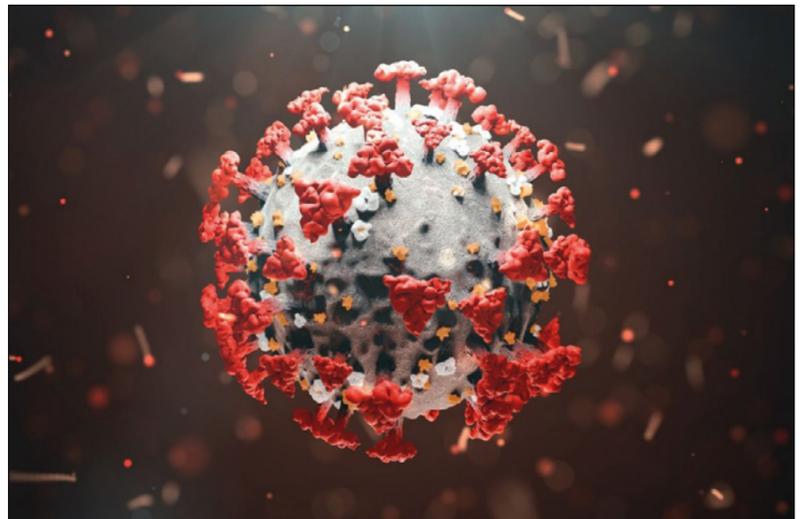
The strict isolation protocols have been broken in several instances with one case attracting huge international media attention after an American teenager was jailed for four months for breaching the regulations and circulating among the public.

The current penalty is C\$10,000 and two years in prison.

In what has become a high-profile being reported by major news outlets around the world, the sentence is being appealed for a second time after a previous conviction resulted in a 40-hour community service penalty and a fine of C\$2,600 for her and her co-accused.

(Lawyers for the convicted American teenager Skylar Mack and Caymanian Vanjae Ramjeet were hoping to have their appeal heard before the end of 2020).

Not only in Cayman but globally, COVID-19 and its offshoot variant will continue to make the news in 2021.



Christmas as we once knew it, is - at least for this year - a thing of the past.

With 2020 coming to a close, a second wave of the now sweeping across many countries, plus a new strain taking hold in the UK but showing up in several other countries, it is hoped that 2021 will bring better headlines.

In the interim, the Cayman Islands government - and governments globally - continue the intricate balance of 'lives over livelihoods/health over wealth' amidst the plethora of side issues this pandemic continues to throw out.

It's not an easy task especially for small countries such as Cayman which

are heavily reliant on both a global supply chain, especially the United States, for its consumer and industry imports and to maintain the sectors which form the pillar of its economy.

These are challenging times and it requires the full attention of the politicians (current and aspiring) and the public to the same degree that the pandemic is a priority issue for the medical professionals and ancillary staff.

We are living through a moment of history.

We can only hope that history is on our side, especially for the New Year. 🌐



► Minister Juliana O'Connor Connolly and Ms. Magda Embury Esq. look on while Hon. Dr. W Mckeeva Bush, Hon Minister Tara Rivers, Ms. Lucille Seymour and Mrs. Alice Mae Coe secure the mobi-mat at the Seven Mile Beach

► (l-r) Ms. Lucille Seymour, Hon. Dr. W Mckeeva Bush, Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, Hon. Tara Rivers and Mrs. Alice Mae Coe stand on the newly installed mobi-mat at the Government's House Beach

MOBI-MAT ROLL-OUT

By Staff Writer

It's now a lot easier for persons using wheelchairs to access and fully enjoy Cayman's beaches.

Previously encumbered by wheels getting stuck in the sand, wheelchair users can now easily access several beaches thanks to new Mobi-Mats being installed by the government.

The Mobi-Mats which provide a firm rubber surface down to the waterside enable wheelchairs to be rolled onto the beach with their traction designed to ensure a smooth ride and easy manoeuvring.

The first Mobi-Mats have been installed at Seven Mile Public Beach, Government's House Public Beach and on the Brac through a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands (MEYSAL), the Cabinet Office, the Older Persons Council and the Persons with Disabilities Council.

A total of six Mobi-Mats will be installed on public beaches throughout the Cayman Islands as part of this initiative.

Speaking at the installation ceremony for the first mat which took place on the eve of The International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Hon. Speaker of Parliament, McKeeva Bush, praised the initiative and thanked the ministries and departments involved.

"I deeply appreciate what the Ministries and departments involved have done to make this a reality. Once the mats are properly affixed, that will result in their extended longevity, allowing users to benefit and have access to our amazing beaches and the sea for many years to come," Mr Bush stated.

Chairperson for the Council for Older Persons, Lucille Seymour, also expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Lands for providing older persons with a method through which she said: "they can participate in swimming and providing a pathway to keep them more healthy and social."



► MobiMat rolled out in Cayman Brac

"As an older person who loves the sea and enjoys the therapeutic benefits, I urge all older persons to take up this excellent and beneficial opportunity of going to the beach," she added.

Cathy Fraizer, Council for Persons with Disabilities echoed similar sentiments, on behalf of the Older Persons and Disability Councils.

Minister for (EYSAL) Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly expressed her delight at the opportunity to contribute towards the nations' development.

"I am elated that through social engineering, we have been able to move one step further towards the development of our country. Although we will not be able to install mats at every beach access area, we will nonetheless do all we can to ensure that our senior citizens and the most vulnerable in our communities can access our beaches and enjoy their tranquillity," Min. O'Connor-Connolly said.

Deputy Chair of the Council for Persons with Disabilities, Mrs Alice Mae Coe, implored members of the public to use the mats with care allowing them to facilitate the enjoyment of the islands' beaches by less-abled individuals and older persons.

Others in attendance at the ceremony included Hon. Tara Bush, Minister for Financial Services & Home Affairs, Chairperson for the Council for Persons with Disabilities - Ms Magda Embury, and representatives from the Ministry of Lands, the Cabinet Secretary's Office and other participating Ministries and departments.

A choir from the Sir John A Cumber Primary School sang the National Song.

MOBI-MAT COMES TO THE BRAC

A similar function was held at the Public Beach on the Brac with a good community turnout.

In attendance was the Hon. Min. for EYSAL Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, who is also MP for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

"The soul of a nation is measured by what it does for the upliftment of its elderly and more vulnerable in society," she remarked.

Mrs O'Connor-Connolly also encouraged the Brac community to "try to get those who have never been to the beach to come out, even arrange to bring them."

"I believe that for them this would be a life-changing undertaking," the minister concluded exuberantly," she told the gathering.

ter concluded exuberantly," she told the gathering.

Also speaking was Hon. Deputy Premier and MP for Brac West and Little Cayman, Moses Kirkconnell who highlighted the health benefits going to the beach.

"It is long believed that being in the waters aids in reducing sinus issues and even arthritis. Be proud of this Mobi-Mat for our elders and disabled in our midst. Surely Little Cayman is our list as well."

"Start going to beach!" he urged with a smile.

Mrs Annie Rose Scott, the Sister Islands Representative on the Council for Older Persons said the Mobi-Mat project was very dear to her, adding that "it will encourage older residents to use the beach for medicinal purposes."

She too expressed the hope that Mobi-Mats will also be installed at other locations.

Delivering the Vote of Thanks Ms Lynette Monteith praised the government for having the foresight to undertake this project all others who contributed to making it a reality.

Deputy District Commissioner Mark Tibbetts presided over the event as Master of Ceremonies while District Commissioner Ernie Scott gave welcome remarks.

Aliyah and Aniyah Augustine, twin sisters from Creek and Spot Bay Primary School sang the National Song and there were performances by The Layman E Scott Senior High School choir.



► MobiMat rolled out in Cayman Brac



► Members of the PWD team install the mobi-mat at the Seven Mile Beach

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Hammer of "Call Me By Your Name"
 - 1 Beer, slangily
 - 5 Christmas song
 - 10 Chinese or Korean
 - 12 Musical drama
 - 13 Talking nonsense
 - 15 Pitching stat
 - 16 Tour carrier
 - 17 — de deux
 - 18 Spread the word
 - 20 Presidential power
 - 21 Whoop it up
 - 22 Mid-March date
 - 23 Fire remnants
 - 25 Small seabird
 - 28 Spoken tests
 - 31 Wallet bills
 - 32 "The Little Mermaid" villain
 - 34 Harem chamber
 - 35 GI-entertaining org.
 - 36 Peach center
 - 37 Like some gas stations
- DOWN**
- 1 Morley of "60 Minutes"
 - 2 High-interest lender
 - 3 Widen
 - 4 Mule of old song
 - 5 Corn cores
 - 6 King Kong, for one
 - 7 Harvested
 - 8 Highly decorative
 - 9 Rodeo ropes
 - 11 Titled ones
 - 14 Good poker hand
 - 19 Chris of "The Avengers"
 - 20 Travel documents
 - 24 Goofs
 - 25 Beyond what's acceptable
 - 26 Survive
 - 27 Domains
 - 29 Wolfish
 - 30 Oil spills
 - 33 "This is only —"
 - 35 Calls on
 - 38 Tipsy
 - 39 Bigwig, for short

S	H	A	D	A	L	T	A	R	
H	O	R	A	R	E	A	P	E	R
A	M	E	N	T	A	M	A	L	E
D	E	N	I	Z	E	N	C	I	A
E	R	A	S	E	R	S	H	A	L
		H	E	Y	B	E	N	T	
C	L	U	E	S	T	A	S	T	Y
H	A	N	S	H	E	N			
U	M	A	S	E	X	I	S	T	S
N	E	W	P	I	T	S	T	O	P
K	N	A	V	E	S	H	O	P	E
S	T	R	E	E	T	E	R	I	N
S	E	E	D	S	S	E	C	T	

Yesterday's answer

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 Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/08

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Word Search

- Alligator
- Boa
- Chameleon
- Cobra
- Crocodile
- Frog
- Gecko
- Gila Iguana
- Lizard
- Monster
- Newt
- Python
- Salamander
- Serpent
- Snake
- Toad
- Tortoise
- Turtle
- Viper

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

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

Have fun with CAYMANIAN TIMES

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley

WELL, I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY! YOU GOT ME IN TROUBLE! -AGAIN.

DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU? DOESN'T IT FILL YOU WITH SHAME?

YOU'RE RIGHT, CURTIS, IT DOES BOTHER ME... IT DOES FILL ME WITH SHAME...

WELL, OKAY, I FORGIVE YOU

I ALSO HAVE A BRIDGE TO SELL YOU!

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee

IF THIS BOY'S ILL, AREN'T YOU ENDANGERING HIM BY BRINGING HIM HERE?

I THOUGHT YOU'RE THE ONLY ATLANTEAN WHO CAN BREATHE OUT OF WATER.

OUR SCIENTISTS DEvised PILLS ENABLING OUR RACE TO BREATHE AIR FOR 24 HOURS...

BUT THIS LAD WILL NOT SURVIVE THAT LONG—ON LAND OR UNDER SEA!

JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, RANDY? AND WHY AREN'T YOU PICKING UP ON MY EVERY VERBAL AND PHYSICAL CLUE THAT I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU?

WELL, I, UH, REMEMBER YOU LIKE THIS COFFEE SHOP AND...

MARCILLIANO + MANLEY 3/13

CONGRATULATIONS. YOU'VE DECIDED TO DABBLE IN STALKING. CARE TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE BOTH OF US AND JUST FOLLOW ME TO THE POLICE STATION?

TONI, WHY DID YOU PURPOSEFULLY UNDERMINE MY DAD'S CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENT?

T Caymanian Times



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