

50¢ starting January 27, 2021

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MP MILLER DEMANDS REMOVAL OF CONVICTED SPEAKER BUSH



► Some members of the graduating cohort 31 and 32 of Passport2Success along with course instructors Catherine Tyson (left) and Carmella Pugh (right). Left to right, standing: Jade Seymour, Sabrina Suberan, Claudina Morgan, Samaria McLaughlin, Abigail Turner; kneeling: Rickhams Zuniga, Andrew Suberan and Diante Smith-Myles

A Passport to Success

By Christopher Tobutt

Passport2Success does more than bridge the gap between school life and work life. It furnishes young people with the people-skills and the confidence they need to face any situation life throws at them. 2020 was going to be a big, special year for the program, because it marks their tenth anniversary. But 2020 turned out to be a special year all by itself, and the first cohort faced an earthquake and then a lockdown, and yet Passport2Success managed to carry on their program, any way they could sometimes even by Zoom! Thanks to the diligent work and endless dedication of course instructors Catherine Tyson and Carmella Pugh, and all the other people who helped the students of the 8-week programme, cohorts 31 and 32 made it through, to make their joint graduation ceremony a true success, at the Marriott Beach Resort on Friday 18 December.

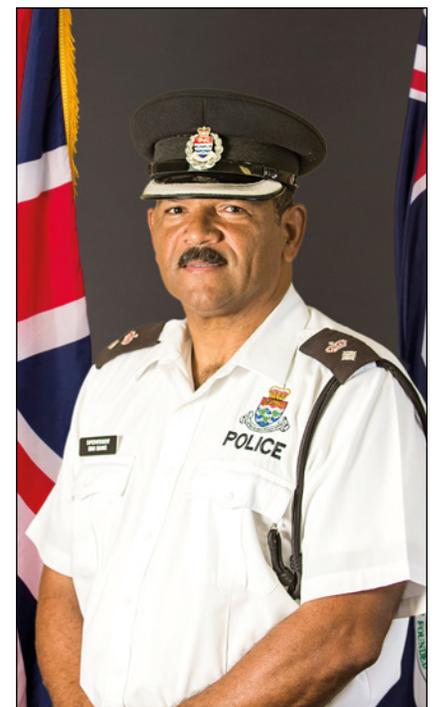
Jade Seymour, 17, one of the graduates of Cohort 32, said, "I liked it because it made me come out of my comfort zone and not be shy all the time. I learned how to do resumes, how to do interviews and how to be in the professional working world." In addition, Jade has gained an internship with logistics firm NCI.

Rickhams Zuniga, 18, said, "I enjoyed it because they taught me stuff I never knew before. They taught me how to dress and act professionally in a professional environment. It changed the way I represented myself because I never really cared less on how I might look on entering business or any other kind of organization but now I know that you have to dress purposefully.

Passport2Success can't do without help from Cayman's business community, and Laura Johnston from PBS Cayman Business

SEE PASSPORT TO SUCCESS, Page 3

RCIPS: Enhancing their community image



► Acting Superintendent Brad Ebanks

By Christopher Tobutt

The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service can take pride in being one of the most professional and caring police services in the world. These days, it isn't all just about arrests and enforcement. Prevention is equally important, and in the last few years the Community Policing Department has taken a lead role in helping communities stay safe, through regular visits to community groups as well as by making inroads into talking to young children at the schools. One message is coming over loud and clear: The Police

SEE RCIPS, Page 5



COVID-19 gov.ky/coronavirus **STAY SAFE CAYMAN** SAVE LIVES

Let's Keep Working Together
Protect yourself and your community against COVID-19

CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

DATED: 16 DECEMBER 2020

EDITORIAL

Goodbye 2020

We say goodbye to a year that will be forever etched in our hearts and minds. Unfortunately, 2020 has brought much suffering and unhappiness to many of our residents and the entire planet. As we close this chapter on a year that many never foresaw 12 months ago, we can breathe a sigh of relief that a remedy for the COVID 19 Pandemic is around the corner and a vaccine is scheduled to land on Cayman's shores in a few short weeks.

No doubt the major news story for 2020 will be the devastation and disruption that COVID 19 brought to our lives.

Our goal at Caymanian Times is to bring hope to all and encourage a culture of resilience as we rebuild our minds, lives, country and economy. The future still looks bright, but we have work to do. The Caymanian Times newspaper will remain the beacon of light as we contribute to the local efforts that will combat any challenges that lie ahead.

Truth, Encouragement, Transparency and Motivation are the foundations on which this publication is built on and



we go forward with the confidence and collective will to rebuild our economy, keeping Cayman as a shining beacon for the region and beyond.

To do this we must work together, Caymanians and Expatriates, Politicians and Electorate, Employers and Employees, Government and the Private Sector.

Let us develop a culture of respect, tolerance and forgiveness. Reach for the stars for if you fall short you will still be amongst the clouds.

Happy New Year!

Ralph Lewis / Publisher

COVID 2021: A new normal beckons

Cayman heads into 2021 after a tumultuous 2020 with the number of COVID-19 cases in the jurisdiction continuing to creep upwards.

By Wednesday December 23rd, the number of confirmed cases had crept up to 318

with one further case added to the list.

It follows a noticeable pattern since the first stage of border reopening started on October 1st.

Since then over a 100 additional cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Cayman; going from 213 on October 2nd to 318 by December 23rd.

The majority of these new cases are by far travellers arriving in Cayman testing positive.

There was a spate of negative test results during the Summer period with only eight confirmed cases for the whole of the month; going from 205 cases on September 1st to 213 by the end of that month. The borders were closed for the preceding six months since March.

Accompanying the decision to allow limited flights into Cayman for specially defined categories of persons are stringent control systems underpinned by equally tough regulations.

These include 14-days in monitored quarantine and tough penalties - at least on paper - for violators.

There have been several breaches, including the high-profile case of the American teenager Skylar Mack and her Caymanian boyfriend Vanjae Ramgeet whose conviction, especially in the case of Mack, was the focus of international media coverage driven by a campaign orchestrated by the young American's grandmother.

The previous maximum punishment for breaking the quarantine protocols - six months in prison and a fine of CI\$1,000 - was hiked to two years in jail and a penalty of CI\$10,000 shortly before the Skylar Mack incident.

While no one has yet been punished to the full extent allowable under the law, with cases increasing and over 1,000 persons in quarantine speculation is running high that further incidents of people breaking the rules and circulating among the public could put pressure on the government and the courts to impose harsher sentences.

There's also growing concern in the community over new variants of the virus which are more contagious and transmissible than the first COVID-19 strain that caused global pandemic.

While there are no reports of these turning up here(yet?), their rapid spread in the UK where limited flights are still operating to Cayman is cause for anxiety.

Several countries have already banned travel from the UK or are demanding that travellers present proof of being COVID-free before they are allowed to enter their borders.

In his Christmas message posted on his Facebook page, HE Governor Martyn Roper, stated:



"We end the year with rising concern about Covid due to the new strain discovered in the UK. The good news is that it does not appear to be more dangerous and the vaccines are still likely to be highly effective against it."

"There is no need for knee-jerk reactions on incoming flights," he assured "as we have some of the most stringent protocols in place to protect our community anywhere in the world."

The first batch of vaccines from the UK is expected in Cayman early January with a national voluntary vaccination campaign due to start shortly thereafter.

The UK itself grappling with a serious second wave of the pandemic and most parts of the country have again been placed under intensified restrictions bordering on complete lockdowns in some areas.

More than 70,000 people in the UK have now died within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test.

The picture is equally grim in the United States where deaths have exceeded 330,000 in the midst of a new spike and infections are also spiralling with over 18 million confirmed cases.

COVI-19 is also taking its toll in the Caribbean where over 5,500 deaths have been attributed to the virus with presently over 385,000 cases.

Globally, by the end of 2020 the COVID-19 statistics are staggering; over 76 million cases and close to 17 million deaths.

In his 2020 Christmas message Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin credited his government's tough decisions to place Cayman under lockdown while providing a range of support packages for residents and businesses "that today we are able to live our lives with relative ease."

He also said government action had prevented a community spread and a resurgence of the virus in Cayman that many of the jurisdiction's neighbours are experiencing.

Amidst the gloom of COVID-19 in 2020, heading into 2021 is the fact that there is a high recovery rate and the availability of new vaccines is reason to be optimistic.

The challenge is to rebuild economies and return to some semblance of life as normal.

Another silver lining is seen in a rethink of the way we do business.

The pandemic has resulted in significant adjustment in the way the world does business and the way we conduct our lives.

With communications tech at the forefront it seems that instead of only returning to normal, we could be entering a tech-driven state of altered normality.

For 2021, a new normal beckons.

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► Graduates of Cohort 31 and 32, along with all the people who helped make this year a really big success

Passport2Success celebrates 10th anniversary

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Machines has been supporting the programme by taking on interns since the programme began: “We typically have some of the students come with us for work experience, and we’ve seen plenty of students go a long way over the years. I wanted to support it because its very important to help young Caymanians help young Caymanians learn their way around an office, and to learn the business acumen and understand what is important, and how to behave in an office atmosphere. We are trying to help them get the business skills they need so when they do go out into the business community to obtain a job they understand what may be expected from them.”

Abigail Turner, one student Cohort 31 and also an intern at PBS Cayman Business Machines said, “I’ve enjoyed the experience of being an intern, and how much it helped me to improve for the future. Claudina Morgan, 19, said “I enjoyed being an intern because I get to help customers. It helped me to gain more confidence because before I was rather a shy person and I didn’t very much like to talk to people.

Sabrina Suberan of Cohort 32 said, “Passport2Success was a very good experience, and I had fun I enjoyed all the lessons and the teachers are so loving. I got the opportunity to do job shadowing, experience the working world and talking and experiencing different things and being able to see how it is.”



► Jade Seymour



► Andrew Suberan with his three certificates of achievement, and wearing a hat that was included in his gift bag from Kirk Freeport

HSA Holiday Hours 2020

The Cayman Islands Health Services Authority (HSA) would like to advise its patients and visitors of the following Christmas holiday hours:



- **Accident & Emergency** remains open 24 hours throughout the holiday season.

- **Cayman Islands Hospital Pharmacy** - Open Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day 8:00am - 5:30pm. Pharmacy will resume regular working hours (weekdays 8:00am- 6:00pm and weekends 8:00am - 5:30pm) after the holidays.

- **Smith Road Pharmacy** - Open Saturday 26th and Monday 28th December from 9:00am to 4:30pm. Closed Christmas Day and Sunday December 27th.

- **General Practice Clinic** - Open regular hours December 24th and December 31st (7:30am to 8:00pm). Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day.

- **Acute Care Clinic** (located in the General Practice Building) - Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day.

December 24th & 31st, remains open until 8:00pm for Walk-in clinic.

- **Public Health Clinic** - Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day. December 24th & 31st, closes early 1:00pm.

- **Flu Clinic** - Closed at 1:00pm December 24th & 31st (patients will be seen at the General Practice Clinic after 1:00pm). Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day.

- **District Health Centres** - Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day. East End & North Side District Health Centres close at 1:00pm December 24th & 31st; Bodden Town & West Bay Health Centres close at 3:00pm December 24th & 31st.

All regular clinic hours resume January 2, 2021.

Community Notices

Customs Operating Hours

Customs & Border Control Service Visa Office and Extension Counters and Enforcement/Asylum Unit Closes on Thursday, 31 December at 12:00 p.m. and resume regular operations on Monday, January 4, 2021 (8.30am to 4:00pm for the Collections Office and 8:30am to 5:00pm for the Courier Office). The Collections Office, however, will be open on Saturday January 2, 2021 from 8:30am - 12:00pm. CBC's seaport and airport operations will remain open throughout Christmas and New Year's.

Passport Closure

The Passport & Corporate Services Office will close on Thursday, 31st December at 12:30pm.

Department of Commerce and Investment's Grand Cayman Closure

The Department of Commerce and Investment's Grand Cayman Office will be closed on December 31st at 12pm.

WORC Closure

For New Year's Eve, WORC will close on Thursday, 31 December at 11:30 am and will reopen in the New Year with normal business hours on Monday, 4 January 2021 at 9:00 am.

Court Office Closure

The Court Office will close at noon on December 31st for all but emergency sessions.

National Attraction Closures

Pedro St. James and the Botanic Park will close at noon on December 31st.

Cayman National Cultural Foundation - Come sing with us!

CNCF is inviting interested singers to join the C.I. National Folk Singers. You must be able to attend rehearsals on Tuesday evenings, and participate in four or five performances per year. For more information, email info@artscayman.org today!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Museum Featured Exhibition - Things I got for Christmas Ongoing

Enjoy an eclectic collection of Toys from early 1900s through the 1980s. The exhibit features an extensive display of Caymanian Dolls and Dolls from around the World, collectible bears, and other boys' toys from the Virginia Foster Collection. The exhibit is augmented with a small number of early toys from the Museum's collection and a 1957 handmade wood Grater and 1950s Stucco truck on loan from Tony Powell. A traditional Cayman sisal Christmas tree and apple complete the period display of things Cayman.

The National Museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm.

Telephone 345-949-8368 or email info@museum.ky for more information.

New Year's Eve Fireworks at Camana Bay

31 December - Ring out the old and welcome 2021 with a bang! The fireworks show at The Cres-

cent, Camana Bay will begin at 8pm.

St. Ignatius Catholic Church - New Year's Mass Schedule

31 December - Mass times are 6:00pm and 11:00pm on Thursday 31st. at St. Ignatius. There will be Thanksgiving Eucharistic Adoration at 10pm.

On Friday 1 January, Mass is at 8:00am at St. Ignatius and 9:45am at Christ the Redeemer, West Bay.

John Gray Memorial Church - Watchnight Service

31 December - Watchnight Service will be held at the John Gray Memorial Church on Thursday Dec 31st. at 11:00 p.m.

St. George's Watch Night

31 December - St. George's Anglican Church is hosting Watch Night and Feast of the Holy Name Service on December 31st at 11pm.

Lives in Lockdown - A virtual Exhibition

1 January - 31 March - The National Gallery, in collaboration

with the CI Government, is launching a new virtual exhibition in January 2021. The exhibition will showcase the community's diverse experience of lockdown. Selected photographs from the exhibition will be published in the Cayman Islands Covid 19 Commemorative Publication, a project of the CI Government.

Service of Holy Communion at St Albans Church of England

3 January - All are invited to attend a Service of Holy Communion which will be held on Sunday, January 3rd, at St. Albans Church of England on Shedden Road at 9:30am. The Right Reverend Dr. PJ Lawrence, Bishop, will be the guest celebrant. All persons are requested to wear masks. Other safety protocols will also be in place.

Music at the Library

7 January - Cayman Arts Festival and Cayman Islands Public Library Services presents "Music at the Library" at the George Town Public Library featuring Bella



Rooney on vocals and James Brake on piano. This event begins at 6pm and admission is CI\$20 for adults and CI\$5 for students. Tickets are also available at the door. For more information, call 922 - 5550 or email enquiries@caymanarts-festival.com.

CI Chamber of Commerce - Business Workshops

12 & 14 January - The Chamber of Commerce is hosting 2 workshops in early January 2021. Time Management & Productivity on 12 January is a half-day workshop includes practical applications and time saving activities to assist you in learning how to make the most of your time by getting a grip on your workflow, planning and prioritising accordingly and delegating effectively.

Immigration: Work Permits (BVP's, TWP's and RERC's) will be

held on 14 January. This is a four-hour course is intended to detail the full range of options under which a non-Caymanian can lawfully "engage in gainful occupation in the Islands", with the emphasis on private sector employment. Exemptions from the Work Permit regime, all categories of Work Permits, Business Visitors Visas, and RERC's (whether as the spouse of a Caymanian or a Permanent Resident) will be addressed. Also covered are Certificates of Direct Investment, Specialist Carers Certificates, and 25 year Residency (Substantial Business Presence) Certificates. Visit the website caymanchamber.ky or call 949 - 8090 for more information.

Send your community events to wendy@caymaniantimes.ky

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RCIPS: Enhancing their community image

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

are not the enemy. The enemy is all the things that destroy homes, property, and ruin lives. The Police are here as your friend.

Police are people who care. That is often why they feel the calling to be a police officer in the first place. In the first of a series of fortnightly features designed to inform the public about the growing role of the police as custodians of community safety and help, Acting Superintendent Brad Ebanks met with Ralph Lewis of the Caymanian Times.

Carwash for kids' meals

The RCIPS Community Policing Unit is celebrating the completion of their fundraising car wash campaign, which began in August and concluded in November. The initiative saw Community Police Officers and Community Safety Officers conducting car washes at each of the government primary schools in Grand Cayman. The funds raised during each car wash were then donated directly to each school to help with kids meals.

Explaining how the programme got started, Officer Ebanks said, "One of our community policing officers could personally relate to it, because when he was a young kid he faced those situations where on occasion food was scarce, and so he was instrumental in starting it. It's actually surprising

how many kids come to school hungry, and it has a domino effect because if a child is hungry it means they can't concentrate properly. If they don't do well at school and they don't get an education, then they become our problem, because and more than likely they turn to crime."

Breaking down walls

Often, it's about breaking down the walls that separate communities from the police. "Front line policing is extremely busy so they very seldom gets the chance to embrace that opportunity, but the CPD (Community Policing Department) really bridges that gap and the schools too have developed a personal relationship with the community officers."

More involvement in schools

"Something for us to look forward to in the future is we would like to get a school liaison officer for each Government school, so you have that level of respect and relationship is grown for a long time from where the child is small," Mr. Ebanks said.

Christmas and New Year dangers

Christmas is a very busy time with shoppers often shopping late and businesses open late too. So the police have stepped up their visibility in those places, to help reassure the shoppers and the businesses alike that they



► Community Officers Washing Car

are looking out for them, Officer Ebanks said.

In addition, of course, people are out celebrating at Christmas time. "Our traffic department we have ramped up our enforcement and presence there as well. We see speeding and drunk driving as our two most serious offences to tackle. "This year we have 3,945 speeding offences that is compared to

3,118 last year." There have been ten fatalities on the road this year which, of course, is ten too many. Each serious accident ruins lives and families, and the hope is to get a message out to try and change the driving culture of Cayman.

Neighbourhood Watch

One of the ways the police are getting more involved is

with grassroots community programmes, such as Neighborhood Watch groups which police officers help to start. "The officer maintains a role in the neighborhood watch program where they have that officer as a contact if something happens. We don't manage it, but we remain a part of it and are involved in the meetings," Officer Ebanks said.

DG's 5k Annual Event Postponed Until 2021

The Deputy Governor Hon Franz Manderson has announced today that the annual DG's 5k event will be postponed until 2021.

Originally scheduled for April 2020, the event was initially postponed when Covid-19 arrived in the Cayman Islands. With the on-going Covid-19 global pandemic, the Cayman Islands continues to navigate public health concerns, reopening of borders safely, helping the economy recover, and getting people back to work. Given the current situation, and with the current gathering regulations capped at five hundred (500) people, the Deputy Governor has made the decision to postpone this year's event until 2021. The annual event generally counts over 2000 runners, walkers, and supporters of all ages.

The Civil Service will continue its charitable efforts this year through the CIG Cares initiative which has been providing assistance to the Needs Assessment Unit's grocery voucher programme, and was expanded in November and December to include charities that have been selected by the Civil Service. CIG Cares aims to help ensure that all residents are able to have access to food. With the ongoing impact of Covid-19, many families are choosing between what responsibilities they can meet and oftentimes food purchase is



sacrificed. By donating to CIG Cares, Civil Servants will help with this great need.

For more information on CIG Cares visit: www.explore.gov.ky/community-covid19

The DG's 5K Challenge 2020 theme Helping Today – Protecting Tomorrow will remain when the event returns in 2021, as well as chosen charities which include the Cayman Islands Cancer Society (CICS), The Alzheimer's and Dementia Association of the Cayman Islands (ADACI) and The MS Foundation of the Cayman Islands.

The Deputy Governor selected these charitable organisations because their programmes have a wide reaching tangible effect on the community.

"We are saddened to postpone the highly anticipated DG's 5k Challenge 2020, as we know these charities are always in need of the community's support, but we have all agreed the safety of the community must take precedence. We are excited about next year however, and the planning committee is still working hard to deliver the very best event in 2021. Together, we really can help today and protect tomorrow," said Deputy Governor, Mr Franz Manderson, Cert Hon, JP.

Tentative dates have been set for the community to mark in the calendars:

- Sunday April 11, 2021 – Cayman Brac
- Sunday April 18, 2021 – Little Cayman
- Sunday April 25, 2021 – Grand Cayman

Notifications for the opening of registration will be announced in early 2021.

Young Caymanian Serves His Community and Achieves Academic Goals at YMCA

For over 175 years YMCAs around the world have focused on youth development by providing safe places and programmes for youth and young adults to build their character and leadership skills for the future. Danner Taylor, who hails from West Bay, is one of those young people. The 25-year old Caymanian is pursuing his passion for working with youth and sports and career aspirations in the

financial field all in one place as an intern with the Y.

Mr. Taylor first joined the YMCA in 2015 as both a Day Camp and After-School Youth Leader, before heading off to Flagler College in 2017 to study Sports Management and Finance. He returned to the Day Camp programme in 2018 and again in 2020; this time for an extended period, as he was not able to return to school to finish his last

semester due to COVID-19. Fortunately, for both he and the Y, he obtained approval from his university for a 500+ hour internship to complete his final credits.

Known at Y camp as 'Keeper', Danner is a former Cayman Islands Men's National Team Goalkeeper, and current Elite SC player. Over the past few months, Taylor has learned various components of sports management by designing and implementing a football programme for both High School and Primary School students in the Extended After-School Programme (EASP). Outside of sports, Danner's short-term professional goal is to begin a career in corporate finance. Over the past few months, when not teaching youth the sport of football, Danner has gained experience in finance and operations by serving as an intern in the YMCA's Business Office.

"The YMCA has been thrilled to provide a space for this young Caymanian to explore diverse career areas in youth development, sport, programme management and finance," said Gillian Smith, Y Executive Director. "Danner has been serving as a role model for youth at the Y for the past five years, and is proof that individuals can pursue their passion, find their purpose and have a meaningful career at the Y. Our hope is that other ambitious, community-minded young people like Danner will consider joining the Y family and dedicating their talents back to their community."

"My experience with the Y as an intern has been very fulfilling. I have learned so much. I strengthened my planning skills and realised the importance of a well-developed sports curriculum. I know now that I can accomplish a lot if I have confidence in myself and communicate my ideas to the right people," said Mr. Taylor. "I appreciate the Y giving me the opportunity to achieve my potential and for treating everyone in the organisation like family."

A John Gray High School graduate, Mr. Taylor hopes to pursue a master's degree in finance in fall of 2021. Until then, he wants to gain work experience in either corporate finance or investments. After completing his studies, his ultimate goal is to combine his sport management and finance degrees to help accelerate sports in the Cayman Islands to a preeminent level in the Caribbean; he believes that the Cayman Islands has the resources to turn sport into a career for many and continue to grow its reputation as a sports tourism destination.

Besides football Mr. Taylor is also interested in art and interior renovation, and spends his free time doing canvas paintings and exploring his creativity by designing and renovating areas of his family house.

For more information about job opportunities at the YMCA visit www.ymcacayman.ky, email info@ymcacayman.ky or call 926.9622.



CUC's New Year's Closures

On **Thursday, December 31**, our Customer Service Centre at our Administrative Offices on North Sound Road will close at **noon** for New Year's. This office will reopen for business on **Monday, January 4, 2021** at 8:30 a.m.

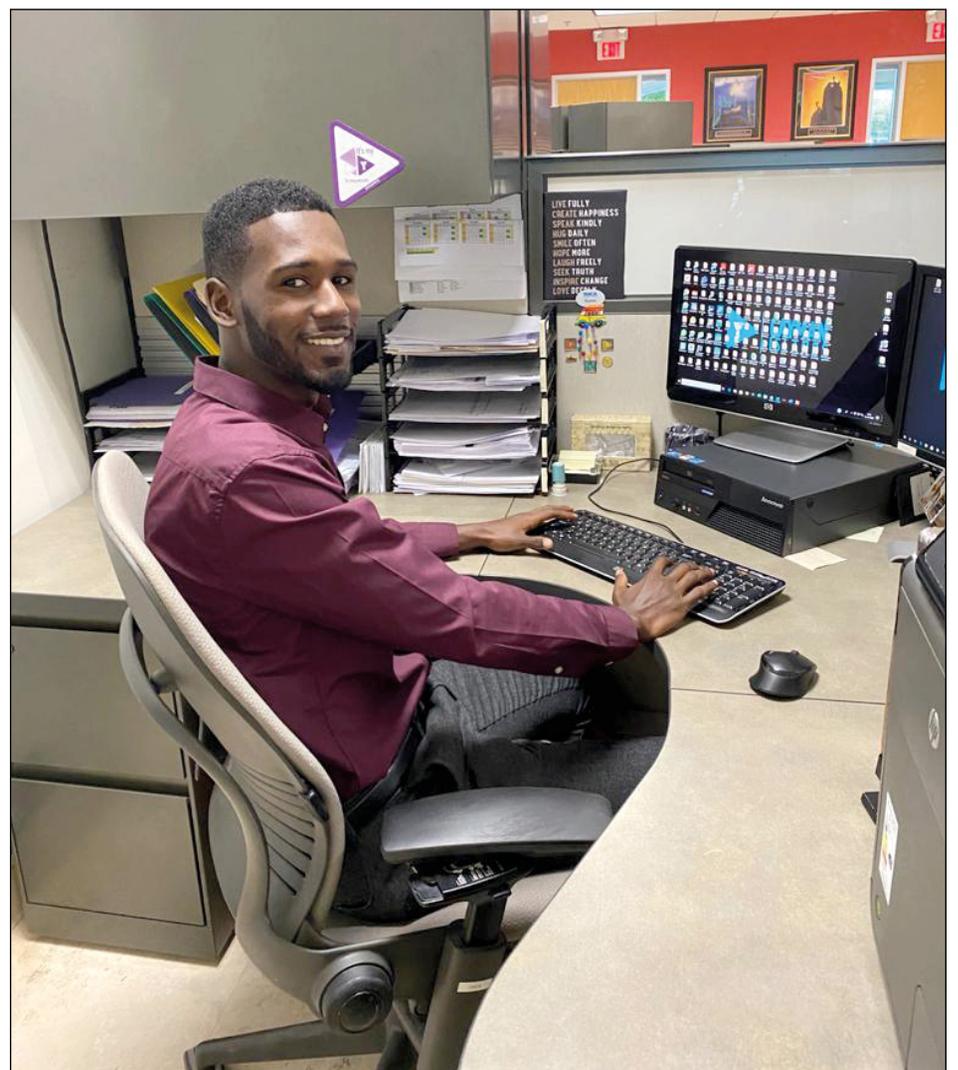
Gift Certificates from CUC that can be used towards paying electricity bills are available in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 from our Customer Service Centre.

Visit www.cuc-cayman.com for a complete list of our online bill payment options. Bill payments can be made at our payment locations across Grand Cayman during their respective holiday hours.

Warmest wishes for a safe and happy New Year!



Contact 911
in the event of an
electrical emergency



► Danner Taylor, former Cayman Islands Men's National Team Goalkeeper, and current Elite SC player. Known at Y camp as 'Keeper'.

Seven Mile Beach developer launches latest project

Following in the footsteps of Lacovia's owners, the owners of Aqua Bay Club on Seven Mile Beach have agreed to tear down the existing structure of their condominiums and rebuild a brand-new building, to be renamed Aqua Bay.

Built in 1987, Aqua Bay Club was a development by Brian Butler, a prolific developer of the location. Now, the Butler Group will again be responsible for the building of this new set of condominiums on the location of its predecessor. As a result of the new building, each existing owner will get a new villa, plus there will be a limited number of further villas and four sky villa penthouses for sale. All the villas will be sold exclusively by James Bovell at RE/MAX Cayman Islands.

Brian Butler of Butler Group said he was thrilled to be partnering with the owners of Aqua Bay on this exciting new development project.

"We are proud to have been involved in the evolution of Seven Mile Beach over the last forty-four years and feel that Aqua Bay will set the standards for development going forward," he said.

Application for planning permission will be presented to the Central Planning Authority in the new year.

James Bovell said it was a privilege to work with Brian Butler and the entire Butler Group, as well as the current owners of Aqua Bay Club on this exciting new development," adding that Butler Group has developed some of the most iconic developments in Grand Cayman.

Mr Bovell said the new Aqua Bay would set a new standard on Seven Mile Beach.

In keeping with many of the new builds on Seven Mile Beach in recent years, this will be a luxury set of condominiums with features such as expansive floor to ceiling windows, private terraces, exceptional living and amenity spaces. Each villa has three bedrooms, three full bathrooms, a powder room, kitchen with wet bar, a home office, laundry room, and two private terraces.

Four Sky Villa Penthouses will ramp up the luxurious offering, with 4,670 sq. ft. to 4,905 sq. ft. spread over two levels, with a top floor Sky Deck, a spacious patio area with a heated private pool, all of which will be facing Seven Mile Beach plus a large, covered dining area, outdoor kitchen, bathroom, storage, and a large Sunrise Deck looking over North Sound to Cayman Kai and Rum Point.

As an added bonus, each villa will also have a private elevator entryway and only two villas per floor will share an elevator.

The interior design has been developed by Butler Group's award-winning partner company, Design Studio Interiors. The villas will feature 10 ft. high ceilings, superior tile and finish options, top quality plumbing and appliance selections as well as bespoke millwork design for the kitchen, bathrooms, and amenity areas.

Aqua Bay will offer a daily rental programme which owners can use while not in residence, making this building the newest and most luxurious daily rental



► Aqua Bay Club on Seven Mile Beach

destination in Grand Cayman, the developers say.

Further amenities will include a boutique hotel style reception, 90 ft. wide beachfront, waterfall edge pool, extensive pool deck and private beach, two beach-

front BBQ areas for al fresco dining, oceanfront fitness centre, oceanfront owners lounge and games room, on site manager's office, undercover parking for each villa, day room facilities for late checkout options and lush tropical landscape design.

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AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

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\$440 million withdrawn from pensions

Following the amendment to the Pensions Law, which took place earlier this year during the Covid-19 lockdown crisis, people have been withdrawing up to CI\$10,000 of their pension plus up to a quarter of the remaining balance, or the full amount if their pension was a total of CI\$10,000 or less. This has led to CI\$443,464,491.28 having been paid out to pension members to date.

In April the National Pensions (Amendment) Law 2020 law was amended to allow people to make withdrawals from their pension accounts to alleviate the financial strain the pandemic had caused. These funds have allowed the domestic economy to stay afloat while borders have been closed to tourists, effectively stalling one half of Cayman's economy.

Figures just released from the Department of Labour & Pension, based on sta-

tistics received from the pension plan administrators, showed that 46,888 pension withdrawal applications had so far been received of which more than 36,000 applications were approved and 9,909 were rejected. The peak of applications was received in May, totaling 25,596.

People were able to withdraw from their pension plans up to 31st October of this year, after which time their pension funds were no longer accessible under the amendment to the law. The final statistics for the withdrawals over the six-month period will be available in early January.

The Government has also allowed employers and employees not to pay pensions from 1st April until the end of the year, however financial advisors say it is always wise to maintain pension payments if at all possible.



Pension Holiday Period Extended for an Additional 6 Months

To further aid in the rebound of the Cayman economy and to alleviate the financial strain the pandemic has had on industries, the National Pensions (Amendment) Act 2020, in accordance with section 1(3) of that Law relating to the pension holiday, has been extended for an additional 6 months.

Cabinet has granted an approval for a further extension of the pension holiday period now to expire on 30 June 2021, during which time all employers and em-

ployees will not be required to pay into pension plans.

Contact dlp@gov.ky for further information or with any questions.



MP MILLER DEMANDS REMOVAL OF CONVICTED SPEAKER BUSH

Independent Member of Parliament (MP) for North Side, Ezzard Miller, has set a Christmas Eve deadline for the government to set in motion the removal of Speaker of Parliament, McKeever Bush.

In a statement, Mr Miller puts the onus initially on Premier Alden McLaughlin and the Unity government, "to please do the right thing for Caymanians and Cayman and to publicly ask the Speaker to resign by December 24, 2020."

His demand follows the December 21st conviction and suspended sentence imposed on Speaker Bush on several assault charges.

"In the event that the Speaker does not comply, the Premier should exercise the option of convening a Special Meeting of Parliament to remove the Speaker and to have him replaced with a someone other than a currently serving Member of Parliament," Mr Miller says.

"Considering all the circumstances," he adds, "I urge that this meeting be convened on the first working day of the new year (January 4, 2021)."

Mr Miller cites the Cayman Islands Penal Code as the basis for his call for the Speaker's removal while questioning what he sees as the leniency of the sentence.

Mr Bush was given a suspended sentence for two years on assault four charges with penalties of two months on each count plus a 60-day 6pm to 6am curfew along with a CI\$700 court fine and CI\$4,279 compensation to the female bar manager with whom he was involved in the February altercation.

"Given (i) the provisions of the Cayman Islands Penal Code, under which a person convicted for offences such as 'common assault' and 'assault causing bodily harm' is liable for imprisonment, respectively, for one year (section #215) and for five years (section #216), and (ii) the Speaker's original plea of 'not guilty', with a guilty plea not forthcoming until all of six months later, the sentence handed down by the Magistrate is, to say the least, disappointing," the North Side MP argues.

Mr Miller has also expressed disappointment with comments from Premier Alden McLaughlin on the issue.

The Premier had said: "The government will have to take time to consider the matter but what I will say about that is that there may or may not be another meeting of the House (Parliament) before the house is dissolved in March.



► Independent Member of Parliament for North Side, Ezzard Miller

"I am not sure that the country will be well served now by my taking action now which precipitates the collapse of the government and the holding of early elections," Mr McLaughlin reasoned.

In response, Mr Miller said he takes "strong issue with this position of the Premier from a number of points of view."

"Further," he added, "I do not think that his stated prediction on the end results necessarily obtains."

By the North Side MP's calculation, "Currently there are eleven members on the Government bench and seven members on the Opposition bench (five in the Official Opposition).

"If the Speaker is removed, even if fellow West Bay representative MP Capt. Eugene Ebanks does opt to 'cross the aisle' to join him, there will still be ten on the Government bench. Further, eight Members cannot bring down the Government."

Mr Miller also says he would not participate in a vote to remove the Government, a decision which he says he has coveted to the Premier both privately and in his public statements.

"Nevertheless," he insists, "I remain firmly committed to the view that we must as a matter of urgency set about repairing the breach created by the reprehensible actions and consequent conviction of the Speaker and that now further threatens to damage our Islands' reputation locally and internationally."

Mr Miller says he considers this "a matter of greatest priority and importance for maintaining the moral rectitude of one of our three branches of the Cayman Islands Government.

"We must maintain the values for civility, integrity and respect for our laws and rules for which our governing institutions and the Cayman Islands have always so proudly stood and exemplified," he concludes.

OBJECTIONS MOUNT AGAINST BRAC HELICOPTER BASE

By Staff Writer

A project to establish a helicopter base on Cayman Brac has run into strong opposition from many residents, property owners and environmental organisations.

The Swiss-based company, Daggaro which promotes itself as “saving and protecting lives through airpower and technology” is behind the operation for what has been described as an aviation base on the Brac.

But concerns are mounting especially over the risks to the pristine island's fragile and important ecosystem, impact on tourism, property value and quality of life.

Daggaro, which has been granted planning approval by the government has already been advertising for an Operations Director for its planned Cayman operations.

It describes itself as “a seasoned start-up” aviation and aerospace services company located in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.

Daggaro says it specialises in pioneering emerging technologies through the exploitation and development of manned and unmanned aircraft, in three principal areas; a rotary- and fixed-wing operation, contract Intelligence Surveillance & Reconnaissance (ISR), and training for operators engaged in multiple domain environments.

It also lists medical evacuation, disaster management, aviation logistics and handling specialised air cargo among its services.

It's been reported that powerful Blackhawk helicopters will also be based on the Brac.

PLANS RUN INTO TURBULENCE

But there's considerable scepticism over basing that type of operation on Cayman Brac.

The Cayman Brac Chapter of the National Trust, as well as the National Trust on Grand Cayman, are reported to be planning protests against the development.

Formal appeals have been submitted to the government objecting to the plan and a meeting attended by some 40 residents



has also underlined the growing objections to the project.

In addition to objections by the organisations, property owners are also lobbying the government to review the application.

In a strongly-worded letter, the owners of Leitch Homestead, LLC say “the resolution to grant planning permission with very few meaningful conditions is an unsatisfactory result to this aesthetic, ecological and environmental assault on the tranquility of Cayman Brac.”

The letter which calls for a review of the Cayman Islands Cadastral Survey, also challenges a statement attributed to a Daggaro representative that ‘we chose to live near the airport’.

Leitch Homestead says such a remark “rings hollow as the family has owned and lived on the property since well before the establishment of the airport.”

ENVIRONMENT AND WAY OF LIFE THREATENED

The letter goes on to list a series of other concerns including that the Daggaro project “would raze the only remaining remnant of tropical dry forest in the Brac's far West End” which includes a children's playground and trails.

“The impact of Black Hawk helicopters on the family-friendly nature of the West End Community Park will be detrimental as gatherings like picnics, birthday parties, outdoor concerts, and exercise regimens are interrupted by the noise levels of these machines,” it says.

It addresses the likely impact on tourism stating that the Daggaro project will most certainly ruin first impressions for tourists arriving on our island.”

“Instead of verdant green forested areas, the view will be concrete and barbed wire-topped fences.”

The risk to flora and fauna on the island is also of great concern, especially for endangered species, the detailed submission points out.

“Prior to approval of the Daggaro project, an environmental assessment by experts in the field of reptile conservation should be commissioned.”

“Given the small size and proximity of the Sister Islands, especially at the West End, helicopter and drone activity anywhere on the islands, regardless of where the aviation equipment is housed, would be disruptive to the nesting colonies and other birdlife.”

They also argue that the conditions placed on Daggaro to retain native vegetation where possible and incorporated into the landscaping scheme will not guide this company to preserve the natural plants and trees.

“The term ‘where possible’ gives license to the company to raze this West End property without consequence.”

Noise pollution, the loss of historical sites are also worrisome issues.

“Another tragedy is the loss of historical sites as a result of this project. The historic West End Turtle Kraal will be destroyed by the proposed development. Our national symbol is the turtle. Why would the planning board allow the destruction of such an important historic site?” they question.

GOVERNMENT URGED TO RECONSIDER

The National Trust of the Cayman Islands and the National Conservation

Council have issued strong objections to the location of this project.

The owners of the nearby properties say they believe these national organisations who are entrusted with the responsibility to protect and preserve our natural and historical legacy should be heard.



They also state that “the Planning Board and the Cayman Islands Government should respect the loss of property values that will occur if this development moves forward.”

“What does the law require in restitution when a person's property value is reduced?” they ask.

In a separate objection, Diane Leitch Anglim writes from the United States:

“As a person with Caymanian Status and member of a family with property within 100 feet of the Daggaro project, I am writing to you to submit my deep objection to the approval of this project.”

She also expresses concern about the environmental impact on the Brac's “rare and unusual flora and fauna – many of which only grow in Cayman Brac! And then, of course, the Rock Iguana which is so endangered.”

Her letter also shares concerns about the impact on tourism for Sister Island.

“It is hard to understand why such a project like this would be approved which will endanger the very industry that is so vital to the economy of Cayman Brac.”

“It goes against how the Island is marketed to the world as “a nature lover's paradise”, Diane Anglim says in her letter, adding that “I understand the Government's interest in bringing development projects to the Island but this is the wrong project.”



APPEAL COURT CUTS MACK/RAMGEET SENTENCE BY HALF

The American teenager Skylar Mack has had her prison sentence for breaching Cayman's strict COVID-19 quarantine protocols cut by half on appeal.

An appeal court hearing today, just a week after she was sentenced to four months in prison, reduced the sentence to two months.

This followed a previous appeal in the case brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions who successfully argued that the original penalty of 40-hours community service and a fine of CI\$2,600 was too lenient.

That appeal resulted in her and Vanjae Ramgeet, named as her boyfriend - and who was found guilty of aiding and abetting - being both sentenced to individual four-month custodial sentences.

While the original sentence was appealed by the DPP on the grounds that it was too lenient, there has been a campaign led by the main appellant Mack's family in the United States, that the four-month prison term was too harsh.

There is wide sentiment in Cayman in favour of a tougher sentence. The maximum sentence currently is CI\$10,000 and two years in prison.

The previous sentence, before the change in the law, was a maximum of six months behind bars and a fine of CI\$1,000.

The case which has been very much in the public eye in Cayman has attracted considerable US and international media attention driven by the campaign of her family in America, led by her grandmother.

On Monday, just one day before Tuesday's Appeal Court hearing, Skylar Mack's family appealed to US President Donald Trump to intervene.

While there has been no reported reaction from President Trump, his



► Skylar Mack

son Eric Trump tweeted his support calling the matter "infuriating" and questioning the sentence.

"This is infuriating," he wrote. "Skylar is an 18 year old girl who left her hotel to watch her boyfriend compete in a jet ski competition... 4 months in jail?!"

He ended the tweet with the hashtag "FreeSkylar."

Skylar Mack and Vanjae Ramjeet were in court on Tuesday during the appeal.

Publication of the judgement is pending.

Skylar Mack, a student from Georgia, arrived in Cayman on November 27th and went into self-isolation for 14 days following the standard protocols.

During that time she was found to have removed the geo-fencing bracelet persons in quarantine are required to wear and left her residence to watch Ramgeet compete in a jet ski contest.

Both mingled with the crowd when Mack should have been in quarantine in breach of the regulations.

Consequently, they were arrested and confined to a government-managed quarantine facility.

POLICE NEWS

Police Investigate Fatal Stabbing on Canal Point Drive

Just after 2:20AM on Thursday 24 December, police and other emergency services were dispatched to Canal Point Drive, George Town where it was reported that a man was found bleeding and unresponsive in the parking lot of the Strand.

The 22-year-old Michael Aaron Bush of West Bay, was believed to have suffered from multiple stab wounds and was transported by ambulance to the Cayman Islands Hospital for treatment. He was believed to have been in a critical and life-threatening condition. Just af-



ter 4:45AM, while he was being treated at the hospital, he was pronounced dead by the attending doctor.

The investigation has led investigators to believe that just before the incident took place, at

about 2AM, there was a disturbance outside the clubs of the Strand and both parties involved ran out into the parking lot. Additionally, investigators are also aware that there were over 20 persons in the area immediately after the incident took place.

One Man Arrested on Suspicion of Murder

Just after 8:30PM on Saturday 26 December, a 20-year-old man of George Town surrendered to the Cayman Islands Detention Centre in relation to the fatal stabbing incident that took place on Thursday 24 December. The man was arrested on suspicion of murder and remains in police custody pending further enquiries as the murder investigation continues.

Detective Inspector Dave Morrison, who is the Senior Investigating Officer for this murder investigation, thanks the public for their support and assistance. DI Morrison continues to encourage witnesses who were present at the location to call the MIR at 649-2930 with information to assist the investigation and ensures that your calls will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

"I commend the investigating team and all the supporting units who have been assisting with this investigation so far," says Superintendent Peter Lansdown in charge of the Criminal Investigations Department, "The officers have been out in numbers over the holidays to ensure that the investigation progresses as diligently and swiftly as possible. We will continue to do the same as the investigation progresses."



"We are depending on the people who were present to come forward and speak with the police. We know there was a large crowd at the location; however, we have not had any witnesses come forward with information that could potentially assist the investigation" says Detective Superintendent Peter Lansdown in charge of Criminal Investigations, "We cannot be successful in bring offenders to justice without the cooperation of the community. The problem of violent crime affects us all and we all need to work together to solve it."

Additionally, anonymous tips may be provided directly to the RCIPS Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777, or via our website. Tips can also be submitted anonymously via the Miami-based call centre of Crime Stoppers at 800-8477(TIPS), or online.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2020, HAZARDS TO AVIATION

As we enter the Christmas season the Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands (CAACI) would like to remind the public of the risks to aviation and public safety in general which come from the flying of small unmanned aircraft (also known as drones or unmanned aerial vehicles) kites, sky lanterns and firework displays which are received as presents or used as a part of the holiday festivities.

Small Unmanned Aircraft

Each operator is legally responsible for the safe conduct of each flight. Prior to each flight be sure that your drone is undamaged and all components are working. Drones must be kept within your direct sight at all times and it is your responsibility for avoiding collisions with other peo-

ple or objects. Do not fly your unmanned aircraft in any way that could endanger people or property.

As a protective measure, "no-fly" zones, were introduced in February 2015 and it is illegal to fly an unmanned aircraft within 3 nautical miles of Owen Roberts International Airport (Grand Cayman), Charles Kirkconnell International Airport (Cayman Brac) and Edward Bodden Airfield (Little Cayman) without a specific written permission issued by the CAACI. In addition, a "no fly" zone has also been established around HM Prison Northward and it is illegal to fly an unmanned aircraft within 1 nautical mile of the Prison perimeter without the specific written permission of the Director of Prisons.

To operate your drone/SUA for commercial purposes, the operator must be in possession of a current permission issued by the CAACI. Permission will ensure the competence of the operator to provide a safe service and will require him/her to be medically fit and hold "adequate third-party liability insurance". Any organisation or individual undertaking commercial aerial work without such permission required may be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3,400. The application for a Permission to undertake aerial work should be made on the application form which can be found at the following link: <https://www.caacayman.com/wpcontent/uploads/forms/Small%20Unmanned%20Aircraft%20Operation%20Application.pdf>



Any company requesting the use of a drone/SUA for aerial footage for commercial purposes should ensure that the operator is approved by the CAACI. A full list of all approved drone operators can be found here: <https://www.caacayman.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/SUAOperators.pdf>

The CAACI is responsible to the Governor, for the oversight of the use of Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA)/drones in the Cayman Islands as identified in the legislation of the Air Navigation (Overseas Ter-

Spreading Christmas cheer in Savannah

Savannah Seniors Christmas Party

By Christopher Tobutt

Everyone feels like Christmas really has come when Heather Bodden and the hard working volunteers of the Savannah/Newlands Development Action Committee holds their very special Senior Citizens' Christmas Party up at Pedro St. James Castle, and this year marks the 29th year it has been held. It's turned into a wonderful Cayman Christmas tradition. "We have been hosting it now at Pedro St James Castle for the last 4 years," Miss Bodden said. "They have been tremendous to us and we really appreciate this venue which they provide at no charge to offer us this beautiful location. The courtyard is always beautifully decorated by their staff."

It's a big and wonderful get-together for the seniors, and this year around 150 came to see their friends, and have a lovely Christmas dinner. Santa was there too, and each guest had a Christmas present, which were set all around a great big beautiful Christmas tree, just like one huge family. Oh and this year Santa was being helped by 'Mrs Claus,' a.k.a Miss Cayman Universe, Mariah Tibbetts. Mr. and Mrs Claus were going around having photos ("Elvies,") of guests taken "I'm just supporting our community as Miss Cayman and these are very valuable members of our community so I think this is a really great thing," Ms Tibbetts said.

"We have all of our volunteers out tonight," Ms Bodden said. That's at least 15 people who have worked hard for weeks in their spare time, preparing for the big party, not to mention all the musicians who gave up their time to lead everyone some



► Lots of fun – taking a picture with Santa

lovely Christmas songs and carols. "We out and buy the gifts, and we take about two days to wrap all the gifts you can see in a circle around the tree. Then we get on the phone and we call all the people that help

us every year with a little funding. Then we set to work with all the preparations for the event. We have to get all the tables and the chairs we have to get the food organized, and the drinks. We have to get the whole nine yards - everything that you see here tonight. But it's worth it because it's really

a magical night, isn't it? Ms Bodden said.

There was a slide presentation of previous Christmas parties, some of the faces and friends from years gone by, and raffles and lovey prizes so that everyone had a great time. Ms Carol Hay has been helping Heather Bodden since the early days, and is one of the founders of the group. Ms Hay organizes all the lovely prizes for the raffle, procuring them from generous organisations who chip in to help. "AL Thompson, Tortuga Rum are the predominant sponsors and they give me gifts every year, and this year the Department of Children and Family Services has helped, too. I started

helping with it because of my friendship with Heather. She needed help because Heather has always started benevolent things she's just a kind, giving person," Ms Hay said.



► Heather Bodden pictured with Miss Cayman Universe, Mariah Tibbetts as Mrs Claus



► Magical time in the Courtyard of Pedro St. James



► Bishop Nicholas takes an Elvie with Mr. and Mrs Claus

Hazards to aviation

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

ritories) Order 2013, Article 73. The above national regulations have been developed for the use of SUA/drones, in keeping with the legislation, and identify the requirements applicable to the operation of these aircraft in the Cayman Islands.

Kites

The flying of kites in the vicinity of airports is potentially dangerous to aircraft particularly during the taking-off and landing phases. Not only is there a risk that the body of the kite could damage the aircraft or be ingested by a jet engine with possibly catastrophic results, but the control lines, sometimes made of high tensile steel wire on performance aerobatic models, can pose a significant hazard to propeller driven aircraft.

Article 71 of the (AN[OT]O 2013) effectively limits the height at which a kite can be flown to a maximum of 100ft above ground level (AGL) within a 3 nautical mile radius of an airport. Beyond this distance, a kite cannot be flown above 200ft AGL within the Cayman Islands.

The rules regulating kite flying may not be generally known and the purpose of this advisory is to provide the necessary

information to allow the public to understand the potential hazards to aviation and to enjoy this recreational activity within the limits established by law.

In order to protect the safety of aircraft, the operators of kites being flown above the heights specified are liable to be prosecuted and may have their equipment confiscated.

Fireworks and Light Displays

Firework displays can vary from small domestic events to major commercial or ceremonial displays whilst light shows include all outdoor laser and searchlight displays. The associated risk posed by these events is increased when the activities take place in the vicinity of aerodromes, particularly during critical phases of flight including approach, landing and take-off. Organizers planning firework and light displays during the coming season are reminded of the legal requirement under Article 165 of the (AN[OT]O 2013) to coordinate their proposed events with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands (CAACI) in order to prevent potential threats to aircraft operations.

Coordination with the CAACI is required for all firework activity that takes place within 3 nautical miles of an airport or under the approach and departure paths. Firework displays outside this area where the display height is expected to exceed 200ft

above ground level must also be coordinated with the CAACI. Proposed laser and searchlight events within the same areas are similarly subject to coordination with and approval by the CAACI.

Firework, Laser and Light displays which come into this category must be formally approved in advance by the CAACI and will incur the appropriate fee, as per the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order Fees Regulation 2010.

Sky Lanterns

Sky Lanterns are forming an increasingly significant part of community and individual celebrations in the Cayman Islands and the number and size of lanterns being released is increasing to a point where they can pose a hazard to aircraft.

Unlike other forms of recreational and celebratory activities including SUA and kite flying, firework displays and laser light shows, all of which can be controlled from the ground, sky lanterns cannot be controlled once released and the larger lanterns, some of which exceed 4ft in height and diameter, are able to climb in the prevailing wind to a height of several thousands of feet.

Many such products are described by the manufacturers or the retailers as being "bio degradable" inferring that they burn themselves out and leave no trace behind them. Whilst this may be true of successful launches over the sea, it is not

necessarily the case of Sky lanterns which are blown back over the land. There are documented incidents in which fires have been started, property destroyed or damaged by the smouldering remains and of livestock injured from digesting bamboo or wire debris.

In addition, the risk to aviation is obvious and although there is currently no legislation in place to regulate the release of sky lanterns the need for caution and careful planning before a launch will be equally obvious.

Any individual or organization planning to release sky lanterns should consider their personal liability in the event that damage to property or injury to humans or animals is caused either by the release of a sky lantern or the debris generated by them.

All enquiries regarding this press release should be addressed to:
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CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Trinidad's trafficking problems worsen

Trinidad and Tobago will impose stiffer penalties on those trafficking migrants from neighbouring Venezuela, after a Venezuelan boat headed to the Caribbean twin-island nation sank, killing at least 28 people last month.

A humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has spurred the mass migration of millions, including to Trinidad and Tobago, where at least 40,000 Venezuelans now live, while dozens have gone missing since vessels they boarded to get there sunk.

Prime Minister Keith Rowley believes Trinidad has more fleeing Venezuelans than any other nation "per square kilometre and per capita" and there would be "new and firmer laws for persons who encourage illegal trade and stiffer penalties for human trafficking".

Meanwhile, the president of the Latin Association of Trinidad and Tobago, David Edghill, believes that Trinidadian businessmen are involved in trading Venezuelans for prostitution and also sale of their organs.

"We have a next issue which is the exploitation, human trafficking, organ harvesting, narco and ammunitions trafficking involving the migrants supported by citizens and businessmen of Trinidad and Tobago," Edghill said just before Christmas.

Edghill claimed Venezuelans are entering the country illegally and rings of illegal activities are happening without consequence.

The Latin Association, he said, is willing to work with authorities to make things better.



► Venezuelans are desperate to settle in Trinidad

Jamaica to allow temporary residency

Jamaica will soon copy other Caribbean countries by introducing one-year temporary residency to foreign nationals.

A submission is soon to be presented to Cabinet for the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA). Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security Dr Horace Chang made the announcement.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Chang noted, an increase in travel to the island is expected. "One of the questions coming out of the pandemic is 'where will I live', and in figuring this out one has to establish residency, which is why PICA is working to establish the temporary residency programme. The impact of that will not only increase demands on the operations of PICA, but



► Montego Bay is an ideal place to settle in Jamaica

will provide an opportunity for foreigners to live and work in Jamaica for one year," he said.

A new office in Montego Bay will enable PICA to provide more immigration and citizenship products to the list of offerings. Additionally, Jamaicans who live in the western parishes will no longer have to travel to Kingston to submit applications.

Barbados welcomes NHS hero Captain Tom

Barbados played host to a special guest - Captain Tom Moore, the 100-year-old veteran soldier who raised millions in England for Britain's National Health Service.

For many years he had heard about "this wonderful country called Barbados" and dreamed of one day visiting its shores.

Well, Captain Sir Tom Moore realised that dream just before Christmas, thanks to Barbados Tourism Marketing and British Airways.

The former British Army officer gained international fame for raising millions of pounds for the NHS during the coronavirus pandemic in the run-up to his 100th birthday.

On April 6, 2020, at the age of 99, he began to walk laps of his garden in aid of NHS Charities Together, with the goal of raising



► Captain Tom Moore and family enjoyed Barbados

£1,000 (KY\$1,100) by his 100th birthday. In the 24-day course of his fundraising, his walk raised over £32.79 million (KY\$38m).

The trip to Barbados represented a tick-off of the World War II veteran's long bucket list. "Barbados is everything I heard it was," Sir Tom said speaking from the veranda of the West Coast villa where he and his family were staying.

Guyana happy with court ruling

President of Guyana, Irfaan Ali has welcomed a ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which stated that it has jurisdiction to hear a dispute between Guyana and Venezuela over the demarcation of their land border, which may ultimately determine which has rights to offshore oil and gas fields.

Ali said when it comes to Guyana's territorial integrity and sovereignty, there is no compromise. Guyana will get a final judgment in its favour reinforcing the 1899 Arbitral award.

He said: "The Court's decision means that international law can be brought to bear to ensure that Guyana's patrimony is preserved."

The matter was taken before the International Court in 2018 under the David



► Guyana's dispute with Venezuela at the Essequibo River border rumbles on

Granger administration. Venezuela's government had argued the international court had no jurisdiction and it prefers direct talks with Guyana over its claims to a huge, sparsely populated area west of the Essequibo River. The court has not yet set a date for arguments on the merits of Guyana's case.

St Kitts has region's lowest virus cases

St Kitts and Nevis boasted the lowest number of coronavirus cases amongst the Caribbean islands when statistics were collated before Christmas. According to MJS & Associates, a company in the British Virgin Islands, statistics show that the dual-island nation has the least severe rate. In a recently published update chart depicting cases in the Caribbean per 10,000 population St Kitts and Nevis has only reported 28 cases with zero deaths. This is a reflection of the government's effective management of the virus since the pandemic began, which included shutting down borders from March to October.



► St Kitts and Nevis has the lowest virus cases in the Caribbean

At the onset of the pandemic, the government moved quickly to ensure the safety of its citizens and the continued support of its economy from providing stimulus package to introducing a waiver of specific payments.

UK-EU BREXIT DEAL - WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE OTs

Sighs of relief are certain to be at least wafting across the British Overseas Territories on the news that the 'mother country' and the European Union have reached agreement on Brexit.

Especially for the OTs with land or sea borders with the EU, the news, coming as it did on Christmas Eve, makes for a welcome Christmas amidst the uncertainty of what no-deal would have meant; the certainty and complexities of full-tariff World Trade Organisation terms.

Anxiety is also eased for those doing business with the EU through trade in intangibles and the export of goods such as OT's invested heavily in the financial services sector and those such as Falklands for whom the EU is a huge export market for fish.

One of the contentious issues in the Brexit talks revolved around standards and regulations.

It resulted in considerable acrimony with the UK talking up sovereignty as a core reason for wanting to leave the EU, divisive though as Brexit has come to characterise politics in the country.

How those regulations affect the financial services, especially on matters of compliance, is one of the myriad elements of the details buried in the 2,000-page Brexit agreement.

For Gibraltar, the only OT with a land border with the EU, via Spain which has a historical claim to the British territory, the outcome is particularly relevant.

Within hours after the UK/EU Christmas Eve Brexit deal was announced the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has issued a statement about the future of Gibraltar's unique situation.

"The UK, side by side with the Government of Gibraltar, has held constructive discussions with Spain regarding future relationship issues relating to Gibraltar," it said.

Crucially the FCDC added: "All sides acknowledged the challenging nature of this process at the outset of talks. Although an agreement has not yet been reached on Gibraltar's future relationship with the

EU, we will continue our discussions with Spain to safeguard Gibraltar's interests, and those of the surrounding region."

"In addition, we are also working closely with the Government of Gibraltar, in discussion with Spain and the EU, to mitigate the effects of the end of the Transition Period on Gibraltar. We are totally committed to protecting Gibraltar's interests. That includes ensuring border fluidity, which is clearly in the best interests of the communities that live on both sides."

Around 15,000 people cross into Gibraltar every day from Spain to work, accounting for half of the territory's workforce.

Most of the tourists who visit Gibraltar are day-trippers from Spain.

For the Falkland Islands with its lucrative fish export market to the EU, continued tariff and quota-free trade will be a major relief.

Oftentimes overlooked has been the situation of Anguilla with its close family and business ties just 10 miles across the water with EU Caribbean outposts Dutch and French St Martin/Sint Maarten which share one island.

The shared Dutch and French island is a vital supply line for Anguillian consumers and business.

Less so is the situation of Montserrat whose territorial waters also abut with another EU Caribbean territory, the French Overseas Departmente, Guadeloupe.

Although there's no significant movement of goods and people between Montserrat and its French neighbour, there is some tourism and cultural exchange for which a no-deal Brexit would have reams of paperwork.

On a wonder scale, the UK has already reassured the OT's which have been beneficiaries of EU aid that it will step in to fill the void, a commitment it reiterated as recently as at this year's Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) meeting.

The UK Government acknowledges that the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (EU) will impact on the Overseas Territories, particularly in the areas of eligibility for and access to funding, and trade.



It assured the OTs that "in consultation with Territory Governments, (it will) take their interests and needs into account when designing future funding streams, programmes and policies to promote the sustainable economic development of the Territories.

The EU/UK Brexit negotiations have been going on for the past four and a half years, since the UK narrowly voted to leave the trading bloc in a divisive referendum on June 23rd 2016.

The full details of the deal are being scrutinised.

Announcing the agreement on Thursday, Christmas Eve, British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, was clearly relieved, projecting what might even be regarded as an initial air of triumphalism into his announcement.

"We've taken back control of our laws and our destiny. We've taken back control of every jot and tittle of our regulation in a way that is complete, and from January 1 we are outside the customs union and outside the single market.

"British laws will be made solely by the British parliament, interpreted by UK judges sitting in UK courts, and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice will come to an end," the Prime Minister stated.

Directly addressing the EU, Mr Johnson stated: "And so I say again directly to our EU friends and partners, I think this deal means a new stability and a new certainty in what has sometimes been a fractious and difficult relationship.

We will be your friend, your ally, your supporter and indeed - never let it be forgotten - your number one market."

When the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, pronounced at 3pm UK time (4pm EU/10 am Cayman Islands) that an agreement had been reached, she phrased it as "a long and winding road", invoking the pop classic of the same name by the British rock legends, the Beatles.

Expressing "relief" that it was "finally over", she went on to say: "I know this is a difficult day for some, and to our friends in the UK, I want to say: parting is such sweet sorrow.

"To all Europeans, I say it is time to leave Brexit behind. Our future is made in Europe."

The 2,000-page agreement will see the UK and EU continuing to collaborate on a vast range of areas.

In the end the issue of fisheries, less than 1 per cent of UK GDP, which turned out to be a make-or-break point of the talks.

It overshadowed critical issues of cross-border trade, standards, retaining existing zero-tariff zero-quota arrangements on imports and exports, financial services, and posed the no-deal risk of the UK crashing out of the EU and trading on World Trade Organisation(WTO) terms.

The trade agreement, the largest ever signed by both the EU and the UK is valued at £668 billion a year.

Thursday's announcement still has to be ratified by both the UK and EU parliaments.

There was no immediate indication of any significant objections by the EU's now remaining 27 members nor by the British Parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords), although the deal reached is expected to be subjected to intense scrutiny.

However, it has been pointed out that the agreement will also result in a massive adjustment for UK businesses trading with Europe through the huge volume of new paperwork and administration along with border checks, especially from January 1st.

The new agreement also ends free movement between the UK and the EU.

The UK Parliament, which has been on its Christmas recess, was recalled to debate and ratify the agreement on Wednesday December 30th.

That's only one day before the Brexit transition period expires and two days before the new status between the UK and EU takes effect on January 1st.

The UK Foreign Minister Dominic Raab, who carries cabinet responsibility for the OTs, tweeted: "PM secured a deal with EU that takes back control over our laws, borders, money, fish & trade. We have a zero-tariff, zero-quota deal with EU & friendly cooperation will continue. Time to unite, put Brexit divisions behind us & look to 2021 as a springboard for Global Britain."



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

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

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/09

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Renown
- 5 Thick-shelled clam
- 11 Egg outline
- 12 Hard to control
- 13 Champagne popper
- 14 High regard
- 15 Co. abbr.
- 16 Longings
- 17 African scavenger
- 19 Singer Tillis
- 22 Some sharks
- 24 City square
- 26 Composer Satie
- 27 Makes mistakes
- 28 Doctrine
- 30 Print units
- 31 Decline
- 32 Media icon from Chicago
- 34 Trial group
- 35 Deli meat
- 38 Party snack
- 41 Curbside call
- 42 Wows
- 43 Metal sources
- 44 Airheads
- 45 Sunset setting

DOWN

- 1 Ellipse points
- 2 Stratford's river
- 3 Sousa nickname, with "the"
- 4 Yellow-stone grazer
- 5 Hive head
- 6 Open, in a way
- 7 Dance and music, e.g.
- 8 Color
- 9 Flamenco cry
- 10 Trainer's place
- 16 "For sure!"
- 18 Connector for a plow team
- 19 Mad Hatter's friend
- 20 Poet Pound
- 21 Highlands girl
- 22 Citi Field team
- 23 Open space
- 25 Luke's sister
- 29 Bald spot cover
- 30 Be a snoop
- 33 Printer's need
- 34 Utah team
- 36 Trims drastically
- 37 Rainbow maker
- 38 Scoundrel
- 39 Paris pal
- 40 D.C. baseballer
- 41 Highway rescue

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

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Mad Hatter's friend
- 20 Poet Pound
- 21 Highlands girl
- 22 Citi Field team
- 23 Open space
- 25 Luke's sister
- 29 Bald spot cover
- 30 Be a snoop
- 33 Printer's need
- 34 Utah team
- 36 Trims drastically
- 37 Rainbow maker
- 38 Scoundrel
- 39 Paris pal
- 40 D.C. baseballer
- 41 Highway rescue

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15				16						
		17	18				19	20	21	
22	23					24	25			
26							27			
28				29		30				
31				32	33					
			34					35	36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

3-4

Word Search

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

- Moan
- Moat
- Mobile
- Mobster
- Model
- Modem
- Module
- Mogul
- Mohair
- Mohican
- Moke
- Molar
- Molasses
- Moment
- Money
- Moral
- Morass
- Mortal
- Mosaic
- Mosque
- Motel
- Motet
- Motion
- Motor
- Mower

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



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