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Thank You



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CHANGE OF COURSE FOR TOURISM

Big splash at Hog Sty Bay



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► A big splash and lots of fun, just like in the old days

HON TARA RIVERS EXITS POLITICS



After almost a decade as the representative for West Bay South and Minister of Government across two terms, Tara Rivers, is hanging upon her political boots and stepping away from politics.

Although rumoured for the past few days, the confirmation came in a press conference called by the departing MP and Minister at a joint press conference on Wednesday with Premier Alden McLaughlin.

Ms Rivers served as an independent in the Premier's

People's Progressive Movement (PPM)-led administration in two ministries during her two terms in government.

She said her reason for stepping down from active politics was in line with a commitment she had given her West Bay South constituents to serve two terms and a personal choice not to be a career politician.

"I believe it's time to continue my journey creating

SEE **TARA RIVERS**, Page 10



Let's Keep Working Together

Protect yourself and your community against COVID-19.

www.gov.ky/covid19-vaccine

- 1 continue **safe distances** from others in public
- 2 consider **wearing a mask** around the elderly and vulnerable
- 3 continue frequent **hand washing**
- 4 consider getting **vaccinated** when eligible

DATED: 19 JANUARY 2021

EDITORIAL

THE POLITICS OF THE PANDEMIC IN ELECTION SEASON: REALITY VERSUS RHETORIC

From Cayman to elsewhere in the Caribbean and beyond, there is a deepening and palpable degree of anxiety over how best to balance - or at best tip the balance - in the debate over public health and economic survival.

This issue has come to dominate the political agenda and has been evident in election campaigns in the midst of the pandemic.

The outcomes are also speaking volumes; with a tendency to favour the tried and proven over the untested on the one hand, while on the other, the wholesale discarding of the failed.

How well governments have so far managed the crisis, is the deciding yardstick by which their overall stewardship and political survival are measured and determined.

As evidence elsewhere has shown the two are intertwined.

Management of the pandemic is by extension management of the economy. The health over wealth/lives over livelihoods debate has now morphed into a single multi-faceted political hydra.

The challenge of keeping the public safe, reducing mortality rates, testing, tracing, quarantining and vaccinating must work in tandem with a clear roadmap of getting economies back on track.

Arguably many economies will need to run on different tracks emerging from the pandemic as it's already becoming clear that some 'pillars' of the economy will take a long time for confidence to be rebuilt and systems put in place to safely handle their return.

Case in point; cruise tourism which pre-pandemic was on an unprecedented growth spurt.

Some countries are cautiously dipping their toes back into the tourism waters with a calculated risk ringfenced by hordes of 'lifeguards of protocols'.

EVERY
VOTE
COUNTS

In some countries in the region, border openings have been linked to an upsurge in COVID-19 cases adding further strain to already stretched health and other resources.

But it's widely accepted that the longer this continued state of COVID-induced limbo continues, the more difficult it will be to recover as economic inertia sets in.

This is where astute, careful and experienced political, management and leadership skills are required.

This pandemic has given real-life meaning to what might have been the previously abstract concept of 'a new world order'.

The world as we knew it has become discombobulated from the effects of COVID-19.

This is indeed a new and different world and its impact is local and it's where - and why - leaders and innovators are most needed.

Judging from the pattern across the Caribbean and elsewhere, the voters are taking no prisoners. It's their lives and livelihoods that are at stake...and at risk.

While the job might do the job, are the politicians up to the challenge of the task at hand?

It's a huge job. Solutions are needed, not rhetoric and distractions.

HOPE AMIDST COVID'S HEARTBREAKING MILESTONES

The United Kingdom and the United States crossed sombre milestones in the past few days as the COVID-19 crisis continues an unrelenting sweep across the world, slowed only by the roll-out of vaccines.

The US marked half a million deaths (500,000) from the virus - the highest in the world - while the figure in the UK topped 120,000 - the most in Europe and the highest death rate globally.

Flags on US federal government buildings were ordered to be flown at half-mast for the five days from Monday to Friday this week and the bells of The National Cathedral in Washington tolled 500 times on Monday evening to honour the lives lost.

President Joe Biden remarked that the loss of life in the US attributed to the disease was more than American fatalities in the two World Wars and the Vietnam war combined.

He called it "a heartbreaking milestone".

The UK passed over 120,000 COVID-19-related deaths this week, a reflection of an ominous warning issued by scientists last July that the country faced that prospect.

Following a spike in January into earlier this month, the rates of infection and fatalities are now declining.

Both the US and UK are ramping their vaccine roll-out with the UK taking a global lead in approving and embarking on its vaccination programme.

This week Prime Minister Boris Johnson unveiled the UK's roadmap out of lockdown with a phased easing of restrictions starting with the reopening of schools planned for March 8th with a timeline for business and social gatherings through to the summer.

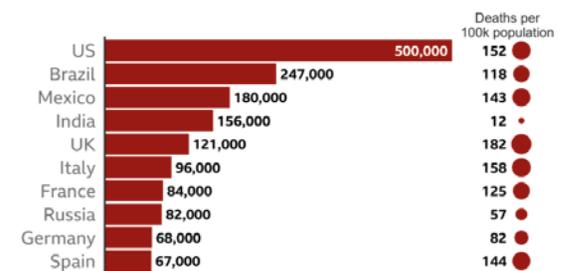
However, the Prime Minister cautioned that each phase would be assessed "based data not dates".

CARIBBEAN CONCERN

Several Caribbean countries are currently struggling with a spike in infections and deaths linked to the reopening of their borders and quarantine breaches.

Particularly hard hit are Antigua, Barbados, St Lucia, St Maarten and St Vincent,

Top 10 countries by coronavirus deaths
Per capita figures show differences in the scale of outbreaks



Note: Country death totals have been rounded to the nearest 1,000
Source: Johns Hopkins University, 22 February

BBC

leading those countries to intensify local restrictions on movement. A quarantine breach in Montserrat which hasn't had a COVID case since last July forced the country into lockdown with seven reported cases this month.

Vaccination programmes are getting underway in the region with drugs donated by the UK and other countries and also via the World Health Organisation's COVAX scheme.

The number of deaths attributed worldwide to COVID-19 was heading towards 2.5 million with 2.47 million people reported to have succumbed to the virus earlier this week.

CAYMAN MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Here in the Cayman Islands, a vaccination target indicated by Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin as a gauge for further reopening, was edging closer this week.

The Premier had recently stated that having 90 per cent of persons over 60 years of age receiving at least one dose of the vaccine would be a reference point for relaxing more of the current COVID protocols.

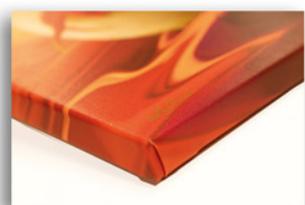
A reduction of the current mandatory quarantine period from 14 to 10 days was stated as a first step in the process.

Close to 90 per cent of persons aged over 70 years and more than 80 per cent of persons over 60 have now had at least one vaccination shot.

With the continuing good response to the vaccination campaign, the total number of COVID-19 vaccines administered was expected to surpass 20,000 this week with close to two-thirds having received their two doses.

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► Hon. Minister for Health, Dwayne Seymour



► Gene Thompson, Local Project Director for Aster Cayman Medcity

ASTER CAYMAN MED CITY STEPS CLOSER TO REALITY

Another significant step towards a goal of establishing Cayman as the preferred destination for medical tourism was recorded this week with the site selection for the new Aster Cayman Medcity.

The company has confirmed the location as what it describes as “a significant site in West Bay” purchased from the Dart Group, for the CI\$350 million facility which will be built in phases.

Actual construction is expected to start by the summer and when all phases are completed, expected by late 2022/early 2023 the facility will feature a 150-bed comprehensive with an integrated assisted living facility and a healthcare university.

Tertiary and quaternary care - advanced levels of medicine which are highly specialized and not widely accessed - will also be hallmarks of Aster Cayman Med City, which the developers say is part of a joint

commitment to establishing the Cayman Islands as the preferred location for ‘destination healthcare’, or medical tourism.

The company says the target market for its specialised services is the Caribbean region, North America, Canada, Latin & South America.

Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin remarked that the Aster Cayman Med City project - the second major hospital project recently announced for Cayman - reflects his administration’s tourism diversification strategy.

“I have long pursued diversification of our economy, especially into areas as recession resilient as healthcare,” the Premier stated.

“Not only does Aster Cayman Medcity move us forward in that pursuit,” he added. Mr McLaughlin said quaternary healthcare services, the highest level of care, ensures that the Cayman Islands will

have one of the most advanced and highest quality health systems in the whole region.

“That will allow us to attract the best talent across all economic sectors and cement our Islands’ reputation as one of the most advanced business locations in the region.”

He also said, “It will help to boost our tourism industry, particularly as we look to recover from the pandemic, through International travellers discovering what the Cayman Islands has to offer as a vacation destination, not just a healthcare tourism one.”

The Premier also cited the immediate revenue to government in the form of planning fees and duties as well as local construction employment.

Hon. Minister for Health, Dwayne Seymour commented: “The Aster project fits perfectly with



my vision to see the Cayman Islands become a premier healthcare tourism destination and at the same time have some of the very best healthcare services for its own residents.”

Mr Seymour said the development will bring much-needed specialist services that Caymanians have typically had to go overseas for, and as a quaternary-level institution, ensures the Cayman Islands health economy will have the highest levels of care expertise, alongside more routine services.

He was “particularly excited” about the development of comprehensive assisted living facilities “for our seniors”, properly integrated with healthcare support.

Mr Seymour said that is “part of our care system that I have long pushed to see develop, and very much fits with my own vision for a highly comprehensive, fully integrated health and social care system. It is very gratifying to see that vision now becoming a reality.”

On the choice of the West Bay site, Gene Thompson, Local Project Director for Aster Cayman Medcity, said it is important for major healthcare projects to be accessible, especially when receiving critically ill patients by air.

“This location ensures swift access from the airport and short travel distances for around 65 per cent of the Grand Cayman population, especially those in the Seven Mile Corridor, George Town and South Sound. As a site, it represents the best possible

accessibility, with low environmental impact and no requirement to add further civil projects at public expense to support it.”

Mr Thompson also said Aster Cayman Med City “will be a development that all Caymanians will be able to feel proud of, and I am obviously excited about the hundreds of jobs we’re creating for Caymanians too, starting with the construction sector.”

The facility will be sited directly alongside Esterley Tibbetts Highway, ensuring rapid, dual-carriageway access between the multi-phase campus and Owen Roberts International Airport, the main gateway for its International guests.

It was stated that access is likely to be further enhanced when the new airport connector road comes into operation. The 40-acre site is bordered by Batabano Road, Esterley Tibbetts Highway and a Southern-edge connector road, currently with little development immediately adjoining.

Aster has also submitted an application for a Planned Area Development Master Plan, confirming that the site will also be enhanced through carefully planned infrastructure, landscaping, comprehensive recycling facilities, waste management, and stormwater management.

The development will also include housing, retail, and a commercial centre, which will create a fully master-planned community.



► Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin



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► Members of the Executive Committee get the fish and fritters and swanky ready

Big splash at Hog Sty Bay

By Christopher Tobutt

They were there in bright yellow T-shirts, each with the message, "Together we still can," frying fish and fritters opposite Hog Sty bay on the waterfront. All Kenneth Bryan, MLA for George Town Central's Committee members had come out in force to make sure that everything went with a big Splash. It wasn't just an ordinary family fun day, it was very nostalgic for many who remember the days when Hog Sty bay was the public beach, where families had fun at the weekends and after church, and where generation after generation of Caymanians learned to swim. The idea was to get people back in the water there again, at least for a day. The idea was, "Together, we still can."

First one into the water was Craig Merren, ex Olympic cyclist. He made a great big splash, bicycle and all, sailing into the water from a wooden launching ramp at the side of the harbour. Then the real fun started – as Mr. Bryan helped supply the kids with big old fashioned style black rubber inner tubes – just like they had for their hog sty bay fun back-in-the-day. Lots of kids started bobbing about in the waves in their tires, and you can see why it is such a fun place. The waves come in fast and swirl you around and around.

Reminiscing, Kay Ebanks said, "I come here to celebrate with Mr. Bryan who is running for the next election, because I believe in him and I believe he will do something good. I was born just down the road, across from the Post Office in 1942. Lots of people used to enjoy swimming there. When I used to go to the little primary school up by Goring Avenue, our teacher used to take us here and teach us to swim."



► Kenneth Bryan

Kirk Roderick Smith was making a splash, too: "this is where we used to come on Sundays instead of the public beach, this was our public beach. We didn't have cars we didn't have buses, we didn't have the luxuries that we have now. We used to throw mangoes out there and dive them up and swim and enjoy," he said.

One of the committee members, Omeria Gordon was very hard at work cooking up delicious mahi mahi and festival and snapper, too, for the long line of people waiting: "Kenneth is an excellent young man. He's a hard working politician and we are hoping and praying and we feel very confident that he will be reelected. We appreciate him for all the work that he does for his people. He takes care of his people. He sees to it that they are OK, and when they call he answers and he is always there for them and I think that's why they love him so much

Down on the beach, Mr. Bryan joined the others in the water: "I used to swim here almost every weekend, as a kid. This was my place to play. This is just about my people having fun. 2020's been a rough year, and it's good to remember what we are really about, you know? Even though we are under the pressure of the pandemic, if we remember that we are in this together, then everything should be alright," he said.



► Mr. Merren goes into the water, bike-and-all



Barbara Conolly seeking re-election

George Town South's Member of Parliament, Barbara Conolly, has declared she will be seeking re-election at the 14th April General Election. Ms Conolly is currently a Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Youth and also PS for Finance and Economic Development and was the Deputy Speaker of the House.

Having spent the last four years working at a grass roots level for her constituency, Ms Conolly says she wants to continue her work "on the ground", making improvements to the lives of those around her.

"I'm not the sort of person to come up with ideas and then delegate them to others to carry out," she confirmed. "I am much more interested in showing by example."

As a result, Ms Conolly has not been afraid to roll up her sleeves and take full part in whatever project she is currently involved, such as working with the NRA to resurface Oak Mill Street, participating in Earth Day Clean-ups or cleaning and revitalising the Pond in Windsor Park.

Ms Conolly, who was born in George Town, became a member of The Progressives in 2002. Her background in the financial services sector, prior to her move to politics, gave her a thorough insight into that industry, while her work with former Leader of Government Business, Hon. Kurt Tibbetts, as his political analyst, helped

her gain an understanding of constituents' needs when it came to issues such as employment and healthcare.

Getting youth involved

The most vulnerable people in the Cayman community is where Ms Conolly's focus will continue to be, should she be re-elected.

"I want to work much more with young people," she stated. "Young people, particularly teenagers, need a voice in Government and I want to expand my advocacy on their behalf."

Having worked as the Chairperson of the Youth Parliament for the past four years, Ms Conolly said this had been an area of her work that she has found particularly rewarding.

"I have really enjoyed working with the young people, who come from both the public and private schools. It's been a highlight of my first term in office," she advised.

She would like to see a many more teenagers becoming more involved in politics.

"I would have loved more young people to sign up to the Electoral Register in order to vote in the upcoming election," she said. "They should not feel worried about the possibility of having to undertake jury duty. Although that is a huge responsibility, it's also a great role for young people

SEE BARBARA CONOLLY RE-ELECTION, Page 6





Barbara Conolly re-election

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

and gives them excellent experience while doing their civic duty.”

Having partially sponsored an after-school programme in Windsor Park, Ms Conolly would like to see more after-school programmes established in order to better promote youth advocacy, helping teens in particular transition from school into the working environment.

Sitting on the Education Council, Ms Conolly is acutely aware of the scholar-

ships available to young Caymanians, but they have to achieve the grades required to obtain scholarships, so schools must work to ensure that young people get the best education possible, she said. The school structure as a whole needed to change to ensure young people are able to embrace diverse career choices available to them, not just careers in financial services. At the same time, teachers needed to be more accountable and provide

young people with the education they deserve, she said.

“Schools must be all-inclusive,” she confirmed. “No students can be left behind, no matter what their ability or interests. If children have special needs, we must ensure we employ additional teachers with the right skills to assist these children.”

Elderly need help

Family and community are Ms Conolly’s particular passions and so as well as focusing on young people, she intends to also promote more facilities for the elderly.

“I am delighted that the needs of the elderly are being separated out of the Needs Assessment Unit and will be given a department of their own,” she said. “The elderly have quite separate needs from the rest of the community, for example they should not have to wait in line for assistance when they

visit the NAU. I am very pleased that this is now changing.”

A pilot project that will see an entire building dedicated to the needs of the elderly, including a comfortable space for them to spend time, meeting with friends and even undertaking new skills, such as computer and social media literacy, is on the cards and Ms Conolly hopes this will be a great success which will then be rolled out district-wide.

“The elderly need our attention,” she said. “In this respect, I will continue to advocate for affordable healthcare for the over-65s. It is imperative that they be able to afford health insurance, which is currently pushing up the cost of living for our elderly. Renewing my focus on the needs of the elderly will be a priority for me once I am re-elected.”



Barbara Conolly – George Town South – Achievements – Term 2017 – 2021

- Participated in Neighbourhood Clean up projects
- Renaming of Humber Avenue to Claude Hill Drive
- Partially sponsored After School Programme in Windsor Park
- Launched Neighbour Watch Programmes in 9 areas of GTS
- Removal of derelict vehicles
- Arrange the installation of speed bumps
- Arrange the installation of street lights in dark areas
- Instrumental in working with NRA to install a major drainage system throughout Windsor Park
- Worked with NRA to resurface Oak Mill Street
- Participated in Earth Day Clean-ups for 4 years
- Cleaning and revitalizing the Pond in Windsor Park
- Participated in Celebrate Cayman – Sixty Acts of Kindness and sponsored the landscaping of the Pond in Windsor Park.
- Sponsor monthly maintenance of the Pond in Windsor Park
- Instrumental in the renaming of the South Sound Beach to Consuelo Beach in South Sound
- Underbrushing of parcel of land adjacent to Smith Barcadere
- Instrumental in the installation of the Pedestrian crossing at Smith Barcadere
- Power washed and painted constituent home
- Adopted Red Bay Primary School as my school during the second year of my term and took on the role of the “go to MLA” to assist in various projects and sponsored the school’s birthday club.
- Sponsored a Cayman history book for each student of the Graduation Class of 2019 of Red Bay Primary
- Sponsored computers for the Top Boy and Girl of Red Bay Primary for their Graduation Class of 2020
- Co-sponsored the Christmas Tree lighting and other lights for the Park in Windsor Park for 2 years
- Co-sponsored Children’s Christmas parties
- Co-sponsored school supplies for “Back to School” Drives
- Sponsored the installation of Wifi at Smith Barcadere and South Sound Community Centre
- Delivered masks to constituents during Covid-19
- Delivered food to the most vulnerable during Covid-19
- Checked on constituents during Covid-19 via phone calls and visits – remotely
- Arranged sponsorship of the repairs of a constituent home (Off Walkers Road)
- In lieu of a Christmas Party (Christmas 2020) as a result of crowd restrictions, – delivered hot meals to seniors.
- Assisted young people in my constituency with job placements
- Day to Day meetings with constituents addressing issues such as Immigration, Planning, job placements, housing to name a few...
- Co-hosted community yard sale with all proceeds to Feed our Future

Candidates Prepare for Nomination Day



ELECTIONS OFFICE
CAYMAN ISLANDS ▶▶▶

Ahead of the 2021 General Election, the Elections Office reminds individuals intending to run that they must first seek formal nomination in order to be considered a candidate.

Individuals must submit a completed set of nomination forms to their electoral district's Returning Officer on Nomination Day, Monday 1 March 2021 between 8am and 3pm. A list of nomination locations is provided below.

"Preparations for the next General Elections are progressing well at the Elections Office. Nomination Day is an important next step in the process to delivering Cayman's free and fair elections. By way of this release, we are aiming to share the most relevant information with persons seeking to be nominated prior to Nomination Day," said the Supervisor of Elections, Wesley Howell.

All individuals seeking nomination are reminded of the following.

Legal advice

The Elections Office is not permitted to provide anyone with legal advice. Individuals with questions about nomination qualifications or other legal interpretations are encouraged to seek their own legal advice.

Standards in Public Life Declarations

The Standards in Public Life Declarations form must be submitted to the Standards in Public Life Commission Secretariat prior to nominations. For more information, contact the Standards in Public Life Commission at 244-3685 or via email at info@standardsinpubliclifecommission.ky

Nominators

Individuals intending to run in the General Election must be nominated by at least two people who, at the time of sign-

ing the nomination paper, are registered electors of the electoral district they are running for.

It is an offence to knowingly nominate a person who is not qualified pursuant to section 61 of Schedule 2 to the Cayman Islands Constitution Order, 2009 or is disqualified pursuant to section 62 of the said Schedule to be elected as a member of the Cayman Islands Parliament.

Additionally, it is also an offence for a nominator who, at the date of signing the nomination paper, is not a registered elector of that electoral district or knows that the person nominated is not qualified to be elected. Those who commit this offence are liable on conviction to a fine of KYD\$2,000.

Qualifications and disqualifications

Anyone seeking nominations are encouraged to carefully review the Cayman Islands Constitution and the Elections Act (2021). It is an offence to knowingly consent to be nominated if you are not qualified pursuant to section 61 of Schedule 2 to the Cayman Islands Constitution Order, 2009 or is disqualified pursuant to section 62 of the said Schedule from being elected as a member of the Cayman Islands Parliament. Anyone who commits this offence are liable on conviction to a fine of KYD\$5,000.

Deposit

Nomination form must be accompanied by a deposit of KYD\$1,000 payable in cash or bank draft payable to the Cayman Islands Government.

If a candidate is not elected and received less than 10% of the total votes polled, the money deposited is forfeited to the Crown. Otherwise, the deposit will be refunded to the person who paid the deposit after the result of the election is declared.

Photo

Candidates must supply a high resolution 2" x 2" passport size colour photo on Nomination Day. The photo will be included on the ballot papers.

Please print the candidate name legibly as what is written on the nomination form is how it will appear on the ballot paper.

Logos

Candidates must indicate to the Returning Officer if they belong to a registered party. The party logo or, for independent candidates, "IND" will be placed beside each candidate's photo on the ballot paper.

Agents

Agents will need to be appointed quickly, in particular those who will be observing the issuance of postal ballots, followed by those who will be used for mobile voting and then Elections Day.

The first postal ballots will be issued between 10 and 11 March 2021.

Campaign expenses

Candidates are urged to review the guidance on campaign expenses which will be issued on Nomination Day. The deadline to provide elections campaign expenses to the Supervisor of Elections is Wednesday, 19 May 2021.

Electoral District	Nomination Station Name	Nomination Station Address
West Bay West	West Bay Library	204 Rev. Blackman Road
West Bay North	West Bay Assembly of God - Church Hall	100 Finch Drive
West Bay Central	The Church of God at West Bay	108 Capt. Reginald Parsons Drive
West Bay South	John Gray Memorial United Church Hall	26 West Church Street
George Town North	St. George's Anglican Church Hall	66 Courts Road
George Town Central	Elmslie Memorial United Church Hall	48B Harbour Drive
George Town West	Church of God Universal, Church Hall	2 Walkers Road
George Town South	South Sound Community Centre	1012 South Church Street
George Town East	Agape Family Worship Centre Hall	50B Fairbanks Road
Red Bay	Seafarers Hall	11 Victory Avenue
Prospect	Moravian Church Hall	497 Poindexter Road
Newlands	International College of The Cayman Islands	595 Hirst Road
Savannah	Savannah United Church Hall	17 Astral Way
Bodden Town West	Agricultural Society Office - At the Grounds	199 Lottery Road
Bodden Town East	Webster Memorial United Church Hall	266 Bodden Town Road
North Side	Craddock Ebanks Civic Centre	923 North Side Road
East End	William Allen McLaughlin Civic Centre	80 John McLean Drive
Cayman Brac West & Little Cayman	District Administration Building - Conference Room	19 Kirkconnell Street
Cayman Brac	Veterans & Seaman's Society of Cayman Brac & Little Cayman Centre	205 Ashton Reid Drive

WEST BAY WEST
IT'S TIME...
ELECT
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PROMOTING: HARMONY, RESPECT AND DIVERSITY.

A MESSAGE FROM MCKEEVA BUSH, YOUR REPRESENTATIVE FOR WEST BAY WEST

Ladies and Gentlemen, no two ways about it, the 2021 election is in full swing.

You will hear all kinds of ideas put to you; many will be "Pie in the Sky" thoughts that sound good but will not work and will take you out, not uplift you or strengthen you to deal with your responsibilities.

People of the Cayman Islands but especially the people of West Bay West, I have served you for 36 years as an Elected Official; firstly, over 15 years as a community activist for a better social life for all in our communities.

I also started youth groups and helped to lead the church choir.

In between those early days when some of you might not have been born, Cayman was a different place.

There were no government housing programmes, no playing field facilities, no

parks, no apprenticeships or internships benefits in the workplaces, and no pensions.

There was only one scholarship by The Bankers Association. Government scholarships were not freely given and it was perhaps only 2 per year if any was given - and only for the exceptionally bright.

Young Caymanian men were thrown in jail for very minor infractions - many were jailed for the first offence of a stick of weed/marijuana.

In these 36 years of public service, I have been part of the fight to destroy that kind of social environment that we lived under. And that's why I ran for election.

So I knew my community and its needs from that time, and I am well aware of them today.

I believe we must move to a Cayman like Singapore that is very financially stable and progressive in all areas; from the economy to the social fabric.

I am sure our future will be better where the displaced in our society will be better off.

But individual responsibility can't be overlooked in the New Cayman future.

People must believe that a better life means a lifestyle that is not a party every night but then in the day time looking for the next meal for their children and a few dollars to pay light, water and phone bills.

The new dispensation I want to work towards means much more than that.

I want to see a better Cayman for everyone.

God didn't make me a perfect human - and I don't know who is.

But I can challenge any candidate across these Cayman Islands, especially in West Bay West, to come forward to show what they have done to help individuals or the Cayman Islands as a whole any more than I have.

I am standing for re-election in the constituency of West Bay West.

I will support good thinking persons in the campaign who want to do good and have worked over the years trying to help their whole community.

If I'm re-elected, I would want to be part of a Government that will find ways and means and develop programmes that will be solutions towards building a new Cayman.

And I will work with MPs who are committed to working for Cayman.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as we look to the future, this is an opportune time for Cayman to stop and plan for the new world that is being created because of the pandemic.

Government then must have holistic programmes to stabilize Caymanian families that continue to face a number of problems; financial and otherwise.

In our Cayman today where we are a pluralistic society of so many nationalities, we have to ensure that our culture doesn't vanish.

We have to continue the attributes taught to us by our parents, our grandparents and great-grandparents to keep our community structure, way of life and a sense of communal purpose.

So what do we want? Of course, we must have an economy that enables our families to have good lives; afford a house, pay their bills and educate their children to have a future in this country.

Homes are still the most important institution for us.



What we don't want is to have an environment where we live in a community of closed doors, fortified against criminal behaviour by locks and bars and functioning as little more than a place for rest after work.

So the Government will have to come up with programmes that safeguard our communities and help parents raise and protect our children.

The community must be involved and have a voice in creating those programmes. Whatever we want to do to safeguard and stabilize our families, the Government must ensure that the economy remains strong, careers do not falter or fail, finances are good and life-styles do not fall-out of balance.

And that plan must have the balance that allows Cayman to continue to develop while at the same time keep the heart, soul and culture of the community we grew up in.

I also want to address the issue of family planning and raising a family.

Teaching family planning must be a part of the community development in order to help stabilize our Caymanian families which far too many are now failing.

A bad home environment only means trouble for the community.

There are those who daily call on government for some kind of welfare assistance. We need to support them but that support includes giving advice and creating pathways to employment, careers, financial management and raising our children.

We need to do this as a matter of urgency to stabilize the family structure and our community.

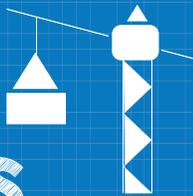
So I stand for Cayman and I'm prepared to stand with those who are committed to Cayman. Our best days are still ahead of us.

Until my next message, may God continue to be merciful to all of us and keep Cayman safe.

I am McKeeva Bush, your representative for West Bay West.



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CHANGE OF COURSE FOR TOURISM

By Staff Writer

With Cayman being positioned as a top medical tourism destination, Hon. Premier Alden McLaughlin says this reflects a strategy of his People's Progressive Movement (PPM)-led administration to diversify the tourism industry by reducing cruise tourism.

He made the disclosure during a press conference on Tuesday announcing the site selection for the new Aster Cayman Med City.

Work on the new facility, to be built in West Bay, is expected to start by June and will be completed in phases by late 2022 or early 2023.

It's the second major medical tourism project announced in the Cayman Islands recently - the other being the expansion of Health City Cayman unveiled last week.

Asked by Caymanin Times publisher Ralph Lewis if this represents developing the medical tourism sector at a faster pace than the other tourism sectors, Premier McLaughlin explained that was a definite strategy being pursued by his government.

He also disclosed that it will form part of their election manifesto.

"This is a conscious effort and policy of the government to as part of its overall effort to diver-

sify the economy and to make our economy less vulnerable to external shocks," Mr Laughlin disclosed, citing the ongoing experience of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're trying to diversify the whole tourism industry," he added stating there will be less emphasis on cruise tourism going forward, although he was quick to point out that cruise tourism will be abandoned, just made less of a priority.

To that end, any plans for a cruise pier are now off the agenda.

"What I foresee certainly if we retain the government," the Premier said referring to the snap election he has called for April 14th, "is less focus on growing cruise tourism."

"I think we have a very clear signal from just about every source that the great numbers since the cruise industry began is that we can survive without those large numbers and we need more balance and we need to not overwhelm if the system with the sheer volume of people."

Looking at the experience of the pandemic and its economic impact in the context of a silver lining, the Premier said: "Having had to do without cruise tourism for a year, I think has told us what the consequences of that is."



Mr McLaughlin acknowledged that "obviously you still have significant numbers of our people who are unemployed or underemployed because that was their focus was."

And he said that the government is continuing efforts to find ways "to give them the opportunities they had or better of making a living."

"But I think it is clear from the business community and from the local people is that we don't want to go back to the large number of visitors," he said.

Drawing a line under the controversial cruise pier project which he had championed, Mr McLaughlin said, "I think that that also is probably the only logical position that any government can come to."

"If we are not going to go ahead with the construction of a cruise parking facility, we simply cannot accommodate the number of visitors that we previously had in a way that that they are willing or that the cruise companies are willing to accept."

He confirmed that the cruise pier will not be included in their manifesto with their clearest indication that the Unity Government will be running a joint campaign of the PPM and its coalition partners.

"We have certainly taken the position that we are not proceeding with a cruise berthing facility as part of our manifesto and the coalition manifesto for the upcoming elections," the Premier declared.

With elections coming on April 14th Caymanian Times asked the Premier if he expected an incoming government embrace the medical tourism project as a strategy of diversifying the economy to help Cayman to progress.

Mr McLaughlin responded by stating: "Certainly any sensible government will."

He reminded that the original Health City project was conceived under the previous United Democratic Party(UDP) administration.

"One of the first things that I did as Premier was to open that facility. So the government is a continuum and any sensible government will continue to embrace good projects and good policies that were and build on them rather than pushing them aside and starting over every time he government changes."

And looking at insight into how the April 14th election might turn out, Mr McLaughlin offered that he is "increasingly optimistic that we won't have those sports of considerations following this election."

HON TARA RIVERS EXITS POLITICS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

new opportunities for growth and development. A political life is about service, and serving the country has been a personal calling and my duty and an absolute honour. This is why my decision to not continue as an elected official beyond this term has weighed so heavily on my mind and my heart," she said.

"I know that many of you will be extremely sad and concerned to hear that I will not be standing for reelection. Please rest assured that my decision was not taken lightly or made easily," she said, adding that she "had never intended to become a career politician."

Premier Alden McLaughlin while regretting her departure, lauded Ms Rivers

for her accomplishments both as a constituency representative and her ministerial achievements.

"While I am deeply saddened to learn that Minister Rivers is retiring from politics, I want to commend her for leaving on her own terms, which politicians rarely do," the Premier said.

"It has been an immense privilege having Minister Rivers serve in my Cabinet for two consecutive terms. I will forever be grateful to her for her brilliant service to the Cayman Islands. Tara Rivers has made history and has certainly broken the mold in West Bay politics. Because of her tremendous service, our country is now stronger and more poised for the future."

Mr McLaughlin refused to be drawn as to who he had in mind, if anybody, to fill the void left by Ms Rivers' departure, although he confirmed that discussions with potential partners is ongoing.

Although having campaigned and won her seat as an independent candidate in May 2013, Minister Rivers was offered a position as a Cabinet Minister by the Premier, becoming the first independent MLA to be offered such a position since the formal (re)introduction of party politics in the

Cayman Islands in early 2000s. Despite being a first-term Minister, she chose to take responsibility for some of the most challenging portfolios of the day, namely Education, Employment and Gender Affairs.

In the 2017 General Elections, Minister Rivers once again broke the political mold by becoming the first Cabinet Minister to successfully be reelected after serving as a first-term Minister. She comfortably won her seat with roughly 54% of the votes cast that year, becoming the first MLA (later MP) to represent the constituency of West Bay South. She was once again asked by the Premier to serve in Cabinet, this time assuming the important role of Minister of Financial Services and Home Affairs.

Asked by Ralph Lewis of the Caymanian Times about her experience as an Independent representative working alongside members of a party, Ms. Rivers answered by saying that, once you are given a position as a government minister, differences surrounding parties take second place to getting the job done.

"You put your differences aside," she said. "As an independent, I've always been forthright in delivering my views."



When asked about the future, Minister Rivers noted that, "Although today's announcement represents an end of an era - at least for now - there are many exciting prospects ahead, including the ability to continue to serve my country, albeit in a different capacity.

"I am deeply indebted to the people of West Bay, and more recently West Bay South, for their continued faith and support, and for the opportunity to serve as their Member of Parliament, and for convincingly choosing me to do so in 2013 and again in 2017. I am committed to working to ensure that West Bay South will continue to have solid leadership that we can trust," she stated.



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CANDIDATE DECLARATION – MARIO E. EBANKS, WEST BAY WEST

Introduction

Dear Voters and Residents of West Bay West and citizens of the Cayman Islands, today after spending 16 years in private life since my last General Elections bid in 2005, I am Declaring myself as a Candidate for West Bay West in the upcoming General Elections to now be held, early, on April 14th, 2021. In presenting myself for service and as a future Member of Parliament (MP), I am aware that I am subjecting myself to continued intense public scrutiny, to which I am confident and comfortable. I am happy to put myself forward, to provide a credible and ethical Choice for the voters of West Bay West.

I have always been a keen advocate for nation-building and all things Caymanian, and for over 30 years I have endeavoured to be a "Servant Leader" – working effectively behind the scenes in various community and public policy advocacy initiatives. However, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the opportunity for the Cayman Islands to reset its strategic Vision and future Goals and priorities, gave me a renewed zeal to contribute as a political candidate in this election. My second and compelling reason for becoming a Candidate in 2021 is the conduct and publicly-known behaviours of the long-serving incumbent MP for West Bay West, this gave me and hundreds of other people grave cause for concern. However, to my surprise this same sense of concern and desire for a Positive Change was shared by many others. Several months ago I began receiving calls, requests, and representations from outstanding citizens and Voters across all demographics of West Bay West and West Bay in general, who asked me to put my name forward for the 2021 Elections. After praying, listening, contemplation, and getting the support of my wife Lovenia, I decided to harken the "Call" and I was encouraged by the words from Isaiah 6:8... "Here I am...Send me".

It was not however until the morning of 1st January 2021, when I was reading my new Daily Devotional book that my wife bought me for Christmas, that I received a clear confirmation of my decision. In that Devotional ("Radical Wisdom") a quote from the philosopher Thoreau jumped out at me. It stated "Men lead quiet lives of desperation...and go to the grave with their song still in them". Right there and then I decided that I would not be a part of that statistic...I would throw my 'hat into the ring'. This deep desire to make people's lives better was also rekindled every year as I presented the Annual "Mario Ebanks Award for overall Outstanding Performance" at the Sir John A Cumber Primary School Leaving Ceremony. Every year as I present my Award I look into the eyes of these children, and I see their dreams and aspirations deep within their eyes and faces. On those occasions I remember empathizing with them and their families and asking myself: Who will stand in the gap for them?.. Who will protect their futures?...Who will fight for their dreams? Now, I am that person.

Therefore I am making a bold and courageous step in faith, to benefit all of our citizens, children, and future generations. My heart is in this cause, my personal interest and career have been put on hold for this cause, and I ask the Voters of West Bay West for your Vote on 14th April. Regarding my choice to run in West Bay West, I have lived in all West Bay electoral constituencies since 1968, and have friends, family, and supporters in all of them. But, for the past 28 years, my wife Lovenia and I have lived in Coral Gables in North West Point, which is in West

Bay West. Incidentally, during those 28 years, I served for 25 years as Chairman of the Homeowners Association (until I retired at the Annual General Meeting last year). I have always preferred to live within the community and neighbourhood that I represent as their MP – to remain close to them whether sharing their happiness or celebrations, consoling them in their grief, or helping them through moments of conflicts or emergency.

I will be introducing a Website and other social media platforms in the near future, and in the interim here are snippets on me as a person, and some of the issues and policy initiatives that I will be championing.

A biographical sketch of Mario E. Ebanks

- I am an 8th generation Caymanian, with my great-grandparents from both sides being from West Bay, and from the Ebanks, Rivers, and Bush families;

- I have been a resident of Coral Gables for the past twenty-eight years, along with my wife of 33 years Mrs. L. Lovenia Ebanks (nee Miller of North Side);

- I attended the Sir. John A Cumber Primary School in West Bay from 1969 to 1975. From an early age it seemed that my leadership skills were recognized, as at Primary school I was selected to play the leading role of the Prince, in the drama production CINDERELLA. Then in 1975 my sporting and competitive skills enabled me to become the Victor Lodorum ("Champion Boy") in the annual Sports Day for my House ("Smith");

- I have attended the Church of God Chapel in West Bay from 1969 with my family, and my wife and I are still active members and workers in the West Bay congregation;

- I hold a number of qualifications, certificates and accreditations, and key amongst these are: I am a 1986 graduate of the University of Miami, with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a Major in International Finance & Marketing, with a Minor in Economics & Public Affairs (as a BankAmerica scholar); and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Tennessee in 2002, as a Deloitte scholar;

- I began my career in the Banking/Financial Services industry and have been exposed to a number of sectors. I was the first Caymanian Manager of the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce in late 1980's, the youngest Country Manager within Esso Caribbean and Central America in the early 1990's, a Senior Assistant Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development in the late 1990's. I served as the first Director of Labour & Pensions from 2012 to 2015, and from 2015 until the present I have been serving as the Chief Human Resources Officer at the C.I. Airports Authority;

- While not being parents, my wife and I serve as "on call" parents to our nieces and nephews, and for the past 2 years we have been serving as Host Parents for the Children's Heart Project, an international humanitarian ministry of the Samaritan's Purse;

- I am a long-standing professional and community volunteer and advocate, and I am proud to be a Past President of the Rotary Club Central, a Past President of Junior Achievement, a Founding Member and Past President of the Cayman Islands Overseas Students' Association, a Founding Member and Past President of the Cayman Islands Society for Human Resource Professionals, and a Past Chairman of the General Assembly of

the Church of God Chapels in the Cayman Islands;

- I have served on a host of Government Boards and Advisory Committees over the years including, but not limited to, the: Business Staffing Plan Board, as Deputy Chairman; the Turtle Farm Board as Deputy Chairman; the Education Council; the Board of Governors of the now University College of the Cayman Islands; and a member of the 5-Year Agricultural Plan Review Committee;

- My Community voluntary service has been diverse for the past 35 years, including organizations such as: the West Bay Heritage Committee, the National Trust, and Cayman Against Substance Abuse (CASA), and a member of the Board of Trustees of the International College of the Cayman Islands (ICCI).

A snippet of some of our major Manifesto/Agenda for Action initiatives

In consultation with our volunteers and constituents in West Bay West, we are presently receiving feedback and fine-tuning the Manifesto or Agenda for Action of our Campaign, and will continue this approach with the Voters of West Bay West and the community in general. However, below are a number of main points which we will be discussing further during the Elections 2021 campaign meetings and events:

- If Elected I will immediately advocate for some minor amendments to the Constitution, and the main area of improvement would be to establish Term Limits for Members of Parliament, of no more than 20 years in total. No longer can we have our House of Parliament be a "convalescent home" for career politicians who are tired and offer no solutions. Additionally we will seek to enable a "Recall" provision for the voters to remove MP's, in cases of improper conduct or behaviour; this will be augmented by a proper Code of Conduct and an Ethics Committee of the House;

- A variety of programmes and policies will be pursued to promote and empower the youth, families, parents, and communities;

- We will commission a comprehensive review and overhaul of all employment related legislation, including Immigration, Labour, and Pensions, as well as immediately mobilize the Minimum Wage Advisory Committee. Within an early time horizon, we will ensure that a proper plan for the Succession of willing and able Caymanians to key positions in both the Public and Private sectors, while at the same time providing security of tenure for non-Caymanians without creating a strangle-hold on the necks of future generations;

- We will ensure that Caymanians are given fair access to meaningful employment in the Cayman Islands, and ensure that Caymanians are not marginalized in the workplace;

- We will pursue a host of community and District initiatives, in areas such as emergency preparedness, cottage industries, beach access, coastal protection, Adult education, and access to affordable decent housing;

- We will commission a long-term development plan for these Islands, which will be all-inclusive and include: the economy, culture, societal expectations and norms, the marine and land-based environment, carrying capacity, and acceptable heritage and aesthetics;

- We will pursue various transportation strategies, focusing not only on large expenditures on new roads etc., but also aggressively embracing a number of proven



and effective non-monetary policies and initiatives;

- We will protect small businesses, will promote green technology and other initiatives to combat climate change and global warming, and will also review the cost of doing business as well as the cost of living for ALL residents;

- We will implement the District Councils within our Constituencies in West Bay, working together and taking advantage of all synergies.

So, now that you know a bit about me and some of my summary information from our Agenda for Action, what can you do to help? We will be asking everyone who wants real change, and who want a better future for yourselves and your children and grand-children, to join us in the noble cause. We will provide more information on this in the near future.

I know that this will be a tough battle, but West Bay West...IT'S TIME. It is Time for a new, prepared, and experienced Member of Parliament to represent you. It is Time for you to elect someone who you can be proud of, and who will always be an exemplary role model. Our campaign will not engage in mudslinging and character assassination, we will discuss important issues and solutions. We will engage the aspirations of future generations, and I PROMISE that I will not embarrass you but instead will be a dependable role model who embodies character, honesty, integrity, and compassion. Additionally, I will serve the people of West Bay West and represent YOU fully and fight for the causes and improvements that are important to you.

For a long time, too long, West Bay politics and campaigning has been about personalities and "treating". Our campaign will not engage in gutter politics, but instead will be forward-looking, embracing the future challenges and solutions, and preparing our lovely West Bay West and our beloved Cayman Islands for the dawning of a better future. Everyone who knows me can attest to my work ethic and passion, and much of this comes from my father who, every night before he went to bed and as I stayed up late studying or doing my high school work, he would often encourage me with the words of another author... "Heights by men attained and kept, were not achieved by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upwards through the night". Therefore in this fine tradition, In this endeavour we will not tire, we will not slumber, we will not falter...until the battle is won!!

Yours Sincerely,

Mario E. Ebanks, MBA

Candidate for Member of Parliament – West Bay West.

Eye experts save 63-year-old Caymanian woman's eye

The ophthalmology team at the HSA recently performed an eye saving corneal transplant on a 63-year-old Caymanian woman.

The patient Grace Williams consulted at the Lion's Eye Clinic, for worsening pain and visual disturbance in the left eye. After evaluation and observation, Consultant Ophthalmologist Dr. Ermanno Scerrati recommended corneal transplant surgery to prevent further deterioration of her vision and eventual loss of that eye.

Corneal transplant, otherwise known as keratoplasty, is a surgical procedure to replace part of a damaged cornea with healthy corneal tissue from a donor. The

last procedure of this kind was performed over a decade ago on island.

"There are a lot of nerve endings in the cornea. Without treatment Ms Williams faced the risk of losing her eye. There would come a point when it becomes very painful that the whole eye would have to be removed," explained Dr Scerrati.

Dr. Scerrati, who joined the HSA early last year, has over eight years' experience performing corneal surgery. "This is an operation that requires an extremely skilled corneal trained ophthalmologist. There are not a lot of room for errors," said Ophthalmic Technician Diane Benson. "In the past, patients requiring this surgery had to travel overseas to have it performed, but Dr Scerrati's expertise with corneal grafts and transplants now allows us to offer this sight-saving service at the HSA. It will benefit a number of our patients and significantly change their lives for the better."

Before Ms Williams surgery was performed the corneal tissue necessary for operation had to be obtained from overseas. The Eye Clinic team submitted a request to the Florida Lions Eye Bank where they procured the tissue as well as established a continuous part-



► The Eye Clinic team: (l-r) Diane Benson, Dr. Richard Corkin and Dr Ermanno Scerrati



► Dr Ermanno Scerrati and Nurse Shannon Lal preps patient Grace Williams for surgery

nership that will help to supply eye tissue to their patients requiring surgery in the future.

"This is HSA's first corneal transplant surgery and it's success can be attributed to the collaborative effort of the eye clinic and operating room teams," said Dr Scerrati. "I also thank Ms Williams for trusting our clinical advice and expertise. Her re-

covery is going smoothly and we will continue to monitor her progress."

"The surgery went well, and I would definitely recommend it to persons who need it," said Ms Williams. "Dr Scerrati and the eye clinic team are both skilled and compassionate. They go the extra mile to help their patients and for that I am grateful."

THANK YOU



JC Calhoun
Founding Board Member of the YMCA

Andres Barthel
Rubis Managing Director

Joseph Solomon
Rubis Head of Finance

Derek Bolingbroke
Little League Programme Director

Dustin Kersey
Rubis Operations Manager

"It is with great pleasure that Rubis Cayman Islands Limited has decided to sponsor the construction of the "pavilion" at the YMCA facilities which will become a key infrastructure element for the use of the children and families attending the various events over the years to come. It is important for Rubis to continue supporting our community and to participate in this important development that YMCA is undertaking in support of the children while promoting sports, competition and a healthy life style within our community." Rubis Managing Director Andres Barthel

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Batabano events to benefit HSA's Dialysis Unit

The Dialysis Unit at the George Town Hospital has once again been chosen as the recipient of part-proceeds from all upcoming 2021 events planned by the organisers of Cayman Carnival Batabano, the national carnival of the Cayman Islands.

"The Batabano Board of Directors contributed proceeds to the HSA's Dialysis Unit several years ago, and as the country's need for its services continues to grow, we felt the need to offer our support once again because it is in need of new

equipment," explained Batabano Chairperson, Donna Myrie-Stephen, noting that although the Batabano parade slated for May is still tentative due to ongoing restrictions on public gatherings, events are still allowed within prescribed limitations.

Cayman's youngest dialysis patient, Anielka Rankin, who is also an avid Batabano masquerader, offers her endorsement of Batabano's support for the Dialysis Unit. "Being young as a dialysis patient, I have learned to adapt to my illness and make the best of my life and situation. As a Batabano masquerader and as Cayman's youngest dialysis patient, I sincerely appreciate the support of my national carnival for the Dialysis Unit that I, and so many others, depend on for our survival."

Chief Executive Officer of the Health Services Authority (HSA), Lisette Yearwood, said: "We thank the Cayman Carnival Batabano Board of Directors for once again earmarking the Dialysis Unit to receive part proceeds from this year's events. We sincerely appreciate this kind gesture and wish you all the best for a successful year."

Echoing those sentiments was Nurse Erlin McLeod, Manager of the Dialysis Unit, who said: "We really appreciate the Cayman Carnival Batabano Committee for earmarking the Dialysis Unit to receive part proceeds from this year's events. On behalf of the dialysis patients and the dialysis team, we offer our gratitude."

The Batabano Chairperson said that a series of events are planned over the next few



► Cayman's youngest dialysis patient, Anielka Rankin



months, starting with a carnival-themed 5K Walk/Run on Sunday February 28, 2021 at Camana Bay starting at 7am at The Crescent. Register online at www.caymanactive.com/registrations/batabano5k. Payments can be made at Le Classique in The Strand or via online transfer to Butterfield CI Account #02101035150. All are welcome and encouraged to wear their favourite carnival T-shirt, costume, or accessories. Costumes are not required, but there will be prizes for the Best Costumed Male, Best Costumed Female, Best Costumed Junior, Most Spirit on De Road, and Best Costumed Couple.

Learn more about the carnival's upcoming events by visiting www.caymanacarnival.com.

PSPB Appoints Caymanian to Key Leadership Role

Jewel Evans Lindsey, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Public Service Pensions Board (PSPB) is pleased to announce the promotion of a young professional Caymanian, Ledra Lawrence, to the role of Chief Operating Officer (COO). Lawrence has been with the PSPB since 2008 in various roles and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this senior executive position.

With the promotion, Ms. Lawrence has direct accountability for key operational decisions made by the Authority and she will provide strategic direction in the overall development and delivery of all aspects of the Authority's Finance, Human Resources, Operations, Information Technology and Project Management functions supported by the Chief Human Resources Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information and Project Management Officer.

Almost five years ago, Ms. Lawrence commenced on a succession plan to become COO of the PSPB. During the period, she embraced the challenges of the training, engaged in deep reflections, welcomed feedback and made the requisite adjustments, which shows that organic growth and development is attainable. This is a testament to what can be achieved when

local organizations embrace and partner with young Caymanian professionals who are willing to embrace opportunities for development through hard work, dedication, and the willingness to align their personal brand with that of the organization's brand, culture and vision. So, today, it gives me great pleasure to announce her promotion and formal appointment to the role of COO," said Mrs. Evans Lindsey.

"I am excited to accept this promotion within such an amazing organization which has helped me grow my career," said Ms. Lawrence, "and I look forward to continuing to support the CEO as she continues to build the Authority's brand as a leader in Cayman both in pension administration and in developing Caymanians for promising careers."

Lawrence, a Magna Cum Laude BSc in Business Administration - (Concentrated in Accounting) UCCI graduate, joined the Authority in 2008 at the level of Finance Officer within the Finance Department and expected to continue along the accounting path. However, as a result of her strong work ethic, determination and embracing workforce planning and development efforts, Lawrence was provided with the opportunity to take part in job rotation initiatives within the Authority and

has gained experience working in every department within the PSPB over the past 12 years. Lawrence reflects on this experience as the positive turning point which took her career on an unexpected new trajectory.

Lawrence further comments "the PSPB's mission is to be recognized as best in class for investments and member services to our membership which is made up of the hardworking and dedicated civil and public servants of the Cayman Islands. This noble case has been the driving force for my dedication to the PSPB as the civil and public servants of the Cayman Islands are the bedrock that supports our Islands success and deserve to experience the peace and tranquility that retirement is supposed to bring; this is what we all strive for at PSPB"

"As the risk landscape continues to expand, it is precisely because of Ms. Lawrence's broad knowledge and acquired range of skillsets, that her new role will also encompass oversight for the Authority's risk management function as chief risk officer, an advisory role to the CEO. She is a talented employee who exemplifies the Authority's core values and is committed to her own education and development and as such she has attained the requisite



► Ledra Lawrence

certifications/qualifications for her new role and was recently awarded an MBA from Walden University. She will undoubtedly be successful in these roles and I look forward to her ongoing support as we continue to pursue PSPB's vision of excellence and to develop other young Caymanians within the authority to this end" concluded PSPB's CEO.

Information on the Public Service Pension Board is available online at: www.pspb.ky.



► The 4x100m relay was very exciting



► Davonte Howell came first in the year 11 100m, 200m and 400m

John Gray High School Sports Day

By Christopher Tobutt

The four teams, Marlon, Wahoo, Tarpon and Dolphin battled it out at the Truman Bodden stadium all day long in the hot sun. In the end, Tarpon Academy won overall with 1016 points, with Wahoo close behind with 961 points, Dolphin third with 950 points, and Marlin fourth with 845 points. But Marlin Academy won the exciting cheerleading competition – the cheerleaders resplendent in honey bee yellow outfits with smart stylish hats.

Two of the reasons Tarpon did so well were year 11 Davonte Howell (Tarpon) - who won all of his events and is running at CARIFTA times and for the Girls from year 10 Aaliannah Anderson (Tarpon) who again dominated her age group with top times in each event. "Today I have won the 100 meters, 200 meters and the 400 meters. I train every day, other than Friday and Sunday," Davonte said. He is hoping to go to CARIFTA later in the year, and actually qualified last year too, but CARIFTA wasn't held because of covid-19. "I feel really good, it was a good run," Aaliannah said as she caught her breath when recovering from the 200m, just one of the events at which she shone.

But there were more young star athletes, too. In Year 10, the Dolphins' Jerrell Maize who just turned 15, won 100m and won the 200m. 16-year-old Amanda won



► Marlin Academy – the winning cheerleader team

the 400m, with a big effort she put in a very impressive lead over the rest of the pack.

Jon Clark Principal at John Gray High School said: "We've had a fantastic day so far. We started off in the gymnasium

where we had our cheerleader competition that was won by Marlon academy, and now we've got a really fierce competition on the track. We've had the 100 meters, the 200 meters, the 400 meters and the 800 meters, and we've got the relays to finish when everyone gets really excited.

"We've already done so many events before in school-time, like high-jump, long-jump and shot-put. We've awarded those medals today as well, and MP's Barbara Conolly and David Knight presenting those awards. This is a really fierce inter-academy challenge.

"Davonte is one of our CARIFTA team athletes. Every year he's been winning things for us. He came up from primary school and he's been winning just about everything since he's been at John Gray; an outstanding young man in Year 11."

Lots of work went into this year's success for Tarpon, and the young athletes who got their medals are justifiably proud of their achievement. But we also have to recognize Marlin Academy cheerleaders who not only one first place with their amazing cheerleading routine, but have actually won for the fifth year in a row. Wendy Maxwell, their teacher and instructor, saw to it that the girls put on their



► Jerrell Maize crosses the finish line



► Aaliannah Anderson after winning the 200m

best performance ever on the big day. "We practice hard and the children do very well and I am super-proud of them. We started training in November, and we meet every morning to get it done," she said.

Long game or short game?

There are two distinctly different approaches to losing the fat and getting into amazing shape. One of these approaches works. (Every. Single. Time.) And the other approach fails. (Every. Single. Time.)

I call these the Fitness Short Game and the Fitness Long Game. Let's find out which game you're playing...

Fitness Short Game: Those who choose to play short are looking for the quick fix. They are looking for the program that will give them dramatic fat loss results in the shortest amount of time. They want results, they want it NOW, and they don't play to stick with it. This is the instant gratification crowd.

Fitness Long Game: Those who choose to play long are focusing on making lifestyle changes to sustain for the long haul. They are working on steadily adapting healthier habits and putting in the time and effort to maintain these improvements. They are patient and focused on their end goal, knowing full well that gratification will be delayed, and results will be permanent.

Which of these two strategies to you think leads to pounds lost and muscles sculpted? There's no question that playing the fitness long game is the only way to successfully transform your health and your body.

Let's take a closer look at what it means to play the Fitness Long Game...

1. Create a Long-Term Vision

A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step...and also with a selected destination. The first step in playing the fitness long game is to have a clear picture in your mind of what the success you are striving for looks like.

What will you look like when you've hit your fitness stride? How often will you exercise each week to maintain your fab new body? What foods will you eat to support your muscles and aid your fat loss? How many hours each night will you sleep? Who will you spend your time with?

The clearer your vision, the steadier your path, and the more likely your chance to succeed.

2. Learn to Delay Gratification

As you read above, no one attains a hot body through quick, miracle fixes. This means that as you strive towards your goal you will need to practice the art of delayed gratification.

This is not to say that there won't be victories along the way, to fuel your fire and give you a boost of motivation. Pay attention to every little victory, such as every single pound lost, each size down, and compliments from friends and family. Learn to derive gratification from each inch of progress towards your goal.

Imagine how sweetly gratifying it will be to achieve your long-term vision and lean into this feeling when the going gets tough.

3. Fall in Love with the Process

Why is it that you aren't in tiptop shape right now? Because you've fallen in love with the process of being out-of-shape. You've fallen in love with the hours on your couch, the comfort food, the late



► Ernest Ebanks

night desserts and the extra hours of sleep in the morning.

Playing the fitness long game means falling in love with the process of getting fit. You must fall in love with the early morning wake up, the muscle pain, the sweaty clothes and the clean foods. Remember, this process is part of your long-term vision for your fit life, and so accepting the new habits now, rather than later, will get you to your goals faster.

Won't getting and staying in shape be that much easier if you LOVED the habits and actions necessary for your success?

4. Take Notice of All Progress

On week 2 of a 12-week challenge you will not wake up looking like a fitness competitor. You'll wake up sore, tired, and probably hungry. The scale will tell you that you've lost a modest number of pounds, and you'll mentally calculate the percentage left to lose. You've barely scratched the surface.

I'll bet if you tried you could find half a dozen signs of your early progress. Sure, these may be undetectable to everyone else, but it's your body so you can feel the change before anyone else can see it. Take the time to stop and congratulate yourself on every inch of progress in your journey.

No step is too small to celebrate.

5. Focus Less on What You Want and More on Who You Want to Become

What you want is to look a certain way, to feel a certain way, and to have others look at you in a certain way. It's easy to imagine what you want. However, it's *who you become* that dictates what you get.

Spend time focusing on the kind of person who achieves the things that you want to achieve. What are their daily habits? What do they do differently than you do? What can you learn from them? By focusing on the kind of person that you need to become, you will automatically achieve the success that you want.

Transform your daily habits to those of the person who has achieved the things you wish to achieve.

Are you ready to transform your body once and for all by playing the fitness long game? Call Ernest at Body Shapers Fitness Studio 325-8696 or email me at bodyshaperscayman@gmail.com now to get started!

HEALTH MATTERS

Insight into mental health of youth

Young people in the Cayman Islands are more likely to have been diagnosed with mental health issues when compared to global data, according to statistics presented at the Alex Panton Foundation's Youth Mental Health Symposium. The data, which indicated that 12.5 per cent of respondents had been diagnosed with mental health issues, was collected by the National Drug Council from 3,478 students across the Cayman Islands age between 12 and 17 years, during the NDC's student drug study, the last of which took place in early 2020 (before the pandemic hit.)

Dr Erica Lam, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, with Aspire and Clinical Consultant of the Alex Panton Foundation, presented findings from the study as they related to mental health issues and said this was the second year the Foundation had partnered with the NDC and so they were able to make comparisons between this latest study and the previous one, which took place in 2018.

Dr Lam said that of those diagnosed with mental health issues (of which more were girls than boys), 84.9 per cent said they had sought help. Barriers to them seeking help included the fact that they felt they didn't need help, they feared the help would not be useful, they feared being judged, they felt embarrassed and they felt they could not afford the help. Help should therefore be generated in ways that young people could easily access it, such as via social media and forums such as the mental health symposium, Dr Lam advised.

The role of the family

The survey found that 5.7 per cent of respondents' parents had been diagnosed with mental illness, which was one of the predictors as to whether the child would go on to develop it also. A student's relationship with their parents paid a crucial role in whether the students might go on to develop mental illness, the doctor said. While 70 per cent of those students questioned said they had safe and engaging relationships at home, 34 per cent had seen violence in the home. Simple things like not yelling at children had a significant impact on lowering suicidal tendencies among children, while checking in with children (such as whether they had done their homework), spending time with them and having fun were all useful ways to encourage communications with young people, who were then less likely to develop mental issues, Dr Lam said.

Issues at school

As far as school was concerned, over half the respondents said they had expe-



► Dr Erica Lam, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, with Aspire and Clinical Consultant of the Alex Panton Foundation

rienced bullying, with incidents of students being made fun of because of their body, being ostracised, being bullied because of their race and colour. Five per cent of bullying involved physical bullying. A worrying factor revealed in the study was that 4.3 per cent of those bullied went on to attempt suicide, she explained. Some good news was that the survey revealed a significant drop in the number of students carrying weapons into school, from 67.2 per cent in 2018 down to 12.5 per cent in 2020. Even so, that still meant 284 students did not feel safe in school and felt the need to arm themselves. Dr Lam said that Cayman therefore still had a way to go, in this regard.

More than half of those polled said they had witnessed violence in their school, community or home and one in four said they had been involved in life-threatening events. Significant predictors of someone going on to develop anxiety and depression were if they were female, if they were being bullied, self-harming, had been physically abused, had issues with alcohol and had been through a life-threatening event. Four and a half per cent of those students who responded said they had turned up to school drunk. The audience heard that students diagnosed with mental illness were three times more likely to attempt suicide, Dr Lam explained. From the survey, they found that a worrying 17 per cent of students had thought about suicide, or 387 students, with 9 per cent stating they had attempted suicide. While girls were more likely to attempt suicide than boys, boys were more likely to harm themselves as they tended to use a more aggressive method. A child that had experienced abuse was 7.3 times more likely to attempt suicide, the doctor said. This was an issue that had to be taken very seriously, Dr Lam advised.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

St. Ignatius Friday Fish Fry Nights

26 February – The popular St. Ignatius Friday Fish Fry Nights are back for this Lenten season starting on 19 February from 5:00-8:00 pm in the School Canteen. Serving Snapper or Mahi-Mahi with fries or rice, cole slaw, grilled onions and festival. Free desserts! Dine in or carry out!

Kids Night out at the Pavilion

26 February – Bring the kids (ages 6 – 12yrs.) for a fun-filled night with their friends for games, activities, sweet candy treats and a movie on the lawn from 6- 10pm. Cost

is \$15 and includes 1 food ticket, 1 drink ticket and a popcorn treat. Space is limited so the deadline to register is February 23. For more information, Call 917 – 2008 or email 345agriculture@gmail.com.

Dress for Culture Day

26 February - Dress for Culture Day is now in its ninth year. This annual 'dress up, dress down' fundraiser celebrates Cayman's multicultural community which is comprised of over 100 nationalities. Schools, businesses and individuals across the Cayman Islands are encouraged to creatively display their homeland pride and cultural attire on that day for a do-

nation of \$5 per adult and \$3 per student. Monies raised go toward CNCF's cultural heritage preservation programmes. Visit artscayman.org.

Market at the Pavilion

27 February – It's Market Day at the Pavilion! Calling buyers and sellers! Grab a bargain or reserve a space at Market at the Pavilion from 8am to 3pm. If you're buying, entrance fee is only \$2 and kids under 13 are free. Are you planning to sell? Call 917 – 2008 or email 345agriculture@gmail.com about renting a space.

Red Sky at Night

27 February -The F.J. Harquail Cultural Centre is hosting the 8th annual 'Red Sky at Night' Festival! Visitors will be treated to live performances from dancers, actors and storytellers as well as creative work by local visual artists and crafts people. Celebrated films from around the Caribbean will be shown and there is a mouthwatering array of local culinary delicacies to be enjoyed.

Due to Covid restrictions, Red Sky at Night will offer two sessions to make sure everyone can enjoy all the event has to offer:

- Saturday, 27th February - Matinee 2pm - 6pm - All Tickets \$10.
- Evening 7pm - 11pm - All Tickets \$15.

Visit <https://www.artscayman.org/red-sky-at-night/> or call 949 – 5477 for more information.

Cayman Carnival Batabano 5K Walk/Run

28 February - The Cayman Carnival Batabano Committee 5K Walk/Run starts at 7am at The Crescent in Camana Bay. Participants are encouraged to wear their favourite carnival costume, T-shirt, or accessory for a chance to win prizes for Best Costumed Male, Best Costumed Female, Best Costumed Junior, Most Spirit on the Road, and Best Costumed Couple. Registration is \$15, and part-proceeds will go towards purchasing new equipment for the HSA's Dialysis Unit. Register online at www.caymanactive.com. Payments can be made at Le Classique in The Strand

or via online transfer to Butterfield CI Account #02101035150. Registration closes at midnight on Saturday February 27th, and will not be available on the morning of the event. For more details email batabanocaymancarnival@gmail.com or call 916-1740.

Honouring Women Month – Women in Sport

6 March - The Squash club in collaboration with the Stingray Swim Club will be hosting Women in Sports on Saturday 6 March at the South Sound Squash Club from 5:45pm to 7:15pm. Mingle with some of Cayman's international sports women, shop from a group of selected local businesses and buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win some wonderful prizes. Entry fee is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children and includes a drink. Email mwest@squash.ky for more information.

Send your community events to wendy@caymaniantimes.ky



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Deadline for Electors Claims and Objections Nears

The deadline to submit claims and objections against the Revised List of Electors is Thursday, 25 February 2021.

The Revised List of Electors is available to view at elections.ky or in person at

the Elections Office at 68 West Bay Road, George Town.

To submit a claim (Form 7) or objection (Form 9), submit a completed form via email to office@elections.ky or deliver

it in person to the Elections Office. Forms are available at elections.ky.

Hearings of claims and objections will be held by the Revising Officer (Chief Magistrate) between Monday, 22 and

Friday, 26 March 2021. Once finalised, this list will come into effect on 1 April 2021 and will be used for the next General Election, which is to be held on 14 April.

DEH Urges Community to Safely Dispose of Batteries

Last week (Thursday, 18 February, 2021) a small fire, caused by a phone battery, occurred at the George Town Landfill.

Thanks to the quick actions of the team at the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) the battery was isolated and the fire extinguished.

This is the third incident in which a fire at the George Town Landfill had been linked to a smoldering battery. As the batteries move around in large trucks during transport, or if they are pushed around in a landfill, they can be punctured or pressure and heat can cause the battery to spark and ignite a fire.

"Lithium ion batteries are often the cause of fires in landfills and other waste handling facilities. It is not always easy to know what each type of battery is called so we have come up with a guide we hope will help the community. You can find it on our website as well, www.deh.gov.ky" says Michael Haworth, DEH Assistant Director – Solid Waste.

"Although we use batteries in everyday items", Mr Haworth notes, "We rarely think of them as a hazard as they are powering our smartphones, laptops, and watches etc. yet we must be mindful of the hidden dangers."

DEH encourages the public to dispose of their batteries in the recycling tubes found across the Cayman Islands at supermarkets and other commercial locations and not in their regular garbage.

With over 50+ recycling drop-off points for small batteries through-out the islands; "It would be great to see the entire community recycling all their batteries," added Mr Haworth.

"We appreciate that there can be confusion in the general public around how to properly dispose of batteries but we are encouraged so many people want to know how to dispose of their batteries correctly and safely"

The batteries that can be dropped off in the recycling tubes are:

- Nickel Cadmium batteries
- Nickel metal hydride batteries
- Lithium ion batteries (most found catching fire in the landfill)
- Alkaline
- Zinc carbon
- Lithium
- Mercury oxide
- Zinc air
- Silver oxide

Large lithium ion batteries which are used in electric cars should be delivered to DEH following consultation with them.

Car and truck batteries should be delivered to the landfill 24 hour drop off on Grand Cayman or at the Cayman Brac landfill during our opening hours.

For more on Battery Recycling Resources visit: www.deh.gov.ky under Recycling to access full list.

Statutory Fee Introduced

Water customers will see a new statutory fee reflected on their bill, beginning February 2021. Although the statutory fee will be shown as an additional line item on the Water Authority's water customer bill, **there is no resulting increase in the bill amount**, as the fee is being separated from the current base rates.

The Authority engages in the management, development and protection of water resources. Historically the Authority's statutory functions have been funded from the Authority's utility revenue and royalties. In 2017, when the enabling legislation to transfer the Authority's regulatory function for the water and wastewater sector to OfReg was established, the principle of a statutory fee to fund the Authority's statutory role was enshrined in the legislation. The Statutory Fee is being introduced through the Water Authority (Amendment) Regulations, 2021, which was gazetted on the 20 January 2021.

"The statutory functions of the Authority are critical to the pro-

tection of groundwater resources for the present and future generations" notes Water Authority Director, Dr Gelia Fredrick van-Generden. "By separating this fee from the current base water rates, the Authority can be transparent about the portion of water rates revenue used to fund these functions. Because the entire population has access to potable water, either from the pipeline or through trucked water, it was fair and equitable to cover the Statutory costs from a fee charged on all water consumption," she explains.

Water Authority water customers will see the statutory fee reflected in the "New Charges" and the "Consumption Details" section of their bill. The statutory fee is \$0.22 per cubic metre. The statutory fee will be reflected on water customers bills only and not on sewerage and septage customers. Future adjustments to the statutory fee will be made simultaneously as base rate adjustments, using the same methodology.

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
						
83° / 79°	83° / 78°	84° / 78°	83° / 79°	80° / 79°	80° / 78°	79° / 78°
Mostly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny, breezy and nice	Breezy and nice with sunshine	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Sunne to partly cloudy	Partly sunny	Partly sunny

MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION

JOHN 19:16- DEADLY SILENCE

How can any man or woman scream, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" I need to also ask myself if I too would have been a maddening voice that day in that reckless crowd. Would I have called for Jesus' crucifixion even if I had witnessed all His miracles. But I cannot earnestly condemn those who demanded His crucifixion

when I remain silent about His great Salvation? If I do then it is just as deadly as those who clamoured for His crucifixion. Charles Spurgeon preached, "When we remember our sins crucified Him, how it ought to awaken in our souls a devout resolution that we will one day crown Him LORD OD LORDS."



DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. David McLean who passed away on January 17, 2021. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Cayman Islands Baptist Church, 163 Pedro Castle Road, Savannah, Grand Cayman on Saturday, January 30, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Viewing Closed Casket

This Funeral Service will be live-streamed on the Churchill's Funeral home Facebook page on Saturday, January 30, 2021, starting from 10:00 a.m. Interment: Prospect Cemetery

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com



Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Dalvin Ebanks, who passed away on Friday January 1, 2021. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at the West Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands on Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Viewing: 9:00 -10:00 a.m. Interment at: Boatswain Bay Cemetery

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com



Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. James Truman Walton, who passed away on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021. Details of a Thanksgiving Service will be announced at a later date.

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com



Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Clive Howard Smith, who passed away on Friday, February 19, 2021. Details of a Thanksgiving Service will be announced at a later date.

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com



Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Norris Hurlston, who passed away on Monday, Feb. 22, 2021. Details of a Thanksgiving Service will be announced at a later date.

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com



Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Ms. Blanch Rankin, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 21, 2021. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at the William Pouchie United Church, North Side Rd, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Viewing: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Interment at: Old Man Bay Cemetery

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com



The family of the late **Hartman Morgan DaCosta** regret to announce his passing on 20 February, 2021.

A Funeral Service will be held 3:00 p.m. Saturday, 6 March, 2021 at Cayman Islands Baptist Church.

Interment will follow at the Eden Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to The Cayman Islands Seafarers Association or Jasmine Hospice

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



Bodden Funeral
"A source of comfort in a troubled time"

The family of the late **Merna Bride Pouchie (Nee Tibbetts)** regret to announce her passing on 15 February, 2021 on Cayman Brac.

A Funeral Service will be held at the Watering Place Church of God (Holiness) on Saturday, 27 February, 2021 at 11 am.

Interment will follow at the Creek Cemetery.

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



Bodden Funeral
"A source of comfort in a troubled time"

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. William Douglas Ebanks, who passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Ninety & Nine Church, 209 Powell Smith Dr. West Bay, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Viewing: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Interment at: St. Mary's Garden of Rest Cemetery, Willie Farrington Drive, West Bay.

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com




TURKS AND CAICOS CONTINUES SPATE OF CARIBBEAN ELECTION LANDSLIDES

Last week's landslide election win for the Progressive National Party (PNP) of the Turks and Caicos Islands reflects a recent trend in many Caribbean countries.

The PNP swept the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) from power just one seat short of a clean sweep.

Led by former Chief Minister Charles Washington Misick, the PNP won 14 of the 15 elected seats in the 21-member House of Assembly with victories in nine of the ten electoral districts.

It also took all five at-large seats including that of now-ex Premier Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson.

It's the latest in a series of dramatic election outcomes in the English-speaking Caribbean countries upsetting the equilibrium of the balance of power between government and opposition.

Except Guyana which uses the proportional representation voting system, elections in the Anglo-Caribbean are fought under the first-past-the-post outcome. Several of the British Overseas Territories also have a joint constituency and at-large representation.

ANGUILLA

In Anguilla last year, the opposition Anguilla Progressive Movement (APM) pushed the Anguilla United Front (AUF) of then-Premier Victor Banks out of office winning seven of the 11 seats.

The AUF won the other four but Mr Banks lost his seat. The new government is led by Premier Dr Ellis Webster.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Two years earlier in 2018, the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), led by Gaston Browne came within two seats of a clean sweep across the twin-island state.

It defeated the United Progressive Party (UPP) by grabbing 15 of the 16 seats in Antigua - the UPP could only hold on to one seat.

The other seat in the smaller sister island Barbuda, was won by the Barbuda People's Movement (BPM).

BAHAMAS

In 2017 in the Bahamas, the Free National Movement with Hubert Innis at the helm secured 35 of the 39 seats, leaving the Progressive Liberal Movement with the other four.

BARBADOS

The 2018 elections in Barbados saw the then-opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP) record an absolute clean sweep over the Democratic Labour Party (DLP).

Under the leadership of Mia Mottley, the BLP took all 30 seats in the country's parliament, installing Mottley as the country's first female Prime Minister.

BELIZE

It was a similar situation when Belize went to the polls last November. With 31 seats at stake, the People's United Party (PUP) won its first national election victory since 2003 taking 26 seats.

The incumbent United Democratic Party (UDP) got the other five seats, in its worst performance since 1998.

Turnout was over 81 per cent, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and a tropical storm.

BERMUDA

Last October saw a landslide for the ruling Progressive Labour Party (PLP) led by Premier David Burt. The PLP consolidated its hold on power by winning 30 seats to six for the One Bermuda Alliance.

The PLP had gone into the election with a 25-11 majority and snapped up another five from the OBA.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The BVI also saw a major upset in its elections in 2019 with the Virgin Island Party (VIP) led by current Premier An-

drew Fahie winning eight seats of the 13 seats.

The National Democratic Party (NDP) under since-retired Premier Dr Orlando Smith won only three seats, in the process losing eight of the 11 it won in 2015.

The other two seats went one each to the Progressive Virgin Islands Movement and the Progressives United Party.

DOMINICA

It was also a landslide victory in Dominica in 2-19 when Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerritt and his ruling Dominica Labour Party held on to the reigns of power.

The DLP won 18 of the 21 elected seats, increasing its hold on power by three further seats with the three remaining seats going to the opposition United Workers Party (UWP).

It was a record fifth consecutive victory for the DLP.

GRENADA

In 2018, Prime Minister Keith Mitchell steered his incumbent New National Party (NNP) to another term in office with a resounding win.

It took all 15 seats leaving the main opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) without representation in Grenada's parliament.

It was a repeat of the feat achieved twice before by the NNP; in 1999 and 2013.

JAMAICA

The landslide trend was also evident in Jamaica last year when Prime Minister Andrew Holness called elections a year early and guided the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) government to another term in office.

It increased its majority by capturing 49 of the 63 seats, confining the People's National Party (PNP) to another period in opposition with 16 fewer seats.

Voter turnout was only 37%, the lowest since 1983 due mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic and a dengue outbreak.

ST KITTS AND NEVIS

Last year also saw elections in the twin-islands state of St Kitts and Nevis with another landslide for the governing team - a coalition called Team Unity.

The three-party alliance made up of parties from both islands won nine of the eleven constituencies giving Prime Minister Dr Timothy Harris his second term.

The other two seats were won by the St Kitts Nevis Labour Party of former prime minister Denzil Douglas.

ELSEWHERE

In the other countries, the outcome of elections has been particularly close, with a one-seat majority in Montserrat with the Movement for



► Former Chief Minister Charles Washington Misick

Change and Prosperity (MCAP) edging the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) out of office.

Trinidad and Tobago and St Vincent and the Grenadines saw the respective ruling parties retain power by just three seats each.

In Trinidad, the People's National Movement (PNM) led by Dr Keith Rowley kept the United National Congress at bay, while in St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr Ralph Gonsalves' Unity Labour Party had a slightly better outcome in 2020 with a three-seat win over the New Democratic Party (NDP). In the previous election, the ULP won by just one seat.

The odd one out was St Lucia in 2016 when the United Workers' Party (UWP) led by current Prime Minister Allen Chastanet scored a decisive victory over the then-ruling St Lucia Labour Party (SLP).

The UWP won 11 seats of the 17 seats to 6 for the SLP.

Elections are due this year.

Unlike the Cayman Islands where independents and campaigning teams have traditionally dominated the political landscape, politics in the other Anglo-Caribbean countries is party-driven.

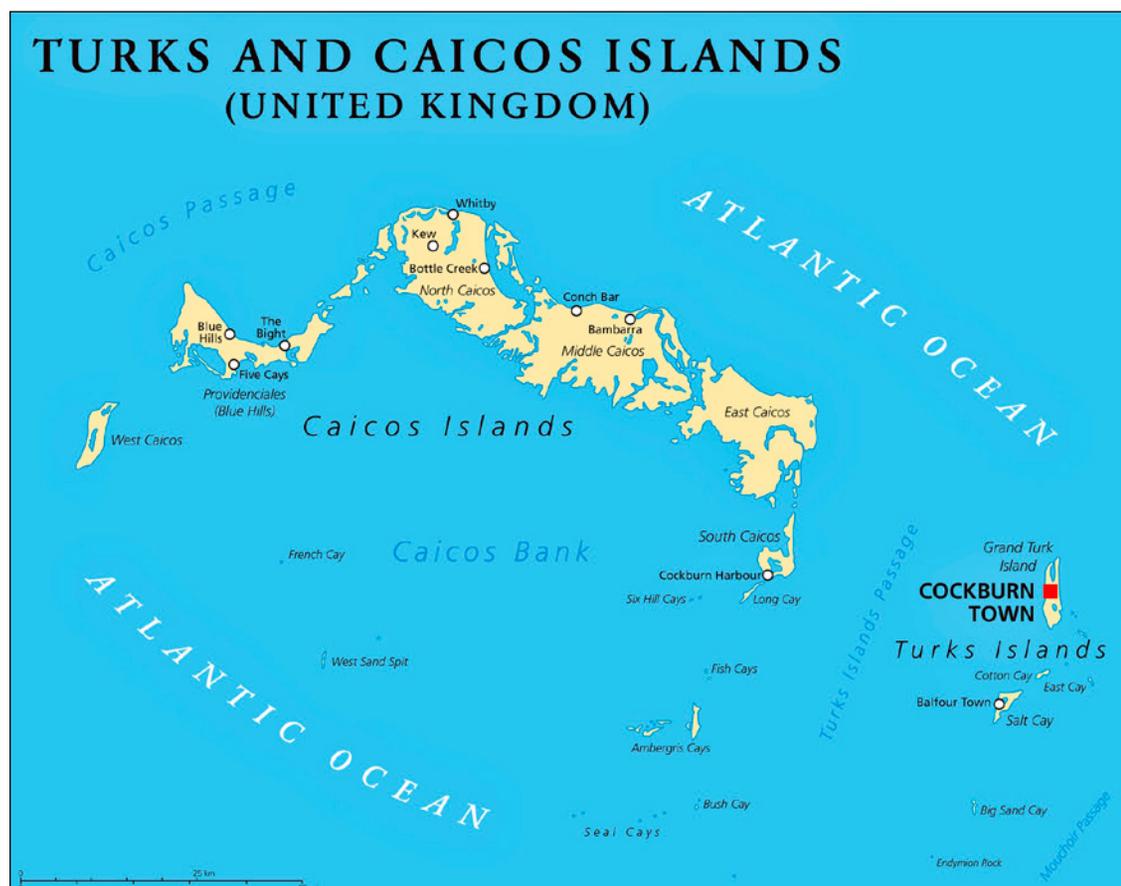
Cayman's first established political party was the United Democratic Party (UDP) - now known as the Cayman Democratic Party (CDP) - formed in 2001 by then Leader of Government (now Speaker) McKeever Bush in the aftermath of the 2000 general election.

Cayman goes to the polls in snap elections on April 14th - brought forward from May 26th - with the incumbent coalition-leading People's Progressive Movement (PPM) seen as the main party political unit.

The PPM is led by outgoing Premier Alden McLaughlin, who is completing his second consecutive term under the jurisdiction's constitution which limits leadership tenure.

Mr McLaughlin who seek to retain his parliamentary seat, has designated Finance Minister Roy McTaggart to take over the party's leadership.

The Cayman Islands government has been an alliance of the PPM and several independents, with the support of McKeever Bush's CDP.



UK TERRITORIES CONNECTION

By Michael Jarvis, UK Correspondent

ANGUILLA: GENERAL SERVICE TAX COMING

Anguilla is moving towards replacing several taxes with a General Services Tax (GST) by January next year.

Government officials have described the change as a critical crossroads for the territory as it embarks on a series of public consultations in advance of the legislation coming into force.

The issue is not without controversy.

Premier of Anguilla, Dr Ellis Webster said the GST proposal was inherited by his government which took over the reins of office last year.



► Anguilla Premier Dr Ellis Webster (Photo credit: Anguilla gov't)

Speaking during a press conference this week he disclosed that the Anguilla government was facing the prospect of bankruptcy for not being able to service its debts and was at risk of having its constitution suspended and direct rule from the United Kingdom.

Calling the situation 'disheartening', Premier Webster said: "What I was told is of we could not meet our debt service we would be considered to be bankrupt and that would mean that constitution had to be suspended."

He said the previous government had entered into an arrangement with the

British government for a financial aid package of around EC\$100 million (US\$37 million) to cushion the effects of COVID-19 in which introducing the GST was one of the key conditions imposed by the UK as the administering authority.

Another condition is for the Anguilla government to intensify the collection of tax arrears said to be around EC\$76 million (US\$28 million).

The proposed GST will replace several existing taxes.

MONTSERAT COVID RELIEF FUNDS

Businesses and individuals in Montserrat which have been agitating for financial relief government after being forced into another into lockdown due to a spike in COVID-19 cases are to finally get some relief from government.

The territory's Governor Andrew Pearce announced that a package totalling \$EC2 million (appx US\$740,000) was being made available out of funds already committed by the British government.

Montserrat has been in UK grant-in-aid since its Soufriere Hills volcano erupted over 25 years ago. It also received an additional funding package last year to offset the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The territory's Premier, Easton Taylor-Farrell was due to announce the details of the support package this week.



► Montserrat (Photo credit: Mike Jarvis)

It comes after much outcry over lost earnings especially in the private sector and an initiative by popular radio personality Basil Chambers to raise funds for local small businesses.

The Governor commended him for his initiative.

TURKS AND CAICOS GETS NEW GOVERNMENT

The new government in the Turks and Caicos Islands took office this week after its landslide victory in last week general election which saw former chief minister Charles Washington Misick return as Premier leading the new Progressive National Party (PNP).

The previous People's Democratic Movement (PDM) government of ex-premier Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson was relegated to one seat in the TCI House of Assembly, with the former premier losing her seat.



► Swearing-in. Top left Premier Washington Misick, Centre Governor Nigel Dakin, top right Deputy Premier Erwin Jay Saunders (Photo credit: TCI government)

In a concession statement she said: "The people have spoken loudly with their votes. We fully respect their decision and we wish the new Government the very best as they work for and on behalf of the people of these beautiful by nature Turks and Caicos Islands."

Meanwhile, new Premier Misick had promised: "We come for this work. We know the work is difficult, but I promise you we are prepared. We come for this work to ensure that none of you are left

behind... We plan to turbo-charge this economy to ensure that jobs are created."

BERMUDA'S BURT CITES COLONIALISM

The government of Bermuda and the United Kingdom appear on a collision course over what Premier David Burt has termed "a renewed push for colonialism by administering powers."



► Bermuda Premier David Burt (Photo credit: Burt's Facebook page)

In a Twitter post following a meeting with new United Nations Resident Coordinator, Dr. Garry Conille, Mr Burt said he welcomes "deeper engagement with the UN as Bermuda works with other non-sovereign territories to protect against recent actions that signal a renewed push for colonialism by administering powers [UK]."

While there were no specifics, the Premier told Bermuda's Bernews: "As the United Nations are responsible for the decolonization movement through the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, I thought it would be important to raise these matters on behalf of Bermuda as well as other Overseas Territories."

Mr Burts' ruling Progressive Labour Party (PLP) recently passed legislation making it legal for special licences to be issued to grow, sell and use cannabis.

However, it is unlikely to be signed into law by the territory's Governor.



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

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/10

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Assesses full
 - 6 "Understand?"
 - 11 Grownup
 - 12 Without others
 - 13 "Forgive me, Father" list
 - 15 Before, in poems
 - 16 Grammys category
 - 17 Whole bunch
 - 18 Blushes
 - 20 Stunned wonder
 - 21 Fishing pole
 - 22 Asterisk
 - 23 Message systems
 - 26 Young kangaroos
 - 27 Over again
 - 28 Old card game
 - 29 Scoundrel
 - 30 Bruise
 - 34 "— we there yet?"
 - 35 Tell tales
 - 36 Arthur of "Maude"
 - 37 Losing candidates' speeches
 - 40 Modify
 - 41 Make blank
 - 42 Glossy
- DOWN**
- 1 Indy entrant
 - 2 Love to pieces
 - 3 Ready to play
 - 4 North Pole worker
 - 5 Sound systems
 - 6 Shocked sounds
 - 7 Yale student
 - 8 Not in time
 - 9 Not at all
 - 10 Perfume counter bottles
 - 14 Dune makeup
 - 19 Sketched
 - 22 Chimney grime
 - 23 Venezuela's capital
 - 24 Succeeding
 - 25 Cold War easing
 - 26 Family to keep up with
 - 28 Clark's colleague
 - 30 Store worker
 - 31 German sub
 - 32 Good judgment
 - 33 Moved slowly
 - 38 Horseshoe shape
 - 39 Nest egg acct.

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

Yesterday's answer

- 14 Dune makeup
- 19 Sketched
- 22 Chimney grime
- 23 Venezuela's capital
- 24 Succeeding
- 25 Cold War easing
- 26 Family to keep up with
- 28 Clark's colleague
- 30 Store worker
- 31 German sub
- 32 Good judgment
- 33 Moved slowly
- 38 Horseshoe shape
- 39 Nest egg acct.

Word Search

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

- Aircraft
- Bridge
- Cycle
- Express
- Fare
- Ferry
- Freeway
- Garage
- Hangar
- Highway
- Local
- Route
- Schedule
- Shuttle
- Subway
- Taxi
- Terminal
- Toll
- Track
- Train
- Transfer
- Wheels

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

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			

3-24



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