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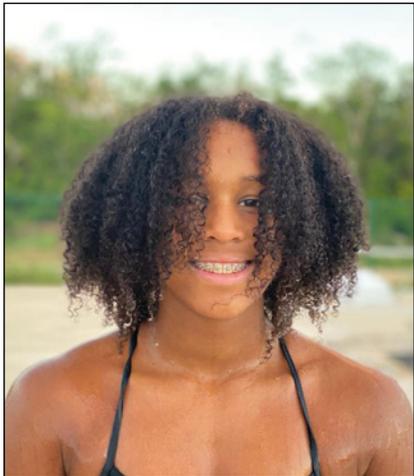
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WORC COMES TO THE BRAC

By Shakir Khan



A high-powered team from WORC (Work, Opportunities and Residency Cayman), was present on the Brac from 27th-30th April. The team was led by Interim Director Ms Laura Watler, and former director, Mr Jeremy Scott who is returning to his substantive post of Deputy Director of Compliance.

Ms Watler was very excited to be making the visit as she puts it, "to ensure that WORC has a powerful presence on sister islands."

"The aim is to solidify operations and business functions, to ensure that support for staff is available and provide opportunities for training, development and employment services," she explained.

SEE WORC, Page 8

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COMMUNITY NOTICE

DCI Launches Customer Feedback Survey

The Department of Commerce and Investment (DCI) recently launched a customer feedback survey to assess how satisfied customers are with different aspects of application processes offered by the Department and to inform decision making and future innovations.

“DCI is committed to making the lives of who we serve better. In order to do that we want to invite our clients to provide us with their valuable feedback on what can be done to enhance our processes,” Ryan Rajkumarsingh, DCI Director stated.

The survey is available on the DCI’s website at www.dci.gov.ky with direct link via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TRZX23J>.



It is also available on DCI’s Facebook page.

DCI has been lauded as one of the most innovative departments within the Cayman Islands Government. It has continuously sought to improve the customer service experience by making its processes less bureaucratic and more efficient.

All DCI customers are encouraged to complete the short survey, which expires on May 21.

EDITORIAL

Be prepared

The hot sunshine serves as an ever-present reminder that life in the tropics comes with the annual threat of tropical storms and hurricanes.

Each year, around this time, those of us who live in this tropical paradise usual focus our attention on getting our homes prepared for hurricane season and the prospect of a storm coming our way.

Last year, the threat of the coronavirus pandemic was front and centre in our minds. Our priority when it came to personal safety shifted from what howling winds, torrential rains and flying debris could do to harm us to shielding ourselves from an invisible virus.

Now as we encourage all residents to get vaccinated, once again our attention shifts back to the threat of an active hurricane season.

While the COVID 19 pandemic should remain as an ongoing concern, even as we ease back toward opening up as normal, we ought not to forget the danger that can come our way.

June 1st to November 30th is the official Atlantic hurricane season. Many forecasters and scientists are predicting that it will be a busy one with the possibility of up to 8 hurricanes. Where those hurricanes will go, if they materialise, no one knows.



Although we have been spared the brunt of any major storms for several years, let’s follow the lead that we as a community took in preparation for COVID-19 and ensure that we take the necessary precautions for hurricane season.

We urge you to ensure you have thought about where you will ride out any storm that comes our way; if your home is not safe or you do not feel comfortable being there, ensure you know where the nearest shelter is and that you can get there before conditions deteriorate. If you have elderly relatives, cater for them in your plans. Same for pets. Ensure your travel documents are in order. Keep adequate prescription medication at hand.

We continue to hope and pray that this is not the year that these beloved islands become the victim of a hurricane. However, if it is that year, then we trust the people of these islands would have taken the necessary precautions.

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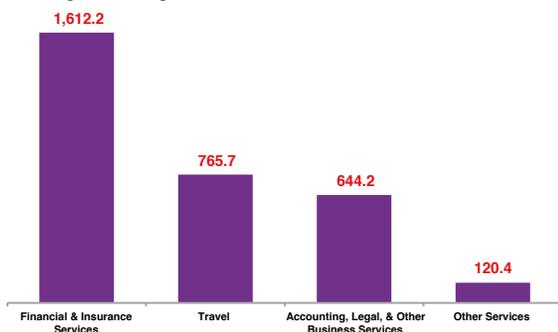
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The Economics and Statistics Office

Business Survey 2021 Your Response Matters!

In 2019, total foreign exchange revenue from Cayman’s export of services totalled CI \$3.1 billion.

Foreign Exchange Revenue from Services in 2019, CI\$Million



Did the Cayman Islands revenue on export of services increase or decrease?

The annual Balance of Payments (BOP) Survey collects information necessary in recording the Cayman Islands residents’ foreign transactions with the rest of the world. The survey runs April 12th to June 11th, 2021.

Data collected for the BOP survey is **CONFIDENTIAL** under the Statistics Act (2016 Revision) and is **EXEMPT** from the Freedom of Information Act.

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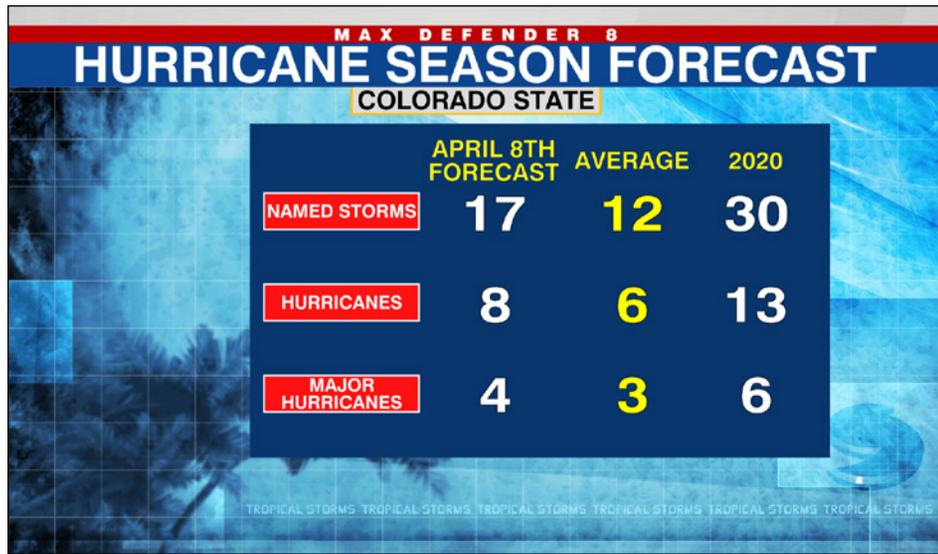
For assistance or enquiries, please check www.eso.ky or call 244-4600/244-4607.

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Tropical Cyclone Names 2021			
Atlantic Basin			
Ana	Grace	Mindy	Teresa
Bill	Henri	Nicholas	Victor
Claudette	Ida	Odette	Wanda
Danny	Julian	Peter	
Elsa	Kate	Rose	
Fred	Larry	Sam	

Active Hurricane Season Expected

By Staff Writer

Counting down to the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season with one month to go before the season officially starts on June 1st, and this year is predicted to be more active than usual, according to Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project.

They are forecasting 17 named storms, eight hurricanes and four major hurricanes which exceeds the 30-year average (1991 to 2020) of 14 named storms, seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

Last year's record-breaking hurricane season produced 30 named storms and forced the US National Hurricane Centre to resort to the Greek alphabet after using up the standard roster of 21 storm names.

A record nine storms were named in 2020 using the Greek alphabet

However, from this year storms will only be named using the standard method as many people found the system last year to be confusing.

The US National Hurricane Centre said acting on the advice of the World Meteorological Organization, Greek letters are dropped this year and forecasters will in-



stead pick names from a supplemental list this year if the need arises.

It's also being reminded that although the official Atlantic hurricane season runs from June through November, storms can occasionally develop outside those months.

Last year Tropical storms Arthur and Bertha each formed in mid-to late May.

Published standard storm names for this year are; Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Elsa, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Julian, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, Wanda.

The supplemental names for 2021 are: Adria, Braylen, Caridad, Deshawn, Emery, Foster, Gemma, Heath, Isla, Jacobus, Kenzie, Lucio, Makayla, Nolan, Orlanda, Pax, Ronin, Sophie, Tayshaun, Viviana and Will. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is used to measure storm strength.

Category 1

Wind (mph): 74 - 95

Damage: Minimal - No significant structural damage, can uproot trees and cause some flooding in coastal areas.

Category 2

Wind (mph): 96 - 110

Moderate - No major destruction to buildings, can uproot trees and signs. Coastal flooding can occur. Secondary effects can include the shortage of water and electricity.

Category 3

Wind (mph): 111 - 129

Extensive - Structural damage to small buildings and serious coastal flooding to those on low lying land. Evacuation may be needed.

Category 4

Wind (mph): 130-156

Extreme - All signs and trees blown down with extensive damage to roofs. Flat land inland may become flooded. Evacuation probable.

Category 5

Wind (mph): greater than 156

Catastrophic - Buildings destroyed with small buildings being overturned. All trees and signs blown down. Evacuation of up to 10 miles inland

POLICE NEWS

Fatal Collision on North West Point Road

Just after 8:30PM on Sunday, 2 May, police and other emergency services were dispatched to a collision involving a motor vehicle and a motorcycle.

The rider of the motorcycle was unresponsive at the scene of the collision and was transported to the hospital by ambulance where he was later pronounced dead. No other injuries were reported as a result of this incident.

Officers from the RCIPS and the CIFS assisted on scene and North West Point Road in the vicinity of Invicta Drive has been closed to the public as a result of the collision. Vehicles were being diverted through Watercourse Road and motorist who usually utilise North West Point Road were being encouraged to seek alternative routes if possible.

Police have now confirmed that the rider of the motorcycle is a 31-year-old-man of West Bay. The investigation into this matter is being progressed and a 38-year-old-man, also of West Bay, has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by careless driving and driving whilst impaired.

Caymanian Times

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UCCI Honours Graduates

More than 200 students pursuing diplomas or certificates at the University College of the Cayman Islands were honoured during commencement exercises Saturday evening. The event was live streamed on several social media platforms.

Keynote speaker Tom Jenkins, chairman of OpenText Corporation, a large Canadian tech firm, told the students they were more than just the next generation of workers and leaders.

"You're going to be the longest-lived generation in human history," Jenkins told them. "It's predicted that you'll live more than 100 years, and you'll have 12 different jobs."

He said the students are also the first digital generation and he implored them to take chances in life.

"Think about the power you have with the devices at your fingertips," he said. "That's revolutionary for our island."

He pointed to studies showing physical changes that have taken place in the brain structure of younger people as a result of the increased use of computers and other digital technologies. CAT scans, he said, have revealed that the areas of the brain responsible for memory are shrinking, while the nerve connections allowing the brain's two hemispheres to communicate have increased by 30 percent.



"You're evolving faster than any generation has in humanity," he said. "We're only at the very early stages of digital (society). It's fully up to you to define what that means."

He encouraged the graduates to apply that directly to the Cayman Islands, and determine what the digital future will look like here.

Gloria McField-Nixon, chief officer of the Portfolio of Civil Service was among the attending dignitaries taking part in the ceremonies. Representatives from the Ministry of Education, including Secretary and Chief Officer Cetonya Cacho and acting Deputy Chief Officer Lyneth Monteith were also on hand.

UCCI President and CEO Stacy McAfee commended the graduates – who included post graduate, bachelor's and associate degree recipients

along with those receiving technical certifications -- for weathering the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and suggested they might be in a better position to face the world because of that.

"The experiences of the last year have forced us to create new beginnings," she said, echoing the commencement theme of "New Beginnings, New Possibilities."

She went on to discuss some of the ways students had adapted and responded to the pandemic, including such things as an initiative by the social work students to help with the local food bank, and the fact that the nursing students helped provide healthcare support during the critical time.

"You must continue to create these kinds of possibilities," she said.

Board of Governors Chairman Mark Scotland, provided some highlights of UCCI's accomplishments over the past year, including the approval of campus improvements, increased salaries for faculty and planning for a new STEM building as part of a campus expansion.

He also said that because of the lockdown that came with the coronavirus, the graduates had seen significant changes in their education regimen, including having to adapt to online learning. As a result, he

suggested their diplomas and certificates should carry an asterisk, indicating "that you accomplished your studies in the heat of the Covid pandemic."

But, he added, "Together we made it through. And I think it's fair to say, if you can do this, you can do anything."

As part of the evening's ceremonies, several awards were presented, including the Community Partner Award, which went to Beverley and Tom Simpson, for their help in establishing the Community Engagement Programme. The programme will provide need-based scholarships for up to 20 students annually and there are hopes that it will grow to be able to assist even more students.

Laurent Bodden received the Recent Graduate Alumnus Award, while Jared Awe – a member of the UCCI Board of Governors – was presented with the Career Alumnus Award.

The audience was also treated to performances by the UCCI Dancers and the UCCI Chorus.

McAfee sent the graduates off with the encouragement that they "be the catalyst for great ideas and momentous actions."

"Your success," she added, "is our proudest accomplishment."



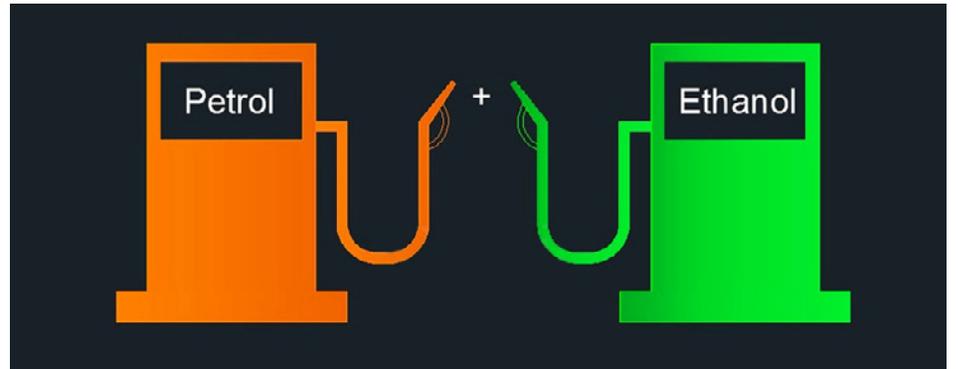
OfReg supports the use of ethanol-blended gasoline and biodiesel fuels

Cayman's utilities regulator, the Utility Regulation and Competition Office (OfReg) has issued a statement saying it was deeply concerned about what they say are "unsubstantiated comments" made by a licensee in some local newspapers concerning its position on the National Energy Policy goals and innovation in the fuel sector. The statement made it clear that OfReg was in favour of ensuring Cayman's consumers had a choice of fuel options and that it had no objections to a recent application by Refuel for another ethanol

and biodiesel facility to be built in the Seven Mile Beach location.

It did, however, offer some words of caution when it said that it had, via its predecessor entity Petroleum Inspectorate, conducted a market analysis that showed that the overall market was already approaching saturation in 2015 based on the number of gas stations in operation.

"The issue was more pronounced in certain districts, while some districts remain underserved," OfReg stated.



Ethanol Blended Petrol

- Mixer of hydrous or anhydrous ethanol in Petrol called Ethanol blended petrol
- Ethanol fuel mixtures have "E" numbers which describe the percentage of ethanol fuel in the mixture by volume
- E85 is 85% anhydrous ethanol and 15% gasoline
- Low-ethanol blends, from E5 to E25, are also known as gasohol
- Internationally the most common use of the term refers to the E10 blend.

With this in mind, it said it began including a cautionary statement when approving gas stations applications.

"In the event the fuel market economic assessment indicates that to achieve efficient pricing, there may need to be options such as rationing of gas station licenses, these options are taken into consideration by potential investors," it confirmed.

For the Seven Mile Beach Refuel gas station project, OfReg said it told the Central Planning Authority that the new/proposed site was contributing to achieving Cayman Islands National Energy policy (to achieve 70 per cent renewable energy supplies by 2037) and such initiative and investment should be encouraged/facilitated.

"Accordingly, OfReg had no objection to the project moving forward, subject to the technical conditions and considerations," it said.

It also said that, with fuel prices a function of several factors, with cash flow and cost flow being major determinants of prices, newer entrants such as Refuel (which had significantly lower overheads) had the unique advantage of offering considerably lower prices for consumers' benefit, which was encouraged.

"Currently, renewable motor fuels are imported and supplied under a lower capital investment model, enabling consumers to benefit from the lower prices at the pump," OfReg said.



Miss Cayman Islands Universe

The Miss Cayman Islands Universe Committee at its first in-person meeting at the Government Admin Building since January 2020. The Committee is very pleased to have the support of Tourism Minister, Hon. Kenneth Bryan and Parliamentary Secretary, Heather Bodden and looks forward to an exciting year ahead. Other Parliamentary Members also paid a visit to show their support.



► (L-R) First row: Committee members Kimberly Pearson; Laura Alleyne; Judy Powery; Derri Dacres-Lee; Parliamentary Secretary Heather Bodden; Committee members Lovenia Ebanks; Nicole Scott; Katrina Ebanks. Second row: Committee member Dawn McLean-Sawney; Parliamentary Secretary Issac Rankine; Hon. Minister Johanny Ebanks; Hon. Minister Sabrina Turner; Deputy Premier, Hon. Chris Saunders; Tourism Minister, Hon. Kenneth Bryan; Committee member Latrese Haylock.

OPPOSITION LEADER PLEADS WITH RESIDENTS TO GET COVID VACCINATED

By Staff Writer

Leader of the opposition Progressives (People's Progressive Movement) party, Roy McTaggart has issued an urgent and heartfelt plea to those residents who have not yet taken their COVID-19 vaccine to get the jab.

Mr McTaggart said in a recorded statement on Friday, that he encourages "everyone on our islands who have not been vaccinated, to get the vaccine, as soon as possible."

He stressed the dual necessity of the vaccine both for individual health protection as well as the public health and economic implications.

"It is really important to protect the health and wellbeing of all of us, including our loved ones. In addition, it will also ensure that we can safely reopen our borders in the months to come," Mr McTaggart said.

"Folks, we cannot stay in a bubble forever. So again, I plead with you, please go and get vaccinated," he urged.

The urgency of the Opposition leader's plea came during the same week when the Chief Medical Officer Dr John Lee also voiced concern about a slowdown in the COVID vaccination rate in Cayman, especially among persons in the 16 to 50 age range.

"COVID-19 is raging around the globe but the Cayman Islands has the precious resource of vaccinations," Dr Lee stated.

He also urged residents: "Let's not waste this gift in the face of the world's gaze; people are desperate for vaccinations in countries where patients can't get enough oxygen and respiratory support."

The UK Minister responsible for Commonwealth affairs, Lord Tariq Ahmad, in giving an update on the UK vaccine support to the Overseas Territories, also this week urged that the previously high vaccine uptake should not slacken off.

"The supply of vaccines cannot be taken for granted and each batch has a limited shelf life," he reminded Lord Ahmad who was previously the Minister responsible for the Overseas Territories.

"In Cayman, the expiry date for the remaining vaccines is 30 June. I must therefore implore everyone who can, to take the vaccine, not only for themselves, but to protect their friends and family, and do their part to ensure you can re-open borders and restart your economy."

The statement by Lord Ahmad was further amplified by HE Governor Martyn Roper in an official social media post this week.

"Lord Ahmad talks about the importance of taking the vaccine, not just for yourself but to protect your friends and family, and do your part to ensure we can reopen borders and restart Cayman's economy," Governor Roper wrote.

As Progressives leader Roy McTaggart said in his statement: "Folks, we cannot stay in a bubble forever. So again, I plead with you, please go and get vaccinated."



► Leader of the opposition Progressives party, Roy McTaggart

COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule

April/May 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	MAY 1
12-3:30pm	12-3:30pm	CLINIC CLOSED	8am – 12pm	**Camana Bay (old Cayman MAC Store) 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	Second Dose ONLY 8am – 11am 12:30 – 4pm
May 3	4	5	6	7	8
12-3:30pm 5 – 8pm	12-3:30pm 5 – 8pm	CLINIC CLOSED	7am – 11am 12:30 – 3pm	7am – 11am 12:30 – 3pm	8am – 11am 12:30 – 4pm

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC LOCATION
OWEN ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ORIA)



The COVID-19 vaccine is available to all persons 16 years and over.

Open to all Surnames.

DOSE 1 & 2 will be given at any of the published clinic times.

When receiving your 2nd dose, you MUST also bring along your vaccination card reflecting your 1st dose. **(Do NOT laminate your card)**

The date on your vaccination card for the 2nd dose is the earliest that is recommended.

All persons must present photo identification.

Facemask required

Most up to date schedule will be on www.hsa.ky

V1

Island Heritage Celebrates 25 Years

Island Heritage Insurance Company, Ltd. ("Island Heritage") today announced its celebration of 25 years of operation as a leading provider of personal and com-

mercial insurance. The company was established in 1996, since which time it has expanded to write business in 14 different jurisdictions across the Caribbean, achieving a consistent financial strength rating of "A (Excellent)" by AM Best.

Founded in 1996 in the Cayman Islands, Island Heritage Insurance Company, Ltd. ("Island Heritage") is a leading provider of personal and commercial insurance, including property, casualty, motor and yacht. In 2018, the Island Heritage Retirement Trust Company was approved as a Cayman-registered pension plan provider.

Island Heritage holds a financial strength rating of "A (Excellent)" by A.M. Best, along with a proven track record of customer service excellence throughout the Caribbean. Island Heritage is part of the BF&M group of companies - like-minded organizations with one goal in mind: providing insurance the way it should be.

In March 2012, Island Heritage was acquired by BF&M Limited ("BF&M"), a leading Bermuda-based insurance and pension provider. In 2018, the Island Heritage Retirement Trust Company was established and approved as a Cayman-registered pension plan provider, bringing to Cayman residents a new option for a retirement plan with flexible investment options.

Conor O'Dea, Chairman of Island Heritage Insurance Company, Ltd., said: "Aside from our financial strength, a hallmark of Island Heritage is our excellent customer service. Our reputation was cemented after the devastation of Hurricane Ivan in 2004, when Island Heritage led the market in serving our customers and turning around claims promptly. We are proud of the management team and all the staff of



► File Photo Island Heritage House

Island Heritage, who have delivered for our customers when they have needed us over the past 25 years. We look forward to many more years of excellence."

Throughout its 25 years, Island Heritage has remained focused on giving back to the community. In 2012, the company launched its now annual CharityDrive as an innovative way to help three local charities

earn up to CI \$10,000 each over three days. To date more than CI \$264,000 has been donated to 21 different local charities. The company also established an Educational Grant in 2017, the year of its 20th anniversary. To celebrate reaching a quarter of a century, the Grant has now been increased to US \$10,000 to help local students fund their college or university studies.

Health City Cayman Islands Camana Bay location opens

Health City Cayman Islands has opened its Camana Bay clinic with an initial offering of services in the areas of cardiology, neurology, pulmonology, urology, gynecology, gastroenterology, internal medicine and medical oncology. Patients will be seen for initial assessments, outpatient follow ups and checkups.

The clinic is open daily, 11am – 7pm Monday to Saturday, and 12noon – 4pm on Sunday.

Mr Shomari Scott, Chief Business Officer, Health City Cayman Islands said the clinic was open weekends and evenings to provide convenient access for patients who found it difficult to make appointments inside traditional work and school hours.

"Getting the best medical care is incredibly important and should not be any more stressful than it has to be. Our goal with the opening of our Camana Bay clinic is to provide high quality medical care, fast turnaround times and convenience for our patients.

"We have flexible hours, friendly support staff, and leading physicians to meet that goal. We have scheduled our appointments to ensure wait times are kept to a minimum and patients should be able to see their doctor within 15 minutes of checking in," he said.

"We are incredibly passionate about delivering quality care when and where our patients most need it."

Dr. Binoy Chattuparambil, Clinical Director, Senior Consultant Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery, Health City Cayman Islands said Health City physicians would rotate on a schedule between the new clinic and the East End campus.

"A great deal of thought and planning has gone into making this clinic right for the community it serves. We have opened with the offering of seven specialties and will evaluate in the near future the demand for adding any others," he said. "The clinic is also equipped with electrocardiogram and echocardiogram testing abilities, and we can take blood samples

for all laboratory investigations for diagnostics."

The clinic is also offering Covid-19 PCR testing with results returned to patient within 24 hours.

Health City at Camana Bay is located at 10 Market Street in the location previously occupied by Picture This.

Walk-ins are accepted and the community is reminded that face masks are required to be worn when visiting the clinic.

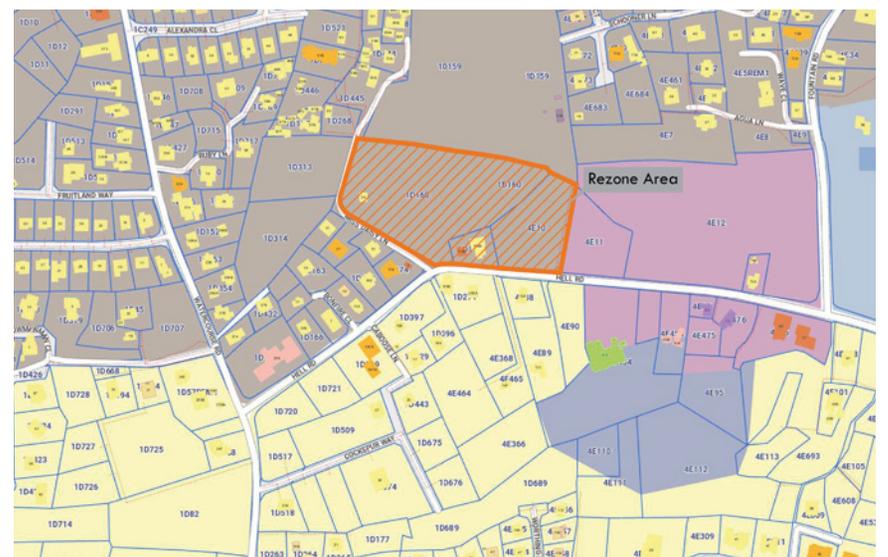
The Health City Camana Bay clinic will be integrated within the larger Health City Camana Bay campus when it's opened, scheduled for early 2022.



PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR ALTERATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 1997

The Central Planning Authority (CPA) is considering a request for alteration to the Development Plan 1997 (RZ20-0006) for the following: Block 1D Parcels 160 and 161, and Block 4E Parcel 10 from High Density Residential to Neighbourhood Commercial. These parcels are located to the north of Hell Road in West Bay.



The electronic file can be inspected at the Department of Planning, Government Administration Building, 133 Elgin Avenue, George Town between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Anyone wishing to comment on this proposal must do so in writing within 60 days of the final advertisement (May 5th 2021) or by July 4th 2021. Please remit all correspondence to the attention of the Director of Planning, P.O. Box 113, KY1-9000 Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; or by email to planning.dept@gov.ky. CPA meeting minutes pertaining to this application can be found on the Department's website at www.planning.ky (Meeting CPA/07/21; Item 3.1)



WORC COMES TO THE BRAC

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Mrs Priscilla Powery-Livingstone, Employment Services Officer, was also part of the team.

She was extremely commendable to the public for their response to the visit, saying: "I am pleased with the number of young people who have turned for the process. The mission of this visit is to register mainly job seekers and full-service clients. I am extremely excited to announce that one of the registrants, Isis Reyes, was assisted in obtaining a scholarship to Grand Cayman to pursue studies in Hospitality which she completed successfully."

"Let me also add that I believe that Ms Watler will have a great impact especially upon the younger people," she concluded.

Scholarship recipient, Isis Reyes said, "I am extremely grateful to Mrs Priscilla for her efforts in getting me this scholarship. She has the young Caymanians at heart and is very encouraging. Without her sterling efforts, I would not have been able to pursue the Hospitality programme successfully."

Ms Dianne Connolly, Manager for National Training and Development also praised the public for their participation.

"We are aiming to resume our regular trips to the Brac. When we do so it will be for training and executing workshops. To this end, our outreach coordinator Ms Allison Anglin will play a pivotal role. The workshops will target employee expecta-



tions, leadership skills and job readiness. We will be assessing responses from the public as to what specific training they will be interested in having."

Also on this high powered team were: Mrs Sian Pairaudeau-Deputy Director Labour Needs and Supply, Ms Netty Wagner - Customer Care Manager, Ms Charisse Dixon - Customer Care Officer, Ms Rosa Ritch - Compliance Manager, Mr Elvis Cook - Senior Compliance Officer, Ms Shari Powell - Operations Manager, Thoywell Faciey - Head of Finance, and Mrs Anita Veitche-Lee - Administrator.



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CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Barbados real estate is buoyant

Barbados real estate is doing well considering the effects of the global pandemic.

Sales and rental of properties were surprising high in 2020, in spite of a turbulent economy brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rachel McCartney, sales manager at Terra Caribbean (Terra Luxury), said that the UK, Canada and the US remained Barbados' main foreign market for investment in real estate.

The Barbados real estate market was just emerging from sluggish performance over the past decade when the virus hit but overall it has survived the pandemic's worst period.

"In January 2020, things started to look like they were trending for the better, where vendors were repricing their properties and properties were selling at a very fast rate. Then COVID hit everyone at the same time," McCartney said.

"We had a substantial increase in rentals due to the Welcome Stamp. Coming



► Barbados is still a desirable place to settle

out of that there were people who decided that they wanted to buy [properties] here after being here for a very short period. Also, the spinoff from that was there was a very big increase in the mid-term rentals." She said that St James, St Peter and Christ Church were the top three location choices.

Dominica unlikely haven for superyachts

Dominica has no marinas or international airport but in recent years has become popular with rich yacht owners because of its lush, mountainous beauty.

Captains used to be reluctant to venture to Dominica in case they had engine problems or couldn't find a decent anchorage. They'd rather visit its French neighbours, Guadeloupe or Martinique with plenty of marinas, than gamble with the unknown, alluring as the Nature Island looked from the distance.

Even now Dominica remains a tightly held secret among superyacht owners. It turns out that the crews - typically young, restless and adventurous - started visiting for rest and relaxation, then informed their owners about what an unspoiled paradise it is.



► Dominica attracts superyachts who love its unspoiled beauty

That aura of untouched remoteness has become a magnet for superyachts, which typically gather in Prince Rupert Bay in Portsmouth and smaller, more intimate anchorages, where the only other vessels are a few sailboats and the local fishing fleet, with its brightly coloured wooden hulls.

Cuba on verge of own vaccines

Cuba will soon become the first country in Latin America to develop its own COVID-19 vaccines. With two domestically produced in stage-three clinical trials, the island of 11 million people is in the process of developing Soberana 02 and Abdala, which reached final-stage trials last month.

The names of the vaccines reveal much about how Cuba sees the national effort. Soberana translates as "sovereign", while the Abdala shot was named after a patriotic poem by the Cuban revolutionary hero Jose Marti.

Cuba has been under a strict US trade embargo for decades and if successful, these vaccines can be mass produced and sold for invaluable revenue abroad.

The Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, which is developing Abdala, is hoping to have "effective results" from the trial by early June, while results from the trial of Soberana 02, which is being developed by the Finlay Institute, are expected in May.

"There are already positive preliminary results," Ricardo Perez, head of International Relations at the Finlay Vaccine Institute, said.

"These might allow us to present a dossier to the Cuban authorities that would enable us to request approval for emergency use of the product, not anymore as a candidate but as a product, probably by the end of next month."



► Cuba hopes to roll out its vaccines within weeks

Jamaica lifts UK travel ban

Jamaica's travel ban on the United Kingdom was lifted on Saturday so Brits are free to visit there again.

The Disaster Risk Management Act was lifted on May 1, enabling "the critical gateways of Heathrow and Gatwick airports, to have transit for passengers coming through and who are fully compliant with health and safety protocols required for international travel," said tourism minister Edmund Bartlett.

The ban brought travel between Jamaica and the UK to a halt and was done as part of the island's efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The UK market is critical to Jamaica's tourism industry and with the 40th anniversary of Bob Marley's death on May 11, an influx of reggae lovers is expected.



► Jamaica expects an influx of British tourists soon

The Jamaica Tourist Board noted that since reopening its borders last June, Jamaica has welcomed around 1.5 million visitors under the island's robust health and safety protocols.

Guyanese receive hygiene products

Guyana's rural poor received feminine hygiene kits from Canada as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility program. Caribbean Airlines delivered the kits from Toronto for distribution to women and girls living in rural communities.

The initiative was undertaken in partnership with international NGO, Days For Girls. The reusable products are designed to last up to three years.

Since launching operations in 2008, Days For Girls has impacted the lives of more than two million females in over 144 countries.

Allison Grant, DFG's liaison in Guyana, said: "I think it's a wonderful gesture by Caribbean airlines to transport these kits. And, for helping to make the delivery of these kits possible."



► The hygiene product recipients were grateful

"We are in a pandemic and many women and girls in the low income communities of Guyana are in need of these hygiene kits. We would have handed the kits out sooner, but the global pandemic hindered our plans."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER BLAMES 'DOTISHNESS' FOR COVID SURGE

By Staff Writer

Condemning what he called "unbelievable acts of dotishness", the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago this week put the country back under immediate lockdown after a new spike in COVID-19 cases.

The tough response came after a surge this past week, going from 84 new cases on Sunday and increasing daily to 328 by Thursday when Prime Minister Keith Rowley issued the lockdown order.

On Friday another 326 cases were recorded.

"The only thing we can do now in Trinidad and Tobago to evade a disaster brought on by COVID-19 in its second year is to intervene and to interrupt the distribution of the virus among the population," the Prime Minister said.

Mr Rowley voiced concern that many people were letting down their guard by not adhering to the country's social distancing, mask-wearing and other safety protocols.

He called that behaviour "unbelievable acts of dotishness".

By Friday there were 2,174 active cases with 173 persons hospitalised with the infection.

Since its first COVID-19 case was recorded in March last year, Trinidad and Tobago has seen 169 deaths attributed to the COVID-19 virus and a total of 10,284 to date.

The COVID-19 dashboard of the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health, shows that daily positive cases went from 84 on Sunday, 120 - Monday, 151 - Tuesday, 223 - Wednesday, 328 - Thursday, and 326 new cases on Friday.

Prime Minister Rowley himself recently tested positive and went into isolation but did not suffer the full effect of the disease

"I do consider myself lucky," he said, pressing the point for his fellow citizens and residents of the twin-island republic to take the endemic more seriously.

However, there has been a strong push-back to the lockdown from the business



► Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago

community, many of whom say the measures are draconian and will put the al-

ready-struggling economy under further strain.

Crooks sets senior record at 14

The Cayman Islands has a proud history of producing world class swimmers in recent years who have competed at the Olympics and it looks as if Jillian Crooks is a shoo-in to repeat that distinction.

Crooks is only 14 but she has been smashing national junior records for years and is already setting senior records. Cayman is blessed with a raft of talented female swimmers and Crooks is already right up there with the best of them.

Last Thursday, she was setting new national times again, this time at the Union Americana National Olympic qualifier in

Clermont, Florida. This time she crushed not only her 13-14 mark in the 50 metres butterfly but the senior national record to become the fastest Caymanian female swimmer ever, in 28.72 seconds.

Her old 13-14 mark stood at 29.72 and the senior national mark was set by Lauren Hew from the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia. This swim placed Crooks in 11th place overall at the meet and the youngest swimmer in the top 16.

As the Central American and Caribbean Amateur Swimming looks likely to go ahead in Barbados at the end of June, the

13-14 championship record by Puerto Rican star Miriam Sheehan of 27.86 secs looks certain to be smashed by the Caymanian teenager.

Jillian has impeccable sporting genes. She is the younger sister of Jordan who is also a national record swimming holder and daughter of James Crooks, the karate instructor.

Although she has excelled in several sports, including synchronised and open water swimming, netball and karate, swimming remains her main focus presently. Too young and inexperienced to be

heading for the Tokyo Olympics this summer, there is no doubting that she will be in the pool at the Paris Games in 2024.

Crooks started swimming aged 3 with classes provided by mobile swim instructors before joining the celebrated 'Learn To Swim' programme at the Camana Bay Aquatic Club. She has been swimming competitively since 2014, aged 8 and impressing all the time.

And since then Crooks has competed in many meets locally and internationally, setting numerous national records along the way.



► Jillian Crooks is a remarkable talent



► She is always in good spirits



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Curry aims for season 3-point mark now

Stephen Curry broke the NBA record for the most three-pointers made in a month, notching 96 in April for Golden State Warriors and now he hopes to beat another of his many records in May.

As the season winds down this month, Curry wants to surpass his three-point game averages. He is currently drilling 5.1 three-pointers a game, which is equal to his 2016 pace that set the single-season record. This is the third time in his career that he's matched this average and could be the first time he finally beats it.

"It seems like I've run out of ways to describe Steph's play," said Warriors coach Steve Kerr two weeks ago. "The shot-making is just unbelievable and mind-boggling."

When asked how he was defying the strict marking he has become accustomed to, Curry shrugged. "Just being able to adjust to different defences," he said. "Daylight seems to come few and far between, but when you do get it -- being able to take advantage and attack when defences slip



► Steph Curry aims to beat his season's three-point record

up. That's been the biggest thing as the years have gone on.

"The compliment I love is when guys tell me to stop running around so much when they're defending me. That's a testament to being in great shape and being able to



► Bradley Beal deserves consideration for MVP

play at that level for however long I'm out there."

Warriors fans like to chant: "M-V-P". He is definitely on the short list. There's no one questioning that Curry is having a great season. He's carried the Warriors to

an above .500 record and he leads the NBA in scoring.

But for Curry to actually win his third MVP award, he must win the scoring title, and the Warriors must sneak into the Top 6 of the Western Conference playoff stack and avoid the convoluted tournament for the No 7-10 teams.

A big ask, but it's all or nothing for Curry, whose MVP odds currently sit at 17-1. His main rival for the award is a player who is averaging 31.1 points per game on arguably the hottest team in the NBA, though they are slated to be part of the play-in tournament. It's Washington's Bradley Beal, whose Wizards are in fine form.

Beal has been incredible this season. Yet few talk him up in the MVP race. Curry's resume is almost identical, albeit with more history.

Yes, the Eastern Conference is a bit easier than the West, but the two are closer than most think. And there is a strong argument for the lesser heralded but just as worthy Beal.

Olympics won't tolerate taking knee

As the Tokyo Olympics approaches, officials have made it clear that taking a knee or lifting a fist in support of racial equality will be punished as the International Olympic Committee maintained its ban on athletes' protests inside stadiums, at ceremonies and on podiums.

Taking the knee was popularised by former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick who started doing so to protest police brutality and racial injustice. It originated from the American civil rights marches in the Sixties.

The IOC's Rule 50 forbids any kind of "demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda" in venues and any other Olympic area and the Games body concluded the rule should be maintained following an athlete consultation.

Against the backdrop of the Black Lives Matter movement against racial injustice, calls have increased in recent months for a change to that rule that would allow athletes to protest.

Some international federation chiefs, including World Athletics' President Sebas-



► Colin Kaepernick inspired athletes to kneel in protest

tian Coe, have said athletes should have the right to make gestures of political protest during the Games.

The IOC's Athletes' Commission chief Kirsty Coventry, who led a review of the rule, said 70 percent of the athletes consulted were against any protests within the fields of play or the podiums.

"I would not want something to distract from my competition and take away from that. That is how I still feel today," Coventry, a former Olympic swimming champion for Zimbabwe, said in an online presentation of the Rule 50 consultation results.

Federer is not finished yet

Roger Federer is still bidding to add to his 20 Grand Slam titles even as his 40th birthday approaches in August. Federer made his comeback in Doha after a year out in February, but only played two matches and has not made a competitive appearance since.

His long-time coach Severin Luthi said Federer is still "lagging behind" with his fitness as he looks to return to his peak level.

Federer is planning to play at the Geneva Open from May 15 before Roland-Garros and then turning his attention to his main targets on grass.

But Luthi, who has worked with Federer for almost 14 years, says the veteran Swiss still needs time to get back to his best condition.

"In terms of fitness, Roger is still lagging behind, which is a priority," he said. "Tennis practice sessions are very intense and good, but are not taking place that often yet like they would be in a tournament environment."



► Roger Federer's competitive spirit is still fierce

Federer beat Dan Evans in his first match back in Doha before losing to Nikoloz Basilashvili in three sets.

He has said that his season will start properly on the grass as he looks set to play Halle before targeting a 21st Grand Slam at Wimbledon.

Ivan Ljubicic, who also coaches Federer, says that the aim is still to win "big titles".

Usman is a nightmare in rematch

Kamaru 'Nigerian Nightmare' Usman claims to be the UFC's finest champion and there is little doubt that he has good reason to believe that.

Usman scored a stunning second-round knockout to finish Jorge Masvidal and retain the undisputed UFC welterweight title at UFC 261 in Florida two weeks ago.

Usman has officially run through the top of 170-pound division. With victories over Masvidal, Colby Covington, and Gilbert Burns, he is open to all challengers now. Usman is now targeting a clash with No.7-ranked welterweight contender Michael Chiesa at UFC 263 in June.

Usman is at the peak of his career. Against Masvidal, in front of 15,000 fans in Jacksonville, was a rematch. At UFC 251, last July, Masvidal stepped in on six days'

notice but lost on points after five grueling rounds.

American Masvidal, 36, said that he would fare better after a full training camp, while Usman, 33, promised to deliver an even more decisive victory in the rematch to register his fourth successive title defence.

The pair engaged in a thrilling back-and-forth battle through round one, with both men enjoying success on the feet, while Usman scored a significant takedown midway through the round.

The bout exploded in round two when Usman connected with a huge straight right hand that sent Masvidal crashing to the canvas for a knockout victory.

Usman improved his record to 19-1 and extended his unbeaten run to 18 fights, in-

cluding 14 straight victories in the UFC.

"I told everybody, I'm still getting better. The sky's the limit for me as long as I'm doing this," he said. "I know with my fundamentals; I am the pound-for-pound best fighter on the planet right now."

Masvidal was classy in defeat: "I've never been knocked out in 50 pro fights. Usman showed me something that he didn't show in the first fight. All the props to him in the world. He caught me by surprise. He's got my number.

There's nothing I can say. He won this fair and square. God bless him."



► Kamaru 'Nigerian Nightmare' Usman is one of UFC's best

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