

# T Caymanian Times

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Police Investigate Murder on Seymour Drive

## Borders opening 9th September



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## Premier pleads for calm



► NSC Meets on Gun Crime

By Staff Writer

In a heartfelt plea, Hon. Premier Wayne Panton has appealed to those persons responsible for recent fatal shootings and a string of other gun violence in Cayman to “stop the bloodshed.”

The peace and tranquillity of the Cayman Islands has been rocked in recent weeks by a number of shootings which have resulted in two deaths, and several incidents of armed robberies.

SEE **STOP THE BLOODSHED**, Page 3

## Government scholarship funds get a huge boost

Cayman’s brightest and most able students will be given a boost this September as the Ministry of Education has just announced that they have expanded their scholarship programme for Caymanian students looking to pursue undergraduate studies at prestigious universities overseas. The brightest students will get a much larger grant to pursue their studies, while all existing

and new scholarship recipients will see the annual amount they receive increase from CI\$20,000 to CI\$30,000.

Because of the cost involved, some highly able students could only dream about attending universities such as Oxford and Cambridge in the UK and the Ivy League schools in the US, however

SEE **SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**, Page 4



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EDITORIAL

# TROUBLE IN PARADISE?

A hail of bullets in a place of public gathering killing one man, injuring others has understandably sent shockwaves rippling through the tranquil Caymanian society.



But just as Cayman has safeguarded itself from the COVID-19 virus, the same community effort is required to contain the crime virus before it takes hold.

The tranquillity might have been disturbed. It's the responsibility of all of us to make sure it's not shattered.

There must be concern about the sudden spike in violent crime and this upsurge must be 'arrested' - along with the perpetrators - before it gets worse. It's already bad enough.

Looking at the type and frequency in the recent spurt of gun-related crimes clearly requires an urgent and focused response.

While the tough questions are being asked, the current situation demands equally tough and immediate responses leading to longer-term solutions.

The analysis will raise numerous questions. How could this be happening in Cayman? Have we taken our eyes off the ball? Are we living in denial and looking the other way, just too ashamed to accept that a monster is in our midst?

Has peaceful, tranquil, modern, well-to-do Cayman become a soft-tough for the criminal-minded?

Can Cayman handle this threat to its tranquillity on its own?

Do we need to deploy the resources of the newly-formed Regiment to support the RCIPS by calling on its much-debated and questioned mandate?

After all, on the government's own website the Regiment's mission is stated thus: "The role of the CI Regiment is to provide disaster relief and security within the Cayman Islands and the wider Caribbean region."

In this situation we emphasise security.

It is reassuring to learn of the 'proactive' response by the RCIPS in nabbing

a suspect of another recent shooting. While not advocating anything akin to a police state, the question arises; Is the RCIPS adequately resourced to confront challenging situations such as what we've experienced recently?

Just a few days ago Hon. Premier Wayne Panton voiced his concern about the emergence of a type of two-tiered Cayman with poverty levels and other social ills blighting some segments of an otherwise prosperous society. That's like saying, in the abundance of much, many don't have any.

This could be a breeding ground for criminality, but it could also inspire tales of people pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps with a little help from the government and society.

"I am keenly aware that the social ills, such as the inequity and the disenfranchisement that has led to a subculture of gun possession and criminality didn't emerge overnight," Premier Panton said.

He was on point.

He was also correct when he said: "Right now our focus has to be restoring law and order, peace and tranquillity and getting illegal firearms off our streets. The police cannot do it alone. The government cannot do it alone. We must stand together as a community and not allow misguided elements to reign terror and bloodshed on our community."

Bloodshed, he said. Not a term that you would immediately associate with Cayman.

Let's stem the flow of blood, guns, drugs and other crimes before Cayman becomes a troubled paradise.

The Caymanian Times expresses condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.



► Minister of Financial Services and Commerce Andre Ebanks, Premier Wayne Panton, Isaac Rankine, Chamber President Mike Gibbs

## Pension, health insurance reforms hot topic for Chamber

By Lindsey Turnbull

This year's Legislative Luncheon at the Kimpton Seafire brought a packed audience together to hear about how the Government plans to lead these Islands out of the pandemic months and beyond. In his address to the audience, Chamber President Mike Gibbs outlined a variety of areas where the Chamber intends to work with Government to help get Cayman back on track once borders open and things get back to some kind of normality. But there were two particular topics that stood out as requiring the most urgent attention, that of pension and health insurance reform, both of which have the ability to greatly detrimentally impact anyone living and working, and eventually hoping to retire, in the Cayman Islands.

Mr Gibbs said that last year's pension withdrawals demonstrated the success of the private pension system, with just less than half a billion dollars of withdrawals being made, the withdrawals providing much-needed supplementary income for many persons who were facing economic challenges as a result of the pandemic, and a much-needed boost to the local economy. However, he had words of caution.

"The withdrawals have, however, placed the Cayman Islands in a challenging position to determine what measures to enact to replace funds withdrawn," he advised.

He said that last month, the Chamber Executive Committee met with a group of pension plan providers to discuss the situation. They presented a series of recommendations that the Chamber plans to share with the Minister for consideration.

"For many years, private pension reforms have been necessary and advocated by the administrators and it is therefore hoped that the current situation will lead to some practical decisions to revise the National Pensions Law and Regulations, as well as the investment guidelines, so that the pension system can be reshaped to its previous intended purpose to provide meaningful retirement income when it's most needed," he stated.

### Health insurance needs overhaul

Mr Gibbs said that the escalating cost and limited choice of health insurance providers was creating significant duress on the private sector and especially among those who have reached or are approaching retirement age.

"Last week, a Chamber small business member reported that their premiums had increased by more than fifty per cent year on year. That increase for 12 employees reportedly added \$100,000 in additional costs to that business this year alone. That increase is compounded by previous increases year on year. This is obviously unsustainable," he confirmed.

Mr Gibbs said you truly knew the system was not working when persons who had contributed the best years of their working life had to decide whether they could retire in Cayman or have to move to another jurisdiction because they could not afford the health insurance plan.

"The Chamber plans to meet with the Minister responsible and the industry stakeholders, so we can work together to hopefully develop a reasonable solution to address this very serious matter," he advised.



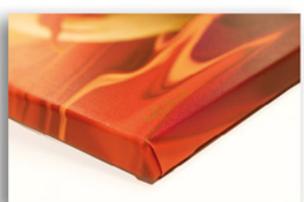
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# Premier pleads for calm

*“STOP THE BLOODSHED,” he says.*

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

An intense ongoing police investigation has so far resulted in several arrests. Up to press time, two persons had been charged with murder.

“Right now, I’m making an urgent appeal to the people involved in the shootings. Please stop the bloodshed, life is too precious for these senseless acts of violence. No one has to tell me the pain of losing a loved one is real. It hurts. And it’s forever. This isn’t the game. There is no restart button,” Mr Panton stated in a national broadcast.

“The shocking outbreak of gun crime in the past two weeks, which has seen two young Caymanian men killed, and left eight other people wounded cannot and will not be allowed to continue. We cannot have our citizens living in fear.”

## TOP-LEVEL ATTENTION

The scale of the recent upsurge of violence prompted the Premier to convene an emergency meeting with HE Governor Martyn Roper and all members of Parliament during which they were briefed by Police Commissioner Derek Byrne on what the Premier described as “this grave situation.”

That was followed by a meeting of the National Security Council which agreed on several measures being put in place as a matter of urgency to beef up security and public safety.

These include increased armed patrols in high incident areas and at liquor licensed premises, more vehicle traffic stops, and an increase in CCTV coverage on major roadways and known hotspots.

A reward of CI\$50,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of perpetrators or the confiscation of illegal firearms.

While the police investigation continues, Premier Panton is also urging anyone with information to come forward with an assurance that their identities will be kept confidential.

“People know where the guns are,” he said. “If you want to save the life of your boyfriend, your child or a young man you care about, help us take these guns off the street.”

However, he acknowledged that “unfortunately, a culture has emerged in our community where people don’t want to provide information to the authorities.”

Mr Panton said, “We talk about transparency and government. Well, transparency and accountability is a two-way street. It’s time for those who know where the guns are to do the right thing and to help take the guns off the street and out of our community.”

He called the incidents “extremely shocking and most worrying to members of the community.”

Another concern voiced by the Premier is the proliferation of social media rumours inflaming an already tense situation.

“It is also unfortunate that social media has been making the situation worse. Please pay attention to the facts, provided by the authorities. I would also like to ask everyone in our community, to refrain

from circulating unfounded rumours and speculation. It causes far more harm than good.”

## OPPOSITION SUPPORT

The spike in serious criminal activity, especially gun crimes with fatal consequences, have also alarmed the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and leader of the Progressives party, Roy McTaggart.

“The recent spate of shootings and murders has rightly shocked the community and is a grave concern for everyone living in these Islands,” Mr McTaggart said in a statement.

“We have had 16 people shot over the past three months. The two recent major incidents within a week of each other have left some ten people shot, two of whom were killed.”

Saying that all gun crimes are concerning, the Progressives leader singled out the recent incidents as “ruthless”.

“The use of a lethal automatic weapon to shoot indiscriminately in public is especially troubling. This type of crime is not something we are used to seeing, nor is it something that should ever become the norm in our society.”

Mr McTaggart added that he is satisfied that this spate of shootings is being taken seriously by the RCIPS and that measures are being put in place to beef up security.

The Opposition Leader said they fully support the measures agreed to address “these deeply disturbing gun crimes decisively”, and urged the community “to do their part to help remove these guns from our society.”

“We must ensure that the evil of gun and gang culture is not left to fester and grow. It must be curtailed,” Mr McTaggart stressed.

## POLICE CLAMPDOWN

Meanwhile, the RCIPS has confirmed in the early stages of its investigations that a 29-year-old man of North Side was arrested on suspicion of murder in relation to the fatal shooting on Martin Drive, George Town, on Thursday, Just 1st.

It was the second arrest in connection with that shooting in which 36-year-old Mark Andre Ebanks of George Town was killed.

Both suspects have been granted police bail with strict conditions as investigations continue.

The RCIPS has also confirmed that following what they described as “a proactive operation” in the vicinity of Mahogany Way in Prospect, a vehicle was stopped and a man, age 35 of George Town, was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. That was connected to an aggravated burglary and shooting at a property on Adonis Drive in West Bay, on 26 June in which the occupant of the property was shot. Three assailants had entered the premises.

The police say no shots were fired while they were apprehending the suspect.

## CAUSE FOR REFLECTION

While the police investigations continue, the crime surge has triggered deep community reflection on its likely causes

and how to stamp it out before it worsens.

Premier Panton offered this perspective:

*“I am keenly aware that the social ills, such as the inequity and the disenfranchisement that has led to a subculture of gun possession and criminality, didn’t emerge overnight. Our government is committed to addressing the deep-rooted issues as a matter of priority. But right now our focus has to be restoring law and order, peace and tranquillity and getting illegal firearms off our streets. The police cannot do it alone. The government cannot do*

*it alone. We must stand together as a community, and not allow misguided elements to reign terror and bloodshed on our community.”*

In speaking directly to the perpetrators, Mr Panton implored:

*“I want to speak directly to any person who feels like they’re already in too deep. You might think to yourself, that there’s no way out for you. But there is another option.*



► Hon. Premier Wayne Panton

*Come forward. If you have information that leads to an arrest arrangements can be put in place to ensure your safety. Any information, no matter how trivial you may think it is, could be a huge help in solving these crimes and stopping your violence. Let’s all worked together, kinder and gentler come on. Let us face this challenge together with a renewed commitment to do our part to break the cycle of violence.”*

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# Chief Officer Retires After 31 Years

After 31 years as a civil servant, Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure Chief Officer Alan Jones will retire this month.

A former Director of Lands and Survey, Mr Jones was appointed Chief Officer in February 2012, and is the most senior civil servant in the ministry.

During his tenure as Director of Lands and Survey he was instrumental in developing his

Geographical Information System (GIS), which is a computer system that integrates spatial data with its associated tabular records.

As Chief Officer, he oversaw the streamlining of the Trade and Business Licensing applications and the establishment of the Cayman Islands Business Development Centre.

One of the many programmes that was established during his

tenure as Chief Officer was the PWD apprenticeship scheme. Which has provided technical and vocational training for young Caymanians.

He also was responsible for the establishment of the Major Projects Office, which has dramatically improved the delivery of Governments capital projects.

More recently, he delivered the long-awaited redevelopment of the Department of Vehicle and Equipment services compound.

Reflecting on his Civil Service career, Mr Jones stated that one of the aspects that he had focused on was to bring a more dynamic and problem-solving culture to the Ministry. He took pride in the fact that he was able to build real relationships with his Heads of Department and identify innovative ways to provide them with the resources they required to provide a high level of service to their customers.

Commenting on Mr Jones' retirement, the Deputy Governor and Head of the Civil Service stated, "I wish to record my thanks to CO Jones for his many years of service to the Government and



► Alan Jones, JP, Chief Officer, Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure will retire

people of the Cayman Islands. Mr Jones championed training and development opportunities for his staff and took great pride in succession planning. He provided me with sage advice and could be counted on to deliver, at pace,

a range of priority projects of the Government, while observing the principles of good governance.

"On behalf of all of us in the Government we wish him a wonderful retirement and God's richest blessings."

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## Government scholarship funds get a huge boost

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

now, thanks to a CI\$100,000 scholarship on offer, those dreams can become a reality.

Due to be implemented for the autumn 2021/2022 academic year, the Cayman Scholar Award will provide full tuition support to the most outstanding Caymanian male and female scholars as they pursue overseas undergraduate tertiary studies.

Minister for Education, Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, said throughout the years, they had seen several brilliant Caymanian scholars who missed out on the opportunity to attend some of the world's most prestigious universities because of insufficient funding.

"Through this award, our top male and female student will each receive a scholarship of up to CI\$100,000 per annum, allowing them to soar to the pinnacle of academic achievement without the barrier of funding, and enabling them to attend approved Ivy League or gold tiered universities," she advised.

All overseas undergraduate students will see their grants increase from CI\$20,000 to CI\$30,000 per year for both current and new undergraduate students.

The Minister outlined why they were expanding the financial aid given to Caymanians to pursue tertiary education abroad.

"While we ensure that our citizens have access to quality tertiary education, we must also encourage them to pursue studies in those disciplines that are most critical to nation-building. And so, commencing in Fall 2021, students pursuing undergraduate studies in education focusing on classroom teaching will be eligible for up to CI\$35,000 in annual tertiary funding," she stated.



► Minister for Education, Juliana O'Connor-Connolly

The Minister cited the increased cost of attending US universities as a particular motivation for increasing the scholarship funding amount.

The Ministry said another significant enhancement to the scholarship programme was the widening of post-secondary scholarship funding to include students pursuing first-year qualifications in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, the Advanced Placement programme and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination. Up until this point, those students' funding only began at the second year of study.

By extending funding throughout the duration of these three programmes, the Ministry could now provide greater assistance to Caymanian students as well as provide parity across the system, she said.

For more information about the Cayman Scholar and other enhanced scholarship offerings, contact MoE's Scholarship Secretariat Unit by email at [scholarships@gov.ky](mailto:scholarships@gov.ky).

# Borders opening 9th September

By Lindsey Turnbull

Premier Wayne Panton set out a five-phased approach to the opening of Cayman's borders at today's Chamber of Commerce Legislative Lunch, at which he said Cayman would see an opening of its borders to certain travelers on 9th September, while the Islands won't be welcoming cruise tourists until 27th January 2022, the Premier said. The phased approach will only happen if Cayman reaches 80 per cent vaccination rate of its population, however, and was subject to change.

The Cayman Islands is currently in phase one of the opening process since its borders were officially shut last year due to the pandemic, and at the moment requires a PCR test for travelers before travelling and a five-day quarantine for vaccinated travelers and a 14-day quarantine for unvaccinated, both of which require

the traveler to be electronically monitored (vaccinations must be verifiable by Cayman's Public Health Service). However, come phase two on 9th August, things will become easier for vaccinated travelers.

"During this phase we will ease the monitoring of vaccinated travellers by removal of GPS monitoring," Premier Panton said. "This will allow the Government to assess local impacts and build capacity to manage increased traveller volumes anticipated with the opening of the borders in phase three."

The real key date comes on 9th September, when phase three kicks in and Cayman will open its borders to tourists.

"In phase three, which is anticipated to begin on September 9th, we plan for a limited introduction of tourism. At that date we will be beyond the time frame of schools opening so we will not be re-opening our borders at the same time as our children are preparing to go back to school," the Premier said. "During phase three, our borders will open to securely verified vaccinated travellers, except for cruise travellers."

Slow season was chosen as a good time to begin the phasing in of tourists and would allow Government time to build capacity for larger volumes of tourists later on, he said.

Quarantine will be allowed at all hotels and other tourist accommodations, with periodic spot visits for vaccinated persons in quarantine, he advised.

Phase four, beginning 14th October, will see the removal of the requirement to quarantine for all securely verified vaccinated travellers.

"We anticipate that the rate of local vaccination will be substantially adequate by



► Hon. Premier Wayne Panton

this time to allow for the safe increase in tourism and relaxation of restrictions," Premier Panton explained. "However, during phase four, unvaccinated travellers will continue to be required to apply for entry on the Travel Cayman Portal."

Vaccinated travellers will be required to make a declaration of travel and include their vaccination status on the Travel Cayman Portal, with a declaration certificate issued and vaccination checked on arrival.

On 18th November, the fifth phase will take over, whereby a further loosening of travel restrictions will take place, when unvaccinated children younger than the eligible vaccination age will be able to travel with vaccinated adult tourists.

During phase five, unvaccinated children younger than 12 will not be required

to quarantine, PCR testing will be required for local unvaccinated children older than 5 who travel prior to being allowed to return to school, and there will be surveillance of unvaccinated persons by periodic PCR testing.

On 27th January 2022, the Government will reassess the COVID-19 situation in a local and international context to determine when and how to proceed with further relaxation of restrictions and travel.

"If the assessment allows, we would begin to welcome all travellers and start the re-introduction of cruise tourism. It is anticipated that at this point there would no longer be any quarantine restrictions for any travellers; no restrictions on public gathering limits or public transport capacity; and no restrictions on certain business operations," the Premier advised.

Cayman Islands Government		The Plan for Safely Reopening the Cayman Islands				
	Phase 1 Reduced Quarantine Period June 2021	Phase 2 Reduced Repatriation Restrictions 9th August 2021	Phase 3 Limited Introduction of Tourism 9th September 2021	Phase 4 Reduced Quarantine Restrictions 14th October 2021	Phase 5 Introduction of Unvaccinated Visitors Under Age 12 18th November 2021	
Assessment Triggers	Transition between phases are determined by the CMO's assessment of prevalence rates in main travel markets, level of vaccination, prevalence of Variants of Concern, the level of hospitalisations and death rates.					
Rationale	Continued uptake of local vaccination and low COVID-19 prevalence rates in key Cayman Islands travel markets allow for the introduction of reduced quarantine periods and easing of other travel restrictions.	GPS monitoring is no longer required for securely verified vaccinated travellers. <i>This allows the Cayman Islands Government (CIG) to assess local impacts and build capacity to manage the increase in traveller volume anticipated with the opening of the borders in Phase 3.</i>	Subject to the achievement of an 80% local vaccination rate, the limited introduction of tourism during slow season with some restrictions (including a flight slot management system) allows the Cayman Islands Government (CIG) to limit the number of persons arriving. <i>This also allows CIG and the industry to develop capacity for dealing with larger volumes of travellers in preparation for high season.</i>	Quarantine requirements will be removed for all securely verified vaccinated travellers. <i>It is anticipated that the local vaccination rate will be adequate, allowing for the safe increase in tourism and further relaxation of restrictions.</i>	Unvaccinated children under age 12 will be allowed to travel to the Cayman Islands, with securely verified vaccinated adults, without quarantine.  Cruise tourism remains prohibited.	
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Returning Caymanians</li> <li>Residents and Work Permit Holders</li> <li>Others with close ties to the country (such as property owners)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Returning Caymanians</li> <li>Residents and Work Permit Holders</li> <li>Others with close ties to the country (such as property owners)</li> <li>Securely verified vaccinated tourists aged 12 and over</li> <li>Unvaccinated tourists under the age of 12 not allowed</li> <li>Medical insurance coverage required for all inbound travellers</li> <li>No Cruise Tourism allowed</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Returning Caymanians</li> <li>Residents and Work Permit Holders</li> <li>Others with close ties to the country (such as property owners)</li> <li>Securely verified vaccinated tourists aged 12 and over</li> <li>Unvaccinated children under the age of 12 travelling with securely verified vaccinated adults</li> <li>Medical insurance coverage required for all inbound travellers</li> <li>No Cruise Tourism allowed</li> </ul>	
Travel Authorisation	All travellers apply on Travel Cayman Portal			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccinated travellers are required to make a declaration of travel and vaccination status on Travel Cayman Portal (declaration certificate is issued and vaccination checked on arrival)</li> <li>Unvaccinated travellers continue to apply on Travel Cayman Portal (requires approval to travel)</li> <li>Fines in Regulations for persons failing to abide by this process</li> </ul>		
Pre-Arrival PCR Test	Required for all					



# PREMIER PANTON UPDATES ON PACT PROGRESS

By Staff Writer

Hon. Premier Wayne Pantan has outlined his PACT (People-driven, Accountable, Competent and Transparent) coalition government's achievements within its first three months in office.

Giving the keynote address at the annual Legislative Luncheon organised by the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce, Mr Pantan brought the gathering and the jurisdiction up to date, just days ahead of the government's presentation of its first Strategic Policy Statement (SPS) in parliament scheduled for Wednesday June 14th.

"Working towards our vision, in our first three months in office we have focused on reviewing existing COVID-related regulations and programmes to either extend or amend them as needed., Mr Pantan stated listing a series of policy decision already taken by the government within the scope of its first 100 days in office, generally regarded as a grace period for new governments.

"We have extended programmes that provide essential relief for our people who have been the most negatively impacted by the pandemic," he said listing the extension of the pensions holiday, the tourism workers' stipend and the health insurance continuation programme. "These efforts continue essential support to those without jobs until our economy reopens and provides relief to businesses grappling with reduced revenues."

Premier Pantan reported that "beyond review and re-implementation of COVID-related programmes, the PACT Government has focused on the day-to-day running of the Government and attention to core public sector activities, while simultaneously developing the strategic policy statement, or SPS, for the next three years as well as crafting key strategic policies for this administration."

He cited specific examples of core government activities including the launch of the national census, introduction of partnership regulations regarding economic substance to avoid being included on the EU's list of non-cooperative countries for tax purposes, the continuation of national road infrastructure improvements, the addition of new national weather service observation stations, and ongoing work and public consultation to remediate and cap the George Town Landfill.

He also referred to the steps toward making the Coast Guard a reality with the preparation of supporting legislation due to go to Parliament shortly underpinning the Government's intention of having the proposal enacted later this year.

According to Premier Pantan, "No reflection of the past 16 months could be complete without an acknowledgement of the importance of financial services to this jurisdiction."

With tourism grinding to halt and other parts of the economy and business community experiencing significant contraction caused by the pandemic, the financial services sector has played a critical role in keeping the economy - and government revenues - afloat.

The Premier credited the industry for "remaining open for global business during the height of the lockdown while having employees working from home played a key role in keeping this economy going."

"Your financial performance and government's coffers reflect that," he acknowledged.

He pledged that his PACT administration will "support, promote and defend the industry as the lists of threats and challenges continue to grow."

He also referred to his government's decision to align itself efforts spearheaded by the G7 countries to impose a 15% per cent tax of multinational cor-

porations, many of whom are registered in the jurisdiction.

"It is why the Cayman Islands has joined with 129 other countries and jurisdictions, considered by the OECD to represent more than 90 per cent of global GDP, in the G20/OECD consensus for a framework for reform of international tax rules.

"The new two-pillar plan is directed at international corporate taxation rules to ensure that large multinational enterprises pay their share of tax wherever they operate, and that aligns with the Cayman Islands' long-held position that taxes should be paid where they are rightfully owed."

Noting a trend evident in the financial service sector, Mr Pantan said that information and communications technologies are changing how the public sector provides services to residents, visitors and businesses in the Cayman Islands, and said that e-Government is helping cut costs, boost efficiency and improve customer experience.

In that vein, the Premier outlined steps being taken by government in collaboration with the police to safeguard against cyber-crime.

"We vow to lend our full support to the police to ensure that Cayman remains a strong, safe and desirable place to live and conduct business. A strong economy must be underpinned by safety and consumer confidence," he stated.

Stating the success of businesses in the Cayman Islands means the success of Government and the economy, Mr Pantan said, "That success gives businesses an opportunity to create jobs for our people and it gives our people an opportunity to contribute to the economic well-being of the country."

Premier Pantan also announced that his PACT coalition is replacing the Poor Persons Relief Law with Modern Financial Assistance legislation and the new Ministry of Investment, Innovation and

Social Development is moving forward with the national ID programme, which he said will transform the way in which the business community and public conduct business with government expected to roll out in the early part of next year.

In his address to the business gathering at the Chamber of Commerce's Legislative luncheon Mr Pantan declared:

"I think everyone in this room is thankful to the Caymanians and residents of these Islands who have kept our economy going by supporting local businesses. I know many businesses would not have survived without citizens shopping locally, taking staycations, eating out, supporting charitable events and deliberately investing in our economy."

Crucially, he also mentioned that the Government has "reviewed and re-forecasted" Government's current and projected financial position for which he commended Hon. Deputy Premier Chris Saunders and his team "for our updated forecast."

"We can't accurately plan for the future if we don't know what the costs of our actions - or inaction - are," Mr Pantan stated.

The government will present its anxiously-awaited first budget and Strategic Policy Plan (SPA) on July 14th against a backdrop of its that the financial and economic projections it inherited from the previous Progressives-led government were unrealistic with the deficit much larger than they had indicated.

"Next week we will table the 2022-2024 Strategic Policy Statement in Parliament. That document provides medium-term economic and financial forecasts for Government for the next three financial years covering the period from 1 January, 2022, to 31 December, 2024, along with Government's Broad Strategic Outcomes, which will guide the development and implementation of Government policy during this period.

# Premier vows more transparent Government

By Lindsey Turnbull

During his address at the Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Luncheon at the Kimpton Seafire last week, Premier Wayne Panton reiterated what the PACT government stood for: People-driven – Accountable – Competent – Transparent, and said that transparency would be key to regaining the public's trust in Government.

A good start in the transparency exercise would be to make all Central Planning Authority meetings public, he said.

"In the same way that the National Conservation Council meetings are held in public, we want to see CPA meetings also be made public unless there are very good reasons not to do so having to do with data protection or commercially sensitive material," Premier Panton said. "We believe that demystifying the work of the CPA will be to everyone's benefit."

Collating better data would be an essential part of transparent decision-making and the Premier said the government was working to greatly enhance data collection.

"Data is vital to our vision," he confirmed. "We have found that our country operates with a remarkable lack of data critical to decision-making across all three pillars of sustainability - the economy, the society and the environment. Simply put, better data means better decisions and thereby better outcomes."

Premier Panton called this lack of data a "weakness in government" and said it was something that elected officials and civil servants were working to quickly rectify. He called upon the business community to assist in gathering up-to-date and factual information. Part of the information sharing would come in October when Cayman embarked on Census 2021, he said.

His government had pledged good governance, accountability and transparency to the people of the Cayman Islands in the election and he would be fulfilling that pledge by holding elected members accountable for their actions. To assist in that, they would soon be making public manuals and codes of conduct for both the Cabinet and the Parliament.

"I took responsibility in the administration of 2013-2017 to rewrite the 1995 Guide to Operations of the Executive Council, which is no longer germane, but it didn't have the support needed to be adopted," Premier Panton advised. "The new version will be a reflection of my government's mission and vision. And as I said, these documents will be published for perusal of the wider community, which the 1995 document, under which we still operate, has never been."

Premier Panton said this was a serious part of adhering to good governance and being transparent.

"People outside of Cabinet don't know what Cabinet deals with; they don't under-

stand the standards," he stated. "This helps build a framework of the conduct they can expect from us and that we expect of ourselves."

The Premier said the more government could be accountable to the public, the better they were at transparency.

"The better we are at transparency, the better we will get at decision making and resource allocation. Other governments have talked about transparency, but we can demonstrate it. We can move forward and make significant inroads in dissolving public mistrust and speculation about what happens in government,"



he said, adding that the elected members were expected to conduct themselves honourably.

## Recruitment Fair

Dart is gearing up to open its new centralised laundry facility, Cayman Linen Services, in August 2021. A recruitment fair for Cayman Linen Services is taking place at Dart's offices in Camana Bay from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on 10 July, in collaboration with Workforce Opportunities & Residency Cayman (WORC).

Available positions at the new facility include drivers, laundry attendants, line supervisors and engineers.

Located in the Industrial Park area, the facility will reduce the environmental impact of the hotel laundering process and increase operational effectiveness. Using the latest in technology, the facility will result in water savings of approximately 17.8 million gallons per year, and CO2 emissions reductions of 173,000 lbs per year.

Planning approval for the facility was granted in September 2020.





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# Cayman marks one year without COVID-19 community transmission

By Staff Writer

The Cayman Islands has marked a significant milestone in its battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

A government statement says “as the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic for a second year, the Cayman Islands marks one year without local transmission of the disease.”

This makes Cayman just one amongst only a handful of countries worldwide to have achieved this milestone on the anniversary date this past Sunday, July 11th.

The statement recalls that after the first case was reported on March 13th 2020, the Cayman Islands has maintained its success in battling the coronavirus through strict border control and travel regulations.

It says stringent technology-based quarantine measures and rigorous contact tracing have been vital.

Hon. Premier Wayne Panton remarked: “The Cayman Islands is one of the first jurisdictions to have avoided community transmission for this length of time. This would not be possible without the efforts of the Government and the public working together to protect



the country. We have to continue the good fight by now taking up the vaccines where eligible.”

HE Governor Martyn Roper said he is “very proud that Cayman has reached this landmark achievement” and thanked the community for “their outstanding efforts in getting there.”

Mr Roper said he strongly supports the government’s campaign to encourage the public to get vaccinated to protect themselves and the wider community.

“Our vaccination rate compares well internationally but we still have some way to go. As we re-open the border, it is vital that we get even more jabs in arms so we can re-open with confidence.”

The Cayman Islands Government and Public Health Department launched the Islands’ Covid-19 Vaccination Programme on January 5th this year.

Hon. Minister for Health and Wellness Sabrina Turner said, “The country as a whole should be proud. It is has taken so much work and often personal sacrifice for us to reach this point, where we can say we have survived a year without an outbreak or a high-risk environment.”

Min. Turner who has spoken previously about the risk complacency poses to the local community, urged all residents to remember that the battle to prevent community spread is far from over.

“We cannot be complacent and must remain vigilant and mindful of the potential risk of not achieving an 80% vaccination rate,” she said. “I want to take this opportunity to remind the community that the more people are vaccinated, the higher our population’s level of protection becomes. This gives us hope that we could be celebrating another year from now.”

Chief Medical Officer, Dr John Lee also noted, “I want to applaud Travel Cayman, our port workers, healthcare workers, as well as the wider government efforts and, of course, public support and commitment.”

He added, “We are witnessing that vaccinations reduce the impact of COVID-19 on public and community health around the world, adding to the body of real-world evidence of their effectiveness. This is vital as we seek to find ways to reduce travel restrictions.”

To date, 94,277 COVID-19 vaccinations have administered in the Cayman Islands. Of these, 48,764 - 69 per cent of an estimated revised population of 71,100 - had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Approximately 64 per cent have completed the two-dose course.



## Travel Cayman responds to alleged breach

An alleged breach of quarantine protocols involving a traveller quarantining at residence and a member of the public has been reported to the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) and is currently under investigation.

The Travel Cayman Mobile Compliance team was alerted to a picture on social media depicting the traveller interacting with a member of the public and not observing proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and social distancing. The local contact was placed in quarantine at the instruction of the Medical Officer of Health and both persons were warned for intended prosecution.

Public Health has confirmed that contact tracing, as well as PCR testing, has been completed and would like to reassure that there is no cause for a public health concern. Travellers in quarantine are not allowed to have visitors and are required to declare to Travel Cayman all occupants of the property in their travel application prior to their arrival to the country.

The public and travellers are reminded that anyone found to be in breach of the mandatory quarantine provisions will be warned for intended prosecution and is liable on conviction to a fine of up to ten thousand dollars and imprisonment for up to two years.



# Renewable energy key to soaring CUC bills

By Lindsey Turnbull

If you have just received your June CUC bill and were shocked by the increase over May's, you are not alone, with many people on island trying to fathom out why their bill has increased dramatically, sometimes hundreds of dollars on their May bill. While some might be unphased by this, assuming it's just the annual summertime hike, many believe the increase is hard to understand when they have been deliberately and carefully trying to conserve energy ahead of the usual increase in summer time usage of electricity.

Sasha Tibbetts, CUC's Vice President, Customer Services and Technology, said the phenomenon of increases in electricity bills over the summer months, usually starting in June, was not unusual, given the increase in oil prices that normally takes place at this time of year due to global demand, as well as warmer weather requiring air conditioning units (one of the most expensive electricity consumers in Cayman) to work much harder. Although it might only seem like we are turning the A/C down a notch or two, the units have



to work much harder to keep the temperature required when the outside temperature moves from 80F to 90F at this time of year, he advised.

While CUC have employed a broad range of education programmes to help people to manage their fuel bills more efficiently, advising people to use programmable thermostats, spend more on higher efficiency A/C units and insulate houses for example, there is a limit as to how much electricity can really be saved, Mr Tibbetts advised. The real key to reducing energy costs was investing in renewable energy programmes, of which CUC had many ideas that they wanted to implement.

## Renewable energy needed now

"Renewable energy is our number one strategy for energy resources," he advised. "We are seen as perhaps the utility that loves diesel energy, and while diesel energy has served Grand Cayman extremely well in the past, the days of them being the best option for energy resources is kind of gone."

Mr Tibbetts felt that Cayman would still need diesel power for the next 20 years or so as it provided a good back-up energy source when there was no sun, either at night or during bad weather, but he said CUC was very heavily invested in pushing forward a renewable strategy.

"Right now, we are working with OfReg to try and get some approvals for projects. That has been challenging. The biggest issue right now is there is no framework

in place for the procurement of large-scale renewable energy. I know OfReg has been working on one for quite some time but that's still some months out and the need for renewable energy is now."

Mr Tibbetts advised that CUC has put up a project for OfReg's consideration that would produce 11 per cent of the island's energy from solar. This project was currently under discussion. The potential cost benefit of renewable energy to the consumer was huge, he said.

"We don't put projects in front of OfReg that don't have a substantial consumer benefit. At current fuel prices we would expect to see savings of about \$3 million a year from that one project and that would go to all of the customers. A few of these projects and it stacks up," he confirmed.

If there was a path that CUC was allowed to take, the Cayman Islands would be probably two thirds to three quarters of the way through to the goals of the National Energy Policy a year ago, Mr Tibbetts said.



► Sasha Tibbetts, CUC's Vice President, Customer Services and Technology

"Renewable energy is such a great business. You can improve environmental performance, reduce costs to consumers, reduce cost volatility to consumers, and all of that can be done while the owner of the plant makes a fair return. So, everybody wins," he stated.

## Journalism & Media Summer Camp

9 to 13 August, 8:30 - 1:30 p.m., Cayman Conference Centre

Follow-up sessions on 17 and 20 August  
Open to students ages 14 to 17.

For details on how to apply to this free camp by 16 July, visit [mindsinspired.ky/events/journalism-media-summer-camp](https://mindsinspired.ky/events/journalism-media-summer-camp)

Minds Inspired and local media houses are joining together to run a free, seven-day journalism and media summer camp for students ages 14 to 17 from 9 to 13 August with follow up sessions on 17 and 20 August. The camp will take place at the Cayman Conference Centre in Elizabethan Square and run from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This industry led summer camp is seeking to foster discernable

media consumers and sow the seeds of interest in journalism and media, its practices and create awareness of the field.

During the sessions, students will learn what it takes to be an investigative journalist, visit local media houses for tours, behind the scenes and hands-on experi-

ence, learn to cover news for print, online and broadcast journalism and improve their writing, interviewing and storytelling skills. The students will show what they've learned on the final day by producing a news report that will be featured in local media.

The sessions of the camp will also help the students become more discerning consumers of information, be able to distinguish the different types of media, content (news, entertainment opinion, features, etc.) and be better informed to evaluate what they see, hear and read.

The camp is free, students must submit an application by 16 July which includes a story submission of their choice. More information and details

on how to apply, visit [mindsinspired.ky/events/journalism-media-summer-camp](https://mindsinspired.ky/events/journalism-media-summer-camp). This camp is presented by Radio Cayman, Caymanian Times, Cayman Current, Loop Cayman, Cayman News Service, Cayman Compass, Cayman Marl Road and Camana Bay Times.



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## POLICE NEWS

## Police Investigate Murder on Seymour Drive

Just after 1:45AM on Friday 9 July, police and other emergency services were dispatched to a report of a shooting incident that took place at Vic's Bar on Seymour Drive, George Town. It was reported that multiple persons at the location received gunshot wounds, five persons were transported to the hospital for treatment, one of whom is believed to be in critical condition, and the others are believed to have sustained non-life-threatening injuries. A sixth person was fatally shot and was pronounced dead at the scene.

As a result of the investigation being carried out, Seymour Road, in George Town has been partially closed to the public. Traffic is being diverted through Commercial Avenue at this time and the public is being asked to avoid the closed area of Seymour Road until the crime scene in-



vestigation is complete and the road is reopened.

The matter is under investigation and a Major Incident Room has been opened for this incident. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the RCIPS Major Incident Room, at 649-2930.

"Additional officers have been called out to assist with this investigation and we are working as quickly as we can to gather all evidence from the scene," says Deputy Commissioner Kurt Walton. "We are asking for everyone's support and cooperation during this process. The public's safety is our priority and we won't leave any stone unturned in our investigative efforts."



## Robbery on Smith Road

On Thursday morning, 8th July, police received a report of an armed robbery which had taken place at about 2:50AM that same morning on Smith Road, west of Huldah Avenue. A man had been standing on the roadside just across from a bar, when he was approached by two masked men, one of whom brandished a gun. The

men robbed him of cash and personal items before leaving the scene. It appears as if one shot was fired during the incident, however no one was injured.

The matter is currently under investigation, and anyone with any information is asked to contact George Town CID at 949-4222.

## Police Respond to Firearm Incident in West Bay

Police can confirm that just before 9:20PM on Saturday 10 July, armed officers were dispatched by the 9-1-1 Communication Centre, to the West Bay District, where reports were received of shots being fired. The officers are currently on scene and making checks in the West Bay area. So far there has not been any reports of injuries made to the police as a result of this incident.

The RCIPS have confirmed that two shots were fired along West Church Street, near the West Bay Post Office, yesterday, 10 July. During the investigation, two spent rounds were recovered by the officers. No one reported injuries or damage to properties in the nearby area.

From the description of a vehicle involved in the incident, officers from the Firearm Response Unit had cause to search a vehicle that was located at a



residence on Birch Tree Hill Road. During the search, several rounds of ammunition were recovered along with a firearm magazine.

Two men, ages 21 and 30, both of West Bay, were arrested on suspicion of possession of an unlicensed firearm. The men are currently in custody pending further investigations.

Detectives are encouraging anyone with information regarding this incident to call the Major Incident Room at 649-2930.

# CUBA: FOOD SHORTAGES AS COVID CASES INCREASE

Cuba is gripped in a double-whammy crisis impacting its health sector and the economy as it battles food shortages and rising Covid-19 cases.

The Economist magazine reports that the country is facing its worst shortage of food since the 1990s. At the same time, other media reports suggest that Cuba is experiencing a spiralling of COVID-19 cases putting the country's normally robust healthcare system under severe pressure.

### FOOD SHORTAGES AND FOREIGN CURRENCY CONTROLS

According to the Economist, the Cuban government is blaming the shortage of food mostly on the continuing sanctions imposed by the United States. But the news magazine points out that since 2001 the sanctions have exempted food.

But it says some external factors have affected the food supply such as the rise in global food prices, which in the year to May surged by 40%, the largest increase in a decade, has made imports more expensive.

However, the Economist states that the main problem is the government's lack of

hard currency where declines in tourism and remittances have had a disastrous effect on the national economy and individual purchasing power.

Cubans can no longer buy US dollars from state-operated exchanges at the airport which has in turn impacted on paying for the import of vital products and ingredients.

It says the government has also instituted tough measures to secure foreign exchange including restricting residents from depositing dollars into their bank accounts for an undisclosed amount of time. Foreigners are also now required to pay for their seven-day Covid mandatory stay in a state-owned quarantine hotel in dollars.

### COVID CHALLENGES AND VACCINE HOPES

And it's with the Covid-19 pandemic that Cuba is also facing a second major hurdle.

Infection rates are increasing as the country works on getting its anxiously-awaited Abdala and Soberana-1 and 2 vaccines approved.



As of this past Sunday Cuba had broken another record for daily cases with 3,519 new infections and 14 deaths.

Cuba's Director of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Francisco Duran disclosed that total cases had risen to over 200,000 and deaths attributed to the disease to 1,351.

A national vaccination trial is with the Abdala, Soberana/Sovereign-02, and Soberana/Sovereign Plus vaccines.

To date, over six and a half million doses have been administered with more

than 2.8 million people receiving a first shot.

The Cuban authorities claim that the Abdala vaccine is over 92 per cent effective after three doses, putting it on par with the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna medications.

Ongoing trials of the Soberana (or Sovereign) 02, are reported to be showing an efficacy rate of 62% with two doses with plans for a third dose to volunteers to see if the rate improves.

UK TERRITORIES CONNECTION

By Michael Jarvis, London UK

# BVI COVID SPIKE

With a sudden upsurge in COVID-19 cases, the British Virgin Islands is now under a 7pm and 5am curfew in a bid to contain a community spread.

In a national address, Premier Andrew Fahie reported that within a short span of less than a month the BVI COVID-19 cases have skyrocketed from no new cases in May to sharp upswings reaching a daily peak of 365 reported on July 9th.

The recent spike has pushed the territory's total COVID-19 cases to over 800 hundred COVID-19 cases to date, with the total doubling across just one day.

Three people have died since the pandemic started last year.

Premier Fahie blames the current rapid spread - which has occurred since the BVI recently opening its borders - on some people not adhering to the territory's COVID protocols.

"Can I tell you that there are persons who have tested positive and they are refusing to cooperate with the contact tracing team?" he stated.

"There are persons who know or suspect that they have been exposed who do not want to present themselves for testing because they do not want to have to self-isolate or quarantine?"

According to Mr Fahie, "I believe that many of us had the notion that when the borders reopened that the protocols were only for those coming in through the controlled process. So we became complacent rather than vigilant, forgetting that COVID-19 never left as persons



could have still been walking around asymptomatic. We got too comfortable."

Another challenge confronting the BVI in its fight to contain the virus is vaccine hesitancy, the Premier observed.

"We continue to hear persons arguing about vaccines, even as the infections come closer to home and the deaths increase. There are debates about persons' rights."

But he cautioned that while vaccination remains voluntary as a personal decision, there was wider community responsibility to consider.

"Simply put, there is no magic to how we get this current situation turnaround other than through prayers, adhering to all approved health protocols," Premier Fahie said.

# MONTSERRAT SOCIAL SECURITY CRISIS

Montserrat's Social Security Fund is at risk of collapsing unless it gets an urgent injection of funds from the British government.

Official estimates put the fund at risk of being depleted within the next three to four years.

Addressing a community consultation on the worrying financial state of the island's social security system, Premier Easton Taylor-Farrell warned: "You cannot allow the fund to die, that is not an option. Doing nothing is also not an option."

He said his government is committed to speaking with its funding partners, the British Government, about the situation.

"They are aware, so they know exactly what we asking."

"We are asking FCDO(Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) to provide us with an annual contribution to the fund and we have outlined to them the urgency and importance. Whatever happens, the government (of Montserrat) will have to inject some money into the fund."

It was disclosed at the public meeting that the gap between the Social



Security Fund's contributions and benefits has been widening over the years from 0.5 million in 2016 to 8.2 million currently.

Administration expenses have almost doubled the income derived from investments, reserves are plummeting and the deficit has been persistent between 2016 and 2021.

Montserrat's social security funds are invested locally and overseas in various types of securities and property investments.

However, there have been growing concerns about the performance of these investments.

The Social Security managers report that they had previously informed the government of the financial challenges which could severely impact the fund's ability to pay its beneficiaries.

Montserrat's Social Security System was established in 1986 when it replaced the National Provident Fund.

# TCI TO TIGHTEN BORDER CONTROLS AFTER HAITI ASSASSINATION

Following the assassination of Haiti's president Jovenel Moïse last week, the Turks and Caicos Islands is to tighten its border controls in anticipation of a possible new wave of refugees.

The TCI is home to thousands of Haitian refugees, many of whom had arrived illegally by sea over the years.

President Moïse was gunned down in a hail of bullets at his home and his wife seriously injured in the attack. She has been flown to Miami for medical treatment.

Calling the murder of the Haitian president "a horrible tragedy", Premier Charles Washington Misick said, "There are no words to describe or justify such an abhorrent act."

In a social media post, he expressed condolences to the Moïse family, to the Haitian government, the people of Haiti and the Haitian diaspora in the TCI saying "Our hearts go out to you in your time of mourning."

The Turks and Caicos National Security Council was assessing the possible impli-



cations for the TCI with border security a key area of focus.

The islands have been the destination or transit point for thousands of Haitian refugees over the years fleeing violence and political upheavals in their homeland.

It was feared the killing of President Moïse could result in another wave of refugees with the Turks and Caicos Islands a likely destination.

The territory's Acting Governor Anya Williams said in a statement: "We condemn this abhorrent act and pray for the restoration of peace and good order and for those grieving at this time."

# BEE GEES 'STAYIN' ALIVE ON ISLE OF MAN

A statue of the famous pop group, the Bee Gees, has been unveiled in the Isle of Man, where the brothers were born.

A BBC report quotes council leader David Christian saying he expected the bronze depiction of Barry, Maurice and Robin Gibb on the seafront in Douglas would "go viral very quickly".

The statue which portrays a scene from the group's video for the hit song Stayin' Alive has a clear tourism promotion component in addition to celebrating the famous Gibb brothers, Barry, Robin and Maurice who were born on the Isle of Man. The only surviving member is Barry Gibb.

Mr Christian said "many tens of thousands of pictures" had been taken by visitors alongside similar statues of popular personalities in the town and interest in the new sculpture would probably be "tenfold again".

He said it would be a "great added attraction."

The Bees Gees are world-famous for a multitude of hits since the 1960s especially Stayin' Alive and other smashes from the 1970s movie Saturday Night Fever.

In addition to performing as a group, they have released solo albums and written numerous hits for many other stars.



## CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

## St Lucia has election soon

St Lucia Prime Minister Allen Chastanet has called a general election on extremely short notice - July 26.

Chastanet revealed some of the progressive plans the United Workers Party has achieved after five years in power. He added that it is "an election for the ages".

He referred to the government's commitment to ensuring that every St Lucian has the right to health insurance under the UWP's 545 plan. He also shared his view "to build a brand-new progressive St Lucia where every child has the same opportunities for learning, all citizens have better health care and promised to support



► St Lucia PM Allen Chastanet wants another term

tourism, agriculture and small businesses.

Chastanet added that despite the global pandemic: "The past four months have witnessed a steady increase in tourism arrivals and our US numbers for June and July are even stronger than the same period in 2019."

## Barbados opens covid lab

Barbados has opened what it says is the Caribbean's first covid lab associated with a hotel, at the Crane Resort. The on-site lab can process PCR tests within a matter of hours.

The lab is open to guests, visitors to the island and locals. Appointments can be booked in advance. Unvaccinated travellers, who must take a PCR test on day five of their stay, can book an additional test free of charge, with a results turnaround in hours, if their five-day test is positive.

To mark the lab's opening, the resort is offering a Jetsetter package for B\$109 (KY\$45) that includes personal VIP service, a fast track through customs, immigration and the Ministry of Health processes at the airport, a transfer to the Crane, a rapid antigen test on departure for the US and a luxury isolation suite in the unlike-



► The Crane Resort in Barbados now has a covid lab

ly event a vaccinated visitor tests positive (the package excludes the room rate).

The Barbados government currently tests all passengers on arrival at the airport for free, and visitors are also required to take a PCR test three days prior to arrival.

## Jamaica to launch digital currency

The Central Bank of Jamaica will begin rolling out its central bank digital currency (CBDC) soon, becoming one of the first countries in the world to push a CBDC formally through its central bank.

Everyday use of digital currency is increasing exponentially and Jamaica's financial experts are cognisant of that.

Bank of Jamaica Governor Richard Byles announced the pilot phase will get underway from next month. The bank has partnered with e-Currency Mint as the technical partner for developing the CBDC, as part of a development project that has been planned since July 2020.

Byles said that there would be an ongoing process of testing, before more banks are recruited to expand the pilot scheme towards mainstream rollout later this year.

"As we work through the technical minting of the currency, we have to test it rigorously as a pilot that we'll do in August," he said. "In September to December we'll be recruiting more of the banks to come on board and then we'll gradually expand the pilot out into a full-fledged launch of the CBDC."

The CBDC is also to be denominated as a complement to cash in the country, so that one coin is equal to one Jamaican dollar, designed to streamline the system of currency for ease of use.

The scheme will also be used to help serve unbanked sections of the population, with the central bank calling on telcoms companies and retail payments companies to back the scheme to bring unbanked residents on board.



► Bank of Jamaica recognises the future of cryptocurrency

## Grenada cuisine gets world's first

Grenada and its sister islands has been named the world's first 'Culinary Capital' by the World Food Travel Association.

Culinary Capitals is a regenerative tourism program devised by the WFTA to spotlight culinary cultures around the world as the tourism industry begins to recover after its long hiatus.

Kiri Grant-Hoschtialek, acting CEO of the Grenada Tourism Authority, said: "The Culinary Capitals destination accreditation by the World Food Travel Association is a huge achievement for Grenada. We are known around the world as the Spice of the Caribbean, so it is fitting that we are the first Caribbean island to earn this designation. This will undoubtedly attract discerning travellers who want to explore the link between food and culture, and who want to ensure that every dish



► Grenada serves exquisite dishes

they have on their vacation tastes amazing!"

The integration of spices into Grenada's cuisine has created an international reputation for excellent cuisine. From fine dining to casual beachside restaurants and even street food, Grenadians are known for delicious food.

## St Kitts lifts virus curfew

St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Timothy Harris has lifted the 24-hour covid lockdown and some elements of normalcy returned this week though a nightly curfew remains in place.

Harris announced new measures that reopens the economy in a phased and safe manner and under strict COVID-19 protocols. New rules started on Monday for 14 days. A night curfew will remain in place from 9pm to 5am daily.

Harris said Friday all people employed by the public service, statutory bodies and state owned corporations can resume work and that businesses can return to normal working hours subject to curfew hours.

But all vendors must remain in the public market and passenger buses are allowed a maximum of 10 passengers.



► St Kitts has overcome the worst of its covid outbreak

Inter-island travel has resumed while churches, nurseries, day cares, can operate. Sporting events are allowed, and beaches are open for exercise.

Harris announced that quarantine for fully vaccinated passengers are reduced to three days, and children are treated the same once with a fully vaccinated adult.

# 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

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

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### Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Castle copy
  - surround- 40 Fill with joy
  - ers
  - 6 Muffin lairs
  - choice
  - 42 Sheet
  - 10 Mumbai's material
  - nation
  - 11 Madrid
  - museum
  - 12 Weighed
  - down
  - 13 Appraised
  - 14 Lyric
  - poems
  - 15 Bump into
  - 16 Free (of)
  - 17 Total
  - 18 Agreeable
  - answer
  - 19 Smoke
  - alarm,
  - e.g.
  - 22 Writer
  - Morrison
  - 23 Horn
  - sound
  - 26 Barysh-
  - nikov, e.g.
  - 29 Energy
  - 32 Signal of
  - approval
  - 33 Sock part
  - 34 Immedi-
  - ately
  - 36 Auction-
  - eer's cry
  - 37 Indian
  - coin
  - 38 Crack up
- DOWN**
- 1 Renais-
  - sance fair
  - 9 Network
  - points
  - 11 Hyped
  - kitchen
  - 15 Stick out
  - work
  - 17 Academic
  - studies
  - 30 Piano
  - piece
  - 20 Conclude
  - 31 Visit
  - 21 Bird of
  - briefly
  - 35 Brooklyn
  - team
  - 24 Footstool
  - 25 Not in
  - 36 Songs for
  - one
  - 27 Opponent
  - 38 Hair goo

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

### Yesterday's answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/28

## Word Search

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

- Aldrin
  - Anders
  - Bean
  - Borman
  - Carr
  - Conrad
  - Cooper
  - Gagarin
  - Gibson
  - Glenn
  - Gordon
  - Irwin
  - Leonov
  - Lovell
  - Popov
  - Ride
  - Scott
  - Shepard
  - Titov
- White  
Young

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		

5-20



Have fun with  
**CAYMANIAN  
TIMES**

### CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley

I USED TO SPORT A MUSTACHE AND BEARD BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, CURTIS

LOOK AT THESE PHOTOS

WOW, IS THAT YOU, DAD? WOW, LOOK AT YOU, A FULL BEARD AND MUSTACHE!

YOU USED TO LOOK LIKE A MAN!

### THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee

ONCE WE SUBMERGE, YOU WILL BE AT MY MERCY.

BUT THIS TIME, I'LL SHOW NO MERCY - FOR THIS IS WAR!

ONCE WE'RE UNDERWATER - I'VE HAD IT!

OKAY WITH YOU IF WE POSTPONE OUR LITTLE SWIM-ALONG?

FWPPP

STAN LEE  
LARRY LIEBER  
5-20

### JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

BUT I FEEL LIKE EVERYBODY IS MAKING THE MOST OF THEIR TIME AT HOME NOW. EXERCISING, WRITING - WHILE I FEEL LIKE I'M FLOUNDERING...

OKAY, SOPHIE, WE TALKED ABOUT THE DANGER OF USING EMPTY WORDS LIKE "EVERYBODY" AND "EVERYONE"...

THOSE ARE UNDEFINABLE TERMS PEOPLE USE TO BACK CLAIMS IN LIEU OF FACTS. AND YOU DON'T - YOU CAN'T - KNOW WHAT "EVERYONE" IS DOING. YOU CAN ONLY KNOW YOURSELF IN THIS MOMENT. SO WHAT ARE YOU THINKING RIGHT NOW?

MARCIANO + MANLEY  
5/20

# Caymanian Times Classifieds



## \*Kitchen Helper \*Assistant Cook

On behalf of our client **Popo Jobs Enterprises Ltd T/A Popo Job's Restaurant & Bar** invites applicants for a suitable and qualified candidate for the above position.

We are looking for Caymanians, status holder and legal residents to submit applications to fill the position of Kitchen Helper and Assistant Cook.

### Requirements:

With minimum of over 6 years of experience in the same field. Knowledge in Kitchen operations. Exceptional time management and organizational skills. Must have clean police record.

Salary - CI\$ 6.00-7.00/per hour  
Plus, statutory benefits

Submit resume to: Popo Jobs Enterprises Ltd  
T/A Popo Job's Restaurant & Bar  
P.O. Box 11926; KY1-1010

## COMPASS MARINE LTD. requires

**Ship Wright** – Boat building, fibreglass and wood repair

Must have own tools; minimum of 10 years' experience

Salary: CI\$15 - \$20 p/h depending on experience plus benefits as per Cayman Islands Labour Laws

Contact: [mike@compassmarine.ky](mailto:mike@compassmarine.ky)



## Junior Automotive Technician

On behalf of our client **Car Boutique Ltd T/A Tony's Toys** invites applicants for a suitable and qualified candidate for the above position.

We are looking for Caymanians, status holder and legal residents to submit applications to fill the position of **Junior Automotive Technician**.

### Requirements:

- Minimum of 3 years working in a full-service garage and all makers and models vehicles.
- Ability to work in a professional high pressure garage environment and a good team player.
- Hardworking and have a strong focus on safety procedures and techniques.
- With clean police record and valid driver's license.

Salary range for the position is - CI\$1,700- CI\$2,000 per month plus, health insurance and pension.

Submit resume to: Car Boutique Ltd  
T/A Tony's Toys  
P.O. Box 11926; KY1-1010

## Career Opportunities



CIBC FirstCaribbean is a major Caribbean bank offering a full range of market-leading financial services in Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Wealth Management, Credit Cards, Treasury Sales and Trading, and Investment Banking. We are a large, regionally-listed bank in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean. The bank has over 2,900 staff; 65 branches, 22 banking centres, and offices in 16 regional markets. We are looking to fill the following position:

### Senior Manager, Property

- Manages the property portfolio to ensure that investment values are maintained through the practice of the preventative life cycle programme.
- Project manages refurbishment programmes and works closely with other teams to ensure minimal disruption to business activities during the project. Manages construction/renovation of new/existing branches/properties as required by the business.
- Manages purchases and correct installation of the following equipment: Alarm systems, Air-Conditioning Units, Generators, Elevators, Smoke Detectors, UPSs, Safes and Vaults and Security Equipment. Manages the maintenance contracts for all building equipment.
- Manages contracts for facilities, e.g. Cleaning Services, Pest Control Services, Guard Service, Parking Lots.

### About You

- 10-15 years' postgraduate experience in Construction and/or Property Management of progressively larger multi-tenanted commercial facilities.
- Post Graduate qualification in Business and Construction/Real Estate/Property Management
- Demonstrable knowledge of Disaster Preparedness procedures and business continuity plans
- Knowledge of suppliers and procurement techniques.
- Active and certified membership in recognized and accredited professional construction, property management or project management organisation, committed to the application of energy efficient development.
- Strong interpersonal skills, including written and verbal communication skills, able to interact internally and externally.

### About Our Offer

You will have a challenging, diverse experience with opportunities for professional growth. Our compensation and reward package is attractively structured and performance bonuses are offered.

To view the full role profile and apply for this and any other positions, kindly visit <https://www.cibcfib.com/about-us/careers>. Applications with detailed resumes should be submitted no later than **19 July, 2021**.

CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank Limited thanks all applicants for their interest, however only those under consideration will be contacted.



LINKEDIN [cibc-firstcaribbean-international-bank](https://www.cibcfib.com/about-us/careers)



**FirstCaribbean**  
International Bank

The CIBC logo is a trademark of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, used by FirstCaribbean International Bank under license.



## CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT MINISTRY OF BORDER CONTROL & LABOUR

Applications are invited for the post of:

### DIRECTOR – WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES & RESIDENCY CAYMAN

**SALARY BAND: CI\$130,512 – CI\$155,148 PER ANNUM**

Workforce Opportunities and Residency Cayman (WORC) ("the Department") is critical to the employment of Caymanians and the economic success of the Cayman Islands. The department is charged with assessing the labour needs in the market, developing and training Caymanians for these needs, providing Caymanians with work opportunities, supplying the market with the labour resources required and ensuring fair employment practices are in place for Caymanians.

The Director is responsible for overall strategic and operational management and leadership of WORC utilising the highest standards of customer service, effective communication and innovative information technology. Additionally, the Director will provide effective policy advice and managing operations relating to work permits, Caymanian Status and Permanent Residency matters.

### Knowledge / Experience

**Essential:** Masters Degree in Law, Public Administration, Business or any related field plus 10 years relevant experience with at least 8 years in a senior management position Or a First Degree in Business, Law, Public Administration or a related field plus fifteen (15) years' experience in a management position with at least five (5) years at leadership level.

### Skills

- Strong command and good leadership and motivational skills and ability to manage multiple stakeholders demands.
- A proven background in strategic thinking and an ability to communicate and work effectively with people at all levels.
- A working knowledge of computers, specifically MS Office programs and database applications.
- Must have sound analytical judgment and the ability to make "on the spot decisions", understand people and their motives, priorities and ensure accuracy and conformity of procedures.
- Must be flexible and creative in adapting his/her knowledge and skills to unique situations.
- Must have ability to deal sensitively with a diversity of languages and cultures, and to manage effectively high levels of stress and shifting priorities.

Benefits will be determined in accordance with the Public Service Management Act, Personnel Regulations, Public Service Pensions Act and the CINICO Health Plan.

DETAILED job description, benefits information and application form are available at: [www.recruitment.gov.ky](http://www.recruitment.gov.ky)

Please submit completed Government Application Form and, resume to:

Chief Human Resources Manager  
Ministry of BORDER CONTROL & LABOUR  
P.O. Box 111  
5th Floor, Government Administration Building  
Grand Cayman KY1-9000, CAYMAN ISLANDS

Email: [MEBCrecruit@gov.ky](mailto:MEBCrecruit@gov.ky)

DEADLINE: 13 AUGUST, 2021

(NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED)

FORM 38

## LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

Pursuant to Section 34 (3) of the Registered Land Law, (1995 Revision), notice is hereby given of the loss of the Land Certificate issued in the

name of **ERROL BARRINGTON MARAGH**

of P.O. Box 163  
Grand Cayman

in respect of the following parcel of land situated in Grand Cayman

REGISTRATION SECTION GEORGE TOWN SOUTH

BLOCK 14E

PARCEL NO. 628

It is proposed to cancel the above Land Certificate after **2nd August 2021**.

Any person finding this Land Certificate is requested to return it to the Registrar of Lands, P.O. Box 1089, Grand Cayman.



REGISTRAR OF LANDS

# Aureum Re

Aureum Re specializes in the reinsurance of US domiciled annuities.

We invite applications for the position of Appointed Actuary & Director, Modeling and Risk Management.

### Your Role

The Appointed Actuary & Director, Modeling and Risk Management ("Appointed Actuary") will report to the Chief Actuary in carrying-out a high level of actuarial analysis of a portfolio of life insurance and annuities. The Appointed Actuary will be responsible for identifying, managing, measuring, monitoring, and reporting on company risks as well as oversight of all aspects of actuarial model development.

### Key Responsibilities

- Serve as Appointed Actuary of the Company, preparing valuation reports to the Regulator.
- Develop and maintain the Company's enterprise risk management framework.
- Be responsible for identifying, managing, measuring, monitoring and reporting on company risks.
- Manage the preparation of routine experience studies and evaluate the appropriateness of model assumptions, revising as necessary.
- Oversee and coach Actuarial Analysts by providing guidance, leadership, mentoring and development opportunities.
- Serve as the actuarial lead and risk chairperson on the Risk Committee and provide periodic updates and reports to the Board.
- Create and manage risk reports to support decision making.
- Oversee and develop the Company's model control environment and model formula database.
- Develop annual statutory and management basis financial plans.
- Participate in pricing and papering of new reinsurance opportunities.

### Knowledge and Experience

The Appointed Actuary will possess the below required knowledge and experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Actuarial Science, Mathematics, or a related field
- Fellow of the Society of Actuaries or a similar professional qualification
- Chartered Risk Analyst or a similar professional qualification
- A minimum of 10 years' experience working in broad pricing, valuation and modeling of life insurance and fixed indexed annuities
- In-depth knowledge of the US life and reinsurance industry is essential
- Advanced Microsoft Office skills with a heavy emphasis on MS Excel
- The ability to manage and analyze large data sets using MS Access and SQL server is essential
- Significant experience with MG-ALFA or other comparable modeling software is required.

Salary will be in the range of US\$150,000 to US\$200,000. Benefits include discretionary bonus, health insurance, pension and paid vacation.

Please submit applications by email to the below address before **July 21, 2021**:

**HR Manager**  
**Aureum Re**  
**careers@areumre.com**  
**Ref: Appointed Actuary**

We thank all applicants who apply but only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Applications from recruitment agencies will not be accepted.

### F & G Roofing

Requires experienced **Roof Technicians**

Over 5 years' experience

Salary CI\$10 - \$14 per hour plus standard benefits

PO Box 30318 Grand Cayman KY1 - 1202

Trendz Salon

Seeking a qualified Hair Stylist - With minimum of 3-4 years' experience on island.

Weekly Salary CI\$275.00 – 40 – 45hrs Work week

Caymanian, status holder can apply for the position

Email resume with full contact details to [trendzsalon15@gmail.com](mailto:trendzsalon15@gmail.com)

### Artist/Person in Fine Arts/Performing Arts

- Applicant should have 7-8 years' experience in Fine Arts/Painting/Performing Arts/Sand Sculpting
- Valid Driver's Licence required

Salary: CI\$7.50 - CI\$8.50 per hour  
 Pension + Health per Cayman Islands Laws

Contact: Island Fire Performing Arts  
 P.O. Box 107 Grand Cayman KY1 - 1301



### Kitchen Helper

On behalf of our client **Trifles Ltd T/A The Thai House Restaurant of Grand Cayman** invites applicants for a suitable and qualified candidate for the above position.

We are looking for Caymanians, status holder and legal residents to submit applications to fill the position of Kitchen Helper.

**Requirements:**  
 With minimum of over 8 years of experience as a Kitchen Helper. Knowledge in Kitchen operations. Exceptional time management and organizational skills. Must have a clean police record.

Salary - CI\$ 6.00-7.00/per hour  
 Plus, statutory benefits

Submit resume to: Trifles Ltd T/A The Thai House Restaurant of Grand Cayman  
**P.O. Box 11926; KY1-1010**

Crystal Pool & Spa is seeking a dynamic pool technician/mechanic with over five years' experience. The individual will handle chemicals. Must work on own initiative. \$9 per hour plus statutory benefits.

Send resume to [crystapool@gmail.com](mailto:crystapool@gmail.com)



## Corporate Wellness Nurse

**We have an exciting opportunity for an optimistic and persistent self-starter.**

**THE PERSON** | You must be a Registered Nurse registered with the Cayman Nursing Licensing/Registration Authority and on the Active Nurses List, a minimum of 3 years' practical nursing experience, strong customer service skills, including superior communication (written and verbal), superior organizational skills and experience in creating reports and composing correspondence, proficiency in Microsoft Office products and internet are required.

**THE ROLE** | Reporting to the Health Manager and the Corporate Wellness Director, the position of Corporate Wellness Nurse will be responsible for undertaking clinical duties, liaising and coordinating activities and the flow of information in connection with our Medical CG Corporate Wellness Program.

**ABOUT US** | A leading regional player in the retail insurance sector, British Caymanian Insurance Agencies Limited is a subsidiary of Coralisle Group Ltd., formerly Colonial Group International, with more than 300 employees and offices in Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Turks & Caicos Islands. We offer a complete range of premier financial and insurance services to our individual and corporate clients. We know that our products make a real difference to our clients and their families.

**THE BENEFITS** | The salary range is CI\$49,000 - CI\$59,000 depending on experience and qualifications. We also offer an attractive benefits package.

**TO APPLY** | Please send your resumé/cv by no later than July 27, 2021 to our Human Resources Department [atky\\_hr\\_manager@cgcoralisle.com](mailto:atky_hr_manager@cgcoralisle.com).



**British Caymanian Insurance Agencies Limited**  
 BritCay House | 236 Eastern Avenue | Grand Cayman KY1-1102  
 Tel 345.949.8699 | Fax 345.945.0658 | [www.CGCoralisle.com](http://www.CGCoralisle.com)

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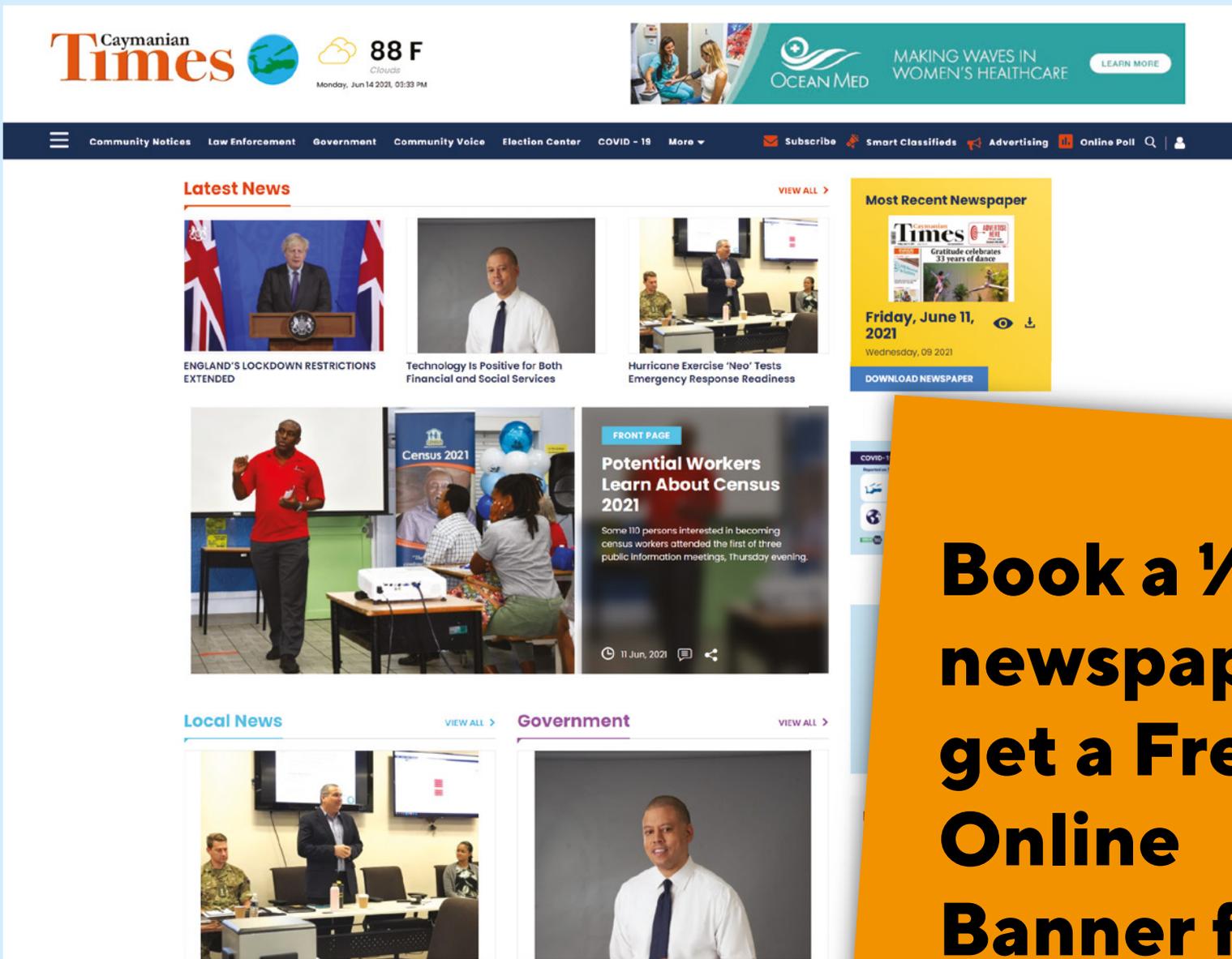
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